

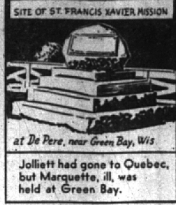
Michigan History in Pictures



On June 17, Marquette and Jolliet entered the river at Prairie du Chien.



Jolliet, who led the party, was first to map the entire Lake Michigan shore.



Jolliet had gone to Quebec, but Marquette, ill, was held at Green Bay.



He remained at that mission from late September, 1673, to Oct. 25, 1674.



By GENE ALLEMAN

There is only one thing worse than a state deficit; it is a state surplus.

With pencil in hand, the state official at Lansing had just tallied up the total of numerous requests for state appropriations, as submitted to legislative committees at Lansing. The state legislature is to be called into special session Feb. 4.

Auditor General John Morrison estimates that there'll be a surplus in the state treasury of around \$27,000,000 by July 1, 1947. The official added, "To date, the governmental requests for this \$27,000,000 exceed \$16,000,000—nearly three times what may be available to spend.

"Wota life!"

What would be normally considered an asset, balancing the budget with a surplus for a rainy day, now threatens to become a political liability.

Pressure groups are organizing brain, and their leaders possess persuasive arguments. The public schools, for example, are close to the hearts of the people. The Michigan Educational Association has asked for an additional \$3,000,000. The Michigan Veterans' Facility at Grand Rapids needs \$776,000; the state aeronautical commission could use \$350,000. The state colleges are in dire need

of buildings. The mental health program seeks \$20,000,000. The cities, especially those with the 15-mile limitation, want a slice, too. And so it goes.

Up for re-election at the polls, legislators are going to be wary.

Increased demands for added services are the rule in nearly every state, according to Frank Banc, executive director of the Council of State Governments. Invariably this trend follows every war.

For example, heavy trucking of supplies to war plants has pounded the concrete pavements of state highways. Many roads must be replaced. Price inflation has drastically must rise. Influx of veterans to state colleges has precipitated an emergency condition in housing and class-rooms. Hospitals are badly overcrowded, and the war's strain on human nerves and the decline of morals have already spawned a violent crime wave in Detroit.

Retirement pensions for state and local government employees, authorized at the 1945 general session of the state legislature, constitute another big fund.

If long-term unemployment prevails in Michigan, welfare officials

again would beat a path to the governor's door imploring increased legislative appropriations for public relief.

Back in 1937 when the labor sit-down strikes plagued Governor Frank Murphy, the state went into debt to provide adequate relief to distressed. This could easily happen again.

States have expanded their unemployment compensation coverage. Despite a \$7 billion reserve, these funds could be wiped out by a prolonged economic depression.

Back in the war years when government officials were busy with post-war planning, a favorite subject was work projects. These were designed to help absorb the shock of veterans returning to civilian life during reconversion from war to peace.

Now it appears that most of this work project planning must wait several years until construction costs come down and materials are available. Contractors are including every possible price increase in their bids. Not knowing how much more labor may get in 1946 of 1947 in a period of rising inflation, contractors close their eyes and write down the highest possible wage increase.

New costs of public works would easily wipe out the \$27,000,000 surplus. Costs are already running from 40 to 70 per cent above 1940, and they are still soaring.

A considerable portion of the post-war planning done by local governments in Michigan has not been realistic. It was based on the assumption that federal aid from Washington would be forthcoming to help foot the bill.

This fact has been noted candidly in this column.

Earl D. Mallory, executive di-

rector of the American Municipal Association, now makes this interesting observation: "All the municipal postwar planning done so far is unrealistic, because needs aren't squared with funds to do the job. Already it has been made clear that Congress cannot and will not make any large appropriations for general public works unless there is widespread unemployment."

Getting Uncle Sam to provide a public service, rather than state or local government, isn't the answer either.

It is a fact that from 1929 to 1939 the number of federal employees increased 66 per cent. Yet the number of state employees went up 62 per cent. Despite the growth of federal and state employees, the number of municipal employees did not decrease, but in fact actually went up 14 per cent, thus indicating that despite a trend toward centralized federal control, no savings were made locally.

The plight of cities is due largely to exodus of wealth into the outlying lower-taxed suburban areas and small towns and to a decline in assessed valuations. Valuations in ten of the largest cities of the country declined more than 12 per cent between 1928 and 1940.

It is easy to see that the state legislature has a complex tax problem on its hands in trying to find a sensible answer to the problem of distributing equitably the present state surplus. The same plight will prevail, in years to come, when a deficit will prevail in the state treasury.

If you have something to sell, let the Eccentric Classified Ads Do the Job!

Birmingham Owners Told They May Start Tree Pruning Soon

Birmingham has a lot of orchards and home owners with fruit trees in their yards with time to spare now for tree pruning, says T. A. Merrill, Michigan State college extension horticultural specialist. He suggests that apples, plums, pears and cherries may be pruned now, but advises delaying the pruning of peaches and grapes until after March 1.

"All cuts should be made close to the main stem so that the wounds will heal more rapidly," Merrill suggests. "Use a regular horticultural dressing material if a wound exceeds 2 inches in diameter. Do not use house or barn paint as a substitute because the cambium layer will be injured by the oil and healing will be prevented."

"Fruit growers with apple trees to prune are invited to request a copy of Circular Bulletin 179, 'The Thin Wood Method of Pruning Bearing Apple Trees,' from either their county extension office or the Department of Public Relations, Bulletin Office, Michigan State college, East Lansing."

Mr. Merrill suggests that local orchard owners might profitably visit their poison bait stations to make certain that a supply of bait is available for mice and other rodents. The cut branches left from pruning operations help to reduce mouse injury to trees.

49,552
STATE OF MICHIGAN, — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County on the 11th day of January, A.D. 1946.

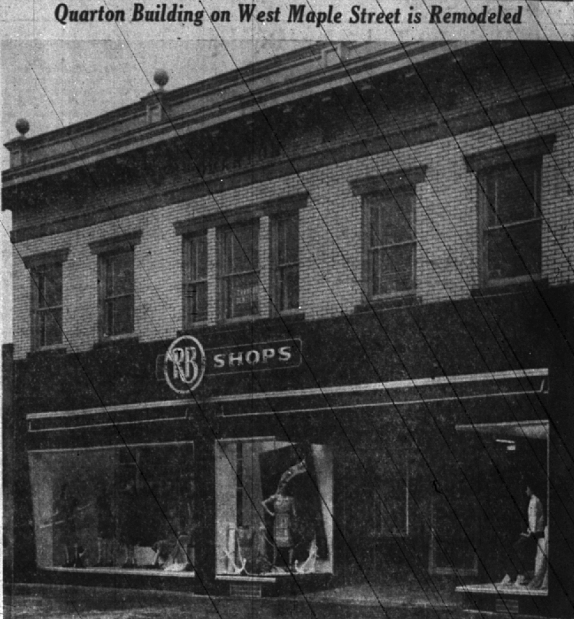
Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Alexander T. Christensen, Deceased.

Lula B. Christensen, widow of said deceased having filed in said court a petition praying that the administration of said estate be granted to Lula B. Christensen or to some other suitable person. It is Ordered, That the 11th day of February, A.D. 1946, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.
JOHN E. MARZ, Attorney at Law,
721 Penobscot Bldg.,
Detroit 26, Mich.
48-1445



The remodeling of the Quarton building, new home of the R. B. Shop in Birmingham, was completed recently with the installation of the new neon sign on the front of the store. Early last fall the street level interior of the building was torn out and remodeled into the modern structure shown above. A feature of the building is the new entrance to the upstairs suites. It is located at the left side of the foyer and leads to the business locations of the Harper Method Shop, Beale Korby Millinery Shop, Levinson Realty Co. and the offices of Dr. F. C. Crawford.

ONE LEVEL FACTORY
Entirely on one level, in line with latest manufacturing practice, and equipped with all new machinery, equipment and tools, a \$1,000,000 factory is under construction at Morrison, Ill., to provide jobs and to turn out a new combination refrigerator and home freezing unit.

WHERE THE DIMES GO
Half of your contributions to the March of Dimes remain with your local chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to be used for special equipment, hospitalization, transportation, and treatment and care of polio patients. The other half goes to the National Foundation for research, education and emergency aid during epidemics.

Oh, what they'd give to be in *YOUR* shoes!

Oh, what most of the human race would give to be in *YOUR* shoes!

Clothing that YOU may consider old can bring new life to some suffering person to whom war brought despair and destitution. Goal of the Victory Clothing Collection is 100,000,000 garments, plus shoes and bedding. If YOUR contribution seems negligible, bear this in mind: **EVERY GARMENT YOU GIVE MEANS ONE MORE HUMAN BEING SAVED FROM COLD OR SICKNESS OR POSSIBLY DEATH.**

About 25,000,000 people overseas received clothing collected from Americans last spring. But for every person clothed so far, a dozen more remain virtually threadbare. Your spare clothing will be distributed free, without discrimination, to victims of Nazi and Jap oppression in Europe, the Philippines, and the Far East.

Dig into your attics, trunks, and closets TODAY . . . dig out all the serviceable clothing you can possibly spare . . . take it to the local clothing collection depot which is most convenient for you. If you doubt the need for it overseas, ask the Birmingham boys who have been there. Many of them are taking an active part in this drive.



WHAT CAN YOU SPARE THAT THEY CAN WEAR?

DEPOTS for the BIRMINGHAM AREA VICTORY CLOTHING COLLECTION

- Christ Church Cranbrook—Open Daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- First Presbyterian Church—Open Daily from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.
- Holy Name Church Alumni House—At any time.
- First Methodist Church at Church House—Open Daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- First Baptist Church—Open Daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- English Lutheran Church—Open Daily from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.
- St. James Episcopal Church at Parish House—Open Daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Embury Methodist Church—Open Daily from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Southfield United Presbyterian Church at the Church or at the home of Rev. Liston—Anytime.
- St. Hugo of the Hills—at St. Hugo Country Day School—9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.
- Franklin Community Church at the home of Rev. Suraaw—Anytime.
- Lobby of the Post Office in Birmingham—During Regular Hours.

CENTRAL COLLECTION DEPOT
Fridays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. — Saturdays from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. — Basement of the Municipal Building

FOR STUDENTS ONLY
January 17 and 18—at Barum Junior High and Baldwin High School
January 24 and 25—at Adams, Pierce, Quarton and Holy Name Schools

Birmingham Area Victory CLOTHING COLLECTION FOR OVERSEAS RELIEF UNTIL JANUARY 31st

This Message Sponsored By Public Spirited Birmingham Businessmen and Citizens