

# 3 Rouge Lakes Are Pilot Project For Dredging

By W.W. EDGAR

## PLYMOUTH

The long standing dream of beautifying the area's three lakes—Newburgh, Wilcox and Phoenix—moved a step closer to reality during the past week when the State Legislature passed a bill calling for an inland lake project with a two-year time table.

The bill is now on Gov. Milliken's desk and State Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), who was the force behind the plan, said it was almost a certainty that it would be signed within a few days.

"As a matter of fact," Pursell said, "engineers already have made a preliminary study and our three lakes will serve as the demonstration project."

Under terms of the bill, the two-year project will determine the feasibility of cleaning and dredging inland lakes.

A second goal is to set up two stations in the Middle Rouge to monitor the quality of the water and to investigate the possibility of restocking the three lakes with fish.

The study also will include the possibility of using the three lakes, especially Wilcox, for canoeing and other recreational activities.

The first year of the project will be devoted to an en-

gineering analysis and the development of a work program under the supervision of the State Department of Natural Resources. Cost of the project has been estimated at \$45,000 and is included in the state budget.

Passage of this bill is the first move by the state to clean up the lakes in western Wayne County. For several years, various groups in both Plymouth and Livonia have worked with the Wayne County Road Commission in the hope of making progress. But little was done other than the voluntary work of District 30 Jaycees in the annual "Rescue The Rouge" activity.

A big change came within the past year when new equipment was devised that would greatly reduce the cost of dredging and deepening the three lakes. The state, by lease arrangement, now will be in a position to clean and dredge the lakes in one operation.

It was the advent of this equipment that changed the thinking of environmental groups, and Wilcox Lake will be used as the pilot program.

The lakes are formed by dams along the Middle Rouge River. Most of the land is owned by Wayne County, which uses the area for both flood control and recreation.

The land is under the jurisdiction of the road commission, which has traditionally allocated its scarce funds for road work rather than recreation or water cleansing.

Heavy growths of algae have made the lakes unsightly and smelly.

Several years ago, the lakes' levels were drained and the fish population—dominated by carp and stunted panfish—killed off. The lakes were restocked with more desirable gamefish, including trout, bluegills, bass and channel catfish, but few except the bluegills survived. This was a state DNR project.

Also in recent years, several ideas were advanced for



FLOATING ALGAE breaks up reflections on Newburgh Lake, one of three impound-

ments of the Middle Rouge River. (Observer photo)

beautifying the lakes and exploiting their recreational potential. Always, however, hopes were dimmed for lack of money.

One project discussed for Wilcox Lake was the installation of a fountain in its center that would be fashioned after the fountain at Geneva, Switzerland.

The proposal calls for the fountain to be lighted at night. It could then serve as a beacon when the two new expressways—M-14 and I-275 cross paths in Plymouth.

Another suggestion, along with the fountain, was that paddle boats would be made available much like the project now so popular in Camp Dearborn.

A third idea was the possibility of obtaining a large paddle wheel boat, possibly called The Mayflower, that could provide rides in any of the three lakes.

The beautifying project also comes at a time when the Old Village Assn. in Plymouth has made great strides in revamping "Old Village." Among the projects here is a beautify the bank of Wilcox Lake to conform to the new Old Village Point Park. It also had been hoped that a bridge could be built from Wilcox Road to the island in the lake.

Dormant for a time all these projects—and hopes—will come alive again if the governor approves the Inland Lake Project and the two-year time table set for the completion of the work.

## U-M Dearborn Is Forming Alumni Group

Alumni of the University of Michigan-Dearborn are electing a 12-member board to govern the new UM-Dearborn alumni society. Membership will include residents of Livonia, Plymouth and Redford.

Candidates include John McRae, a 1963 engineering graduate from Livonia; Michaeline Koppy, a 1972 literature, science and arts graduate; and Pauline Siebodinick, a 1972 science and arts graduate from Plymouth.

Organized last May, the UM-Dearborn alumni group is a member society of the university's alumni association, with membership open to all graduates, and past and present faculty members.

Twenty-three candidates were nominated for staggered terms of one, two and three years.

Elected governors will take office on Sept. 1, and will be responsible for formulating the society's activities during the next year.



RICHARD T. SCHWANDT is the new controller of United Northwestern Realty Association/Western Wayne Oakland County Board of Realtors. Schwandt, a CPA, earned his BA degree in accounting and financial administration from Michigan State University. While in college, he went to work for an accounting firm where he progressed from audit trainee to senior accountant. Schwandt and his family will settle in the West Bloomfield area.

## Realtors Schedule Free Clinic

The Detroit Real Estate Board will hold a commercial property clinic Oct. 26 at the Raleigh House in Southfield.

Lee D. Stein, chairman of the board's commercial-industrial division, announced recently that David G. Miles would be chairman of the event.

Miles, a graduate of Cornell University, has experience in commercial real estate.

**NEED A HOME?**  
What if there was a company ... that sold homes ... and trusted people ... especially did you know ... who were short on cash, busy with a home, or selling an apartment ... WHAT IF that company sold low cost, high quality, direct homes ... with step by step instructions, WHAT IF they were interested in your promise to make last year's payments ... then how much cash you could pay down, "Wouldn't that be the way?" There is one company ... only one ... without such a plan ... THE MILES PLAN ... and free from the book "Miles Plan" PLEASE RUSH ME YOUR FREE CATALOG ON MILES BUILD IT YOURSELF HOMES

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
FEE: PRECUT  
**MILES HOMES**  
17016 MACK AVE. GROSSE PTE. MI 48655-5549  
There is a Miles local representative in your area  
THE MILES WAY IS DIFFERENT

**HOME-OWNERS INSURANCE AT**  
AAA  
57 OFFICES  
GROUP INSURANCE COMPANY OF MICHIGAN

**THIS IS A Welcome Wagon TOWN!**

Let us welcome you.

**WAYNE COUNTY**  
ONE 635-3807  
LIVONIA, PLYMOUTH  
NORTHVILLE, REDFORD  
GARDEN CITY AND WESTLAND

**CASIMIR COUNTY**  
ONE 842-0130  
FARMINGTON AND  
SOUTHFIELD

The Most Famous Restaurant in the World

**Something New in FUND RAISING**

EXCLUSIVE, TOP QUALITY PRODUCTS DESIGNED TO APPEAL TO THE IMPULSE BUYER

CALL NOW 522-1116

**FOR PROBLEM PREGNANCY COUNSELING TERMINATION**

CALL MICHIGAN MEDICAL ABORTIONS 522-7272

DIV. OF AMERICAN BIRTH CONTROL SOCIETY

**SEX...**

NOW that we have your attention come for your better appliance buys at

Walter's Home Appliance  
24224 Plymouth Rd.  
Livonia 427-7210

*Soft Styles... no appointment necessary...*

**Eagle's HAIRSHOP for MEN**  
27010 PLYMOUTH RD. JUST E. of Inkster  
FOR APPOINTMENT CALL 937-9830

**CLYDE SMITH & SONS**  
CENTENNIAL FARM MARKET  
8000 Newburgh Road between Joy and Warren  
OPEN 7 DAYS 9 a.m.-8 p.m. PHONE 428-1434

**"BUY DIRECT FROM A GROWER & SAVE"**

**49¢ lb. VINE-RIPENED TOMATOES**  
U.S. #1  
IDEAL FOR FREEZING

**HOME GROWN FRESH PICKED SWEET CORN 39¢ for 6 5 DOZ. BAG \$3.25**

**29¢ lb. RED HAVEN PEACHES**  
MICHIGAN

**35¢ & UP HOME GROWN HONEY MELONS**

**\$1.39 10 LBS. POTATOES**  
U.S. #1 MICHIGAN

**ICE COLD! NO EXTRA CHARGE WATERMELON \$1.50 AND UP**

**GRADE A EGGS 94+ EXTRA LARGE 90+ LARGE 82+ MEDIUM**

**PICKLES ALL SIZES DILL POUND, PECK & BUSHEL**

**PEARS 39¢ lb. TRUST**

**GLADS 85¢**

**ZUCCHINI SQUASH any size 3 for 25¢**

## How long does it take us to approve a Mortgage Loan?



**Next question, please.**

**American Savings**



Main Office: 24700 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield 48075, (313) 354-1300  
14 offices throughout Metropolitan Detroit

