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The Community Crier

The Newspaper with Its Heart in The Plymouth-Canton, MI Community

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April 1, 1998

April 1 breaking news:

Mayflower sold to 'tribe'

Investors invoke old agreement

BY W.H. DEAN

As of today, the Mayflower Hotel has a new owner. In an unexpected and startling turn of events, a district court judge awarded ownership of the longtime Plymouth landmark to an unidentified investment group known simply as "The Tribe."

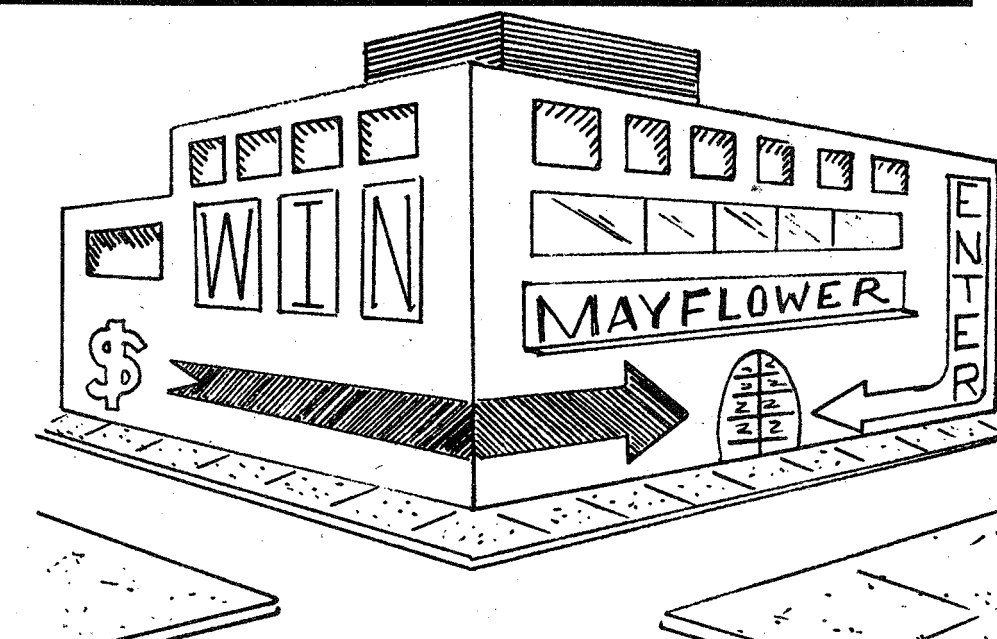
"I'm stunned," reports a city official who prefers to remain anonymous. "But if these investors refurbish the Mayflower as fast as they took ownership, then I'm all for it."

Using a centuries-old agreement as leverage, "The Tribe" successfully sued the Mayflower's owners, who reluctantly turned over the keys to the building this morning. Little is known about the mysterious investors, except that many of their current holdings

were obtained in a similar manner, including a well-known moving company just last month.

According to court transcripts leaked to The Crier, the investors' lawsuit hinged on an obscure treaty dating back to 1622. This treaty explains how the Plymouth Plantation elders traded the rights to the names "Pilgrim" and "Mayflower" to the Indians, in exchange for land rights to the "Massachusetts Easement" (later expanded to include all territory east of the Mississippi), and 40 bushels of corn.

Furious speculation is running rampant through the downtown shopping district, as rumors flow freely regarding what plans "The Tribe" may have for their new



Using a centuries-old agreement, members of an investors group known only as "The Tribe" have purchased the Mayflower Hotel and plan to turn it into a casino, according to City officials. The above rendering is a preliminary sketch of what the refurbished Mayflower might look like, as described in The Tribe's birch-bark press release. Electrically lit arrows and a cash symbol would be added to the Main Street side of the hotel to help draw potential gamblers. Plymouth will benefit, according to the release, with the creation of dozens of maintenance and parking jobs.



Community opinions

CEP mascot picked

Bond issue in black and white, teams to follow

The Plymouth-Canton School District's bond issue may be stuck in the mud, but the committee to select a mascot for the new CEP high school has already reached a decision.

Tasked with choosing a creature indigenous to this region, the committee fought tooth and claw before finally picking a winner.

"The CEP Polecats just has a certain ring to it, don't you think," says committee co-chairperson Sharon Fusty. "Naturally, the team color will be black, with strategically placed white trim. Here's the best part — whatever the score, we can always say



By
W.H. Dean
Special April 1 reporter

we 'skunked' the other team!"

A costume has been designed and ordered, and will be worn on the sidelines at every home football game.

The committee will hold a secret vote each week to decide who gets to wear it; the early favorite for the season opener has got to be Jerry Vorva.

acquisition. A source close to the investors was happy to provide details.

"It's going to become The Mayflower Casino," he said. "The hotel would be immediately gutted, which should take all of five minutes, and reappointed in 17th century decor. The grand opening will be ready for this year's Fall Festival."

To comply with the gaming restrictions that require casinos to be "free-floating," the basement of the hotel will be flooded. Officials expect Tonquish Creek to play a major role in that regard, assuming the Mayflower is deemed seaworthy.

Although the out-of-town owners will enjoy gigantic profits once the casino opens in September, the city will not be left high and dry. Dozens

of new jobs will be created for locals, particularly in the fast-growing fields of slot machine maintenance and valet parking.

I'm stunned. But if these investors refurbish the Mayflower as quickly as they took ownership, then I'm all for it.

— A City official

"Just wait and see how much traffic this casino will bring to the downtown area," assures our source. "Shuttle buses will run continuously between Kellogg Park and our remote parking complex near Lakepointe subdivision. People will be pouring in from every direction, lured by the promise of easy

money and cheap thrills."

Thousands of flashing lights and neon signs will adorn the top of the building, but plans for a rooftop helipad are on hold pending FAA approval.



Community opinions

Plymouth recreation:

Why just the Y?

Committee should further explore proposals for municipally run rec.

EDITOR:

Recently, I attended the Plymouth City Commission meeting because of a rumor I heard, eliminating The City of Plymouth's recreation programs. Boy! was I shocked. It was true. The budget was only submitted to end September or December of this year? What are we doing? I moved here because of the quality of life Plymouth has to offer, which includes recreation. What happened to the democratic process of gathering information from our community before any decisions are made?

What is going to happen to Plymouth Soccer? The soccer program is run by The City of Plymouth recreation department and has 1,200 Plymouth Township and city children playing in the program (763 are from the township). The Soccer Club represents the largest youth recreation in the community. We are all volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, managers and parents.

I'd first like to ask why our program has no representation on a committee that is deciding the future of recreation in the community? Who will be running it. Also, why isn't Tom Willette, the city's recreation director, or at least a recreation professional from another community on this committee for input?

Why isn't this other proposal being looked at? Shouldn't both be evaluated at the same time, the pros and cons of each weighed evenly?

advice or assistance?

It's my understanding that there are two proposals. One from the YMCA, and another outlining a joint recreation program run by the township and the city. Why isn't this other proposal being looked at? Shouldn't both proposals be evaluated at the same time, the pros and cons of each program weighted evenly against each other?

I would hope that the committee's decision not be rushed; that both proposals are researched. I would also hope that the participants of all recreation programs have a voice in this decision, because these are the people this decision will affect.

RICHARD TEEPLE

Treasurer, Plymouth Soccer Club

Can you give me an example in the State of Michigan where an agreement with a YMCA has worked or is working? In communities where there is a YMCA, the "Y" is a complement to the community recreation program, thus providing more recreation opportunities for residents. Has anyone from the committee contacted Mike Maisener, executive director of the Michigan Recreation and Park Association for

Mailed ballots not unconstitutional

EDITOR:

Michael Khoury claims that communities such as Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton violate the law by automatically sending absentee ballot requests to senior citizens. He claims this is creating a special class which is unconstitutional. He uses this tactic to rationalize the Plymouth-Canton Schools Board's rejection of Jerry Vorva's offer to settle the appeal.

Khoury couldn't be more wrong. First of all, the rejection of the settlement had nothing to do with the Constitution. It was a matter of continuing the practice of discouraging seniors from voting on money issues.

Secondly, his analysis of the legal issue is so far off base,

I'm wondering if we studied the same constitution. If, however, he really thinks he is right, it is his duty, as an officer of the court, to spend his money and his time to bring these wrongdoers to justice — all those officials who have condoned such practices for all these years. Moreover, all those municipal attorneys who have advised their clients for all these years that the communities were justified in sending ballot requests to seniors probably should be reported to the Attorney Grievance Commission by Khoury — if he really thinks he is right.

Somehow I think he will rethink his position and rely on the 5th Amendment the right to remain silent.

STEPHEN H. BOAK

Tantalo irresponsible

Praise for Crier columnist

EDITOR:

Kudos to Erica D'Angelo for her excellent column regarding Jim Tantalo's journalistic ability and judgement! (*Into the fire*, 3/25/98.)

She hit the nail on the head when she referred to his lack of responsibility by retaining his anonymity, while he "wrote his viewpoints in an immature and distasteful manner."

I sure hope she makes it to the national level of journalism. Her respect for responsibility, word choices and judgement would be a good lesson for some of our present "journalists."

JANET CAMPBELL

Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to:

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or
CrierNews@aol.com

All letters must be signed when sent to The Crier. When circumstances merit, The Crier will publish letters without names.

The Community Crier



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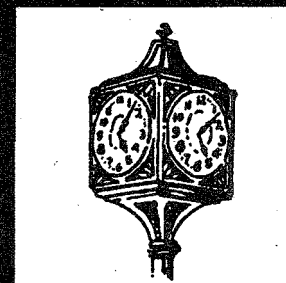
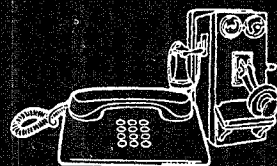
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