

BLUE LAWS IN LANSING

It is unlawful for Citizens to Fish or Skate on Sunday

OR PASTURE A GOAT OR COW

Its is Against the Law to fire any Squib or Cracker Within Certain Prescribed Limits

Lansing Journal 6/23/1903

“It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in the waters of the Grand or Cedar rivers on the first day of the week called Sunday, within the corporate limits of said city.”

The municipal book of laws, which is suppose to furnish guidance for the citizens of Lansing in their daily life and associations with each other, contains some very amusing codes and rules which are obsolete today, either because there is no necessity for them or because public opinion does not favor their enforcement.

The section quoted at the beginning of this article is from ordinance No. 25, which is an ordinance for the maintenance of quiet and good order and is commonly known as the city’s “Blue Law.”

Its first section provides “that no person shall keep open his or her store, shop, restaurant, ordinary, saloon, brewery, barroom, beer hall, pleasure garden, victualling house, billiard room, ball alley, or other place of business, pleasure or amusement, or give or make , or be present at, or take part in, or permit on any premises occupied by him or her, any public diversions, show , theatrical representations, ball, dance, game or play, on the first day of the week called Sunday.”

Another section makes it unlawful for any person to skate on either of the rivers within the corporate limits on Sunday.

Section 9 of the same ordinance prescribes a certain district bounded on the north by Ionia street and on the south by Kalamazoo and on the east by Grand river and on the west by Capitol avenue, within which no squib, cracker, gunpowder or fireworks can be set off or fired. This section should be of interest to the small boys at this particular season, as it provides a maximum penalty of \$100 fine or sixty days imprisonment for violations.

Ordinance No, 26 prohibits female bartenders.

Ordinance No, 63 gives the Cushman Telephone Company a franchise in the city, the said company having now been dead about fifteen years.

Another ordinance requires bootblacks to take out a licenses.

An ordinance fixing the fire limits provides that no building shall be erected within such limits unless it shall be of brick, stone or iron, with roof covered with slate, tile, metal or gravel or composition. This ordinance is being violated constantly.

Ordinance No, 80 prevents ball playing in any street or alley.

Ordinance No, 20 provides that “no cattle, horses, asses, mules, sheep, goats, swine, or other animals, turkeys, ducks, geese, geese, liens or other poultry, shall at any time run at large, nor be herded upon or pastured in any street, lane, alley or public ground in the city of Lansing,” and that ‘pasturing within the meaning of the ordinance shall included the tying, tethering, herding or holding of any animal in any of said streets. lanes, alleys or public places for the purpose of pasturing the same.’”

Ordinance No, 9 provides for the establishment of a night watch, who must be discreet and suitable person.

Fire wood must be sold only by the cord, according to another municipal law which declares that “no person shall sell or offer for sale any fire wood in any other manner then by the cord, and at a specified price per cord, and upon condition and with the understanding that the party selling will unload the same cord or pile it in a suitable form for correct measurement.”

In fact, if you are a believer in obeying the law, it will be well for you to read the book of ordinances pretty carefully before living in the city any longer, because it is a cinch that you will find yourself a law breaker of some nature and degree.