

Backstage men backbone of lottery

The Michigan State Lottery comes to Lawrence Institute of Technology April 18. The man responsible for setting the 7,200 pounds of indoor drawing equipment and the new mobile version of Michigan's Money Machine is 27-year-old Tom Depottonydy. Depottonydy is a civil service employee of the bureau and is classified as a motor vehicle operator. When he was first assigned the task of driving the 40-foot trailer and tractor from site to site, the job was envisioned as a part-time endeavor. Moving and maintaining the equipment has become a full-time

job for Tom and his partner, Bob Gafner, who is also in charge of advance planning for the drawings. **DEPOTTONYDY**, born in Germany while his family was enroute to the United States from Hungary, has worked for the state since graduating from high school — with the exception of two years in the U.S. Army driving tanks. The bulky indoor equipment requires several hours of set-up time, necessitating the arrival of the equipment the day before the drawings — generally held at 9:45 a.m. each Thursday.

When a fork-lift truck isn't available to help unload the unassembled drawing equipment, Tom and whatever warm bodies are available are pressed into service to get the equipment off the truck. The new mobile unit will shorten the period of time required to set up, but it won't solve the problems involved in sorting the 1,000 polyethylene balls used in the weekly drawing. It takes two hours to arrange the balls in racks at the rear of the drawing platform — and it takes 10 seconds for some dignitary to dump them back into a plastic drum for the drawing.

December of '72 as the "worst" so far. The drawing was scheduled for Dec. 7 to allow one U. P. drawing before "bad weather" set in, but the schedule was off by one day. Tom and Bob left Marquette in a blinding snow storm and after three hours of driving, found they had taken a wrong turn and were just a few miles outside Marquette. Tom's comment upon reaching the Marquette city limits again is not printable.

Austin, the drawing was held in a boat dealer's showroom. A lot of time and effort — mostly Tom, Bob and Jerry's — goes into the conducting of a lottery drawing. Most of what they do is never witnessed by the audience who come to watch the lottery show.

Court rejects Franklin zoning

By ELSPETH BEIER **FRANKLIN** — Circuit Court Judge William Beasley has found that the single family residential zoning of Michael Michael's land at the corner of Fourteen Mile Road and Franklin Road is unreasonable, invalid and unconstitutional. The long-awaited court finding does not rezone the property involving part of lots N 25 and 26 behind the Michaels' "The Curiosity Shoppe," but it does negate the current R-4 zoning held by the council in ordinance No. 113. Plaintiff Michaels and his wife Delphine asked for consideration of commercial zoning in order to erect small businesses on the lot overlooking the Franklin River and pond, which the court does not have the power to grant.

The land remains unzoned if no appeal is made, until the council takes actions to categorize it. Neither Tom nor Jerry has come close to a driving mishap yet, even though they have driven the equipment in all kinds of weather. Tom regards the trip to Marquette in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in

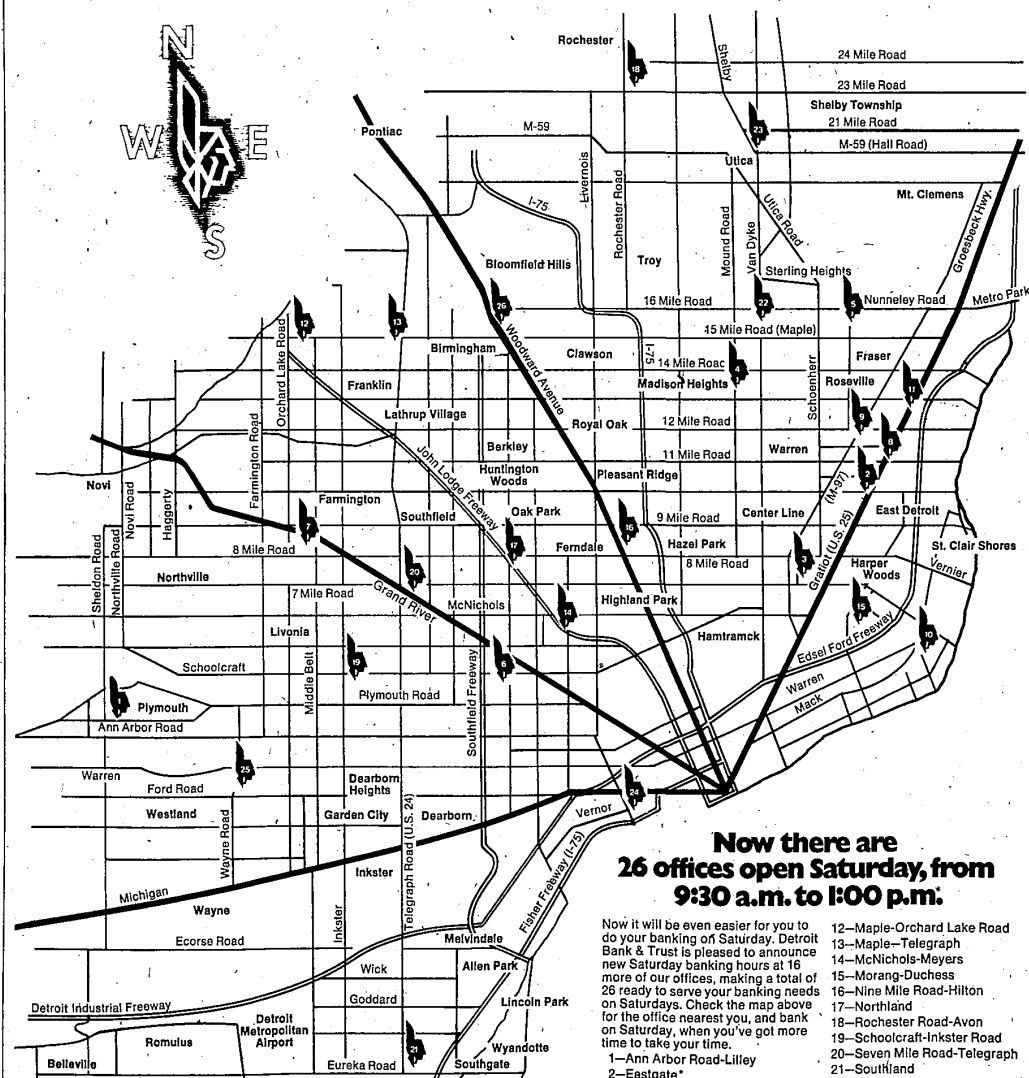
JERRY LYONS, 31, assists Tom and Bob periodically. An East Rapids resident, Lyons is classified as a lottery vehicle operator. Because of the size of the lottery equipment, big shopping malls or armories have worked out best for drawings. In Monroe, however, the drawing was held in a Ford dealer's service garage. In tiny Port

THE OWNERS also sought an injunction preventing the village from interfering with commercial use of the property. The court declined to do so. When considered for zoning recommendation by the village planning commission in March 1972, the land was deemed suitable for commercial development, but the village council refused to so designate it. The small pie-shaped plots, 437 by 227 feet and 439 by 425 feet, are not designated for single family dwellings by the master plan approved by the council four years ago. At one time in June 1972, the council appointed a committee to negotiate with Michaels for the purchase of the land for use as a public park. **VILLAGE ATTORNEY** Dean, Beier argued that four single family homes could be placed in a close community on the easterly portion of the lots. Michaels' lawyer, Joseph T. Brennan argued that the site was surrounded by commercial strips and heavy traffic, generated by businesses and the Franklin Cider Mill. It is expected that Brennan will enter a judgment within the week. The 20-day period allowed for an appeal by Beier begins with that action by the plaintiff.

Car kills 16 year old

A 16-year-old pedestrian became Southfield's fourth traffic fatality this year. Kenneth Richard Maisen, 23580 Edinburgh, was struck by a car about 11:30 p.m. March 30 while crossing Nine Mile Road west of Telegraph Road. An hour later, Southfield police received a phone call from Craig Allan Dredge, 27, of Detroit who told officers he thought he had been involved in an accident on Nine Mile Road. Officers dispatched to the scene found the victim's body in a depressed area off the shoulder of the road. The Southfield Fire Department Life Support Unit administered first aid, but the youth was dead on arrival at Providence Hospital. Dredge was given a breathalyzer test at the Southfield Police Station and his 1971 Ford station wagon was impounded for examination of damage to the front of the vehicle. The accident is under investigation by the Southfield Police Traffic Safety Bureau. Investigators will seek a warrant through the Oakland County prosecutor's office.

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