

Editorial Page

Be Fair But Not Easy

Oakland county officials are being criticized these days for apparently being about the only one of the state's 83 counties which is trying to do what the law requires in collecting payment according to ability from parents who want to put retarded children in state institutions.

As a result the state mental health department is going to sponsor legislation at the next session at Lansing which that parents of defective children sent to Lapeer State Home or other institutions won't have to pay anything toward their support.

It should be pretty well realized after this summer that Michigan has really stiff taxes now. Just where do the sponsors think the money is coming from? All of us, of course.

We suggest that a better course would be to insure that the other 82 counties be forced to collect more from the parents, according to their ability to pay, of course.

Under present law all the counties and the attorney general's office must make an effort to see that parents who can afford to, make monthly contributions toward the care of their retarded children in state institutions. Parents are naturally anxious to put their children in Lapeer State Home as soon as possible. They are asked to say how much they can afford to pay monthly to defray the cost.

The trouble seems to be that in Oakland county the board of supervisors in 1957 formed a collection bureau operating under the Oakland board of auditors. Thus there is a little follow-through on collection here and, we suspect, about none in other counties.

Wayne county is said by welfare officials to be "more fair" in its collections—in other words, easier. Oakland county has 366 cases at Lapeer State Home, with 72 on the waiting list. Wayne county has 2,024 cases hospitalized and 312 waiting. Inasmuch as Wayne is not doing the collection job that Oakland is, it's easy to see which county is costing the taxpayers a huge amount.

We sympathize greatly with these parents. However, we lived four years at Lapeer, know some of the officials and problems there, and feel we have a better understanding of the situation than do perhaps some of the parents.

The greatest problem is unfair enforcement of the law among the counties. We'll concede some Oakland parents are paying in proportion more than they should.

Thus, some scale must be set up to determine how much parents should contribute toward care of their retarded children. The scale must be equally fair and equally enforceable everywhere.

Meantime we can't feel too critical of Oakland officials who are doing what the law says they should.

It cost American taxpayers three million dollars to clean up litter from our national forests last year. Don't YOU be a litterbug. Help keep our forests and all of America... clean and beautiful!

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

PLYMOUTH — There are more indications that Plymouth Township will have a general water system in its future. Supervisor Roy Lindsay stated last week after attending a series of meetings with the Detroit Water Board.

Township officials are now working toward a water supply from two different sources. They plan to move ahead with a system supplied with local wells. At the same time, the supervisor says, efforts are continuing to hook the proposed local system to a Detroit water source.

The Detroit and Wayne County water systems have now been merged with the Detroit Water Board, eventually taking over the complete control. The supervisor said he believes the Detroit Water Board is in the best position of any governmental agency to move ahead with a water development plan since the board has highly profitable assets that make it easy for them to sell bonds.

After the northwest section of the township is supplied with water supply, the Detroit Water Board has promised a tie-in to the Plymouth Township system, the supervisor said.

—The Plymouth Mail

BIRMINGHAM — "Name-calling" is still going full tilt in the Birmingham school district as the opening of school draws near.

Traditionalists — now over 400 strong—continue to make their plea for the retention of the grand old Birmingham name on what is now the Ernest W. Seaholm high school, while the Board of Education, apparently firm in its decision to change the name, points out that the grand old tradition is only seven years of age.

Students at the school have petitioned the Board to keep the name of Birmingham high. The Board pointed out that for the first time this year, Birmingham will have two high schools and that it would be most unfair and confusing to have the older one retain the name Birmingham high. Up until seven years ago the only high school in Birmingham was not known as Birmingham but Baldwin. Board members were quick to add.

—The Birmingham Eclectic

DEARBORN — The potential school age population in Dearborn declined this year for the first time in the postwar building and baby boom. C. Roscoe Simmons, director of child care, reported last week.

Supervisors in Dearborn said there were 40,336 children from birth through age 19, a decrease of 371 from the previous year.

The 1959 school census report did not contain an estimate of the total city population.

Simmons noted that for the second consecutive year the Dearborn school district lost children as a result of families moving out of the city. The reason for this may be due to general economic conditions, but, he added, there may be more fundamental reasons which could have a serious effect on future school enrollments.

As a result of families moving out of the city the district lost 921 children in the 5-19 age bracket in 1958 and 529 children in 1959.

In the East Dearborn district, losses due to families moving out of the city were pre-school age, 260; elementary age group, 682; junior and senior high group, 45.

—The Dearborn Press

SOUTH LYON — The South Lyon Township Board of Education revised its policy on use of school buses for school-related activities and reaffirmed its policy of picking up children living in subdivision areas at a special meeting last week.

After some lengthy discussion it was agreed to let the Little League use school buses to transport to and from the ball game provided no direct cost is to be borne by the school district. This will be the new policy in connection with other school-related activities as well, the board indicated.



MICHIGAN MIRROR • by ELMER WHITE

Investigation of Highway Dept. Has Administration Concerned

Deep concern was expressed within the state administration as the Senate prepared to investigate the highway department.

Not since the days when Gov. C. Mennen Williams was focusing attention on the operation of former Highway Commissioner Charles M. Ziegler has the spotlight of unfavorable publicity been centered as much on the department's administrative practices.

Considerable furor existed even before the investigating committee was officially named.

Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie said he would rather be spending his time building roads than answering questions.

Sen. John H. Stahl (R-Belding), who authored the resolution setting up the probe, told Mackie not to worry. He intended to get most of his information from independent sources.

An investigating committee can be a forum for powerful thrust in the drive by politicians and administrators alike for favorable public opinion.

Mackie already has called on his public information section to answer statements by Stahl.

Resources of the Republican State Central Committee's agent were thrown into the battle to help pave the way for the investigation when a dispute developed over right-of-way procedures in Gratiot County.

Legislative investigations often are barren of conclusions. When there are, conclusions are not always in accord with laws or changes in administrative practices.

The lack of reform by law, however, does not diminish the traffic fatalities, 15 to 13, over the Fourth of July weekend, when are rising water enthusiasts to be especially careful over the long Labor Day holiday and wind up the summer season without tragedy.

Of 293 water accidents reported up through August 24 this year, 170 were fatal, 88 resulted in personal injury and there were 27 accidents resulting in property damage exceeding \$50.

Of the 194 drowned, 23 were boat operators, 41 boat passengers, 54 swimmers, 20 skid divers, one water skier, 18 children who wandered away from parents, 11 youngsters who slipped into the water while fishing or playing and 44 were victims of miscellaneous causes.

Major causes of boat accidents, which should serve to caution Labor Day boaters from making similar mistakes, include overloading, inattentiveness of the driver or reckless operation, using high powered motors on boats too small to handle the power and failure to beach crafts soon enough after storms appear.

Swimmers drown mainly because they try to swim unaided by boats or canoes, swimming alone, or diving before checking the depth of the water.

Aboard Destroyer on N. Atlantic Cruise

Douglas G. Hervela, shipfitter third class, U.S.N., son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hervela of 28776 Nine Mile Rd., Farmington, departed Newport, R. I., Aug. 28 aboard the destroyer escort USS Hammerberg for an eight-week cruise to Northern Europe.

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

25 Years Ago
AUGUST 30, 1934
Gala Day

For the thirteenth time in Farmington history Labor Day will be Gala Day. Under the auspices of the Graves-Walker American Legion Post, plans are near completion to make next Monday one of the biggest gala days of them all.

Band concerts, sports events, a pet and doll parade, a water battle between fire departments, a midway and numerous other activities are scheduled.

Hole-In-One
A young Farmington man entered the select circle in golf on Sunday. He made a hole-in-one.

John Lapham, playing at Bonny Brook Country Club, sank his first ace of his golfing career.

His biggest golfing thrill came on the 209 yard par-three number six hole. He used a No. 6 iron.

Nichols' Reunion

The Nichols School reunion held last Saturday attracted 40 former pupils and teachers. A potluck dinner was served at 1:30 p.m. followed by a short program of music and readings.

Happenings of former days were recalled by the older persons present.

10 Years Ago
SEPTEMBER 1, 1949

Material Theft

"Someone in or around Farmington is trying to build a house real cheap and real fast," Farmington Police Chief Joseph J. DeVries said.

In recent days police have had several reports of nighttime thefts of building materials and supplies.

Floral Park vicinity where the CM construction company is erecting a number of new homes.

In the last week, after dark, visitors have made off with such items as soil pipe, 80 bags of cement, 1500 feet of lumber, 2x4's and various plumbing fixtures; the police chief reported.

Parking Lot

Farmington's new city parking lot on Grand River Ave. just east of the half block business stores on the south side of Grand River west of Farmington Road, has now

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