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TOM RIORDAN

O&E picks executive editor

Thomas A. Riordan, former managing editor of the Jackson (Mich.) Citizen-Patriot, this week became executive editor of the 12 Observer & Eccentric newspapers.

The appointment was announced by general manager John Reddy, who was promoted from the editor's post several months ago.

"In Tom Riordan we are getting an outstanding, highly experienced newspaperman whose background over the last 30 years makes him ideally suited to head up O&E editorial operations," said Reddy.

In addition to a decade in daily newspapers, Riordan has owned and published non-daily papers in Michigan and Ohio.

A 1947 GRADUATE of Michigan State University—where he was editor of the campus newspaper, the Michigan State News—Riordan broke into the professional field as city hall reporter for the Oakland Press, then called the Pontiac Press.

After a year, he joined Detroit Edison as assistant editor of its employee magazine, and in 1950 returned to newspaper work as editor and publisher of the Greenwich (Ohio) Enterprise-Review, a weekly of 1,200 circulation.

Six years later, Riordan became general manager of the Marysville (Ohio) Printing Co., which published three weeklies, but left in 1967 to become editor and co-publisher of the Tecumseh (Mich.) Herald.

He filled that niche until 1967, when he sold his Tecumseh interests to his partner, and then spent a year as

assistant journalism professor at Hillsdale College.

IN 1968, Riordan joined the Citizen-Patriot as a columnist and photographer.

In little more than a year he advanced to picture editor and then managing editor of the 39,000 daily, a position he held eight years until resigning last March.

At that point Riordan formed a Jackson-based newspaper management seminar firm called TARCO, which produced seminars in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois for newspapers, press associations and news executives.

Riordan and his wife, Marilyn, have moved to Farmington, the center of the O&E twice-weekly circulation area—Birmingham, Troy, Rochester, West Bloomfield, Southfield, Farmington, Livonia, Redford, Westland, Garden City, Plymouth and Canton.

County contingency fund is sufficient, budget head says

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

When the Oakland County Board of Commissioners had finally finished pulling and hauling over the 1978 county budget last month, it closed the books with only \$38,000 in reserve for unforeseen expenses or special programs in the coming year.

But it is common practice, however, to hold about one per cent of the budget in contingency. The 78 fund was only 0.5 per cent of the budget.

Based on the board's past track record, some county officials feared the fund might be inadequate to meet emergency expenses in the coming year.

The commissioners last year, for example, voted \$500,000 from the 1977 contingency fund to the Oakland County Road Commission.

Budget Director James T. Brennan, however, allayed those fears this week. He explained that the county's real contingency fund had swelled to about \$836,000—roughly one per cent of the budget.

"I think we're covered," Brennan said, "unless, of course, something drastic happens."

The extra \$500,000 is expected to come from a number of sources, he added.

The budget director said he had underestimated the county's balance from the 1977 budget. Last month, he said \$700,000 would be left over. He now says \$900,000 will remain and the additional \$200,000 will flow into the contingency fund.

He added that another \$200,000 is expected from federal "counter-cyclical" funds, which are determined on the basis of the county's unemployment picture and overall economic climate.

He also said the 1978 budget contained a separate \$100,000 line item to be used to match federal funds for special programs. That sum, Brennan

said, could actually be included as part of the contingency because matching funds had previously been taken out of the contingency budget.

Last month, the board of commissioners, with a flurry of budget amendments, whittled a \$851,000 contingency down to \$38,000.

Metropolitan revenue topic of discussion

"Potential—Actual Public Revenue for Southeast Michigan" will be the fifth in a series of nine discussion papers sponsored by Metropolitan Fund, Inc. It will be delivered at 7:30 p.m. Friday in room 211 of the McKenny Union, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti.

Authors are Drs. Lawrence Schroeder of Syracuse University and David Siquist of Georgia State University. The series explores the economy of southeast Michigan, public services and revenues. Friday's paper will include an evaluation of local revenue sources.

A commenting panel will include Trenton Mayor Robert Boritz; Will M. Caldwell of Ford Motor Co.; Leon S. Cohan of Detroit Edison Co.; Walter E. Douglas, president of New Detroit, Inc.; Dr. John E. Mogk of the Michigan Energy Resource and Research Assn.; and spokespersons for Sen. Donald Riegler and the League of Women Voters of Michigan.

Admission is free. The McKenny Union is at the intersection of Washington and W. Cross streets. It is reached by taking the Westland exit from US-24.

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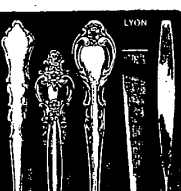
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