## Guidebook outlines services for elderly

Chrysler's Lee Iacocca may have written a runa-way best seller about his rise to fame, but his long-time pal at Ford Motor Co., Walter T. Murphy, has small hit's on his hands in Oakland County, Murphy, retired director of Ford's worldwide publicity operation, was mentioned no less than four times in Iacocca's autoblography. But you won't find Lee in Murphy's book. What you will find is almost required reading for anyone contemplating growing old and needing some help to get there.

ENTITLED "Caring and Sharing," it's a self-described "comprehensive guidebook" to the hundreds of services and programs in Oakland County that help persons over 60 "cope with their wide range of speal needs," the book was pensed by Murphy, a Beverly Ellis resident, and John R. Keeler, director of Sheitering Arma a Birmingham day-care center for eldering senior citizens, operated by Oakland County Catholic Social Services.

lic Social Services.

"The information network that retirces had while they were working doesn't fulfill their needs after retirement," said Koeler. "When people retire, they got very frustrated and confused by misinformation. What they need is to put things into perspective: what's available, where to go and who is rendering it."

THE WRITERS say there are 160,000 retirees over 65 in Oakland County. Those over 75 number 50,000. And that figure is expected to double between the years 1900 and 2000.
While national directories have been printed with information about services and programs for the elderly, this effort marks the first time a local col-



Walter Murphy (right) said he was living his golden years and decided to learn more about them by taking a gerontology class from John Keeler. They met there

lection of information has been put together. And so far, response from related agency providers has been great.

"We have a small hit on our hands," Murphy excitedly proclaimed one day last week. The project started one year ago when Murphy, enrolled in a gerontology class Keeler teaches obtained to manually College, asked a simple question.

"We had been studying the national service network for senior citizens, and I asked about the county system. John said there wasn't any, so I volunteered to write one, Murphy said.

IN MURPHY'S words, he began collecting the information "by living on the telephone, talking with people who were care givers, looking in the phone book and scanning the Hirmingham Eccentric every week for leads on what's going on." It contains more than 700 entries with names, phone numbers and addresses of private agencies

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and decided to write "Sharing and Car-ing," a guidebook to Oakland County sering," a guidebook to vices to the elderly.

and government services under easy-to-follow cate-

and government with student conjugations.

Keeler said he (Keeler) found services and programs even "I waan't aware of. It was a way of putting together all the services I knew of.

"This is, after all, the information age. You need information to be successful and negotiate the envi-

WHEN IT was all collected, the men took the manuscript to OCC, where students helped publish the 146-page book.

To assist readers with failing eyesight, the print is enlarged beyond normal typeface, and the information in indexed in the front and back by alphabetized categories.

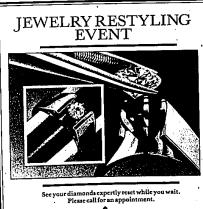
The project cost \$9,000, and \$1,500 of it was do-nated by the Fourmidable Group of Farmington, a developer of senior citizen high-rises in southeast-ern Michigan.

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