

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



The Nation's Top
Ten Cents

In obtaining a formal education one is required to map out a specific course of study . . . to the end that upon graduation he may possess reasonable knowledge of whatever subjects he thought of value. Why is it, after leaving school or college, so many people cease to map out a continuing post-school program to assure getting more of life's goodness?

Pat Boone's The Age Rage . . .

for teenagers of 1959. Read student's report of Boone press conference on page 1-D.

Voters Will Decide . . .

Namely, in Westwood. P. 1-E.

Area Churches Plan . . .

Lenten Programs. See Page 7-B.

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Aw, What's a Bit of Freeze, Snog or Snash? It's Merely Weather (and Spring Is Only 37 Days Away!)

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Do you still remember what grass looks like, Mister? How are your nerves after being cooped up with son or daughter weekend after weekend, Madame?

As for me, I am beginning to have doubts that I've got a frost sidewalk anymore. I haven't seen it since New Year's Eve!

Yes, you and I are having our walk with the weather.

BUT THINK of the job municipal officials and crews have had. Birmingham's DPW men feel like they've been working the clock around for the upset three weeks.

Here's Typical Schedule For Ice-Age Suburbanite:

By JULIE CANDLER and GEORGE WM. AVERILL

In the past few weeks, we have been intrigued by the daily schedules of suburbanites as they go about their activities. Our interest was aroused by the unusual weather we have been having.

It appears to have altered the daily schedule to an appreciable extent.

Here is a composite of our eyewitness events (we made hundreds of them):

6 AM—Stumble out of bed, peer out window. Ice all over everything. Decide have to get up after all.

6:20 AM—Start out front door to warm up car, scrape ice off glass and doorlocks.

6:20 1/2—Pick self up at bottom of porch steps, find bruises but no broken bones.

6:35 AM—HALT DE-ICING, return to house for breakfast. Morning paper boy not arriving. Read last night's paper again.

6:40 AM—Short breakfast in favor of earlier start to office.

6:43 AM—Get properly dressed for outside: boots, coat, heavy gloves, car muffler.

6:45 AM—Kiss wife goodbye, start out door toward car.

6:45 1/2 AM—Pick self up at bottom of porch steps. Lucky again. Just more bruises.

6:47 AM—Crawl on hands and knees toward car. See neighbor stuck in driveway. Help 4 neighbors get him started.

6:57 AM—ENLIST HELP of remaining 2 neighbors to get own car under way.

7:12 AM—Under way, finally, but slowly.

7:15-7:44 AM—Creep with traffic for estimated 4 1/2 miles toward downtown.

7:45 AM—Salted stretch, pick up speed.

7:52 AM—Salt past another traffic accident; laugh at poor fellow whose brakes didn't hold.

7:52 1/2 AM—CRASH!

8:20 AM—POCKET INSURANCE information, tell police goodbye, start toward office again.

9:40 AM—Go through office door looking as if had stayed up all night.

9:45 AM—Listen to boss's story of trouble he had this morning because his automatic garage door opener was frozen shut.

9:50 AM—Walk silently back to own office. Think about closest place to get lunch.

12:30 PM—Buy golf rubbers on lunch hour.

2 PM—GET EARLY START back home.

2:45 PM—See 28-car pile-up on expressway.

7 PM—Walk in house silently. Wife asks, "How did everything go today?" Call plasterer to fix hole just made in ceiling.

7:01 PM—Put self in fruit cellar until time to go to bed.

7:52 AM—Get up. Must be ready for possible early start next morning. Put self to sleep cursing fact forgot to buy large supplies of salt and sand.

Free Sand Available At B'ham DPW Yard

It's a lot easier these days to keep your head up than to keep your feet under you.

But the city of Birmingham took a firm step this week to help you get less slippery footings.

There's free city sand for your porches, walks and driveways, said City Manager L. R. Gare. Commercially, it's almost impossible these days to buy salt or sand. It's been that much in demand.

"Just bring your own containers to the DPW yard at Eton and Holland streets any weekday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. and load up," he said.

THIS SAND is available only to Birmingham residents, he advised. Better bring your driver's license for identification.

"No trucks or anything like that," the manager warned.

Saturdays there will be a man at the yard from 8 a.m. to noon.

DPW Supt. Tom Brien also asked residents to help open the more than 2,000 street catch basins.

"We can't get around to all of them fast enough when we have these brief thaws," Brien commented.

"We can only hope our residents will help us so more of the melting snow and ice gets away instead of lying on streets, and causing more than ordinary trouble."

HE ALSO ASKED residents to bear with the garbage and rubbish collection crews.

"They are a bit late this week—I think you know why," he said.

Leave Municipal Tax Base Alone, B'ham Tells State

Birmingham doesn't want the state legislature tampering with the municipal tax base, particularly personal property taxes.

Saturday night a resolution to this effect, will send it to Birmingham's legislative representatives.

The legislature this year must solve the state's financial problems and some legislators have been eyeing proposals which would take some revenues away from municipalities.

"And they're not far from wrong," declared Birmingham City Manager L. R. Gare. His headaches are just starting.

ALREADY HE'S losing what little hair he has left as he watches the unbudgeted dollars going into tons of extra salt, sand, and employees overtime.

This tremendous additional material and energy has been expended on the nearly three feet of snow, ice, drizzle and foggle that

has descended on the metropolitan Detroit area the past six weeks.

"We've NEVER seen such chaotic conditions here in many a year," were emphatic.

HE FIGURES some of his most sleepless nights are yet to come.

"WHERE are we going to get the extra material to repair the street surfaces that have gone to pot with this freeze, weather?" the Birmingham city manager wonders.

Crabbrook road . . . another road surface shot full of pot holes.

What's causing all the trouble? "We've been trying to figure this out," Gare said. "Best we can

decide is the unusually heavy frost conditions. It's seldom gone deeper than 36 inches before. Now it's more than 40 inches.

THE HEAVING of the ground beneath the roadways bursts the concrete, opens cracks where more water enters and freezes.

Maple avenue just east of the Crabbrook intersection is a washboard. Looks like the city and county won't have much excavat-

ing to do when it is paved and widened this coming year.

Telegraph road has its potholes, too. There are a few beauties on East Maple avenue toward the city limits.

MILLIONS of dollars will have to be spent in Michigan this next season on road repair, Gare predicted.

"Things are tough all over," he spluttered.

Slippery, too, Mr. Gare.

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OAKLAND AVENUE, between Woodward and Hunter, has some new bumps.

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