

Upgrading Counselors: College Vs. Business

By TIM RICHARD

Should a counselor study counseling? -- an oversimplified way of stating the argument that has been revolving around the people who guide and advise students in schools and colleges.

The high school counselor, in particular, has been the subject of two new state laws and a broadside from the State Chamber of Commerce.

Two OBSERVERLAND reporters were instrumental in getting those changes in the law.

John Webber, a Farmington resident who's director of coun-

seling at Schoolcraft College, is a former president (1968-69 school year) of the Michigan Guidance and Counseling Association, which lobbied the changes through the Legislature.

State Rep. Vincent Petipren (D-Westland), himself a former college instructor, was author of the two bills, signed recently by Gov. Milliken.

One law gives the State Board of Education power to set standards for counselor certification. The other, for the first time, 12 counselors in the public schools, "Michigan was one of two states that didn't have counselor certification," said Webber in an interview. "We've

been trying to get it for a number of years."

"THE OTHER law is a kind of 'graduation clause.' That is, it will make automatic the certification of counselors who have a year of experience (as of the day the law takes effect) and 12 hours of graduate work in college in the field of guidance and counseling.

The law takes effect in mid-1971, which, as Webber ex-

pects, gives the State Board of Education time to write its standards for certification.

Webber says that the state will make automatic the certification of counselors who have a year of experience (as of the day the law takes effect) and 12 hours of graduate work in college in the field of guidance and counseling.

One possible requirement the State Board could set, he said, is to require a master's degree

in counseling.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL about counseling?

"A counselor has a different role from a teacher," Webber replied. "You just can't take anyone and expect him to be a good counselor."

"Counselors work with youngsters in their education and life, their academic fields,

"They're involved in the vocational aspect -- guiding a youngster into a career. The counselor doesn't have a crystal ball, but he helps a youngster think things through and

make a career decision. And there's the personal side of it -- the student's personal problems."

THE STATE Chamber of Commerce, however, recently called for a "revision" of the counseling system. The chamber board, in a resolution, char-

ged:

"At present, counselors are academically oriented. A large percentage of the counselors have no experience or interest in the work world. They specialize in counseling for higher education. . . .

"Counselors should have experience in the work world, should know of the opportunities in business and industry, and should be required to have some outside experience as a condition of employment.

"Counselors from business should be utilized, more emphasis should be placed on experience than certification and academic degrees."

Thus, the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce,

"IT JUST ISN'T so," says John Webber.

He thinks the chamber board "would be surprised at the number of counselors who do have experience in the world of work." They worked in school. They moonlighted on a lot of jobs when they were teachers."

A counselor, Webber says, simply must know a good deal about work opportunities. But he is in full agreement with the chamber that it's desirable for counselors to know a good

deal more about the business world.

"A lot of companies are assisting counselors," Webber goes on, citing Detroit Edison's summer work for the schoolmen.

He points out that at Schoolcraft, two counselors for technical students have technical backgrounds, have taught industrial arts, and have extensive backgrounds in business.

"Their alternative," he says of the chamber's resolution, "is to take a businessman -- anyone -- and make him a counselor."

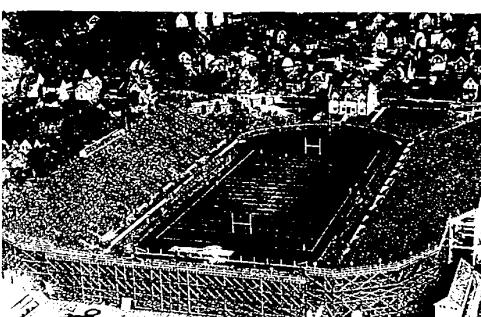
THE CHAMBER'S criticism of counseling is similar to the criticism that (say) anti-poverty workers have of the whole school system -- that it's academically oriented and slighted technical fields and trades.

Webber, however, blames not the schools for that fault but society -- and businessmen -- themselves.

"In this community," he says of the Schoolcraft College district, "you get a lot of mothers who want their kids to have a B.A. in English, not to be an electrician. There's a lot of pressure to get that B.A."

Webber insists that "counselors have been trying to tell parents for ages" that students shouldn't be pressured into academic areas when they're vocationally talented.

"Industry itself is putting on the pressure for associate degrees," Webber says. "Industry has propagated this whole monster by not evaluating a man on what he does, but on how many degrees he has."



PAGE OUT OF THE PAST: Here's a view of old Ferry Field where such football immortals as Willie Heston ran to fame in the days when "Hurry Up" Yost was the coach. Much of football's early history was written on this famed field.

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JOHN WEBBER
Counselors Know Work

Oosterbaan Recalls Page Out Of Past

By W.W. EDGAR

Bennie Oosterbaan, University of Michigan's only three-time All-American and a living legend on the Wolverine campus, peered out over the hallowed ground of old Ferry Field the other afternoon and sighed.

Workmen were busy digging long ditches through the sod where once such football legends as Willie Heston, George Schutte, Neil Snow and a host of others ran to gridiron fame.

Only a few weeks before, the old concrete stands finally fell victim to the ravages of age and were toppled to the ground. Now, the famed sod was being torn up while pipes were being laid to carry heat to the other buildings.

As he stood there watching the workmen, Bennie, last of the old campus who under "Hurry Up" Yost, confided that the very sight of the sod being ripped up brought back a lot of memories.

THE BIG BLOND from Muskegon who was named All-American end in 1925-26-27 smited a bit and revealed

that he caught several passes, two of them for touchdowns, to mark

his first and last appearance as a substitute.

His most vivid recollection, however, concerns the squad meeting on the Monday following the game when coaches discuss details of victory or defeat.

"You know," Bennie said, "Mr. Yost never mentioned the two passes I caught for touch downs, in fact he never even mentioned my name."

"Instead he called attention to one play in the game -- a play in which Benny Friedman's pass was short and I fumbled and fell while reaching for it."

"I want you fellows to recall one play," Mr. Yost said, "and I want you to stand and fall not up and tackled the runner from behind. He was the last man on the field you would expect to make the tackle, but he did. And that's the kind of alertness we want."

"That was Mr. Yost," Bennie smited, "a stickler for details."

ANOTHER OF HIS fondest memories is the defeat of a supposedly good Navy team, 54-0.

"To my knowledge," Oosterbaan explained, "this is the worst beating ever given to a Navy team in all football history. And it shows Mr. Yost's ability to get a team 'up' for a game."

"All during the week before the game -- and even before that -- he kept telling us that we were notably battling for Michigan, but we were upholding the prestige of the midwest against the East and that it was much more than a football game, it was a battle you know the rest," Bennie chattered. "We just got the victory he wanted and we received just acclaim. But there was one play in that game that still stands out not only in my mind, but in the records as well."

"IT CAME WHEN WE forced Navy back deep into its territory and all we had to do was to score a touchdown," Bennie said. "I ran and got the ball on the 50-yard line, but just as I was about to score, I heard a yell from the middle of the middle of all coaches, -- Fielding 'Hurry Up' Yost."

Meanwhile the workmen kept digging as Bennie turned away. Living again the great moments when he was the All-American end, the memory of the memory of all coaches, -- Fielding "Hurry Up" Yost.



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN -- The concrete stands at old Ferry Field that stood as a monument to the "Point-A-Minute" days of Michigan football, have become a victim of progress and now are just a memory. They deteriorated badly and were no longer considered safe.