

When Autos Become Our Permanent Homes

EDITOR'S NOTE: Once again we take pleasure in sharing the mental antics of Dan McCosh, editor of the Redford Observer, with readers in our other towns.

By DAN MCCOSH

This city sprawled on the banks of the Detroit River pulls in many directions.

Governed by more than a dozen municipalities, fed dozens of ethnic specialties, employed by hundreds of firms, the five million people in Metropolitan Detroit rarely have a single common bond that focuses their attention all at once on some compelling emotion.

Which, if you think about it, is probably a pretty good thing.

Last week there was just such a common bond forged, even if temporarily, between about a half-million of us residents of greater Detroit, and the result was the kind of surrealistic catastrophe that could make anyone think of the apocalypse.

DENNY McLAIN AND J.L. Hudson worked together on the plot. The fireworks and the ball game combined to make a Woodstock Nation of the expressway, high on monoxide and grooving on the

sounds of a hundred car radios all tuned to different stations.

Restricted by the grassy banks of the John Lodge, with two lone squad cars blocking the roadway, shepherding the milling herd up the Grand River exit two by two, while at the end of two miles of stalled cars, we pulled up at the end of the line and I said to my wife:

"It's probably just a little tie-up a few hundred feet ahead."

IF ALL THE CARS in Detroit were laid end-to-end, they would have been moving faster. It's coming soon, I know -- the car at the end of the line will be just leaving its garage before the car at the beginning gets downtown, and there won't be any room to move at all.

It will take some time for it to sink in. After a while, the first families will venture out of their stalled autos and begin to camp on the grass along the expressways.

After the first night, a lot of cars will be abandoned, but the hangers-on will begin to homestead. They will jack their cars up and put them on concrete blocks.

OK Curfew Power Bill

The State Senate last Friday passed Senate Bill 9, sponsored by State Sen. George W. Kuhn (R-West Bloomfield), and sent it to the governor's office for his signature.

The controversial curfew power for local officials would allow a local chief executive of a city or a township to proclaim a civil emergency and to impose a curfew.

The order could restrict the sale of firearms, ammunition, liquor and gasoline." Kuhn said, "The main purpose of the

bill is to allow local authority to issue whatever orders are necessary in time of civil unrest to protect life and property and to bring the civil emergency under control."

Kuhn said that "If local mayors could act in time, this could be the most humane bill we ever passed in the Legislature. We cannot afford another confrontation such as that experienced in the Detroit riots of 1967, with all the bloodshed, looting, arson, violence, and physical disruption that goes with such rioting."

People will be building additions to their Cheviots, Fords and Buicks...screened-in porches for comfort on the hot summer evenings. The back seats will be ripped out and replaced with portable stoves and refrigerators.

Expanding families will buy out the cars ahead and behind. Office space will be made available in "high rise" stalled Volkswagen microbusses.

Looking for more space for recreation, some families will move out to the "suburbs" -- which will be located on the expressway entrance ramps, with better tax benefits and better schools.

But then the ramp dwellers will have to have a way to get downtown.

They will have learned from past mistakes, and won't tear down good housing for the sake of new expressways. Instead, a ramp will be constructed over the roof of the stalled line of automobiles.

Auto production will be booming again, because everyone will want a new car to drive over the roof of his old one...and everything will be fine until Denny McLain plays and the fireworks go off on the same night again.

If man was meant to drive, he would have been born with wheels.

Ex-Wyoming Mayor To Fill LCC Vacancy

LANSING Gov. William G. Milliken has appointed Edward F. West of Wyoming to the Liquor Control Commission in the Michigan Department of Commerce.

West, former mayor of the City of Wyoming and presently an insurance agency executive, succeeds the late Vincent E. O'Neill of Grand Rapids for the remainder of a term expiring June 12, 1971. Senate confirmation is required.

West was mayor of Wyoming from 1963 to 1969 and since 1963, has been a member of the city's planning commission and since 1965, has served on its industrial relations commission.

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New Hobby Competition At Fair

Youngsters interested in hobbies and crafts will have an opportunity to display their work and compete for prizes in a new hobby show at the Michigan State Fair this year. It is announced by E.J. (Jeff) Keirns, State Fair general manager.

The fair opens Friday, Aug. 28, and runs through Monday, Sept. 7.

The new hobby show is a section of the junior department and is open to all boys and girls who have not entered work in the fair's industrial arts classes.

The show will be held in the west concourse of the Coliseum. Entry deadline is Aug. 1.

ALL HOBBY SHOW exhibits must represent the work of the exhibitor. The show is divided into two brackets, one for boys and girls 10 through 13 years old, the second for boys and girls 14 through 18.

In the field of art, classes include water color and oil paintings, and charcoal and pencil drawings. All work must be original. Copies of other works, or kits, are not acceptable.

There are two classes in photography--for black-and-white prints and for color prints. They must be mounted. In crafts, the classes are basket weaving, decoupage, and wood burning.

Nature study classes include insect specimen display, minerals and stones, terrarium, and aquarium.

OTHER HOBBY classes are for stamp collections, coin collections, post card collections, and a broad class for any other craft not listed. Keirns is enthusiastic about the fair's new hobby show.

"This will give almost any youngster an opportunity to display what he can do in the field that interests him most," the general manager said.

Entry forms are available at the State Fair, Detroit, Mich. 48203.



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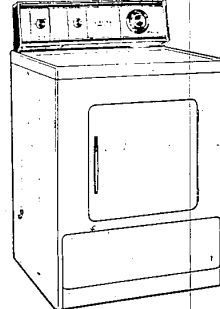
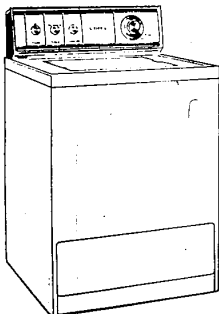
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