

oral quarrel

Prosecute politicians in PBB scandal, consumers say

In this week's Oral Quarrel, readers unanimously supported banning all PBB-contaminated products from the shelves in Michigan stores. They also had some suggestions for dealing with the situation. Recently, the legislature failed to renew laws that would have kept contaminated meat products off the shelf and reduce the allowable level of PBB-infected meat that is sold.

Here are some of the responses:

The answer lies with our own Legislature. They did a mistake by not passing that law, and they should reconsider and change it again. I also think the consumer should be protected by being able to sue the Legislature or the companies who did this terrible atrocity.

chemicals in cattle feed? Could it be the same ones who are getting a sick kick out of putting cyanide in Tylenol capsules?

PBB is a health hazard and we all know it. The amount in food should be zero. I think we have to pressure the legislators as much as we can and the Federal Drug Administration to get the tolerance level to zero. How about a petition drive if they refuse to do anything? What will have to happen is those farms will have to be closed, the farmer reimbursed. I think people would be willing to pay a special tax assessment.

What really gets me is why and how this thing got started in the first place. How could anyone put fire retardant

I think we should support Jim Todor's effort with this toxic food watch



the stroller, W.W. Edgar

Grandma's Sunday dinner meant a speech class

FROM THE QUIET of his living room, The Stroller watched golden leaves drift down from the trees in his front yard. Outside the air was nippy. Mother Nature was putting on the first show of the autumn.

It was the kind of Sunday afternoon that we used to look forward to when The Stroller was a youth because it meant a walk over to Grandma's house for Sunday dinner — a family tradition that now seems to have been forgotten.

Grandmother Edgar was an unusual matron of the family. A good housekeeper but very careful with money, she too delighted in having the family gather at the table for one of her chicken dinners.

In those days it mattered little how large the family became. One and all were apposed to gather for the festive meal of which she always felt so proud.

WHILE SHE WASN'T exactly a penny-pincher, she met the demands for the big Sunday dinner by raising her own chickens. Always she had a coop filled with hens and a few favorite roosters.

So when the Sunday came, there was no need to hustle to the market for chickens. She had them in her own back yard.

After we all were seated, she would bring in the large platter of stewed chicken, along with another large bowl of mashed potatoes and a vegetable, most often stewed corn.

With that came time for Grandpa Edgar to bow his head and lead us all in prayer. That done, Grandma passed the plates, and never since those days has a stewed chicken dinner tasted so good.

As the family grew, there oftentimes were two and three servings. With each

additional serving, the children had to wait that much longer, because we were always kept to the last.

A REAL TREAT came after the meal when Grandpa Edgar took all of the children to the parlor (living room). There he sat in his favorite chair and held what became a lesson in speech-making.

He delighted in having each child, in turn, stand up and recite a poem or tell a story. It was there that The Stroller was given his first lesson in speech-making, and he has often felt indebted to his grandparent for preparing him for what followed in life.

All the children grew close to Grandpa, but there was one thing we never found out. We never learned his age. Anytime we asked, he'd answer, "I was born the year of the big wind in Ireland."

That answer became so much of a tradition that when he passed on, the family felt the words should be inscribed on his tombstone. They were. And the engraved wording was the lure that attracted visitors to the cemetery to pay a call at his grave, even though they never knew him.

WHILE GRANDPA never revealed his age in years, he delighted to tell that he came over from Ireland as an immigrant and met The Stroller's grandmother on the boat as it crossed the Atlantic.

While both grandparents are long gone, their memory lives on because of the Sunday chicken dinners and the manner in which Grandpa Edgar conducted his class in speech-making when the last drumstick of chicken was nothing more than a bare bone.

thing and for the moment try to buy as many animal products we can that are not produced in Michigan.

I believe that all products that are contaminated whether it be 20 parts or 300 parts (per billion) should be eliminated from the shelves in the state of Michigan. As far as we can help those who have already been contaminated, I have no answer to that, we all have been, but there is no sense in extending this contamination any further.

I think the state Legislature is trying to cover up one of the most important crises that ever hit this state. There are several meat markets in this area which sell meat from out-of-state such as Iowa. I think if we all got together and purchased our beef from out-of-state or at these meat markets they would regulate it just to sell the products.

The politicians who allowed PBB meat and products to remain on the shelf, they knew about it before we knew about it. They should be prosecuted.

ed or brought to light, and at the present time I think all PBB materials should be taken off the shelves regardless of how much would be lost to the middleman and producer.

Well, what should be done is that all the contaminated meat that is already on the shelves should be taken off the shelves. We shouldn't have any more PBB on the shelves. It should be tossed away. We should get fresh, uncontaminated meat for our people in Michigan.

I think everything should be done to

protect the consumer. I can't believe what I read in the Detroit News a couple of weeks ago. I think it's just terrible. I want to know what is contaminated and what I can do to have my children tested to find out if they have it and what can be done to help them or anyone else that has been exposed to it.

I think that you should let people know what stores carry milk products and beef products from Michigan and what stores carry products from other states. We should pass legislation and write to our senators or congressmen so we can get some action on this.

American reverie at Whetstone Point

WHETSTONE POINT, poking out into the Patapsco River, isn't the kind of scenic spot where you would want to take a picnic lunch or your war-tornol paints. But one look will tell you why it's important militarily.

It guards the entrance to Baltimore Harbor. Americans grasped that a full two centuries ago. In the early 1800s, Congress voted to build a fort on Whetstone Point and name it for James McHenry, a Baltimore physician and secretary of war in the Washington and Adams administrations.

In 1814 the British took Washington, D.C., and made a try for Baltimore but were stopped when they failed to level Fort McHenry. Attorney Francis Scott Key wrote a poem about it, and you know the rest.

"Our flag is still there," I wrote on post cards one hazy afternoon last week. Then I pondered my own joke. Our flag still flies above Fort McHenry, but would Americans of 1982 have the will to defend it? . . .



Tim Richard

THE SEA-AIR Club today denounced plans to defend Fort McHenry.

"The British threat is nothing compared to the environmental threat of a prolonged battle," declared Sea-Air President John Verdant. "The Madison Administration cannot give us assurances that the earth-moving it contemplates to bolster defenses wouldn't result in silting of the Patapsco River and Chesapeake Bay."

"The sinking of British vessels in the narrows would result in gunpowder pollution of the spawning beds of Maryland clams," Verdant went on. . . .

THE NATIONWIDE Women's Outfit decried the Madison Administration's plan to bolster Fort McHenry's defenses as a blow to women.

"We have proven statistically," said NWO President Jane Harry-Smith, "that every \$1,000 spent on macho defenses will eliminate two women's jobs in the private sector, just at the time when women are making economic strides."

"Every cannon means two fewer women's shelters. Every pound of shot means one less abortion the government can fund. Every plate of beans and hardtack for able-bodied soldiers who should be supporting their children means 1.5 fewer meals for poor people on food stamps," Harry-Smith told a congressional panel. . . .

DECLARING THE war of 1812 to be "immoral and disastrous," Bishop Theodore Stumbleton said his church would no longer open its hospitals to the military wounded.

"The use of bombs and rockets is a threat to the entire human race," said Stumbleton at a peace rally on the steps of the Baltimore city hall.

"Only the shipping corporations

wanted this war, and only those selfish corporations are benefitting from it," the activist bishop said. . . .

BUSINESSMEN have a stake in stopping the war, pacifist industrialist Cyrus Weston told a chamber of commerce luncheon.

"British military men are paid the equivalent of \$3 for every \$1 an American soldier earns, and it would be a boon to our tourism to organize a host committee for the British navy, rather than go on with this insanity of shelling it," Weston said after returning from a peace mission to Southampton. . . .

"Sir, we're closing now." The park service guard's words brought me out of my reverie. I glanced at my watch: 4:40 p.m. The sign said Fort McHenry would be open until 5. But only a couple of families had wandered through in the last 90 minutes, and the employees were fixing to close a trifle early.

I didn't object. Just a big flagpole and a few restored barracks. Takes only 15 minutes to see it all and shoot a couple of slides.

Join us!
+
Together, we can change things.

exercise.

"IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN EVERYTHING I DO."

"Exercise makes a difference in the way I get through my day. An exciting game of racquetball...some laps across the pool or around the jogging track...a vigorous aerobic workout or a turn on some great progressive resistance exercise equipment — they all make me feel alert, refreshed and alive. Go for that great feeling and all your favorite kinds of exercise, too, at the Vic Tanny Bloomfield Executive Health & Racquet Club!"

Victoria Principa

GET 15% OFF ON NEW BOOKS
GET 75% OFF ON USED BOOKS
(with trade-in)
at our two nearby stores.



WE HAVE MORE THAN 20,000 PAPERBACKS IN OUR CLEAN, ATTRACTIVE, WELL-ORGANIZED NEW STORES

We also rent new hardcover & paperback best sellers starting at \$9.95 for 10 days.

LIVONIA
18780 Middlebelt S. of Livonia Mall
471-4742

SOUTHFIELD
28299 Southfield in Farrell's Plaza
628-5780

AN INVITATION!!!
You're invited to a showing of the latest in spectacle frame fashion.
Thursday, October 14
10 am - 8 pm
20% off all frames with purchase of complete pair.
featuring

AVANT-GARDE OPTICS INC. and Silhouette Fashion Frames

Dr. Schiff & Dr. Kutinsky
33012 W. Seven Mile
(Just E. of Farmington Rd.) Livonia
476-2021

SPECIAL SAVINGS SALE

Since 1937

A Beautiful Store with Beautiful Furniture
America's most distinguished traditional furniture

Colonial House
20292 Middlebelt Rd. (South of Eight Mile)
Livonia

Open Mon., Thurs. & Fri. 11-5 P.M., Sunday 1-5 P.M. • 474-6900

Vic Tanny Bloomfield Executive Health & Racquet Club
6420 Telegraph Rd. at Maple Rd.
855-2300