

Excavation unearths mastodon bones

—See Page 16

The Clarkston News

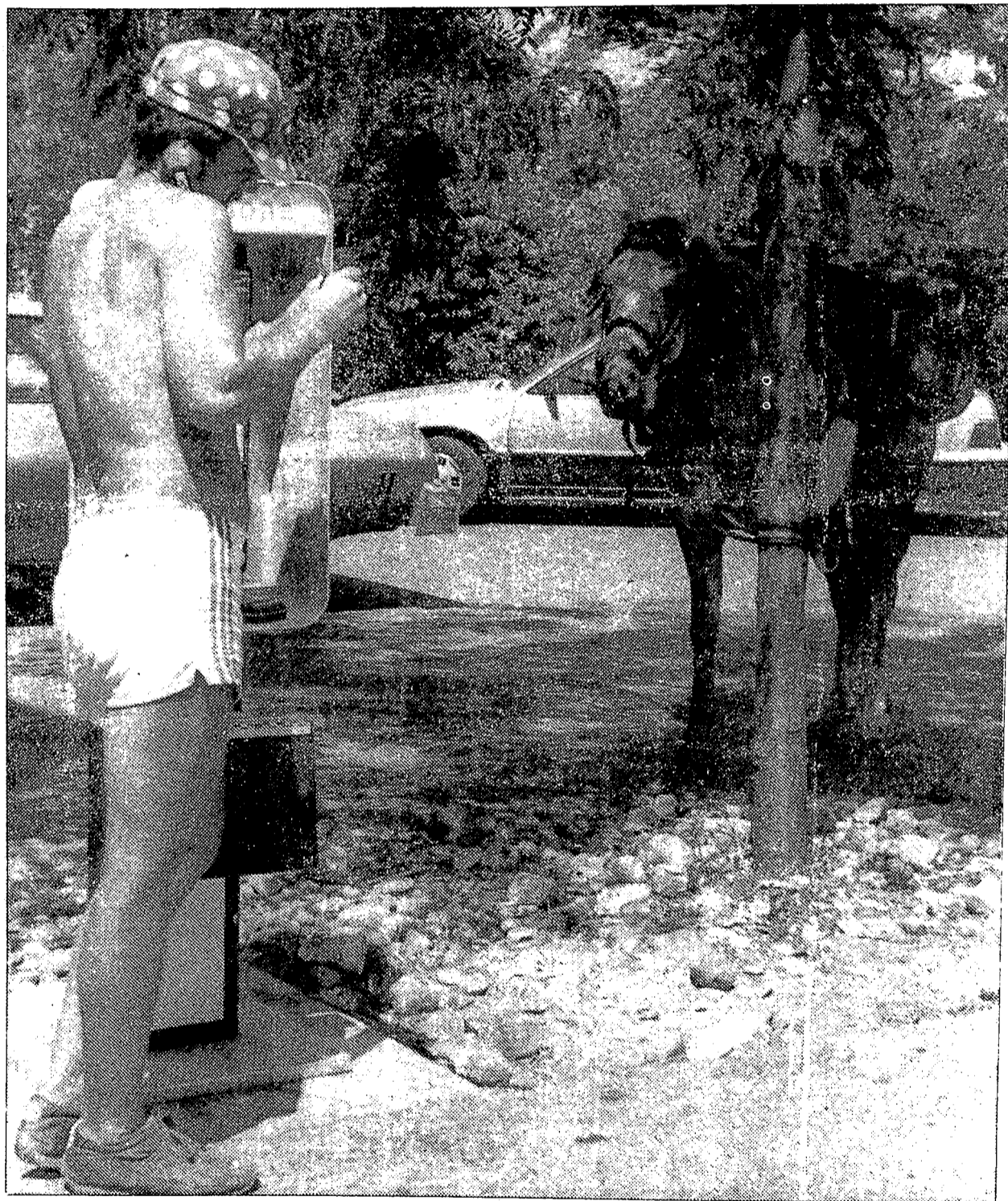
On top of local news for 54 years

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2 Sections—40 Pages

25¢



WHOA A MINUTE: Just finished riding down from the Petoskey-Charlevoix area, Jim Jones ties his horse to a tree in Clarkston and makes a few phone calls. His goal? To find a place somewhere nearby to board his horse. The

300-mile trip north and back was a vacation. Jones says was in the saddle for about 20 miles Wednesday before reaching town. A White Lake Township resident, he grew up in the Clarkston area.

Pine Knob hat thief at large

The hat thief at Pine Knob Music Theatre's Ashford and Simpson concert July 17 saw it and liked it, so she took it.

Then she looked at her victim and told him that if he wanted it back he'd have to follow her home.

The Rochester man did after Sunday night's concert.

All the way to Farmington Hills.

Once there police reports say he was given the old raspberry and she refused to give up the coveted chapeau.

So he called the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and according to reports, intends to press charges.

The booty as described in the report: a gray Stetson, circa 1930; family heirloom; in good condition.

Name change to ease stigma

By Dan Vandenhemel

Changing the name of their road will close the file on the toxic waste dump site near Shindler Road, say some Springfield Township residents.

"This has been a real personal thing to the people in the area," said Joe Gorka. "As a group we're satisfied with the clean-up. The name change is just the conclusion of the matter. We want to call it quits."

Residents of Shindler Road filed a petition with the Springfield Township Board to change the name to Woodland Trail.

Nine of the 12 residents signed the petition.

"We probably would have gotten everyone," said resident Laurel Larson. "But during this time of year, a lot of people are out of town on vacations."

"As a group, we have been able to work out our problems and get things in shape. Collin Walls (Springfield supervisor) didn't think it would be much trouble to change the name. We approached him and he gave us the information on the petition," she said.

The toxic dump was discovered in 1979 and the clean-up and testing were completed earlier this year.

"All the tests and studies prove that everything has been cleaned up," Walls said.

"I think they still tend to get gawkers. It's been a traumatic experience for the residents," he said. "This gives the residents the opportunity to start over."

The next step is by the Oakland County Road Commission.

"First we have to see if there is any duplication of names in the county," said Dennis Pajot, road commission spokesperson. "Then we have to get 100 percent approval of the residents and support of the township."

Tax complaints

By Marilyn Trumper

Summer tax bills arrived in Independence Township mailboxes July 8, and already the treasurer's office has received 100 calls of complaint and inquiry.

"One man today came in mad because he wasn't notified (of the summer tax). He said it was on the ballot, the people turned it down, so why did (the schools) go ahead and (collect summer taxes) anyway?" said Linda Richardson, employe in the treasurer's office.

According to Treasurer Frederick Ritter there have been a number of deferrals made for persons 65 or older who make less than \$10,000 a year.

Persons totally disabled are also eligible to pay their full tax bills at the end of the year, he said.

[Continued on Page 2]

Neighbors, fire chief resolve dispute

By Marilyn Trumper

Mary Pettit's resolved her earlier charges that the Independence Township Fire Department responded poorly to a fire that destroyed a Harvard Road home and ultimately took the life of her 39-year-old neighbor, Jackie Price.

Pettit and eight other disgruntled neighbors met last week with Fire Chief Frank Ronk.

"We feel a lot better and hope we accomplished something," she said. "The chief took notes, and wrote down questions he had for his department, things he wondered about too. He wasn't there the night of the fire and couldn't answer some of our questions.

"I feel a lot better."

The fire chief agreed the meeting helped settle the controversy.

"The crux of the situation is that the neighborhood met with a real emotional crisis. When we arrived the house was two-thirds involved and we didn't stand a fighting chance," Ronk said.

"You do what you have to do. I feel the (neighbors) did everything they could do—our guys too."

According to Ronk, neighbors were unhappy with procedure followed at the fire.

When the firefighters arrived, the home was engulfed in flames and neighbors were cutting a hole in the back bedroom wall to pull Jackie Price to safety.

"They wanted to know why it took so long for us to arrive at the scene. Why when the fire department came on the scene they did not take over the operation

and come running up with axes telling them to get back," Ronk said.

"Number one, they were doing a good job and we didn't have enough people to (start unrolling hoses) and put on (air tanks).

"They were doing a fine job, it was something they could do, and the only way we were going to get the lady out was through the hole they cut. (The firefighters) had to keep the fire away from that room."

The house had been burning for some time before the department arrived, Ronk said, adding architecturally it presented problems. The windows were high and small making it difficult to get a hose through to extinguish the blaze.

According to Ronk, the fire log shows the first truck arrived on the scene seven minutes after the emergency phone call came in. Not, he stressed, 20 minutes as Pettit had said earlier.

"I know it seems like an eternity when you're in an emergency situation. But we were there in seven minutes," he said.

"We had a bad situation, a losing situation. Everybody did what they could to get that woman out of the building."

Price died three weeks later from burns suffered in the fire.

Investigators suspect careless smoking started the blaze, Ronk said.

Men say they won't pay taxes

[Continued from Page 1]

"One man came in and said, 'That's it. That's it. I've had it. I'm taking my kids out of the Clarkston Schools.' Another man said, 'That's it. I'm just not paying those taxes,'" Ritter said.

A fourth man, 79 years old, thought the tax unjustifiable, according to Richardson.

"He said he didn't have any kids in school, that he wasn't going to school, so he wasn't going to pay the taxes. It's hard for him to understand."

Tax payments are due Sept. 14. Late payments will be charged 1 percent a month. After Feb. 14 a 4-percent penalty is added.

In January the school district mandated summer tax collection following passage of a new state law.

The law is aimed at bailing out financially strapped districts that pay thousands in loan interest. Half or all the school taxes can be collected in the summer.

In the Clarkston school district half the taxes are being collected.

Last year the school district borrowed \$4.2 million and paid approximately \$215,000 in interest.

New mail box

There's a new place for residents to mail letters. A post office mail box has been installed at the corner of Sashabaw and Maybee roads, Independence Township.

The action came after 25 requests were made for the service, said Clarkston Postmaster William Kinsley.

There will be one pick up of mail each day with the exception of Sundays and holidays.

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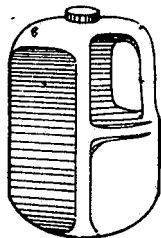
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SCAMP's more than summer camp for kids

By Marilyn Trumper

Gail Dougan has two mentally impaired sons, Steve, 9, and John, 10, and three "normal" children. SCAMP, a five-week summer camp for children and youths with special needs, is her lifesaver.

"John is not as mentally handicapped as Steve is. Last year we took him out of the SCAMP program and tried to get him in with normal kids, although I hate to use that phrase," the Waterford Township woman said.

"We got him into T-Ball—and he did fine on the ball field. He got along with all the other kids. But off the field, there was no companionship.

"SCAMP provides that companionship. It gives him what I can't give him—what T-Ball can't give him," she said.

SCAMP meets for five weeks, four days a week, five hours a day at Sashabaw Junior High School in Independence Township.

It serves North Oakland County residents from preschool to 25 years old, and finances itself through fund raisers. This year's budget is \$60,000.

"Steve and John don't know any of the kids in the neighborhood, because they don't go to the regular school or ride the regular bus. They spend most of their time standing around and wondering what to do," Dougan said.

"SCAMP gives them a feeling they belong. They learn how to play with other kids, they learn to give and take, and learn about fairness. SCAMP was the first time John had a school experience where a teacher was able to be a friend.

"It brought tears to my eyes when I arrived one day early and found my son sitting on the teacher's lap leading a sing-a-long."

On a typical Thursday morning in the Sashabaw Junior High alcove, a volunteer sits at the upright piano pounding out music to "Head, Shoulders, Toes" and other upbeat warm-up songs. The kids stomp and clap and sing, some dressed in the recognizable yellow SCAMP T-shirts.

Teachers and 30 volunteers help kids bend bodies stiff with cerebral palsy and other muscle-deteriorating diseases.

They steer a wandering mind and body into dancing and singing, art, swimming, and playing ball. Everyone participates.

Those are the rules.

"There are tears on the last day," Dougan said.

"And the first day is like a reunion. I have never seen so much love in one spot."



Four-year-old Michael Lilly gets a hug from Michael Courtwright, also 4. Discovering friends is part of the loving atmosphere at

Summer camp keeps the learning process going. "A child that is special loses more academically over a summer than other children. They might struggle for months to master a math concept or how to get their letters the right way," she said.

"Then over the summer, they lose it. They go back to school and have to start all over again. SCAMP helps them retain these things."

Trust, and one-on-one attention is a big part of the program, Dougan said.

"My kids trust their SCAMP teachers. They have infinite patience—something I don't have. They'll go over it and over it, again and again.

Clarkston SCAMP, a five-week summer day camp for northern Oakland County residents with special needs.

"Steve has tackled swimming. I tried for years to get him in the water but he was afraid.

"I couldn't find an instructor with the patience to teach him. But thanks to SCAMP he's overcome that fear. It's a lot easier to wash his hair. I know it's the one-on-one attention they were able to give him that's made the difference."

And John's in Sunday school class with children his own age.

"Before SCAMP, I had him in with kindergartners because he couldn't get along with kids his own age. Now his behavior blends. He's learned to give and take. He's learned fairness," she said.

"I have never seen so much love in one spot"

—Gail Dougan

Weed harvester works cleaning up Big Lake

By Dan Vandenhemel

The brand new weed harvester scoops up Big Lake's weeds at the rate of 27 tons a day.

Since the \$184,000 harvester arrived the last week in June, 600,000 pounds of lake weeds have been cut, said Barnard Wendt.

Wendt, a member of the lake board, said there

has been a weed problem in Big Lake for 25 years.

"A chemical treatment was tried prior to this," he said. "With the chemicals, the weeds died but they just went to the bottom and made fertilizer. Chemicals have no long-range effects. It was either the harvester or dredging."

A four-year payment plan for residents was

helped by an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant of \$92,000.

"We would have proceeded without the grant," Wendt said. "The plan would have lasted five years instead of the four. This is the only grant in Michigan and only one of 11 in the country."

A two-year DNR and EPA study on the lake plus Big Lake's position at the headwaters of the Clinton River watershed are why the federal money came through, Wendt said.

Lake front property owners will pay \$182 a year for four years and an additional \$120 for maintenance. Residents with lake access will pay \$125 a year plus \$20 for maintenance.

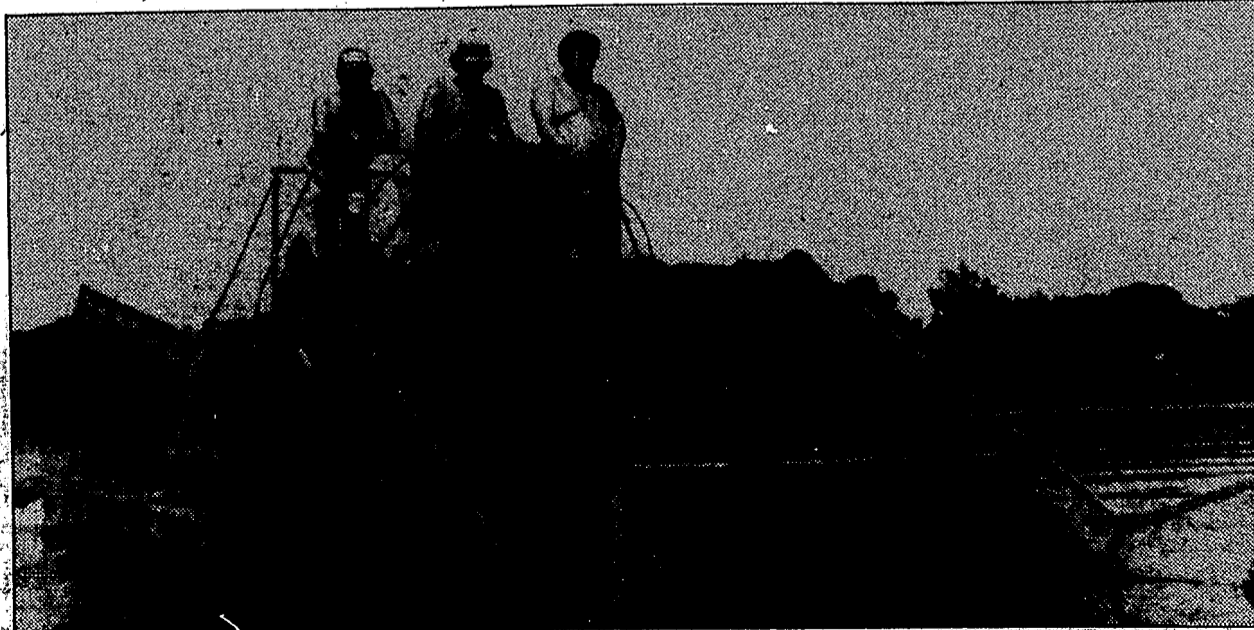
The harvester is scheduled to be on the lake eight hours a day for a minimum of 320 hours between May 15 and Sept. 15.

"This is one of the largest harvesters in the country," Wendt said. "It makes a 10-foot-wide cut and can go as deep as 6 feet. Big Lake has only an average depth of 5 feet and the deepest is 15 feet."

"Three weeks ago you couldn't ski out here," he said. "The engine would keep stalling; it would get clogged up with weeds. It was unnavigable, unswimable. It was not suited for recreational use or fishing."

"The fishermen were complaining that they were losing lures and fish in the weeds. The harvesting will probably make the fishing better. In four years we will still have weeds but about two-thirds will be reduced."

The weeds are given to area farmers and residents for fertilizer.



The Big Lake harvester chews a 10-foot-wide cut while making its way around the lake. From left, Mark Bach, Ron Livingston and Bob Chambers keep a watch on the weeds.

-Sheriff's log-

Wednesday, thieves broke into a garage on Pelton Road, Independence Township, and stole a \$200 garden tiller, \$100 chainsaw and \$40 drill.

Wednesday, thieves stole a motorcycle and trailer from Ennismore Road, Independence Township.

Friday, thieves stole a lawn mower from a garage on Eastlawn Drive, Independence Township.

Friday, would-be thieves caused \$200 in damages when they attempted to break into a processing plant on Sashabaw Road, Independence Township.

Unable to gain entry, they left.

Saturday, police recovered a BMX bicycle in Clarkston's Depot Road Park.

Saturday, thieves caused \$150 in damages when they broke into a car on M-15, Independence Township, and stole \$270 worth of jeans, a \$120 pair of pants and a \$75 coat.

Saturday, vandals caused \$500 in damages to the doors of Clarkston High School, 6595 Middle Lake, Independence Township, when they threw metal garbage cans into the glass.

Sunday, thieves stole a lawn mower from a yard on Stevens Road, Independence Township.

Sunday, thieves broke into a shed on Lakeview Drive, Independence Township, and stole a \$500 motor, \$700 motor and five gallons of gasoline.

Sunday, thieves stole a 5-foot tall promotional Snoopy doll worth \$130 from the lobby of McDonald's restaurant, 5625 Sashabaw, Independence Township.

This information came from reports at the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

Independence stops parking project

By Marilyn Trumper

A troop of 14 enterprising Explorer Scouts undercut Pine Knob's \$4 parking fee by \$2, and started parking cars on a lawn across the street from the music theater entrance.

But the township's put a stop to it, charging them with violation of the zoning ordinance.

"The kids were doing it as a fund raiser," said leader Terry Bruns, who donated his lawn on Sashabaw Road. Three of his children are Explorer Scouts.

"They are trying to raise money for a canoe trip and a Waterford Township kid who we understand needs a kidney transplant and can't afford it."

In three nights the scouts raised \$100.

According to Director of Building and Planning

Kenneth Delbridge, the scouts can seek a variance to allow the commercial use in a residential area.

"I told him he could have his friends park there for free and they could party all night long, but that he can't charge for parking. Otherwise," Delbridge said, "it's going to look like Briggs Stadium where every guy around's got cars in his yard."

Bruns said there would not be parking every night, only on predetermined nights.

"We wouldn't want to do it every night. My God no!" he said. "I live here. I don't want this going on every night."

The scouts met formally to discuss strategy, but want to find out more about the Waterford Township youth in need of a kidney before deciding if they'll seek a variance, Bruns said.

Get dog sticker at post office

By Kathy Greenfield

Clarkston Postmaster William Kinsley would like to see a warning sticker on every mail box on every residence with a dog inside, or outside.

Safety of the mail carriers is the reason, he said.

The post office has a campaign underway and will provide the stickers without cost.

Top priorities are the 2,500 homes serviced by walking mail carriers. Areas with a high population of dogs serviced by motorized mail deliveries are also high on the list.

"It's a major problem," said Kinsley. "It ultimately costs the post office millions of dollars a year in dog bites."

"We don't have a serious problem here," he added. "And we don't want to have one. A dog bite could disable a person permanently."

Last year only one Clarkston mail carrier suffered from a dog bite, he said, and following federal law the homeowner was required to pay medical expenses.

The law also requires reimbursement for days off

work that result from such injuries.

Mail carriers are trained in evasive action to protect themselves from attacking dogs—they carry dog spray and know how to put the mail bag between themselves and the canine.

The sticker would alert them to be ready for such action if necessary, Kinsley said.

Because he has been postmaster in Clarkston for less than one year, most of his experience with dog bites comes from employment in Birmingham.

don't know how many dog attacks I've had reported to me—people who say, 'My dog's never bitten anyone before,' " he said.

He remembers the case where the dog crashed through a picture window trying to get at a mail carrier. The dog died.

And there was the time a large dog quickly grabbed the mail put through a slot in a door and pulled hard. The mail carrier's hand was broken.

To receive a sticker call the post office at 625-2323.

Rumph

Chiropractic Clinics


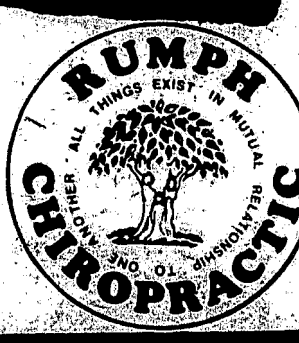
Headache Sufferers Take Note

Stress, nervous tension and strain are believed by many to be the cause of their headaches and they subsequently endure years of needless suffering.

Often headaches stem from abnormal positioning and mobility of one of several vertebrae in the upper neck.

Undue stress on the muscles, nerves and ligaments from improper posture, physical strains, poor sleeping positions and other similar causes of stress may create pain in the base of the skull.

For many people chiropractic is an effective answer to recurring headaches. By correcting the abnormal alignment of the vertebrae in the cervical (neck) area, chiropractic goes to the root of the problem to gain permanent relief.

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— Editorial —

Michigan Youth Corps works!

We admit we had our doubts about the Michigan Youth Corps, the program instituted by Gov. James Blanchard for getting 18- to 21-year-olds to work for the summer.

The state-funded jobs are handled through school districts, governmental units and non-profit civic organizations.

Most fall under the category of "beautification," a term that covers labor-intensive work like clearing fields, trimming and planting shrubs and improving the appearance of areas that include, in Clarkston, the high school football field.

When we went to the field last week to talk to Youth Corps members, we didn't know what to expect.

The day of one of Michigan's worst—hot, humid and miserable.

No one complained about the heat or the required work. What we found, instead, was a spirit of camaraderie and lots of enthusiasm.

Some of them called the program "fantastic," they said they were happy to have

work to do and they praised their supervisor. They said they were pleased to learn to do some things they'd never done before.

And they were glad they were working, even if the pay was the minimum wage of \$3.35 an hour, there were no benefits and the work was grueling.

Some of them said, "Take my picture. I want to be in the newspaper."

We asked several what they had been doing before they joined the Youth Corps.

The looks on their faces when they talked about sitting at home or searching for ways to keep occupied said more than words ever could.

This is the real heartbreaker of Michigan's unemployment. We weren't quoting statistics, we were talking to people who have suffered the feelings that evolve when there is no work to be had.

Perhaps we'll read stories of Youth Corps activities that didn't work.

But we know that in Clarkston, at least, the program brought hope and pride to some of Michigan's young men and women.

KLG

Letters to editor

Help wanted: flower waterers

I am begging for help with our beautification.

We are having problems trying to get a decent portable water container put together in order to keep our sign beds, parking lot beds and village park bed

(Depot Road, band shell side) watered.

Would any of you even consider putting a couple of buckets of water in your car each day you go out and water one of these areas?

I will let you know as soon as we get things under control, but right now we need help please.

To the businesses—I am asking that you put at least one, preferably two, buckets of water in each of your barrels at least every other day until this dry spell is over. Right now.

We have made a good start. Please help me to continue.

Thank you,
Fontie ApMadoc
Village Beautification Chairperson

We like the News

Please include my family in your list of subscribers.

I have been negligent in starting my subscription to your newspaper, because I think it is an important part of our local community awareness program and a valuable asset to our community to have a local paper.

You have followed school events very thoroughly as well as the other events and your advertising is helpful too.

Much continued success to your organization in the future.

We look forward to getting our own copy of the News every week now.

Doris Kendall

Teacher column rates

Having been a teacher in Clarkston for 17 years, I really enjoy your column on the local teachers.

Dorothy M. Rose
Union Lake

Jim's Jottings

Par for the course

by Jim Sherman

Perhaps because I've played more golf this year than any other year of my life a reader thought the following poem by J.D. Manley Treece appropriate:

FORE

A golfer asked that his remains
Be brought back to the scene
And scattered from a passing plane
Upon the eighteenth green.
The day they met with his request
It was in the wind and rain
And when his ashes hit the breeze
It was "out of bounds" again.

Golf certainly is a frustrating sport. A golfer can take all the credit for a good shot. They alone made it.

Conversely, a golfer *should* take all the credit for a bad shot. They alone made it. More frequently, however, the golfer will turn and remark, "Did you hear that bird tweet in the next county in my backswing?"

We golfers look forward to the day when all of our good shots come together in the same round. This happened to me for the first time since I started playing in 1939, though I didn't play for 10 years in a row.

It's like playing in dreamland. That day the ball went where I've been aiming every other round. It was so-o-o easy shooting a 1-under-par 35 at Oxford Hills.

The next time I played the same nine I shot a 46.

Porch memories



Kathy Greenfield

My grandparents' porch.

I hadn't thought about it for years.

But when I read Susan Basinger's latest Architecture Archives column for next week's Clarkston News, the memories came rushing back.

My grandparents lived in Royal Oak on Main Street. Their home was built when that was out in the country.

By the time I came along, the traffic was beginning to get heavy on the road in front of their house.

That did not lessen use of the wrap-around porch.

I can remember sitting with my grandparents on their porch, Grandpa in his wicker chair and Grandma on the porch swing that was replaced several times over the years because it wore out.

The cars never bothered me. When I was young enough to still experience the thrill of knowing how to count, I could count over 100 cars as they passed by.

Later, as the game became more sophisticated, we'd count types of cars or numbers of trucks.

I still think about that perfect place for tallying traffic when I'm curious about such things as the number of foreign cars versus domestic, how many people actually wear seatbelts and how many cars are driven with only one person inside.

The other stand-out memory has to do with lightning.

There was no better spot for watching storms approach. The lightning flashes lit up the sky and we could see the jagged paths for a spectacular instant.

Sometimes we'd wonder how close they were to my family's home in a community about 20 miles due north or whether it was raining there already.

There were lots of other activities.

Visits from neighbors.

Family gatherings where everyone would congregate on the porch to talk and talk.

Quiet rocking on the swinging chair that could accommodate three adults or a grandmother and several grandchildren.

The memories are good ones.



- Editorial -

Panthers earn championship; explode myth

A myth has been exploded: There is nothing in the climate or atmosphere of southeastern Michigan that mysteriously prevents professional sports franchises from winning championships.

M I C H I G A N



PANTHERS

The iconoclasts who layed waste to the myth? None other than the Michigan Panthers.

And the way they did it reads a little like a page out of *Cinderella*.

Five games into the season, the Panthers and the newly-formed United States Football League were the butt of many a joke. The locals had dropped four of their first five contests and attendance and interest were dwindling. As far as Michigan was concerned, the new game in town looked like a failed experiment.

But it was then that the Panthers' pumpkins began turning into gold chariots. Owner Art Taubman parted with some dollars to bolster the offensive line. The team began to jell. Coach Jim Stanley's group rolled to triumph after triumph, culminating their astounding rebound from oblivion to defeat the

Philadelphia Stars Sunday in Denver and wrap up the first USFL championship.

The heroes this season were many—Bobby Hebert, Anthony Carter, John Corker and Ken Lacy being only the most-visible in what was truly a team effort. And take a bow, Coach Stanley and General Manager Jim Spavital.

Perhaps the biggest ovation should go to Taubman, boss him, who slashed ticket and parking prices for last week's playoff game at the Silverdome. That came as a welcome change of pace to area sports fans, who remember former Red Wing owner Bruce Norris

jacking up everything from parking to the price of a bag of potato chips the last time the Wings made the playoffs in 1978.

The Panthers have indeed given us something to feel good about. Something to take just a little bit of the sting out of multiple woes like spiraling state income taxes, high unemployment and the play of the Detroit Lions.

We raise a glass to the USFL champions, our first pro title winner in 15 long years. Welcome home, Panthers. And thank you.

--A.J.Z.

News letter policy

We welcome our readers' opinions. Letters to the Editor must be at The Clarkston News office by noon Friday to be considered for the following week's paper. We reserve the right to edit all letters for the sake of brevity and clarity and to limit the number of letters from any one individual on any one issue. We don't publish open letters or copies of letters sent elsewhere. Letters must be signed and a phone number and address included. Names will be withheld on request.

I think it was Theodore Roosevelt who coined the term "Hyphenated American" as a pejorative for countrymen of divided loyalties.

I wonder what T.R. would be saying today, now that plain "Americans" seem to be all but extinct. In their place are Afro-Americans, Italian-Americans, German-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans, Polish-Americans, Irish-Americans and Japanese-Americans, to name just a few. The list is only limited by the supply of available hyphens.

I suppose there's no harm in clinging to some aspects of your ethnic heritage. But mixing ethnic considerations with politics and American foreign policy makes for a foul brew.

A FEW WEEKS ago, a small demonstration criticizing American and Israeli policy was held in the Detroit area by a group sympathetic with the present government of Iran. A poster of the Ayatullah Khomeini was among the groups' modes of expression.

I find it interesting that people so enamored with the paradise being built in Iran by the Ayatullah should prefer to live 8,000 miles away in what Khomeini has called "Satan America." It would seem to me that they could better serve the cause of the Iranian revolution by staying in Iran, rather than spending time in Satan's favorite playground.

I imagine, too, that the Ayatullah would have liked to personally thank the demonstrators, but he was probably too occupied with the daily grind of

Hyphenate it

Al Zawacky



affairs of state—things like signing execution orders and sending more 16-year-old boys to die in his holy war against Iraq. Busy, busy, busy.

EVERY ETHNIC GROUP, it seems, has an ax to grind. Some Irish-Americans want the U.S. to use its influence to get the British out of Northern Ireland. Some Polish-Americans clamor for further sanctions by the U.S. against the Polish martial law government. Some Afro-Americans are obsessed with the U.S. policy toward South Africa. Some Jewish-Americans demand blind American support for every action taken by Israel. Some Palestinian-Americans want the U.S. to recognize the P.L.O. and back the concept of an independent Palestinian state.

All this stuff makes me nauseous.

I'd like to put forth the radical concept that the United States should look out for its own interests, and not anybody else's, in the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Asia—everywhere on the globe.

I'd also like to suggest that we ban the hyphen.

'If it Fitz...'

Lost a beer, broke a foot

by Jim Fitzgerald



Lately, I've been pushing my wife around. It's not funny. In fact, I may sue the City of Detroit for causing me to behave in such an unnatural manner.

This tragic tale begins with a visit from Melissa, our 10-year-old granddaughter who lives in Frankenth, Michigan's most enchanted kingdom, where tourists go to each chicken and pretend Sir Lancelot will protect them from all harm forever.

Understandably, Melissa gets bug-eyed at many of the things she sees in the big city. She was there, for instance, when two men climbed up the outside of a 72-story tower in the Renaissance Center. And she was astounded when I explained that the only reason the climbers attracted so much public attention was they were the first couple in history to spend an entire day at the Ren Cen without getting lost.

As Melissa neared the end of six days of sight-seeing, it appeared that when she returned home, she would talk most about a fuzzy-crested, deep-slouched panhandler sighted in Greektown. She was amazed to see the young man ask strangers for money. Melissa can't even ask her grandfather for moeny for fear her mother will find out and kill her.

"Grandpa, why didn't you give him anything?" Melissa asked.

I explained I didn't want to get the panhandler in trouble with his mother. He would have had better luck if he'd said he really loved rainbow ice cream

cones, but they cost 60 cents and he had only 10 cents left from the \$2 allowance his mother gave him three years earlier.

Naturally, I would be embarrassed if Melissa told everyone in the enchanted chicken kingdom that crass Detroiters don't know the first thing about effective hinting. So, in an effort to put something more impressive than a blunt bum at the top of her mind, I made special plans for Melissa's last night in town.

After the usual movie (the sequel to "Superman III" will have to be "Superbore IV"), and after buying the usual bags of food and drink, instead of going home to consume them, we went to the ethnic festival in Hart Plaza on downtown Detroit's beautiful waterfront. People of Slovakian heritage were celebrating that weekend, and I thought Melissa would be fascinated to see that Slovaks are no different than Irish, Greeks, Italians, Poles and other ethnic groups who regularly get festive on the plaza—they all do it to the tune of the same loud rock music, chintzy carnival booths, and three-throws-for-a-dollar games of chance.

But before we could sit down in the amphitheater, my wife fell down. Because of the crowd, she didn't see a four-inch-deep well dug into the cement so a little tree could grow out of it. She was carrying the beverages when she tripped and somehow managed to lose my beer while saving her coffee and

Melissa's pop. Incidentally, she also broke her left foot.

SO THAT'S WHY I'm pushing my wife around our home in a stuffed leather chair with wheels on it. The doctor said it will be six weeks before she walks normally again, and there is no hope at all for my beer.

The loss-of-consortium-not-to-mention-Strohs lawsuit will be filed as soon as I decide whether to charge Mayor Coleman Young with treeism or wellism. Of course, as a civic-minded citizen who realizes the city likes to settle minor suits out of court to save legal costs, I might let \$500,000 dissuade me from hiring F. Lee Bailey.

I can laugh now but, as mentioned, it really wasn't funny. My wife was stunned by the fall, and I'll not soon forget those few seconds when she didn't move and I worried that she'd hit her head on the cement and been seriously injured. A sudden accident can sober even the smartest aleck and remind him of how much he loves someone.

As for little Melissa, she couldn't help sobbing as she put an arm around her fallen grandmother. The panhandler was forgotten. Melissa will always remember the summer of '83 visit as the time Grandma fell down and Grandpa picked her up before he picked up his beer.

-Fire call-

Sunday, July 3

4:28pm—Firefighters extinguish a grass fire at the corner of Sashabaw and Clarkston-Orion roads, possibly started by a discarded cigarette.

9:12pm—A wood pile on fire is doused in a field at Maybee and Dvorak.

Monday, July 4

1:37pm—Firefighters extinguish a grass fire started by a discarded cigarette on Andersonville Road.

Tuesday, July 5

12:19pm—Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responds to a medical emergency on Waldon Road. Riverside transports the patient to Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

8:44pm—EMS answers a call at White Lake and Tapon. Patient refuses treatment.

Wednesday, July 6

2:09am—A vehicle rollover brings EMS to Waterford Road. One victim is extricated from the vehicle. Injuries are minor.

12:10pm—Firefighters put out a field fire northeast of Waldon Road. The cause is undetermined but suspicious in nature.

12:33pm—EMS responds to Robertson Court on a medical emergency.

10:39pm—Man with trouble breathing brings EMS to a Griggs Road residence. He's treated on the scene. Riverside Ambulance provides transportation to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

Thursday, July 7

1:08pm—A vehicle fire in a driveway on Sashabaw Road is extinguished. Damage is about \$1,200.

6:09pm—A toaster cover burns on a toaster and sets off an automatic alarm at a residence on M-15.

7:24pm—Firefighters douse an open basement fire at a house under construction on Timber Ridge Trail.

9:14pm—EMS assists a person with a possible broken arm at the fire station.

Friday, July 8

12:44am—EMS responds to a restaurant on West Washington Street on a medical emergency. The victim is treated. Riverside Ambulance provides transportation to the hospital.

2:24am—EMS responds to M-15 and Middle Lake Road for a medical emergency. Riverside Ambulance provides transportation to hospital.

1:05pm—A person with chest pains brings EMS to a residence on South River Drive. The victim is treated, and Riverside Ambulance provides transportation to Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

3:59pm—Firefighters wash down pavement at Main and Depot streets from a vehicle leaking gasoline.

11:31pm—A small fire is started in a garage on Heath Street by a smoke bomb thrown inside.

Sunday, July 10

9:34pm—Firefighters extinguish a grass fire started by a discarded cigarette in the field next to the gas station on M-15 north of I-75.

Monday, July 11

2:57pm—A grass fire is doused on the southwest side of Gulick Road.

Thursday, July 14

12:48pm—EMS treats minor injuries at an accident at Sashabaw and Clinton roads. Two are transported to Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital by Riverside Ambulance.

3:36pm—Firefighters extinguish a grass fire at the end of Paula Street.

The Independence Township Fire Department has responded to 440 calls to date.



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October face lift ready for Davisburg

By Dan Vandenhemel

Downtown Davisburg's face lift is scheduled to start in October.

Mark Fish of the Mosher-Kapelczak Co. on Dixie Highway, Springfield Township, presented plans for the second phase of construction at the Springfield Township Board meeting July 13.

The board unanimously approved the plans that call for 30 additional parking spaces behind township hall and an access road to the lot.

"Bids will be accepted in September and Phase 1 construction should begin Oct. 1," Fish said. "In the second phase there are two possibilities for access roads to the rear lot. The cost of Phase 2 will be either

\$30,000 or \$25,000 depending on which access road is built."

Phase 1 was approved by the township board May 10. Those plans include 8-foot sidewalks, angle and parallel parking spaces on Davisburg Road and landscaping for a total cost of \$70,000.

The plans will eliminate parking in the front of township hall and will provide parallel parking near the hall and angle parking farther down the road.

"The reason for that is to have safer traffic flow in the area," Fish said. "The whole idea was to put as much effort on the front street as possible so we could spruce it up."

-Village shorts-

Crossing guard on hold

Because no one's applied for the job of crossing guard, the Clarkston Village Council has decided to wait until August to re-advertise the position.

The \$5-an-hour job involves two hours-a day crossing children at M-15 and Middle Lake Road.

Two months ago village enforcement officer Charles Smalley resigned the post because he was crossing just one junior high student.

Since then a new family has moved to the area with more junior high children that would justify the expense of a guard.

Get 'em straight

Make sure you pull neatly into parking spaces in downtown Clarkston, in both the municipal lot and along Main Street.

Cars straddling white lines will be ticketed \$15 as part of the village's new crackdown.

The warning went out at the council's July 11 meeting.

"(Enforcement officer Charles Smalley) wanted us to get the word out," said Trustee James Schultz. "Apparently it's become a real problem. One car parks wrong, and the next is forced to, and the next, right on down until the whole line is parked wrong."

Special projects nixed

The Clarkston Village Council came up empty-handed bidding against other Oakland County communities to finance special projects with available Community Development funds.

The first plan was to beautify Depot Road Park, finishing the gazebo, adding playground equipment, plantings and benches with \$30,000.

The second plan was to renovate the downtown area with \$125,000 and implement architect Betty Lee Francis' plan for pedestrian walkways, streetlighting, benches and signage.

"We didn't think we'd get it, but it was worth a try," said Trustee David Raup.

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Park improvements

Architect David Katz, the township resident who volunteered his talents to design the Depot Road Park gazebo for Clarkston, is hard at work, according to council Trustee David Raup.

"Right now he's drawing four different facades so we can decide which one we think we'd like best," Raup said at the July 11 Clarkston Village Council meeting.

"And there's more good news. I've called on the playground equipment and they said it's on the way. We should have it in in two weeks," he said.

Earlier this year village officials financed purchase of playground equipment with \$2,500 in Community Development funds.



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-Obituaries-

Albert W. Foster

Funeral service for former Pontiac area resident Albert W. Foster of Clearwater, Fla., was held at the Sylvan-Abbey Funeral Home, Clearwater.

Foster, 78, died July 13. He was retired as a detective sergeant from the Pontiac Police Department after 30 years of service.

He was a member of the Metropolitan Club, Spirit 6 and the Pontiac Police Officers Association.

Surviving are his wife, Edna; children, Albert Jr. of Clarkston and Mary Jane McCracken of Wichita, Kan.; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and sister, Charlotte Hill of Clearwater, Fla.

Following the service burial took place in Sylvan-Abbey Memorial Park.

Ray J. Raupp

Memorial service for Ray J. Raupp of Brandon Township was to be held Wednesday, July 20, at 11 a.m. at St. Daniel Catholic Church, Independence Township, with the Rev. Charles Cushing officiating.

Raupp, 70, died July 16. A member of St. Daniel Catholic Church, he was a retired chief engineer from Bendix Corp.

He was a graduate of the University of Detroit and the Detroit Institute of Technology. He was a member of the Rochester Elks No. 2225 B.P.O.E.

Surviving are his wife, Norma; son, Thomas of Rochester; sister, Alma Hill of Florida; and brother, Norman of Atlanta, Mich.

Following the service burial was to take place in White Chapel Memorial Cemetery, Troy.

Arrangments were made by the Lewis E. Wint Funeral Home, Independence Township.

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Influx of solicitors irks Woodglen residents

By Kathy Greenfield

People from far-off communities knocking on their doors selling products they don't want is upsetting a group of homeowners in Independence Township's Woodglen Estates.

And the township's ordinance that allows anyone to sell door-to-door who hasn't been convicted of a felony in the past five years or have an outstanding police warrant makes them even more frustrated.

"We have so much area unemployment, why do they let people come in from the the outside for things that are, in my opinion, outrageously priced?" asked Arv Stegeman of Almond Lane.

The latest episode is the fourth time this summer outsiders have appeared selling door-to-door in the neighborhood.

For \$21 Stegeman could have purchased four dust cloths from a man from Cleveland, Ohio.

"It does windows. It does everything but dial the telephone for you," she said, giving an indication of the sales pitch.

The pressure tactics, she added, were not appreciated.

In an effort to convince her to buy the product, the salesman said, "Didn't somebody give you the opportunity to live in a house like you do?"

"So I said, 'I couldn't live here if I bought everything from everybody who tried to sell it to me,'" she said. "There just has to be a better way. The guy is just standing there trying to put on high pressure."

Letters will go to the township asking for stiffer laws governing door-to-door sales, she said. And she's considering petitions to let the officials know residents are upset or to force the solicitation question to be on the ballot.

Every time Administrative Clerk Rosemary Howey has a group arrive at Township Hall to register to solicit, she knows there are going to be complaints from residents, she said.

Potential solicitors are asked to fill out a form, copies are made of drivers' licenses and a check is made to assure they are not wanted by the police. There is no fee.

Howey also tells each one that if a sign saying "no solicitors" is in place on or near the residence door they cannot, by ordinance, offer their wares there.

"If they have a no-solicitor sign on their door, then if they do (solicit), they could call the sherrif," Howey said.

Residents can also call the police if they verbally tell the person no solicitors are wanted and the person doesn't leave, or if the the solicitor refuses to depart when asked to leave once inside the home.

Small signs that follow the size regulations in the ordinance can be purchased at Township Hall for 25 cents.

They've been available for a couple of years. In that time, only one has been sold, said Linda Richardson, the treasurer's assistant.

Mine on target with repairs

By Marilyn Trumper

Reclamation of the Salem Gravel Pit on Oak Hill Road follows the plan in an amended consent judgment and could mean a two-year extension to mine, according to Independence Township Supervisor James B. Smith.

"They've got a 15-foot-deep lake out there that's just gorgeous," Smith said. "We've been monitoring closely what's gone on there and they've seeded everything they were supposed to.

"And so far, the depth of Round Lake hasn't been affected," he said.

Last May, after weeks of negotiation, the township board adopted an amended consent judgment that stipulates restoration of the area.

The agreement gave Blount Materials of Michigan a two-year extension to mine the 200 acres with the option of two additional one-year extensions if reclamation is met, and if the 2 million tons of gravel estimated in reserve are not mined.

According to Smith, the mine now has 200,000 tons of unsold gravel, a half-year supply, in what he calls a "soft market."

New flashers

By the time school starts in September Springfield Christian Academy on Dixie Highway near I-75 should have school-zone warning flashers.

Springfield Township Supervisor Collin Walls said he hopes the signs will be installed in time.

"Luckily there haven't been any major accidents there yet," Walls said. "The area is congested, especially now that enrollment is increasing at the school."

The township board approved entering a Tri-Party plan to pay for the signs at the July 13 meeting.

The estimated cost is \$4,543, to be divided equally between the township, Oakland County and the county road commission.

"The maintance will be split between the township, the school and the county," Walls said. "Each will have to pay \$150 a year."

The flashing, 25-mph-speed-limit signs will be located on each side of the school.

Crafts and Cider

Applications are being accepted for the Clarkston Community Historical Society's 1983 Crafts and Cider Festival.

All arts and crafts should be handmade by the exhibiting artists.

To apply send slides or photographs with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Clarkston Community Historical Society, P.O. Box 261, Clarkston, MI 48016. For more information call 625-8784.

There is still some space available for civic groups that would like to participate with a service like popcorn sales or entertainment.

Ideas and information for such groups will be furnished upon request. Call 625-8823 for more information or write to the above address.

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Adams-Pratt Law Library's special for public

By Pamela Gruber

Rather than call an attorney to find out their rights, some people are opting to find the answers themselves—at the Adams-Pratt Law Library.

The only public law library in Michigan, the Adams-Pratt Library was dedicated in 1976.

Located on the fifth floor of the Oakland County Court Complex, the library offers the statutes for all 50 states as well as federal law.

Jane Fichtenau, assistant director, says the library began in the third court house building in two rooms.

"Since then, we've moved and expanded and our patrons have computers, the West Ultrafiche Edition of The National Reporter System, and several law reviews," she explains.

"The library started with one table and a few chairs. We're now able to seat up to 50 patrons at tables, work stations, and conference rooms.

Fichtenau says that although many of the patrons are lawyers or law students, many of the library users are members of the general public.

"There are several reasons to visit a law library, but I've found that many of the patrons are researching questions themselves instead of hiring a lawyer," she says, Michigan law book in hand.

"Some of the biggest reasons are divorce, child custody cases and landlord-tenant conflicts."

Fichtenau says one of the best resources for first-time law library patrons are the several law reviews which attempt to explain the law, plus cite all the statutes involved with particular cases listed.

"The law reviews are written for the most part by selected law students and are similar in format to a magazine," she says.

According to Fichtenau, another helpful unit is the material on microfilm which can be viewed and printed with the touch of a button.

"The library is moving into the audio and computer fields and this is a tremendous help when trying to locate specific material quickly," Fichtenau says.

The law library is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



SPACE SAVER: The public law library is equipped with the West Ultrafiche Edition of the National Reporter System, which has replaced several book shelves. The system is

capable of printing material viewed by the reader. Law Library Director Richard L. Beer, right, explains the system to a library patron.

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Foam Insulation 8' \$17.50 Sq.	
Storm Windows \$31.50 Ea.	
COIL STOCK 12" X 50' \$18.50 Ea.	

MAIN OFFICE DETROIT 6450 E. Eight Mile Rd. Detroit, MI 48234 **891-2902**

NOW OPEN PONTIAC 5437 Dixie Hwy. Waterford, MI 48095 **623-9800**

FLINT 11539 Saginaw Rd. Clio, MI 48420 **687-4730**

8 to 6 Daily - 8 to 3 Saturday - CLOSED SUNDAY

If it's a major fire, or a minor oddity, we want a call at The Clarkston News. 625-3370