

Jobless Rate Tops '62 As

New Grads Enter The Market

By BOB McCLELLAN
Unemployment in the metropolitan area has reached its highest figure in eight years, a spokesman for the Detroit office of Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC) told the Observer this week.

The Detroit area for MESC purposes includes the counties of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb.

Joblessness for the tri-county area for mid-June hit 7.3 percent, jumping from the 5.8 percent figure recorded May 15. The statewide employment picture in Michigan is no prettier, according to the MESC official. Mid-June state joblessness has risen to 7.7 percent, up from the 6.2 percent mark posted in the middle of May.

SOME 128,000 persons are unemployed in the Detroit area at present, revealed the MESC spokesman. This figure is 292,000 for the state.

At first glance the Michigan unemployment figures seem unusually severe when compared to the national joblessness figure of 4.7 percent. But this is not quite the case, the MESC spokesman declared.

"The big jump in Detroit area and statewide unemployment from May to June resulted largely from the huge number of college students and high school graduates entering our labor market. We count these young people in computing our unemployment figures, but the national labor statisticians make adjustments for them thus reflecting a nationwide joblessness figure that doesn't take into account the same factors as ours."

"In other words, the national unemployment figure would be much higher if it were reached by the same method used in Michigan, the MESC official explained.

The tri-county unemployment was harsh, however, could not be denied. The last time joblessness reached such high proportion in the Detroit area occurred at the tail-end of a recession in 1962. It hit 7.3 percent in that year, too. At the start of that economic decline, in 1961, tri-county unemployment briefly totaled as high as 11.3 percent.

The present economic situation in the state is a far cry from what it was in 1969 at the same time. In mid-June last year Detroit area unemployment was 3.2 percent and climbed to 4.5 percent by June 15. State joblessness was 3.8 percent by the middle of May and rose to 4.9 percent by mid-June.

Students entering the Michigan labor market caused these unemployment increases then as they have this year.

"There just aren't many jobs for students," the MESC spokesman said.

JUST WHAT the future labor situation in the state holds, the MESC official said he was unable to predict.

"Things don't seem to be getting worse, they just haven't gotten better yet."

He did say, though, he expected Detroit area unemployment to rise after the auto industry model changeovers in August. The unemployment caused by auto changeovers equipped with a big dip in the national demand for new cars, has forced heavy layoffs in the auto industry as well as these firms which produce auto parts.

The MESC spokesman said he believes Detroit area employment situation will improve only when the national economy grows stronger.

This forecast may indeed be accurate, but perhaps only up to a point. Michiganians are only too well aware of the truth in a saying heard often in these parts:

"When the national economy sneezes, Detroit gets pneumonia."

Link Takes New Name

Link Welder Corp. has changed its name to Link Industries, Inc., announced Walter Watson, president.

Link has plants in Detroit, one in Livonia at 12001 Leveson Rd. and will soon have another facility in the Farmington Industrial Center.

"The new name better reflects the diversified design and manufacturing activities that we are involved with here at Link," Watson said.

"Our original name of Link Welder was established over 24 years ago when the company was almost exclusively in manufacturing welding equipment for the automobile industry. Today our market has been broadened to include the appliance and material handling industries as well."

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Dateline: Outdoors

By LEM MESEE
Outdoors Writer

When a lake's bass population has dwindled and its bluegill population is puny, about the only corrective measure is to poison the lake and restock it, according to a Michigan Fisheries University professor of bass and wildlife.

Dr. Eugene Roelofs suggests that over-harvesting of bass and under-harvesting of the prolific bluegill causes such a calamity.

THE PROFESSOR SAYS, "In warm water ponds stocked with bass and bluegill, fishermen should take out 10 pounds of bluegill for each pound of bass."

"This is a good rule to keep a favorable balance between the two types of fish. As a general rule, the bass will eat many of the bluegill. But when bass are over-fished, there are not enough left to control the bluegill population."

"As a result, the more numerous bluegill eat most of the food supply in the pond. This causes stunting of the bluegill and a decrease in the bass population."

Quite obviously the bass cannot eat a bluegill once it has passed the infant stage. A developed bluegill is thick and as menacing as a porcupine with its stiff upper and lower fins.

Despite this observation of conditions that explain the puny state, Oakland County agents of the Dept. of Natural Resources say "bluegill fishing is good in all inland lakes. Bass fishing is fair to good on Pontiac and Tipton Lakes."

HOWMET ACQUIRES NEW FIRM

Howmet Corp., Greenwich, Conn., has acquired the remaining shares necessary for a 100% interest in Centrax-Misco Limited, a facility formerly operated as a joint venture in England, according to Andre Jacomet, Howmet president.

Howmet has a metal products division at 41655 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth.

Centrax-Misco produces precision investment castings at Newton Abbot, England, and serves the needs of the gas turbine and aerospace industries in Europe. The facility has been renamed Howmet Misco Limited (HML) and will operate as part of Howmet's Superalloy Group.

The new 62,000-square-foot facility is expected to be completed at Souton, near Exeter, Devon, to house the production facilities and offices of HML. In support of its casting ability, HML contemplates having a complete ceramic core-making department for the production of cores for air-cooled castings.

The market for land-based gas turbines, growing rapidly in the United States, is relatively untapped in Europe.

ACCOUNTANTS Tap O'Hara For Board

Tim P. O'Hara of 15425 Winthrop, Redford Township, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Detroit chapter of National Association of Accountants (NAA) for the 1970-71 year.

The NAA is an organization with over 70,000 members. The Detroit chapter is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and has approximately 1,000 members who live and work in the Detroit area.

BANK SHOWS 8% Gain

Bank of the Commonwealth has announced an 8% increase in income before taxes for the first six months of 1970, or \$5,514,918 compared to \$5,105,579 a year earlier.

For the second quarter income before security transactions dipped slightly to \$3,043,931 compared to \$3,027,361 during the corresponding period last year.

TRUE, THIS WRITER can confirm, there are bass and bluegill being taken from most southeastern Michigan waters.

A taxidermist friend tells me a five pound bass isn't much to brag about, but that a sixpounder rates the board, point and shell treatment for the den. A fisherman friend

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Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

WITH THE CLOSE of the harness racing season (Saturday) at Northville Downs in a \$5,000 invitational that attracted six of the fastest pacers in this section of the land.

Perhaps the biggest question before the season has been following the pacers all year is whether Philip Brian, the state's premier sidewheeler, will be able to meet the challenges of Blaze Pick, the great Canadian star, and Ark Time, an Ohio invader who beat Blaze a week ago in Cleveland in the fast time of 2:01.2.

Philip has met Blaze three times this year and has trailed him as many times. Ark Time (lashed with Blaze just once) did turn that meeting into a sensational victory. Ark Time, a four-year-old son of Speedy Time, shows five victories in seven starts in 1970.

Only once has he been farther back than second and that came in an invitational in Cleveland where he was pushed for three parts of the mile and wound up fourth.

There are three other starters in Saturday's race but all of the attention will be focusing on the big three. All of which probably means that Torjon, The Big Bear or Cashing Beauty may upset the applecart and take it all.

It's that kind of a race and should attract one of the largest crowds of the year to the Downs.

RACING Commissioner Leo Shirley, who appears to spend more time discussing possible dates for 1971 than he does in announcing anything concrete, sat down with representatives of the harness racing tracks (Thursday) to get ideas on what each plant expected in the way of pay.

One of the major problems facing Shirley is whether to give Hazel Park and Wolverine Raceway back-to-back dates during the summer months or whether to continue the present policy of giving Northville Downs the summer dates with either Hazel Park or Wolverine starting in the spring or ending the Detroit area campaign in the fall.

After spending most of the season with the group, the Commissioner indicated he probably will have some of the answers within a week or 10 days.

The track officials have been pressing for dates for the simple reason they would like to know the harness racing dates to be granted and, if so, to whom.

When that is known, then plans for improvements to improve the tracks for winter, the fall or late winter racing will be made.

It's the same old go around, the tracks don't want to make improvements until assured of dates and the commissioner is adverse to giving winter dates unless he has assurance that improvements are underway.

Earlier the Commissioner sat down with representatives of the thoroughbred and from that session came thoughts that the season will be extended from March through mid-December with an additional 25 days for each track — Hazel Park and the DRC.

Whether it was just another idea or a reality will become known if and when the Commissioner makes up his mind and makes up the schedule for next year. Indications are that the announcement will be made in the near future but then the state racing laws make it mandatory that the Commissioner announce the running dates prior to Dec. 15.

He may just follow the rules to the letter.

THERE ARE only two more weeks remaining of the DRC season meeting . . . thus we have a few goodies to pass out and hope something good happens.

Take a look at these horses when you visit the track in the next few days: Silverwood, Rip Taylor, Miss Kathy, O. Faeline, Sgt. Otago, Captain John, Jimmy Jet, Fool's Luck, P. F. A. Syboy, Mr. Leonard, Note 7, Mrs. Nash, Romoude and Azteberg.

THIS IS by no means meant as a slam at Denny McLain.

But his failure to come roaring back in mid-season . . . at least his failure in his first four starts . . . has proved something:

You can't get away without the proper preparations in baseball, or in any other sport.

A group of sports writers, and there were a goodly number present, were talking that July 1 evening when Denny made his historic return to the Tigers and the majors.

"Wouldn't this be something," said Milton Gross of the New York Post, one of the country's top-syndicated sport scribes, "if Denny should pitch himself a brilliant victory?"

"That would ruin all those nice winters we now spend down in Florida with the baseball teams. The owners would decide to cut down on training, maybe even work out closer to home."

"Other players, noting that Denny could make it without the rigors of the usual spring training, would somehow beg off each March. They'd try and stay home a little longer."

But now the proponents of spring training — and, for that matter any early training camp — can relax.

DENNY, BY PITCHING to high school athletes in Lakeland and playing a lot of golf, has found, as have the Tigers, that's not the way to get set to work in the big leagues.

You must undergo the full-length training grind. Of course, it might be a week or so less . . . but not much more.

A major league pitcher must face major league batters several times to work himself into the groove for the games that count.

It's the same with the batters. They can't poke away at Little Leaguers for two or three weeks and then, try to hit major leaguers the next day.

The same holds true, from a preparation standpoint, in other sports — in football, basketball, hockey, etc.

Say what you want to, but that old cliché, "Practice makes perfect," carries a great deal of truth.

That's why the state's high school football coaches have asked and gained permission for an extra week of pre-season drills.

The coaches have contended less than three weeks wasn't enough to get their charges in order. Now it'll be four weeks.

PHO FOOTBALL and basketball and baseball teams book as many pre-season tuneups as the law will allow.

If the Lions' management had its way, it might book six or seven exhibitions. The Red Wings probably would add a few more games, and so would the Pistons.

But the players associations have put limits on how many tuneups they'll stand for and how much time they actually will go for in training camps. So the pros must be guided accordingly.

In a way, of course, the high schools have similar curbs, although it's not the players who have any say in the matter. The prep edic comes down from the state association, after the principals, athletic directors and coaches have been consulted.

Maybe it's because of their youth, but many schoolboy athletes would like to practice and play all the time.

In different areas in Observerland, you'll find high school footballs already at work. They're gathering in small groups on their own to condition themselves . . . to run and exercise and maybe even throw a football around a little.

THERE'S NO DOUBT that in some cases, their coaches have passed along the word on what they should do . . . but what's really wrong with that? At least, the kids aren't getting themselves into a jam that way.

Many coaches will start official conditioning programs for their football charges within the next week or two.

It used to be that conditioning under the supervision of the head coach, or his assistant was considered illegal. Not any more.

A coach can bring his players together . . . can have them go through calisthenics, run and lift weights.

But he must stay away from anything that actually has anything to do with football. So it's football for the preps without a football . . . until late in August.

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