

# County In Squabble On Rouge Pollution

By W.W. EDGAR  
Wayne County commissioners will try this week to end a dog-fight between the Road Commission and the elected drain commissioner over supervision of anti-pollution efforts on the Middle Rouge River.

**The Drain Commissioner says his office has authority to tackle Middle Rouge pollution problems, and no new agency is needed.**

A special meeting of the commissioners' reorganization committee has been called for Thursday (April 9) morning. It was requested by C. Pursell R. Plymouth, commissioner from the 26th district.

"I think this squabble has been going on long enough," Pursell declared, "and I have asked that all parties concerned be brought together in an effort to iron things out."

IN ESSENCE, a public works engineer for the Road Commission says no one has clear jurisdiction over the Rouge and that either one existing agency should be given authority or a new agency formed. But Drain Commissioner Henry Herick says the existing drain code gives him sufficient authority to tackle the job.

At the meeting will be officials of the Road Commission, the drain commissioner, the State Water Resources Commission and the Detroit Water Board.

The fight got started in July of 1968 when the State WRC asked the County Road Commission to hold a meeting of the commissioners involved to develop recommendations to stop the deterioration of the Middle Rouge, which starts in

Novi and flows through Northville, Plymouth, Livonia and Westland to Dearborn Heights.

In that letter, it was asked that the studies be closely coordinated with the Wayne County Department of Public Works, that the governmental units outline a plan for corrective action, where need for such is indicated; and that the information be submitted to the commission (Conservation Commission at that time) and the Michigan Department of Public Health for review by Jan. 1, 1970.

On Feb. 11, Herick addressed a scorching letter to Rudy Hickey, chairman of the Wayne County Public Works Committee in which he took exception in no uncertain terms. "I wish to take exception to the report's statement that a major obstacle to the implementation of Water Pollution Control Programs is that there is no single governmental agency with jurisdiction extending over the entire watershed or with authority to direct the diverse activities necessary for such programs."

"THIS IS NOT TRUE," Herick said emphatically.

He stated that the present drain law contains two divisions: Chapter 20-21 of the Drain Code, wherein communities in one county can petition a drainage board, consisting of the drain commissioner of the county, chairman of the Board of Supervisors and chairman of the Board of Auditors for public improvements located inside the county.

"As the drain commissioner of the County of Wayne," Herick wrote, "we have constructed \$75 million of these public improvements through the utilization of Chapter 20 of the Drain Code in the past 12 years. We have another \$150 million of these public improvements under engineering design and contract at the present time."

Herick further pointed out in his letter that under Chapter 21 of the Drain Code, a governmental agency is created.

"I specifically call your attention to Sections 539 to 545 wherein watershed projects extending over more than one county can be petitioned for, financed and built. Under Chapter 20 of the Drain Code

sanitary drain projects, treatment plants and any portion of a sanitary system can be financed and constructed. Under Chapter 21 of the Drain Code this office has completed and built the Milk River plant and various drain systems to service Macomb and Wayne County at a cost of approximately \$20 million."

CARRYING HIS protest a bit further, Herick continued: "Presently the drain office has a resolution, passed by the Detroit Common Council, authorizing the Detroit Water Board and its director, Gerald Remus, to coordinate the Rouge River improvements with the drain commissioner's office."

"We have had informal discussions with Mr. Remus concerning this program. The improvements of financing and constructing such a program on the Rouge River could be built under Chapter 21 of the Drain Code. This would eliminate the flood conditions and eliminate basement and street flooding in Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw counties, with the least possible cost to the taxpayers."

Herick then pointed out the method that can be pursued to bring about such improvements.

"The building of said sanitary or stormwater, multiple-county, drain projects is accomplished by filing of a petition with the drain commissioner of the counties involved by at least two public corporations; a public hearing is held as to the necessity of the project and a drainage district is composed of the various public corporations benefited and assessed for the cost of the project in accordance with its constitution."

The drain commissioner concluded his letter by pointing out the constitutional requirement of today's processes has been tested under provisions of the Drain Code and public hearings are held where any public corporation or taxpayer may object to the programs.

He further pointed out that under the DPW act, the serious question exists as to whether due process is provided wherein a taxpayer may object to the project for which he must pay taxes. Instead, agreements are reached by the communities involved and the DPW.

"THIS QUESTION," he wrote, "has never been submitted to be tested in court and various attorneys have divergent viewpoints as to the legality of the DPW's actions with respect to due process provision of our state and federal constitutions."

He closed by saying: "In conclusion, I respectfully submit that the proper agency to undertake the construction of the improvements to the various branches of the Rouge River would be the Wayne County drain commissioner in cooperation with the various communities, and the drain commissioner of adjacent counties. This kind of procedure would result in the least possible expense to the taxpayers of the County of Wayne and the taxpayers of the other counties involved."

So far, according to Commissioner Pursell, the DPW has not offered a rebuttal, and it is hoped that it will be presented and the problem solved at Thursday's special meeting.

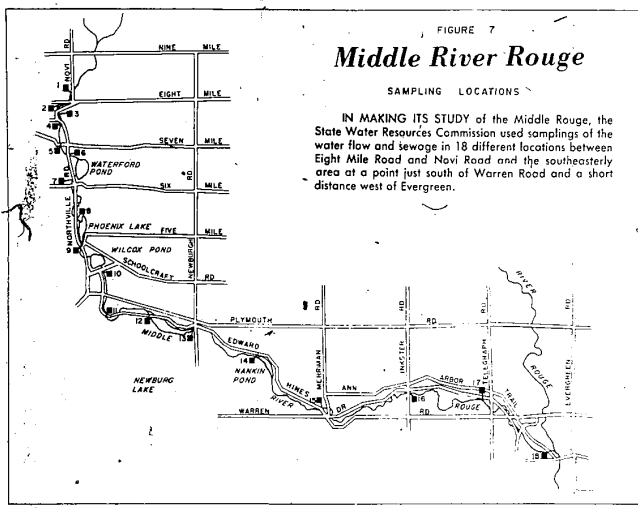


FIGURE 7 Middle River Rouge

IN MAKING ITS STUDY of the Middle Rouge, the State Water Resources Commission used samplings of the water flow and sewage in 18 different locations between Eight Mile Road and Novi Road and the southeasterly area at a point just south of Warren Road and a short distance west of Evergreen.

# Parochial Foes Start Drive For The Ballot

By LEONARD POGGER

A petition drive has been launched this week in Wayne County to have Michigan voters decide the issue of direct public support of parochial and private schools.

Leaders hope to get up to 500,000 signatures on a petition to force the issue to be placed into the November election.

Dr. Kenneth Carman, member of the Garden City Board of Education and a physician, is Wayne County coordinator for the drive.

He has named Richard Croll, region II director for the Michigan Education Association and a former Garden City teacher, as the director of the petition drive in the out-county area.

Mrs. Clara Rutherford has been named petition drive director for Detroit.

THE PETITION DRIVE is being organized and carried out by the Michigan Council Against Parochialism (CAP), which serves as an "umbrella" for dozens of organizations opposed to public support for private schools. Dr. Carman said.

At a press conference held in the region II office of the MEA in Garden City Monday, Dr. Carman expressed confidence that the question would be defeated by the voters.

He said that several polls have shown that 60 to 70% of those surveyed opposed public support for private schools.

The petition specifically would lead to a public vote in the fall on changing the state constitution, which already prohibits the use of taxes for parochial schools.

But the constitutional amendment is needed, Dr. Carman said, because some legislators are "always looking for loopholes" in the constitution to give public support for parochial schools.

The proposed amendment would not prohibit the current practice of public schools busing parochial school students or providing auxiliary services to those students.

Dr. Carman said he hopes that the petition drive would collect 15,000 signatures in Wayne County.

parochial issue on the fall ballot.

The time-table calls for the petitions to be returned to county coordinators by May 15 and delivered to the secretary of state office in Lansing by May 28.

The headquarters for the county's Wayne County petition drive will be in the MEA regional office at 2240 Middle Belt, Garden City.

The Wayne County campaign coordinator also recalled that the Council Against Parochialism has sent a letter and a pen to Gov. William Milliken, along with a pe-

tion for him to circulate on his own.

The pen sent to Milliken is the one Dr. Carman used to sign the first signature in the anti-parochial petition campaign.

DR. CARMAN SAID that thousands of members in dozens of organizations are involved in the petition drive.

These include the MEA and Michigan Federation of Teachers, professional teachers' organizations United Methodist Church, Detroit Pastors Association, Metropolitan Council of Churches, Michigan

Association of School Boards, Trade Union Leadership Council, among others.

He said that the council's main objection to parochial is that "public funds should be used for public institutions and parochial is not in the best interests of public education."

Dr. Carman also said that the \$22 million currently proposed for support of private schools "is just a foot in the door and the funding will eventually reach \$200 million, or full support of parochial schools."



PAROCHIAL IS THE topic discussed by leaders of a petition campaign to get a state constitution amendment on the November ballot to restrict public support of private schools. Wayne County petition drive leaders are (from left) Richard Croll, Dr. Kenneth Carman and Mrs. Clara Rutherford. (Observer photo)

# What County DPW Suggested

Here is the complete summary and recommendations for improvements for the Middle Rouge River made by the Wayne County Department of Public Works in the program to fight the war on pollution!

### SUMMARY

1. The Middle Rouge River is seriously degraded and programs to correct this situation should be implemented as quickly as possible.
2. No existing authority has sufficient jurisdiction to effectively direct or finance all of the programs that will be required to significantly improve the condition of the Middle Rouge River.
3. Sufficient information is not available to determine the principal causes of the pollution.
4. The DPW is conducting a program to determine the amount of wastewater actually entering the Middle Rouge Interceptor from each of the areas served.
5. The DPW is also conducting several other programs which will directly or indirectly help to reduce the polluting effect of combined-sewer overflows.
6. A policy regarding treatment of storm water should be established before a decision is

made on whether to separate combined systems or treat combined overflows.

7. Present methods of separating combined sewer systems is (sic) not entirely acceptable, and other methods should be considered.

8. Where combined sewers are required to be separated because of the degrading effect of overflows in the receiving stream, part of the cost should be supported by state and federal grants.

9. The recent imposition of an "excess sewage charge" should influence the combined sewer communities to construct separate outfalls for separated systems presently connecting to combined sewers.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. An existing authority should be designated, or a new authority created with powers to implement the programs which will be required to significantly improve the condition of the Middle Rouge River.
2. A comprehensive program should be established to continually monitor the water quality of the Middle Rouge River.
3. Separate outfalls should be constructed as quickly as possible for all separated systems presently connected to combined systems which overflow to the Middle Rouge River.

**THE HARRIS BROADCASTER**

**RUMMAGE SALE**  
Garden City Senior Citizens  
Friday, April 17 - 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Saturday, April 18 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
East High School  
6500 Middlebelt Road

**DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS**  
Saturday, April 18 - All Day  
Students of Livonia's six High Schools will solicit funds for scholarships door-to-door.

**MILLIONAIRES PARTY**  
D.A.V. Chapter No. 123  
Saturday, April 11 - 8 p.m.  
Moose Hall - 29273 Ford Road  
Tickets: Mr. Kustra - 427-6548  
Donation: \$3.00 Single \$5.00 Couple

**RUMMAGE SALE**  
Saturday, April 11 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
St. Matthew United Methodist Church  
Six Mile Road, East of Merriman  
Information: Mrs. Jean Moody - 474-3381

To publish the notice of your organization activity, contact, in person, Thomas F. Rost, Mgr., Garden City Chapel, or David R. Whitney, Mgr., Livonia Chapel.

R.G. & G.R. SINCE 1910  
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# Anderson Will Study Biology Of Desert

Roger Anderson, biology instructor at Schoolcraft College, has been selected to participate in a National Science Foundation summer institute in "Desert Biology" at Arizona State University June 22 to August 1.

# Schoolcraft Grads Will Hear Price

Harrison T. Price, manager of the Chevrolet Motor Division's Spring and Bumper plant in Livonia, will be speaker at the fifth annual spring commencement ceremonies at Schoolcraft College on Sunday, May 3.

Price, better known as "Bing" to his associates, is no stranger to higher education. He presently is a member of the Board of his alma mater, Tri-State College at Angola, Ind., and formerly served as a member of the governing board of Saginaw Valley College.

Price took his undergraduate work at Tri-State, and earned a master's degree in industrial management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology after completing studies as a Sloan Fellow. He is a past president of the Society of Sloan Fellows at MIT.

THE LIVONIA plant which he heads employs about 3,000 persons in the manufacture of bumpers, springs, and stampings. It contains what is believed to be the largest chrome plating facility in the world. Price joined Chevrolet as a student engineer in 1948 at the Detroit Gear & Axle plant. He was made a production foreman there in 1949, general foreman of production later that year, divisional superintendent of production in 1952 and was assigned to special labor relations projects in 1955. He was promoted to general superintendent of production at the division's transmission

plant at Saginaw the following year and was named operations manager at the Chevrolet Automatic Transmission plant in Cleveland in 1960.

The next year Price was promoted to manager of the Cleveland Transmission plant and later returned to the Saginaw Transmission plant in the same capacity.

WHILE AT Saginaw, Price was president and director of the Greater Saginaw Chamber of Commerce, president of the Greater Saginaw Safety Council, president of the Saginaw Exchange Club and chairman of the General Motors Saginaw Plant City Committee.

He also was a member of the board of trustees of Saginaw Osteopathic Hospital and was vice-president of the Saginaw United Fund. He was a member of the board of directors of the Saginaw YMCA and the Downtown Improvement Corporation.

At Livonia he is past president and member of the board of Livonia Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the advisory board of the Livonia YMCA Capital Funds Committee. He is a member of the Livonia Rotary Club, chairman of the General Motors Livonia plant city committee, and was 1966 chairman of the Livonia Junior Achievement Fund.

A native of Topeka, Kansas, Price was an Eighth Air Force fighter pilot in Europe during World War II. He left the Air Force with the rank of captain.