

Plymouth Growth Measured By New Schools

By GLENNA MERILLAT

If the growth of an area can be measured by the number of schools and proposed schools, Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township are booming.

Nearly a century ago Plymouth boasted a single building, which included a primary, grammar and high school under one roof. Enrollment in 1889 was 290.

In September 1969, 14 schools opened their doors to a record enrollment of nearly 9,500 students.

ISBISTER ELEMENTARY on

Canton Center Road and Pioneer Middle School on Ann Arbor Trail were opened and accommodated their share of the largest enrollment in the district's history.

Fiegel Elementary's addition was completed in time for the 1969-70 school year, easing what would have been crowded conditions in that school.

It was thought that both of Plymouth's "country schools" would be closed with other buildings in the system absorbing their enrollment. Geer, however, received a reprieve and opened as usual.

Perhaps the most long-awaited addition to the 55-square mile dis-

trict is Plymouth High School No. 2, located in the Centennial Education Park in Canton Township.

Parking lots, bus and traffic driveways were installed in the fall leaving only landscape and interior work to be completed.

The growth of Plymouth's schools is in an outwardly direction with plans for a high school in Canton Center under consideration and elementary school No. 10 slated for Plymouth township.

WITH THIS RAPID growth have come "problems" in policy and budget. A millage election is scheduled for March 9 in which the Board of Education is seeking

a 3.25 mill renewal for operational costs.

If the system fails to get the required funds it will have to drastically reduce its teaching staff and programs.

The estimated budget for the 1970-71 school year totals \$8,556,678, more than \$1.3 million over the current operating budget.

GROWTH IN THE district with the new high school located in Canton Township has posed problems and questions in the form of protection.

Gone will be the across-the-street arrangement of Police department and high school.

If the new school opens on schedule in September of this year there will be ambulance, fire, police protection to consider. Plans are underway now to take care of all three with attention also being given to improvements of the main traffic arteries surrounding the school.

These are a few of the complexities that arise when a community such as Plymouth begins to boom on the school front and from all indications the city and township have just begun to expand.

A reported estimate is that 18 new schools will be needed for the future.

Industrialists Are Advised: 'Go West', To Westland

"Go West" is the advice Westland city officials have for prospective industrialists looking for a new location for new facilities.

The Westland community has designated most of the western half of the city for its future industrial development.

The land is mostly vacant at present but a master plan approved by the planning commission two years ago calls for boosting of its industrial base from its current 174 acres to a proposed 840 acres.

IN A MASTER plan designed for the year 2000, former city planning director Eugene Katz said:

"The industrial areas of the city will lie between the (proposed) inner and outer loop roads paralleling the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. The industrial area generally follows the pattern of existing industrial zoning in terms of location but has been consolidated, expanded, and unified into a more coherent and organized pattern.

"It is proposed that a lighter industrial use should be located in the area between Warren and Ford Roads, west of Hix. This land has access to the C&O Railroad and to Ford Road, which is an all-season road.

"In addition to this, the development of Warren into a major

road entering Canton Township to the west and the improvement of Hix will provide access from all sides."

THE FORMER PLANNING director said in his report that "it is evident that some problems exist in reaching this optimum state which the plan proposes, however, it is reasonable to assume that over a period of 32 years, this plan could be achieved."

A second area in Westland that may have a potential for industrial development, Katz said, is the land in the southern portion of the city bounded by Mer-

riman, Michigan, Henry Ruff and Van Born.

Most of the land is now owned by Wayne County but the property just south of the parcel could

be utilized for industrial purposes if it were planned and developed into large industrial parks.

That section of the city is close to the I-94 Freeway and the Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

GM Has Race Films Ready

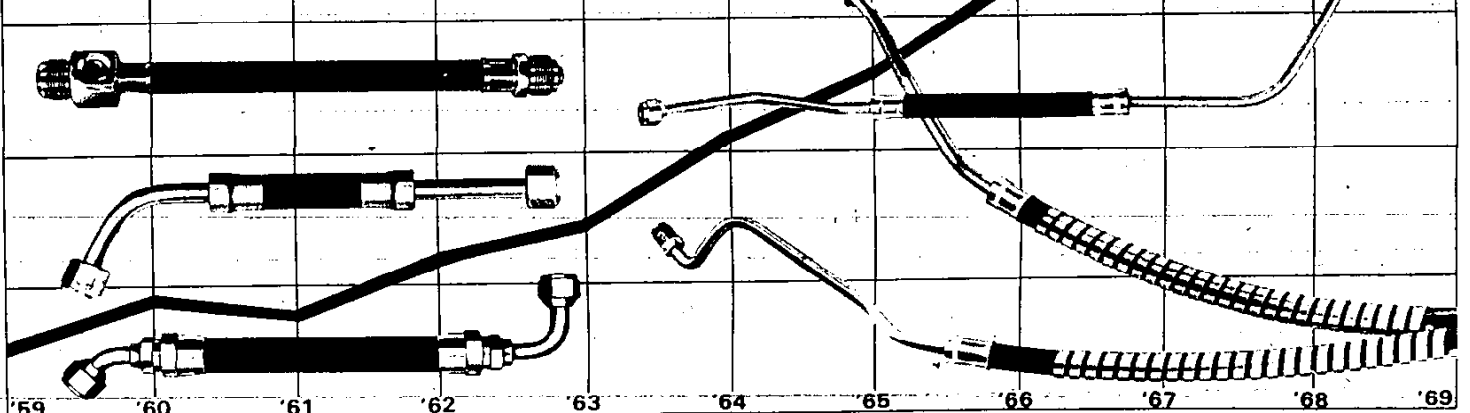
A highly unusual film celebrating the excitement of open-wheel race cars has been released by Ford Motor through its film library. "Formula Ford," an 11-minute documentary on the new Sports Car Club of America racing class, was filmed on location at Michigan International Speed-

way prior to and during the SCCA national championship event in September, 1969.

The color film is available without charge for group showings in the United States and Canada through the Ford Film Library, The American Road, Dearborn, Mich., 48121.

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