public transportation in southeastern Michigan.
And they are compounded if you're blind or physically handicapped, do not have a regular driver, and live outside the City of Petroit.
One person called Wayne and Oak-land counties a "disaster area" for the blind and handicapped:
"It's true," said Shan Toppiwalla, federal aid ecordinator for Oakland County. "Moving from one place to another is very, very difficult for the handicapped throughout the region." In Oakland County, the first attempt to provide countywide diala-ride service has been stailed for several reasons. The earliest estimates predict that the system known as Oakland County, and the service has been stailed for several reasons. The earliest estimates predict that the system known as Oakland County, and County and the service has been stailed for several reasons. The earliest estimates predict that the system known as Oakland County, and County water readically spread out," said Jean Brinley, who is blind and works for the Anderson Countesling Service in Farmington Hills. "We do have (municipal) diala-aride services, but nothing is connected to anything else."

ride services, but nothing is connected

to anything else."
THE PROBLEMS are many and

varied:
•There is no countywide dial-a-ride service available in either Wayne or

•Taxi service outside the City of Detroit is rare. When it is available,

costs for some are prohibitive.

\*Persons willing to become regular drivers for the handicapped are few. According to some handicapped persons, their "regular" drivers are undependable in bad weather.

\*Conventional buses run infrequently in the suburbs on weekends, and runs are curtailed in the suburts between the morning and evening rush hours.

ning rush hours.

"ITS NOT LIKE all we're doing is running around to coffee klatches." Mrs. Brinley said. "We need the transportation for work, for the doctor, for shopping.

"We're all reliant on other people and family. There's nothing we can do independently," she said.

Betsy Schrauder, a counselor at Wayne State University, said the deficiency in transit services also affects college students.

"Some students live on campus because of the transportation problem," she said. "Others are lucky enough to get into car pools:

"It limits students in their total activity," she said.

"I know one person who wanted to commute to Wayne State form Wyandotte. The only way he could work around the transit problem was to give up his apartment and living arrangements and move onto campus," she said.

DAVID BANKS, a public health educator for the Detroit-based Society for the Blind, said, "If we moved out-side Detroit, half of our clientele

couldn't get to us.
"Once we get outside Detroit, the



OCART vans would not only provide dial-a-ride service throughout Oak-land County, but would tie in to normal regional bus service. As the sys-tem is planned, blind and handleapped persons could travel from Oakland County to Detroit, or other parts of the tri-county area. Operation, how-ever, will not begin until at least July 1.

## Handicapped await countywide dial-a-ride re plenty of problems with apportation in southeastern by are compounded if you're physically handicapped, do costs for some are probibitive. \*Persons willing to become regular divers for the handicapped are few. According to some handicapped, do costs for some handicapped are few. Physically handicapped, do costs for some are probibitive. \*Persons willing to become regular divers for the handicapped are few. Physically handicapped, do costs for some handicapped are few. Persons willing to become regular divers for the handicapped are few. Physically handicapped, do costs for some are probibitive. \*Persons willing to become regular divers for the handicapped are few. Persons willing to become regular divers of the handicapped are few. Physically handicapped, do costs for some are probibitive. \*Persons willing to become regular divers for the handicapped are few. Persons willing to become regular divers for the handicapped on the form of the handicapped are few. Some legislature, Meltzer said, has been haggling over standards concepts for the handicapped. Some legislators argue that all buses since the state's most popular counties, SEMTA boasts that it is not of the nation's pioneers in public transportation for the handicapped. Some legislators argue that all buses should be equipped with special wheel-shari lifts. Others said, has been haggling over standards concepts for the handicapped. Some legislators argue that all buses should be equipped with special wheel-shari lifts. Others say only a portion of the handicapped are few. Some legislators argue that all buses should be equipped with special wheel-shari lifts. Others say only a portion of the handicapped are few. Some legislators argue that all buses should be equipped with special wheel-shari lifts. Others say only a state of the many problems in the state's most popular diversion. Some legislators argue that all buses should be equipped with special wheel-shari lifts. Others say only a state of the many pr

blind just have a devil of a time finding their way on public transportation," he said. "It's hard for them to get from Detroit to the suburbs and vice-versa."

Ben Pumo, associate director for the

Ben Pumo, associate director for the Society of the Blind, criticized existing services even more. "As far as the blind are concerned, suburban public transportation is non-existent. Once you get beyond the Detroit city line, the frequency of bases is cut by a third," said Pumo, a Westland resident. Westland resident. Under the property of the work of

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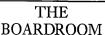
capped.
According to Marvin Meltzer, a
SEMTA spokesman, the transit
authority led the way in setting up
countywide dial-a-ride service in
Macomb, Monroe and Livingston countion.

Macomb, Monroe and Livingston coun-ties.

"We've really been way out in front on this thing," he said.

Elforts to get the countywide service in Wayne and Oakland counties, how-ever, have been roadblocked by a state-ordered moratorium on new bus

The legislature. Meltoer said, has been haggling over standards concerning services for the handicapped. The properties of the handicapped some legislators argue that all buses should be equipped with special wheel-table lifts. Others say only a protion need to carry the equipment. Meltaer said as soon as that impasse is resolved, SEMTA would move forward with plasms to put 32 dial-a-ried whices on the streets of Wayne County and at least 36 dial-a-ried wars into operation in Oakland County. The OCART plan has divided Oakland County into two service areas. The primary service area covers the county's most dereyly populated area in the south and east. The 324-square in the south and east of the south and east. The 324-square in the south and east of the 324-square in the south east of the 324-square in the 324-square in



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