Raccoon Returns In Fur Coat Style

If the Roaring Twenties look of the store window fashions is any indication, the raccoon coats, popular in the roaring twenties, are returning to college gridiron.

Where do these popular fur trappings come from?

According to a University of Michigan mammal expert, "The animal is commonly found in most of the state."

William H. Burt, curator of animals at the U-M, says the animal with handsome black mask may present a roguish appearance. "But it's just an occasional raccoon who will raid poultry houses or damage cornfields during 'roasting ear' time.

"And, to lots of people, the fur value of the pelts and the pleasure derived from hunting the animals with dogs far outweigh the harm they do."

About the size of a Boston Bull dog, the raccoon's fur is long and grizzled gray. The black mask over its eyes and the ringed tail are distinctive characters found in no other Michigan mammal.

"The raccoon favors wooded areas, especially along streams and near lakes where large hollow trees are present," says the professor. "Primarily a nocturnal animal, it's seldom seen abroad during the daytime.

"Raccoons prefer hollow trees for their homes and dens. They eat a great variety of foods, including nuts, fruits, grains, insects, crayfish, frogs and bird eggs."

"The noctrunal call of the Raccoon," says Professor Burt, "is a shrill trembulo cry, almost like a whistle, and on a still night it may be heard for a long distance. When caught by a dog, it sometimes utters a snarling cry, from rage or pain."

As for the temperament of this creature, Burt says, "The raccoon is a sociable animal, at least within the family group. This group usually forages and deps together. The raccoon does not look for trouble, but when it is hard-pressed by dogs and can not reach a tree, it fights valiantly. It's a good dog that can dispatch a raccoon without help."

AL THOMAS is Farmington's Jack Selle Buick salesman. GR. 4-5388.

An easy way to flour chicken or meat is to put the pieces in a bag containing seasoned flour, and shake.

Letter carriers' uniforms are a 50-50 blend of the Union Blue and Confederate Gray.

Poorly Balanced Community May Become Bad and Costly

Because of the proposed rezoning in Farmington Township to establish a light industry area, and because it will have an effect upon everyone within the township, we are presenting this letter by Howard Wiest, Sec'y of the Township Planning Board, in a different manner than the usual letter to the editor. Whether or not any resident is against the proposed industrial zoning, we believe he should be interested in this pertinent material. —Editor.

To the Editor:

A few weeks ago I had occasion to go to Port Huron to see an exhibit being given there to show small business that there are improved business opportunities open to them. Among my contacts there I ran across some information that I had been seeking for quite some time. It was information that seemed to apply to this community, and to my amazement was compiled practically in and for our community. I wish to give a synopsis of it. There are statements that apply not only to Farmington township but to the City of Farmington as well. The well-being and growth of our two entities is interwoven. The information was in booklet form.

The first part of the booklet is regarding past history, a story of agricultural growth, the establishment of grist mills and tanneries, of banks and stores and of a single larger industry. For a couple of generations this setup proved prosperous for the community but things changed and the larger industry moved away. Disinterested complacence was the major cause of factors that brought about its departure.

That part of the story would not apply to Farmington Township because we have no such large industry, but the effects that were created in that case do apply to us and we should be able to see them coming, although they are coming from a different angle. The community in the story lost its "meal ticket" and gradually thereafter began to feel the extra burden they had to assume; these being the extra facilities that had been installed during the previous years: namely, their water system, their sewerage facilities, their paved roads, their schools and their recreational facilities. These costs plus the continuous operational expense of their governmental agencies became a yearly noticable hardship. In our case we are having such facilities become a requirement. The demand is with us for their installation. We have no "meal ticket" in our community to begin with and not enough other commercial business to lighten the expense these facilities are to cost. It cannot be denied that we are going to have these expenses whether we have industrial and commercial enterprises come in or not. Any difference in original cost or of operation is a most minor factor.

Now here is where some figures enter the story. And don't think that they are just one man's figures. They come out of studies made by many private and governmental agencies. These figures show that for a proper financial balance municipal revenues should be proportionately as follows:

Residential 80 per cent; Commercial 10 per cent; Industrial 7 per cent; Other Sources 3 per cent.

That is the tax picture. Now let us see how much land use, percentagewise, this story considers in order to produce that tax base. The percentage of total tax revenue as contributed by each type of land use is:

Residential 66 per cent; Commercial 18 percent; Industrial 10 per cent; Other Uses 6 per cent.

When looking over those two sets of figures we also can find a comparison between the taxes paid and the cost of the facilities that each division requires. We find that residential land use taxes should be required to bear only 83 per cent of the expense of the facilities required. Commercial land use will contribute 175 per cent of their facility expense; industrial land use will contribute 140 per cent and vacant or other land use will contribute 221 per cent. Do not forget that this is for a balanced and satisfactory budget revenue base.

The story in the booklet goes on to show what happened when the proportion was thrown too heavily upon the residential use. As one generation passed on to the next, as depressions come and went, as there were war periods and booms: all thru those periods that excessive residential tax base had its deleterious effect. The homes ran down, the recreation areas became unsightly, the roadways became unkept and the other facilities fell down on the job. The young folks growing up moved away and things just stood still or went backwards. Other people just bypassed that community.

Now if all that sounds fantastic we can actually point to many instances of that elsewhere in Michigan. My boyhood home was in a boom lumber town. It took only 25 years to go thru the above picture. Only now is it nearing the population that it had 60 years ago. In that wealthy community there were only two who planned for the community and backed it up with financial investment. The margin of survival was very slim.

But to get back to the story in the booklet. The storybook town got busy on some planning. They laid out a land plan; they determined a balanced land use setup and they zoned accordingly. They recognized, just we have, that the industrial segment is missing. They recognized that the commercial segment would follow if the industrial segment came. They found that they had groups of citizens who were willing to study and to work toward the improvement needed. They bore in mind three important considerations:

1. Residences need certain surroundings in order to be desirable.

2. Industries require other conditions which, if not obtainable, make economical operations impossible.

3. Commercial and service outlets must be located near traffic patterns.

Zoning controls these factors, and in one respect Farmington Township is fortunate in already being zoned thruout. Such zoning prevents "wildcat" projects to upset neighborhood patterns. However this zoning is permissable of change when overall community interest and welfare demands an uncapricious and reasonable change. We see these changes made in many small individual cases that come before our Zoning Boards and when found permissable within the over-all plans.

Farmington Township is fortunate in having Civic Associations that are working for the township welfare. The Township has a Planning Board. The Township Board of Trustees, the Planning Board, the Zoning Boards and the Civic Associations are working cohesively in an agreeable atmosphere. This is all in line with our booklet story.

And, just as the community mentioned in the booklet got its economic situation working toward a proper financial and social balance, so we in this township can come to recognize our individual responsibilities in the same respect. We need unison in working for the present good and for the future good of this community. By so doing we will do benefit to ourselves, to our children and to our institutions.

We have an opportunity to attract national attention to our planning and to become known as a desirable place to live and to work. Then is when we can afford to become exclusive, but not until then.

Howard Wiest.

Apple Is King For Fall Use

At this time of the year "King Apple" wears the crown at the fruit counters! Fruit growers are busy picking and shipping Michigan apples to every market in the area. There are a number of apple varieties available, all excelling for different uses to make fall menus more tantalizing.

The MacIntosh, with its handsome deep red coloring, and white flesh, is excellent for eating out of hand and for sauce. However, Detroit Consumer Marketing Information agents of Michigan State University suggest that you might find other varieties more satisfactory for using in pies - the MacIntosh might cook to mush before your crust is the golden color you prefer.

The Delicious apple, so easily recognized by its five little points at the blossom end, is truly delicious for hand eating or for use in salads. In this case, its flesh is really to mild and coarse to be preferred for cooking.

On the other hand, you will find the Greening apple with its green skin and acid flesh, so desirable for pies, sauce and baking - but too tart for eating raw. The displays also carry some apples which are excellent for all purposes. Among these are the Jonathan, a medium sized solid red apple, and the Northern Spy, with its stripes or mottling of red on yellow. They are mouth - watering when used raw, or in baking, pies or sauce.

With such a variety from which to choose, you might like to receive a few tips on identification of quality. In the first place, good color for the variety usually indicates full flavor. Very hard or immature fruit lacks flavor, while overripe apples are soft and mealy. Apples should actually yield slightly to thumb pressure, but be firm - to be the best in quality. Firm tart apples are most satisfactory for cooking and the big apples tend to mature faster than smaller ones - so they become soft and mealy more quickly.

The world is a looking glass, and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face. Frown at it, and it will in turn look sourly upon you; laugh at it, and with it, and it is a jolly kind companion.

—Thackeray.

Three men are my friends—he that loves me, he that hates me and he that is indifferent to me. Who loves me, teaches me tenderness; who hates me, teaches me caution; who is indifferent to me, teaches me self-reliance.

—J. E. Dinger

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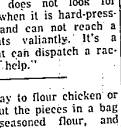

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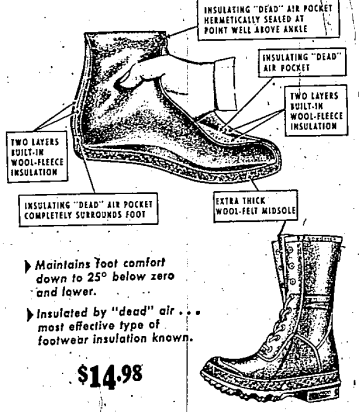

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