



The Mitten

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After World War II, America increasingly became a “throwaway society.” That was particularly true with beverage containers. Until the late 1950s, most beverage containers were made from glass. Consumers paid a small **deposit** on each bottle. They returned the empty bottles to a store for the deposit. In the 1960s, “no-deposit, no-return” throwaway bottles and cans became popular.

One major problem with this new **convenience** was litter. Bottles and cans soon covered the roadsides. Rusting cans and broken glass were found on Michigan beaches. Much of the state’s roadside litter came from no-deposit, no-return containers.

In 1974, State Representative Lynn Jondahl of East Lansing prepared **legislation** to ban throwaways. His bill in the legislature became known as the “Bottle Bill.” (Several years earlier, Oregon and Vermont led the nation by banning throwaways.)

Jondahl’s efforts attracted enemies. Some groups (companies that made bottles and cans, and labor unions) believed that banning throwaways would result in the loss of “many good paying jobs.” Stores opposed Jondahl’s bill because returning cans and bottles would take up valuable space. These opponents kept the leg-

MICHIGAN’S BOTTLE BILL



islature from voting on the Bottle Bill.

Since 73 percent of Michigani-ans favored banning throwaways, Bottle-Bill supporters used another **tactic**. In 1976, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) distributed **petitions** around the state. If they could

get the necessary signatures, Michigan voters could decide if they wanted the state to adopt the Bottle Bill. The first person to sign the petition was Governor William Milliken, who wanted Michigan to become “a model state” in the fight against pollution.

In two months, the MUCC gathered 400,000 signatures. That was more than twice as many signatures than they needed to place the Bottle Bill on the ballot.

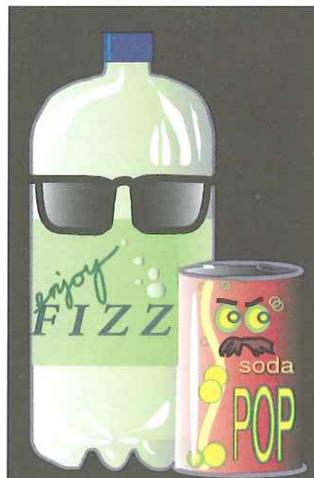
On November 2, 1976, Michigani-ans voted to ban beer and pop throwaway containers. The vote was 2.1 million for the Bottle Bill and 1.2 million against. The proposal placed a 5-cent

deposit on bottles that could be reused and a 10-cent deposit on cans. (In 1989 the deposit was set at 10 cents.)

Since 1976, other states have banned throwaway beverage containers. Michigan, however, is the only state with a 10-cent deposit. More important, polls show that most Michigani-ans support the Bottle Bill to this day.

WANTED

Your Bottles and Cans



Have you seen these fugitives in your area? Turn them in to the nearest store and receive a reward of 10 cents.

REWARD

10 cents each

Carolyn Damstra

Has the **BOTTLE BILL** worked?



Besides Michigan, 10 other states have placed refundable deposits on throwaways.

Since the Bottle Bill went into effect in 1978, 80 percent of Michigan's roadside litter has disappeared. According to the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, that means 600,000 tons of container refuse has been **diverted** from landfills every year.

Does Michigan still have throw-away beverage containers? The answer is "Yes." The Bottle Bill dealt with **carbonated** beverages. Water, tea, fruit, and sports drinks are noncarbonated and not part of the law. If these bottles and cans were included in the Bottle Bill it would mean an additional 800 million containers. On February 18, 2003, a bill was introduced into the State Senate to place a deposit on noncarbonated beverage containers.



WHERE OUR



Getty Images

In the 1960s, there were hundreds of open dumps in Michigan. Seagulls and rats fed on the garbage and spread disease. Some dumps burned uncontrollably.



Getty Images

In 1978, Michigan set strict standards for most landfills. Bulldozers had to be used to smash down the waste and cover it with layers of soil.



Roger L. Rosentreter

When landfills are full, they are capped with soil and clay. These surfaces can be used for golf courses, sports fields, and ski hills. The garbage in the landfill produces methane gas, which can be used as fuel.

WASTE GOES



Do You Use RECYCLED PRODUCTS?

Many paper products are made out of recycled material. At the grocery store, look for the words "made from recycled materials" and the recycling sign (left) on packages of tissue paper, toilet paper, paper towels, writing paper, and envelopes.

Many factories use recycled materials. Some carpet is made from plastic bottles and the backing can be made from recycled foam. Plastic bottles are also used to make park benches and fleece jackets. Milk jugs are made into playground equipment. Old car bumpers are ground up and made into new bumpers and used motor oil is cleaned and reused. Rubber tires are made into floor tiles.

What Did You Learn?

ACROSS

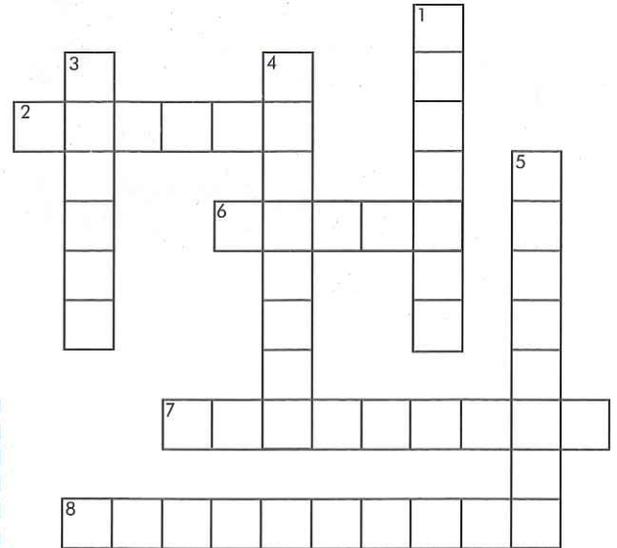
- The most recent state to adopt a Bottle Bill is _____.
- Until the late 1950s, most beverage containers were made from _____.
- When we don't recycle our empty containers, they end up in _____.
- The Bottle Bill only deals with _____ beverages.

DOWN

- Michigan is the only state with a ten-cent _____.
- Since the legislature would not vote on the Bottle Bill, supporters used another _____.
- Governor William _____ was the first person to sign the petition to put the Bottle Bill on the ballot.
- Many paper products are made out of _____ material.

Word List
(in random order)

CARBONATED
RECYCLED
LANDFILLS
MILLIKEN
DEPOSIT
GLASS
TACTIC
HAWAII



Vocabulary

Carbonated: gas bubbles forced into liquid

Convenient: easy to do or use

Deposit: money paid to use something; when the item is returned, the person gets the money back

Divert: to change course or prevent from happening

Legislation: the process of making laws

Petition: a list of signatures in support of an idea or law

Tactic: method or way of reaching a goal