

A long road

Highway has historical reputation

By Mary Lou Callaway
special writer

Who killed the extension of Northwestern Highway through West Bloomfield from its present terminus at Orchard Lake Road and 14 Mile? Back in 1929, Northwestern was built as a "benefit road" (two lanes of pavement) from Eight Mile in Detroit to Orchard Lake Road. Property owners who lived within a mile of the highway were to pay a special assessment to finance it.

The Depression scuttled that plan when few landowners could pick up the tab. The Oakland County Road Commission (OCRC) took over financing the project.

But nothing was done until 1957 when the Michigan State Highway Commission entered the picture by selling \$25 million worth of bonds to run for 20 years. That was spent to build a wider section between Eight Mile and Telegraph to accommodate the Northland Shopping Center in Southfield.

STILL A DOTTED line, the highway extension was expected to run from Orchard Lake Road to Haggerty and connect with the proposed M-275 expressway in Commerce Township.

In 1970, a West Bloomfield Township group of 30 landowners and developers formed the Northwestern Area Council to lobby with the state for the extension's construction. Local officials and planning commissioners were solidly behind the extension.

But many citizens groups entered the picture beginning with CLURE (Citizens Council for Land Use Research and Education). They asked for an eco-

nomic, social and environmental impact statement, as required by new federal laws, before federal money could be released for highway.

Other groups joined in, such as League of Women Voters, Concerned Citizens for West Bloomfield, Farmington Hills Homeowners and Concerned Citizens for Franklin. They asked Gov. William Milliken to stop land acquisition for the extension until after public hearings took place.

PRESSURE INCREASED to rezoned residential land. Land was rezoned for the Jewish Community Center, Henry Ford Hospital and Win Schuler's restaurant, all in West Bloomfield.

In 1976, Milliken ordered a halt to right-of-way acquisition for the nearly 10-mile extension. Now, there were more citizen groups involved to stop the highway including Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Committee, Rouge Basin Coalition, Detroit Audubon Society, Michigan Federation of Business and Professional Clubs and several subdivisions.

Meanwhile, the OCRC argued it had a binding contract with the state to extend the highway. In 1979, the state ordered the extension canceled.

John Grubba, OCRC managing director, told the West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce at the time: "Unless M-275 is built, Northwestern will not be built. It looks like a no-build." He called the opposition to both freeways "a coalition of bird lovers." Others described them as "trecks in tennis shoes."

IRONICALLY, the state still has M-275 on hold. Federal and state road funds have dried up and that helped kill Northwestern.

But it all began at the grassroots level, here in West Bloomfield, when just a few residents asked questions and found support to keep residential area in the township, despite pressure for more commercial development if the highway went through.

Now the only alternative to handle increased traffic is to widen existing roads. One plan is for Maple to become a boulevard from Orchard Lake Road west. Another plan is to complete the widening of Orchard Lake Road, from Maple to Will-o-way, currently slated for 1984.

Most local officials now have changed their views on the extension issue. The planning commission is expected to vote formally to erase the dotted highway line from the master plan. A year ago the commission agreed 8-1 to delete it. Bruce Bergoff was the only holdout. A poll of the Township Board showed only Supervisor John Doherty and Trustee Weldon Yeager are still for keeping it.

A suggested compromise of extending the highway from 14 Mile to Maple appears to have evaporated.

THE OCRC STILL wants its contract with the state honored, a spokesman said. The Michigan Supreme Court turned down the OCRC's suit for failure to continue the highway, but said the

county could sue for performance or damages. No action has been taken yet. Township subdivisions have been approved and some built in the highway's right-of-way. A proposed expansion of the acreage in a Haggerty Road industrial park zone only is possible with the highway's deletion.

Doherty still will not declare the highway dead. "On 688, they built cities on the right-of-way," Doherty said. "They (state officials) haven't got enough intestinal attitude to do the right thing, so they do the politically expedient thing that brings more (future) costs."

"HOW IS TRAFFIC that's going to come through here going to get through without it? You can't just erase it. Something has to go in its place and they (state) haven't said what that will be. Widenning Maple won't do it... no way... no way."

"You can't blame the planning commission (for deleting it)," Doherty added. "Why should one little community try to defend something the state won't defend when we could wind up in court for not giving building permits?"

That was his explanation for telling the West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce last week that Northwestern was dead "only in the minds of some people."

CLASSES • CLASSES • CLASSES • CLASSES • CLASSES

We Can Teach You:

Tote & Decorative Painting • Mini & Large Canvas Painting • Folk Art-Beginning & Advanced • Flower Arranging & Bridal Bouquets • Candlewicking • Counted Cross Stitch • Chicken Scratch • Stenciling • Fabric Painting • Pine Cone Wreath & Trees • Fabric Frames & Lampshades • Ribbon Wreath & Hoops • Soft Sculpture-Witch & Angel • Plastic Canvas • No Sew Calico Characters • AND MUCH MORE!

Fall Class Schedule Now Available
for classes beginning now thru Dec.

COUPON!

10% off all
Arts & Crafts Supplies
with this coupon thru Oct. 15, 1983

Supplies For All Your Art & Craft Needs

Which-Craft 
17162 Farmington Rd. Corner Six Mile
LIVONIA • 425-0410

Do Your Own LANDSCAPING!

SAVE 20% to 50%
On All Trees, Shrubs, Evergreens.

English Gardens



JAPANESE YEW
12 to 15-inch
REG. 10.98
6.98

POPULAR ARBORVITAE
2 to 3 Ft. Size
REG. 25.98
14.98

BURNING BUSH
12 to 15-inch
REG. 25.98
15.98

COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE
2 to 3 Ft. Size
REG. 24.98
19.98

FREE Printed Landscaping Plans or Over-The-Counter Plans at English Gardens



SALE, Fall Fertilizer
REG. 11.49 REG. 19.95
5,000 Sq. Ft. 10,000 Sq. Ft.
8.95 16.95



Bag Goods Sale 3 for \$10
Reg. 3.98 ea. Any Three
• Pine Bark Mulch, 3 Cu. Ft.
• Cypress Mulch, 2 Cu. Ft.
• Volcanic Rock, 2 Cu. Ft.

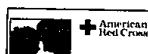


FREE Garden Clinics
Saturdays, 1:00 P.M.
WEST BLOOMFIELD
Oct. 1 - Attraction Birds
Oct. 8 - Garden Border Lights
Oct. 15 - Spring Succulent Plants
Oct. 22 - Growing With Flowers
Oct. 29 - African Violets
DEARBORN
Oct. 1 - Urban Trees
Oct. 8 - Beautifying Your Home With Fresh Flowers
Oct. 15 - Attraction Birds
Oct. 22 - Spring Succulent Plants

Bulb Sale
Holland Imports
10 for 1.98
100 for \$18
1000 for \$180
reg. large No. 3 size
TRIP PRICED special group
of 11 varieties. Top Size.



Ground Covers
Pachysandra and
Baltic Ivy Plants
100 Plants
REG. 24.98 **19.98**
15 Plant Packs
REG. 3.98... **3.49**


Promise Someone a Special Gift...
Blood... The Gift of Life

Today is the first day of the rest of your life.
Give blood,
so it can be the first day of somebody else's, too.

Red Cross is counting on you.

D & D BICYCLE

Westland 8383 Middlebelt 522-BIKE
(1/4 Mile North of Ann Arbor Trail)

LOW, LOW PRICES ON ALL BIKES

- All Bicycles assembled at no extra charge with FREE Spring Tune-Up
- Club Discounts
- 23 Brands of Bicycles American and Imported
- 10 Hots any bike 'til Christmas

Layaway for Christmas
31st Month Any Bike 'til Christmas

• FUJI	• COLUMBIA	• SCORPION	• ECLIPSE
• BIANCHI	• TREK	• MONGOOSE	• AVOCET
• NISHIKI	• SHOGUN	• REDLINE	• CANNONDALE

\$79.95 BMX BICYCLE HUFFY 2030	\$119.95 10 SPD. RACERS HUFFY 2682 & 2681
\$94.95 AMX HUFFY 2032	\$129.95 HUFFY 2682 & 2683

15% OFF ALL CLOTHING & RACING GEAR

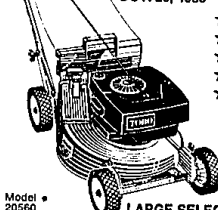
WE DON'T SELL RUSSIAN LAWN MOWERS

H & R'S GREAT TRADE SALE! **TORO**

WE REALLY NEED OLD LAWNMOWERS
\$50 to \$100 For Your TRADE-IN
ON PURCHASE OF NEW TORO MOWER

PRICED FROM \$269.95

INCLUDING TRADE IN -PLUS-
SALE ENDS OCT. 29, 1983



- "H & R'S EXCLUSIVE"**
- ★ FREE 2 Gal. Gas Can
 - ★ FREE 20 Oz. Engine Oil
 - ★ FREE 2 Yr. Warranty
 - ★ FREE Assembly & Prep
 - ★ FREE Lifetime Blade Sharpening

"10 Gal. Gas FREE"
If H & R can't meet your best advertised price.

4 in 1 VERSATILITY
Rear Bag, Side Discharge, Mulch, or spread leaves
Any valid ad qualifies

LARGE SELECTION OF DEMOS AT 25% OFF

AMERICA'S LARGEST TORO DEALER
H & R HARDWARE N-1-98
27430 JOY RD. W MONSTER TELEGRAPH
Mon. thru Fri. 10-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-3 JOY RD.

SNAPPER SALE

PRICED FROM \$269.95
-PLUS-
MINIMUM \$2500 FOR TRADE-IN

FREE choice of one, SNAPPERIZER, MULCHERIZER, OR THATCHERIZER, VALUE to \$44.95

- FREE 2 GAL. GAS CAN & OIL
- FREE 2 YR. WARRANTY
- FREE ASSEMBLY & PREP
- FREE LIFETIME BLADE SHARPENING

Model 21351P
21 INCH SELF PROPELLED \$442.95
"FEATURING"
• 6 Forward Speeds • Hi-Vac Cutting Chamber
• Fingertip Height Adjustment • Solid Axle

THE STORE WITH YOUR BEST PRICE AND SERVICE
JUST ASK YOUR NEIGHBOR!

BUY NOW! NO MONTHLY PAYMENTS UNTIL JAN. '84
When you buy a SNAPPER in Sept. (Finance charges accrue from date of purchase)

MICHIGAN'S LARGEST SNAPPER DEALER
H & R HARDWARE N-1-98
27430 JOY RD. W MONSTER TELEGRAPH
Mon. thru Fri. 10-8, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-3 JOY RD.

Scott's Greenview ORTHO PRODUCTS ALL 40% OFF

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST - EXTRA SPECIAL - GRASS SEED 50% OFF

MICHIGAN'S LARGEST SNAPPER DEALER
H & R HARDWARE N-1-98
27430 JOY RD. 421-5161
Mon. thru Fri. 10-8, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-3

KEROSENE HEATER SALE

ALL NAME BRANDS
priced from **\$97.00**
while supplies last

H & R WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!
ANY VALID AD QUALIFIES
Pre-Season Maintenance Special
Install new wick, clean burner, check fuel system and automatic ignition. **\$6.99** plus parts
H & R HARDWARE
27430 JOY RD. 421-5161
Mon. thru Fri. 10-8, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-3