

Probate court from page 5A

continue for a permanent arrangement.

A third case involved a mentally ill man in the Clinton Valley state hospital. The man's mother and brother fought, through their attorneys, over guardianship of the man. The mentally ill man had already made it clear that he preferred that his brother be granted guardianship.

"His brother promised him lots of girls and lots of money," the mother said.

"I haven't the foggiest idea of what she's talking about," said the brother, who was granted guardianship.

A few minutes later, an elderly woman sought conservatorship, or financial control, over the assets of her husband, who lies in a nursing home with Alzheimer's disease. "He doesn't even know his name, or my name," she said. Her wish was to sell her hus-

band's property to pay for his care in the nursing home. "The woman is destitute," her attorney said. "She needs money." The judge approved the request.

Grant also granted the wishes of a woman who sought to give guardianship of her teenage daughter to her neighbors. "She comes and goes at all hours of the day," the woman said. When Grant asked the wheelchair-bound man who wanted to become the girl's guardian if he could handle it, the man replied with a smile, "I have four other daughters." Grant turned the girl over to him.

Problems like these come before Oakland County's four probate judges every week. Grant has been listening to these stories and rendering decisions since 1977 when former Gov. William Milliken appointed him.

Considering the vast array of personal problems that require his attention, Grant must be "overly careful" to remember that not everyone is as troubled as many of the people who come before him.

"It's such a myopic view of society (that I get)," he said. "That's why it's important to take a step back. Your mind gets so saturated with the disillusionment of people."

"People are basically decent, but sitting in court every day you see the worst of the worst."

With about 5,000 cases per judge per year, Oakland County Probate Court is one of the busiest courts of its kind in the country. Lately the probate judges have been beset by a reduction in staff caused by an early retirement deal offered by the county executive and commission.

Remaining court personnel, Grant said, are working overtime to bear the additional burden. The judges, who are Grant, Eugene Moore, Joan Young and chief judge Sandra Silver, have a dispute going with the county commission and Executive Brooks Patterson over the vacant positions, many of them supervisory jobs.

Commissioners contend that they have control over the court's purse, and therefore personnel, while the judges argue that the commission and Patterson are wrongly interfering with a separate branch of government.

Grant said every attempt is being made to settle the dispute without going to court.

The probate court, he said, "runs well. I just hope it continues to run well. I don't know what's going to happen."

Here are opportunities to donate blood

The following is a list of Red Cross Bloodmobiles in our area for the month of February:

Friday, Feb. 4 — Walled Lake: Walled Lake Schools, 850 Ladd Road, Building D, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sara Oberg, 334-3575.

Monday, Feb. 7 — Troy: Robert B. Aikens & Associates, 2690 Crooks Road, Suite 400, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tony Franda, 362-1370.

Thursday, Feb. 10 — Troy: Standard Federal, 2690 W. Big Beaver, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Carol Ray Fichter, 643-9600.

Friday, Feb. 11 — Walled Lake: Haggerty Lumber, 2055 Haggerty Road, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sara Oberg, 334-3575.

Monday, Feb. 14 — Troy: EMRO Building, 1607 Big Beaver Road, 3-9 p.m. Milt Neuman, 585-5494.

Thursday, Feb. 17 — Troy: Kelly Services Headquarters, 999 W. Big Beaver Road, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mary Jo Tucker, 224-4317.

Monday, Feb. 28 — Troy: St. Stephen Episcopal Church, 5550 North Adams, 2-8 p.m. Kris Nicholson, 652-7979.

Monday, Feb. 28 — Birmingham: Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill, 12:30-6:30 p.m. Sarah Ormond, 647-1700.

OLHSA hosts annual walk

The Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency is holding the fourth annual "Walk for Warmth" 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 19, at Pontiac's Phoenix Center.

The walk is a statewide effort to promote awareness of people who are having heat-related emergencies.

For additional data, or to volunteer or give money to OLHSA, call Michele Spielman at 858-5172.

Events build World Cup excitement

The Michigan World Cup Host Committee has scheduled several events leading up to four opening round World Cup soccer games at the Pontiac Silverdome, June 18, 22, 24 and 28.

The events are:

■ Michigan World Cup Host Committee Indoor Super Fair March 18-27 at the Pontiac Silverdome. An indoor carnival complete with Ferris wheel, soccer games, foods and exhibits.

■ World Cup Education Celebration Sunday, March 20, at the Silverdome. An indoor clinic rewarding and recognizing all participants in the Michigan World Cup Host Committee Education Program.

■ Michigan Host Committee Fashion Show & Auction Saturday, April 23, at The Somerset Collection in Troy. A black-tie optional auction and fashion show.

■ The Governor's Soccer Gala Friday, May 27, at Dearborn's Ritz Carlton Hotel. A black-tie dinner gala co-hosted by the Michigan Host Committee and Gov. John Engler, featuring the magic of Harry Blackstone Jr.

■ It's a Small World International Festival June 24-26 at Detroit's Cobo Conference/Exhibition Center. A three-day international celebration of Michigan and its residents in the Michigan Host Committee's largest event.

Details for the above events related to prices and starting times will be announced in the near future.

Formed in March 1992, the Michigan World Cup Host Committee is a non-profit organization designed to coordinate the communitywide outreach effort for the World Cup games in the Detroit area.

For additional data, call Keith Kaminski at (313) 259-4333, or Kurt Kosmowski at (810) 456-1994.

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