

# Status: Lots Of Trash, But No Garbage, Whew!

By DWIGHT JARRELL  
The expression "garbage dump" is a leftover from the Victorian age before TV dinners.

In the words of Water and Sewer Commissioner David L. Jones, the more civilized a community becomes the less garbage it has and the more

paper and magazines it throws away.

Which elevates Livonia high on the list of culture, with only about 1 per cent of its trash is actually garbage.

This scrap of social phenomenon was dug up by an Observer reporter who toured Livonia's landfill facilities with members of the City Council.

THE VERY WORD landfill is indicative of garbage's changing stature in the community, which in turn has lifted the garbage man to a new position in society. Today he is referred to as a refuse collector.

Livonia's 101-acre landfill, located off Farmington Road near Plymouth Road, was opened in 1959 after it was purchased for \$5,000 an acre. To date, some 40 acres have been filled and restored, with the remaining acreage sufficient to meet the city's needs another five to six years. Collections average 126 tons daily during the winter and 30 per cent more in summer.

The city only recently paid

for the last of the \$550,000 mortgage (including interest) on the landfill and, when the land is put up for sale to industry, will probably realize \$20,000 an acre.

Directly responsible for Livonia's low amount of garbage is a city ordinance passed in 1958 which makes installation of garbage disposals mandatory in all new homes. Change, also, in plumbing of older homes is required to include the addition of a disposal.

The Council's tour of the landfill site was, in essence, made after a complaint by Councilman Jack Salvatore that the landfill was not up to snuff in its operation. The job was awarded on a three-year contract Oct. 1 to the Detroit firm of Commercial Removal Co.

"If any resident created the kind of problems we have over there at the landfill," Salvatore told his Council cohorts, "they'd be cited. I think the City had to keep its own house."

work up like any other citizen."

Salvatore said he made several tours of the landfill in November and December.

"I SAW GARBAGE (Note: Refuse, Mr. Salvatore, Refuse.) uncovered at the site and I personally saw rats so large I thought they were beavers," Councilman Edward G. Milligan interrupted Salvatore at this point to suggest a solution to the latter.

The Council then adjourned to the landfill. At the dump, or landfill, that is, Salvatore was flabbergasted.

There wasn't a sign of garbage. What trash there was was laid out in systematic rows. Ten pieces of machinery and equipment ran around the councilmen and busily cleaned up

stray bits of papers. "Why," stammered Salvatore, "every time I was here before I saw only one piece of equipment operating. I think someone knew we were coming." He may have been right about the latter. On hand to greet the Councilmen was a delegation from the contracting firm. Commented Councilman Edward H. McNamara: "It compares favorably with the best landfill operation we've seen anywhere in the country."

ADMITTED SALVATORE, with a shake of his head in disbelief, "It's like a resort area."

Afterward, the contractor's delegation and the councilmen gathered at a nearby restaurant for breakfast.

Said DPW Director Robert Shaw after they had polished their plates of the last crumb: "When the weather gets better we'll have you over for a picnic."

Councilman Salvatore mere-

ly sniffling.



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**WHA' HOPPEN? —** When Councilman Salvatore raised a stink about conditions at the Livonia garbage dump...landfill, that is...his cohorts on the Council decided to make a personal tour of the site. Even the complaining Salvatore had to admit it "looked like a resort area" when they arrived. "Someone must have known we were coming," he said. Left to right, above, Water and Sewer Commissioner David Jones, Councilman Edward H. McNamara, DPW Director Robert Shaw, and Councilmen Edward G. Milligan, Peter Ventura, and Jerry Raymond. So far as the landfill was concerned, Councilman Salvatore had stepped out of the picture.

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