

How to Use 66 Acres?

A letter to the editor appears in this week's "People's Column" from the conservation chairman of the local branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association.

That organization is concerned about the ultimate use of the 66 acres surrounding, and north of, the old sewage disposal plant on Cranbrook Road near 14 Mile.

The letter offers some provocative thoughts which we believe are worthy of further exploration. The organization would like to see 20 acres of the property left for "passive" recreation such as an open air community theatre, places for residents to cook-out or sing out and athletic areas for local children.

THE RECREATION program in Birmingham through the years has been one of the high points of the city administration. From the ice skating facilities to Springdale Golf Course, the City has provided facilities far beyond normal public responsibility.

The job the City has done in improving the property along the River Rouge, particularly around Quanton Lake, has not only beautified the city but has offered the residents room to relax and enjoy themselves.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE it already has extensive golfing facilities, we hope the City weighs carefully the other types of recreation which the old sewage plant property could offer to the residents.

Another golf course would probably pay for itself, whereas leaving the property to nature might cost the City additional revenue to maintain it.

Yet, property left for passive recreation could be used by the many residents who are not interested in the game of golf.

We recognize that the City has allocated areas for passive recreation, such as the banks of the River Rouge, but so has it allocated other areas for golf.

IF A GOLF course is constructed in that area, it would preclude its use for other community projects at some later date.

The Eccentric in the next three weeks will publish a series of articles on the relative costs of various uses of the property, the pros and cons of a golf course and a review of other recreational facilities which the City has already provided.

We hope these articles will help the residents get a clearer understanding of the problems and then pass on their thoughts to the city fathers.

Dedicated to 'Michigan' Week

Like a crown in a Queen's rare adornment,
Like a star in the firmament's hue—
So does Michigan lend its own brilliance
To the land of the Red, White and Blue.
Blessed with lakes, rivers, scenery, good
people,
Our fair state is a haven... its call
Is to live, love and laugh in good measure...
For there's plenty of these things for all!
Hewn from wilderness... settlers labored...
Built well with their visions of old...
Visions found in the travail of struggle...
Where is mined "stuff" more precious
than gold!
For this "stuff" exists not in wrapped items
That you find in the marts of this world;
Instead, they were fashioned Divinely...
Then earthward to man they were hurled.

Yes, our people have shown their devotion
To the Truth and the Right... and
'gainst Wrong...
They have given their talents, their life-
blood

In both war and in peace... and so long

As our nation stands boldly, defending
Man's freedoms, man's liberties, laws,

Our own state will give itself, freely,
To help strengthen this Holy Cause!

And our own fair and beautiful city
Joins all others that faithfully seek
To make our state strong, self-reliant...

This supports best each "Michigan
Week!"

—George R. Averill
Editor Emeritus

A Word for Stock-Buying Public

Under the bullish conditions prevailing for stock prices generally in the past year or so, issuers of new securities have had the advantage of a sellers market. This frequently produced the phenomenon of new stock bowing into the market on any given day only to leap several points upward on successive trading days, a tendency which prompted Wall Street to call these the "hot issues."

Realization that an immediate profit might be possible from these "hot issues" has often presented the handling broker with something of a moral problem. So much so that the National Association of Security Dealers has warned its members to be completely circumspect when associated with any of these flotations.

For instance, partners in brokerage

firms have been advised to be careful about accepting directorships in companies just gone "public," as this might tend to endow the new security issue with an undesired aura.

BUT the stock-buying public should not misunderstand. Security dealers are not being suspected of selling stock in non-existent companies or of any of the cruder practices associated with security transactions so common a half century ago.

Careful self-policing through the NASD together with federal government supervision has changed all that. It is only that wiser heads in the security business are cautioning against any attempts by the impetuous to capitalize on a sellers market.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

The earth is still a vast place, with some areas remote in a way ordinary inhabitants of the planet can scarcely appreciate. This was emphasized, recently, when a French camel corps roaming the Sahara desert came upon the remains of an English pilot and his aircraft missing for nearly three decades. This was no tiny object; it was a biplane. It seems difficult to believe that it could have gone unnoticed for that long, even in the desolate expanse of the Sahara. Yet, unnoticed it was. While the tragedy of this flight by an intrepid young pilot racing to Capetown will become real again for those with personal attachments to him, the rest of us may see it in something else. When the world bears down and our neighbors seem too close, when the traffic becomes too thick on the way home, it might be well to recall the vast and lonely places in the world. This may not thin out traffic, but at least it is something interesting to think about while the light changes.

Europeans have been known to suggest that an inordinate interest in the private lives of celebrities is more or less a nasty American characteristic.

Those of this opinion might well reflect on what occurred the other day at a wedding in the little Italian town of Predappio. Neither of the principals was even a celebrity, except by relationship. The relationships were intriguing, granted. The bridegroom, Romano Mussolini is the youngest son of the unlamented tyrant; his bride, Maria Scicolone, is best known as the sister of Sophia Loren. It must also be acknowledged that the presence of the glamorous Sophia justifiably heightened interest. But what hoopla took place when some 6,000 pressed close for a look! If reports can be credited, both bride and bridegroom fainted. Twelve onlookers were trampled in the crush. Hundreds of photographers battled their way to vantage points. It was a wild day in Predappio—but then, of course, Italians are excitable folk.

AFL-CIO President George Meany calls for a shorter work week. Employers think he's been talking about a short week too long.

Tomorrow is the greatest labor-saving device of today.

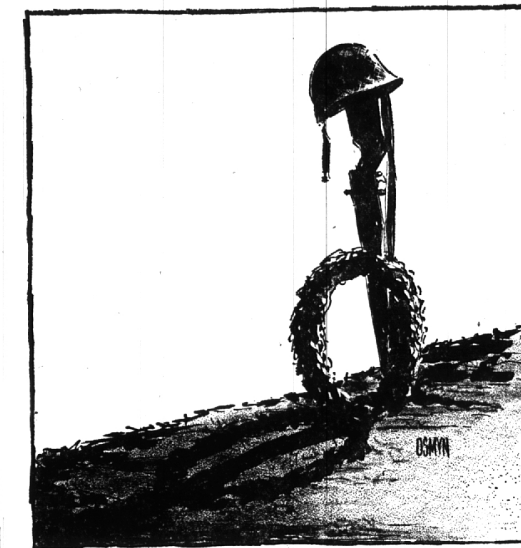


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Freedom's Immortal Sacrifice

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Suggests Nature Area At 14 Mile, Cranbrook

To the Editor:

As conservation chairman for the Birmingham Branch of W.N.F.&G.A., I have been assigned by Helen Knorr, president 58-60, and by Helen Miles, president 50-52, to study and report on the use of land at Lincoln and Cranbrook as a nature study area and arboretum. At my request the Michigan Natural Areas Council studied the section and suggested that 20 acres (of the 66) be reserved as the best available land in or near Birmingham for nature study, with an arboretum adjoining.

Ruth Hunter and I and Paul Thompson of Cranbrook Institute of Science appeared before the recreation commission at the behest of my president in behalf of this plan.

IT WAS ALSO discussed by members of our board and myself with representatives of the school board and the science department of the high schools.

A resolution was adopted by our board, and unanimously accepted by our membership in April. The resolution is as follows:

"The Birmingham Branch, W.N.F.&G.A., would very much like to see 20 acres of the city property at 14 Mile and Cranbrook preserved as a natural area. This would include the ravine at the northeast section of the property and a buffer area around it. A committee of the Michigan Natural Areas Council finds this place a good nature study area for the high school."

We FURTHER trust that suffi-

cient land adjoining this area to the west may be marked out as an arboretum. We would like to contribute to such a development. Since children from adjoining communities attend Birmingham high schools and would benefit from a nature study area and an arboretum, we would ask cooperation from the many other branches of W.N.F.&G.A. in the neighborhood in the building up of this project.

Experts on recreation, parents and educators are now deeply conscious of the fact that participating recreation develops healthier young people. We believe Birmingham would always be proud if the remainder of the 66-acre area were developed in such ways as: (1) for the good of Scouts, boys and girls, the large hilly area to the south for cookouts, slings and hikes, (2) for the younger children continued use of the elegant sliding area on 14 Mile, (3) tennis and archery areas for high school area and older, (4) a little lake, so attractive winter and summer, (5) even an open air community theatre down near the Bloomfield Art Association building (we can dream can't we?).

SUCH PLANNING in addition to the good nature study having and the arboretum, is a development which school people have described as deeply welcome. Some of these activities would be self-supporting and some might be contributed by people who want to express their pleasure at having lived in Birmingham."

A number of organizations have

(See AREA, 5-B)

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

May 24, 1912

Out of 21 Congressional districts in the state, totals computed at a time when fewer than half of the districts were counted, indicated that Theodore Roosevelt will have 20 of 42 district delegates and that President Taft will have 14, while the returns are so incomplete that eight delegates at present cannot be counted by either side.

The children will meet at the school house for the program of Memorial Services in Royal Oak. The G.A.R. Fife and Drum Corps will lead the procession. A stop will be distributed to the children and the Royal Oak band will join the procession and march to the cemetery.

A mound will be decorated in St. Mary's cemetery the school children will sing a song and scatter flowers on the mound.

The old-time rule of the Methodist Episcopal Church forbidding its members to dance, attend theaters or play games of chance, stands unchanged. The Methodist general conference in session at Minneapolis, Minn., the vote stood: "against a change," 446; "for a change," 369.

30 YEARS AGO

May 26, 1932

First tests of the new chlorination system installed in the city water works disposal plant were

(See HAPPENINGS, 5-B)

Once Over Lightly

by
IRMA N. DAVIS

There's a lot more to a box of cereal than vitamins.

For instance, there are box tops.

In earnest pursuit of a certain premium, our household's Miss Eight recently saved her pennies and gamely waded through howls of crisy, crunching something. Finally, she was in a position to drop the precious where-withal in the mailbox. Obviously, millions of her peers had fattened up on the same breakfast food for it took three weeks for her prize to arrive.

IT WAS a colorful and attractive game, based on a TV cartoon program. It had everything, including a small flashlight bulb that didn't work. Neither did it have the battery needed for its operation.

The game was educational—at least it involved a field trip to the store for the powering equipment. There was also a lesson in budgeting one's allowance for emergencies, plus an impromptu seminar as one mother and one small daughter attempted to hook up the minor electrical system.

FINALLY, WHEN all was ready, Miss Eight installed the cards on the board, properly answered the questions and inserting a wire in the appropriate place. At this point, according to the directions, the board would light to signal a win for the player.

That was when we discovered that the light bulb was a dud.

Miss Eight is ready to write the Better Business Bureau someone and it will serve "some-

body's" right if that particular cereal's sales drop to an all-time low.

MEANWHILE, SHE has changed brands because of another handsome offer which, to date, has supplied her with a fleet of model cars. These are immediately available, provided Miss Eight has the kitchen to herself long enough to empty the whole big brother, some years ago, acquired a small transistor radio via the box top route. It was easier for him—his appetite was bigger.

IT WAS ONE of those gadgets with an ear-piece and a clip to attach to some metal object. It worked so well that the local pharmacist, after a test run on BF's radio, began eating breakfast for the first time in years, or so he claimed. Her own little electronic marvel arrived, he promptly put it to use and for days dealt out antibiotics to the "beat of a distant drummer."

His customers, noting the ear piece and the dancing cord, assumed he had suddenly become deaf. Along with correcting this misunderstanding, he allowed them a turn at the radio.

IN NO TIME at all, the two nearest groceries were sold out of Brand X. At our house, we were working on transistor radio number three, or was it four? By the time we were all equipped, it was admittedly difficult to get anyone's attention but one thing was certain.

It sure saved time in the morning for the cook.

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



A Back Glance at the State Income Tax

Who killed the state income tax? And no matter how many times it may be resurrected again before the legislature adjourns for the year, everyone concedes that it is dead for this year.

Governor Swainson apparently believes the lobbyists for the big three automobile companies killed it and has ordered the attorney general to investigate. As those who are involved in government know, this is a little more "political" than sincere because this is not a matter for the attorney general.

If the governor really suspected any wrong-doing, the Prosecutor of Ingham County should call a grand jury to investigate it.

However, it is common knowledge that someone is attempting to build up a public image for the attorney general because he is the least known person on the Administrative Board.

AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, the governor doesn't need any help in finding out who did what to whom.

On the night that the income tax was voted on in the Senate, I happened to be roaming around Lansing.

During the session I dropped in to see the lieutenant governor, whose office is directly off the Senate floor, and I found in his office, to my surprise, the governor of the State of Michigan and on his right hand, the Hon. August Scholle, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO.

If the governor is concerned about someone sitting around the chambers telling people how to vote, he might start by investigating himself.

WHO DID KILL the state income tax? Certainly not the Senate Moderates who voted to discharge the tax committee to get the tax bill to the Senate floor and have proclaimed that this is the answer to Michigan's financial woes.

Who killed the state income tax? Not school teachers or those associated with the educational system. They as a group have generally been the strongest supporters of this form of taxation, because they would have a better chance for more money for their program (and school teachers could expect higher salaries).

Who killed the state income tax? Certainly not the people involved in the mental health movement. If such a tax were passed they could expect more money for their program.

IT'S PROBABLY obvious now who killed the tax. It was killed by those individuals who were effected by it the most, but who benefited from it the least. You guessed it—the people. The governor should probably investigate them.

By
KEN
WEAVER

City Beat

If you don't think it was hot last Thursday, talk to Mrs. Ida M. Miller.

Long-time Birmingham resident at 1171 E. Lincoln, Mrs. Miller has a fire alarm in her home to warn her and her neighbors in event of a conflagration.

For the first time in two years, the alarm rang out last Thursday afternoon.

No fire, though.

Just hot enough to set off the alarm.

ONE THING about this weather, it gets you outside.

Take our neighborhood, for instance.

A girl, about 7 or 8, lay on the sidewalk flapping her arms and kicking her feet. The water from the garden hose was just right for swimming.

Speaking of youngsters, you didn't realize just how many there were on your street until the weather brought them—and you—outdoors.

Little boys in Bermudas and undershirts. Little girls in sunsuits. On bicycles and tricycles. Eating ice cream bars and popsicles.

Big boys in Bermudas and no undershirts. Big girls in pedal pushers—or shorts. Watering the lawn. Cutting the grass. Pulling weeds. Sitting on the porch shooting the breeze.

All with one thing in common—too darn hot.

REMEMBER OUR friend Tobias de Castro in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil?

He who sent us many magazines, brochures and pamphlets about his native land to Birmingham's mayor, who placed them in the library?

He's been heard from again.

Tobias has sent the writer a Brazilian calendar, beautifully illustrated with some of Brazil's most colorful scenes.

But it's the language, not the pictures, that evoke comments from visitors.

You see, the calendar is done in Portuguese.

May is spelled Maio. June is Junho. The days of the week are Dom, Seg., Ter., Qua, Qui, Sex, Sab.

And if the numbers in red mean holidays, they must have about two of them every month in that land so far south of the border.

Thanks, Tobias. You have given us not only a helpful calendar but also something to talk about.

WHICH BRINGS us back to the weather.

What're we going to do when summer comes?

Eccentric Offices
Closed Wednesday,
Please Get News,
Ad Copy in Early