

Engineers to study

Lakes dredging: state pilot project

By KATHY MORAN

The first step toward dredging Wilcox, Phoenix and Newburgh Lakes to improve water quality and make them more suitable for recreation was taken Monday when a contract was signed for a study of the three lakes.

State Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) gathered Dept. of Natural Resources and local officials at the pavilion on Wilcox Lake to witness the contract signing with John R. Snell Engineers Inc. The six-month study is expected to lead to dredging and improving the Middle Rouge lakes so they will eventually be suitable for swimming, fishing and other activities.

Pursell sponsored the bill providing \$50,000 for an initial engineering and limnological study and gathered support from Livonia, Plymouth and Northville officials for the pilot project.

John Snell, president of the engineering firm which was low bidder, signed the contract with Leon Cook, chief



CLEANING OF Wilcox, Phoenix and Newburgh Lakes started with the signing of a contract between John Snell (sitting), representing his engineering firm, and Leon Cook (center), representing the Dept. of Natural Resources. Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) witnesses the contract signing for an engineering study of the lakes. Pursell obtained the \$50,000 state grant to finance the study and initiate the dredging and cleanup. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

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of the hydrologic engineering section of the DNR's Bureau of Water Management. Snell said the study "almost had to begin tomorrow" to reach its scheduled completion in June.

By that time, Pursell hopes to have won approval of an other appropriation to cover initial costs of dredging and other recommendations toward improving the lakes and restoring them to their natural beauty.

Interrupted occasionally by ice skaters using the frozen lake, Pursell said that the

three lakes "have the potential for a great future."

"They are sitting here as, I would consider, diamonds in the rough."

While keeping them in their natural state, Pursell said that the lakes will be useful for recreational purposes when the cleaning project is complete.

The project is the first of its kind and will set a model for rehabilitating other "dead" lakes in Michigan, he said.

Recreational uses could include swimming, fishing, and canoeing, when the cleanup

is complete. Other suggestions have included putting a fountain in Wilcox Lake, paddleboats similar to those at Camp Dearborn, and a large paddle wheel boat for rides.

The DNR drained the three lakes several years ago to kill off such undesirable fish as carp and restocked them with more desirable game-fish such as bass and bluegills.

Ron Splitter, DNR fisheries biologist, said many game fish didn't survive because of the poor water quality. Restocking the lakes would be useless until the quality is improved, he said.

Local officials attending the signing included Livonia Mayor Edward McNamara, Plymouth Mayor Beverly McAninch, Plymouth Township Supervisor J. D. McLaren, Plymouth City Manager Fred Yockey, Plymouth City Commissioner Harold Guenther and Wayne County Commissioners Mary Dumas (R-Livonia) and Brian Arrowsmith (R-Wayne).

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Public is invited to help plan recreation future

Persons who are interested in the "great potential" of the three lakes which are formed by dams along the middle Rouge River. He obtained a \$50,000 state grant for a engineering and limnological study of the lakes which will start this month and be completed by June.

He also is working on obtaining state financing for eventual dredging and improvement of the lakes.

In the meantime, he is soliciting support from governmental officials and attempt-

ing to develop a joint task force to monitor agencies working on the lakes and to develop recreational plans.

Suggestions for improvements include placing a fountain in Wilcox and putting paddle boats on the lakes. Beaches could be formed for swimmers.

Local support and interest is needed to make the lakes project succeed, he said, encouraging local residents to get involved.

Hudson's names 4 new managers

The J. L. Hudson Co. has appointed four new store general managers, including one for Westland Center.

The promotions result from the retirement of F. Lloyd Smith, vice president and general manager of the Downtown store and the opening of a store in Briarwood Center in Ann Arbor slated for this summer.

William A. Gigante of Grosse Pointe Farms has been appointed general manager of the Westland store. He was formerly divisional merchandise manager of women's sportswear. Gigante replaces Joseph L.



WILLIAM A. GIGANTE

Middletown Jr. of Franklin, who was promoted to vice president and general manager of the downtown store.

Middletown has held several executive positions including assistant store manager of the Northland store and divisional merchandise manager of the children's department. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1953.

Robert B. Sanford has been appointed general manager of the new Ann Arbor store. A resident of Grosse Pointe Park, Sanford was general manager of the Southland store.

Hudson Holland Jr. will replace Sanford as general manager of the Southland store.

OU plans course in therapy

A five-session survey course exploring traditional (Freudian, neo-Freudian) and modern (transactional analysis, Gestalt, rational emotive and behavior modification) therapy models will be offered evening by Oakland University's division of continuing education beginning Jan. 28.

Psychotherapy Explained, designed to dispel myths and give straight information, is aimed at people who are considering therapy, those who have friends or relatives in therapy, and professionals and para-professionals who are in a position to recommend therapy. There will be absolutely no treatment or training to use any of the methods.

Course coordinator is Dr. David G. Smith of Clarkston. Dr. Smith, in guidance and counseling at the university's school of education, will present an overview and make the contract with enrollees.

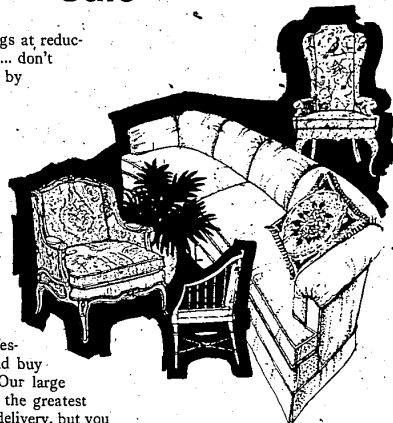
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