

Observing the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

It's too late in Redford Township. A shortsighted supervisor about 15 years ago pulled the rug out from under conscientious citizens who tried to plan a community. I remember them and him.

In Plymouth they are following a master plan and officials believe in it and are on target.

In Farmington Township officials are looking ahead and have accepted a Federal grant to be used for planning. The City of Farmington is presently preparing to rezone. It is being fought, of course.

It is about the last-ditch effort and fight in Livonia that concerns us most this week. The struggle will continue until April when the Livonia taxpayers will be asked to approve purchase of 1200 acres for a recreation area in Livonia. The cost will be approximately five to seven dollars per year for the average home owner. Livonia can still be saved as a good city; one that will hold its residents, not a mere stop-over place for those seeking up and "out."

Before you groan — hear me out.

While back, when this 1200 acres was still a gleam in a builder's eye, a group of Livonia men — one a councilman, one a City planner, another a business man, but informally. They got to figuring just how much it was going to cost to live in Livonia when the city reached its saturation point with homes and residents, 200,000 people — double what it is now. They calculated it would mean at least another two high schools, six junior highs, 25 elementary schools.

Astronomical!

As a jest, one suggested: "Why doesn't the City purchase the available land left? It would be far cheaper in the long run." At first they all chuckled. Then they got busy with the pencil and decided it was by far the cheapest thing to do just that. In most cases when men of purpose meet — action follows. This is exactly how the idea was born.

Livonians will hear the matter discussed in the next few weeks — both pro and con.

Remember we are always in the struggle between high principle and the quest for money. There is much money to be made in Livonia and there are those always pushing for "continuous growth," housing developments, more apartments.

There is a case history. I wish people could read about concerning what used to be a pleasant place to live called Forest Hills in New York — that sprawling city with from 44,000 to 125,000 residents.

Today Forest Hills has no new trees, almost no new parks. It narrowed its sidewalks along its main artery to unsnar traffic; parking space is non-existent; schools are jammed with the local high school on triple session and new elementary are over-crowded the day they open their doors. Every scrap of land in this community has been grabbed up and used for homes and apartment houses. No planning — just a network of roads, cement and dwellings. And lower real estate values.

Figure it out for yourself. In Livonia there are 1200 acres involved. There can be four houses built on an acre. Houses that have children and need parks and playgrounds, garbage pickup, etc. Livonia does not have to develop this land immediately but if it doesn't buy it now, it will vanish into people.

Livonia can be a well rounded community of good balance or it can be another Forest Hills. It's up to us — and NOW is our chance. Talk and think it over.

Westland Center Construction Is Topic of Engineer's Talk

The House Valley Chapter of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers will hold its 1965 meeting on Tuesday, February 23. This meeting will be held at the Westland Center, 10000 Westland Center, Westland, Michigan. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. and will feature a presentation by Donald Tempin, P. E., Chap. Suburban Lounge, Six Mile member of MSPE, will speak of Middlebelt, at 6:30 p.m. at "Shopping Centers, Inc." Mr. Tempin's program starts at 6:30 p.m.

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by Les Wilson

TO THE TWO WHO DON'T

Somewhere in the volumes of information that comes to me in the mail, I read that 8 out of 10 people who own movie cameras also own movie projectors. To them, it's a hot tip. But to the 2 out of 10 owners of movie cameras who have not yet bought projectors, I now direct myself...

Boxer builds an especially fine 8mm projector that sells for \$149.95. It's a 16mm projector. It's the Boxer 8 Movie Projector, Model 1E-5. Let me tell you something about it.

Naturally, it's self-threading. Just tuck the end of the film into a slot and the projector takes it from there... even starts the film onto the take-up reel. A single rotary switch controls "on," "off," lamp and power rewind. A powerful 50-watt projection lamp gives bright pictures up to 4 feet wide. What's more, you can show 400 feet of film at a time.

The whole unit is about the size of an automatic toaster and weighs only six pounds. Light enough to take with you when you go on visits. And cost! Only \$129.50 will make you the proud owner of this quality projector.

Why not let me demonstrate it? At the same time, let me show you a low-cost film splicer so you can put together your 50-foot sections of film into 400-foot reels. You'll be pleasantly surprised at how little it costs to set yourself up with this fine projector and some recommended accessories.

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Sensationalism And The Press

A distinguished editor, James A. Wechsler, of the New York Post, has had some things to say about our profession — which seemed to articulate some of our own philosophy, and we thought we would pass them along:

"Whenever serious students of the press gather, there are melancholy recitations about the menace of 'sensationalism' in journalism. What I have to say in these ensuing paragraphs must be frankly labeled self-serving, because the newspaper which I edit engages in extensive coverage of what some choose to call 'sensational' news and what we describe as 'human-interest stories'.

"I preface these remarks by saying the obvious: if there were no New York Times, would have to be invented, and until it was, I would be almost unbearably difficult for those of us who run afternoon papers in New York. I concede ungrudgingly that no paper in the world makes a more conscientious effort to cover so much of the serious business of the universe.

"But to recognize the unique eminence of the Times is not to concede that journalism would have fulfilled all its potential in American life if the Times, or some replica thereof, and nothing else, were published in every city. That would be a good thing, but it would not be the whole story of humanity in the middle of the 20th century.

"The news columns of the Christian Science Monitor totally reject the existence of murder, rape, incest, adultery, and other sordid tidings; they are dedicated, in effect, to the chronicling of the stirrings of man as a political and cultural animal. The Times concedes, usually in obscure places, that the animal is more complicated, and, when he gets really out of hand, it may even give him an occasional front-page notice. But essentially the premise of such newspapers, whether carried to the Monitor's extreme or in the Times' more modest application of the same

...Mr. Roberts and the Law

Prof. Robert R. Palmer of Princeton, a great historian and a distinguished liberal, concedes that the Weimar Republic, which preceded the Hitler regime in Germany may have been too liberal. That—in its passion for civil liberties—it made a fatal mistake in letting Hitler out of prison so soon after his attempted beer hall putsch.

History supports Prof. Palmer's thesis. But Germany in the 1930s was a special time and place, its lessons hardly apply to us.

Unlike Germany then, America has deeply rooted democratic traditions. Its borders are safe. Its economy is sound. It has few extremists in its midst.

The danger to our freedom is from erosion. Our Constitution went to great lengths to insure the right of minority groups—no matter how extreme—to dissent against the majority view. Without this guarantee, the freedom of all of us will be in danger. Whenever this principle is violated, the freedom of all of us is made less secure.

In Farmington, last week, a strange old man named Russell Roberts was arrested for distributing literature of the American Nazi Party. He had come to the attention of that city's police after he allegedly had offered a \$4500 reward for 25 cents to distribute the material for him.

Roberts is not to be dismissed as a mere kook. According to the famous best seller, "Under Cover," he was one of the leading Nazis in Michigan in World War II. His record as such was so outstanding that he probably would have received the Iron Cross if Hitler had won.

Yet it makes no difference if this old man is a cunning propagandist for George Lincoln Rodwell or a kook. The issue is his right, regardless of his station in life, to enjoy the basic democratic rights of all Americans.

The United States Constitution makes no distinction between classes of people or political or religious groups. It guarantees the freedom of speech, of the press, of religion, of assembly.

—Allen Rosenfeld and David Elia

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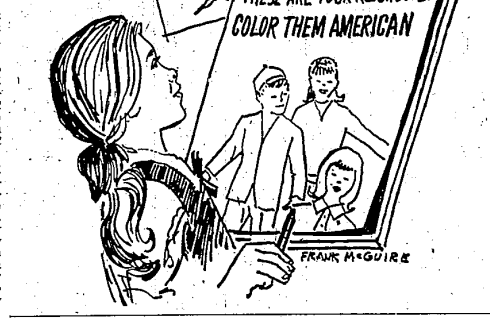
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READER SPEAKS UP: Parks Issue Discussed

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my feelings toward the Proposed Park Site Acquisition being put forth to the Citizens of Livonia in this year's election.

As President of the Merriman Estates Civic Association, Inc., I would like to point out that our area overwhelmingly defeated this Proposal the last time it appeared on the Ballot and I once again urge not only my Association but all the others in the City of Livonia to do likewise unless they receive answers to the following questions from the heads of the Departments involved and not from any group of citizens which are promoting the passage of this Proposal.

1. How will each Park Site be developed and what will it contain; such as swings, slides, climbing bars, merry-go-rounds, swimming pool, ice skating rink, baseball diamonds, etc., and will all this be furnished out of the monies being asked for in this election?

2. Will these parks be adequately maintained by the D.P.W., that is picking up all litter daily, weekly, or monthly, such as loose papers, bottles, tin cans, and any other debris deposited in the park?

3. Will the Livonia Police Department take Park Sites both day and night to prevent gangs from congregating and disturbing people, chasing the little children away from the using the park facilities and to prevent destruction of any of all facilities in the park?

4. Will these parks have playground equipment? Will the grass be cut weekly, monthly, or not at all as some are now?

5. Will some of the larger parks contain drinking fountains, rest-rooms, and walk-through sidewalks?

6. Will the City of Livonia assume the responsibility in the event of an injury sustained by a child or adult or any damages to neighboring residents bordering these park sites?

7. Will there be sufficient lighting installed to prevent any robbery or attacks on person or persons walking by or through the park area at night?

Therefore, I urge both newspapers publish this letter on the FRONT PAGE of their paper as they have given their own Editorial and Organizations who favor adoption of this Proposal on Park Sites.

JOHN MOLNAR, Pres. Merriman Estates Civic Association, Inc.

Press Comment

Editor:

I am gratifying indeed to read on the front page of your Feb. 10 issue the report of the action taken by the Redford Township Democrats, following the gross misrepresentation of facts by the "Township News" concerning a township official.

The Democratic resolution was liberal enough to refer to the item as an "editorial attack," but in our opinion editorial belongs to the editorial page and not on the front page, where the reader expects to see news items, items based on fact and not on vicious rumors. The left-handed "retraction" in the newspaper's next issue was an insult to any intelligent reader's basic understanding of an apology, and serves to demonstrate further the editor's opinion of his readers' mentality.

To the "red-faced" dwellers of township hell we have only this warning—look to your own affairs—we never know when a familiar voice may say "Smile, you're on Candid Camera."

SAGITTARIUS

Eradicating 'Fifth'

I am in favor of a positive approach to parental censorship. If parents expose their youngsters to good literature and good novels, the children will see the inferiority of the indecent. By instilling a set of proper values in the children while they are young, parents will not have such a great worry when the children reach adolescence.

NOREEN HAGBERTY
MADONNA COLLEGE
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

Editor:

I am 100 per cent behind Myra Chandler on her article on parental censorship. Just what does it take to convince parents that their children are also a form of dynamite which can be used for good or evil? And only a parent has the privilege, right and duty, to set the flame.

JOAN GOSTOMSKI
MADONNA COLLEGE
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

Against Parks

Editor:

It is ridiculous for Mayor Moskale to request monies for additional park sites as he neglects and does not care for the park area already under his jurisdiction. A case in point is as follows:

Our homes are adjacent to the Botsford Park ravine area which is at present flooded, infested with rats and polluted water. Our children must walk through this area to attend the public elementary school.

My neighbors and myself have petitioned the city, called the DPW and the Mayor's office for the last five years. We have received no cooperation.

Take care of this problem Mr. Mayor before you expect your citizens to approve more land.

Yours truly,

JANET ROSEN

Yesterday's Headlines

20 Years Ago

The LIVONIAN of Feb. 21, 1945, reported the opening of the Rotary Club in Livonia. The new club had 22 charter members but it would remain a provisional club until accepted by the board of directors for Rotary International. The first president was Harry O. Johnson and the vice-president was Dr. L. S. Hotchkiss.

15 Years Ago

The Feb. 17, 1950 LIVONIAN carried a front-page story on the newly formed Charter Company's swearing-in ceremony. Harry S. Wolfe was chosen as chairman and Raymond Grimes as vice-chairman.

10 Years Ago

The LIVONIAN of Feb. 17, 1955, reported the sad news of the death of George Bentley, Mr. Bentley was 72 and had been ill for some time. Other front page news included the urging of the state to take a new census and the production of a light turnout in the General Primary Election.

5 Years Ago

The "automation boom" has come to Redford. In the Feb. 18, 1960 OBSERVER the chief headline was concerned with the ideas of bringing parking meters into the Township. It was evident that the businessmen did not want the idea for 70 of them turned out to protest the proposal.

KERRY GUENTHER

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