

The Redford Observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Vol. 14, No. 79

Sunday, December 14, 1969

22 pages, 3 sections

15c a Copy

Philip H. Power, Publisher

today's hot line

what's inside

15-City Police?

Redford Township is considering making a formal agreement creating a 15-city mutual assistance force with surrounding towns. How will the force benefit Redford if it is approved?

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The Christmas Spirit

The annual Goodfellow newspaper sale is this weekend, and the Redford Observer sees it as a gesture of the true Christmas spirit. Congratulations are in order, and we give them in our Sunday editorial feature.

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Help For Blind

In the first place, not all persons who have visual problems are legally blind. In the second place, there's plenty of help for them from the Wayne County Library system—of which local libraries are a part. How can your friend with a sight problem get help?

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Sound Of Music

There's music in the air as more than 250 youth combine their talents for the 12th season of the Livonia Youth Symphony. The season's schedule along with the program for the first concert is in today's paper.

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Senatorial Balloons

Most hoopla in Republican ranks lauds former Michigan Gov. George Romney as "the candidate" to take on incumbent Democratic U. S. Senator Philip Hart next fall. Some—including a local member of the GOP state central committee—think Flint Congressman Donald Riegle Jr. may be the choice.

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THE GIFT SPOTTER

BRIGHT GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

You'll find a treasure chest of sparkling, practical gifts for everyone on your list in the "Gift Spotter" in the Classified Section. Pick the gifts, select the store, then be off on your whirlwind shopping tour. Check it now!



MERRY MAKING -- Gaily wrapped Christmas gifts for 75 Lapeer State Hospital patients are on their way from the Redford Suburban League. More than 100 league members shared in the shopping and gift wrapping project under the direction of Mrs. Torrance Etheridge (center) who will make several trips to deliver the holiday gifts to patients otherwise forgotten by family or friends. Among her helpers are Mrs. Barbara Bobcock (left) and Mrs. Eve Reno, members of the volunteer service committee. This is the 15th year the league has sent Christmas gifts to some of Lapeer's forgotten patients.

Does Water Drain Here From Livonia?

By DAN MCCOSH

Is Redford Township siphoning water from Livonia like a teen-age delinquent stealing gas from parked cars? Or is the whole thing explainable by water bill accounting and meter records?

The question came up when the City of Livonia presented a bill for \$61,000 to Redford Township for water allegedly draining out of the Livonia system into Redford.

Livonia Water Commissioner David Jones said Livonia has given Redford Township a L111, but was waiting until the township water department could complete an audit to see if Redford's records coincide with Livonia's.

Township officials say they are waiting for the audit before they will comment on the bill.

THE ALLEGED "leak" in the Livonia system is, at this point, mainly on the books of the Livonia water department. Livonia buys water from Detroit, which is metered through a meter on West Chicago inside the Detroit city limits. Redford water is metered out of the Livonia system, and Livonia deducts Redford water from the bill it gets from Detroit.

The Livonia water department compared the amount of water it was buying from Detroit and the amount of water it was selling to local residents and found out it was losing about 20% of the volume somewhere in the system, according to Jones. The loss was greater than is normally expected from leakage in the system, and the conclusion they came to was that it

was going to Redford.

At least one connection, an eight inch water main located near the intersection of Inkster and Fambroke, was found to be open and connecting the two water systems.

A difference in pressures between the two systems could have made water flow towards Redford, bypassing the meter and the Detroit charge.

To check the theory, the Redford Water Department is attempting to find out whether there is a corresponding gain in their system.

MORGAN BARTELY, head of the commercial division of the Detroit water system, said the Detroit department has nothing to do with the problem.

He said the water is sold to the two units and any adjustment would have to be made between Livonia and Redford.

He did comment, however, that the charges to the two towns "returned to normal" after the Inkster water connection was turned off. Previous to this, there was an indication that Redford was being undercharged while Livonia was overcharged.

REDFORD TOWNSHIP Supervisor Aldrick Bellaire said he was waiting for the check of the system to see if the bill was valid, but stated that the water exchange between the two had happened before.

He stated an estimated \$35,000 loss in the Redford system last year which appeared to be due to the water flowing in the other direction.

Library Keeps Tabs On Bills

Patrons of the Redford Township Library can now get on the mailing list for copies of new bills and resolutions introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives and Senate.

As a member of the federation of 52 public libraries in Wayne and Oakland counties that comprise the Wayne County Federated Library system, the local library will forward requests to the service center in Wayne.

License Office Is Toy Depot

Christmas toys for inner city children are being collected by Secretary of State office workers including the Redford Township branch at 24610 Five Mile.

Toys that need repair go to the East Side Voice of Independent Detroit for restoration and distribution before Christmas, according to Charles Deamus, Redford branch manager for the Secretary of State office.

More than three truck loads of donated toys were gathered by the east side group last year.

The project is part of the Michigan department of state "community awareness" program started during the 1967 riots when branch office personnel collected truckloads of clothing, furniture and other personal needs for riot victims.

Goodfellows, Jaycees To 'Do It Again'

Goodfellows and Jaycees of Redford Township are cooperating as they did last year to make sure all needy youngsters and oldersters have a good Christmas holiday.

Highlighting their holiday activities will be the Dec. 21 Sunday morning shopping tour for younger school age children followed by a party in Jaycee hall in the afternoon.

Funds for the shopping as well as for gifts of toys, clothes, shoes, boots and food for needy folks of all ages will come from the Goodfellow newspaper sale Saturday, Dec. 13 and from individual donations.

On Saturday township policemen, firemen, auxiliary police and many other interested citi-

zens will be out in force to raise the needed money for the Goodfellow programs.

JIM DORAN, president of the Redford Goodfellows, and Frank Weigle, Jaycee general chairman, explain that the shopping tour encourages the spirit of giving by providing children with cash for them to make purchases of gifts for their families.

Charles Weber, manager of Federal Department Store at Seven-Grand shopping center, has arranged to open the store two hours before the regular time to give the young children unlimited views of the merchandise.

The children will be able to shop without being part of a jostling crowd and will have help from store personnel in selecting their gifts.

AFTER THE shopping trip, the youngsters will return to the Jaycee Hall for lunch, partly provided by Federal Stores, and supplemented by quantities of goodies rounded up by the Goodfellows and the Jaycees and their wives.

Volunteer student helpers from the community volunteers committee of Thurston High School will be on hand helping with the party and with getting the gifts wrapped for the children to take home for later presentation to their parents and brothers and sisters.



CHRISTMAS MAGIC -- The toys grew as big as children and came to life in a musical play presented by the sixth grade at MacGowan School under the direction of Mrs. Charlene Apigian. The

like-like toys (from left) are Denise Allard, Steve Hubel, Derrick Aardal, Sheril Harmon, Mousen Gustafson, Cindy Katrich, Paul Ainsworth, and Jim Fox, who played Mr. Grumpy.

Says Elderly Squeezed Thru Taxes, Inflation

Donald M. Hanson, member of the Redford Township Board of Review for 1969 recently attacked the use of a rising state equalized valuation to pay for public services, a practice which "squeezes elderly people between increasing taxes and inflation and a fixed or decreasing income."

State equalized valuation is the method used by the state to account for rising property values in the area. A factor is assigned to a county by the state equalization board which is then multiplied by the local assessments to get the value of the property for local tax purposes.

AVERAGE PROPERTY values have been rising, and the equalization factor has increased about 40% since 1966. Hanson said local units of government have a choice between lowering the tax rate (millage), when the equalization goes up, or keeping the rate the same, which means an increase in the tax bills.

"We are continuing to allow an inflating state tax equalization to increase taxes upon people without ability to pay."

"A family who purchased a home for \$15,000 seven years ago could afford it (and the taxes) then," he said. "Now that home may be worth \$25,000 on the market, but the family income may not have risen proportionately. If taxes go up accordingly,

the home owner will be forced to sell because of high taxes.

"I know that the school board and the township must have funds; there is no quarrel there. However, when the money comes from must be carefully considered. I maintain that property cannot continue to carry the load."

HANSON RECOMMENDED a five-point program to correct the situation the reform was submitted to Gov. William Milliken's tax reform commission last summer:

- Carefully review the tax-exempt status of all categories. (Nearly 40% of the property in the state is tax exempt. Close scrutiny should be given to church, fraternal, and charitable organizations which are exempt even though they may be in a profit-making competitive enterprise.)

- Maintain present township, city, and county millage on property.

- Maintain 10 mills for school operating budgets with an additional five mills available if the local school district should vote it.

- Add the remaining tax support necessary for quality education through state taxes such as income, liquor, gasoline, etc.

"This plan would have the effect of shifting part of the tax burden for schools from property to income," Hansen

said.

It would introduce a large number of non-property owning citizens to the privilege of giving greater support to our schools. The plan would also have a tendency to place a floor of financial support under each school board.

Hansen's proposal differs from the tax reform now being considered in Lansing because it only allows a small millage levied on property. Milliken's reform package would reduce

the levy in some areas, and raise it in others.

Hansen said he didn't think Milliken's proposal went far enough in shifting the tax burden from property to income.

"I don't think local officials have said much about this issue," Hansen told the Redford Observer. "It seems to me they are afraid of killing the geese that lays the golden eggs. What they don't seem to realize is that the geese can only lay so many eggs."

Christmas Glee Coming To RU

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without seasonal music, and the Redford Union (RU) High School vocal music department will add a musical note with its annual Christmas concert.

RU singing groups will premiere at this year's concert which will be presented at 8 p.m. Dec. 16-17. Performing in the concert will be the mixed chorus, girls' glee, concert choir, triple trio, boys' ensemble and the madrigal singers.

Student soloists will include Dennis Crocker, Randy Westerman, John Lawrence, Rob Naudi, Dave Pearce and Roberta Hull.

THE PROGRAM will feature selections from Palestrina, Bach, Haydn and Handel.

selections from contemporary writers in a lighter mood will include: Dello Joio, Ken Darby, Les Brown and Earl George.

The entire concert is under the direction of RU's new music director, Eugene Dyer, who was music director at Alton Park High School for 17 years. "A 'mystery' Santa Claus" will highlight the evening's performance when he suddenly appears while the choir is performing the Fred Waring version "The Night Before Christmas."

Proceeds from the concert will be added to the music scholarship fund. Tickets may be purchased from any vocal music student, at the door or before each performance.