

Modern circuit rider builds apprentice plan

By ELMER E. WHITE

Circuit rider, the term conjures up images of judges trotting their horses through the countryside to do their yearly judicial duty in a given territory. But don't stop there. Think, as the department of education suggests, of the modern circuit rider, "alive and well in Michigan this biannual year."

This circuit rider is a teacher, one who goes from place to place instructing apprentices in the work of seven building trades: electricians, plumbers and fitters, sheet metal workers, iron workers, carpenters, brick masons, painters and decorators.

Michigan's 14 electrical circuit riders travel some 300,000 miles a year in this cooperative venture between local schools, the construction trades and the state board of education.

The program now is in its sixth year. To qualify for the program, an applicant must have a high school diploma and pass an aptitude test and an oral interview. Once these hurdles are passed, the apprentice generally goes to school the equivalent of one day each two weeks and works at the trade the other nine days. The length of the apprenticeship varies from three to five years.

Michigan has 19 apprenticeship training

centers in local school districts and community colleges.

Rehabbing, reviving, generally cleaning up Michigan's criminal code is a massive undertaking. But it's got to be done, according to the chairman of the state bar committee, Stanley J. de Jure.

"Our present code is as useless as just as it is ineffective," says the chairman, Wayne Circuit Judge Horace W. Gilmore. He notes, for instance, that there is a tremendous inconsistency of penalties for various crimes. Leaving a dead check in the state carries a 14-year penalty, while felonious assault involves only a four-year penalty.

"If we expect to improve our capacity to cope with the problem of crime in Michigan," Gilmore declares, "we must give lawyers, judges and law enforcement officials an effective, up-to-date criminal code with which to work."

The 28-member state bar committee, which includes representatives of the attorney general's and governor's offices as well as a variety of state and local law enforcement officers, expects to complete its work by September 1977.

That the proposal will be submitted to the legislature for action.

One such proposal was made in 1967, but it failed to gain approval of lawmakers. Gilmore has higher hopes for this effort.

"We hope that by working closely with representatives from the house and senate, we will create a document that will make a significant contribution to crime prevention in the state and will earn legislative approval."

in areas lacking such public transportation.

After that first year, the community must decide whether it wants to continue dial-a-ride and help pay its operation costs.

You did, and it's curb-to-curb bus service. Dial-A-Ride, the system is called, and it's operating now in 28 Michigan communities, more than in any other state in the nation.

Latest dial-a-ride program is in Easton Rapids, population about 1,000, where a one-year state-funded demonstration program began in late June.

Picking up the tab for the first year is the state department of highways and transportation. The state pays for the initial year of the mini-bus service to introduce the system of low-fare, curb-to-curb busing.

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New jury system proposed

Michigan courts may have the largest and most representative cross-section of jurors in the country if a do-overer is successful with legislation he recently introduced in the state house.

Rep. Jeffrey D. Padden (D-Byron) recently introduced a five-bill package for reform of the state jury system.

The jury reform package includes sponsorship from 11 representatives, eight of whom are members of the judiciary committee.

"With citizens' inexperience eliminated," Padden maintains, "it is possible to get on with needed improvements for more equitable practices."

Padden's proposals would allow for generous deferrals, as is customary in the recently streamlined courts of Wayne County.

trial pilot project in Wayne County has been extremely documented. A comprehensive report of the Wayne plan would be available to other courts.

ALSO, A Wayne County computer system manual is being prepared which, with modification, could be helpful for adjustment to other courts.

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Historic church map available

A new picture-map entitled "Detroit's Historic Churches" is available from the Detroit Historical Museum, the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce or St. Joseph Catholic Church.

The map shows the locations of 38 sites within the Grand Boulevard, Detroit River area which have housed congregations of various ethnic backgrounds over the last century.

The work developed from an idea suggested in the monthly newsletter of the Downtown Vicariate of the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, headed by the Rev. Thomas Brummett. It was prepared through the research of Al Yopp, a high school teacher whose hobby is Detroit history.

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