How Shall Michigan Meet Its University Expansion Needs

A most important educational decision will have to be made by the people of Michigan in the not-too-distant future. It concerns the determination of just how colossal they want their two large state-supported institutions of higher education to get.

Forecasts for both the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and Michigan State University, at East Lansing, show that these campuses are destined to become so large they will lose those environmental values that usually attend campus life.

Michigan State University currently believes that by 1970-71 its student population will reach 35,953. Comparable figures also come from Ann Arbor.

THIS EXPECTED GROWTH, of course, means scores of millions of dollars must be provided to meet these educational needs. Few will question the obligation to provide educational facilities for an ever-increasing school student body.

Many, however, will ask: "Should the State not consider establishing one or more additional campuses for these needs? Should we not prevent the growth of both present Universities from becoming impractically and unwisely 'colossal, stupendous, enormous, and gigantic'?

Perhaps the establishment of extension branches of each institution may be the solution, located convenient to student population sources in Michigan.

CURRENT ENDEAVORS BY Detroit have to have the state assume responsibility for the support and operation of Wayne University may be a partial answer to the problem. Too, already the University of Michigan is starting an extension branch in Flint, and its board of regents currently is investigating possibility of opening a branch of the medical school in Grand Rapids.

The problem, naturally, needs to be studied and solved by persons expert in the educational and political fields—the latter because the state legislature and other public officials will have to play their parts in solving this problem.

Good and wise educational programs deserve public support. Good and wise educators try to see that their institutions are both good and wise in order to win and hold public support.

When A Nation Really Wakes Up

Some years ago an American missionary started a class for teachers in Turkey. The first day 10 Armenian teachers appeared and 10 Turkish. The second day 10 Armenian and 5 Turkish came. The third day the attendance consisted of 10 Armenians and one Turk. Thereafter no Turks came at all, while the Armenians attended regularly.

This anecdote illustrates the intellectual apathy that hung over the Turks for centuries. Now the situation is different.

C. L. Sulzberger of the New York Times, who has been visiting Turkey, is impressed by its progress. Industry has been created and agriculture benefits from the extensive use of tractors and commercial fertilizers. Since 1947 their surfaced roads have been increased from 1,200 miles to more than 14,000.

IN THE CULTURAL FIELD women have been granted full political and civil rights. The harem and the seclusion of the veil have been abolished. The Roman alphabet is now used instead of the awkward Arabic characters. Influence of the reactionary Mohammedan priesthood has been sharply reduced.

This twentieth century spurt towards modernization is being experienced in many parts of the world. The courage and determination which are re-shaping Turkey and other such nations are giving, as well, a new shape to the future.

These countries with better economic balance and fewer social taboos will assume important roles in tomorrow's world of nations.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

A President of the United States not only has the task of trying to win public support of his program, but he also has the greater job of trying to win the support of his Congress. You would be surprised, Dear Voter, to learn how many members of each Congress really believe that they would look better sitting in the White House than its current occupant.

The great Connie Mack, "Mr. Baseball" of the U.S.A., has made his longest hit—a "home run that landed in Heaven." This wonderful gentleman sportsman was beloved by millions. He did more than any other man to raise baseball high in the respect of the public. His life could be an inspiration to every player . . . and every fan.

Some weeks ago there passed away in Birmingham Mrs. Kate Drumm, of 776 W. Lincoln. She came from Scotland; 86 years she lived on this earth, during which time, much as a widow, she loyally worked hard and supported eight children. "Katie" found time to write verse, and had some of it published. Her mother-heart was big enough to take in a whole neighborhood. She was always helping others, though her share of this world's goods was meagre. Her nature was cheerful. You generally smiled in her presence. Her children and her grandchildren have a great right to be proud of Kate Drumm!

Actions of those hundreds of Alabama college students who used mob violence against a young negress who is her race's first pupil on its campus, is proof that too often the mob is a beast. These youngsters are unable to resort to intelligent discussion in an effort to solve this racial problem. When they grow up they, like many of their ancestors, will find war the only answer to international differences.

Elevators in Detroit and Wayne County's office building are so jammed twice daily, when employees take "coffee breaks", that taxpayers can't ride in comfort to get where they want to go, report that city's newspapers. Well, for years many have argued that the absorbing of caffeine is a bad habit.

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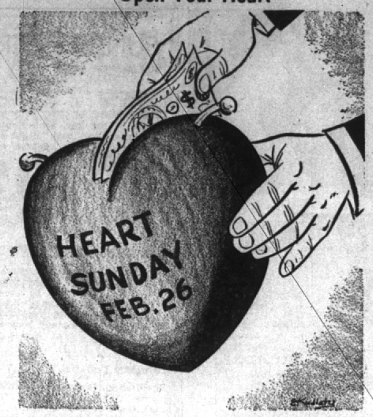

NATURE NOW

House Mouse Called Undesirable Alien

By LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Wherever man goes, there goes the mouse, a small fellow-creature immortalized in our day by one Walt Disney.

The mouse is a member of our largest order of mammals, the "rodentia". To it belong more than 1,000 species. Its members, which also include rats, squirrels, beavers and porcupines, are the most widely dispersed of all land animals.

They are characterized by their gnawing habits. These are made possible by their long incisor teeth which have sharp chisel-like edges.

IN OUR OWN state, the two most plentiful as well as the most destructive members of the family are the cheese-nibbling house mouse and the Norwegian barn rat, both of which come to us as stowaways from foreign parts. These we may well continue to class as undesirable aliens.

Mrs. Frehse

The most abundant of the ten species native to Michigan is the common meadow or field mouse. Vigorous and adaptive, it has pushed its way into every available living space from the snow-clad peaks of the Arctic to the arid sand flats of the desert.

Most of the mouse plagues in history were caused by the meadow mouse or its close relatives. One of these occurred in Nevada in the early 1900's when the meadow mouse population reached ten to 12 thousand per acre.

A MOUSE WAS "just a mouse" to your scribe until we began our years of camping in the North Woods country. Here we soon learned to share our cabin with the white-footed (also called the deer or wood) mouse.

There was no escaping the little intruder who proceeded to "settle" anywhere that did not conflict too much with my own mothering and housekeeping rituals.

But wherever the "white-foot" abides, it is a model of neatness and decorum, and soon becomes very tame. Its fur, greyish-brown above and pure white underneath, is fine and silky. Its ears are large and delicate, its small eyes friendly and bright, its cunning feet immaculately white. Even before their eyes have opened, the baby mice will wash their faces after meals.

THE OUTDOOR home of the white-foot is a commodious globular nest of dried plant material, built four to ten feet above the ground. Frequently a deserted bird's nest or an old cat-tail is used as a foundation.

When the white-foot builds inside cabins or lodges, it appropriates such soft materials as those to be found within pillows, mattresses and upholstering, a habit which is difficult to condone, about July 1.

The gestation period of all mice is only 21 days, the shortest for any species of mammal. It is thus possible to raise four or five litters per year. These are needed to keep pace with the mouse's numerous predators which includes owls, hawks, snakes and weasels.

A MOUSE PREFERS to eat nuts and seeds, but when driven by hunger will include in its diet such items as soap, glue and rubber. There are many records of naturalists observing a mouse's performance when emptying a narrow-mouthed container filled with honey or molasses. It repeatedly lowers its tail therein and licks off the residue.

There are frequent reports of "singing mice." The performance of some of these exceptional creatures has been studied and verified by scientists. Every mouse (in company with all mammals) does have a voice, but it sounds more like a squeak than a song. Also it is supersonic in character and we hear only those notes which are within range of our human ear.

Since a mouse's foraging is mostly nocturnal, his eyes are adjusted to the dim moonlit landscape where he can forage with less fear of his enemies. He does not hibernate and is therefore abroad in the coldest of winter, decorating the snow with his dainty tracks.

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
February 23, 1906

The Birmingham Dancing club gave a very successful party at the Johnston-Shaw hall last Friday evening. The Misses Ethel Winter of Orion and Ada Eglin of Detroit spent Friday night at the home of Dr. Shaw and attended the party. Miss Bessie Dixon of Orion spent Friday night with Miss Agnes Knowles attending the party given by the Birmingham Dancing club.

Cards are out for the marriage of Mrs. Clara Andrus, of Detroit, and Horatio Seymour Conner, to take place Wednesday evening, Feb. 28, at seven o'clock, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Messmore. Mr. and Mrs. Conner will spend some time in the south and will be at home after June 1st, at the groom's summer home, Lakeside, at Harrisville, Mich.

30 YEARS AGO
February 19, 1926

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Strellinger have sold their house on Oak street to Harold Neely of Evansville, Ind., and are now occupying, for about two months, the home of their son, Godfrey Strellinger, on Dorchester road until their new house on Greenwood avenue is completed. Mr. Neely expects to take up his residence in Birmingham this week.

The regular meeting of the local Rotary Anns was held at the Oakland Hills Country club last Friday with 20 members present. Mrs. Charles Shain and Mrs. Clarence Vliet were in charge of the entertainment. Rev. R. M. Atkins was the speaker and gave practically the same talk that he had given at the Father and Son banquet. As the luncheon took place on Lincoln's birthday the table decorations were symbolical. The next meeting will occur on March 12.

15 YEARS AGO
February 27, 1941

. . . At the last school board meeting, John Harvey Rosso . . . said he had $100 which he would donate if 14 other men would do the same, making it unnecessary to borrow money to pay for the lights (for the new Pierce field lighting system). Secretary Ernest W. Seahold said he would put up $100 on the same basis, and Trustee H. Ross Mack volunteered, also. Rosso said this week he would not be surprised if 12 other men could be induced to follow suit.

Mrs. M. S. Kice, Jr., of Glengary road was a speaker recently at a meeting of the Pontiac branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association. Assisted by Mrs. Aaron H. Webster, of Fairfax avenue, Mrs. Kice discussed the rules governing the art of flower arrangement.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER *By George Wm. Averill*

If a property owner lived in the same place all his taxpaying life, and if his school district were the exact size and shape as his town or city, chances are he'd not get unduly exercised over taxes.

The usual taxpayer is particularly sensitive to local taxes, as distinguished from most other kinds.

His sales tax, his gasoline tax, even his income tax, can leave him in oft-concealed and small dribbles.

But his city and school taxes come in one lump, sometimes at the same time. And more important, it is clearly identified and it is billed.

WHERE SCHOOL DISTRICTS overlap two or more cities and/or townships, the resident soon discovers he is at an advantage or disadvantage in paying school or county taxes.

He has a most difficult time trying to prove this disadvantage (he'd be hooted out of his neighborhood if he tried to prove his advantage).

This is because Michigan assessing law provides that municipal assessors use their "best judgment" in establishing assessments (on which municipal taxes are based).

Assessor A's best judgment hardly ever coincides with Assessor B's, and Assessor C's is not the same as either of the others.

SO FOR SEVERAL YEARS this fact has been recognized in the "equalizing" method of determining school district and county taxes.

Quite confusing to the uninitiated, the idea is simply to bring closer together the high and the low assessments on similar properties that are in different municipalities.

Counties first tried the equalizing system, it being considered that the county would be an impartial umpire. But politics always gets into these things. So considerable room for improvement still remained.

Just this year the state entered the picture, so now in Oakland county we're using the state's estimation of what local property valuations should be, or "state equalization."

IMPROVEMENT STILL CAN be made.

Which leads me up to telling you about a new book just published. It seems to me to be a book long needed, and which holds promise of getting us all down to the real way to eliminate "rule of thumb" assessing.

It is an "assessor's manual", compiled by staff members of the Michigan tax commission.

IN JANUARY'S ISSUE of the Michigan Municipal Review, Robert H. Pealy, research associate of the University of Michigan institute of public opinion, outlined what was in the new manual, then wound up with this comment:

"Whether or not the new manual is to have a great impact on property tax administration for the most part, will be up to local assessors.

"If large numbers of local assessors adopt and continue to use the procedures of the manual, it is likely that a great improvement in local property tax administration will be achieved.

"To a lesser extent, although this is also an important factor, the success of the manual will depend upon whether or not the legislature is willing to provide the tax commission with funds to keep the manual up to date, and to expand the field staff for purposes of working with local assessors in using the manual.

"THE MANUAL MAKES NO radical departures from well-recognized assessment procedures. Local assessors who adopt the procedures of the manual may feel confident that the result will mean relatively equitable assessments for taxpayers.

"The procedures in this manual will bring about a high degree of uniformity in assessment practice if assessors will use them.

"The tax commission has announced that one copy of the manual will be sent without charge to each assessor in Michigan."

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NOTICE
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP TAXPAYERS

February 29, 1956 is the last day for payment of the 1955 County and School taxes without penalty or interest.

After this date taxes are payable only at the Oakland County Treasurer's Office, Pontiac, Mich. with a 4% penalty and ½% per month interest charge added.

Buy your dog license by Feb. 29, 1956 and save the penalty, also have proof of rabies vaccination.

ARNO L. HULET
Bloomfield Township Treasurer

WANTED! Laundress for 44¢ a week

Even in the "good old days" you couldn't find a laundress for such a small sum. But today, 44¢ buys enough electricity to wash and dry the week's laundry for the average family. With an electric clothes dryer (to match your electric washer) you do your laundry the modern way—the easy way. Follow the modern trend toward all electric living. See the new electric clothes dryers at your appliance dealer's or Detroit Edison.

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