



Severe weather and droughts often severely affected farm animals. At best they had a non heated barn and at worst just a field with no shelter from heat, cold or storms. **Farm animals were very important** for survival of everyone. At that time virtually everything was made, or grown in Warren. The food and meat were safe except for spoilage. Many persons died of "summer complaint" a medical condition found to be caused by spoiled milk. Several unmarked graves of children are at Warren Union Cemetery because of this.

**Droughts have occurred too many times to list.** Since Warren gets its water from the Detroit River and since it depends less on agriculture the greatest danger now is fire hazard. Water rationing is still a common practice here. As Warren became more urbanized many deep ditches were dug along roads and other places to drain wet areas, and later enclosed. There was often serious basement flooding which led to more and better sewers and drains being put in. The big 9 mile drain drained the crowded southern part of Warren. The Schoenherr drain which consisted of two 13 foot high tubes were laid in a trench under that road to drain into the Red Run. The Red Run was deepened in the 1950s by

***We were not slaves to bankers***

the US Corps of Engineers. Every farm home had its own water well and many a cistern to keep rain water from the roof, but with urbanization water was piped in from the Belle Isle inlet. Now that water is polluted with chemicals. In 1872 Alex J Groesbeck was born in a farmhouse near 12 mile and Mound. He later went on to become the 30th Governor of the State of Michigan in 1921 and the first three term Governor. He was noted for "bringing Michigan out of the mud" by initiating the state's modern system of highways. M-97, also known as Groesbeck Highway is named in his honor. He died in 1953.

**Warren becomes a Village**

The little farming community wanted to have more services than the township was providing so they decided to form a village. Charles Groesbeck also wrote the village charter and was paid \$3 for his services.

Beebe's settlement grew and was **incorporated as Warren Village in 1893** encompassing a one square mile area from 13 Mile Road to 14 Mile Road and extending one-half mile either side of Mound Road. Doctor John D Flynn was elected as the first president. Charles Beebe was Clerk, and Robert Tharrett was Treasurer. One of the first actions of the village board in 1893 was to have sidewalks made of wood planks set on runners installed in the village. The street was often a sea of mud when it rained and that messed up everyone's clothes especially the women's with their long dresses.