

# The Town's 'Old Village' Never Died

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Plymouth Through Bifurcals" by Fred Delano usually appears only in our Plymouth edition, but we thought readers in other towns would particularly appreciate this recent column on a bygone era in a small town.

PLYMOUTH'S "OLD VILLAGE," that revitalized town bounded in general by Starkweather, Spring, Mill and Liberty Streets, recently was given national publicity of a type that should make the Old Village Merchants Association chortle with glee.

It wasn't too long ago that some of our archaic leaders sort of looked down their noses at what was generally labeled "lower town," but now that its unique shops regularly draw customers from Bloomfield Hills, Oak Park, Grosse Pointe and the like, "Old Village," as it has been rechristened, has become the "in" place to shop.

Interestingly, it was a Plymouth-born nationally syndicated columnist named Russell Kirk, a PHS graduate of 1936, who came forth to focus the publicity spotlight on the area.

Kirk's material is copyrighted by General Features, Inc., and it is with permission both of that organization and Mr. Kirk that I reprint the following column which appeared under the Kirk by-line in more than 200 daily newspapers across the United States:

"WHEN I WAS A BOY in the north end of Plymouth, Mich., we did all our shopping on a single block of Liberty Street, where there flourished a clothing store, a hardware, a bank, a grocery, a barbershop, a meat market, a pharmacy, and one or two other enterprises. But where are the snows of yesteryear? The decline and fall of Liberty Street is the tale, writ

small, of the old-fangled neighborhood commercial district in 10,000 American towns.

"Decay of the old order of things was accelerated by World War II, though it commenced earlier. The triumph of the automobile, parking problems, new residential patterns, the coming of retail gigantism, shifts of population from south to north and from town center to suburbs, the collapse of public transportation, and half a dozen other major causes effected the disintegration of pleasant old shopping districts, from backcountry villages of Maine to Spaniard-founded coastal towns in California.

"Liberty Street died hard. First the bank was closed by the Roosevelt moratorium, and never opened its tellers' windows again. (My grandfather had been the manager.) Plaintiff's Meat Market, with its penny candies for children, was the first of the shops to perish into oblivion. Gayde Brothers' Grocery was undone by the supermarkets. Beyer's Drugstore, where I devoured my weekly chocolate sundae, moved to the fringe of the town.

"Old Mr. Bob Shingleton held out in his establishment — selling clothing in one decade, hardware in another — until he was the sole survivor of the shopkeepers of my boyhood. When Shingleton's stock was sold off, Liberty Street stood derelict: that was only three or four years ago.

"YET DO NOT DESPAIR, friends of community on a humane scale. Though the enormous shopping plaza continues to drain away vitality from the once-thriving downtown stores at every big city's core, one encounters signs that neighborhood businesses are beginning to revive.

"Considerably to my surprise and gratification, forgotten Liberty Street has risen from the dust, in the past year or two. The venerable high-fronted commercial buildings command good prices in the real estate market once more.

"True, the businesses are not quite of the old sort: an antique shop occupies the bank building, an electrician has taken another store, and in general specialty shops replace the old staple-goods stores. But local civic vigor and a fresh alteration of shopping habits have redeemed Liberty Street from dusty death.

"IN A GOOD many towns and city neighborhoods, we are beginning to recover from our mad infatuation with an 'urban renewal' that created urban deserts. We are finding that it is quite possible to

put new wine into old bottles. We are discovering that commercial sprawl along the highways is cursedly inconvenient, as well as hideous; and that suburbs without neighborhood stores are boring, as well as awkward for the housewife.

"Liberty Street, and 20,000 American streets like it, were homely and satisfying. You knew the storekeepers, and they knew you, and their service was good. One could amble and browse before the store windows. A family didn't need two or three cars, or any car at all, so far as shopping went: either the shops would deliver, or one could stroll home a few blocks with a big paper bag.

"In commerce, as in government, the cult of the colossal is a dreary and arid worship. Give me the liberties of Liberty Street."

## Sen. Beebe Talks At U.S. Bar Meet

ST. LOUIS State Sen. Lorraine Beebe of Dearborn Heights will share program honors with U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.

U.S. Sen. Lorraine Beebe of Dearborn Heights will share program honors with U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.

## U-D Has Nighttime Openings

Any man or woman thinking about working towards a college degree at night at the University of Detroit will have lots of company when classes start there Sept. 3.

It is anticipated that 3,000 students, ranging in age from 20-80, will enroll in courses offered by the College of Arts and Sciences on the McNichols Road campus and the Evening College of Business and Administration on the downtown campus. Evening course selections are available for practically all undergraduate majors.

STUDENTS who have a high school diploma and are over 21 years of age can be admitted as unclassified students for 12 semester hours, if their high school marks have been a barrier to college admittance in the past. Any courses taken will count towards a degree, and their unclassified status will be reviewed at the end of the 12 hours.

Information on registering for evening classes at U-D can be obtained by phoning Mrs. Ann Mikus or Dean James P. Glispin at 342-1000, ext. 276.

Information on enrolling in the Evening College of Business and Administration can be obtained by calling Dean Howard Ward at 342-1000, ext. 301.

Final registration days are Aug. 31, Sept. 1 and 2, but phone now to make arrangements for pre-registration. Classes begin September 3.

The four-day conference, at which Sen. Beebe will be a commentator on the opening day program, will be held at the Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel. Mrs. Beebe's 12th District includes Redford Township.

It will be highlighted by nationally prominent lawmakers, federal judges, educators, labor and civil rights leaders and will feature speeches and discussions on the women's liberation movement, hunger, abortion and trial disruption.

Sen. Beebe, assistant majority leader of the Michigan State Senate, and Prof. Dexter Handley, director of Georgetown University's Institute of Law, Human Rights and Social Values, will be commentators on a joint program with the section of criminal law. The moderator for this segment of the program will be former Justice Clark.

Others on the Sunday afternoon program will be Roy Lucas, director of the James Madison Constitutional Law Institute, and Richard D. Lamm, member of the Colorado Legislature.

Sen. Kennedy will speak at two Tuesday morning sessions and Sen. Tower will speak Monday afternoon on the women's liberation movement.

Other speakers include U.S. District Judge Frank J. Murray of Boston and A. Leon Higginbotham Jr., of Philadelphia and U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana.

## Paying Out

In August 1935, the State of Wisconsin paid the Nation's first unemployment insurance benefit check. Since then, \$7 billion has been paid out under regular and special unemployment insurance programs.



MARY SAFFER, 29168 Jacquelyn Drive, Livonia, has earned recognition from General Binding Corp. for establishing an outstanding sales record during 1969.

Saffer, sales supervisor for GBC's area branch, was honored for his sales excellence at the annual meeting of the GBC General's Club in Miami, Fla. GBC is an international manufacturer and marketer of business machines and supplies which bind, collate and laminate paper work.

### NOW! SUMMER SALE at CLAUZ TV

## ZENITH... CHROMACOLOR

THE BEST COLOR TV Money Can Buy NOW COSTS YOU LESS

Model S2088

**\$529.95\***

3 BIG GRAND OPENING DAYS - AUG. 6, 7, 8

Door Prizes! Free Gifts! Grand Opening Specials! Come in - help us celebrate. Visit our big, new modern Zenith showroom.

**CLAUZ TV inc.**

27125 GRAND RIVER Phone 255-7150

### Orange Blossom

Spirit of a Diamond

Flourette

Just like your dream. Timeless. Reaching the infinity of a thousand stars. Reflecting a heritage of love as old as time. As young as the dawn. Flourette by Orange Blossom.

MICHIGAN BANKAMERICARD

## Von Burg's

JEWELERS

"Diamond Merchants and Jewelers Since 1929"

22019 GRAND RIVER near Lahser - KE 1-1855

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPECIALS

OPEN DAILY 9:30 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

2 spacious file drawers  
Genuine Formica Top

**5-DR. KNEE HOLE STUDENT DESK**

The scholar's choice with room for books and work space. Top, 40 x 20". **\$68**

Matching Chair Available at \$12.00

EASY TERMS

MANY OTHER STUDENT DESKS ON SALE FROM \$38

UP TO 36 MONTHS TO PAY

Star Furniture

ON SALE AT THE REDFORD STORE ONLY

**25525 W. EIGHT MILE ROAD**  
Between Telegraph and Beach Dv. - 638-9510

Large Selection Just Arrived  
FREE - IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

# Yankee

NATIONAL BRANDS AT DISCOUNT PRICES

PRICES EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

## DOUBLE DISCOUNTS ON PHOTO PROCESSING

### KODACOLOR COLOR PRINTS

REG. 18¢ EACH

# 14¢

### KODACOLOR FILM DEVELOPING

Reg. 79¢

# 69¢

### 8MM KODACHROME MOVIES

Reg. 127

# 111

### 126-20 or 135-20 COLOR SLIDES

Reg. 127

# 111

### KODAK M-22 MOVIE CAMERA

Camera has fast 14mm f/2.7 lens, color corrected. No focusing. Manual lens setting f/2.7 to f/16. Exposure guide for daylight exposure settings. Full enclosed optical viewfinder. Rugged construction. Styled in textured black and satin silver. Lightweight. Limit one.

Reg. 25.99

# 21.66

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

30 YANKEE DISCOUNT STORES IN MICHIGAN SERVING YOU BETTER... SAVING YOU MORE!

**Yankee**