

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 19

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1930

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WATER PRESSURE COMPLAINT MADE

Health Officer Seeks Relief, Plumbing Affected, He Says

Until the installation of the proposed 12-inch main from the Derby Well to the Village Water system is completed, residents in the neighborhood of Yorkshire road will be compelled to endure excessive water pressure that in some cases damages their water softeners. Dr. A. W. Newitt, village health officer, learned Monday night when he appeared before the Village Commission to ask for a reduction of the water pressure.

James W. Parry, village manager, told Dr. Newitt that the water pressure in many parts of the village was 85 pounds while water in Detroit is delivered at a pressure of 30 pounds. The condition could not be relieved, he said, until larger mains were laid from the Derby well.

"The introduction of a new main will considerably lower the pressure," Mr. Parry said. Dr.

OAKLAND COUNTY NEWS

Morris Belford almost equaled the previous state record of 58 bushels to the acre on his farm in Holly township with a 52 bushels to the acre crop of wheat. Mr. Belford's yield was the average for a 12-acre field while the new state record of 61 bushels held by G. Gurnham, of St. Johns, as well as the record of 58 was produced on a small patch of ground.

A new well will be dug and an automatic electric pressure pump will be installed in Rochester shortly, at an estimated cost of \$4,500. Test wells are being sunk now to determine the best location for the new well. With the new well in use, it is believed that Rochester will have sufficient water and that there will be no Newitt expressed the belief that many villagers are being forced to spend money on plumbing bills that would not be necessary if the water pressure were reduced.

SKATE RINK PLANS ARE DISAPPROVED

Commission Rejects Proposal To Build Temporary Bldg. On Adams Ave.

Following the refusal of Donald C. Egbert, village building inspector, to grant him a permit to construct a temporary skating rink in the village, Arthur Karlake, living at Island Lake, Monday appeared before the Village Commission. The commission concurred in support of Mr. Egbert. Karlake proposed to construct a building with a canvas roof and floor space 90 by 45 feet at the corner of Haynes street and Adams avenue. The building, he explained, would be used only for one month of the year and would then be dismantled. No expression of approval of the plan was given by any member of the commission and following the explanation of James W. Parry, village manager, that Egbert had refused to grant the permit because the proposed structure did not conform with the village ordinance, a motion to confirm Egbert's ruling was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Egbert, in a communication to Mr. Parry, explained that the building was designed for not more than eight hundred square feet and the wind load on the roof was not safe enough to permit a fire-resisting structure. A more fire-resisting structure would be necessary for a building of such type, Egbert said.

A School Teacher Recalls 'Dear Old Golden Rule Days'

By LILLIAN KELLEY

"Pom-pom, pull away. Come away or I'll fetch you away!"

A group of boys and girls, the boys in wampas (lumber-jackets), stout brass-toed leather boots, wooden trousers and caps, the girls with braids over their shoulders, calico aprons and ankle-length wooden dresses, dash frantically over to the other side of the school yard, dodging the catcher in the center, the school yards joins the district school, No. 7, Southfield. It is winter, 1877, and the school is a shabby building in the yard. The teacher, who is now Mrs. Amanda A. Purdy, of Southfield road, rings the bell, and the children, some bare and some scurrying, climb the well-worn, wooden steps and enter the school, white-washed walls, sealed wood, white benches.

The school curriculum includes geography, orthography, grammar, arithmetic, and the last of which is divided into two groups, mental, the text for which are Stoddard's "Intellectual" and Stoddard's "Junior," and written arithmetic. Some of the pupils refuse to let their children study geography or grammar, "because it is hard," they say, "and the children study arithmetic with zest, for they advance as fast as they are able and the school competition is keen. For study sessions, the scholars sit in "hand-out" desks, with their hands up, doing nothing but slates upon which they are given arithmetic problems for their recitation periods they sit at long wooden benches against the wall.

Something For Teacher

At such times the pupils catch their peals and eat their lunches of bread and butter, sauce, cake or some other simple delicacy. They had oranges," said Mrs. Purdy. "But most of them had never even heard of bananas. The scholars would have anything especially nice, they'd give some to the teacher of each day."

Periods start again in the little bare school house, where there are benches of beech and maple fire-wood and coal. When the scholars get cold they would gather around the stove but they wouldn't stand long because of the heat.

"Several people living around here now used to go to school to Mrs. Purdy," Mrs. Purdy said. "Mrs. Stewart Reid, of South Adams avenue, Mrs. Margaret Snyder, of Evergreen road, Mrs. Flora Sturman, of Purdy avenue, Mrs. Daniel Parks, of Pierce street, Mrs. Perry Lucas, of Pierce street, Dave McKinley, of Royal Oak, and probably lots more that I can't think of just now."

Last October, No. 7, district school house closed its doors to the "district scholars" whom it had been "learning" for four generations, and they were moved to one new municipal building. Among the children who were transferred were several of Mrs. Purdy's grandchildren. Her little grandchild, William, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Purdy, said that he liked the new municipal school, but Mrs. Purdy excused him, saying that he is only six and he had only gone the first few days of school a few months and couldn't really know it.

Thus memories of the activities alone are left of the little white school house on Southfield road between the Pen and Eleven Mile roads. Memories of slates and sponges, of dislikes and affections, of ribboned-braids and bowhair.

RURAL LETTER CARRIERS MEET

The national convention of the Rural Letter Carriers began Tuesday and will end today in Detroit at the Statler hotel. Last night Mr. Arch Coleman, one of the leading men in the national Rural Letter Carrier department at Washington, addressed the convention after a banquet. Mr. Henry B. Winesgar, Mr. George Wood, and Mr. Joseph Parks, all of Birmingham, are attending the convention.

VILLAGE MILK PRICE TO STAY

Dairymen See No Change In Cost, Despite Drought, They Report

The shortage of milk as a result of the prolonged drought in most of the United States, which will force the retail price up, according to R. F. Beach, secretary of the Michigan Milk Producers Association, at the present time is not affecting nor is expected to affect the price of milk in Birmingham. Managers of the three dairies supplying the greatest amount of milk to Birmingham, according to the Public Health bureau, gave their opinions on the shortage and increase in prices, definite on the milk prices, but if the weather stays cool and we have rain, I don't predict any rise in prices until the middle of September, when the milk consumption will be tremendously increased due to the cool weather.

Speaking on the local situation, Mr. William Butts, distribution manager of the Pontiac Dairy branch at Birmingham said, "As long as we have been forced to get outside of our territory, we will milk to fill our orders, we have not yet heard of any price increase."

"We didn't cut our prices in the spring, so we won't raise them in the fall," said Mr. W. I. Wood, of the Wood Creamery. "We have good farmers and our milk supply has not diminished."

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More than 900 children participated in the Royal Oak township summer recreation picnic at Bloomer State Park, Aug. 13. Races featured the program. George W. Smith, Fernside fire chief, and his son, George Jr., mystified the audience with their tricks, and an exhibition baseball game between teams from the Eight-Mile and the Nine-Mile roads was played in the afternoon. Robert L. Peel, director of the summer recreation program, arranged the events.

Fire which broke out in the home of Edward Cole, of Drayton Plains, early Friday, caused damage estimated at \$1,300. Neighbors formed a bucket brigade that kept the fire from spreading, pending the arrival of fire-fighting equipment from Pontiac.

Mr. Robert W. Wyckoff, civil war veteran of Holly, died Aug. 7 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. R. H. Peck, College street, Holly. Mr. Wyckoff, who recently passed his eighty-fifth birthday, served with the famous 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and at the conclusion of his services was appointed by guard over the body of President Lincoln at Springfield, Ill., where it lay in state. Burial was in Lakeside cemetery Aug. 9 where an American Legion squad fired a salute over the grave. Mr. Wyckoff is survived by a daughter, a son, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, two brothers and a sister.

Apple Thieves Land In Jail

Rather than pay fines of \$15 each after they were convicted of stealing apples from the orchard of Theophilus Somers, in Bloomfield Hills Thursday, Ben Beniquez, 641 St. Antoine street, and Andrew C. Pichler, 784 Eighth street, Detroit, were sentenced to spend 10 days in the county jail.

The two men were arrested by Patrolman Isma Banks of the Bloomfield Hills department who was driving past the MacManus orchard and witnessed the theft. He brought the matter before Justice Floyd S. Buck, who sentenced them.

Looses Control Of Car; 3 Hurt

A cramp in his arm caused John Lutey 61 Moreland avenue, Pontiac, to lose control of his car and run into a telephone pole on the south side of Lone Pine road just west of Woodward avenue Friday evening, he reported to the police.

Accompanied by Miss W. Loch and Miss M. Walsh, both of 63 Forest avenue, Pontiac, Lutey was returning from the same concert at the church when the accident occurred. The three were taken to the St. Joseph Mercy hospital where they were treated for cuts and bruises and discharged.

Hills Police Chief Nabs Reckless Driver

Following his arrest by Chief Putnam at Putnam, Bloomfield Hills, Thursday, D. F. Davis, 221 Baker street, Flint, paid a fine of \$25 in the court of Justice Floyd S. Buck on a charge of reckless driving. Chief Putnam told the court he pursued Davis from Bloomfield Hills into Birmingham and that Davis had been traveling at a rate of 70 miles an hour.

Pollution Problem Result Of Heat Wave

LANSING, Aug. 21.—Low water levels in streams and lakes caused by the long siege of dry weather has caused acute pollution problems for which there is no natural temporary relief but rain, according to Homer S. Murphy, head of the Pollution Control Division of the Department of Conservation. The situation is the most severe in more than a decade, Mr. Murphy said.

In many instances water in rivers is from a quarter to half of its normal volume while the pollution poured in remains the same.

The beneficial effects of sewage disposal plants has never been better illustrated or more obvious than at the present time, Murphy said. Rivers along which sewage disposal plants are in operation are relatively free from pollution. The sewage levels has not affected the purity of the water. At the same time the pollution in rivers into which untreated sewage is being dumped is all the more obvious.

Pontiac Physician To Succeed Dr. Bird

Dr. Wendell T. Smith, a Pontiac physician, has been named to succeed Dr. John T. Bird as physician at the Oakland County Infirmary, whose resignation will be effective Sept. 1. The announcement of the appointment of Dr. Smith was made by F. J. Lester, a member of the Oakland County Poor Commission.

Dr. Bird's resignation came after a recommendation of the Board of Supervisors that he be released. Reports had been made to the board that Dr. Bird had treated indigent patients at the infirmary substitution roughly. Dr. Bird occupied the position as physician at the institution for 15 years.

Dr. Smith is the son of Sam W. Smith, a representative from the sixth district for many years.

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Cuts, of munching apples around the old box stove in the winter, and of drinking cool well water in the summer. "But the children had to go," said Mrs. Purdy, "they had to fill up those new municipal buildings."

Gather 'round Stove

It would have someone out to clean up the school and get it in readiness for the next year. The rest of the time, I did the janitor work. We had a box stove and plenty of beech and maple firewood and coal. When the scholars got cold they would gather around the stove but they wouldn't stand long because of the heat.

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WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

William Putnam, chief of police in Bloomfield Hills:

"The season approaches when professional fruit pickers from Detroit come up to gather in their watermelon supply from Bloomfield Hills estates. If owners whose trees and bushes are stripped will call our department, we will have the thieves taken to court and the fruit returned to the owner."

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