

What Oakland Did With Parks Funds

In the 2 1/2 years since Oakland County voters approved a quarter-mill for parks and recreation, the county has acquired 1,600 acres for leisure time usage.

The quarter-mill will be up for renewal at the Aug. 4 primary. The tax costs property owners 25 cents per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING of the Farmington-West Bloomfield League of Women Voters. Parks-Recreation Director Kenneth Van Natta

compared the progress Oakland County has made with Macomb County after approval of millage for recreational purposes.

One month before Oakland County appointed a recreation commission, Macomb County had created one. Macomb still does not have a parks and recreation director. It still has not purchased land. It still does not know what to do, where to do it or how to do it.

Van Natta said Oakland County has spent \$2.2 million a year on land acquisition for

county parks and has received grants in almost every category — or \$1.1 million reimbursement from the federal government.

Usage fees are charged at all 100 county parks—in Oakland County resident rate and a double rate for non-residents. Senior citizens pay half the county charge.

ALTHOUGH ALL five new county parks are located in townships, usage fees do not go to the township. They go to the Parks and Recreation Commission for park development.

Van Natta laughed when describing some of the battles the commission has had in acquiring land for parks.

"Everybody wants the park, but they don't want it in their backyards," he said. "It takes the property off the tax roll."

The director conceded no new parklands are located in the northern end of the county and noted: "We're resource-oriented. In the south end of the county, there is no water or property we can afford to buy. We can't pay \$5,000-

\$10,000 an acre. We feel it makes good sense for government to act like its spending its own money."

The five new parks at Van Natta described them include: • **SPRINGFIELD OAKS** — begun with a nucleus gift of 170 acres from a private donor near Davisburg, 17 miles from the county courthouse. Site included purchase of another 100 acres.

Used for snowmobiling; has a nine-hole golf course to be increased to 18; has a millpond and a building used for 4-H and

other activities. Might be the site for new Oakland County fairgrounds.

• **GROVELAND OAKS** — located on US 10 at Grange Hall Road. Started with initial purchase of 155 acres for \$190,000. Forty-eight acres more bought for \$40,000 and a three-acre site for \$90,000.

Graveland is the most popular of the new parks and served 250,000 persons last summer. It is kept open 100 days for camping, picnicking, swimming and serves five times as many persons in that

time as the 5,000 National Resources Department acres surrounding it.

• **WATERFORD OAKS** — located on the border of Pontiac and Waterford. The only one of the new parks without water activities. Tentative approval has been obtained for \$750,000 from the county bond fund for a golf course, hockey rink, senior citizens center and indoor pool.

• **INDEPENDENCE OAKS** — located just north of Clarkston. Contains three lakes, 11 springs and three hills higher

than any at Pine Knob. Purchased at a cost of \$542,000 with half paid by the federal government. Has facilities for swimming, camping, boating and winter sports.

• **ADDISON OAKS** — located seven miles north of Rochester on 700 acres purchased for \$637,000, with 50% returned in matching funds. Contains a 20-room mansion, snowmobile trails, two lakes, an indoor pool, several buildings and grounds. Plans are to develop it for picnicking, camping and golf.

Area Reps Split On 'Rookie' Bill

LANSING — Observers state representatives split evenly 33 on an off-track betting bill which failed Wednesday. They will have another chance to vote, because the bill will be reconsidered.

Voting to allow off-track betting in Michigan for the first time were Reps. Richard Young (D-33rd District), Marvin Stempien (D-35th District), and Vincent Petlipren (D-37th District). Voting against it were Reps. John Bennett (D-34th District), James Tierney (D-36th District), and Raymond Baker (R-64th District).

THE BILL'S SPONSOR — ESTABLISHMENTS would

Rep. George Montgomery (D-Detroit) is seeking the two additional votes necessary to have the 36 for passage.

Detroit Mayor Roman Gribbs, a Democrat, has endorsed the bill. Gov. William Milliken, a Republican, has opposed it.

"Bookie" operations would be allowed and taxable by the state, at 3.5%, by the cities, at 5%; and by the race tracks, at 3.5%. Bookies could receive a 2% commission on successful tickets.

An estimated \$42 million would be earned by the state alone.

ESTABLISHMENTS would

be allowed at a ratio of one for every 50,000 persons, which would give Detroit 23.

Livonia, with more than 100,000 population, would be eligible for two. Other Observers' committees would be eligible for one and some would supposedly share another because they have population in excess of 50,000 but less than 100,000.

Bennett represents Redford Township, which has about 80,000 population. Tierney represents Garden City, part of Westland, Plymouth and Canton Township, whose combined population nears 100,000. Baker represents Farmington, which has a population of about 45,000.

It's Nesting Time Now For Big Canada Geese

By LEM MESELE
OUIDES Writer

While fishing one day, a friend and I noticed some Canada geese hunching down in the tall marsh grass. Almost like a sneak thief trying to hide from the police. By the time we got close enough to shore to see anything well, they'd disappeared.

We didn't disembark to look any closer, but if we had we probably would have found a nest in the grass. If we had really taken some time, we might have found Mr. and Mrs. Goose submerged in the water near shore with only their bills above the water line. Then, too, we may have provoked one or both into a whirling wing fight.

THESE BEAUTIFUL birds with their black heads marked by a broad white check stripe are among the wisest of wildfowl and the most geese. They can also put up a stout battle with those wings, but usually only against one another—such as when two males are competing for the affections of a female.

Seldom are they viewed on the ground in the wild except at long range. Their eyesight and hearing are so acute that they duck into cover well ahead of trespassers in the truly wild areas.

If cornered they have been known to submerge ahead of an approaching boat and then paddle along behind it with only their bill above water.

Normally they are migratory, spending their winters in the south and central United States and flocking to the far north countries in summer.

MICHIGAN HAS a flock of about 1,000 giant Canada geese that stays year-around in the Huron River area. Their home base is Kensington Metropolitan Park, where they enjoy a sanctuary.

About 10 years ago, some people thought the species was in danger of extinction. Only about 100 were around these parts at that time. This particular flock stays in the area between Pontiac and Ann Arbor.

As so-called giants, they are one of 11 different species of Canada geese. They are fair game to sportsmen when off state preserves.

They're nesting these days, the triumphant gander and his mate separating from the flock to build their nest and to take turns sitting on the eggs. The mother takes the young to water as soon as they're hatched and teaches them how to find food and to guard against old enemy pike, garpike, turtles, eagle and gull.

At the end of the summer the young will be taught to fly.

A MOTHER Canada goose at Kensington Metropolitan Park near Milford has discovered an unhatchable egg. William F. Hopkins, chief naturalist for the Huron-Clinch Metropolitan Authority, said that recently when he was checking an island in Kent Lake in the park, he came across a female goose on a nest located near some beer bottles and other debris probably discarded last winter by a "libertiger."



THEODORE G. FREAS will be headquartered in Farmington when he becomes customer field representative for Nordson Corp., central division, manufacturer of airless spray systems and adhesive applicators. Freas attended Baldwin Wallace College and Toledo University in Ohio.

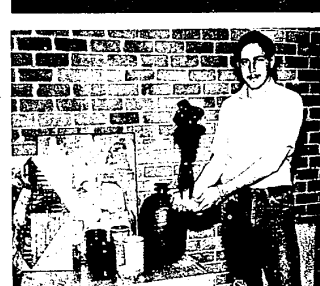
Credit Union League Names Its Officers

Three Observersland credit union officers will serve on the executive committee of the Western Wayne County and westside Detroit Edward A. Filene Chapter of Credit Unions.

Lawrence Wilhelm of 225 Roe, Plymouth, was re-elected to a two-year term as chapter director in the Michigan Credit Union League.

Jeanette L. Oliver, of 33920 LaMoine, Livonia, was elected to a two-year term on the executive committee. Continuing a current term is Stanley Kouris, 28471 Thorny Brae, Farmington.

Regional Affairs



SCULPTOR—Jim Gray, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Hildebrandt, 29836 Pickford, Livonia, displays his work which he has entered in an exhibition as part of his studies at Oakland Community College. Gray is a sophomore majoring in commercial art. The work on display took him more than 100 hours to finish.

Precinct Delegate Deadline Tuesday

If you want to get into partisan politics, there's no time like the present. But hurry! Tuesday, May 26, at 4 p.m. is the deadline.

You -- anyone -- can file petitions to run for precinct delegate for the party of your choice.

If you get on the ballot, your neighbors will have a chance to pick you to represent them at that party's county and district conventions where the grass roots decisions are made -- for party chairman, for party executive board members, for resolutions for and against contemporary issues.

You'll also then have a chance to be elected a delegate to a state or national party convention, where your vote could determine state or national candidacies and platforms.

If nothing else, you'll then be rubbing shoulders with those who will be forming such decisions. Who knows how much influence you'll have in your county's affairs?

All that's needed is 15 signatures of registered voters on a petition form available from your county clerk. They must be from your precinct. Your clerk will be able to define the boundaries of yours.

You need not be a current party member, but knowing who the people in the party of your choice are in your precinct and in your total community helps, both to win and to be effective.

Book Examines 2 Female Sex Views

ANN ARBOR — Freudian and non-Freudian views of female sexuality are examined in a new book published by the University of Michigan Press.

FREDERICK WYATT in his introduction to this new work offers his observation: "Considering the amount of time human beings commonly spend on the twin subjects of

Mardiros For Congress Petitions Circulating

He won't say in so many words, but Ron Mardiros is going to run for Congress again.

Mardiros told Observer Newspapers Thursday that a "Draft Mardiros Committee" presently circulating nominating petitions for him has his blessing, "but I still haven't made up my mind."

He said that as chairman of the 19th Wayne Democratic Party organization, he will back the best candidate, and that at present it appears that he himself would be the best candidate.

He believes that none of the other announced candidates "are to the point where their names are recognizable." He estimated that it would cost \$25,000 just to make any of them recognizable.

ONLY RON HECKER, fellow Livonian and chairman of the Livonia Democratic Club, has officially announced in the Democratic Party. Frank Adell of Oakland County and



JOHN H. HUSSEY Company President

Real Estate Firm Opens 2nd Office

A new business, the John H. Hussey Real Estate Co., will open in Farmington on Monday, May 25.

It will be the first branch office of a firm which has headquarters at 20340 W. Six Mile, Detroit. The new office will be located at 23286 Farmington Rd.

Heading a staff of six sales people at the new firm will be Hussey. He founded the company four years ago. Last year, he reported, his business grossed more than \$10 million in sales of residential property. He now employs about 50 persons.

Sales personnel at the Farmington office will be Mrs. Eleanor Lutz, Robert Sample, Vincent Santoni and Mrs. Pat McCarthy, all of Detroit; Douglas Waffar, of 17685 Fox, Redford; and Mrs. Eileen Corrado, of Northville.

Hussey has been in the real estate business 15 years. He is board secretary of United Northwestern Realty Association.

Hussey, 37, lives at 28616 Club House Lane, Farmington. He and his wife have eight children.

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RON MARDIROS Campaigner Ponders

Councilman Jerry Raymond of Livonia are others believed to be considering the race.

The one who survives the Aug. 4 Democratic primary will go against two-term incumbent Republican Jack McDonald of Farmington.

Mardiros lost a battle to unseat a veteran Livonia city treasurer this past April. He ran for Wayne County Charter commission in 1968, winning the Democratic party nod -- but the commission proposal failed and left him unseated.

He was a primary candidate for Congress in 1968, also, losing to Gary Frink of Pontiac, who lost to McDonald.

He was a primary candidate for Congress in 1968, also, losing to Gary Frink of Pontiac, who lost to McDonald.

MARDIROS, A BAIL bondsman with offices at 31122 Plymouth Rd., in Livonia, served on a Livonia city charter revision commission in 1966-67. The charter proposal was rejected at the polls.

He'll have to announce officially by June 16, the last date for filing nominating petitions.

Mardiros' candidacy indicates that bad blood has come between him and Hecker, who was previously his staunchest lieutenant.

Mardiros won the Wayne 19th chairmanship in 1968, wresting it from arch-foe Jerry Raymond, who had the backing of Aldo Vagnozzi, chairman of the 10th district, and the unions.

Get X-Ray On June 3

X-ray examinations to detect tuberculosis will be given Wednesday, June 3, from noon to 7 p.m. at Wonderland Center, Plymouth at Middle Belt, Livonia.

It's among 31 facilities to be visited by buses during June.

The Tuberculosis and Health Society, Wayne County's Christmas Seal organization, is co-sponsoring the x-ray examinations in cooperation with health departments and the neighborhood action groups.

The free x-rays are available to anyone 18 years or older.

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