

Foreign Trade Worth \$80 Million To Oakland County Business in '56

WASHINGTON — Foreign trade brought more than \$80 million in business to Oakland county during 1956, reports Congressman William S. Broomfield (R-Oakland).

And the total is expected to increase considerably in the years ahead, said Broomfield. The part of the Lawrence Seaway, which will open in a year, will mean a wealth of new foreign trade for Oakland county firms.

Broomfield said the figures were revealed in a department of commerce report on foreign trade and its effect on Oakland county. Broomfield asked for the study to learn the impact of the seaway on the county's economy.

Foreign trade in Oakland county is a two-way street, the report points out. While 51 Oakland county firms employing \$2,300,000 in 1956, some \$4,400,000 in autos, trucks and parts to foreign countries, these firms, in turn import most of their raw materials from overseas.

ANOTHER 117 Oakland county firms manufactured an estimated \$20,000,000 in machinery for sale outside the borders of the United States in 1956. Fabricated metal products made up another \$2,300,000 of the total and primary metal industries added another \$2,100,000.

As far as Oakland county is concerned, foreign trade has been almost all for the good of the county's economy, the report indicates.

Only the wine manufacturers have complained that foreign trade has hurt their business.

Besides the direct benefits which foreign trade has had upon his constituents, many Oakland county products indirectly reach foreign countries, said Broomfield. "Many Oakland county goods are exported after they are incorporated as component parts of a product assembled outside the country," he said. "In addition, manufacturers of such items as paints, candy, transformers, generators and other equipment aren't included in the statistics."

ed in the department of commerce survey."

THE CONSUMER also directly

benefits from foreign commerce

through lower prices of products

which are not in competition with

Oakland county products. Such

YMCA Cooperates On West Indies Trip in April

Birmingham YMCA is cooperating with the travel club of the YMCA of metropolitan Detroit on its scheduled trip to the West Indies, leaving April 19 and returning May 3.

Present plans include leaving Detroit April 10 on Eastern Airlines for a day flight to Miami. The group will leave Miami for Nassau on a BOAC Viscount plane, then spend several days at the famous Fort Montego Beach hotel in Nassau and see the Bahamas and enjoy the beautiful beach area at Nassau.

FROM THE Bahamas the trip

continues over to Montego Bay,

where reservations have been made

at the new fully air-conditioned

Casa Montego hotel. Montego Bay

is one of the famous resort areas

of the world. Here is the famous

crystal-clear beach area.

Doctor's Cove. The visit in this

area will include a sightseeing trip

to the mountains.

From Montego Bay the group

will go to the Ocho Rios area,

where reservations have been made

at the new Aravak hotel. The Ar-

items as coffee, vanilla and other flavoring extracts, food products are on almost every household's shelf.

"Without our imports, we would have a substantially lower standard of living," said Broomfield. "In 1956, we bought \$13 billion worth of goods from foreign countries for use in our production processes or for consumption to meet the needs of the American people."

"Oakland county prosperes as trade expands and is hurt if trade contracts."

wak, opened just a few months ago, is said to be the most luxurious hotel in the Caribbean. It is beautifully landscaped, on the ocean beach, with very modern hotel facilities.

After several days in this modern beach area, the group will go to Kingston, the capital of Jamaica. They will stay in the Myrtle Bank hotel, shop and visit the interesting streets of Kingston.

A SIDE TRIP is planned out of Kingston to Port Antonio, where the group will enjoy "rafting down the Rios." This is one of the outstanding, thrilling experiences in a trip to Jamaica. A bamboo raft is guided by a native on a scenic river ride.

Reservations are limited to 48 people. Mrs. Ralph Wilson and Mrs. Bernice Reule are two of the Birminghamites scheduled to go. Others are welcome and are asked to talk to Sandy Newell at the Metropolitan Detroit YMCA. Reservations will be made through the Birmingham branch.

Small Towns Can Improve Aid for Aged

ANN ARBOR—Employment and income problems are especially acute for elderly residents of small communities, a University of Michigan expert on aging believes.

Wilma T. Donahue, director of the U-M division of gerontology, says:

"A larger proportion of people living in rural areas and small communities requires aid as assistance than is true in cities. This probably reflects lower lifetime earnings, and savings together with the lack of retirement and pension plans covering farm and small town residents."

"So far as employment is concerned, census data show only about one out of every four men living in small communities is employed. This compares with about one in two men living on farms or in cities."

"Those seeking employment are also somewhat more frequent in the small community than either farm or city."

"This suggests that men desiring to work or to continue working at an older age may find it difficult to do so in small communities."

OLDER PERSONS, she notes, often comprise a larger part of the population in small communities and rural areas than do elderly residents of cities. For those who are well integrated in the activities of their town, she adds, small communities offer many advantages over the hustle and bustle of city life for older persons.

But she suggests there are several ways in which their lives may be enriched. One of these is that communities or rural organizations may establish special committees on aging. Among the functions which they could perform are:

- 1) Establishing a visiting program for older residents who live alone or have their home in an isolated area.
- 2) Developing food service to insure that elderly residents receive at least one hot meal a day.
- 3) Providing a daily telephone service to talk with those over 65 who live alone, making sure they are in good health and spirits; and
- 4) Helping integrate older people in community life through joint enterprises, such as relief sewing.

DOWN TO EARTH

County Agent Gives Tips on Lawn Care

Recently I had a talk with our county agent, Wayne B. Siefert, who is especially interested in the culture necessary to develop a good lawn. To assist Oakland county gardeners, he has made a test plot of various grasses which should have special interest for local folks who are planting a lawn for the first time.

Siefert doesn't believe in "softening" a stand of lawn by constant watering. He believes that the proper preparation of the soil base, plus a fertilizer feeding three times a year is the answer for the good lawn.

"Blue grass makes a good lawn but where you have heavy soil traffic red fescue is best," he says.

LATELY your Mrs. Burlingame writer has been interested in the subject of peat and its use by the home gardener. Decomposed vegetable matter which is low in ash and only partly decayed is called peat. Decomposed matter which is high in mineral content and thoroughly decomposed is called mulch. The condition of mined decomposed material is determined by the rate of decomposition, which is determined by the available water.

The principal use of peat is for soil improvement. It will give sandy soil "body" to hold moisture and fertilizer long enough for the roots to benefit. On the other hand, it will separate the hard pan of clay soil if incorporated when the soil is friable.

If you incorporate 2 inches of peat with about 5 inches of soil, you have a good start toward a seedbed for a lawn. Research has shown that the presence of a substantial quantity of peat in the

soil makes any fertilizer more efficient, according to the United States department of agriculture.

For lawn conditioning, use Michigan peat which is generally alkaline in chemical analysis.

As we look into the future of horticulture, we are interested in the various chemical controls of the phases in the life of a specific plant. This means seed seeds could germinate in an off season, so they could be controlled without damage to tender adjacent plants.

We will be able to speed up flowering and maturity so that climate will not be a limiting factor. Plants will be able to be sprayed and made draught resistant. These projects are "in the mill" now.

THE BUYER of mulch is protected by the trade practice rules for the peat industry as provided by the federal trade commission. The sacked product must have a specified percentage of dry content. The buyer of packaged mulch may be protected, but what about the busy businessman who does all of his gardening on a Saturday afternoon? He is a "push-over" for the man who sells mulch by the bushel to the hospital suburbanite. Here is a challenge for the local Chamber of Commerce.

Canadian and German peat in bags is the only kind to use around acid plants such as heulocks.

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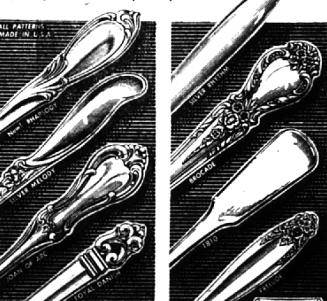
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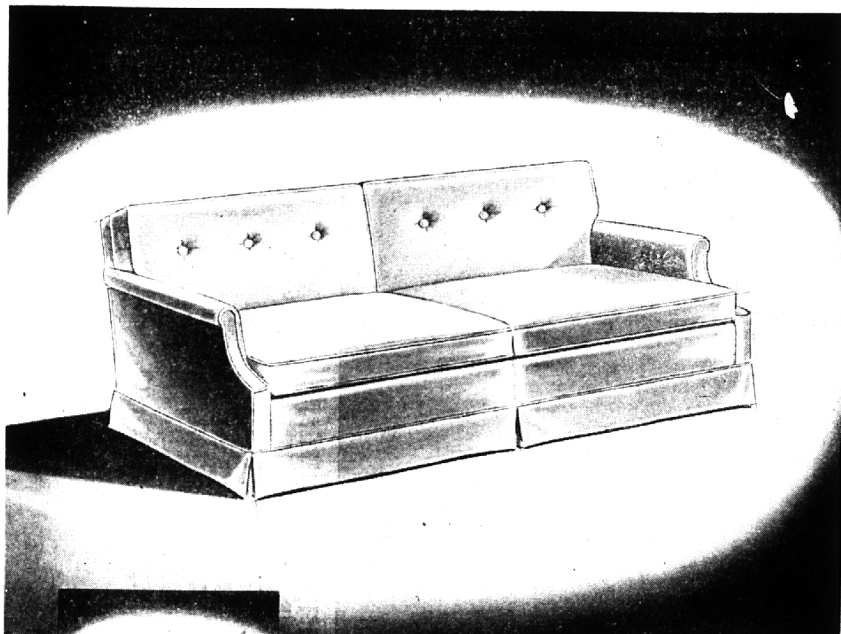
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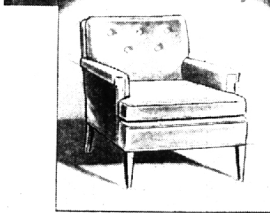


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