

# New rustlers hustle copper

There is a new type of rustling going on throughout this state. Utilities report that theft of copper wire from electric and communications lines is increasing, causing financial loss to the electric companies and railroads, interruption of service to customers, and possible serious injury to the unsuspecting rustler who comes in contact with an energized line.

Property protection officials from Consumers Power Co., The Detroit Edison Co., Michigan Bell Telephone Co., General Telephone Co., and railroads throughout the state have met with law enforcement agencies to lend assistance for the arrest and conviction of individuals responsible for the thefts.

The frequency of copper larceny has shown a marked increase in the past year due largely to the higher prices of the wire in the copper market. Copper now sells from between 80 cents - \$1 per pound.

THE UTILITY loses the value of wire stolen and makes substantial expenditures to restore service to the affected area. The financial picture doesn't include the inconvenience to the customer who finds his home without power or communication because of the wire theft.

Many of the copper thefts are occurring in sparsely populated areas. In these cases, the thief cuts down the distribution lines and in some instances even takes wire leading from a utility pole into a cabin.

Another type of theft involves electric transformers being removed from a pole, construction site or storage yard. The thief normally will strip the quantity of copper windings inside the transformer case and leave the rest of the unit, now useless, behind.

Theft of copper line is not without danger. If the unsuspecting thief makes contact with an energized overhead line or transformer, electrocution could result. Metal wire cutters that touch a live line will conduct the current into whoever is holding the shears.

Cooperation between utilities and police agencies has increased the arrest rate of the copper rustlers. Utilities have monitors that allow them to immediately inform law enforcement agencies when an interruption of service has been caused by a broken circuit believed to be the result of a cut line.

WIRE RUSTLERS, trying to

collect hundreds of feet of line at one time have been surprised on the job by an officer tipped off by the utility that service in the vicinity was interrupted.

Arrests of these illegal linesmen have been made through citizen assistance.

State law requires that scrap metal dealers keep up to date records of all purchases and sales of copper. Dealers are requested to notify police agencies about sales of any large amount of copper wire.

## ACTS Computing gets new division

ACTS Computing Corp., of Southfield, a subsidiary of Lear Siegler Inc., has announced the acquisition of Methods Science Inc. which will operate as a division of ACTS.

Headed by Walker T. Howell, this new division will market and install the Univation System of Work Measurement and Control. The system, founded by Willard L. Kern of Management Science Inc. in Wisconsin, uses a mathematical approach to tie together the solutions to most work measurement information and control problems.

Aside from the inventor's company, ACTS is the only U.S. corporation which sells and implements this problem-solving service in industry.

ACCORDING TO Howell, the Univation system computerizes

the evaluation of work methods and performance standards to greatly improve a company's productivity.

"Our interest is not in making the employee work harder but in showing him a more efficient work method which in most cases takes less energy to perform," Howell said.

Howell views his service as "probably the world's best productivity improvement tool." He points out that while this is an area where the United States has lost its pre-eminence, he thinks "it is the challenge of the '70s to regain it."

Philip L. Glazier, ACTS vice president of operations, said Howell's decision to join ACTS provides the corporation with a well-rounded production line and a real entry into manufacturing.

Michigan's Copper Theft Control Committee, made up from representatives of utilities and railroads, believes continued cooperation with citizens and police agencies will increase the arrest rate of copper thieves. More importantly, it will help ensure that important communication and electric service is not interrupted.

## Today's investor

### Children investors should form clubs

Q. Several of my friends have teenage children and would like to start an investment club for them so they could get some practical experience in studying stocks. We've heard that because they are under legal age they could not own stocks and could not have an investment club.

A. I've talked this one over with attorneys many times, and the problem seems to be not that minor cannot own stock, but that he has no legal responsibility.

What that means as it concerns stocks, and as I understand it, is that if a broker sells stock to a minor and the minor does not pay, the broker cannot hold him legally responsible. If the minor sells a stock, he can, when he becomes of age, upset the sale and void it.

Consequently, no one wants to get involved with buying and selling stocks with minors.

As far as investment clubs go, the solution of the problem is for one of the parents or another adult

to act as agent for the group and have transactions conducted in his name. Hundreds of investment clubs made up of individuals below legal age have operated quite successfully in this way.

Q. I am interested in stocks, but have never bought any. Can you tell me what to look for in stocks, what different kinds of stocks there are, what industries are best, and when is the best time to buy?

A. That's a lot of major questions in one, and a thorough answer would take a book.

Learning about stocks takes time, and one of the best ways is to organize an investment club.

By THOMAS E. O'HARA, Board Chairman, National Association of Investment Clubs



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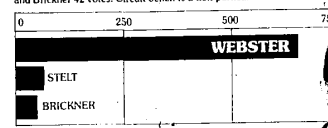
## An open letter to Oakland County voters:

The lawyers whose names appear on this letter battle each other frequently before various Oakland County judges. They are on opposite sides in many arguments. But these lawyers, on behalf of their clients, share one opinion in common: they like a judge who is fair, impartial, and intelligent. Here's an outstanding example—

Among 749 lawyers of the Oakland County Bar Association who responded in a ballot, **86.5% chose Judge Robert B. Webster as "best qualified."**

Good enough reason for you to retain Judge Webster on the Circuit Court bench August 6.

The Oakland County Bar Association asked its lawyers, Whom do you consider "best qualified" for the office of Circuit Court Judge? Of the 749 respondents, 648 or 86.5% voted for Judge Webster. Sixty three or 9.5% voted for Judge Brickner. 42 votes. Circuit bench is a non-partisan office.



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HIGHLY QUALIFIED

- Elected by his peers to the Workmen's Compensation Council of the State Bar of Michigan, 1970 through 1973
- Appointed Arbitrator of the American Arbitration Association
- Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Trial Lawyers Association, 1959 to present
- Am. Bar Assoc. Litigation Section
- Appointed to Lawyer-to-Lawyer Consultation Panel
- Associate member International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions
- Detroit Bar Association
- Michigan Trial Lawyers Assoc.
- Fellow of International Academy of Law and Science

AUGUST 6, TUESDAY

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- Prosecuting Attorney Assistant (61-64)
- Trustee Southfield School Board (64-68)
- Chrm. Oakland Commemoration Commission (72)
- Director, Mich. Society of Mental Health (Oakland)
- Governor's Traffic Safety Commission (64-67)
- Representative Assembly Member (Present)
- Parent-Youth Guidance Commission (62-65)
- Probate Court Legal Investigator Mental Health Div. (61)
- Former Bd. of Directors, Oakland County
- Historical Society (67)
- Only Clerk Probate Court (67)

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