

DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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A Sewer System

When the Decatur city council meets tonight, the city engineer, Ralph E. Roop, will present plans for a West Marshall street sewer to take off the 13th street area. Next project planned by the city engineer is a new water main across the St. Mary's river. This is necessary because at the present time the city depends entirely upon the single pipe which crosses the Monroe street bridge.

For the first time in many years Decatur residents in almost every section of Decatur experienced the unpleasantness and dangers of water in the basement. Part of this is due to faulty draining around the home, but part is also due to backed up sewers.

Why are Decatur's sewers now inadequate? There are several reasons. The initial trunk sewers were built many years ago, when the city was one-quarter to one-half its present size. As the city expanded, laterals were tied in to the main sewers. As laterals were added to laterals, the load became too much.

At one time, seventy-five per cent of the Decatur homes had cisterns which caught and held a large percentage of run-off water during and after a storm. Now the number of cisterns in use has dwindled to half its former number.

The paving of streets and sidewalks prevents water from being absorbed into the ground. When roads were gravel, and walks made of gravel or board, water filtered through. Now it drains speedily and directly into the sewers. Water softeners have replaced them.

What can be done? Obviously the rebuilding of every sewer in town would be a tremendous cost to bear at one time. The sewers could be paid for by either taxes or assessment, or a combination of both. Taxing would spread the cost out the furthest, without hitting any property owner all at once with a big assessment. Since all property owners would benefit in the long run, it might be the wisest choice.

If all the sewers were rebuilt as originally planned, with sanitary and storm drainage in the same sewers, the plan would be very costly. But it might be possible to build storm sewers just under the surface of the east-west streets, and have the catch basins drain into them, instead of into the sanitary sewers. Thus the pressure on the sanitary sewers could be released during floods without backing water into basements, and at the same time the expense of digging up sanitary sewers 15 feet below the street could be avoided.

If sewers were built down Monroe and Jefferson streets, with laterals running a block each way on side streets, a tremendous load of storm water could be diverted to the river without running through the sanitary sewers, backing water into basements.

This is something worth thinking about. Anyone who has ideas on improving the sewers of Decatur, without bankrupting the property owners, should certainly make their ideas public. The city has many important questions to decide in addition to the proposed sale of the city light plant, and each citizen should carefully weigh all the problems.

Pioneer's Launching Crew In Celebration

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (UPI)—The moon which was their target peeked through the motel room window in the small hours today but the nucleus of the Pioneer IV launching crew seemed not to notice.

The men were too busy celebrating the success of a project conceived in the living room of the boyish engineer in their midst the day after Russia's first Sputnik went into orbit.

And they were toasting the partial fulfillment of a dream which once caused the flaxen-haired scientist to stand in the wicker chair to be clapped in jail by Adolf Hitler.

He slightly asked, Dr. Jack E. Froelich beamed at Dr. Werner von Braun and they took turns trading jokes as the tension of the shoot gradually wore off.

These were the two men who spearheaded the development of the Juno II launching vehicle and the gold-plated probe which will find its place in orbit around the sun.

"It was a team effort all the way," said Froelich, pointing to

the 30 Army and Jet Propulsion Laboratories rocketeers lining the walls of the small room on nearby Cocoa Beach.

"What these guys believed in for 16 months has come to pass."

Von Braun, who was put behind bars in Germany because "the crazy man wants to go to the moon," was jubilant along with the rest of the group. But he already was looking to the future.

"We have done something good," he said. "Now, maybe we can do something better."

Froelich was reluctant to take individual credit for the achievement. But he admitted: "It's been a project of mine ever since it got started."

That was back on Oct. 5, 1957, the day after Russia stunned the world with Sputnik I.

On that day Dr. William Pickering, JPL director, gathered his rocketeers in Froelich's living room and said, "Gentlemen, we've got to propose that some-

one shoot a rocket to the moon."

Now, that dream is coming true.

Bill To Extend Draft Under Senate Study

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A bill extending the nation's draft law four years started a quick transit through the Senate today.

The House already has approved a similar extension as recommended by the administration.

The Senate Armed Services Committee launched hearings on the draft law in the hope of putting the bill on President Eisenhower's desk by Easter.

Testimony from non-government witnesses was scheduled. The tentative list included spokesmen for church groups, and others who long have opposed compulsory military service.

But Committee Chairman Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) has said most senators already are reconciled to the "stark necessity" for extending the draft. It was not likely Congress would have the time to change the law's provisions because it is due to expire June 30.

While favoring the draft in principle, some congressmen have argued the law needs overhauling to iron out provisions which permit some otherwise qualified young men to avoid military service.

Other congressional news:

Policy: House Democratic Leader John W. McCormack (Mass.) charged that President Eisenhower has hobbled national defense by insisting the United States would never fire the first shot in a war. His comment came after Defense Secretary Neil H. McElroy told the House Space Committee that no-first-strike is the American policy. McCormack said the policy gives the Russians tremendous advantage of knowing how far they can go in cold war strategy.

Hawaii: The Hawaiian statehood bill appeared to be moving rapidly toward passage in one or both houses of Congress before the March 26 Easter recess. Action on the measure to admit the 50th state to the Union was planned in both House and Senate committees.

Labor: The Senate Labor Committee by a 10-3 vote smothered a Republican bid to substitute the administration's labor reform bill for the milder Democratic-sponsored measure. Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.), one of the sponsors of the Democratic measure, said GOP committee members had 30 amendments they still wanted to offer to his bill before it clears committee and reaches the Senate floor.

Communists: The House unanimously passed two bills strengthening anti-Communist laws. The House sent to the Senate a bill tightening the Smith Act by making it a crime to organize any group to teach or advocate overthrow of the government by force or violence. The second bill would make espionage laws apply to Americans abroad. Espionage laws now apply only to acts committed in this country.

The police report stated that Branstetter advised the department early today that someone threw stones through a windshield of a truck and two office windows sometime Monday night. No value was listed for the damaged articles. Police are continuing their investigation.

Revival Services To Open Wednesday

Special revival meetings will open Wednesday evening at the St. Paul Missionary church, located south of the Adams county home. Services will be held at 7:30 o'clock each evening, including Saturday, until March 15.

The Rev. Virgil Tucker, of Converse, will be the evangelist. Rev. Tucker will also present special music, vocal and instrumental, assisted by Mrs. Tucker. The Rev. Robert R. Welch, pastor, invites the public to attend.

The opposition party has used the Stonehouse case as the basis for a motion of censure against Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's government, and they want him back home to take part in the debate.

Acting Prime Minister R.A. Butler agreed with opposition spokesmen Monday night that the Stonehouse affair, which probably will be debated Wednesday, is of first-class importance to the House of Commons.

To remove grease spots on a rug spread on a paste of fuller's earth and ammonia, and allow to dry. Then sweep the dry paste away with a broom, or use the vacuum cleaner.

The Cook Book

Why not paint the outside of the cover of the cook book with a thin shellac? Any dirt on it can then be wiped off with a damp cloth. The book will last much longer.

Modern Etiquette

By ROBERTA LEE

Q. It is my understanding that a prospective bridegroom's family is supposed to call on the family of the bride-elect as soon as the engagement is announced. But what if the man's family lives in a distant city?

A. Then, of course, letters expressing mutual happiness over the forthcoming marriage should be exchanged.

Q. At a dinner dance, is it necessary for a man to rise when his partner leaves the table to dance with another man?

A. Yes; and he should also rise when she returns to the table.

Q. Is it considered good manners to eat the garnish that is served with a meat dish?

A. Certainly, if one likes it.

Sporadic Signals From Discoverer

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (UPI)—New signals gave credence today to the theory that the 1300-pound "lost" Discoverer I satellite was in a polar orbit around the earth, the Air Force announced.

"This substantiates our earlier belief that it is in orbit," an Air Force spokesman said.

The 19-foot satellite containing a 40-pound payload of telemetry equipment apparently was tumbling end-over-end through space at speeds around 18,000 miles an hour, causing the erratic reception of its radio signals.

The Defense Department in Washington said it expected sometime today to reach a definite conclusion based on data already received and being processed on whether Discoverer I was actually in orbit.

Philadelphia or Chicago appeared to be the likely choice for the GOP convention, which probably will be held two weeks after the Democratic convention opens in Los Angeles on July 11.

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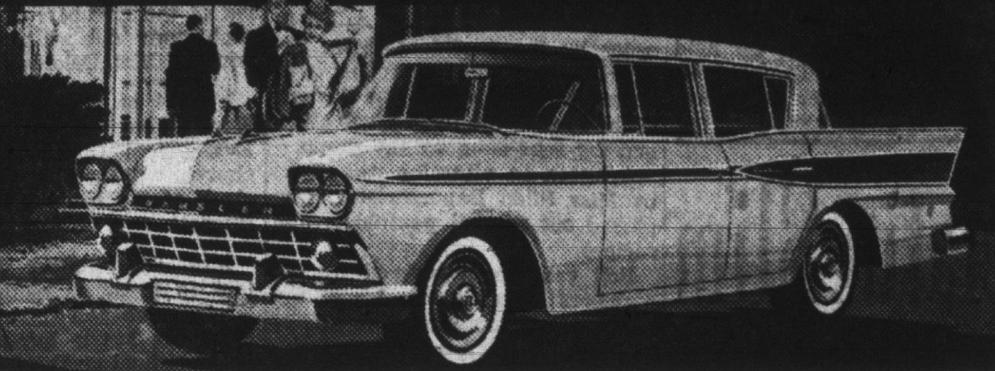
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