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Ministers of Long Ago Got 'White Elephants' With Gifts of Food

ANN ARBOR — Gifts of food were sometimes "white elephants" to needy young ministers of 75 years ago, according to Lloyd C. Douglas, author of "The Hobo," whose letters are now in The University of Michigan Historical Collections.

In a note written in 1947, Douglas, one-time pastor of Ann Arbor's First Congregational Church, described his father's Lutheran pastorate in Indiana in the 1890's.

"My father's salary, paid by six churches, was \$200 a year—plus donations. But we were never broke. My mother, who was what is known as a 'good manager,' handled the family treasury.

"Of course, a dollar went farther then than it does now. I estimate a dollar now is worth about 18 cents as compared with the dollar my father earned 60 years ago.

"AS FOR THE donations—each of the six churches named an appointed day for visiting the parsonage, bringing all manner of foodstuffs. Perhaps so many as a score of farmers, with their families, would drive to town, through the mud, in their big wagons and fill our kitchen and storeroom with smoked hams, sides of bacon, barrels of apples, potatoes, parsnips, and innumerable jars of jellies and jams.

"And they would bring enough fried chicken, bread and pies, pickles and deviled eggs and canned fruit and four-layer cakes with white icing on them to feed the crowd a noon-day feast. When it was over we cleaned house — six times a year, one for each church's appointed day.

IT WAS NOT considered very

good cricket for the parson to sell or give away anything that had been acquired at a donation party. For that might look as if we didn't appreciate the gift," Douglas wrote.

"One time, when there had been a bumper crop of apples, my

mother tearfully reported to my father that we now had on hand 15 gallons of apple butter. What in the world were we going to do with all this apple butter? My father, who was never much upset about anything, said "We'll paint the barn."



Increased Water Use May Mean Shortage

Summer means a lot of things to a lot of people. To the children it means school's over and summer vacation begins.

To parents it means trips to the beach and blooming flower gardens.

But to some, unfortunately, it means blistered lawns and failing growth — the result of water shortage and water rationing because facilities were not built years ago to take care of water needs today.

WHY IS THIS the case in a land where every modern convenience is available?

For the most part, authorities say, it is the fault of each one of us. We're interested in the latest washing machines, dishwashers, air conditioners to make summer heat more tolerable, and a continuing flow of mechanical developments to make life more pleasant.

But, we are paying the price. Indifference to the needs of water utilities has, in many cases, made it impossible for them to supply water in sufficient quantities.

THIS PROBLEM is not isolated. As population explodes it will become a reality in many more communities. In a recent year, 1,000 communities were forced to curtail the use of water. Forty-five states felt shortages.

According to the National Water Institute, we are using three times more water per person than was used in 1900. By 1975 this per capita consumption will be even greater. Added to this is the ever increasing rate of population.

Now is the time to do something about expanding facilities to meet these increased demands, say the experts. Every citizen

should know how he stands with regard to his water supply now and in the future.

THESE NEW facilities cannot be developed overnight. There is a familiar saying among water utility men that "tomorrow is now."

It takes many years to make the funds available, approve bids for construction of new facilities and complete the actual building.

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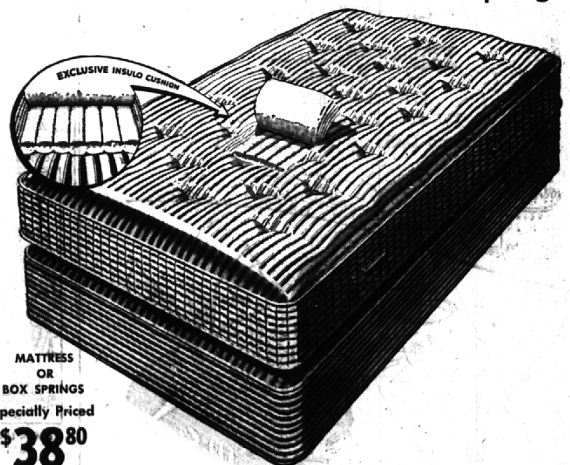
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