

# MACALESTER COLLEGE

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55105

■ DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Ordway Bulletin No. 47

Subject: "URBAN SPRAWL" at ORDWAY.

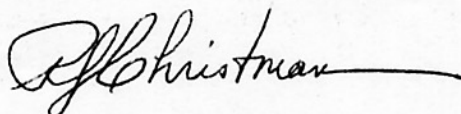
It isn't bad if one looks eastward toward The River and down along its valley. One can see, it is true, the rock-crusher and gravel pits on Upper Grey Cloud Island but that is at some distance across the stream and the eye can make some adjustments to the scar which is there. In general, however, there is little to offend the eye, particularly during the green season when the foliage softens the scene and cloaks it in verdure.

However, as autumn strips the trees of their leaves one can see to the northward the creeping edge of the "urban sprawl" as realty developers push inexorably eastward and southward across The River in Cottage Grove Township, leaving their marks on the good earth in the form of ranks-and-files of "attractive, gracious suburban homes", each tastily situated on a "spacious 20,000 sq. ft. ranchette". At night the twinkling houselights give a softer appearance to the sprawling encrustation and after midnight even they are replaced by the velvety-black of the dark. During the winter months a battery of petroleum storage tanks becomes visible, a further mark of the urbanizing of the scene.

To the west and along the county road one sees a more graceful transition from the natural scene to homesteads which conform more smoothly with the terrain and the entire environment. Most such houses are on larger acreage and most of the residents place great value upon remaining in consonance with their surroundings.

In a general sense, however, Ordway remains a sort of island in the midst of increasing suburbanization; perhaps future generations will take a different look at this vestige of oak forest and grassland. Our present neighbors observe sensible control over their lands and this serves as a "buffer" for Ordway so that we do not feel the "urban sprawl" so much.

I wish "urban sprawl" were not so "sprawly".



R J CHRISTMAN,  
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15 Dec. 1976