

Next comes M-14 to Ann Arbor

I-96, I-275 are 'frosting' on our cake



Mist rises from the early morning cement pourings in the construction of M-14. (Staff photo by Gary Caskey)

Jeffries is big factor in industrial growth

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Manhattan has its "Great White Way"—Broadway. Western Wayne County has the "Great Grey Way"—the Jeffries Expressway.

The Jeffries is a major factor behind recent industrial and commercial development in the county's western end.

Even in Livonia, which has operated a special Industrial Development Commission since 1958, the impact of I-96 is startling.

"We've had more inquiries for office and industrial space in the last six months than we've had in the last six years," said Ray Lech, executive vice-president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce.

"And everybody wants to be within a half-mile of the expressway."

THROUGH THIS year's first 2½ months, 16 buildings worth a total \$6.4

million, were built. Don Gilmartin, industrial development specialist for the city of Livonia, estimated that construction totaling \$5.1 million will be underway before June.

"We've never had this much activity this early," Gilmartin said.

In 1977, new industrial and commercial construction totaled \$16.6 million.

Over the past five years, all construction—residential, commercial and industrial—has doubled in Livonia. In 1972 construction totaled \$40 million. It jumped to \$58 million in 1973, but fell to \$38 million in 1974 and slipped even further in the recession years, 1975 and 1976. Construction totaled only \$31 million in each of those years.

But in 1977, "with the expressway obviously nearing completion," Gilmartin said, construction jumped to \$89.7 million. Even taking inflation

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Highway to Ann Arbor may be open this year

It will soon be a straight shot all the way to Ann Arbor.

If all goes well, M-14 will be opened by the end of the year, according to Frank Simmons, administrative assistant of the metropolitan district of the Michigan State Highway Department.

"We hope to be opening late this year, after a slow start this spring because of the cold weather," said Simmons. He referred to the stretch that will link to the Jeffries Freeway at the I-275 interchange and provide direct access to Ann Arbor and I-94 west. The stretch has been under construction for two years.

"M-14 is complete in Washtenaw County," said Simmons. "The section allowing us up to in urban Plymouth, (I-275 west to Beck Road) where the ground is depressed and must be excavated. The sewers are a problem, along with the re-routing of traffic in the area."

He claims bad weather is the only foreseeable problem that could postpone the tentative opening.

SIMMONS SAYS the Northville Road bridge at Five Mile is virtually complete and the traffic flow over it has resumed. "There is a little paving to be done on the north side, but it should be complete in about a month," said Simmons.

What will be the effect Plymouth and the surrounding area?

"It is inevitable that the opening of M-14 will make Plymouth the hub of availability," said Margaret Wilson, president of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce. "It links us to the whole tri-county area and will be a terrific shot in the arm for our economy."

James McKeon, a director of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, agrees. "M-14 will open up the shopping and eating areas in Plymouth for the residents of the Ann Arbor area," said McKeon. "Plymouth has already experienced a demand for commercial and industrial property after the opening of the Jeffries."

McKeon thinks the effect of M-14

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And we're still growing...

By FRED DeLANO
Progress Section Editor

"Phenomenal" is just one way of describing the growth experienced by western Wayne County and southwestern Oakland in recent years.

"This growth has reached into many phases of life, and the end is nowhere near in sight."

The pages of this special section present an unusual profile of an unusual area. It is a section which puts at your fingertips the full and complete scope of our life and times.

For example:

OURS IS AN AREA in which homes are selling like hotcakes" and in which there has been a business and industrial explosion marked by the fact that "everybody wants to be within a half-mile of the expressway." It sees buildings of many types "sprouting like weeds," yet commu-

nity-by-community population variables have caused many school district enrollments to decline.

An explosion in cultural activities has been accompanied by significant growth in recreational facilities. There is greater use of libraries than ever before. Attendance is up in our 208 places of worship, and our several colleges are booming as a new breed of student has come to the fore.

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, scientific approaches by utilities to conservation of energy, and construction of a solar energy home all point our route to the future.

Yet links with the past are maintained with individual and municipal enthusiasm through historic societies, museums and other efforts.

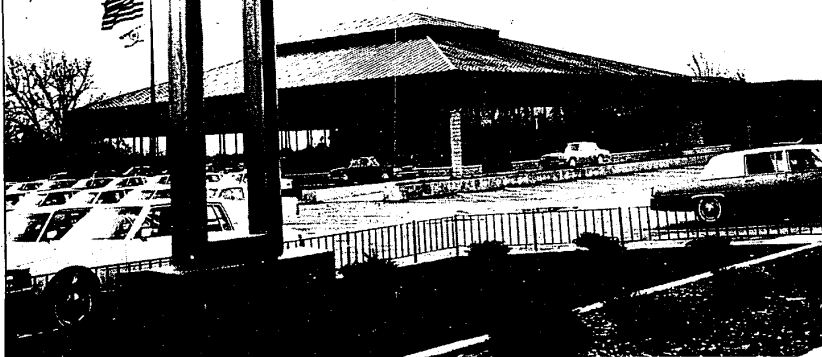
Yesterday—today—and the future: You'll find interesting aspects of all in the pages that follow.

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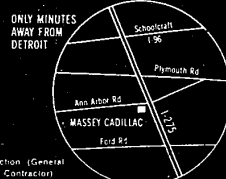
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