

Inside Indianapolis

By Ed Sovola

TO EVERY bluegill, crappie, red-eared sunfish, rock bass and yellow perch in Indiana waters, all I can say is that I tried. The counsel for defense rests his case.

I attended the public hearing on the proposal to lift the closed season this year on the five species of pan fish.

Seven rather stern looking gentlemen sat in the office of John N. Nigh, director of the Conservation Department, when I walked in. I didn't know whether the self-appointed counsel had a friend in the room or not.

The whole idea was to thrash out whether or not the department should take Dr. William E. Ricker's recommendation to eliminate the closed season because the fish are starving to death. Dr. Ricker, head of the Indiana Lakes and Stream Survey, thinks the lakes and streams are overpopulated. In short, the fishermen haven't been too lucky.

My contention has always been that fish aren't half as lucky as rod wielders. Now, the poor fish were going to have no time off at all if the proposal were accepted.

Mr. Nigh began the proceedings by reading the proposal. Then he asked for expressions of opinion.

Had 'Awful Luck' Last Year

THE prosecution got off to a slow start. They let John A. Albertson, owner of Golden Beach Resort, Monticello, speak. To my surprise, Mr. Albertson was against lifting the closed season.

He went on to say that he had "awful luck" last year on Schafer Lake and in his honest opinion,



"THEREFORE, GENTLEMEN"—Dr. William E. Ricker closes his arguments for an open season on pan fish. Supporter Byron Kennedy (left) listens intently. John A. Albertson (right) isn't interested.

I'm Bowlegged

By Robert C. Ruark

HOUSTON, Tex., Mar. 9.—The impact of a broad white sombrero on the personality of an effete easterner is apt to be a strange thing to watch. I have been given such a headpiece, and this \$50-dollar hat is going to get me in trouble before I am done.

I had noticed a couple of peculiar things after putting on the hat. I began, for instance, to walk bowlegged, to talk with a pronounced drawl, to speak of gentlemen as "hombres" and to call strangers "podner." I began to refer to cattle as "cow-brutes" and "critters" and to yearn, aloud, for life on the range.

There is a man around here named Vernon Frost, who has something to do with oil. He said he had a ranch. He said he would be pleased to have me come out and play cowboy on it. He said he would even put on his cowboy suit and help me play. It turns out Mr. Frost is an imposter. He is no rancher at all. He owns a cow-factory, and has 2500 pecan trees on the side. I never saw a single cowpox or heard anybody holler "Yippee."

Mr. Frost's poppy was the first man to bring Brahman bulls to Texas. A Brahman bull is a he-cow with a hump on his back and a nasty temper. All his life Mr. Frost wanted to raise Brahmas, but was prevented on account of being unrich, until one day he dug a hole in the ground and got all greased up with oil and money.

So he now raises a cow to an acre and sells them annually for a price which makes me shiver every time I cut into a steak. Vernon had an idea that he could raise cattle on \$150-an-acre ground as a paying crop. He must have been right, for at his last sale, in the middle of the commodity slump and a hard blizzard, he unloaded 51 beasts for \$40,000.

Flicks a Page, Knows 'Em All

BROTHER FROST, who wears high-heeled boots and a painted shirt, is a scientific rancher. He keeps a filing system which is more involved than a government card-punch machine, and by flicking a page he can tell the middle name of the Neifer in the southeast corner of the north 40, and also who was her papa, mama, grandpa and grandma. He can tell you her tastes in green salad and whether she is a candidate for matrimony or the butcher-block.

I asked Rancher Frost to introduce me to his foreman, or head wrangler, or whatever, and he knows where he stands.

Big Wampum

By Frederick C. Othman

WASHINGTON, Mar. 9.—In a small, old-fashioned chamber with four fat cupids on the ceiling, faded green drapes at the windows and a loudly ticking clock on the wall, a couple of elderly Senators are doing an age-old couple.

They're going over the books of a myriad of federal agencies, many of which the average citizen never even heard of, and nearly all of which want bigger appropriations this year than last. Reporters seldom stick their noses in on such small-time proceedings as these, but I guess I am a peculiar fellow. With no further introduction, here's a dispatch about the Indians who have their tomahawks out for the Treasury Department and every dollar it has in the vaults:

Asking the Senator for more money, about \$82,000 more, was a white-haired citizen, who identified himself as Louis J. O'Marr, one of the Indian claims commissioners.

The commission's been on the job now for two years, but it hasn't settled any claims yet. O'Marr and Co. have heard their first case, involving the Osage Indians of Kansas, however, and expect to hand down a ruling shortly. The Senators observed that it was about time. This particular claim has been pending for exactly 140 years.

"Yes sir," said Mr. O'Marr, "this particular case goes back to 1808, when the government took over a strip of Osage land in Kansas. The tribe moved to Oklahoma, but the case has been under consideration ever since."

Want \$800,000 Plus Interest

"HOW MUCH do these Indians want?" asked Sen. Clyde Reed of Kansas.

Mr. O'Marr said that the litigation has been brought up to 1865, when the Osage tribe decided to settle for \$800,000.

They still want it, plus interest, at five per cent. Compound five per cent interest on \$800,000

for 83 years and you get a figure so astronomical there isn't enough money in the Treasury to cover it (or so said my expert, who refused flatly to monkey with such a calculation).

"But isn't there any statute of limitations?" asked Sen. Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee.

"Can they go all the way back to the year one?"

"Yes sir, they can," replied Mr. O'Marr.

The statute of limitations has been waived by the act.

Congress Did It, All Right

"WHO PASSED that act?" asked Sen. McKellar.

"Congress," replied Mr. O'Marr.

"Well, it looks like a scheme to defraud the government," Sen. McKellar said. "I just can't understand how Congress ever passed it."

In case those Indians win, the tax collector's going to be a busy fellow and that makes, apropos, the next witness. His Honor, O. D. Turner, presiding Judge of the U. S. Tax Court.

Since 1924, the young-looking judge said, he and his 15 associate jurists have taken nearly \$4 billion from the pockets of reluctant taxpayers.

"Of course," said the judge, "the Collector of Internal Revenue tried to get a good deal more than that."

Judge Turner said his court functioned only when a citizen thought the collector was too greedy; it heard about 5000 such cases a year.

Sen. Reed said he never had any trouble with the collector. He makes out his own returns and when he makes mistakes in the government's favor, he's always delighted when he gets a refund.

"I made a mistake, myself, a few years ago," confided Judge Turner. "A mistake in simple arithmetic. It was very embarrassing to me. Very."

It must have been. Let us pray now that there are no mistakes involving the Indians who want to cart off the U. S. Treasury.

The Quiz Master

?? Test Your Skill ??

In writing A.D. and B.C., what is the correct position of these abbreviations, before or after the date?

In dates, A.D. precedes the year and B.C. follows the year, as A.D. 26 and B.C. 82.

Was Elihu Yale, for whom the university was named, an American?

Elihu Yale was born in Massachusetts, but

was taken to England by his family when he was 4 years old and never returned to this country.

Does his place of residence affect the normal body temperature of a man?

The normal temperature is 98.6 degrees F., whether the man lives in the tropics or the polar regions.

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SECOND SECTION

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1948

PAGE 11

City Runs Far Behind In System Of Garbage And Trash Disposal

(Photos by Henry E. Glesing Jr., Times Staff Photographer)



MUCH TO BE DONE—These officials of the Indianapolis Sanitation Department face a number of big problems if the city's sanitation system is to be brought up to date. The officials are (left to right) D. O. Bender, assistant sanitation superintendent; Thomas E. Bell, collection superintendent; Louis C. Brandt, board member; James Cunningham, board president; Warren C. Bevington, board member; Mrs. Lottie Resener, board secretary; Richard Wetter, sanitation plant office manager, and Ferdinand J. Ludzak, sanitation plant superintendent.



EASY THERE—Biggest public gripe against the department is that the trash collectors tear up the householders' containers. New collection trucks, one of which is being loaded here, have lessened complaints.

Only Bond Issues Will Permit Department To Catch Up With Growth of Population

By LORIANS ARMSTRONG

INDIANAPOLIS Sanitation Department has a long way to go to catch up with a growing city.

Facing the department today is a series of problems which only bond issues involving millions of dollars will solve. Bond issues mean more taxes.

Whether or not the Indianapolis taxpayer likes the prospect the improvements necessary in the department are vital to the growth of the city.

The department began this year with a bonded indebtedness of nearly \$3 million. During 1947 it retired only \$127,500 in bonds with interest amounting to \$246,307.

At the same time sewer lines need extending, enlarging or replacing all over the city. The sanitation plant is not large enough to handle present flow and an incinerator must be built to provide a means of disposing of combustible waste materials.

COUPLE THESE problems with the fact that the sanitation department's legal status is not entirely clear to any one and you begin to get a dim picture of what the department is up to.

At the department helm is the board of sanitary commissioners: James Cunningham, president, 48 N. Dearborn St.; Warren C. Bevington, 3101 N. Meridian St., and Louis C. Brandt, 1616 Pleasant St. Mr. Bevington is the lone Republican.

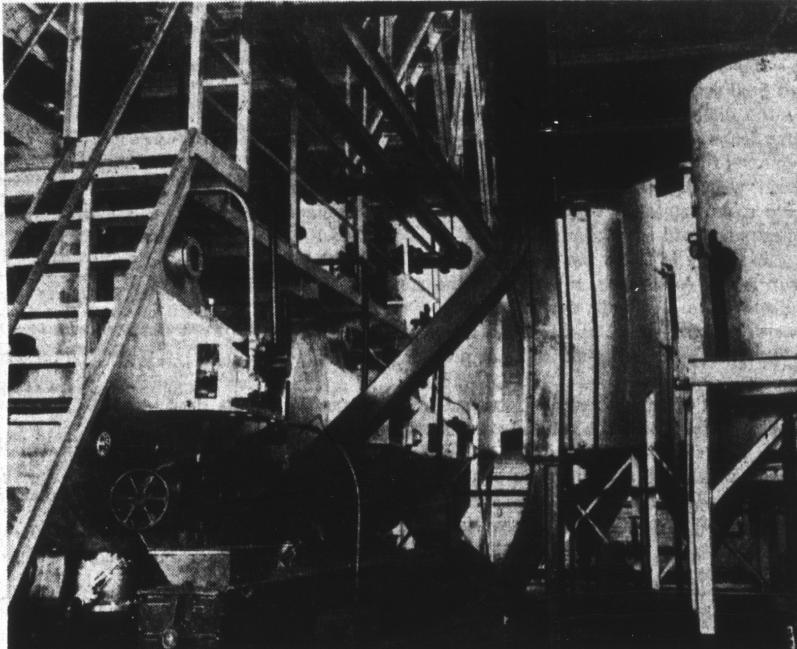
The department's public services include the collection of refuse, treatment of sewage produced by domestic and industrial sources and the reduction of garbage collected.

To perform these services there are approximately 350 employees whose salaries range from the top of \$6300 a year for Ferdinand J. Ludzak, sanitation plant superintendent, to \$1 an hour for garbage and trash collectors.

THE DEPARTMENT'S closest contact with the public is through its garbage and trash collections. At times these relations have reached the point of open warfare.

Collectors find "contraband" in the containers and refuse to pick up the materials. The taxpayer counters with the charge that his garbage can is being battered and dented to destruction.

Last year the department purchased 60 new collection trucks.



MONEY MAKER—By-products from reduction of garbage collected over the city bring in a large yearly revenue to the department. In these tanks grease is extracted which finds a ready market among soap manufacturers. Residue is sold for fertilizer.

tation district's tax rate is 21 cents, 17 cents for maintenance and four cents to retire bonds. The sanitation district is not limited to the corporation limits of the city and therein lies the so-called rough stuff connected with emptying garbage cans.

Under the old system the horse-drawn trucks never stopped. The collector moving beside the vehicles jerked off the can lid, threw it to the ground and ran with the can to the truck. When he had emptied it he threw it to the ground several yards beyond the lid and then made a dash for the next container.

THE NEW TRUCKS stop at each residence and the containers are emptied and the lids replaced before the truck moves on. As a consequence complaints are beginning to drop off.

The collection department must make about 37,000 pickups each day to provide once-weekly ash and garbage collection for Indianapolis residents. An average of 550 tons of this refuse is collected each day.

The cost of this service, according to department figures, is \$5.58 per family per year for 117 collections or about 4½ cents per collection.

Garbage collected on Indianapolis streets is hauled to the reduction plant on S. Belmont Ave. It is one of the few reduction plants in the United States and receives from the sale of grease and fertilizer by-products amounted to \$297,432 last year. The garbage hauled to the plant is cooked and dried and the resultant dark brown granular tankage is washed with naphtha to remove grease. The grease is sold to soap manufacturers.

DURING the first two months of 1948, 2850 tons of garbage were processed by the plant and the resulting salable products netted the city more than \$30,000 over the cost of the materials, labor, power and maintenance required.

The sanitation department was created out of the Board of Works and Sanitation by an act of the 1947 general assembly. The sanitation

plan estimated to cost approximately \$35 million. How much of this plan is ever used remains to be seen. Today the present administration is investigating the city's contract with Moore & Owen and is withholding payment on the engineering firm's fees.

Regardless of this, the Moore & Owen plan is the only thing the city has as any kind of a solution to its sewer problems.

The engineering firm's plans for 1947-48 include a \$1½ million expansion of the sewer system and the firm outlined a 10-year plan to draw plans to meet future construction needs.

The firm outlined a 10-year plan to draw plans to meet future construction needs.

JUST ONE of these projects located in the Forest Manor area along E. 38th St. would run into millions. Part of this would be at the expense of the sanitary district, part at city expense and part at the expense of property owners.

Another project being considered is located in the Broad Ripple-Warley area. Additional storm relief sewers are needed there. Broad Ripple residents have already had three general sewer assessments and the city feels it cannot be asked to pay more.

The Forest Manor Civic League is making a strong bid for its project, which would be an extension of a large interceptor line up Fall Creek and the installation of a storm relief sewer along 37th St. and a combination storm and sanitary sewer along Minnie Creek north of 30th St.

THE LATTER would provide drainage for an entire section now without any type of sewer system. The 37th St. line would allow streets in Forest Manor to be paved and curbs and gutters constructed.

The project would also extend service toward the growing section along 38th St., which is outside the city limits.

The new board is moving cautiously on its big problems.

In the meantime, if you have a complaint to make about garbage or trash collections or if you want a dead animal removed from your street or premises, call the collection department, MA-6931.

"I ain't answering any more questions! If the rest of the kids wanna get good marks, let 'em do their own studying!"

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3-9