

# County judge 'surprised' at winning post

By Darrell Pressley  
staff writer

The key to winning an election may be - don't campaign.

Hilda Gage, an Oakland County Circuit Court judge, didn't run for chairperson of the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission and was shocked when her colleagues elected her to the position in January.

Gage, 51, of Bloomfield Township, is the first woman to chair the commission.

"It indeed was a surprise," Gage said. "I didn't consider myself a candidate."

There were two other people who were running and I thought one of them would win, she said. Instead, Gage, who has served on the commission since 1986, was elected to a two-year term.

The Judicial Tenure Commission receives and investigates complaints against state judges. Complaints can be filed from litigants, attorneys, witnesses, or prisoners who have nothing to do," Gage said.

There are five judges, two lawyers and two lay persons on the commission - two of the members are women.

GAGE SAID she does not plan on making any changes. "My predecessors before me did a fine job. The commission is almost running itself," she said.

Since the commission was formed in 1968, it has reviewed 5,125 grievances against judicial officers, according to the commission's 1989 annual report.

Though the numbers are high, a fair number of grievances are personal complaints, or someone wanting their sentence reduced, Gage said.

"Very few require some intervention," she said.

A circuit court judge since 1978, Gage said she came into the law profession at a time when there weren't many women in the profession. Today there are more women entering into the legal profession. And if I can be a role model, that's fine."

Though she doesn't consider herself a role model, Gage said she wouldn't mind being considered one.

"I've seen a lot of women coming into the legal profession. And if I can be a role model, that's fine."

BEING THE FIRST woman to head an organization isn't new to Gage. In 1986, she was the first woman to chair the National Conference of State Trial Judges of the American Bar Association.

That same year she also became the first woman president of the Michigan Judges Association.

Gage, a graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School, is a member of the Judicial Conference of the State Bar of Michigan and the National



Judge Hilda Gage

Association of Women Judges. With her experience and personality, Gage will do well as chairperson, said Joseph Regnier, executive director of the commission. "She is a terrific person and I know she'll do an excellent job," Regnier said.

# Oakland summit

## Communities discuss solving common problems

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Vision 2010, last week's conference designed to help Oakland communities begin dealing with urban sprawl and other mutual problems, was an important beginning, according to some of the mayors and other city officials who attended.

But at least one mayor said it was "off to a slow start," considering the number and magnitude of problems the county may encounter as it nears the 21st Century.

Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, for example, said the meeting Thursday was "an important first step." He expressed misgivings, however, because officials did not focus on anything concrete, "like roads or congestion."

"We're facing a lot of problems," he said. "And while this meeting was very worthwhile, I'd like to see us begin working on something."

County commissioner John Pappageorge, R-Troy, said he'd like to see governments begin working on some kind of incentive program that would encourage builders to redevelop older communities.

"Governments might want to consider changing their policies to reward developers" for putting shopping centers or subdivision in older communities, instead of extending them into rural areas

**'We're facing a lot of problems. And while this meeting was very worthwhile, I'd like to see us begin working on something.'**

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi  
Farmington Hills

where roads and utilities meet, he said, said Pappageorge.

AN ESTIMATED 200 people attended the summit meeting, called for last November by County Executive Daniel Murphy in the Waterford Oaks Activities Center.

Among the speakers they heard was futurist Edward Barlow Jr. discuss the economic, political and social changes predicted by the year 2000.

Communities that are aware of those changes and prepare for them can make things happen, Barlow said. Others "after inevitably finding themselves left behind will be bewildered and left wondering what happened," he said.

Some of the changes are so fundamental, Barlow said, they call into question long-held beliefs. He cited diversity as an example.

Collectively society expected a kind of sameness, he said, with people thinking along similar lines toward common goals. But as society diversifies and institutions look for answers to an increasing complex lifestyle, "If two people think about one of them will be unnecessary," he said, paraphrasing a Chinese proverb.

Other speakers included Joseph Jochem, then director of Oakland County Community and Economic Development, and John Amberger, executive director of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

Much of what they said was interesting and important," said county commissioner Marilyn E. G. Sisk, R-Bloomfield Hills. "But we've heard a lot of it before. But this was an important step."

SOUTHFIELD CITY ADMINIS-

TRATOR Robert Black agreed. "If we are to succeed as a state, the government bodies need to develop the kind of cooperative spirit needed to work for the common good."

None of the speakers mentioned family. Were the families of Oakland County officials part of planning sessions, it would be necessary, I don't know, the rest of them," Black said.

Robert Hill, executive director of the Oakland County Planning Board, said the meeting was an opportunity for everyone to share their problems and ideas to work out a plan.

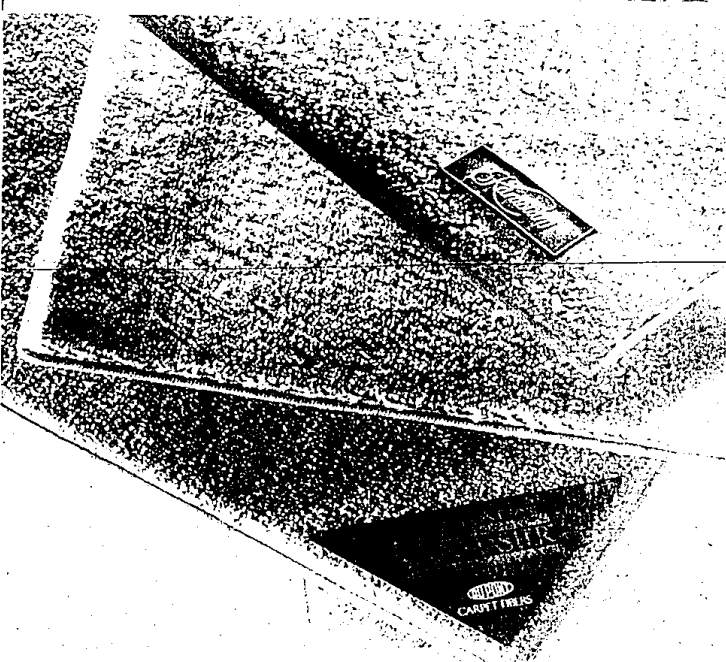
Today, he said, we have a lot of people who are not talking to each other. We have a lot of people who are not talking to each other.

Jochem said the meeting was a strong discussion of the problems facing the county. He said that he had heard the speakers say that they were not talking to each other.

Sisk said that she was interested in the meeting because it was a step toward solving the county's problems. She said that she was interested in the meeting because it was a step toward solving the county's problems.

WHILE JOACHEM said that he was interested in the meeting because it was a step toward solving the county's problems, he also said that he was interested in the meeting because it was a step toward solving the county's problems.

# LAST DAYS TO SAVE ON ALL KARASTAN AND BIGELOW CARPET



SALE 12.99

SALE 16.99

SALE 17.99

SALE 20.99

SALE 22.99

SALE 24.99

Save 20% to 40% on all Stainmaster carpeting

JOHN J. HUDSON, SUGGESTION  
CONSUMER & CARPETING

SALE 12.99

SALE 16.99

SALE 17.99

SALE 20.99

SALE 22.99

SALE 24.99

Shop our stores for home sale savings in every area: Lamps, Furniture, Carpet, Rugs, & Mattresses.

HUDSON'S

## Agency OK's improvements for county

Plans for highway expansion and renovation of a bus terminal in Oakland County received routine approval Friday by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

Approval by SEMCOG, a seven-county regional planning agency, is necessary for the projects to receive federal funds. Donald Jensen, Oakland County commissioner from Birmingham, chairs SEMCOG's transportation advisory council.

SMART, the three-county suburban bus agency, received the go-ahead for a scaled-down rehabilitation of its Royal Oak terminal. Planned as a \$3.5 million job, the new cost will be \$1.4 million, with \$1.1 million coming from the federal government and \$287,000 from state transportation funds.

HIGHWAY projects affecting western suburbs include:

- Resurfacing and a new crossover for M-102 and I-696 in Farmington Hills - nearly \$5 million, more than 75 percent federal funding.
- Lighting at the I-696-Orchard Lake road interchange in Farmington Hills - \$240,000, nearly 90 percent federal.
- New entrance ramps at I-75 and the entrance to the Oakland Technology Center in Auburn Hills - \$7.2 million, 60 percent state.
- Interchange reconstruction of I-75 at M-59, Pontiac, with collection and distribution roads and weave lanes - \$7.3 million, 90 percent federal.
- Reconstruction of I-75 for 4.6 miles between Sibley and Goddard roads in Southgate and Taylor in southwestern Wayne County - \$15.3 million, nearly 90 percent federal.
- Interchange reconstruction at I-96 and Beck road in Novi - about \$325,000, 90 percent federal.