

OLD HOMESTEADS MAY BE SAVED FROM TAX SALE

Michigan legislators may be the knights errant who will save many an old homestead which otherwise might be auctioned to highest bidder because records show the owners had failed to pay taxes. Included in the thousands of descriptions of properties in northern Michigan which reverted to the state last November because of tax delinquency are many whose former owners' children are in jeopardy because of misadventures.

Former owners, for instance, claim that errors on the part of tax collectors resulted in their failure to pay back taxes. In other instances it is claimed that they were purchased in good faith on the representations of sellers that all back taxes had been paid and that such lands later were seized.

The lands division of the conservation department, charged with the administration of reverted properties, is making every effort to prevent the working of injustices in cases of the kind in which former owners' claims can be substantiated. County treasurers are being asked to assist in the preparation of ap-

plications to withhold such lands from sale. A ruling by the attorney general has been requested in certain cases and if the number of such substantiated claims should become so large that a general ruling is needed, the legislature in its next session may be asked to authorize adjustments.

First-auctions of lands reverting to the state last November, other than lands applied for by former owners, are not expected to be held before the coming fall or winter.

MICHIGAN CHEESE INCREASES

Michigan is becoming a more important cheese producing state as compared with several years ago, declares J. M. Jensen, dairy specialist at Michigan State College. Reasons: more cow, greater national and Michigan cheese consumption increasing from 3 to 4 pounds annually for the average per capita cheese eating, better quality. The state's American cheese production is nearly 13 million pounds a year, some brick and muenster and some limburger and a large quantity of Italian cheese. There also are large amounts of cottage cheese made in Michigan. Factories number 51 with 23 in the Lower Peninsula and 27 in the Upper Peninsula.

FOUR TREES FOR A NICKEL

One nickel pays the cost of four trees in nursery propagation and transplanting to land. It is estimated by the forest service of the United States Department of Agriculture that the American forest is based on large-scale operations in forest service nurseries and reforestation on national forest lands. In 1939 there were 125,000 trees set out on 131,707 acres.

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Farmington held April 23, 1940.

Called to order by Mayor Glidemester at 8:30 p. m. Commissioners present: Hutton, Oldenburg, Hamlin, Nacker, Bagnall and Oils.

Motion made by Bagnall and supported by Oils that the City Commission install a complete municipal accounting system, as suggested by Glenn H. Leland in his recommendation to the Commission, as described in sections 1, 2, and 3.

The proposed general accounting system, becomes effective at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, 1940.

Roll Call: Hutton, Oldenburg, Hamlin, Nacker, Bagnall and Oils. Carried. All yeas.

Thomas S. Edwards, Receiver of the Peoples State Bank of Farmington, Michigan, submitted under date of April 22, 1940, an offer to sell to the City of Farmington, property on Grand River avenue in the City of Farmington, known as the Peoples State Bank Building, for a cash consideration of twenty-five hundred and no/100 (\$25,000.00) dollars. This offer included not only the land and the building but certain furniture and fixtures. The unpaid taxes were to be assumed by the City and adjustment of the claims of the City against the Peoples State Bank were also to be made. After a report of the Committee appointed to investigate the advisability of purchasing the property for the use of the City offices, and after a general discussion, a motion was made by Hutton and supported by Oils that the offer made by the Receiver of the Peoples State Bank of Farmington, Michigan, dated April 22, 1940, be accepted, provided that the Public Debt Commission of the State of Michigan approved a loan in the amount of Eight Thousand and no/100 (\$8,000.00) dollars; the proceeds of which would be used for the purchase of said property. Carried. All yeas.

Motion made by Oldenburg and supported by Hamlin to adjourn. Carried.

Leo P. Glidemester, Mayor

Harry Moore, Clerk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters To The Editor MUST be signed with the name of the person writing the letter. An assumed name may be used and the writer's real name will be withheld from publication upon request, but no letter without the true name of the writer will be published.

Supply of Vitamin B Is Important to Health

Some of the aches and pains which have been classing themselves up and down the physical framework of human beings for many years might disappear if people paid more attention to the amount of vitamin B they are getting.

To be more specific, it's really vitamin B-one, called "thiamin," which is causing so much discussion in nutrition circles these days, says Miss Julia Outhouse, professor of nutrition, at the University of Illinois. This elusive-sounding substance is found most abundantly in whole-grain cereals, so it might behoove more people to see that they have whole wheat bread, or oatmeal, or Graham muffins for breakfast. Vegetable and fruit contribute somewhat to the vitamin B-one supply, as do nuts and legumes and pork.

While eating vitamin B-one in generous amounts does not absolutely guarantee that one's individual ailment will disappear, still physicians have proved that certain types of neuritis are due to a lack of this substance. Two examples are the neuritis of pregnancy and the neuritis of chronic alcoholism. Pains and numbness accompanying these diseases have been dramatically relieved within a few days by this B-one. Furthermore, doctors believe that the pain, numbness and muscle weakness which accompany many diseases are merely variations with one cause—lack of thiamin.

All physical difficulties, of course, cannot be attributed to one specific source, but it might be a good idea for people who feel "all dragged out" and incapable of a full day's work to see if they haven't been getting a "little too little" of vitamin B-one, says the nutrition authority. Thiamin-deficient persons often are the victims of such digestive disturbances as ulcers, constipation, loss of tone of the digestive tract and lack of appetite. Authorities, also, are finding that there seems to be a close relationship between lack of thiamin in the diet and the ailment edema, and also between lack of thiamin and heart disease.

Well-Trained 'Wolf' Dogs Assist Jugoslavia Police

Ferocious but well-trained dogs make efficient criminal catchers on the regular police force of Jugoslavia. Mostly Alaskan wolf dogs, although other breeds are also used, these animals are taught to give instant obedience to a word from their trainers. Never backing except on order, retaining their police in emergency, the Jugoslav police dogs are especially drilled in tracking down fugitives by scent, in high jumping, and in keeping out of the way of unexpected shots. They are as gentle as kittens to their masters and their friends, but sudden death is attack on an enemy. In one police museum of Jugoslavia are dramatic souvenirs of criminal hunts in which the police dogs played leading roles.

Such trophies include masks used by bandits, arms, and other objects reminding of the exhibit on display in the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and dramatizing the exploits of the "G-Men" against American gangsters, according to the National Geographic society.

'Weather May Influence Asthma'

The popular belief that weather affects the severity of asthma has recently received experimental confirmation by studies on laboratory animals, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association. Symptoms identical with those of human asthma were produced in guinea pigs by allowing the animals to breathe "vaporized allergens," i. e. invisible sprays of foreign proteins. The animals were then subjected to various artificially produced weather conditions. Although it was found that the "vape" asthma is not dependent on such factors as temperature, humidity or atmospheric pressure as long as these remain constant is the day of the experiment, rapid changes in the weather conditions resulted in increasing the average severity of the process by about 50 per cent.

Color-Changing Amphibian

The olm, or proteus, is a blind, water-breathing toad-like amphibian living in the limestone caves east of the Adriatic sea. If caught and exposed to white light, its skin is blackened, even over the eyes. But if kept in red light, no blackening of its skin occurs and the eyes become large and able to see. The olm, like the Mexican axolotl, is what scientists call a larval creature, a "forgotten" member of the animal kingdom. Amphibians, like frogs, have an intermediate stage of development before taking on their adult form. The frog, explains the Better Vision Institute, is first egg, then tadpole, and finally frog. The olm never got beyond the second, or larval, stage.

First Venetian Blinds

As long ago as the Eighteenth century Venetian blinds were being made in the West Indies by a shipwrecked Frenchman. Owing to the name he gave them, it is surmised that the idea was not original but was an adaptation of some blinds which he had observed in Venice. In the United States they have been manufactured since 1778.

Bounties on Wolves and Coyotes Increase

Five wolves and 209 coyotes bountied for \$3,735 in the first quarter of 1940 indicate continuance of a trend toward a lower take of these predators. In the first quarter of 1939 bounties were paid on three wolves and 298 coyotes, and in the first quarter of 1938 the take was five wolves and 297 coyotes. The present scale of bounties has been in effect only since the middle of 1937.

STATE BUILDING, LOAN DEPARTMENT IS LITTLE KNOWN

Eighty-two thousand Michigan residents, a great majority of whom are taxpayers, are vitally interested in one of the divisions of the Department of State that receives little publicity.

Harry P. Kelly, Secretary of State, considers this department, the Building and Loan Division, one of his most important divisions. This division is under the active supervision of James B. Haskins, who was previously connected with this department under

Secretary of State, the late Orrville B. Atwood.

There are fifty-two Building and Loan Associations in the State of Michigan that are required by law to make monthly reports to the Department of State. Besides this, the law calls for at least one audit to be made annually for each one of these fifty-two associations. The last report shows that the requirements of the law were rigidly observed, not only in regard to monthly reports, but in regard to annual audits.

The importance of these associations to Michigan is best evidenced by the fact that they have assets of \$77,900,000; outstanding mortgage loans of more than \$37,000,000; and they own real estate, exclusive of their office buildings, of more than \$17,000,000.

About half of these associations are insured and are examined not only by the Department of State, but also by the Federal Home Loan Bank.

Mr. Haskins reports to Mr. Kelly that there has been a substantial increase in loans made by the Building and Loan Associations to residents of Michigan for the construction of new homes during the last six months.

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Coast-to-Coast Telephone Service Inaugurated a Quarter-Century Ago

Right: "Home on the Range"—one of many camps used by telephone construction forces during the building of the first transcontinental telephone line. The country is typical of the terrain which the line crossed on its march westward from Salt Lake City to California.



Left: Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, took part in the ceremonies which opened the first transcontinental line to public use. This picture, taken then, shows him seated in the center of a group of telephone and municipal officials.

The first telephone line to cross the country from coast to coast was opened for service just 25 years ago, on January 25, 1915. It consisted, for almost its entire 3,400 miles, of two circuits of heavy copper wire and one phantom circuit. Its route, as shown on the map above, was through Chicago, Omaha, Denver, and Salt Lake City, and a coast-to-coast call had to be switched at all but the second of these cities. For some time after the opening, there was an average of about two transcontinental calls a day. The map also shows the three additional coast-to-coast lines which have been built since then, as well as the other major lines in the country's nationwide long distance network. At the point where the vertical dotted line intersects the east-west routes, there is now a total of more than 170 direct transcontinental telephone circuits, and today the number of telephone calls between the Pacific coast and points east of Denver averages about 1,700 a day.

It was 25 years ago last January that the first transcontinental telephone line was opened for public use, and the Bell Telephone System's ideal of "universal service" became, with the linking of the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts by wire, a reality.

President Woodrow Wilson, in Washington, took part in the opening ceremonies, talking by telephone with the official groups in both New York and San Francisco. Of the achievement of providing a nationwide telephone service he said: "I consider it a great honor to be able to express my admiration for the inventive genius and scientific knowledge that has made this possible, and my pride that this vital cord should have been stretched across America as a new symbol of our unity and our enterprise. . . . This is a memorable day, and I convey to you my warm congratulations."

3,400 Miles of Wire The coast-to-coast telephone line whose opening was celebrated a quarter of a century ago consists of two physical circuits of heavy copper wire and one phantom circuit. There was no direct circuit; calls between New York and San Francisco had to be switched at Chicago, Denver, and Salt Lake City. There was, in the early stages of transcontinental service, an average of about two calls a day.

Today, more than 170 circuits—physical and carrier current—cross the mountains, plains, and deserts between East and West. They follow four geographically distinct routes. About 1,700 telephone calls a day, on the average, flash back and forth between the Pacific Coast and points east of Denver.

Telephone service had been extended westward from the Atlantic as far as Chicago by 1892 and to Denver by 1911. There were thousands of telephone lines up and down the Pacific Coast. The principal obstacle to closing the gap between lay not in the construction of the line itself, although the route crossed difficult territory—but in transmitting the feeble voice currents over 3,400 miles of copper wire.

"Repeater" Had to Be Developed to "Boost" Voice Currents At that stage of telephone development, a telephone line could not, like a railroad line, be extended indefinitely. For a steam locomotive carries its own fuel and develops its own energy as it goes. The electric currents which carry telephone messages start out with the energy given them at the transmitter, and become more and more feeble as the length of the line increases.

Before the transcontinental telephone could be successful, some means had to be found of rejuvenating the voice currents—or "boosting" them at intervals along the line. After years of laboratory research and experiment, the basis for such a "repeater" was found in the DeForest audio. As developed by telephone engineers, it is now essentially the familiar vacuum tube used in millions of radio receivers, and used by hundreds of thousands in the telephone plant.

With satisfactory transmission assured by the application of the vacuum tube repeater, construction was begun in 1913 to close the gaps in the existing line. This required principally the building of a new route westward from Salt Lake City, nearly 500 miles across Utah and Nevada to California. At the same

time, poles, wires, and apparatus had to be checked and rearranged all the way along the line back to New York City. Despite weather which included deep snow and bitter cold in the winter and floods in spring, and a route which crossed mountains, swamps, and deserts, the work went ahead on schedule. The final pole was set on the Utah-Nevada state line on June 17, 1914, and by July 29 the circuits were ready for test conversations between New York and San Francisco. On that day, for the first time in history, the human voice crossed the continent from coast to coast by wire.

Telephone's Inventor Attends Ceremonies Months of testing followed, to insure that all should be in readiness for the opening of transcontinental telephone service to the public. January 25, 1915, was the appointed day. Groups of telephone and civic officials gathered in the two cities on the opposite sides of the continent to observe with fitting ceremonies the dedication of this first transcontinental line to public use. This was the culmination of a mighty project, a triumph over nature's obstacles, won in the laboratory and in the test desk as well as in the field.

Of all those taking part that day, none was more notable than the striking figure of Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone. In the space of four decades he had seen his invention grow from a mental concept, through a stage of limited usefulness, to an instrument of service which then took its long stride in the continuing process of making this country a nation of neighbors.

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