

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## MORE ON IRONWOOD TAXES...

Jan. 27, 1975  
 The Pick & Axe  
 Bessemer, Michigan 48011

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank you for the outstanding article on the Ironwood tax situation.

As a service to the city of Ironwood, I hope you will be kind enough to publish, one year from now, the revised tax figures pertaining to motels.

Please bill me for a three year subscription to the Pick & Axe.

Sincerely,  
 Jack Jindrich  
 Indianhead, Motel

**Editors Note** — Though the Pick & Axe doesn't want to get too deeply involved in the tax problems of any one community, we received such a tremendous verbal response and were bombarded with so many telephone calls on last week's Ironwood tax sampler, that we recognize the need to carry that sampler one step further.

Most of our callers were not in business, and consequently had no familiarity with personal property taxes. The majority of those calling did feel that there were blatant inequities in those assessments which we charted and asked if we could come up with some kind of yardstick as to how much they should be paying for real estate taxes. This is a difficult assignment, inasmuch as there are so many variable factors involved in calculating real estate taxes. The best we can do for these people is to list the addresses of the homes of the people on the tax board of review in that city, and the assessments on which they pay their taxes. This can serve as a rule of thumb, to see if your assessment is in the proper "ballpark," but it is by no means an exact system for determining assessments, because real estate assessments involve some very complex calculations. The final thought to bear in mind, however, is that the state equalized valuation should represent, according to Michigan Law, one half the fair market value of the home. In other words, if your state equalized valuation is 10,000, the fair market value of your home should be about 20,000 dollars. If the value is actually 30 or 40,000 dollars, you are cheating your neighbors. If the fair market value is only 12,000 dollars, your government is cheating you.

Here is a list of city officials and the people on the board of tax review in Ironwood, and the assessed valuation of their homes, and the state equalized valuation on those homes. The addresses are listed as well, so that you can make at least a cursory comparison.

	assessed	state equalized
McCullough, Grant	437 N. Hemlock	2400 2928
Lento, Lloyd	720 E. Ayr	7500 9150
Long, Kenneth E.	656 E. McLeod	3300 4026
Knutsen, Margie	359 W. Northland	4500 5612
	(home of Robt. Knutsen) (new garage +500)	
Wright, Alfred	320 Balsam	4600 5612
Kleinbrook, W'm T.	447 W. Cloverland	6400 7808
Thomas, Steve	116 E. Harding	3900 4758
Echenroder, Jay	904 Broadway	3900 4758
Berquist, Geo. Jr.	329 Lake Ave.	4700 5734
	(+ 500 addition to house)	
Genetti, Robt. H.	406 Bundy	2200 2684

(Assessed Valuation 1974 Taxes paid or charged)

Also, one of our callers pointed out that the Cloverland Motel has 38 units rather than 28, and is consequently by far the lowest assessed in the group on a per unit basis. We are reprinting the corrected chart here.

Personal Property Valuations	Per Unit	Total	Units
CLOVERLAND	\$ 95	3700	38
ROYAL	744	11900	16
INDIANHEAD	329	9200	28
CEDARS	290	5800	20
TWILIGHT TIME	225	4500	20
SANDPIPER	194	3300	17
IRONWOOD	190	1900	10
ARMATA	183	2200	12
DAVEY'S	191	5800	32
MT ZION	175	2100	12
CREST VIEW	175	2100	12
ADVANCE	160	1600	10
SUNNY SIDE	133	1200	9
BLUE CLOUD	128	2300	18

If you feel, after reviewing the above information, that your tax assessment or state equalized valuation is unfair, you have an opportunity at this time to call the city assessor's office, 932-5050, and ask to be placed on the agenda before the board of review. And as we pointed out last week, if the board of review is not responsive, you have a right to file an appeal. If the appeal is rejected, you have a right to take the matter to the courts.

Pick & Axe  
 Dear Sir:

Would you know whether President Ford, a Michigianian (please not Michigander, that makes we women Michigeesee) has ever visited the western end of the Upper Peninsula? s/Julie Brokenshire Ramsay, MI

**Editor's note** — Madam please be advised that you are neither a Michigianian nor a Michigoesee. The correct noun is UPer (pronounced Yooper) and to be one is super. President Ford has never placed a foot on this sacred soil, though we are informed that he was invited.

To get the answer, we call Congressman Ruppe's office where Mr. Ruppe's ace press agent Jim Storey relayed the call to the White House, and learned that the President has never, indeed, been in the Western End of the U.P.

As a sidelight, we also found that Bessemer came very close to visiting the President, when, in 1931 the Speedboys were contenders for the State Football Championship and the team was set to go to Grand Rapids to play the team which Gerry Ford centered. But the trip was cancelled because of bad weather. It's too bad, too. Because if that trip had taken place, Peter Montonatti might be President today.

To the Pick & Axe

We would like to thank you and all the concerned people who were so kind when we lost our dog, "Poppy."

There were so many people who called and tried to help us find Poppy and WJMS helped and we would like to thank all these people who were so kind. s/Matt and Martha Hendrickson

### Engagement Announced



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Legassa of Ramsay announce the engagement of their daughter, Marchel Ann, to Douglas Aho, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Schneck of Wakefield.

Miss Legassa is a 1973 graduate of A. D. Johnston High School and of Gogebic Community College. Her fiancée is a graduate of Wakefield High School and is employed with Schneck and Son Forest Products. Miss Legassa is employed at Curls-N-Swirls at Bessemer.

A summer wedding is planned by the couple.



President Ford's valliant attempt to stem the inevitable cataclysmic tidal wave of economic chaos about to engulf us all is much appreciated. I thank him for that, and for the leadership he has shown in these past few hairy days. It is regrettable only that the traditional means available to him for decapitating the multiple heads of the depression-energy-recession monster are useless.

All of the devices being considered, tax refunds, redistribution of tax receipts, taxes on windfall profits, import taxes, taxes on domestic crude reserves, and possibly rationing, are old remedies which used to work when the law of supply and demand worked, and free enterprise American style was rampant upon a field of fiscal responsibility. No more.

The control of labor and the production of goods is in the hands of irresponsible super-monopolies called conglomerates. They are run by computers and not by men. The human equation does not function. The computers that control the men who control the super-monopolies have been programmed with an ecumenically self-destructive human failing: greed. They (the computerized inhuman conglomerates) are out to devour us whole.

And who has the power to stand up to these monstrous engines of avariciousness? What puny rock can Presidential, Legislative, or Judicial Davids sling against these conglomerate Goliaths? Certainly a job here and a punch there won't do — each ineffectual rock that has been so poorly aimed and so wildly flung will end up missing the target, injuring innocent people.

The standard answer to "Who stops the economically mighty in a land where economic might has blessed us?" — (with a profusion of comforts and a plethora of complimentary discomforts) — has always been: counterpowering or countervailing force, something or some body big enough to stand between forces stronger than the government, and us.

"Fight fire with fire." "Take the bull by the horns and look matters squarely in the face." "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

Once we had Presidents who wielded counterpower. Teddy Roosevelt for one. But presidential power was not meant to stand between economic and labor power barons. There is nothing in the constitution that says so. Nor is there anything in the constitution which says that a president may not side with the economic power barons (sometimes called Robber Barons) — nothing but conscience could move a president to squelch unreasonable price increases, unreasonable wage increases, and special favors to management and labor.

What we need is powerful competition. Something strong enough to keep Ma Bell from raising her rates 14% every year; something big enough to keep the price gougers from doubling and redoubling their profits at our expense. Some way to provide realistic and continuing jobs, some threat to the gargantuan appetites of the super-monopolies for whom the law of supply and demand is but a farce.

The solution I suggest is simple: we should set up a series of independent corporate agencies like the massive TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority — an independent corporate agency created May 18, 1933 by Congress) It was empowered to take over and operate installations an Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and to integrate development of the entire Tennessee River Basin. It's hydroelectric plants provide cheap power. And it provides COMPETITION with the local power companies. We

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