

Can collectors call confab for brew boasts

What do a well-dressed, white-haired lady plucking something gingerly off the top of a street corner waste can, and three middle school boys combing the roadside ditch have in common? It's a hobby that interests 300,000 Americans—beer can collecting.

To give collectors and their families a break from hunting cans in odd places, the West Bloomfield Library and Parks and Recreation Department will co-sponsor a "Beer Can Swap" 7-9 p.m. Thursday at the Drake House Community Center, 6185 W. Maple. The swap is free.

DON BESSLER, a Madison Heights collector who belongs to the 17,000-member Beer Can Collectors of America, will be on hand to open the swap with some advice on collecting, restoring and grading beer cans.

ning to answer questions, and will bring for display more than 100 of his 1,300 collection of obsolete cans.

Bessler, who took up the hobby through a Sunday job at the flea market at the Royal Oak Farmers Market, has been buying, selling and trading cans for more than two years.

"I'd say three of every four people who come to the flea market for beer cans are youngsters," Bessler said. "But it's usually the adults who go on to be serious collectors. Sometimes a father will continue the hobby after his son has given it up."

Collectors obtain cans in a number of ways, Bessler said, in cluding dumping (searching dumps, fields, woods and garbage cans), trading or buying full cans.

"I stress trading, especially with kids, since this makes it an affordable hobby," he said.

Since cans won't be sold at Thursday's meet, participants must bring cans to swap.

WHEN YOUNGSTERS take up can collecting, the whole family gets involved, said Ruth Halpert of West Bloomfield.

In her family are one soda pop can collector (Mark, 11) and a beer can collector (Rod, 14). Even a grandmother in Minnesota combing the area for old cans.

Mrs. Halpert looks on the swap as a welcome addition to the usual methods of collecting—even if she's already "up to her eyeballs" in cans.

Robert and George Long of West Bloomfield are looking forward to the swap to enlarge their joint collection.

"Mostly we go out in the woods and look for cans," said George, 13. "We

started with three cans my mom brought from Wisconsin, and now we have almost 100," added Robert, 11.

WHILE BEER CAN collecting is akin to beachcombing, devotees occasionally resort to buying unopened cans of beer.

Locally, they may head for Bosco's Wine Shop and Deli, Twelve Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

Shop owner Don Bosco became aware of the beer can collecting craze almost three years ago.

"We were getting more and more requests for odd beer from our customers," he said. "It's just good business to try and please them, so we started stocking the odd ones—single cans as well as six-packs."

"Now I understand we have one of the largest selections of different brands in the state," Bosco's has also

accumulated a 600-can collection of empties for display to the collectors who come in.

Customers at Bosco's during the past two weeks have found a flyer announcing the upcoming West

Bloomfield beer can swap tucked in the brown bags when they buy beer.

Further information on the swap is available from the parks and recreation department, 661-2240, or from the West Bloomfield Library, 662-2120.

Adjusting to divorce series is scheduled

Adjustment to Divorce, Michigan's original series for helping persons involved in marital dissolution, will be given in Birmingham beginning May 1. The series is in its 11th year.

Sponsored by the Michigan Inter-Professional Association on Marriage, Divorce and the Family and co-sponsored by the Family Law Section, State Bar of Michigan, the four-week lecture discussion series is designed to help individuals involved in the divorce process understand and cope with their situation.

The series deals with the process of psychological adjustment generally as well as with the social and psycholog-

ical process of divorce, including mourning, child adjustment and child rearing, living alone and remarriage.

The series is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Monday nights at the Community House, 300 S. Bates at Townsend, and will continue on May 8, 15 and 22. Sessions run 90 minutes each.

A. Thomas Capps, Ph.D., a consulting psychologist, will be the instructor. He is a clinical psychologist and marriage counselor in private practice.

Fee for the four-part series is \$20 per person. For more information, call the Michigan Inter-Professional Association Office at 644-3442.

Tax exemptions are assessors' woes

(Continued from Page 1A)

vacant land owned by the district. Unlike churches, school property can be vacant and retain a tax-exempt status.

Michigan Bell gets a tax-exempt status as well for property owned, but the utility company pays a charge in lieu of property taxes. City, state and federally owned property obviously doesn't have to pay taxes.

Because of land allotted to parks, the City of Farmington's city-owned property is greater than Farmington Hills. Cemeteries, whether publically or privately owned, also get a tax-exempt

status, including a vacant site of 75.8 acres in Farmington Hills owned by the Lutheran Cemetery Association.

AN UNUSUAL exemption added to the state law in 1976 is relegated to solar, wind, or water energy conversion devices, which require certification by the local assessor. The Farmington area thus far lacks such exemptions.

What might be interesting, assessors speculate, is getting a handle on the total assessed value of such tax-exempt properties and the number of tax dollars "lost" because of exemptions.

However those figures are difficult to determine unless a tax-exempt property is appraised and consequently assessed with a change in ownership and status. For example, if the Farmington School Board sells nearly three acres of property in downtown Farmington to a private development firm, that land goes back on the tax rolls.

When private land is purchased by a city, however, perhaps for purposes of creating a park, the land comes off the tax rolls.

Thus while churches, schools and other facilities often are evidenced as community service growth, the eye of the tax assessor may take a dim view of one more piece of property deleted from the fund revenue list.

Wilbur Brotherton seeks another term

Michigan State Rep. Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington), whose district includes parts of Southfield, has announced he will seek a third term.

Elected to his first term in 1974, he is vice chairman of the House Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Taxation, Public Health and Civil Rights committees.

"My work in the legislature has been stimulating and challenging and there is still much to be done," he said.

The 6th District representative defended his record over the last two terms by saying that he had served the interest of his constituents in the legislative areas in which he is involved.

He has sponsored legislation in the areas of criminal reform, intangible tax relief, property tax relief, state administrative policies, school safety and aid to senior citizens and the handicapped.

He also has served on two Republican task forces to recommend improvements in the health insurance field to study physician maldistribution throughout the state.

"The legislature has been dominated by the other party during the entire three years of my service," said Brotherton.

"But it still has been possible to influence legislation. It is only through compromise between men and women of differing views that the best interests of the State of Michigan are truly served," he said.

Before serving as a state legislator, Brotherton was an Oakland County commissioner and had served as an

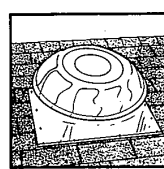


Wilbur Brotherton, the Farmington city council as well as being that city's mayor. No other candidates have announced for that seat.

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A Tribute to Dr. Joseph E. Hill from the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees



Dr. Joseph E. Hill
 August 30, 1919—March 24, 1978

WHEREAS, JOSEPH E. HILL, late President of Oakland Community College, served the College as its chief executive officer for nearly ten years and his rare ability to conceive imaginative approaches to education and courage to implement them produced a flexible educational program that helped Oakland Community College attain international recognition for innovation and;

WHEREAS, under his able leadership, the College achieved full accreditation, implemented a cost effective systemic analysis approach to management, established a personalized education program responsive to the needs of an increasingly heterogeneous student body; expanded the programs and facilities to provide diversity for the two-fold growth in enrollment, utilized the Educational Sciences as a theoretical framework to analyze

education, and developed a ten year master plan that enables the College to anticipate change in its planning; and

WHEREAS, his consistent subordination of self-interest to his concern for the welfare of the College, its students, and its employees is evidenced in the external recognition of the position of leadership of the College; and

WHEREAS, as an individual, his intellectual integrity, accountability, humanism, and service enriched the lives of all who knew him.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Oakland Community College, recognizes this devotion and these contributions to the College and expresses its deep sorrow for his loss and feeling of privilege to have known and worked with him.

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