

Minority survey begins

A survey polling housing needs of minorities is being conducted in the Metropolitan Detroit and Pontiac areas. Sponsored by the Inter-Faith Center for Racial Justice, the state Bicentennial Commissions and Oakland County, its goal is to advance equal housing opportunity in the area. The center hopes to finish collection by mid-October and complete computer analysis by Christmas.

"Building a system which supports this goal is what we are attempting to do," Ann Wettlaufer, project coordinator, explained. "We are working to enlist the aid of governments, minorities and realtors to ensure equal access to housing."

Three thousand questionnaires have been circulated to tap the needs, perceptions, experiences and opinions of minorities.

The information will be used to develop a Homeowners' Guide, available in 1977 to all homeowners. Included will be a color-coded price range map of Oakland County, supplemental information on schools, parks and shopping areas, and a special minorities section outlining legal protection and redress possibilities in cases of discrimination.

The project grew out of a 1974 Southfield Audit testing real estate practices documenting a pattern of racial minority steering south of Ten Mile Road.

The information monopoly of realtors was apparent, Ms. Wettlaufer recalled.

"Some of our testers, black and white, didn't believe they were steered into designated areas until the data was plotted on a map."

ONE OF THE POSITIVE results of the audit was that Southfield began to monitor realtors' practices, she said.

Margaret Landen, Director of the North Suburbs Inter-Faith Center for Racial Justice, spoke of the problem minorities face—assumptions made by whites concerning the needs and wishes of minorities.

"In interviews with representatives from the real estate industry, government and other groups, we often hear statements by whites confidently explaining what blacks and other minorities want in housing," she said. "But in reality, none of us really knows. This attitude leads once again to whites deciding where other groups may live."

The survey was printed through Oakland County's Department of Community and Minority Affairs and was developed by a volunteer team of social scientists including Ann Sheldon, assistant professor of sociology at Wayne State University, Sheldon Appleton, professor of political science at Oakland University, D.L. Landen, director of organization research and development at General Motors, Wilma Hildebrand, director of the Urban Affairs Center at Oakland University, and Jeff Jenks.

deputy director of research and planning, Michigan Department of Civil Rights. Other volunteers include Joan Newby, director of Oakland County Community and Minority Affairs, Betty Hill of Bloomfield Hills, Rita Story and Pam Burns of Pontiac, and Maxine Brady, assistant to the director, Michigan Bicentennial Volunteer Project.

Minority persons wishing to complete the questionnaire may obtain a copy at the following locations: Ms. Newby's office, Oakland County Courthouse, the Urban League office, 30 Wayne Street, Pontiac, or the North Suburbs Inter-Faith Center for Racial Justice, 1669 W. Maple, Farmington Hills.

Connection

A special course in practical applications of metric measurements will be offered four consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning Oct. 13 at the Lawrence Institute of Technology.

Open to the general public, the course will tackle the problems of measurements using the metric system. Special emphasis will be given to everyday household needs as well as aids to buying and traveling. Ray E. Gilford of the General Motors Research Laboratories will be the teacher. Each session will run 7:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

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DALE JOHNSON

Johnson president of camp

Dale E. Johnson of Birmingham has been elected president of Camp Oakland which operates seven youth programs in Detroit.

Johnson, director of engineering analysis at General Motors Corp., succeeds Robert Dearth of Bloomfield Hills, who was named vice chairman of the board.

The organization's directors elected Carl O. Burton co-chairman of the board of directors, along with the present chairman, Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Arthur Moore.

He elected to office are William R. Yaw Jr., vice president; Paul Geiger, treasurer; and Ruth Lansing, secretary.

Adrian Lang has been named to her late husband Samuel's place on the board. Judge Moore, at the board of directors meeting, presented a color photo of Camp Oakland's red barn as a tribute to James and Eva Hunt, who began the summer camping trips which led to the founding of Camp Oakland. Hunt has been director of juvenile services at Oakland County Juvenile Court for 23 years.

Johnson outlined the organization's goals to those attending the board meeting. The first goal, he said, is a program to identify and work with youngsters who are potential problems at a pre-juvenile high level.

Small crops expected

Michigan's harvest this fall is smaller than expected because of the unusually hot weather and scant rainfall, the state revealed, over the summer months.

Apples, peaches and plums are smaller in size this year and the grape crop has been termed a disaster by area agricultural experts who view 10 percent of the normal crop being harvested.

Most state weather stations reported less than the normal amount of rainfall for July and August with the Detroit area reporting only 48 percent of its normal rainfall. And records were set this summer for the number of days above 80 degrees.

From June to September the Detroit area reported 21 days of high temperature. This type of weather, accompanied with many days of low humidity and cool nights added to the unusual stress placed on crops and on our farmlands, said Fred K. Schreck, chief of agricultural meteorology of the National Weather Service at Michigan State University.

Grain crops were also affected by the summer's hot, dry weather with crops down 14 to 22 percent from last year's harvest and total state average of 11 percent.

Corn is down 11 percent with a total reduction of 10 million bushels below last year's crop. Potatoes harvested this fall are down 11 percent below earlier forecasts and winter wheat are down six percent.

In most areas, dry weeds are about 900 plants to the acre, the lowest in 18 years and with an average statewide yield produce 22 percent less than last year's crop.

August was the driest of the two months, Vanderhook said, a time when rain is critically needed for such crops as beans and corn when they are producing grain.

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