

# Edison mounting charge on Oakland County trees

By Judith Doner Berne  
staff writer

Detroit Edison will spend \$10.5 million to trim trees throughout Oakland County in 1992.

That's a direct result of damage suffered during the July 7 storm in which two of every three Oakland County customers lost power.

"We're not pleased with that much damage," said Maurice Vermeulen, manager of Detroit Edison's Oakland County division which provides electric power to virtually the entire county.

Lower rates and better service for all Detroit Edison customers are promises Vermeulen made when Edison officials met with the Observer & Eccentric editorial board last week.

"We're a high cost operation compared to Consumers Power, Vermeulen said. "We're going to lower our rates — we're earning a good rate on our investment. There's no question on having to do a better job."

The Oakland division is the prototype for the entire company, which has six geographic divisions, Vermeulen said. "And it has been getting worse under my supervision."

A PLAN in the works before the July 7 storm to improve the Oakland division's reliability has been speeded up to be implemented in two

**'A lot of what the storm did is remind everyone how bad things are. It has accelerated our response to the reliability issue.'**

— Maurice Vermeulen  
Edison/Oakland County

years instead of three. It emphasizes:

- Minimizing power interruptions.

- Affecting fewer customers.

- Restoring power quickly.

Restoring power quickly is the only area in which Edison refused to plead guilty, while acknowledging some customers were out a week or more. "With the number of customers we had out — 293,000 in Oakland County — we restored power more quickly than ever before," Dobkin said.

Line clearance (tree trimming) and line maintenance (patrol and fix 80 circuits per year) are two attacks Edison will use.

"Fifty-seven percent of outages can be fixed through tree trimming," Vermeulen said, to which 40 percent of Edison's tree budget has been allotted.

But then comes the thorny problem of aesthetics. Edison will look at

charging extra for the person or area that wants "aesthetic trimming," which takes more time and expertise.

"We're very, very sensitive to certain areas" — such as Farmington Hills, where residents have been highly critical of Edison's tree trimming.

New designs are aimed to reduce the load and area each circuit will cover, with priorities on circuits which are known weak links. The idea is that when it goes out fewer people will be affected. And, other circuits can take over the load, so people get their power back even though the original circuit is still damaged.

ON THE ISSUE of underground wiring, Edison agrees that it would reduce power outages and the risk of downed wires.

It is happening for new subdivisions, at double the cost. But it can go up to as high as 10 times the overhead cost for established areas. The city of Southfield has asked Edison to estimate the cost of putting its wires underground, Vermeulen said.

"An individual subdivision could improve reliability, but an individual would be doing it only for aesthetics," Vermeulen said.

On getting to and securing downed wires more quickly, Edison began new training for wire down teams earlier this week.

"A lot of what the storm did is remind everyone how bad things are," Vermeulen said. "It has accelerated our response to the reliability issue."

He says improvement is coming — "if customers can be patient — and we can stay away from major storms."

## OCC's 1st president dies at 65

Dr. John Tirrell, Oakland Community College's first chief executive officer for whom Tirrell Hall on the Orchard Ridge Campus is named died Aug. 11 at his retirement home in Claremont, Calif.

Tirrell, 65, had been in ill health for some time, and was confined to a wheelchair for the past few years. Death came in his sleep from a heart attack.

Tirrell was named president of OCC on August 27, 1964, a little more than a month after the college's establishment. He was 38 years old at the time.

Born in Muskegon, Tirrell served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He received his BA from Hope College in 1949, an MA from the University of Michigan in 1951, and a doctorate in education from Harvard University in 1954.

He was a teacher and administrator in various Michigan public school systems, an assistant director of the Harvard Center for Field Studies, and a dean at Grand Rapids Junior College.

At the time of his OCC appointment Tirrell was vice president for instruction at St. Louis Junior College where his pioneering efforts in the use of computers to project building requirements gained wide attention. Fittingly, a building on OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus was renamed "Tirrell Hall" in his honor in 1979.

KNOWN AS AN educator innovator, Tirrell introduced the auto-tutorial system of learning at OCC, a concept that placed primary responsibility for learning on the student.

He implemented the college's first registration in September, 1965. Nearly 4,000 students registered at OCC's two original campuses that fall, the largest opening enrollment in U.S. community college history. He also presided over the college's first commencement in the spring of 1968, at which 141 students graduated.

Dr. Tirrell's family has asked that he be memorialized through donations to the OCC Foundation in his name.

He is survived by his wife, Louise, five living children, and six grandchildren. A memorial service was given at the Claremont United Methodist Church on Thursday, according to Doris Mosher of the OCC Foundation.



### Food Addiction.

When you're eating too much and it's still not enough...

Take the first step to wellness.

You eat more than you want to. You hate it, but you can't help it. You wish you could eat normally.

The Glenbeigh Food Addiction and Eating Disorders Program can help you become the person you wish to be.

The leader in the treatment of Adult and Adolescent Food Addiction and Eating Disorders.

**Glenbeigh HOSPITALS** 1-800-444-4434

### FREE COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROGRAM

WHO: Glenbeigh Hospital of Tampa.

WHAT: Signs, Symptoms and Treatment of Compulsive Overeating and Bulimia.

WHERE: Dillon Inn, 30715 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI

WHEN: Thursday, September 5, 1991, 7:00 pm

## ...and praying for clear weekend

Detroit Edison officials are looking at the upcoming Labor Day weekend with some trepidation.

This has been the year of the holiday storm, says Robert Dobkin, director of public relations and public affairs.

Dobkin, a Farmington Hills resident who was out of power for four days following the Fourth of July weekend storm, also listed storms resulting in loss of power on the weekends of Easter (Good Friday), Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Part of the problem in the July 7 storm was getting through to Edison. "Some people didn't get through to us until Tuesday," said Oakland

County division chief Marice Vermeulen at the upcoming Labor Day weekend when those lines weren't even in the picture until that time.

Edison is doing two things to improve communication — extending hours for normal customer calls and working to implement by Dec. 30 a \$3 million computerized telephone system that will handle hundreds more calls per hour.

Edison telephone representatives are now available Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Previously only emergency calls were handled Saturdays and after 5 p.m. weekdays.

## OCC registration: Sept. 3-4

Fall registration at Oakland Community College is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 3 and 4. Classes begin Sept. 5.

Applications for the fall semester are now being accepted. Prospective students can obtain admission information and a class schedule at any

of the following campuses:

- Auburn Hills, 2900 Featherstone Road, 310-6527.

- Highland Lakes, 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake, 360-3069.

- Orchard Ridge, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, 471-7628.

- Royal Oak and Southfield, 739 S. Washington, Royal Oak, 544-5547.

# JAEGER

## SEASON ENDING CLEARANCE

# 50-70% OFF

SALE ENDS SEPTEMBER 15th

JAEGER AT SOMERSET MALL

(313) 649-9390

## END OF SUMMER Sale

# 0% FINANCING AVAILABLE

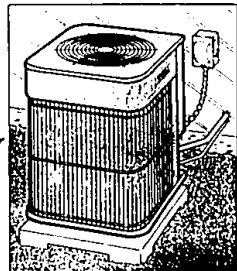
FOR 12 MONTHS WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON QUALIFYING EQUIPMENT. EXP. 8-31-91

ETC. DISCOUNTS

ON ALL UNITS IN WAREHOUSE STOCK

Must be a LENNOX Heating, Vent, Air Conditioning

- Quiet Operation
- Compact Styling
- Immediate Installation



# S&M HEATING SALES COMPANY

23262 Telegraph • Southfield, Mich.  
Service maintenance agreements very affordable  
Complete 24 hour service company.

352-4656

**ACT NOW... AND INSTALLATION IS ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

Now Going On At Beckwith Evans

# CARPET MILL CLEAN-OUT

SAVE 46% TO 55% ON WORRY-FREE CARPETS FROM GALAXY...PLUS WE'LL INSTALL YOUR NEW CARPET FOR FREE!

**ANSO V Worryfree**  
FROM ALLIED FIBERS

IT'S MORE THAN JUST STAIN RESISTANT, IT'S TOTALLY WORRY FREE.

GALAXY	GALAXY	GALAXY
<b>STRIKING SCULPTURE</b>	<b>TEXTURED SAXONY</b>	<b>LUXURIOUS SAXONY</b>
...of ANSO V Worry-Free Nylon	...of ANSO V Worry-Free Nylon	...of ANSO V Worry-Free Nylon
Compare at \$22.99 sq. yd. 654 square yards	Compare at \$23.99 sq. yd. 1225 square yards	Compare at \$29.99 sq. yd. 1480 square yards
<b>\$1199</b> sq. yd.	<b>\$1499</b> sq. yd.	<b>\$1799</b> sq. yd.
<b>PLUS FREE INSTALLATION!</b>	<b>PLUS FREE INSTALLATION!</b>	<b>PLUS FREE INSTALLATION!</b>
<p>Prices effective through August 31</p> <p><b>Beckwith EVANS</b></p> <p>• TROY WAREHOUSE 190 E. Maple Rd 585-7000 • PLEASANT RIDGE 24242 Woodward 547-7100 • CLINTON TOWNSHIP 34920 Gratiot 792-1319 • REDFORD 25001 W. 8 Mile Rd 538-3950 • DEARBORN HEIGHTS 24430 Ford Rd 274-7990 • LIVONIA 35175 Plymouth Rd 422-6800 • TAYLOR 23077 Eureka Rd 287-2850</p> <p>FOR COMMERCIAL INSTALLATIONS CALL OUR CONTRACT DEPT. 849-7000</p> <p>STORE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 10 am to 9 pm SATURDAY 10 am to 6 pm SUNDAY Noon to 5 pm</p>		