

PRESS Receives Letters Concerning Lake County Health Department

Lake County Public Health Committee Answers Civic League

1. Enforcement
Enforcement powers may be no greater than those at present, but the powers that exist will be used. A health officer, who is not running for office, can and will swear out complaints when necessary, he will have the laboratory facts to back up his complaint.

2. Sewage Treatment District
The Western section could probably benefit some day from such a plan. Sewage disposal for our grandchildren, will not keep us from suffering today from the disease caused by disregard of health laws.

A county health department would remedy much of the sanitation problems now without the tremendous expense and delay of installing adequate sewer systems. (According to James Anderson, civil engineer, whose firm made a survey in Fox Lake, the cost of sewers, not covering the whole of this one community, would approximate \$533,000 plus \$350,000 for two sewage plants. Remember, this is part of just one community in the Western section.) Sewers can and probably will come later. For planning and immediate aid on the sanitation problem, creation of a county health department is the first job.

3. Restaurant Inspection
One worker of the State Department of Agriculture has 1500 food establishments in three counties to inspect. The help and advice of a county health department would be welcomed by every reputable restaurant owner in the county.

4. School Nursing
Certainly the school nursing services offered through the County Superintendent of Schools should be strengthened. The County Health Department offers a practical way to do so. There is no need to abolish the present school nursing plan but one nurse in that system is responsible for more than 4000 school children. She needs the help of a county health department staff now.

5. Communicable Disease
Because our record is better than downstate, is no reason to believe we should rest on our laurels. One school has only 25 per cent of the children vaccinated—what is your school record? 6 per cent of the typhoid in the state this last fiscal year was found in Lake County. Who will be next? 6. Cancer may not lend itself to cure by medical methods—but it certainly responds to surgery, x-ray and other treatment. Early diagnosis is the answer and public health nurses and health education will bring patients to the clinic when they can be helped.

October 30, 1950

Dear Editor:

The Lake County Civic League, an organization established to protect the interests of tax payers, has announced that it is opposed to the creation of a Lake County Health Department which will be proposed in a referendum to be held on the proposition November 7th.

The League feels that while a County Health Department would have some benefits for some citizens, it would not return a dollar's worth of value for each tax dollar, and result in an added tax burden far out of proportion to any possible benefit.

The League so states for the following reasons:

No. 1—Pollution is the most pressing problem in the Western portion of the County, and the Health Department would have inspectors who could only show people how to install or remodel household disposal systems.

No. 2—Its enforcement powers against discharge of raw sewage into lakes or open ground would be no greater than those already possessed by existing Government officials. Since a Health Department cannot build and operate a sewerage disposal and treatment system, it cannot solve the problem. The League wishes also to state that the proposals pending before

the County Board contain solutions to the pollution problem, and the League recommends that they be supported.

The League also wishes to state that the proposed Health Department would duplicate existing inspection functions of the Food and Dairy Division of the State Department of Agriculture. Trailer Camp Regulations are already under City, Village and Township officials, and the proposed Health Department would have no powers not now possessed.

Existing Municipal Health Departments not headed by full-time public health officers under the proposed plan would be abolished or continued at added cost to the taxpayers.

Present school owners and services offered by the County Superintendent of Schools would presumably be superseded. The League recommends that they be strengthened instead.

Finally, while the proponents of the plan said the cost would be nominal, approval will authorize a tax levy of 5 cents a hundred dollar assessed valuation, which would legally enable a tax burden on Lake County taxpayer of \$250,000 a year.

It is a known fact that taxing bodies have a way of levying the maximum, and taxpayers when being asked for their approval in a referendum should be told the truth concerning both the benefits and the real cost.

This being the studied position of the Directors of the Lake County Civic League so far as the possible benefits are concerned, I personally feel that it is simply unfair to the taxpayers not to realize what this cost means so far as each individual home owner is concerned.

It is hardly fair for those who are actively behind this amendment to talk about a comparatively small planned expenditure for a Lake County Health Department when, at the same time, a referendum provides for legally spending up to a quarter of a million dollars a year for benefits that are professionally and expertly challenged.

I think it is fair to suggest to each voter considering his vote for this referendum that he answer himself the question, whether or not he can see sufficient benefit to himself or to the County at large to assume this additional tax burden, in view of the fact that the Lake County Civic League and their experts who have studied the situation conclude and advise us that this tax burden is all out of proportion to any possible benefit and recommend that it be defeated.

Yours very truly,
Charles S. Roberts,
(Member of the Board of Directors, Lake County Civic League.)
822 North Ridge Road,
Highland Park, Ill.

Dear Doctor,

As health officer and school physician of a small village for the past three years, here are some of the problems I have faced. Could you meet them satisfactorily in your town? I have certainly wished for the expert advice and follow-up service that a county health department would provide.

Here they are:

1. Three cases of amebic dysentery involving children in our school but the family lives in an unincorporated area. Problems of jurisdiction, investigation and follow-up.

2. A schoolroom with 30 per cent of the children not vaccinated. A need for health education.

3. Contradictory policies on polio in adjoining towns. A need for expert advice with convincing authority behind it.

4. A child with ringworm of the scalp whose doctor certifies him fit for school; whereas my examination under the Wood light gave contrary evidence. A quarantine problem.

5. Contradictory policies on bathing beaches during pollution which made citizens of two communities critical of their officials. A need for uniformity not limited by jurisdictional boundaries.

6. Unquarantined cases of whooping cough, measles and chicken pox in a housing project where I have patients. Another quarantine problem.

7. Complaints from the neighbors about the overflow from a septic tank. I don't like to sniff tanks, and a sanitarian is the only one who could advise how to correct it, to say nothing of starting court action.

8. Complaints about a dead rat in an apartment wall. Again my nose was offended. Also, I was out of place in court.

9. Complaints about unsanitary conditions in a food handling establishment. Again a sanitarian's job, where no doctor belongs.

10. A dairy with unsatisfactory milk to whom it was necessary to quote the law. An expert is needed in such a spot.

My community needs the services of a qualified public health officer, of a public health nurse and of a sanitarian in an integrated unit not limited by problems of jurisdiction. Doesn't yours?

Sincerely,
John L. Ward, M.D.
Public Health Committee
of Medical Society

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Highland Park Baptists Use Hobby Club Site For Services

Rev. Robert Clingman, founder and pastor of the Highland Park Baptist church, announces that he is in possession of the building at 381 Laurel avenue (former site of Hobby Club) to be used full time for church purposes.

The real aim of the church is to make the world better—especially our city.

Opening will be announced soon.

Service Mothers' Club To Meet November 8

The Highland Park Service Mothers' club will meet at the home of its president Mrs. Florence Schmidt, 640 Homewood, Wednesday afternoon, November 8 at 2 p.m.

Members are requested to return all official books.

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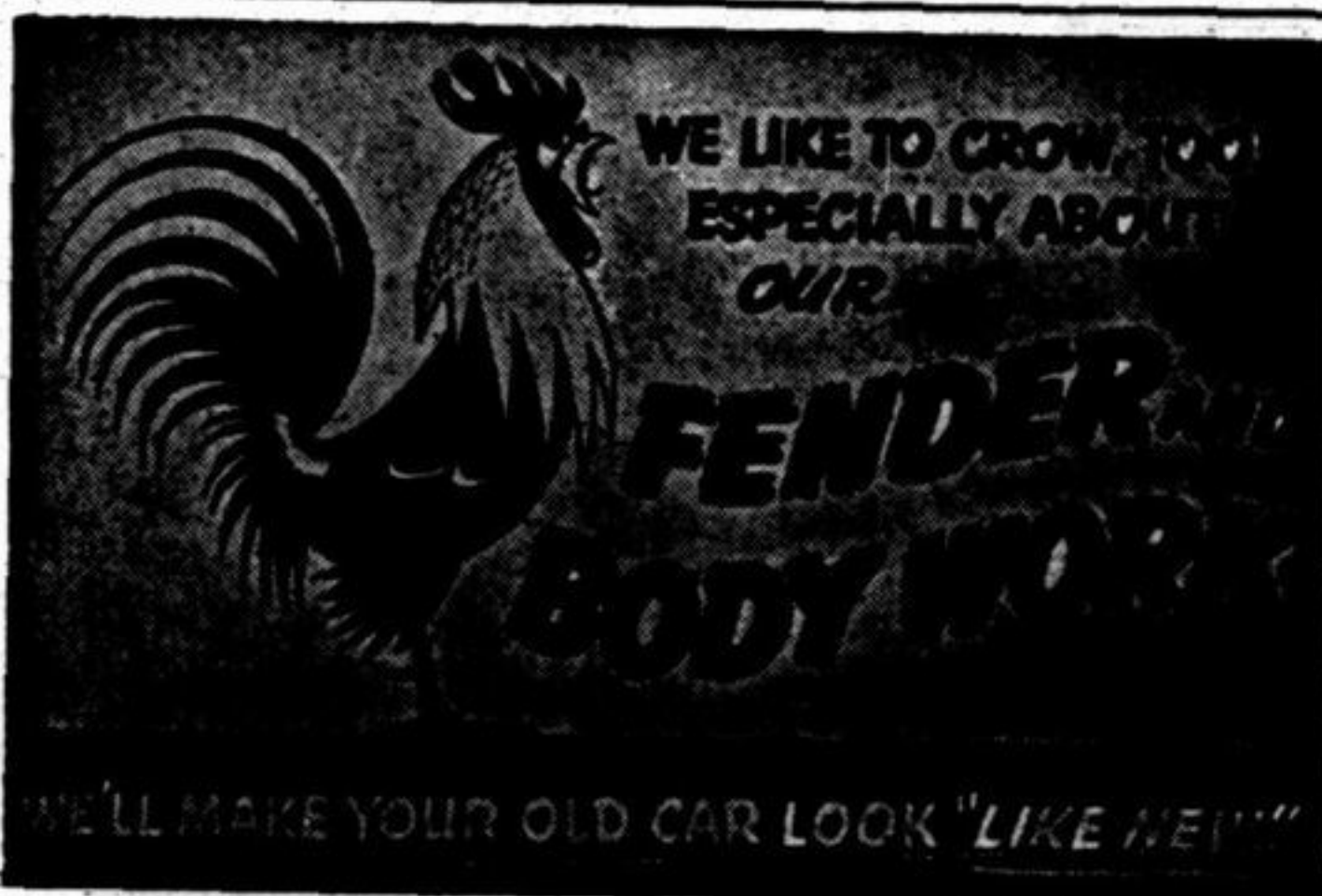
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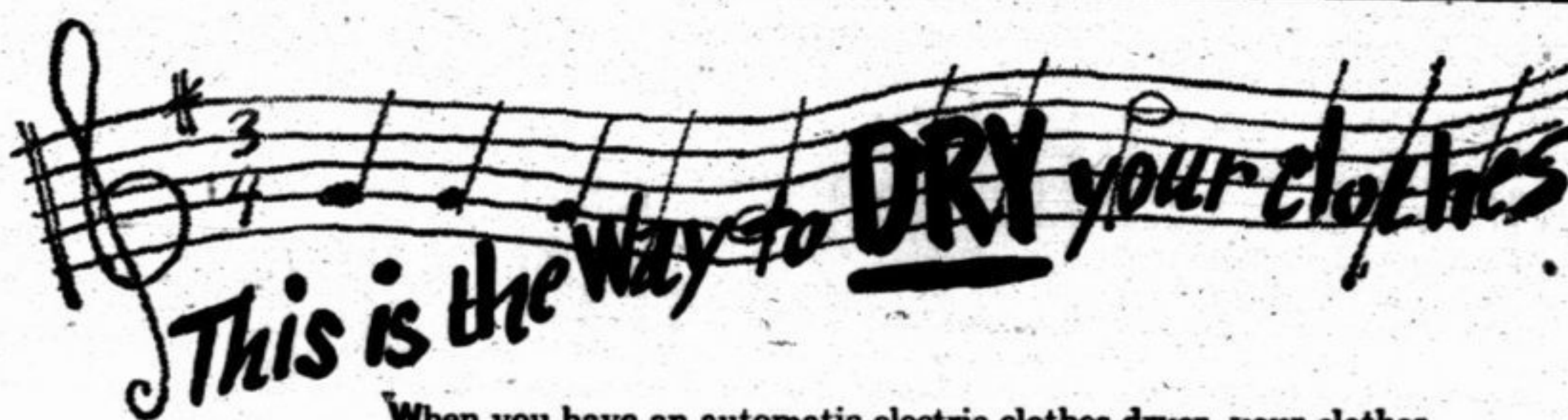
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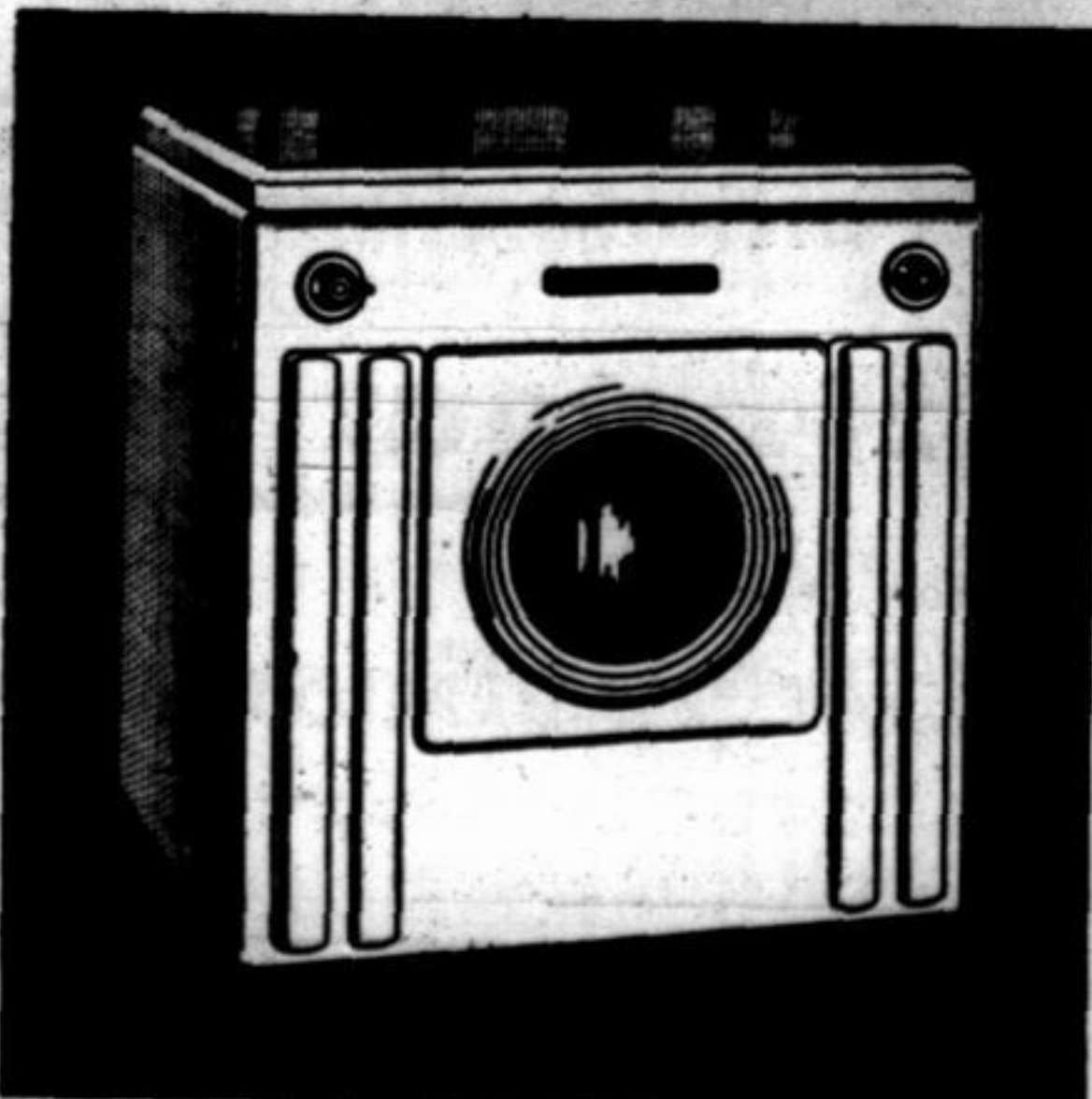
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