

If the earth did not give up its moisture to the sun, there would be no clouds, and therefore there would be no rain. You have to give something to get something—and he who learns this early in life gets more than he who is selfish. Selfishness is moral stagnation.

FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR—NO. 19

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Oakland School 'Raid' On State Funds Denied

Lederle Brands Allegations In Ingham County News Editorial 'Darn Foolishness'

Did Oakland County school authorities attempt to make an unwarranted raid on state funds last spring when they claimed that several schools throughout the county would be forced to close before the end of the term unless they received financial aid from the state?

Or are Oakland County school authorities receiving "bad advice and colored propaganda" from their school commissioner now in statements attributed to him to the effect that higher levels for teachers' salaries are being requested and that there is, or was early this summer, an actual short-

age of teachers for the rural districts?

The allegation that, either the unwarranted raid was attempted, or that the commissioner's later statements were colored is contained in an editorial recently published in The Ingham County News. The editorial was written by Vernon J. Brown, editor and publisher of the paper, who is also a member of the State Legislature.

LEDERLE MAKES DENIAL.
Following out Mr. Brown's request that Oakland County editors "give us the straight of the matter," The Eccentric called his editorial to the attention of E. J. Lederle, Oakland County School Commissioner. Mr. Lederle flatly denied the allegations in a detailed explanation of school conditions in the county last spring and early this summer.

Mr. Brown's editorial, entitled "Then and Now," follows in full: "Strange indeed that economic conditions change so rapidly. Two months ago Oakland County educators were besieging Lansing, clamoring for the passage of a \$400,000 emergency fund to keep Oakland County schools in operation. Cancellationists from the same section urged their claims on the basis that collection of current taxes, encouraged by bargain days, would keep the schools open. Neither bill was passed and yet in Sunday's newspaper there appeared a news item from Pontiac to the effect that the county school commissioner is warning School Board officers of a shortage of teachers and the further interesting fact that teachers were down to \$30 a month a year or two ago, are now back to a range of between \$75 and \$125 per month.

"Either the attempted raid on state funds was wholly unwarranted or school authorities in that county are receiving bad advice and colored propaganda now. Oakland County editors are requested to give us the straight of the matter."

Lederle's Reply
In reply, Mr. Lederle wrote as follows in a letter to George R. Averill, editor and publisher of The Eccentric: "Make it brief, but pointed, please. It can't be done. I am inclosing a clipping with the text. Strange, indeed, that economic conditions change so rapidly. It is still more strange in my mind, that you should regard the supposed writer of this, Vernon J. Brown, as a prominent member of the State House of Representatives. If he weren't the editor of a paper you would never hear of him most of this coming from his tooting his own horn and if most of his statements are asinine, as the one inclosed, I must rate him still lower in my respect.

"It is true that Mel Lee (Melvin H. Lee, state representative from this district) in his hallicinations, which Mr. Brown seemed to respect somewhat, endeavored to have an emergency fund of \$400,000 set up by the Legislature. I certainly did not encourage him in this and I do not know of a single school man in the county or board member that ever went to Lansing asking that thing be created. I am satisfied that there was some feeling for some sort of aid to help out in the emergency and I know that there was some rather wild talk in the papers. That there was an emergency confronting the schools of this county was beyond any question, as you know it first-hand.

Thatcher-Six Aid
"I roughly checked over some figures today and find that there has been advanced from the state ahead of normal time of distribution \$188,139 from the Thatcher-Six Fund to 25 of the school districts of this county. I haven't the figures for the three city districts—Pontiac, Royal Oak and Grosse Pointe—but I am quite satisfied that they have asked for advances of the full amount that they could get and if these districts were treated the same as the others they have received \$224,324. This makes a total of \$412,463 which has been advanced to 28 districts in Oakland County ahead of the normal time of distribution in order to keep the schools in operation.

"Beside this, I think you know that the Birmingham district secured a loan board of \$20,000 through the State Loan Board with delinquent taxes as collateral. In Troy Township we have Troy Village and Big Beaver that have received some of the above nature. In Avon Township the Stiles district also has received loans. Only yesterday I was at Lansing with Mr. Moore of the Poppleton School, where we negotiated a loan to cover outstanding short-term obligations and unpaid bills.

"It is just darn foolishness that a man who is supposed to be prominent in the Legislature should write in the vein of this editorial.

"Wild Statements"
"With regard to my statement to the boards, I am inclosing herewith a copy of the same regarding teacher supply and salaries.

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1935

BOY, GIRL SCOUT LEADERS HONORED



Boy and Girl Scouts of America honored the heads of their organizations, Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the worldwide Boy Scout movement, and Lady Baden-Powell, head of the Girl Guide of the world, recently with a luncheon at a New York hotel. Lady Baden-Powell is pictured above as she sat at the speakers' table with Walter W. Head, president of the Boy Scouts of America.

When Mr. Brown makes as wild statements as he does in his editorial one cannot blame other papers if they make what they call news out of it. I made a statement as I made to the school boards.

"I have never known the teachers in Oakland County receiving \$30 a month. I think one teacher a couple of years ago was paid \$25 but was paid a bonus at the end of the year making it \$40. It is my notion that one or two districts that could well afford to pay more—and which, by the way, received state aid—were only paying \$40 this year.

"In speaking of salaries in Oakland County, one must remember the size of the county and the wide differences in it. The low salaries for the most part are paid in the northwestern section of the county, whereas relatively high salaries are paid in the southeastern district. It would not seem, that \$60 or \$70 a month was much for a nine-month term, amounting to \$630 a year, when under the state aid the PEPA for ordinary labor, \$15 a week was paid."

Cites Teacher's Case
"I might quote to you from a letter received from a very desirable teacher who this year quit teaching and who went into the employment of the Liquor Control Commission on May 15. As I understand it, if she can wrangle bottles in that institution she will receive \$1,320 a year. If that she really ought to be able to do this because that is about a first or second lower grade exercise. That I should warn boards of a possible shortage of teachers in Oakland County is not unusual, for Oakland County has never supplied its own. I wish to avoid having the experience of last year when I discovered just before schools were to open that we needed some 12 to 15 teachers.

"It is needless for me to say that since word has gotten out that there are some schools not supplied with teachers as yet that we have many applications. I wouldn't say that you would record some of them as teachers. This is you would prefer not to have them teaching your children. If Mr. Brown will inquire of a superintendent of schools anywhere in the state he will find that there is an undersupply of teachers for the elementary grades throughout the state generally and in this county there is a shortage of people who are trained for rural school teaching and desire to teach in these schools at the salaries paid.

People Must Judge
"Mr. Brown is wrong in both of his assumptions. In the closing paragraph unless he can prove that there was an attempted raid on state funds. I, of course, do not know what unwarranted statements may have been made to him regarding the necessity for state aid. It is barely possible that some wild and unwarranted statements were made, but I do not know of any of these ever having been made by school authorities. If the state did not relieve the necessity for raising Oakland County school districts why have they advanced nearly a half million of Thatcher-Six Aid and made loans against delinquent taxes?

"As to whether my advice is bad, it will have to be judged by local people and I am not concerned about the small-town editor who probably never could quite comprehend the conditions that surround you and me."

HEBREW MISSIONARY TO TELL LIFE STORY
Miss Minnie Schulman, a Russian Jewess who is now associated with the Hebrew-Christian Mission in Detroit, will tell the story of her life at the service of the Birmingham Community Church in the Masonic Temple at 7:30 P. M. Sunday. Miss Schulman has spoken before enthusiastic audiences in Birmingham on several previous occasions.

DEPUTY SHERIFF INJURED IN CRASH

Rex Hoops Suffers Fractured Knee Cap When He Drives And Car Hits Pole

When he fell asleep while driving from the County Jail in Pontiac to his home at 358 Parkdale boulevard in Royal Oak shortly after 3 o'clock Monday morning, Rex L. Hoops, an Oakland County deputy sheriff, crashed into a light pole here on Woodward avenue near Vinewood avenue and suffered a fracture of his right knee cap and a bruised chest.

He is recovering now at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, but it is feared his injuries will prevent him from returning to duty for at least two months.

Hoops worked all night Saturday in Hazel Park and had only a few hours sleep before returning to duty in Pontiac at 2 P. M. Sunday. He started home at 2:45 A. M. Monday.

Hoops said he was traveling about 30 miles an hour when he dozed off and his car struck the curb, careened against the light post and swerved around the sidewalk. The car was badly wrecked.

Hoops was treated here by Dr. C. E. Lawler and then removed to the hospital.

Local Student Wins Degree At Ypsilanti

Patricia Chandler, Baldwin High Graduate, Completes Course At State Normal College

Miss Patricia Chandler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Chandler of Detroit, graduated with a bachelor of arts degree Friday from Michigan State Normal College at Ypsilanti.

After attending night school at Detroit City College, now Wayne University, for one year, Miss Chandler graduated from Michigan State Normal College in the fall of 1932. While on campus she served as staff correspondent of a student newspaper. A member of Kappa Mu Delta sorority, Miss Chandler is now a staff writer for the women's magazine, The Free Press. She graduated from Baldwin High School in 1929.

Appointee



Of the 11 directors appointed to guide the government's program of rural resettlement, Mrs. Thomas Beck, above, was the only woman appointed to the board. Mr. Beck, who lives with her husband in Wilton, Conn., has held several executive positions in industry.

2 BOYS HURT ON BICYCLES

Richard Kent, Six, Robert Peck, 11, Badly Injured On Same Day

Bicycle accidents resulted in serious injuries to two Birmingham boys last Thursday.

The victims were Richard Kent, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Kent, 356 Pilgrim road, and Robert Peck, 11 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Peck of Birmingham boulevard.

Richard received a badly fractured skull and a brain concussion when his bicycle hit a bump as he was riding down the west side of Maple avenue and crashed into the footbridge over the River Rouge near Baldwin avenue.

The boy was found lying unconscious at the bank of the river by Willis Gibson, 26719 Brettonwoods avenue, Royal Oak, who was canvassing the neighborhood in search of work. He took the boy home, where the latter bled profusely from the mouth and failed to regain consciousness for a day and a half.

Weldon MacDonald, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. K. J. MacDonald of 211 Pilgrim road, was riding on the handlebars of Richard's bicycle when the accident occurred, but he was not injured. Frightened at seeing his companion lying motionless beneath the river, Weldon ran home and told his parents nothing about the accident until some time later.

At his home yesterday, Richard was reported out of danger. Robert Peck was injured when his bicycle crashed into a car parked on Hanna street, near Chester, while waiting with another bicycle at the time, and was so engrossed in attempting to pedal ahead of the opponent that he failed to see the parked car.

At St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital it was found he had a slight concussion and a hemorrhage of the car. He was removed to his home Thursday night, and was much improved yesterday.

DEPUTY TREASURER, CLERK APPOINTED

City Treasurer Harold H. Corson and City Clerk Irene E. Hanley are both planning to start their vacations this week-end. In their absence, Alice Upward will serve as deputy treasurer and Donald Egbert, building inspector, will serve as deputy clerk. Both were deputized by the City Commission Monday night for the period from Aug. 17 to Sept. 16, although neither Mr. Corson nor Miss Hanley intends to be gone more than two weeks.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—
James W. Parry, city manager: "On only one day this summer has the city been required to pump water from all three of its wells at the same time."

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