

Editorial Page

Gravel Pits in Area

The headline on a front page story in last week's issue of The Enterprise read — "Gravel Pits in Township Fever, On Way Out." And, all we can say is, the sooner the better.

We do not mean to indicate by this that we are opposed to all excavation work to obtain gravel or sand from the earth but we do definitely feel that it should be prohibited or stringently controlled when unsafe or unhealthy conditions might result.

A man should never be denied the right to make use of the land he owns to the fullest, providing the use he decides on is not detrimental to the property owners around him or the community as a whole.

We look back in our life with some rather fond memories about a gravel pit. It was the "old swimming hole" to us as a boy and a place for some enjoyable dips on hot summer days. This pit was in the country, however, and at least a mile or more away from the nearest home. A car or a lot of bicycle pumping was necessary to get there and only the older boys ever even considered it.

Farmington is no longer countryside but a rapidly growing suburban area, as much as some people would like to think otherwise. Residential development is going on in all sections of the township or is planned for the near future.

Because of this residential development in nearly all sections of the community, we feel there is little or no area left where sand or gravel excavation work could be conducted safely. Deep holes and heavy earth moving and loading equipment attract youngsters. No trespassing signs such as the ones we observed last summer around the deep pit just north of 12 Mile between Drake and Halsted are of little value. Some of the younger youngsters living not too far away who might have wandered there probably wouldn't even have been able to read them. Older children who could probably wouldn't have paid much attention anyway.

We commend township officials for taking positive action to rectify previously caused unsafe pit conditions and for the steps they have taken to control any future operations pretty rigidly.

Downtown Decorations

Have you noticed how much nicer the downtown Farmington business district looks this Christmas season? We feel that the decorated strands across the streets adorned with Christmas lights make a real big difference.

Our congratulations go to the small group of businessmen in the downtown area who have contributed money to pay for these decorations now up. Congratulations also go to City of Farmington officials for their cooperation in providing manpower and money to get the streets decorated.

It is this kind of cooperation between businessmen and city officials that can make the downtown area a healthy business district once more.

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

15 Years Ago

DECEMBER 14, 1944
School Addition
Work on the addition to the Clarenceville High School will begin immediately following the letting of contracts Tuesday evening to the Atkin-Pardon Company of Detroit.

The company's bid of \$57,685 was for all phases of construction work. It was approximately \$1,000 less than it had been anticipated the cost would be.

Bulldozer Addition
An addition to the Earl V. Service Station at 3320 Grand River is now under construction. Vierter stated that the addition will triple the space he has at the present time.

10 Years Ago

DECEMBER 15, 1949
Zoning Board
Four Farmington Township residents have been appointed to the township zoning board by north of 12 Mile.

The Farmington Enterprise

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Aging Problems Conferences Now Being Held

In addressing the Senior Citizens Workshop Conference on Wednesday December 9, Senator Pat McNamara (Democrat, Michigan), Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Problems of the Aged and Aging, presented a ten point Declaration of Rights for older Americans.

This Declaration of Rights called for an adequate income; high standards of health and medical care; a more rapid application of research in old age housing; homelike institutional care; a progressive retirement policy; the pursuit of meaningful activities; decent, adequate social services; and an over-riding emphasis on freedom, independence and initiative.

The Senior Citizens Workshop Conference was in conjunction with the hearings in Detroit, to be held December 10 and 11, of the Senate Subcommittee on the Problems of the Aged and Aging.

The Workshop Conference and the hearings are being held at the McGreggor Memorial Conference Auditorium of Wayne State University.

Senator McNamara said that Detroit is the final city in which the Subcommittee on the Problems of the Aged and Aging will conduct field hearings this year.

He asserted: "The problems of nearly 16 million human beings today, of 20 million in a short time from now, and of 25 million by 1980, simply cannot continue to be handled in a haphazard, patchwork fashion."

He said: "Modern society has made it possible for a larger number and proportion to the population to live into the so-called 'golden years,' but that same modern industrial and urban society then turns around and deprives its older citizens of any first-class living."

Senator McNamara said as Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee, he hoped to make a Declaration of Rights for older persons the basis of an extensive legislative program in the months ahead.

D-7 Tractor To Aid Deer

A promising breeder of wildlife will soon fix its mechanical muscles on sparse deer-browse areas in northern Michigan.

The device—a D-7 tractor equipped with an 11-foot cutting blade—made its experimental debut last winter on approximately 1,000 acres of non-manageable forest stands (mostly aspen) in food-shortage areas of the northern Michigan counties.

Although several growing seasons are needed to fully measure the tractor's cutting effects, early results were encouraging to conservation department game men.

"Tops and limbs of trees leveled by the heavy machine augmented commercial and emergency timber cuttings to provide badly-needed browse for deer."

Department studies showed that the tractor's clear cuttings and sprout growth and regeneration on a wide variety of timber stands. In many aspen stands, the sprout rate increased that fostered by controlled burning, another approach to improving wildlife habitat.

Sprout regeneration is aimed at furnishing deer with a post-winter food supply and providing cover and vegetation for furred game, rabbits and other small game.

Operational costs of the D-7 machine were comparable with those for other habitat-improvement techniques such as disk, aerial herbicide spraying and controlled burning.

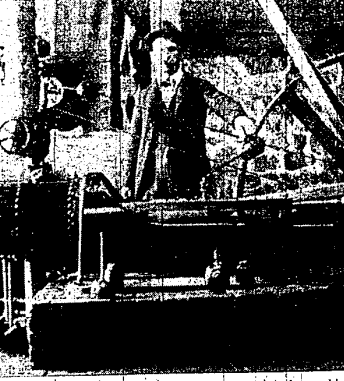
While the machine cannot be used efficiently in stands of large timber, stony areas, or plots containing numerous large, old trees, its use is well suited to its cuttings hold advantages over these mentioned techniques.

The cuttings offer immediate help to deer during the winter when the herd's food supply is most severely pinched and when other measures are held at bay. Under normal conditions, the crawler-type tractor levels two to three acres per hour.

The mechanical cuttings have another advantage over burning and spraying in that they can be stipulated at certain pre-selected forest species. The machine's test performance this winter may earn it an important supporting role in the department's habitat-improvement picture. It will not replace commercial logging as a game management tool, but, as indications, it will eventually supplement logging to rejuvenate productivity in non-commercial forest sites.

Beets for dinner will have a new appeal if you give them a taste of mint.

Do You Remember . . .



THE OLD GRIST MILL in downtown Farmington back about 60 or more years ago was one of the biggest businesses in the community and a gathering place for farmers from some distance around. Keeping the machinery used to grind the grain in good shape was a must. Oil for the moving parts was as important then as it is today.

MICHIGAN MIRROR • Making Extra Effort to Keep Yule Highway Deaths Down

WILL YOU SUFFER the loss of a loved one before the end of the holiday season? An extra effort to see that you don't is underway by the Michigan Highway Safety Commission and state media of the state.

Accidents and highway deaths increased during December. Few people like to discuss it, but a little thought right now might save your life, your involvement in an accident costing someone's life.

"Drinking drivers or pedestrians account for 42 percent of the accidents," says Joseph A. Childs, commissioner of state police. "And this percentage is higher in December."

Childs is not talking about drunks so much as the great number of moderate drinkers who are not considered drunk at all. Regardless of a person's capacity and attitudes about drinking the hard fact is that people who have been drinking are involved in disproportionate high percent of accidents.

The moral is clear: If you drink, do not drive! Extra driving care is required because of frosty windshields or icy roads. Carelessness is a vicious thing which is a danger to all drivers.

Chairs pointed out that the "good" driver is commonly in the rear end in serious accidents. It's not fair to blame our whole problem on teenagers and drinking."

While these groups merit special consideration, it is important to realize that many names which appear on accident records are listed there for the first time. They have a long record of good driving—or may be good luck—and in a moment of carelessness they become involved.

How do you keep the public concerned? That's the main problem faced by safety experts. Listed below are some things they consider important:

There are 50,000 "accident prone" drivers on the roads today—20,000 more than last year.

There is a great increase in the number of drivers without licenses. These include drivers whose licenses have expired, whose licenses never received a license, and most importantly, drivers who have been ruled off the road. (Try an experiment. Tonight, no, check your own license.)

Then ask 10 of your friends to do the same. Chances are you would find some of them have licenses expired.

Tougher enforcement by local officials is required. Safety officials will ask police officers to check license holders' records and use justice to be more severe with drivers whose licenses have been revoked.

An effort to make it "easier" rather than "sticker" to violate traffic regulations will be undertaken. A great part of the problem is considered to be the public's attitude toward driving. The new concept, if it can be created, would help.

The push for a Christmas safety campaign is only part of the story. Those who work in this field know the problem requires constant and long term attention. Since many interested parties, including a Michigan Press Association Traffic Safety Committee, began work six years ago, a number of recommendations have been put into effect.

As the state's record improved substantially it seems the importance of the problem has slipped from public attention. There is belief that there should be a new emphasis of these factors.

There was authorization for a number of 20 additional state troopers to cope with traffic problems. These men were

John Gow, 84, Dies Friday

An 84 year old native of Farmington, John Gow of 4201 Ten Mile Road, Novi, passed away Friday, Dec. 11, at the Crestview Rest Home following a three year illness.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 14, at the Eastern Star Funeral Home in Northville with the Rev. Paul Cargo of the First Methodist Church in Northville officiating. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery, Farmington.

Gow was born January 22, 1875, in Farmington Township, the son of Carl and Mary Gow. He moved from Farmington to a farm in Novi about 45 years ago where he remained until retiring.

Gow's wife, Florence, preceded him in death. He is survived by a son, Alfred Gow of Novi and three sisters, Mrs. L. McClelland of Waller Lake, Mrs. Augusta High of Pontiac and Mrs. E. Berry of Baltimore, Maryland. Also left are three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Strict enforcement of laws is effective but difficult to keep in effect. Courts and police departments reflect to a great extent the feeling of their communities. If people "just don't care," enforcement tends to lessen.

Improved roads have also lessened the death toll. But more bridges need to be widened, curves rogated, trees cut down. These things are costly, but if the accident rate is to be reduced, the expenditures must be made.

Exactly 50 people died in traffic accidents last year in the 78 hour period of Christmas. If the record is to be better this year, it will take the cooperation of all drivers.

If the number of people who are maimed or killed on streets and highways is to be reduced to the minimum over the next 12 months, it will take the attention and the effort of everyone.

Newspapers, radio and television have demonstrated their desire to keep this matter before the public. Safety organizations are anxious to work hard. Government officials want to do what they can.

The big question is: will the public get the message; understand it; and be willing to act for its own protection.

Every individual in the state has something to say about the answer. If you are willing to do your part?

Charles Zink Has License Suspended

Charles R. Zink, 30, of 21422 Hamilton, Farmington, was among 420 Michigan drivers who had their licenses suspended recently according to a release from the Secretary of State's office.

Zink's license was suspended for the period from Nov. 20 of this year until January 19, 1960 for unsafe driving.

God is not separate from the wisdom He bestows. The talents He gives we must improve. —Mary Baker Eddy.

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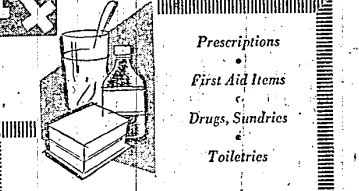
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