

C'ville Tax Rate To Rise Mill; Book Costs Blamed

Despite a 17 per cent hike in the Clarenceville School District's property valuation, the Board of Education found it necessary to hike the tax rate by a mill.

The board last week approved a \$3.4 million budget and a tax rate of 31.9 mills (\$31.90 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation). It acted after a public hearing on the budget which no one attended.

Supt. David McDowell blamed a State Supreme Court decision requiring the district to provide students' books for the tax increase. He said the book cost would be \$35,000 to \$50,000, depending on what we

finally have to pay for them. And it could be a great deal more if we have to buy every one a band instrument.

One mill will raise something over \$50,000, which is about the cost of the books.

THE BOARD and the Clarenceville Education Association bargaining teams reached agreement on a proposed one-year contract the night before, and McDowell said the money package there would amount to a 9.66 per cent increase.

The tax increase comes at a time when school enrollment and the number of teachers are actually declining in Clarenceville, a district which covers northeast Livonia, southeast Farmington Township and northwest Redford Township.

Enrollment this fall is estimated at 3,715, a decrease of 4.5 from last year. "The decrease is all at the elementary level. The junior high is holding steady, but the high school is still increasing," McDowell explained.

The elementary teaching staff will be down over this year, the junior high down one and the high school staff

steady, for a total net staff reduction of four.

CLARENCEVILLE will get 8.9 of its mills from the county collection and the remaining 23 mills from what was authorized by votes of the people. McDowell said the rate of 31.9 mills is still two mills below what the people have voted.

Tax bills will go out in December, but the budget is for the fiscal year that began last July 1 and runs until the end of June 1971.

The state equalized valuation (SEV), the total value for tax purposes of all property in the district, will amount to just under \$60 million, an \$7.7 million increase from the prior year. McDowell said the SEV per child is thus raised by \$2,240 to a new level of \$15,300.

The new budget is \$3.4 million, up 11.6 per cent from the

prior year. Of this, about one-third will go into elementary instruction, another one-third into secondary instruction, and the remainder into plant operation, administration, special education, summer school, transportation and other such items.

On the revenue side, local sources will provide just under \$2 million, or 59 per cent compared to 5 per cent last year.

State sources will increase by \$40,000 to a total of \$1.36 million, but McDowell said state aid as a percentage of the total budget is declining to 41 per cent compared to 45.5 per cent last year.

TWO NEW additions to the Clarenceville school program were a federally-aided job placement service and an in-service program for teachers of reading.

The federal vocational education act picked up 50 per cent of the tab for a co-op instructor to help place students in jobs. Operating out of the high school, Robert Young kept in contact with major area employers, made some summer job placements, and arranged to place co-op students in jobs for the fall.

Said McDowell: "He found more jobs than the students could possibly have done if they worked alone. And he found out when college students were leaving so that we could place our own co-op students in those jobs."

Mrs. Patricia Vickery coordinated the four-week summer in-service program for 13 kindergarten and first grade teachers. Those teachers wished could pay tuition to Wayne State University and

earn four semester hours graduate credit.

Purpose, said Mrs. Vickery, was to "teach teachers how to teach reading using a systems approach, to sharpen their observation skills in terms of assessing the needs of children, and to draft a means of evaluating the systematic approach."

Briefly the subject of reading is reduced to six broad skills—for example, word attack, comprehension, study skills—and a classroom is divided into four "learning centers" to concentrate on skills. This program was locally funded.

Hotel Course Set At OCC

Hotel and motel management, a new career option to our food service management program, has been added at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus. The program, which leads to an Associate Degree in Hotel-Motel Management, includes four new courses: hotel sales promotion, front office procedures, maintenance engineering and environmental control and supervisory housekeeping.

Front office procedures will be offered Tuesday evenings, 6-9 p.m. early in September. This course includes internship with local hotels and motels that permit students to "earn while they learn."

For further information, contact Lawrence O'Keefe, Food Service Management Department, Orchard Ridge Campus, 476-9400.



ROBERT SWANSON, Republican candidate for the 35th District state representative seat now occupied by fellow Livonian Marvin Stempien, congratulates lieutenant governor choice James Brickley.

Oakland County Prints History

The "Number One" issue of a limited edition of numbered copies of the Oakland County "Book of History" was presented to Robert F. Patnales, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Daniel T. Murphy, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Auditors, and head of the Sesqui-Centennial Executive Committee, made the presentation in behalf of the committee and Arthur A. Hagman, editor, and his staff of some 100 writers.

Hagman was commissioned to produce the "Book of History" under authority of the Sesqui-Centennial Executive Committee, headed by Murphy, Kenneth L. VanNatta and Richard R. Wilcox, as a self-sustained, non-profit venture.

THE BOOK OF HISTORY in both hard cover and paper backs, contains 624 pages, with 178 illustrations, documents and maps, interspersed with full color art work done by Robert Thom, together with scenic views of Oakland County parks, Oakland University and a colorful rendering of the proposed renewal plan for downtown Pontiac.

The 17 major chapters of the "Book of History" open with an illustrated feature on Michigan Indians, early explorers, transportation drawbacks and original villages.

All chapters lead off with a distinctive map of Oakland County, each describing some interesting aspect of topography, land use, lakes, streams

or other informative feature of county attributes.

The second chapter covers early history, suburban pioneers, old mills, roads and trails and seven other features of historic significance, followed by later history of automobile developments, the great depression, war and progress and other events occurring after the turn of the century.

Chapter four includes pictures and biographies of all 42 governors of Michigan, beginning with Steven T. Mason through to the present Governor William G. Milliken, followed by briefs on state legislators currently representing Oakland County together with pictures of county commissioners.

Original photographs of the area's most beautiful buildings are contained in chapter six, followed by three chapters containing 250 pages of illustrated histories of Oakland County cities, townships, and villages, each community feature done by a local historian-writer.

CHAPTER 10 pertains to schools of higher learning, churches, institutions and personalities. This is followed by 24 pages describing the development of the automotive industry in Oakland County, including Pontiac Motors, Fisher Body, GMC Truck & Coach and the new Ford complex in Wixom.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation, Kensington Metro-

politan Park and the water resources of the county are depicted in chapter 12 with color scenes and maps. Rail lines, Pontiac airport and various industrial features are contained in chapter 13.

Micro-film reproductions of front page news events of the past 90 years taken from the Pontiac Press and Royal Oak Tribune are contained in the 48 pages of chapter 14, followed by 30 pages describing OCCO, history of black people in Oakland County, the evolution of Harnabee, women's suffrage, Girl Scouts, Farm Bureau and other civic organizations in chapter 15.

CHAPTER 16 covers background and development of utility services, radio, followed by features pertaining to computers, insurance, finance, and a forecast of Oakland County's future in chapter 17.

The Book concludes with a chronology of Oakland County's Sesqui-Centennial activities written by coordinator, Gerard C. Lacey.

According to Hagman, limited editions of the numbered copies with jacketed hard covers, will be available for purchase at book stores, newspaper offices, bank and other sales outlets, including the publishing office at 2800 Watkins Lake Rd.

Paper back books will be available within the next few weeks, and may be purchased at drug stores, news stands and other points of sale.



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