

# Editorial Page

## The Taxes We Pay

A great many people have been told they pay a lot of hidden taxes on everything they buy. They usually don't much care, or don't realize, or wouldn't know how to find out. Here's one example we can understand.

Taxes represent almost one-fourth the cost the consumer pays for the average low-priced car. This was reported recently by Robert J. Eggert, Ford Motor marketing specialist, at a Chicago meeting.

Automobile Manufacturers Ass'n and related data show, he said, that the consumer spending \$2,500 for a low-priced car is paying \$600 in taxes. The compilation was based on three-year average expenditures for a low-priced car which a typical consumer actually purchased.

The biggest single item, he said, is the "present discriminatory excise tax of ten per cent." This represents \$200 of the \$2,500 purchase price. Property, income and other miscellaneous taxes on the manufacturer add \$150 and taxes in the price of purchased materials and parts add another \$140. At the dealer level, property, income and miscellaneous taxes add \$20 and then the consumer pays \$90 for state sales taxes, license and title fees.

The result, he said, is that taxes on a new car actually exceed total marketing costs by \$100.

## The Diner's Guide

When Duncan Hines died recently, it brought forth many stories about his life, the reasons for and success of his books. That's because a great many Americans used his books to advantage when they traveled. We imagine that the organization will continue them for some years.

It's fun just to look through these books, just as it is fun to plan a trip. In his 1958 edition of *Adventures in Good Eating* is listed 3,400 places, by name, location, price, and hours of service.

As footnotes at the bottom of a few pages, some realistic advice is offered to diners, such as:

No matter where the ham comes from, if good, it would require a very poor cook to spoil it in cooking. . . I do not return to a place where those who serve act as though they are doing me a favor. . . Little things such as clean tops on ketchup bottles and spotless sugar bowls show an attention to detail that carries over into the food preparation which goes on behind the scenes. . . When I run into table silver that has a clammy, greasy feel and looks like pewter, I walk out. . . Avoid, as you would the plague, any restaurant that smells even faintly of stale grease. It's a sure sign of poor cooking.

## Your Blood Needed

The Red Cross blood donation crew will be in Farmington next Tuesday, May 19, at the American Legion Hall on Grand River at Lakeway. Hours are 1:45 to 7:45 p.m.

Farmington (or any other community) has never given enough support to this program. It just isn't possible to do too much. But how about you, personally, giving a pint of blood next Tuesday?

## The Farmington Enterprise

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## What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

**SOUTHFIELD** — Township Park Week Day will be observed Saturday, May 16.

An invitation has been extended to all township residents to lend a hand in cleaning up the park by Township Supervisor Hugh G. Allerton, Jr.

Work will start at 9 a.m. If weather does not cooperate then the job will be done on the following Saturday. The 40-acre overgrown, undeveloped park off Beverly road west of Southfield is owned by the township. A sum of \$5,000 was set aside in the 1959-60 budget for its improvement.

Township officials anticipate increased use of the park by various organizations with its improvement.

"We're asking people to bring shovels, axes and a power chain saw, if anyone has one," Allerton said.

—The Village Crier

**BIRMINGHAM** — Their downtown commercial area at a strategic economic crossroads, 53 Birmingham merchants and property owners last week agreed that the first step toward what they believe will eventually make their city Michigan's most exclusive and distinctive shopping center.

They named a nine-member nominating committee whose job will be to pick a chairman to spearhead a revitalization and strengthening of Birmingham's central business core.

All agreed that action was needed immediately. A large increase in office and store vacancies was noted. It was also pointed out that the vacancies were running longer than in previous years.

Commissioner Roberts gave a warning to the group: "We are not out of the woods yet. We need to get together on our parking problems. We had to reach the critical stage before we took action. I hope we don't have to reach the critical stage before we do something to preserve our business section's life."

—The Birmingham Eccentric

**NOVI** — Voters in Novi will go to the polls June 16 to decide whether the village should be incorporated as a city. Detroit's first election was set last Monday night by the village council.

The resolution setting the election date was unanimously approved. The council members who may be voting themselves right out of office. However, they had no alternative but to set a date. Village Attorney Edward Bond said they were required by law to set the election date because the required number of residents signed petitions requesting such an election.

A question and answer period on the goods and bads of city government will be held Tuesday, May 19, at 8 p.m. in the community hall.

—The Novi News

**DEARBORN** — Merchants took the first step toward bringing free off-ramp parking to Dearborn this week by setting up a steering committee to find the best way to pay off \$640,000 still owed on city parking lot.

Although he said plans have not reached the "near future" stage, Richard Chapman, executive vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce, said merchants are very serious about meeting the challenge of shopping centers in other suburban communities.

The plan is that the business and land owners would pay off the bonds by means of special taxes on their property assessed in proportion to the benefits they would get from free parking. The proposal would cover both east and west Dearborn since the bonds were issued for the entire city. It would take ten years to pay off the total amount.

—The Dearborn Press

**WAYNE** — The Village Council has appropriated \$2,500 to fund initial survey work in the proposed downtown development project and set a special meeting with the planning commission to discuss plans.

## THE AMERICAN WAY



## Refusing to Face Reality

### MICHIGAN MIRROR • ELMER WHITE

## Interest in Politics in State For Off-Year Extremely High

**POLITICAL LEADERS** are watching the 1959 off-year with old fascination. It is an unusual year of jockeying for 1960 position, with the public sentiment ebbing, then flaring. Republicans and Democrats alike hope they are getting the message correctly.

In the heat of the state's financial problems, both Gov. Williams and Republicans in the legislature are vying for the designation of martyr while trying to tag the opponent with a label.

Williams made himself unpopular for a time by asking to use the Veterans' Trust Fund temporarily to bolster the state's finances during a period of emergency.

Democrats refused to provide enough votes to put a sales tax increase on the April 6 ballot, a move Republicans believed was the desire of the voters, if a tax were needed.

Williams' move to take the Veterans' Trust Fund was first defeated, then revived by Republicans, who later insisted a use tax, the equivalent of a sales tax, be enacted to pay the money back.

By holding back on Williams' plan to use the Trust Fund, the Republicans aided Williams' claim that the budget, legislature the martyr's role.

Williams, ordering payless paydays, blasted the legislative Republicans. After days of drumming the subject, legislators took on martyrdom.

**SENTIMENT** is gathering steam for a constitutional convention or, if that fails, reappointment of the legislature because of the conditions of 1959.

Democrats long have contended that the legislature now represents more the people. Republicans answer that all interests, area as well as people, should have a voice.

The fight goes on, but the voters are watching 1959, for tips on what they can expect in 1960.

**CITIZENS IN MORE** than 500 communities in Michigan are vying to be the state's industries, businesses, farms, services and other activities which provide their livelihood during Michigan Week.

The state was publicized as a powerhouse in the midst of plenty in the nation's leading periodicals so the chore of Michigan Week, May 17-23, will be harder this year. It is the sixth year of the celebration.

Its purpose is to publicize the state as a good place to live and to do business, both on a national scale and among Michigan's own residents. The financial crisis has brought the state much unfavorable publicity and misunderstanding. Residents can minimize this reaction by their display of pride and confidence.

**LAWYERS GATHERED** at their new state headquarters in Lansing May 1 to celebrate "Law Day" and inspect the \$300,000 building of the State Bar of Michigan.

Chief Justice John R. Dethmers, of the Michigan Supreme Court, reiterated the creed that "ours is a civilization of laws, not of men."

## Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

### 25 Years Ago MAY 10, 1934

A new school building is to be erected by Our Lady of Sorrows Church of Farmington, on the north side of Grand River Avenue, just west of Farmington Junction, if negotiations for the property now going on are carried through.

Arrangements for purchase of the property from the receiver of the former Detroit United Lines have progressed so far that it is regarded as certain the deal will be consummated. Plans have been drawn for the school structure and it is anticipated that construction will be started in the near future on the acre parcel of land. A frame construction more than adequate to care for all Catholic children of the church at this time is called for.

**Criticize Movies**  
Growing criticism and protests against the type of motion pictures that have been displayed before children of Farmington, and vicinity at the free movies on Friday evenings crystallized into outspoken opposition at two meetings this week.

The matter was aired at length before the City Commission Monday night and at the Exchange Club meeting on Wednesday.

It was generally agreed that some sort of censorship should be required to control pictures being shown to youngsters.

May 12 1939

### 10 Years Ago MAY 12, 1949

**Cut-Off Light**  
Approval has been granted by the State Highway Dept. for installation of a red and green traffic regulation light at the corner of Farmington Road and the Grand River.

Cut-off light was installed by Kenneth Loomis, city police commissioner.

The announcement came following a conference between Loomis and top officials of the State Highway Department.

Installation of the traffic light will automatically eliminate the previously worked out speed control plan for the Cut-Off.

It was stated that the light would be installed prior to the Michigan Week.

## To Open State Police Posts to Public May 19

Michigan Week, May 17 to 23, will be observed by the State Police with open houses at all posts "Hospitality Day," Tuesday, May 19, and the flying of the State flag all week, according to Sgt. Ellis J. Potter, commanding officer of the Ford post.

Similar programs held the last two years have been very successful, thousands of persons taking advantage of a special opportunity to visit their nearest post and look over the facilities.

The visiting hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and officers will be hand to escort persons through the building, explain equipment and answer any questions regarding department operations.

"Although visitors are welcome at State Police posts at all times, Hospitality Day provides a special occasion to be with us," said Sgt. Potter. "The public can learn at first hand how their department operates and the services it performs. The more visitors the better. Get acquainted with your State Police."

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## Awarded MSU Scholarship

Marilyn Sue Highland of Farmington is among 349 Michigan high school seniors to be awarded entrance scholarships to Michigan State University, according to Paul D. Bagwell, director of scholarships.

These awards are made on the basis of academic achievement, leadership ability and financial need.

The scholarships cover tuition at Michigan State for one year and are renewable for a total of four years, providing the student maintains a satisfactory grade level as prescribed by the university's scholarship committee.

**Wine Pharmacy Award at U. of M.**

Margery A. Blatchley of 23423 Bay Drive, Farmington, was one of 23 University of Michigan pharmacy students to win scholarship awards.

Miss Blatchley was awarded the Central Pharmacy Foundation pharmacy administration prize for high grades in the Pharmacy Administration course.

Presenting the awards was Dean Thomas D. Rowe.

Shop in Friendly Farmington.

## Public Letter Box

Name Is Needed . . .

Last Wednesday (past deadline for the May 7 edition) we received a letter from an unidentified party complaining about the publishing of the picture of junk cars stacked high at the back of Bezesky Brothers auto parts property on Grand River near the city hall.

We welcome letters for the "Letter Box" regardless of whether they are in agreement with us or in opposition. Like all other newspapers, however, we require letters to be signed although we will gladly withhold the name of the writer on request.

In his letter, the writer termed the printing of the picture as a "nasty thing to do to businessmen who have been located here for many, many years."

We still feel that this is an unhealthy and uncleanly condition which should be corrected. Just because a man has been in business here for many years does not mean he can ignore health, safety and welfare in conducting that business.

The writer also stated in his letter that he knew of at least 20 places in the community equally as bad as this pile of junk cars that needed cleaning up. This is another reason why we would like to know the name of the letter writer. We would like to go with him and take pictures of each of these places to run in the paper. It is our hope that this can be a long range campaign to point out all uncleanly conditions in the community.

Would the letter writer please make himself known to us?

Sincerely yours,  
The Editor

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## OUT to DINE

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