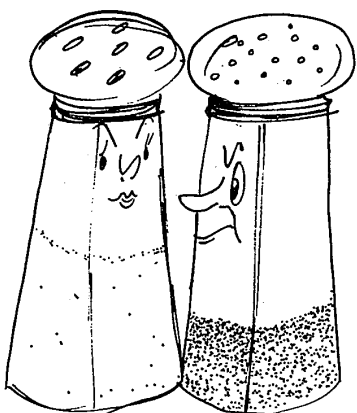


"WHADYA MEAN, YOU'RE
OUTA MY PRICE RANGE!?"



County's salt bill may leap by 20 pct.

Saltling Oakland County's roads this winter is expected to cost three-quarters of a million dollars—just for the salt.

That's based on anticipated use of 40,000 tons of salt at an average price of \$13.75 per ton, said William Richards, county road commission vice-chairman.

"We accepted bids today from both the International Salt Co. and Morton Salt Co. to supply our six regular storage facilities around the county and an emergency 5,000-ton stockpile that will be new this year," said Richards. "The bid prices are up from last year, by an average of about 20 per cent."

International bid \$13.40 to \$15.99 per ton (compared with \$9.90 to \$12.50 per ton in 1977), and Morton bid \$11.80 to \$14.60 per ton (compared with \$9.70 to \$12.50 per ton in 1977). Prices are charged based on delivery to the county facilities. Last winter, 48,000 tons were

used. That much salt would fill the road commission's regular storage capacity of 10,600 tons 4½ times during the season.

To help head off shortage of salt supplies this year, the county has decided to build additional storage.

"We have allocated \$100,000 to creation of a new storage capacity and 5,000 tons of salt to go in it just for emergencies," said Richards. "We've also met with the salt companies, which last year were frequently tardy in making deliveries to replenish our supply."

"Morton, for example, tells us they have increased their own stockpiles in Port Huron and Detroit to lessen chances of their supply being down when the river freezes between here and their Canadian mines."

"International supplies this area from mines in Detroit where loading capacity is one problem experienced in the past."

Honesty may cheat finders of \$875

By DARLENE STINSON

If it weren't for their honest ways, Dale and Lorna Christoffersen would be \$875 richer today. The Nebraska couple has learned the hard way that finders aren't always keepers. And that reporting a wad of bills found under your motel bed doesn't mean that you can keep the unclaimed cash.

But Christoffersens, who farms 160 acres near the tiny town of Hay Springs, Neb., isn't ready to challenge a recommendation that the money be found in a Canton motel 13 months ago be split three ways.

The money the Christoffersens so faithfully reported may wind up with the Nebraska farmers. Canton Township and the owner of the motel.

THE CHRISTOFFERSENS story began more than a year ago when the couple was taking a pre-harvest vacation. On the way to a friend's home in the Michigan thumb area, the couple stopped at Canton's Wilco-Acres Motel on Michigan Avenue for the night.

Before leaving in the morning, Mrs. Christoffersen took a quick peek under the motel bed to make sure she hadn't left her socks behind.

Instead, she discovered a newspaper wrapped around \$875 in loose bills.

"I thought we just had to report it," Christoffersen recalled in a telephone interview with the

Others want share of bounty from under motel bed

Observer on Monday. So, he and his wife immediately called the Wayne County Sheriff's Department.

But instead of filling out a report and handing the money back to the Christoffersens, sheriff deputies stashed the money in their department's vault for a year's safe-keeping.

Deputies told the couple that if the money were not claimed within a year, part of the sum would be awarded to Canton Township under a state law written in the 1840s.

The other portion of the money would be given to the Christoffersens or any other person who filed a claim the money.

BILL MCINTYRE of the Wayne County Corporation Counsel has been pondering division of the Christoffersens' windfall for the last few months.

The Christoffersens and R.J. Peterson, owner of the motel, have filed claims for the money. The person who stashed the money under the motel

bed has never asked for return of the cash.

Last week, McIntyre sent letters to the Christoffersens, Peterson and Canton Township suggesting that the money be split three ways.

"It's just a suggested solution," McIntyre said. "It's cross that bridge when I come to it if all three parties don't sign the agreement."

McIntyre said the case will have to go to court if either the Christoffersens, Peterson or Canton Township decide to "wangle" over the money.

"But none of the parties appear ready for a lawsuit," McIntyre said.

Canton Township may even be willing to give up its share of the money. Township Clerk John Flodin plans to bring up the matter before the township board next Tuesday.

"It just seems to me that Christoffersen should get it," Flodin said. "He was so honest about the whole thing."

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Oakland med school pondered

The Michigan legislature has funded an Oakland University study project to determine the feasibility of establishing extensive health science programs and possibly the state's fourth medical school at the university.

The legislature appropriated \$140,000 for the project to the university in its 1978-79 budget.

Dr. Moon J. Pak, director of the OU Center for Health Sciences, said a committee composed of state and national leaders in medical education is being organized for the study. It will study current and future health care needs in the community, collect state and national health manpower data, project the type of health care delivery system the country will have in the next 15 years, and design a curriculum to train future physicians.

Dr. Pak said if OU were closer to a major city, the university could even avoid building a costly clinical center because of its association with the consortium of area hospitals known as OHEP (Oakland Health Education Program).

OHEP hospital members are: William Beaumont Hospital, Providence Hospital, St. Joseph

Mercy Hospital, Pontiac General Hospital and Crittenton Hospital.

The University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University house the state's three existing medical schools.

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Oakland tax rate unchanged

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners last week unanimously approved a 5.23-mill (\$5.23 for every \$1,000 in state equalized valuation) property tax rate.

The new rate, which will appear on December tax bills and provides funds for the 1979 budget, is unchanged from the 1978 rate.

The county levied 5.23 mills last year and 5.26 mills from 1971 through 1976.

The rate, as applied to the county's \$3.6 billion SEV, will raise an estimated \$45 million in property tax revenues.

The board of commissioners later

this year is expected to adopt a 1979 budget of about \$78 million. That anticipated budget would be a \$4 million increase over 1978 spending levels. It is, however, much less than the \$90 million the county's various departments had requested.

The board also approved the continuation of a ¼-mill levy to help finance the county's parks and recreation department. That levy was last approved by Oakland's voters in May 1976.

The ¼-mill property tax levy would provide the parks department with more than \$2.1 million in revenues.

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