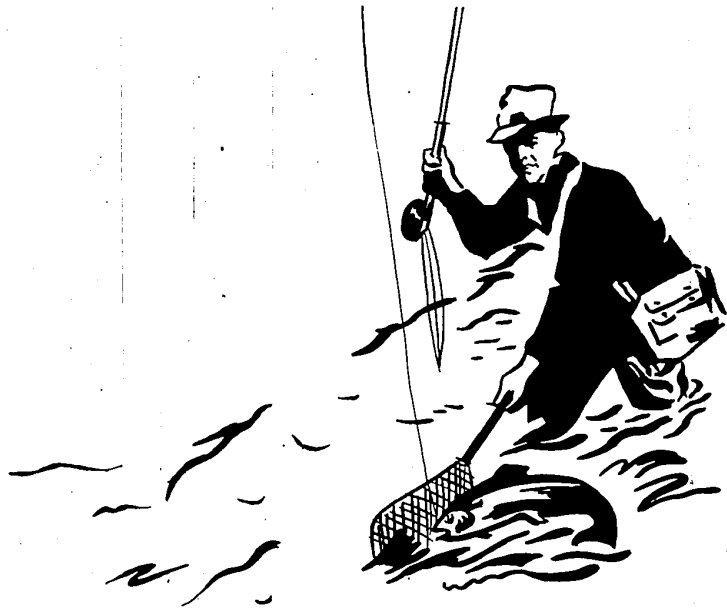


THE ROAD THAT DOES DOUBLE-DUTY



The beauty of Edward N. Hines Parkway is the first thing you notice about it, but there's more to it than that.

Hines Parkway has few cross streets, and so it serves as a major traffic artery for west suburban traffic headed in and out of downtown Detroit.

Few park roads carry much traffic; few traffic arteries are beautiful. Hines Parkway thus is a road that does double-duty.

Unique in concept and design, Hines Parkway is the sort of jewel found in few places in the U.S. Its only rival within a thousand miles is Fairmont Park on the banks of the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia.

It parallels a branch of the Rouge River starting at Seven Mile Road in Northville, going almost due south to Plymouth, crossing southwestern Livonia, slicing through Dearborn Heights and ending at M-153 (Ford Road) in Dearborn.

The road is about 20 miles long, and the park area surrounding it ranges from 25 yards to a quarter-mile.

The appearance is rustic throughout. But if you look beyond the park's borders, you can see anything — farmland, commerce, suburban homes, schools, industry.

Its facilities are many. The parkway is dotted with baseball diamonds and football fields, tennis courts, picnic tables, grills, bridges across the stream. Fishermen try their luck from shore for trout and bass, or whatever might come along. A few have luck.

In winter, other parks become cold

and drab. Not Hines Parkway. There is ice-skating on Newburgh Lake, one of two along the route, and a big mound for sledding and skiing east of Middlebelt Road.

But mostly, people just relax. They get off the beaten path, they soak up sunshine or rest in the shade of a tree, they walk on grass instead of hard pavement, they look at the swift little brook with its streams and waterfalls and tiny dams. They can think.

The idea was conceived in 1930 by Edward N. Hines, then chairman of the Wayne County Road Commission and missionary in the struggle for good roads. Hines convinced the county to take on the project, and it remains county-run.

At first it was just a winding drive. But Hines pushed for acquisition of land along the right-of-way to create the parkway panorama. Grass, picnic tables and grills came first; game fields came later.

For years, Hines Drive extended only from Seven Mile in Northville to Telegraph Road in what is now Dearborn Heights. Then in 1956, Ford Motor Co. deeded 410 acres to the county for an extension of the drive, and the portion from Telegraph to Ford Road was completed in 1959.

In 1963 another attempt to add a section to the drive was made, but residents surprisingly objected and fought off the plan.

In time, however, Hines Parkway will likely be lengthened. Meanwhile, it remains one of the most esthetically beautiful and economically useful drives in the land.

