

Anglers Barred But Packers Reap A Fortune

Something 'Fishy' In Coho Situation?

By MARGE DI PIAZZA "Something fishy is going on..."

The Observer Regional

River in Benzie County, one of the major coho areas in Michigan's lower peninsula.

While the sportsmen must fish in the big waters, the Black Port Packing Co. out of Grand Rapids, helps itself to a big serving of salmon at the rate of 15 tons of fish per day and more -- all out of the Plate River, about a mile from the

Lake Michigan outlet. The Plate, along with several other rivers in the area, is off-limits to fishermen, if the angler dares to take a coho in the river, he is faced with a heavy fine.

Local newspapers carry long lists of those who dare to snag a coho with everything from spears to pitchforks -- and wound up in the Benzie County courthouse instead.

into crates for shipping onto the giant refrigerated trucks. Black Port pays the Conservation Department 15.6 cents a pound (on the fin) for the coho. This was the highest bid offered by a packer company when bids were taken several weeks ago. The coho are then sold to super markets for sale to the consumer for 79 cents a pound.

WHAT MAKES the fisherman see red is the fact that while they virtually risk their lives on the high seas, a commercial enterprise is snagging most of the coho in the area. What's the story behind it? Why is the Conservation Department chasing the fisherman of what promised to be the biggest boat to sports fishing in many decades? This reporter spoke with

Michigan Parks Police Officer Gary McDaniel at the weir last weekend, amidst the noise and confusion of the fish-shocking and loading procedure. Said McDaniel, "This is sheer necessity. McDaniel explained that the salmon are currently at spawning stage and are dying off in large numbers in the process.

As the fish travel further and further, they become less desirable for eating purposes. Thus, the fish must be caught in large numbers in a big hurry. It adds up to a simple over-population problem. When asked why the fisherman isn't permitted to fish for the coho himself in the river, McDaniel replied that the vast number of salmon that must be removed could never be taken in the quantity needed by the sportsman.

Then McDaniel pointed out what everyone has been hearing in the news media: "If we allowed all those fishermen in the banks of this river, like Bear Creek, would be ruined. Not only that, with all the noise and confusion, the fish would never bite. Besides, they don't even bite in the river at this time anyway."

THEN THIS reporter suggested that perhaps, like hunting, a limited number of licenses could be issued for fishing in the Plate -- to help the commercial enterprise. McDaniel claimed it would never work with the coho men. Have you seen them, he asked? He said they could never keep track of the fishermen the way they do hunters. He said that many of the

coho men were absolutely foolhardy (one died last year in Lake Michigan despite storm warnings, and several have been pulled from the deep this year) and would ignore a lottery licensing system.

According to McDaniel, a group of fishermen threatened to dynamite the inlet or jam it with logs, and were dead serious. He also said officers had been thrown into the water on different occasions by irate fishermen. Last weekend, the Plate outlet was dotted with floats and men. The ones this reporter or spoke with were polite and friendly, if very irritated. Most claimed they wouldn't be backed unless the policy was changed. MOST WERE empty-handed, and the mere mention of the thousands of fish in the weir

set them to talking. Said one middle aged, kindly gentleman: "I'll tell you, the coho fisherman hasn't been given a fair shake by the newspapers and the magazines. He's been made to look like a dirty, beer-drinking nut who doesn't care about the countryside up here. They never tell our side. That Conservation Department must have the biggest and best promotion and advertising men in the business."

Back at the weir, several fishermen stood around shaking their heads as Black Port loaded crates after crate of salmon onto the truck. Summed up one man, "Coho is being advertised as the new boon for the sports fisherman. Tell them back home that it just isn't so. It's a commercial."



HAPPY CONTENDERS for the 1968 Homecoming Queen title at Clarenceville High are Mary Kaipio (left) and Gerri Troutened. One will be crowned Friday night at the halftime intermission of the annual football game. The queen will rule over the activities of the traditional dance Saturday evening in the school gym.

Westland, Livonia Lead In Boom

Although authorizations for new dwellings in the Metropolitan Detroit region dropped 12.2 per cent during the first six months of 1968 compared to the same period in 1967, new residential permits in Wayne County were up slightly. That's the information coming from the Planning Division of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

The figures show that 4,324 units were authorized in Wayne County

contrasted to 4,326 for the first six months of 1967, or an increase of .7 per cent. Although the entire county registered a gain, it can be attributed to the City of Detroit which increased by 240 or 31.7 per cent while the Out-county area declined by 210 or 5.9 per cent.

FOUR communities, including Livonia and Westland, were responsible for almost two-

thirds of all the construction. Detroit topped the list with 997, followed by Livonia with 364, Taylor 630 and Westland with 801.

In addition, three of the multiples--Detroit 860, Taylor 410 and Westland 605.

The study for the Metropolitan area, which includes every municipality within the seven-county region: Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washenaw and Wayne counties, shows permits declining from 15,354 in 1967 to 13,237 in 1968.

Although both multiple and single family units decreased, the latter's loss of 2,004 units was much greater than the former's 777 decline. This enabled multiples to maintain their share

of the total at about 43 per cent compared to 40 per cent for the first half of 1967 and 45 per cent for all of 1967.

Only one community permitted more than 1,000 units and that was Sterling Heights with 1,029. Four others had more than 500 units, including: Detroit 997, Troy 917, Westland 801 and Taylor 630. These accounted for 33.3 per cent of the activity.

WESTLAND and Livonia rank among the top 10 major growth communities on the basis of total residential units authorized during the first six months of the year. Westland had a total of 801 and Livonia 364.

Westland was the only Observerland community ranked in the top 10 for units authorized in

multi-family structures with a total of 605. Detroit topped that listing with 860.

The listings for Observerland communities for authorized dwelling units based on residential building permits issued in the six month period included:

Farmington, 34 single family, 96 multiples, for a total of 130; Farmington Township: 34 and 96 for a total of 130; Quakerstown, 5 single dwellings; Wood Creek Farms 21 single dwellings; Canton Township: 62 and 36 for 98; Garden City: 25 and 11 for 36; Livonia, 364 single dwellings; Northville Township: 13 and 79 for 92; Plymouth: 4 and 2 for 6; Plymouth Township: 46 and 18 for 64; Redford Township: 43 single dwellings; Westland: 190 and 605 for 801.

Twp. Officials Differ On Proposed Changes Farmington OKs Loan To C'ville

The population explosion and the rush to suburbia in recent years has posed an interesting question--

Can the township form of government which often has been called archaic, be justified in the changed order of things?

The question is interesting in that there are three townships--Farmington, Redford and Plymouth--in our immediate area and the logical place to obtain the answers would be the supervisors in these respective localities.

To make the question more interesting each of three top officials had a different reaction and answer--to the question.

"HOW CAN I justify the township form of government?" John E. McEwen, the major dome of Plymouth Township, repeated, as he arose from his chair and selected a book from his shelf.

"Here," he said, "you find the answers much better than I could tell you."

The volume was the manual of township officials in which former Governor Cass, of Michigan, is quoted as saying--

"In proportion, as government recedes from the people, they become liable to abuse. Whatever authority can be conveniently exercised in primary assemblies, may be deposited there with safety. They furnish practical schools for the consideration of political subjects, and no one can revert to our revolutionary struggle without being sensible that to their operations we are indebted for much of the energy, unanimity, and intelligence which is displayed by our government and people at that important crisis."

McEwen THEN POINTED to another paragraph, which read--

"And the words of Thomas Jefferson are equally important in township government. He said 'These wards, called townships in New England, are the vital principles of their governments, and have proved themselves the wisest convention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government and for its preservation."

"What both of these great men meant," McEwen pointed out, "was that the township form brings government closer to the people, it is a continuation of the old 'Town Meetings,' of our colonial forefathers.

The Plymouth supervisor emphasized that the township office is open at all times

to the taxpayers "and I even put in eight hours every day. You don't have to go through a half dozen secretaries to see any of our officials."

"Justly township government," McEwen repeated, "just take a look at our record. We have 60 miles of water mains and 49 miles of water and we operate the 16-square mile area with 14,000 population on a one mill budget that produces \$352,000 for general government. The remainder of our \$820,000 budget is for the payment of our bonded indebtedness. And, up to now, we have provided satisfactory services."

"LOOK AT SOME of the incorporated cities," McEwen said, "and you'll see that the township form is the more economical form of government."

"Especially," he said, "I think we will have county home rules, and that will change a lot of things. But, as of now, I think our operation will justify township government."

McEwen differed with his colleagues--Curt Hall in Farmington, and Al Bellaire in Redford, each of whom admitted that they would have a difficult job justifying township government, except for some extra ordinary conditions that now prevail.

"I am a firm believer that the township form of government should be limited to areas with populations of 10,000 or less," Hall contended. "When you get above that size you can't provide the services that the taxpayers demand."

Realizing that this was a strange statement from the top official of an area that boasts a population of approximately 38,000, Supervisor Hall qualified his remark.

"BY THE SAME token," he said, "I don't believe in unification or annexation."

"What I mean is this, Farmington Township now has \$23 million invested in sewers and water and we are in good shape. We supply services that are satisfactory to a point--and we'd have to go through with the proposed incorporation of a population of 10,000 or more, that has been talked about for some time--and it might be a reality."

He pointed out, with a smile, that the much discussed unification with the City of Farmington, was not to the benefit of the township.

"The City is an indebtedness we would have to help absorb," he said, "and why swap our assets for a share of debt."

SUPERVISOR BELLAIRE, at Redford, was even more outspoken.

"I would have a difficult job justifying the township form of government," he said, "if it were not for the peculiar conditions that exist."

"Truthfully," he said, "we are the champion hitch-hikers of government."

With an area of 11 1/2 square miles and a population of 20,000 people, Redford Township is one of the five largest townships in America.

"But we are a political anachronism in the body politic," he went on, "and only the fact that we have patient people living here enables us to remain this way. They know these extra services we just can't provide."

"We do give them police and fire protection, along with disposal pickup on our budget of \$3,012,540, which is obtained on a five and one-half mill levy."

Bellaire explained that the taxpayers had rejected a proposal to incorporate as the City of Redford Heights--and that has left the township in a rather unusual position.

"With many of the newly populated areas incorporating as home rule cities," Bellaire explained, "much of the work has been taken away from the Wayne County Road Commission and we profit by it."

"We are getting more services than ever," he said, "and that helps."

Asked if he had any fear that the makeup of the township would be changed when the new State Boundaries Commission comes over next year, he replied--

"I am not fearful of anything like that. The only danger we might ever face is the possibility of straightening our boundary line and run it along Telegraph Road."

"WHAT WOULD remove the Detroit Detroit plant from our area and that's one third of the assessed valuation of the South Redford School District. I don't think the Boundaries Commission would endanger a community to that extent."

The supervisor, who was preparing to leave on a vacation, checked.

"I don't know," he said, "every time I go to New York I get to laughing. The Island of Manhattan is only twice as large as our township--and look at what they have on it. So there is always hope for us."

So, the question of the justification of township government has been asked and you can take your pick of the answers.

FARMINGTON -- The Clarenceville School District won a \$9,000 loan from Farmington Township Monday night to help pay the additional cost of paving Robinson St.

The loan, which must be repaid in three years, was required because of the increased cost of the paving project over the estimate.

FARMINGTON -- Farmington Trustee has approved the extension of the current moratorium on governmental changes until next spring.

City council has adopted the same resolution and action by the village council is expected. The moratorium is designed to give the people time to study two reports on governmental alternatives which will be released in November.

REDFORD -- "We wouldn't do anything like that," an oil-stained, Swastika-bearing motorcyclist told The Observer Monday in reply to complaints that his club of "The Vendettas" is terrorizing a local neighborhood.

LIVONIA -- Drug abusers among juveniles will be the topic discussed by four speakers at the Oct. 23 meeting of the Livonia PTA Council at Adams School, 28201 Lyndon.

Mrs. Hilda Varbedian, PTA Council president, said, "Because of the seriousness and immediacy of this problem, all interested parents and teachers are invited to attend."

LIVONIA -- A secret presidential election held by Fred Nista at his barber shop has turned up the following results: Nixon -- 107; Wallace -- 85; Humphrey -- 47.

Nista has conducted the election in his shop for the past four presidential elections and claims his ballot box has reflected the final Michigan vote percentages almost exactly.

LANSING -- The Michigan State Chamber of Commerce is urging the defeat of the proposal which would legalize graduated income taxes in Michigan on the basis that it "places a penalty on productivity and discourages investment to create new jobs."

The proposal will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot.

PONTIAC -- A West Bloomfield Township couple was found guilty in Oakland County Circuit Court on charges that they had swindled the American Automobile Association's insurance company.

Found guilty of conspiring to obtain money under false pretenses were Kenneth R. Davis, a Waterford Township resident and former adjuster for the AAA, and Mrs. James T. Sanders, of 7153 Locklin.

The couple turned in a fraudulent accident report. Police said the accident never occurred, though the cars allegedly involved were reported repaired at a garage owned by the Sanders in Waterford Township.

They face prison terms of up to 10 years on both counts.

FLINT -- Floyd J. McCreary, who is bearing the end of his first term as Negro mayor of the industrial community, said he will not run for reelection and will instead run for the commission seat so he can concentrate his efforts on the problems of the predominantly Negro Third Ward.

Under the Flint City Charter, the city government is directed by a city manager and by an unpaid mayor, who is elected from the ranks of the city commission. McCreary was elected to the job in 1966 by a 5-4 vote.

Advertisement for American Hardware & Supply Co. featuring 'Presented in FAIR VALUES' and 'IT'S FIREPLACE TIME'. It lists various products like 'IMPERIAL' fireplace, Franklin Stove, Fireplaces, Chimneys, and Zonolite insulation with prices and contact information.