

Incinerator Site Problem
Solved by Royal Oak Twp.

With the ratification of Royal Oak township's membership in the Southeastern Oakland County Garbage and Rubbish Authority by Southfield township last week, waste disposal problems for South Oakland County seem to be solved.

Ironically, the township that pushed the member municipalities to solve their disposal problems with one huge incinerator, is the one that handed the Authority a suitable location for the much-denounced burner.

The incinerator is not constructed on the 35-acre site yet.

There still are legal technicalities that must be ironed out before construction can begin. But the possibility of acquiring a parcel of land large enough to accommodate the incinerator's operation is the best news the Authority has heard.

THE PROBABLE USE of the site culminates over two years of active planning by the SOC municipalities.

The nuisance caused by open dumping in Royal Oak township by surrounding communities was causing a rumble that could be heard by city officials two years ago. They knew then that it would be but a matter of time before dumping operations would be discontinued.

The township, tired of being what they called "the dumping ground of the southern part of the county," instigated action against the dumping sites and has already closed two of the three dumps in the township.

The township also realized that it would face the same disposal problem when all dumps were closed, so it began to show more interest in becoming a member of the Authority, too. Construction of a modern architecturally-treated building on one of the dumping grounds would not only clean up a blighted area but would provide a disposal place for the township.

City managers and township supervisors put their heads together.

They studied disposal methods of other cities of comparable size. They hired outside consultants to advise them on the best form of disposal.

INCINERATION was the most economical disposal method, it was found.

A site committee was appointed of specialists in the planning and land use fields. They spent months studying the entire SOC area and brought in their recommendations.

Sites were selected in Oak Park, Royal Oak and Royal Oak township. The Oak Park location was given highest recommendation.

mentation. Actually, the piece of property was an island of Royal Oak township land surrounded on three sides by the City of Oak Park. It was zoned agricultural.

Public opinion of residents in Oak Park, Southfield township and Berkeley forced the Royal Oak township board to refuse the rezoning to industrial.

A second Oak Park site was submitted. Again public expression blocked the way.

THEN THE AUTHORITY gave up. It could find no way to surmount the waste disposal problem. Mounting hauling costs caused by the search for open dumps farther away from the cities were boosting department of public works budgets sky high; but no one wanted the incinerator in "their own backyard."

Prior to Royal Oak township's action on the first incinerator site, the Authority took an education program to the people. They brought in incineration engineers and explained that modern incineration did not have to be a nuisance.

Efficient operation, coupled with the latest engineering designs, have proved successful in other communities throughout the nation, engineers pointed out.

REPRESENTATIVES of the 10 member communities journeyed to Cleveland, Ohio, to inspect the operation of two large incinerators constructed within residential zones.

The group was amazed by the nearly odor-free, soot-free operation of a garbage and rubbish type burner.

These local citizens went to Cleveland with a "We're from Missouri" attitude. With a clear memory of Detroit's incinerator troubles in mind, they charged into the incinerators with noses high in the air and an eye out for flying soot particles.

They found no odor and little ash.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS brought their story back to the people but the word "incinerator" was too much for them and they fought bitterly to block the acquisition of a site.

Now at the end of two years of work, it appears that the question is answered.

It will be a long haul for both Birmingham and Southfield township but it answers the need for a permanent dumping site and will prevent costs from soaring in the years to come.

City administrations are constantly charged with attempting to impose their opinions on their residents. This time they are to be congratulated for their efforts to run their municipalities economically.

Along with the changing of green foliage into those lovely blendings of color every autumn in Michigan, there also appear the colorful offerings of the farm...

We cannot see, for example, a heavily laden roadside vegetable and fruit stand, with its appetizing display of Nature's bounty, without being glad to be alive in

a land where famine is unknown, where Americans can attain acceptable security if they are willing to work hard and be thrifty.

We in the cities may produce plenty of the gadgets of life... but let's not forget those who live close to the soil provide us with those products that really keep us alive.



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO

November 7, 1902

Fifty years ago Mr. and Mrs. William Erby were married in the place where they celebrated their anniversary Tuesday last.

Interesting letters are coming to Birmingham from Bert Blakely now at Banton, P.I., with the army. He tells of life in the Philippines, especially as the soldiers live it, and speaks of the terrible swift diseases to which our young men are exposed.

Rev. John Sweet of the Mary Palmer church in Detroit preached a powerful sermon in the Birmingham M. E. Church last Sunday evening in exchange with the Rev. Mr. Hartman.

One of the prettiest social events of the season was the birthday party given by Miss Beryl McChesney of Woodward Ave., when she entertained 20 kindred spirits who helped her enjoy her sixth natal anniversary.

The closing work of the cemetery for this season is the birthday party given by Miss Beryl McChesney of Woodward Ave., when she entertained 20 kindred spirits who helped her enjoy her sixth natal anniversary.

20 YEARS AGO

November 10, 1932

A parade in which the American Legion, three musical groups and Boy and Girl Scouts will march will be a part of the Armistice Day celebration here Friday.

Three burglaries here over the weekend netted cash and property valued at \$2,000. Police officials are baffled at the lack of clues found. Fingerprint experts from Pontiac are being called in to help.

A move to organize a kennel club among the scores of Birmingham dog owners is being headed

by E. V. Rawlings, 768 Yarmouth. Rawlings said among other things that the "Top Week" drive, the spring show, earmarking receipts for charity societies.

Goodfellows, operating in Birmingham collected 800 items during their "Top Week" drive. The toys will be repaired and refinished to provide Christmas joys for youngsters who have nothing.

The Autumn Court of Honor for Girl Scouts will see 28 Birmingham girls receiving awards for outstanding work. The affair will be held at the Community House Friday evening with Scout- ing officials from nearby districts attending.

5 YEARS AGO

November 13, 1947

A telephone survey made among Birmingham's women shoppers last week showed that 65 out of the hundred contacted preferred parking meters rather than municipal lots. The reason? Nearer the stores at which they were shopping.

Plans for the construction of a two-story apartment building on Southfield at the foot of Merrill were revealed this week by Charles C. Currie. Currie said work would start in the spring and plans included ample off-street parking for all tenants.

The annual Christmas party for Birmingham children will be held in the Birmingham theater on Dec. 13. It will include movies, the customary visit from Santa and gifts for all.

Two large mason blankets with white borders and a big black B have been given to the high school athletic department by the Birmingham Exchange club in recognition to the splendid playing of the football team during the past season.

A traffic survey to be conducted in Birmingham by the International Association of Chiefs of Police will begin next Monday morning according to City Manager Donald C. Egbert.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Well, we've cleaned the soap off the windows, gone to the polls and voted and all of a sudden we're finding ourselves in a slight vacuum.

For a short time there isn't much excitement in our lives. Of course, we can take down the screens which we should have done a couple of weeks ago, and we can rake up the leaves that have blown over from the neighbors. Then, too, we can start looking forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Now is as good a time as any to make up the game or play home on the radio. It's also a good time for a family vow vow about Thanksgiving dinner.

Will we have turkey or a stuff of fresh ham this year? Or maybe we'll go and have dinner with Aunt Mabel and Uncle Jim. Still if we do that we won't get anywhere on the game question. They have no TV and they don't like football anyway.

Of course, the kids will be home from college and we ought to do something special for them. Not much sense in that, though. They're already around visiting here and there most of the time they spent at home we find them sleeping.

MAYBE WE'LL just have an "old-fashioned" dinner, take the family to a show and turn in early. But—horrible thought—come to think of it, the neighbors will be coming in this evening for a friendly game of cards.

It's about time we began making a list of the address books we started last Christmas have just now, we haven't bought

the cards yet. Speaking of cards, where's that and voted and all of a sudden we're finding ourselves in a slight vacuum. It used to be right here in the deck that Aunt Gertrude sent the cook book in.

Well, maybe it's up in the attic along with the oriental place mats Cousin Albertine sent us. It could have been put in that package of Junior's records that were given to the orphan home. Hope not, it really hurts the kind of card those poor little orphans would appreciate.

HMMMM. Here's that old year book from college. And will you look at the album! Those styles! Pin-point toes, long skirts, collars like half-lengths of stove pipe. And get a load of the sailor straw... wish they'd had color film in those days, that hat band must have been a riot.

Here's a bathing suit, too. Feels like denim, almost. Long sleeves, ruffles, high in the neck. Wonder what the kids would say if they saw that at the club some afternoon?

Ah! Here's a rare one. Memo from somebody's trip to New York. Pleasant under glass, prime rib roast of beef, "East Lynne," Uncle Tom's Cabin"—yipes!—they even saw "The Trials of Pauline!"

But no talking Christmas card. Wonder where the thing went to? Must have taken the address book with it, wherever it went. Oh well, there's a couple of months before Christmas, so why worry about it now?

News copy submitted early necessarily is given preference over late items. So the "Early Bird" usually gets the space.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

They turn their stockings inside out; They claim it cools their feet. Their arms and shoulders they keep bare— No heat they want to keep.

But when it's time to go to bed, These women, without warring, Take the blankets, wrap themselves, And hubby shivers 'till morning.

Nothing like learning the old home town has the best. "You know, St. of all the wonderful meals that we've had at conventions, press conferences and all the other things that such good food as that put out by the Bloomfield Hills Country Club."

"You can say that again, Leo," emphatically agreed Freeman. "May I quote you two on that?" I asked with a smile.

"You sure can—and we've been banqueting at the best places in Chicago and New York, including the Waldorf," they explained. Incidentally, Donovan was managing editor of The Birmingham Eccentric back about 22 years ago. He went to The Free Press from The Eccentric.

If my experience last week

People's Column

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. All letters must be signed, and statements will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 50 words.

To the Editor:

It is especially necessary as we pause to recognize the seventh birthday of the United Nations to prepare ourselves to become channels of intelligent information about the UN—not to become victims of propaganda.

In 1955 the UN charter, so much like our own, will come up for examination and possible revision. Three years is little enough time to prepare ourselves to become channels of intelligent information about the UN—not to become victims of propaganda.

I would like to see groups formed to study the UN—its policies (e.g., the Tunisian question) and its non-political activities. The International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has clutched the heart of each of us, the analysis of the world food situation by the world food and agriculture organization alarms us, we are proud of the record of WHO.

It is now time for every citizen to come to the aid of the United Nations. MRS. HAZEL E. GARVOCK, RI, Box 126, Royal Oak

was any real indication, then mechanized farming is a snail. At Dearborn Motors' press preview of their new "Golden Jubilee" farm tractor, members of the press were given several acres to plow up, till, cultivate, harrow, etc., in trying out the new model.

It takes about a minute to learn where the throttle, clutch, brakes and gear shift are, and how they work. Then how to work the automatic system that operates the particular piece of farm equipment attached to the rear of the tractor—and you're all set to go farming.

I did a bit of plowing—the first attempt I had ever made—and it was easy. But I could read a book or magazine while doing it, it's so easy—thanks to today's modern mechanical devices.

Birmingham school and police officials are doing a fine job of traffic safety education with the youngsters in the first few grades of school.

The fact that they aren't—or can't—do better is directly attributable to the parents of most of these young boys and girls. The kids hear and learn their safety lessons in school. They want to follow instructions and try.

But when Mommy or Daddy drag them across the street in the middle of the block, or in front of closely approaching cars, or against red lights—what do you suppose is the effect on the youngsters?

He's been told not to take chances, but Mommy and Daddy

take chances and nothing happens. Because most children worship their parents, they soon feel Mommy and Daddy are doing the right thing, and what is being taught in school is wrong or at least doesn't have to be applied to daily living.

Those safety lessons taught in the schools are being deliberately or inadvertently violated and nullified by the parents.

So before bawling out Junior or Sis for their bad traffic and pedestrian habits, it'd be a good idea to look at your habits first. They may just be emulating you.

It's been quite a nervous wait to find out who won the election—Eisenhower or Truman.

I can't understand why some people spend all that money on putting in a driveway—then keep their car parked out on the street.

There are some parents who hope their about-to-graduate-from-college son or daughter will all he has learned in college... because only movie stars can earn a living by acting.

After a night of trying to drink the town dry, some sops only go home because it is the last place still open.

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From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

• We live in an age when, due to the advances of communication via the radio and the TV, all manner of quackery is being sold to the American people. This is confined not only to various commodities, but equally so in the realm of politics. The voice and manner of the demagogue and the dishonest candidate shares equal attention with those who are able, sincere and honest. Not the intelligence of the voters will determine whether or not their governmental affairs get and remain in the hands of the evil ones.

We observe that Wisconsin's U. S. Senator Joe McCarthy "has a dream" of running for President.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone MI 4-1100

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The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club

National Advertising Representatives Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc. 1618 Guardian Bldg. 220 Broadway DETROIT 26, MICH. NEW YORK 10, N.Y.

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So They Say . . .

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