

They're nice people!

Road folks serve community, on and off duty

Who are the people who build and maintain your county roads? When you have occasion to call the road commission, who's behind that voice on the other end of the line?

If the results of a survey of road commission employees' outside interests is indicative, chances are you're talking to a pretty typical Oakland citizen - interested and active in the community, pursuing hobbies, contributing personal talents to make life a little better for others.

Chetney Stader, a construction permit supervisor, plays a sax and clarinet in his off-duty hours with the "Dick Murphy Big Band," a group of mostly professionals who play from time to time at benefits to raise funds for combatting muscular dystrophy, sickle cell anemia and the like.

Bob Reynolds, an inspector in the subdivision streets function, raises vegetables (a 27-inch cucumber and one- and two-pound tomatoes, on occasion), cooks, and raises funds for charities.

Gary Grabendike, a traffic clerk, moonlights as a member of the county security force.

Robert Wightman, electrical services superintendent, is part-time electrical inspector for Oxford township and flies airplanes for relaxation.

Paul Van Roekel, county highway engineer, and his wife, Ann, are dedicated duplicate bridge enthusiasts and rank as

"life masters" in the demanding game.

Several hold part-time elective or appointive public office. Melvin J. Ousnamer is an elected trustee of the village of Ortonville. William R. (Bert) Mercer, director of permits, is vice chairman of the Waterford township planning commission. Robert C. McGregor, also of the permits department, holds a similar title in Highland township.

Others help youngsters enjoy organized sports. Joe Vance, a grader operator, manages a Little League baseball team while working in United Fund campaigns and being active in his church. Robert E. Grady, a senior traffic technician, coaches baseball and basketball for St. Benedict's elementary school in Pontiac.

Bernard (Bud) Speace, supervisor of the accounting division, serves without compensation as chairman of the board of independence center (that's right, not capitalized!), an organization of volunteer citizens who provide social services for people in northern Oakland county - free emergency food, clothing and furniture, daily calls to shut-ins. They also arrange professional counseling. They enjoy the use of a building at 5331 Maybee road in Clarkston for nominal rent - which Speace says is contributed by civic groups and scout troops.

Earl Budrow is a float operator in the Davisburg district by day and repairs old clocks for fun in his spare time. Another float operator, Terry Baden of the Pontiac district, races dune buggies and has helped conduct an

off-road vehicle show from which proceeds were contributed to the Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children.

William P. Moroski, II, a shovel operator, is a volunteer fireman in Oxford and a sergeant reservist in the Army's Special Forces. Archie Spence, Jr., a traffic specialist, also is a volunteer fireman and a Jaycee - in Waterford.

Melvin Caldwell, auger operator, serves on his union's local board and gets his kicks out of archery - target and hunting.

Mike Long, a permit engineer, is a trustee of his church in Davisburg and is on the Shrine Crippled and Burned Children Committee.

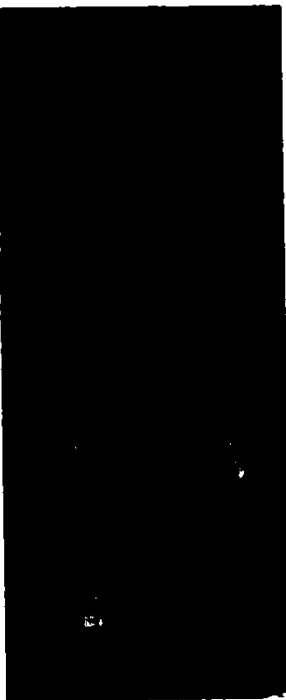
Calvin J. Voorheis, weighmaster, is president of the men's fellowship at his church and secretary of the Lions Club in Holly.

George Suarez, purchasing director, is a Madison Heights councilman and serves on several city boards and commissions.

But shed a tear for his secretary, Barbara Bowdell. As captain of cheer-leaders for the Detroit Lions last year, Barb looked forward to completion of the new Pontiac stadium where the Lions will be entertaining their National Football League competitors.

Now, the Lions have decided to disband their cheer-leaders and to use pom-pom girls from local high schools, instead. Barb has been told. So she's looking for another hobby.

Judging from that cross-section of road commission people, one might conclude they're the type anyone would like to have as friends and neighbors.



Bowdell



From top, Wightman, Baden and Reynolds

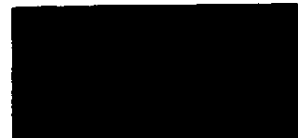


Caldwell, above, and Moroski and Stader, left to right, below.



Grabendike

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Speace, Jr., above
Grady and Little Leaguers

OAKLAND ROADS

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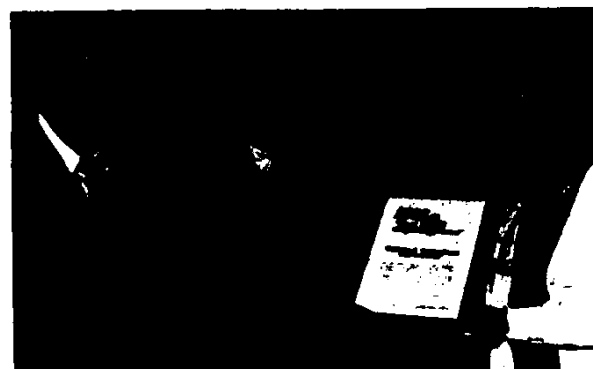
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SHARE EVEN THEIR BLOOD - Each of 116 road commission employees helped win this American Red Cross "Good Neighbor" award by donating at least one pint of blood. John L. Grubba, center, managing director of the road commission, displays plaque with Virginia Falk, field representative for the southeast Michigan chapter of American Red Cross, while Lester J. Smith, road commission safety supervisor, beams with pride in fellow employee's life-saving gifts.