# 26-star flag on display

## Re-creation usable by civic groups

They were rare — rarer than America's original 13-star flags. They're the 26-star flags the U.S. used after admitting Michigan into the Union in 1837. That 26-star flag was the national standard from

was the national standard from 1837-44 Monkiand County has one. Ours will stand in the second flootoby of the courtbox exact to the 1857 estored hip Cockland County," said Virgina DeBenham Todgers, the country in County in Cou

MICHIGAN BELL Telephone Co, paid for restoration of an original 28-star flag after the frayed, eye lowed specimen was discovered in Florida. The work was done by Museum. The original will be displayed in the State Capitol Rotunda in Lansing. Bell also funded the making of 300 replicas, including one for each of the 20 members of the congressional delegation.

Bell's Jim Helmrich, local corporate affairs manager, presented Oakland's flag last week to Patrick Nowak, deputy county executive.

Helmrich said the flags all have been flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., and the State Cap-itol.

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#### HCMA chief

James Clarkson, Oxkland County's member of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority board, has been elected its chairman for 1987-88. Clarkson is chairman, president and CEO of First Federal Savings Bank & Trust Co., headquartered in Pontiac, and is active in many civic groups. He has been on the HCMA board for 17 years. HCMA operates 14 metroparks in the five-county region. Clarkson replaces John C. Hertel, former Wayne County commissioner.

## Senate boosts education aid

AP — After rejecting an amendment to curb a program almed at limiting high school dropouts, the Michigan Senate has approved three education budget bills for the upcoming itscal year.

The Senate last week also passed a bill that would require lottery winners of \$5,000 or more to pay any debts owed to the state from their jackpots.

The deucation bills now go back to the House for consideration of Senate changes. The bills are scheduled to be sent to joint House-Senate conference committees to work out fiference committees to work out fi

ference committees to work out fi-nal language.

nal language.

THE BILLS are part of the nearly \$6.5 billion state budget proposed for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1. They would finance Michigan schools, community colleges and the Department of Education.

Sen. Harmon Cropsey, R.-Decatur, unsuccessfully proposed amendments to the Education Department and school aid bills to cut five department staffers and shift money from a program designed to reduce the dropout rate in Michigan schools. That change would have affected about \$10 million.

He said that would provide more

He said that would provide more He said that would provide more funds to let schools spend as they wished and needed. "The way to im-prove education is to put the money out on the front lines, in the local dis-tricts," Cropsey said. But Sen. Dan DeGrow, R-Port Huron and chairman of the Senate appropriations subcommittee on school aid, said that would be a "big

school aid, Saiu uni wood of mistake."

"We lost an awful lot of kids in this state" to dropping out of school, he said. "We can't alford as a state to lose all these kids every year."

Cropsey's amendments falled to gather even half of the 20 votes needed to adopt them.

THE SCHOOL aid bill, passed 35-0, calls for \$608.9 million in general fund money — the state's main checking account — and \$2.38 billion in total spending for Michigan's kin-dergarten through 12th grade schools.

That is \$35.5 million over the level enacted for this fiscal year and \$29.5 million over Gov. James J. Blanchard's recommendation.

The community college bill, passed 34.2 totals \$19.8 million in state spending, up \$11.4 million from Blanchard's recommendation.

Blanchard's recommendation.

The Department of Education budget bill, passed 31-6, would provide 445 million in general tund money and \$55.1 million in total spending, once federal funds are added. The general fund portion is up \$7.7 million from current spending and \$7.5 million from Blanchard's proposal.



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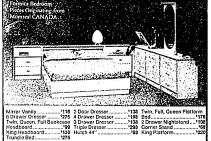
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