

From the Publisher's Desk OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

STOP BY the shore of a pleasant looking lake in Hines Park. What do you see or (better) smell? Pollution. Go out into an open piece of property in Observerland. What's there, under the trees and amid the grass? Beer cans. Pop bottles. Garbage. Drive along Plymouth Road

some hot summer afternoon when there isn't much wind. What do you smell? Smoke. Fumes. Car exhaust. Air pollution. Walk along a pleasant street in Plymouth or Farmington. What's that all over? Litter.

FOR YEARS we have used our planet as one big garbage dump. When there were few people

around, no one cared much or even noticed.

But with the sudden population explosion, there are just many more people and cars and buildings and factories and so on and so forth.

Just that many more ways to foul up our land, water and air.

A special task force report submitted last week to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare puts it pretty clearly:

"For thousands of years," the report begins, "man has treated this planet as a dumping ground, boundless in its ability to absorb insults."

SO JUST what are we going to do about it?

And in particular, what are WE going to do about it, before either federal or state government steps in and starts to tell us what we're going to do?

We certainly have not done much here.

There's been a lot of talk in Livonia about a municipal incinerator, perhaps to be shared with other communities. But the only hot air this project has generated so far has come from politicians.

The Observer helped put on a conference on air and water pollution several months ago. It was an interesting session and many points of view were exchanged, as the diplomats say.

But, frankly, nothing much has come out of it.

There have been various stabs at getting some sort of inter-governmental cooperation to work on the problems of pollution, but these have bogged down in frustration and suspicion.

We really don't have much time to get something done on the local level.

One of the HEW task force's recommendations for study was an exploration of just where people and industry should be located so as to reduce the intensity of development and, therefore, pollution.

This suggests that if we don't get going to solve our own problems, the state might step in and tell us where to live and where to build.

I'm not too sure if any of us would like that.

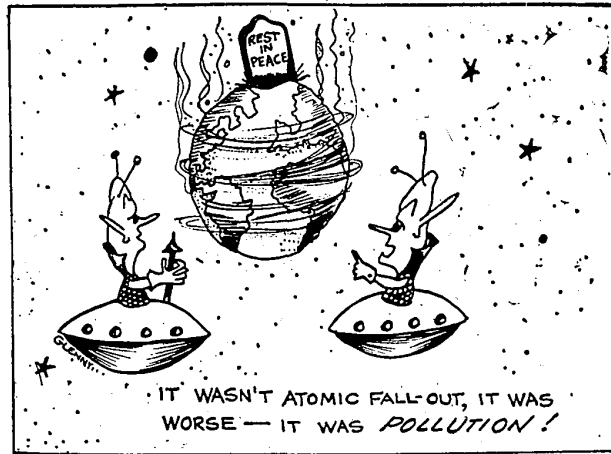
Sense 'n Nonsense

The one word Jaycees use more than "enthusiasm" is "publicity." They love publicity better than beer, almost, and seek reams and reams of it especially during Jaycee Week in January, when the publicity is about themselves.

Last week, the Plymouth Jaycees played host to something genuinely important—a statewide tennis tournament, drawing boys and girls from hundreds of miles. It deserved an "advance" story in the pages of this newspaper, but it didn't get any, because the Plymouth Jaycees' publicity chairman got the story in a day past our deadline, although the event had been planned for weeks.

Was it because the "publicity" wasn't 100 per cent about themselves?

—Tim Richard



This Is The Week That

By Don Hoenschell

Here's your scalp! doc, and let us look inside a traffic safety bill in Lansing that maybe could save a life on the highways.

One is enough to make it good.

Rep. John Bennett, of Redford, proposed we adopt the Illinois system. A cop stopping a speeder picks up his driver's license, issues him a ticket valid as a license until the court date.

Bennett was high on the bill. Keeps speeders off the streets maybe. At least the guy faces a judge and has to answer when he should or no license. Illinois thinks it great.

Michigan last year had thousands of unanswered moving violation tickets and too many people dead on the highways.

The House thought the idea was great, too, and passed it unanimously. The Senate killed the bill. Then came the usual and sometimes effective ploy in the House.

Rep. Donald O. Holbrook, a Republican—Bennett being a Democrat—thought also the bill might save a life. He and Bennett found a vehicle bill they could hitch a ride on and sent the ori-

ginal back to the Senate as an amendment.

The Senate killed it again, 4 to 27, a negative vote again chipping off the amendment. Twice killed and twice is one too many for the average accident victim.

This, of course, puzzled Bennett and Holbrook. So, being good legislators they made a bipartisan check.

This came from the governor's office, quoth Bennett:

"It's a great bill and we like it but it was not in the governor's message to the Legislature. Just wait until the fall session or even next year."

"It will be in the governor's message and you can pass it then."

Oh.

Bennett and his researchers estimate the bill would save \$5 million a year in the administrative costs of filing, processing and chasing down traffic violators who ignore tickets.

In this business you talk money as well as lives.

Holbrook, remember, is a Republican, the son of an Appeals Court judge and chairman of the House judiciary committee. What to do, Mr. Holbrook?

Sense 'n Nonsense

*As 900 local governmental and community agency officials gathered at Oakland University recently to attend a Regional Conference on Crime and Delinquency, they were treated to a quibulous presentation.

After speeches on means of combating crime through the works of social agencies, delivered by Lt. Gov. William Milliken, Oakland County Circuit Judge Arthur Eugene Moore, Mott Foundation Chairman C. S. Harding Mott and other concerned and involved officials and private citizens, the delegates were read a message from FBI head J. Edgar Hoover.

Far be it from the austere Mr. Hoover to leave a single stone unturned, he used the cover of the "crime and delinquency" topic to forward a familiar message:

His speech, delivered by Ford Motor Company Vice-President John S. Bugas, consisted of a hearty attack on the Communist Party of the United States, while others spoke of counseling services for pre-delinquent youths and other tangible, feasible programs to help the child who is on his way to a life of crime.

It seems we've heard Hoover's song before—40 years before.

Sense 'n Nonsense

Reports the Associated Press from New York:

"A poll of Roman Catholic priests shows the younger ones want priests to be allowed to marry..."

Now we need a poll to see how many of their young rabbi friends will have bacon at the wedding breakfast.

Plymouth Celebrates Centennial

The Centennial celebration of the City of Plymouth, which has been dragging since the actual Centennial date on March 5, reaches a climax next week in a weeklong series of events highlighted by the appearance and a five-day visit of the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, England.

It was a natural for Plymouth to try and arrange the visit and the English counterpart was happy to oblige since he had long planned to visit the United States and Canada and this gave him the opportunity.

The Plymouth Community is going all out to make next week the biggest of the entire Centennial celebration and we recommend that residents of the areas covered by the Observer Newspaper Group help their neighbors celebrate.

The Lord Mayor and entourage will receive an official welcome to the City of Plymouth Monday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. with all the hoopla that can be worked up on the day before our Independence Day celebration.

The programmers have arranged an unusual Home Products show, with more than 45 exhibitors, that should be of interest to all. The Lord Mayor will put in an official appearance Monday evening for the show which opens Monday at noon and closes Friday at 10 p.m.

Then the visiting English delegation will be treated to a grand and glorious Fourth in American style Tuesday with a mammoth parade through the downtown business section, starting at noon.

The Plymouth Jaycees believe this will be their biggest and best and they have been presenting the big procession for the past several years.

Again, the Lord Mayor will have a seat in the reviewing stand to see a Yankee parade and he'll be an honored guest for the fireworks in the evening at Mettetal Airport.

It only happens once in a hundred years and nothing could be better for the stay-at-homes than to take advantage of the opportunities for a big day offered in Plymouth.

—R. T. Thompson

Time Has Made Changes In Outdoor Concerts

This year suburbanites who read the Observer Newspapers are noticing a number of profound changes in that classical institution of the small town, the outdoor concert.

Time was when the concert was given in the bandshell at the park. The talent was mainly local, supplemented by musicians from nearby towns. The musical fare was Strauss and Sousa, with a movement or two from something by Tchaikovsky once in a great while.

The outdoor setting is the same, but a lot of the rest has changed. Look at what's going on out here.

In the first place, the band has become a full-scale orchestra.

At Fair Lane in recent weeks, it was the Baroque Orchestra of the Chicago Symphony, and it will be followed in July by the Stratford and Bath festival orchestras.

At Meadow Brook in Rochester, there are two series of concerts with Detroit Symphony, which is becoming internationally famous.

At Schoolcraft College's July series on Wednesday evenings, the Court Orchestra will be composed by members of the Detroit and Plymouth symphonies.

Summer concerts aren't something where you throw in the second team any more.

A second big change is the kind of music that's being offered.

Sense 'n Nonsense

Mrs. Shirley Guertin, one of Westland's Municipal Deputy Court Clerks, is "taking a gamble" on her vacation that started Saturday. Among several stops to the Far West, she plans to see the sights at Las Vegas.

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