

OBSERVATION POINT

The County Makes A Proper Move

By Philip H. Power
Publisher

Everyone knocked government in 1973, and so perhaps we should close off the year of Watergate and open the new year on a positive note.

Wayne County appears on the verge of establishing a suburban branch of the circuit court. Oakland County showed the way some years ago with establishment of some offices to serve the suburban sector.

Board Chairman Bob FitzPatrick expects an answer soon on a request that the state loan the county \$35 million to construct new jail facilities both downtown and out - county and a suburban court office.

Observant commissioners - notably Mary Dumas of Livonia and Tom Taylor of Westland - are putting on plenty of heat for court facilities, too. The thinking down at 2 Woodward Avenue in Detroit is that the suburbs will be successful.

Circuit Judge George E. Bowles, himself a Plymouth resident, publicly advocated out-county court expansion months ago.

County Clerk Joseph B. Sullivan proposed not only a court branch but a branch of his office be established in western Wayne County.

The reasons are pretty clear, once you think about it.

Attorneys wouldn't have to travel so far to file cases and serve the public in general. Suburban policemen wouldn't have to travel so far to testify in criminal cases. Circuit Court handles are from the suburbs. Since Detroit has its own Recorder's Court. So why shouldn't a couple of judges be stationed out here?

Detroit isn't the center of all legal activity any more. In fact, the year is fast approaching when the out-county area will have a greater population than Detroit. And pardon me for mentioning it one more time, but there is an energy crunch, and decentralizing our county and court offices would save everyone a lot of travel time.

Once in a while, government moves in the right direction.

"CALL THE NEIGHBORS,
MARTHA - WE'RE
GONNA NEED HELP"



Leonard Poger writes

Cities Must Pay Their Own Ways; No Rich Uncles

Girl Athletes Did Well; Fans Should Boost 'Em

The championship has been decided, and although girls basketball teams in Farmington, Redford Township, Livonia and Garden City came close, only one advanced as far as the semifinals.

All of which means that Farmington's Mercy High was within a single victory of beating the first Michigan girls' basketball title.

It would have been nice to have the distinction of being the state's first feminine champion, but such wasn't to be this year. Mercy ran a decided lack of spectator interest this year.

A direct contrast is the boys' March madness when capacity crowds turn out for practically every session of journey play, from the opening round of the districts to the overtime attendance at the quarters, semifinals and the final.

We have had a man's world for so long it will take time to get adapted to watching girls basketball at a varsity level.

We can remember in the '30s when girls sports were at their peak in Ohio - the lassies competed in basketball, track, softball and in some instances swimming.

In those days pools were few and far between at high schools. The teams then were so well trained and coached that capacity crowds turned out for all games. Especially was this true in the rural schools where the girls and boys varsity teams played doubleheaders and there were as many rooting for the girls in their romper suits as the male counterparts.

Gradually, the bloomers and blouses faded out of existence and the two piece pants and shirt uniforms appeared. This made for a much better appearance and also gave the participants more freedom.

There was a time when their games were just as interesting as the boys. Especially was this true in tournament play where members of the distaff side showed they could take the pressure and even reach peaks in the action.

For some reason, girls sports began to fade during the late '30s and finally basketball was dropped. The reasons were varied in those days, but the biggest criticism was that pressure competition was not good for the girls.

It was never proven, but school officials in those days didn't want to face critics and took the easiest way out.

Now women's lib has brought a demand for sports again, and judging from the results thus far in the first year, we can look for big things in the not too distant future. Girls sports are here to stay and they'll keep getting better.

We need any more proof than Billie Jean King's victory over Bobby Riggs?

The key to the new direction in suburban thinking was the recent inaugural address delivered by Westland Mayor Eugene McKinney.

McKinney, in setting the 10-point program for his third two-year term, talked about improving the full scope of city services.

These included police, recreation, hospitals, paving, and general neighbor improvements.

There was no word about truck loads of state and federal dollars being delivered at city hall doorsteps.

Instead, McKinney is telling the Detroit area suburbs that if they want services to their people, they will have to do it themselves.

McKinney said he would propose a special property tax levy early next year for expanding police and recreation programs.

He said Norwaywne, a 30 - year old subdivision of 1,100 homes built by the Federal government for defense plant workers during World War II, would be brought up to a par with the city's other subdivisions after many years of local neglect.

It's not that Westland has closed the doors to state and federal funds over the past few years. Actually, the city has received an estimated \$2 million in the past four years for public safety, recreation, and road improvement programs.

But McKinney realizes that the federal government isn't a never - ending rich uncle who keeps sending the check regardless of local needs.

The government has halted its subsidies for senior citizens' housing developments and generally slowed down its handouts to cities for a variety of other projects.

McKinney has demonstrated to his counterparts in suburbia that this isn't the time to bury our political heads in crying towels.

His inaugural speech indicates that cities will have to develop new ideas and show imagination in the forced move to solve their own problems.

We are sure that the suburbs will meet that challenge and think it will be good for their souls, and the strong grass - roots community involvement needed in a democracy.

On top of it all comes the Southern Michigan Council of Governments with the startling bit of intelligence that the populations of some of our suburbs are declining.

One reason is that the birth rate has declined below the ZPG (zero population growth) level. Another is Stephen Roth, judge of the federal district court, who thought he could decree a massive political disruption in order to achieve a social change in the schools. Ours is still a free country, and thousands of families are simply trying to move away from Judge Roth to Livingston and Lapeer counties.

Kelley's Auto Repair Test Unfair -- Students

EDITOR:

A few weeks ago, the office of the state attorney general, Frank Kelley, released test results of a survey they had conducted concerning automotive dealership service.

As automotive service management students at Schoolcraft Community College, it is our opinion that the results expected from this survey were incorrect, misleading, and poorly conceived. While the evaluation criteria was inconceivable, the conduct of the test as reported seemed fair.

Regarding the evaluation criteria (cost of repairs to be \$145 to \$161), it is improbable that a faulty sparkplug wire can be properly diagnosed and repaired for under \$18. When a customer enters a dealership to complain of a miss in the engine, the service manager cannot expect one of his mechanics to work on the car for nothing. A cost of approximately \$9.50 to the customer for diagnosis is only fair to both the mechanic and dealership.

A good mechanic, after finding a faulty sparkplug wire, would replace the entire set. Past experience would tell the mechanic that if one sparkplug wire has become defective, the others are not far behind. All of the wires are subject to the same conditions.

In handling radio resistor wires, bending, pulling, and pushing can cause damage internally. Also, high underhood temperatures will cause dry rotting and break up continuity. The cost of a new set of sparkplug wires is approximately \$8 to \$12.

After a new set of sparkplug wires has been installed, the sparkplug that was in the cylinder with the faulty sparkplug wire will have to be replaced due to fouling. During engine operation with a defective wire, the sparkplug not being fired will have a buildup of unburned oil and lead deposits.

An experience mechanic knows you cannot always

clean a fouled sparkplug without greatly lowering its efficiency and shortening its life. The cost of a new sparkplug is approximately \$1.50. Therefore, we now have a total cost of approximately \$19.45 plus possible charges for installing the wires and the new plug.

In the preceding paragraphs, we have shown why we feel the results expected from the survey were incorrect and misleading; incorrect from the mechanic's point of view because he cannot be expected to work for nothing, and misleading to the consumer by making him believe that the problem could have been corrected for the low price of \$3.45 as stated by the office of the attorney general.

WILLIAM ACHTENBERG, JOSEPH BERRY, PAUL GOODSMITH, RICHARD LACLAIR, KENNETH LAZAR, ROBERT RHODES, VERNON THARP, RICHARD WEST

READERS' FORUM

Please type (or write clearly) and limit letters to 300 words.

• Letters must be signed with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause.

• The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

Thanks For Food, Toys

EDITOR:

Thanks to many who have helped collect clothes, toys (new ones) and food. With their help, many Indian children in the Grand Traverse Area will have a merry Christmas.

We're having our party Dec. 22 and the parents of children are busily wrapping the new toys - for many, the first time a new toy and new clothes.

God bless all the people who helped Mr. and Mrs. Henry Chrusciel in their year - long efforts in helping our people help themselves. Also the scouts, stores and Sanders.

Merry Christmas to you all, and may God reward your efforts, also to the many people who helped that we don't know.

ALVINA ANDERSON,
Chairman, Unit II,
Ottawa Association,
Williamsburg, Mich.

Big Business Stays Lighted

EDITOR:

What joy and warmth Christmas lights give us all!

I realize there is an energy crisis, and we are doing much in our home to conserve energy. But what about Big Business? As I passed Wickes Furniture Warehouse and Showroom one morning last week, all of their parking lot lights were on at 9:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving evening

Kmart at Seven Mile and Farmington roads had all of their many parking lot lights on, and the store was closed. Why is it always the average homeowner who is asked to do the most?

Perhaps if the business establishments cooperated by using less electricity, we could have the warm glow of Christmas lights.

MRS. DORIS KOSTIN
Livonia

Pet Owners Cause Misery

EDITOR:

The article by Joan Weaver on euthanasia (of unwanted pets) was excellent. It is time that pet owners are made aware of their inhumanity by neglect.

Pet owners who allow their unsupervised pets to run free are contributing to the ever increasing pet population and are responsible for untold misery suffered by the unwanted, unused - for animals that are born. Many of these people lavish attention on their animals but give hardly a thought to the fate

of the puppies and kittens that are born because they did not care enough to have their pet spayed.

It is true that these operations are costly, but the price paid by the homeless pets far exceeds any financial burden the pet owner might feel. Our humane shelters have other important work which cannot be done because their energy and financial resources are continually being drained by the problems of over - population of pets.

DOROTHY THOMPSON
Westland

Needs Skate Sharpener

EDITOR:

Yesterday I had to have my skates sharpened. I made it to my hockey game in a state of "upset" over sharpening of my skates.

Then a great idea "hit me" as I entered the ice rink. Why couldn't the Livonia Hockey Association buy a sharpening machine and put it to use at the ice rink? What a business they would have!

I am sure they could make money on such a venture. Just think of the convenience this would provide for the skaters. Also, think of all the skaters that could be prevented by such a simple step. I am waiting to see the sign at the ice rink, "Skate Sharpening Inside."

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CRAIG CANNONS
Livonia

Kids Spot Flesh Mags

EDITOR:

Tonight my children, ages 5, 7 and 9, wanted to spend their saved-up allowances on Christmas gifts. I took them to the SENTRY Drug Store, 3325 Five Mile, Livonia, as I've done in the past. I also enjoyed redeeming their circular coupons - there are not many bargains these days.

Upon entering, I couldn't help but notice their very obvious display of certain magazines, among them Playboy, Penthouse and Oui. I say "obvious" because even though they were in racks under the newspaper display, they are more visible to children whose eyes are much nearer the floor than adults'.

I know these magazines are usually sold from behind the counter, and I understand they were brought "up front" only the past weekend, but I don't want my children exposed to shelf, store - bought nudity. The flesh they are accustomed to is not flaunted and sold. It is confined to the privacy of their home and accepted with respect.

At this time of year when the season is to be glorified and cheer should abound, I cannot accept the policy of sex exposure in any costume. I shall not allow any of my five children into that store, and I shall resist the circular ads. I am not an extremely religious person nor am I a prude, but will I raise my children to accept the body as a magazine sales gimmick.

I would hope there are, or soon will be, laws prohibiting the indiscretion of such store displays. I strongly urge that store to change its policy.

TERRY KING
Livonia

Tax Increase Hikes Pay

EDITOR:

Shortly before the last South Redford School District election, I queried The Observer as to why they not only endorsed, but rallied for the three mill increase. I was assured it was needed or they would not sponsor it.

The need is now obvious. Our superintendent, Joseph Rzepka, and his cronies needed a raise in salary. Not only a raise, mind you, but a retroactive one at that.

I called Mr. Rzepka before that election and was assured by him that if it was not forthcoming, "Schools would close," etc.

I questioned the need due to the fact that our school population was decreasing and was told I was "not informed." I agreed that the Observer paper was better informed than I was.

The "sneak" Saturday election was to obtain the children's mothers' vote. By playing on their sympathy, they got it and their raise.

DON GRIFFITH,
Redford Township

Editorial & Opinion

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