

## OCC will remove Orchard Ridge's landmark gaslights

### Retired dentist begins 13-week column today

There's a saying that some of the most interesting things in the world are "right under your nose."

That is certainly true of our teeth. That's why a 13-week series of articles on the teeth and modern dentistry begins this week on the page opposite the editorial page — "top ed," as we journalists call it.

The writer is Dr. Joseph DeFrancesco, who is retired from private practice but still maintains his home in the area.

He builds his columns on questions friends and patients have asked him over the years. Besides practicing his profession, he enjoys teaching others about it, too.

Dr. DeFrancesco attended Holy

Name Institute (now Catholic Central High School), City College of Detroit (now Wayne State University) and the University of Detroit dental school. He interned at Grace Hospital and practiced later in his out-patient department.

From 1955-57 he was commanding officer of clinics at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., with the Army rank of lieutenant colonel.

Along the way, he studied in Italy at the University of Padua and now teaches Italian at the Gamboa School of Languages.

If you have questions of general interest, send them to this newspaper, and Dr. DeFrancesco will try to respond in his column.

## Added staff, computer help court handle docket

Alimony and child support payments this year are expected to exceed the \$33 million processed by the Oakland County Friend of the Court in 1978.

The addition of three new Sixth Judicial Circuit Court Judges and supporting staff of the Court staff earlier this year, plus a new computer review system started last month, should increase the number of support cases before the court, said Chief Judge Richard Kuhn. More than 45,000 children fall under the support orders of the circuit court.

The review system will analyze each case four times a year to determine if proper payments are being made. All child support and alimony service fees must be paid to avoid the review system.

Child support dealers are necessary for the physical support of the child, but Judge Kuhn said the bench is also committed to the emotional support of the children.

Custodial parents will not be allowed to deny the visiting parent access to the child without just cause. The court considers support and visitation matters separate and distinct issues. Judges will not try to determine whether support was withheld or visitation denied first, it will direct compliance with its orders by both parents.

Coordination of the court enforcement effort is directed by Fred Mester, court administrator and John Houghton, of the Friend of the Court.

Mester said a combination of service fees and incentive collections have made the Friend of the Court/Alimony and Support operation self-sustaining since 1975.

A request for two additional Friend of the Court attorneys to provide an individuals attorney to each court will be included in the 1980 budget.

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Long strings of gaslights, a controversial landmark of the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College, are coming out.

The OCC board is advertising for bids for an estimated \$375,000 conversion to electricity. Target completion date is Oct. 5.

When the campus was opened in 1967, the gaslights were considered charmingly atmospheric and small town. With the environmental movement of the early 1970s and the energy pinch of the mid-'70s, however, Orchard Ridge's gaslights became the target of derisive criticism.

Orchard Ridge is south of the I-696 freeway, between Orchard Lake and

Farmington roads, in Farmington Hills.

OCC officials said operating costs for electric lights would be about \$1,500 a year. Operating costs for the gaslights — including gas, maintenance and a vehicle — are about \$32,000.

When the \$375,000 conversion cost is added in and amortized over a 20-year period, the cost of electricity is still only one-third the cost of gas, according to Orchard Ridge Provost Richard T. Thompson.

The conversion is being designed by the architect/engineering firm of Hoyem-Basso Associates, Inc., Bloomfield Hills.

Bids will be opened May 24 and the

contract awarded June 7.

In other Orchard Ridge news, the J Building will be renamed for John H. Tirrell, first president of OCC. Tirrell is now with the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges in Washington, D.C.

Dedication ceremonies will take place Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m.

A 7 building houses student activities and the hospitality facilities. "It contains the finest culinary arts facilities in the state," said Thompson, "and was Jack Tirrell's pet project."

A portrait of Tirrell, executed by area artist Joseph Maniscalco, will be unveiled by Earl Anderson, vice chairman of the OCC Board of Trustees. Dr.

Tirrell will present the closing remarks of the ceremony with a reception following.

Tirrell, 52, who served as OCC's first president from 1964 to 1968, is currently vice president for government affairs at the Washington-based American Association of Community and Junior Colleges (AACJC).

A former resident of Bloomfield Hills, Dr. Tirrell and his wife, Louise, reside in the Washington area.

Under Tirrell's leadership, the award-winning Orchard Ridge campus was built, making OCC a three-campus institution. OCC gained national recognition for its audio-tutorial approach to education.

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