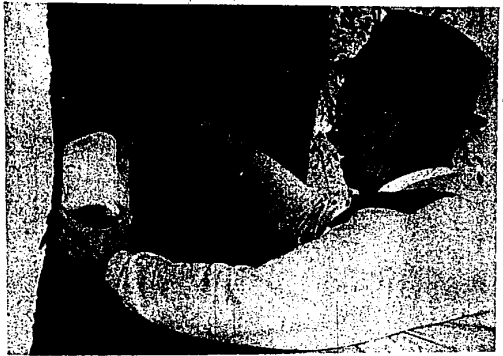


Experimenters See Death To Dutch Elm Disease

An experiment that just may spell death to Dutch elm disease is being conducted at Cranbrook, in Bloomfield Hills. While no comprehensive conclusions have been reached here, there are strong indications the experimenters are on the right track. Conducting the experiment are Floyd Gasdick and Dr. B.J. "Jim" Szappanos. Gasdick is an electrical engineer and owner of Shirley's Flowers, Detroit. Szappanos is



FLOYD GASDICK inserts a rubber hose into a hole drilled in a tree on Cranbrook's Academy Way, treating the tree against Dutch elm disease with a half-gallon of poison.

Schoolcraft, As Botanist, Is Highlighted State Hospital Tells Gift Needs

The activities of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft as a 19th century naturalist will be recalled and updated in a slide-illustrated lecture by Dr. Edward G. Voss, associate professor of botany at the University of Michigan, scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 26, at Schoolcraft College. Dr. Voss will speak on "Botanical Beschöpfung in the Steps of Schoolcraft." The reference is to the work done in this region by the man for whom Schoolcraft College was named. Curator in vascular plants at the U. of M. Botanical Garden, Dr. Voss has been involved in botanical research, editing of scientific papers and journals, and development of the Garden. He has worked with numerous organizations promoting the fields of botany and conservation.

Dr. Voss' appearance is sponsored by the Schoolcraft College Biology Division, of which Roger A. Sutherland is chairman. The free public lecture will be in the Liberal Arts Building theatre. Coffee and refreshments will be served in the biology laboratory, Room F-110 in the Forum, after the program.

County Offers Slide Show To Groups

An unusual county slide show on the public services of Wayne County government is still available for viewing by citizens groups on a number of dates in December and January. The 35-minute presentation, entitled "Meeting Human Needs—Your Wayne County Services," is shown on three movie screens simultaneously, creating a Cinerama-like effect. There is no fee for the presentation. To arrange for a showing, phone the county public information office at 224-5055.



FARMER JACK'S supermarkets had their biggest Torch Drive year this year. Enno Korthals, director of employment for the company, presents Miss Torch (Nancy Horsch) the company's pledge of \$101,961 — an increase of 9.2 per cent over 1967.

a well-known allergist with offices in Birmingham. When, on the advice of an expert in the Highland Park department of parks and recreation, Gasdick had 95 elms cut down on his property some eight years ago, he decided to try to do something about the problem.

"EVERYTHING I read said the disease couldn't be stopped," Gasdick noted. "Then one day about two years ago, I was visiting Jim. He has five beautiful elms, and I told him he had better start programming for replanting." "Jim's reply was 'why don't we make sure they never die?'" This was the beginning. More reading convinced the pair this is a fungus disease — and this was right up Jim's alley. "We were convinced the fungus is carried by the beetle," said Szappanos. "So why not concentrate on the disease instead of the carrier and thus there will be nothing to carry?"

BECAUSE THE SPORES of the fungus germinate in the water-conducting vessels of the elm, these vessels eventually get fully plugged up, similar to sclerotic tissue plugging of an elderly human. Therefore, whatever treatment is made, according to Gasdick and Szappanos, must be a liquid that can plug the vessels and get distribution throughout the tree. Szappanos tried six different formulas, constantly changing percentages of ingredients until, on successful tests conducted on cultures in his laboratory, he was satisfied. The formula remains confidential. Now it was time to test it on an experimental area beyond three elms at Gasdick's and five at Szappanos'.

SEVERAL CITIES, including Detroit, Highland Park, Lathrup Village and Birmingham, refused the offer, though each was cutting down hundreds and thousands of documented diseased elms each year. Gasdick went to Bloomfield Hills. City Manager Elmer Kephart told him the state was no longer lagging diseased trees there and suggested he go see Dominick Veltrino, Cranbrook's grounds superintendent. Cranbrook had already lost over 200 elms with many, many more marked.

Gasdick began last February. The first marked tree treated was at Kingswood School. Holes were drilled into the tree, some directly to the center, others diagonally. The mixture was then injected and the holes corked. (This pit tree appears to be dead, but has not been cut down because there are live suckers on it.) Sticks or specimens were taken from other trees and sent to East Lansing for documentation as diseased.

"THE RESULTS were very slow coming back," Gasdick said. "Finally, I took some more up there myself and found a batch, sent two weeks before, had not been killed. This, despite the fact the state points out that delay makes laboratory identification harder."

"When I was told they didn't have time, Jim and I decided to do our own cultures." Other Cranbrook trees were then treated, and one case that Gasdick describes is that of two trees separated by some

diseased, the others well. Now all the trees either have been or will be bored and half-gallon plastic bottles of the mixture attached, running into the holes.

GASDICK AND Szappanos sum up their experiments as a five point program: 1. They know they can't harm a well tree. (Gasdick has been pouring the mixture into a well tree of his for over a year.) 2. They know they can get general distribution of the mixture throughout the tree. (Branches of trees that have been taken down small strongly of the mixture.) 3. They know that after a month's treatment the positive culture becomes negative. (Recall the Cranbrook case cited.) 4. They know that the beetles leave a treated tree. (This has been established here.) 5. They assume that the beetle does not return for reproduction to a treated tree. (An

assumption only because they have been programming for such a short time.) "While it is fairly late in the season, still the trees on Academy Way have been given an initial injection. Whether the sap flow will prevent the upward distribution of the mixture is a question. But at least the mixture will go down and thus forestall possible root transmittal."

"Next spring will tell us many things," they point out. Cranbrook is an educational and cultural center occupying 300 acres 10 miles north of Detroit. The six Cranbrook institutions are active primarily in the fields of education, science, art and religion.

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Retail Sales Take Drop

Retail sales of Chrysler Corp. passenger cars in the first 10 selling days of November totaled 32,515 cars, compared with 30,906 units delivered during the similar period of 1967. The daily rate in the first 10 days of November was 4,054, off six per cent from the 4,325 daily selling rate during the Nov. 1 to 10 period a year ago. There were eight selling days this year, compared with nine a year ago.

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Bloodmobile Will Visit Livonia

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the northwest regional office, 31228 Five Mile Road, Livonia, on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Those interested may make an appointment by calling 422-2787.

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