

Schoolcraft Case In Court Thursday

Barring any further delays, the reapportionment question facing Schoolcraft College will be heard in Wayne County Circuit Court Thursday before Judge Roland Olzak.

The hearing had been slated for April 2 but was postponed at the request of Schoolcraft's attorney, Edward Draugelis.

The New Democratic Coalition of Livonia is asking an injunction to prevent the June 10 election of trustees

unless the college district is reapportioned.

The court is also asked to order Schoolcraft trustees to come up with a reapportionment plan acceptable to the court. If the board fails to do so, then the suit asks the court to order at-large election of trustees.

Meanwhile, a temporary restraining order has been issued by the court to hold up the filing of candidates until the matter is settled. Livonia, Garden City and Plymouth school districts are

scheduled to elect Schoolcraft trustees this year. The restraining order does not, however, apply to local elections.

AS A RESULT of a 1970 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, the NDC says that the Schoolcraft board is illegally constituted. The state law under which Schoolcraft operates allocates one board seat to each of the five member K-12 districts, regardless of size. The Livonia district alone has about half

the college district population.

The board maintains it is legally constituted until a legal authority tells it otherwise.

If Olzak applies the Supreme Court decision to Schoolcraft, there are two legal options: (1) At-large election of all trustees or (2) election of trustees from single-member wards of equal population.

THE BOARD, in a special meeting last Wednesday, decided to get a second opinion from a lawyer on the applicability of the Supreme Court ruling. College attorney Draugelis advised the board that the ruling would apply.

The college board is asking the second opinion from the law firm of Miller, Canfield, Faddock, and Stone. It wanted to have the opinion in time for another special meeting with Draugelis at 7 p.m. tonight (Wednesday).

Jane Moehle, board chairman, likened the board's action to seeking medical advice from two physicians. At last week's meeting, Mrs. Moehle was appointed the spokesman for the college regarding the apportionment question.

At the request of trustee B. William Secord, the board appointed an official spokesman, cutting off all other news sources including the college attorney.

In most court cases, the attorney is appointed as the official spokesman in controversial matters. Asked if she thought the board's action was unusual, Mrs. Moehle responded: "In our case it is not so unique. If it is considered unique we are not aware of it. We have done it many times before."

For example, she said that she had been appointed the official spokesman during labor negotiations last year. The board will meet with Draugelis in the board room to discuss the issue tonight.

Sentiment Favors District System

If Schoolcraft Community College is forced to reapportion its board seats, how should it be done?

Should there be at-large elections? Or single-member wards of equal population? Either remedy would satisfy the U.S. Supreme Court's "one-man, one-vote" rule.

In the group that's challenging Schoolcraft's existing apportionment, the sentiment is overwhelming in favor of single-member wards.

The New Democratic Coalition of Livonia collected nearly \$500 at a legal fund-raising party last weekend, that drew 50 sympathizers, including some non-members, to their cause.

MRS. ROSINA Raymond, teacher and wife of the Livonia councilman, was strongly for single-member districts. She is currently a candidate for the Livonia seat on the Schoolcraft board that is expected to be vacated by James Boswell. She is not an NDC member.

Mrs. Raymond recalled that in 1965 she ran for an at-large seat but was defeated

by incumbent Sam Hudson, of Plymouth.

The reason, she declared, was that Plymouth School District had a millage issue on the ballot that election day, and it drew out proportionately more voters than in the Livonia district, where there was no money question.

While they were at the polls, the Plymouth voters cast a ballot for the home-town boy, Hudson. That is how Mrs. Raymond explains her defeat.

ONE MAN who sees both good and bad in both systems is Neil deStigter, chairman of the Livonia NDC. Nevertheless, deStigter favors a ward plan.

"I've lived in Chicago and seen their ward system; it can be bad. I've also seen the school system in Manomet, Wis., where they elect school board members from wards. Sometimes they can't get anyone to run from a ward, but the law allows a non-resident to represent a ward where he doesn't live," he said.

A government teacher in Dearborn High School, deStigter saw two advantages to the ward plan: A trustee would have a constituency to whom he would be responsible, and the Schoolcraft College district is so large that only a well-heeled candidate could run on an at-large basis.

deSTIGTER had one other idea for a ward system. In order to focus public attention strongly on the college election, he would like to have the entire Schoolcraft board elected at once instead of only two or three at a time.

The entire U.S. House of Representatives (437 members), the State Senate (38) and the State House of Representatives (110) are elected that way, and deStigter sees no harm and much benefit in Schoolcraft's doing the same thing.

deStigter also suggests that the terms be five years long. One election could be held the year following the decennial census, and another midway between censuses.



MONUMENT TO BROKEN PROMISE — The outer rail for a widened Northville Road has been standing forlorn for the past five years.

Now, no one can find the plans, and Wayne County claims it hasn't the money to finish the job. (Observer photo)

A Plan That Got Lost Whatever Happened To N'ville Road Widening?

By W. W. EDGAR Whatever has become of the elaborate plan to widen Northville Road and develop a drive along the shore of Phoenix Lake and the adjoining rural communities?

More than a half-dozen years ago, work was started on the project that had the support of all those who enjoy traveling the rolling hillsides.

For months workmen were busy building the new side walls to all the bridges in order that they'd be ready when the widening was completed and the old walls knocked down.

Then, all of a sudden, work stopped. Why? No one seems to know.

"THAT WAS before my time," said Gunnar Stromberg, Northville Township supervisor. "I remember — the plan was fine and everyone was pleased."

Meanwhile, the outside walls on the bridges stand out like tombstones erected in memory of a pleasant dream.

At the office of the Wayne County Road Commission,

there was no one who recalled the plan or why the work was stopped.

"All I know now," commented Stromberg, "is that the only money we can get for roads in the township must be in emergencies."

The supervisor added that the Township Board had instructed him last December to appeal to the county for help in re-conditioning streets and roads in the area.

"I CONTACTED the commission by letter," he said, "and was told that a survey had been made of the roads named in our letter and that

the only money available at this time was for emergencies.

"So, I guess the same will be true of the plans to widen Northville Road."

In the meantime, traffic is increasing because of the growth of the population and the development of Northville Downs as a harness race center.

But to use an old axiom, "The wheels of the gods grind slowly."

The same evidently is true of the Road Commission.

A Book Review

Swans Dominate 'Northwest'

By ELLY

If you haven't received your copy of "Northwest Area" you should get one (or two) before the end of the month. It's one of those timely books you can pick up anytime, open anywhere and glean some interesting information.

There are 864 pages in "Northwest" and the type is quite fine but a spot check brought these facts to light:

Swan is the most popular bird name. There are 31 swans, 18 Finches, 16 Hawks, 15 Jays, eight Grouse, seven Sparrows, five Doves, five Ravens, four Thrashers, four Wrens, three Buntings, two Pigeons, two Larks and two Robins. There is one Thrush, one Starling and one Swallow.

WITH FIVE columns devoted to the Browns, the Whites with 2 1/2 columns are not even a close second. Next come the Greens with 1 1/2 columns, the Grays with 1-1/10 and the Blacks with just half a column.

There are 18 Pike, 13 Bass, eight Trout,

seven Sturgeon, two Broadhead and one Pickerel. But there are 26 Roe.

We found three Goods, four Betters (all commercial) and 19 Bests.

There are 37 Lambs, just one Baas and 24 Shepherds.

The Lemons outnumber the Oranges nine to one. There are seven Apples, three Peaches, one Bossenberry but not one Pear. And there are five Begins but just one Ende.

IT SEEMS no book, no matter how factual, can escape IT these days. There are 39 Birds and four Bees, all in very good taste.

A stranger to this planet could come up with an accurate social commentary on the people who live in "Northwest Area," just by reading the last 508 pages. These pages stand out from the rest of the book because they are printed on yellow paper.

All readers will have to agree we've come a long, long way since that March 10, 105 years ago when Alexander Graham Bell said, "Come here Mr. Watson, I need you."

Area Deaths And Funerals

AGNES M. CLEMENT. Funeral services for Mrs. Clement, 83, of 7710 Merrimack, Westland, were held recently at St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington with burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. The obituary was in Henry-Southeast Funeral Home in Farmington. Officiating was the Rt. Rev. Charles J. Malloy of St. Fabian.

MRS. CLARA D. NOBLE. Services for Mrs. Noble, of 6150 Gliman, Garden City, were held in the Caldwell-Muligan Funeral Home, Garden City. The Rev. Robert West officiated. Burial was in Roseland Park Cemetery.

MRS. HEENA LABBAY and Mrs. DORIS MANWARREN; a sister, Mrs. Margaret Trimble at Windsor; 13 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

LI A FAE HILLER. Services for Mrs. Hiller, 74, of 14188 Shadywood Lane, Plymouth, were held on the Schrader Funeral Home with Rev. Paul M. Carpio officiating. She died March 30 in the Martin Place West Hospital, Detroit. Burial was in Roseland Cemetery.

MRS. EDNA GREEN. Services for Mrs. Green, 76, of 11431 Manman Road, Livonia, were conducted in the R. G. and G. R. Harris Funeral Home in

charge of the Rev. Robert Horton with burial in Acacia Park Cemetery.

MRS. LEOLA TOWLER. Services for Mrs. Towler, 83, of 3128 Samnitch, Redford Township, were conducted in the Holy Will Funeral Home in charge of Rev. Frank Oskanen with burial in Roseland Park Cemetery.

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ROGER CHARLES KING—Services for Mr. King, 35, will be conducted April 2 in the Hammond Home Funeral Home. A former resident of Redford