

# Mergraf Asks Water Pollution Probe

## Says Road Oiling Fouls Rouge

By W. W. EDGAR

Claiming that the heavy deposits of oil found at the end of a drain pipe from the Mergraf Oil Products Division of the Swain Corp. in Northville to the Middle Rouge were the result of a recent oiling of the road, John W. Swain Jr., president of the corporation, has asked for a complete investigation by the Michigan Water Resources Commission.

"Our company," he said, "is aiding in the battle against pollution by re-refining oil for the large industrial complexes. It would be rather strange if we didn't attempt to set an example. We just couldn't afford to help pollute the Middle Rouge."

The heavy deposits of oil were found May 1 during a survey taken by a county engineer. They showed the total oil (free and emulsified) being discharged into the stream was 280 mg. -- or 280 parts in a million.

This is way above the normal allowance and caused considerable concern in determining the amount of pollution in the Middle Rouge as it flows through Wayne County -- and especially in the Hines Parkway sector.

IN EXPLAINING the facts of this oil and the fact that the drain pipe runs under the road from the Mergraf plant, Swain stated in a letter to the Observer:

"We had oiled our road at that time and, apparently, ground runoff water from a rain was responsible. The only area which drains into the pipe is protected by two overflow sumps to stop any oil which might collect on the ground."

"There are no connections from any of our plant equipment, tanks or pits. Therefore, the only oil which could get into the drain would be the ground runoff. In those areas where pump leaks or spills can happen, the water and/or oil is diverted to our process pits."

"As a result, as an examination of the stream banks will show, we are not dumping or disposing of oil to the stream. And as noted above, we can only discover that the cause was the result of road oiling."

"Unless, to say, we have conducted an extensive examination of our operations, and I am satisfied that there is not a recurring problem."

"We are awaiting an investigation, at our request, by the Water Resources Commission."

Swain further explained that the Mergraf company was the only one in this area in the re-refining business that is playing a major part in the waste oil problem.

"We have tank storage available for 700,000 gallons at the Northville plant," he stated. "In addition to 1.25 million gallons in earthen open pits and another 250,000 in concrete pits."

ACCORDING TO Swain, his company handled six million gallons of incoming waste oil last year and returned 4.5 million of fresh oil to the various industrial plants.

In the process of re-refining the waste oil, there is a sludge content of approximately 10%.

"These sludges," Swain pointed out, "can be used to best advantage as landfill as they contain no garbage or other bacteria that eventually could be dangerous."

Admitting that he is a "buff" on pollution, especially where oil is concerned, Swain stated that waste oil is one of the major problems.

HE FURTHER pointed out that it has become one of the major studies among the experts across the land.

"You can re-refine the industrial waste oil, as we do, and return it to the industries to be used again. But we are left with the sludge."

"You can use the waste oil on roads in this country. But here again you have a problem. This oil eventually goes into the stream because it is much lighter than water. Oil is rated at 7.5 pounds per gallon while water is 8.2 pounds per gallon."

"Third," he said, "you can burn the sludge and other waste in the incinerator. But this will cause air pollution, noise pollution and aid in the destruction of our national resources."

He also pointed out that experiments are now being made by which the waste oil is poured into deep wells and returned to the center of the earth. However, in some cases, he said, this oil is again flowing into the main stream.

"We don't know what is down there," he emphasized, "so the use of deep wells may not be the answer."

"In the meantime, I am concerned with our local problems in the Middle West. That's why I have requested the investigation of our Northville plant."

The Swain Corp. has recently taken over another plant in Indiana to re-refine industrial oil.



CONTROVERSIAL SOURCE -- This pipe comes from the Mergraf concern and it splashes into the Rouge River. Recently, when state officials checked the water at the end of the pipe, their findings revealed a high pollution content. Mergraf officials cited "foul" in more ways than one. They contend that oiling of a nearby road contributed to the high pollution content in the water, not the discharge through the pipe that comes from the Mergraf plant.

## Regional Affairs

### Marra Steps Down As C'ville Principal

Anthony Marra has resigned as principal of Clarenceville High School to become its assistant principal, providing a replacement can be found.

Marra has served as principal for the past four years and previously was assistant principal for nine years.

He requested the change, and it was granted conditionally June 25 by the Clarenceville Board of Education.

"I MADE the request because I felt I could serve the students and the district better from the role of assistant principal. I felt I could have closer contact with the students," said Marra.

Supt. David McDowell said Marra did a "fine job as high school principal, but I am aware of his ability to work



ANTHONY MARRA  
Room at the Top

effectively with the students as assistant principal.

"We will get the man we want," he stated, "or we will ask Marra to continue serving

as principal through the 1970-71 school year."

Marra will be filling a newly created second assistant principal position, created May 14, by the board because of increased enrollments.

IN ANOTHER administrative change, the board approved the hiring of an administrative assistant to the superintendent to replace Lester V. Knowlton, who has been ill since early April.

Knowlton will be retained in some capacity until his scheduled retirement July 1, 1971. He is presently recovering from hip surgery.

Knowlton would be handling negotiations with four groups and McDowell said it would be pointless to have him leave in the middle of negotiations.



DAVID L. HEINZMAN  
Succeeds Kahn

### New PR Man At S'craft

David L. Heinzman has been named director of public relations for Schoolcraft College. His appointment, announced by Dr. Eric J. Bradner, president, became effective July 1.

Until now "PR" was among duties assigned Howard Kahn, Bradner's assistant the past four years who resigned to join the Wayne County Community College staff. With the appointment of Heinzman, Schoolcraft has established an office responsible solely for public relations and associated functions.

Heinzman has eight years of direct educational public relations experience. For the past three years, he served as dissemination specialist with the Wayne County Intermediate School District's ASSIST center. Before that he directed public relations for the Riverview Community Schools.

Heinzman holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from Eastern Michigan University. The family plans to move to Northville this summer.

By W. W. EDGAR

Despite warnings from some of the country's top judicial authorities that inmates from the two institutions could not mix, the Michigan Legislature has passed a bill that will permit the overflow from the Wayne County Jail to be housed in the Detroit House of Correction.

The bill, first suggested by the Wayne County Commissioners, was approved, if the House on June 11 by a vote of 58 to 0 in the Senate, if approved in the closing rush, 28 to 8, last Friday morning.

Rep. John Bennett (D-Redford) didn't vote. Backed the measure were Reps. Ray Baker (R-Farmington), Vincent Pettipiece (D-Westland), Marvin Stierman (D-Livonia), James Tierney (D-Garden City) and Richard Young (D-Dearborn Heights).

THE PROPOSED plan to relieve the crowded condition at the County Jail by transferring 250 to 300 inmates to Dehoco has been the subject of much debate for the past four months.

The subject first was broached at a commissioners' meeting in April. At the time, Prosecuting Attorney William Cabalan cited an opinion that under state law, the Detroit House of Correction shall be used for the confinement, punishment and reformation of "criminals" or persons sentenced to prison.

At the time, he cited the Karminsky case (1888) in which the State Supreme Court held "The House of Correction is a prison for the confinement on persons convicted of offenses. No one can be received except in pursuance of some express statute."

"The only house of detention recognized by our laws is the county jail. The House of Correction was never designed to hold persons who could at

any time entitle themselves to a discharge, and it has no legal facilities for such a purpose. It is a place of punishment and not a place of confinement generally."

AT THAT TIME, after listening to the Prosecutor's opinion, Presiding Judge of Circuit Court Joseph Sullivan noted out that enabling legislation would be required before any sort of a plan could be worked out for a dual program at Dehoco.

Meanwhile, William Bannan, superintendent at Dehoco, and a penal expert with two decades of experience, informed the commissioners that the plan to house the overflow would now work.

"I've been in this business for 40 years," he told the commissioners, "and I just know you can't mix inmates and county jail prisoners. I've worked too hard at Dehoco (now rated among the top four in the country) to have our program upset."

Nevertheless, the county board kept plugging away, had the enabling legislation introduced and scored a victory when it passed the State Senate in the late rush last Friday morning.

While nothing definite has been decided, the county commissioners have had their eyes on three virtually empty barracks at Dehoco that, they claim, could be used for the overflow.

IN PREPARATION for the use of the barracks, the commissioners asked the County Board of auditors for a study. It was returned with a plan that cost the taxpayers \$228,934.

Who says teachers are interested only in what they can get?

[I]t now 57 teachers from northwest Wayne County, Oakland County and out-of-state are paying out of their own pocket to spend four weeks developing teaching materials, for themselves and the use of other teachers.

They're enrolled in a Northwest Metropolitan Area Community Resources Workshop sponsored by Michigan State University. The workshop meets daily 8 a.m. to noon at the Lewis Cass Elementary School in Livonia.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS represented by the participants include Livonia, Redford Union, Wayne, South Redford, Farmington, Southfield, Gar-

This estimate was based on the housing and caring for 300 prisoners and was broken down in the following brackets:

\$857,324-- annual cost of operation

\$30,000-- construction of fence around barracks

\$11,000-- uniforms for guards

\$30,000-- remodeling of present buildings.

This estimated cost of operation, according to the Board of Auditors, would include use of 29 patrolmen inside the buildings, 10 patrolmen to guard the perimeter, a captain, four lieutenants and a clerk along with five custodial workers.

While the cost of improving the three barracks and the erection of a fence is a one-time expenditure, the auditors estimated that the cost of the maintenance staff would reach an outlay of \$465,564.

The auditors also stated that the transferring of 300 prisoners from the county jail would reduce the cost of operating the facility by \$134,500 "unless there is a continual influx of new prisoners."

ON HEARING of this plan, Supt. Bannan called attention to the fact that the county owned a considerable amount of property on Beek Road, between Five Mile and Six Mile Roads and that a permanent facility could be built for the kind of money suggested.

"We built two big barracks at Jackson Prison," he said, "for far less money than that. And it could be done again."

One of the ironies of the situation is that Frank Wilkerson, administrator of the county

jail, is a former assistant to Supt. Bannan and was pitted against his old boss in the debate.

Wilkerson stated that he would like to transfer about 258 prisoners-- 238 men and 20 women. In this number he included those "prisoners" who are awaiting trial and can't make bond along with a few accused of felonies, but not on such charges as armed robberies or other high offenses.

Carl Purcell, county commissioner from Plymouth, was one of the leaders for approval of the use of Dehoco, arguing that the space was available and should be used.

IRONICALLY, it was Sen. George Kahn (R-West Bloomfield), whom Purcell is attempting to unseat, who led the floor fight against the measure in the Senate debate.

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The county's best bet would be to purchase the entire layout out here," he said, "and then it could do what it wanted at Jackson Prison," he said, "for far less money than that. And it could be done again."

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CIRCULATION DATA

FRED J. WRIGHT, Circulation Director

NEWSPAPER	1969	1970
LIVONIA OBSERVER	12,000	12,000
REDFORD OBSERVER	12,000	12,000
WESTLAND OBSERVER	12,000	12,000
SOUTHFIELD OBSERVER	12,000	12,000
FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER	12,000	12,000
SOUTHFIELD OBSERVER	12,000	12,000
WEEKLY MAIL & OBSERVER	12,000	12,000

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Art Langer, Classified Mgr. 422-0900

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Several project goals already formed include resource units on pollution, craftsman in the community, propaganda and human relations.

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