



SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION by June 1974, this intersection of I-96 along Schoolcraft and I-275 along Haggerty Road will link freeway traffic from the northwest suburbs with downtown Detroit. This view looks northward.

Construction along Schoolcraft will be nearing completion in 1972 and traffic will flow with virtually no interruption along the expressway service drives from the Detroit city limits to Haggerty.

Fewer Highway Tieups Seen By End Of '72

By EDWARD WENDOVER

Most of the driving headaches caused by construction of I-96 along Schoolcraft Road will be only memories by this time next year, State Highway Department officials say.

According to bid specifications on Schoolcraft construction already begun, all of the service drives to the I-96 Schoolcraft corridor will be completed and open to traffic by mid-November of 1972 except the west-bound service drive between Inkster and Middle Belt roads.

"Once the service roads are

open, local traffic will have virtually no interruptions," a State Highway Department spokesman said.

And once the service roads are open, construction of the expressway itself can proceed rapidly, the spokesman said. A tentative date for completion of the entire I-96 project between Telegraph and Haggerty Rd. has been set for late 1973.

"That's barring strikes and a lot of bad weather," the spokesman added.

SO FAR, everything is on or ahead of schedule, said the spokesman, crediting good

weather and absence of strikes.

Portions of I-96 in the Schoolcraft corridor, either finished or under construction, will cost \$76 million. Last parts of the I-96 route to be completed will be overpasses and interchanges—particularly those at Telegraph and Haggerty roads where I-275 will meet I-96 (Schoolcraft) and proceed north to the present interchange of I-96 and I-696.

The interchange of I-96, I-696 and I-275 (in Novi) will take up 633 acres (almost a mile square) and cost \$15 million. The I-275 and I-96

interchange, which will be near the present intersection of Schoolcraft and Haggerty roads, will cost \$14 million.

The Telegraph and I-96 (Schoolcraft) interchange will cost about \$7 million and will be a tri-level intersection, much like the junction of the Southfield Expressway and Eight Mile Road. It is scheduled to be finished by August 1973, highway officials say.

This means that the motorist who uses or crosses Schoolcraft Road can look forward to a smoother, less interrupted journey by the end of the new year.

Drug Unit Reviews 1971 Ups & Downs

By LEONARD POGER

WESTLAND

Westland's first and only private drug-fighters will end their first year next month—a year marked by a series of accomplishments mixed with some frustrations.

The Wayne-Westland Parent Drug Abuse Committee members have described themselves as the only "action group" in an area mainly devoted to professional studies by other groups.

COMMITTEE Chairman Tom Taylor was asked by The Observer to list the group's accomplishments and comment on their failures in the group's first year of activities.

Taylor, a Westland police sergeant, said that the committee "picked the hardest method of fighting drug abuse—trying to change attitudes of youngsters who feel that taking drugs is the 'cool thing' to do."

"We feel that teenagers will listen to each other and that adults need 'credentials' before they can get across to them," Taylor said.

"We want kids talking to kids and we are just the vehicle for that," he added.

THE COMMITTEE was formed in mid-January last year because of the members' dissatisfaction on the lack of an effective drug campaign in the city and that there was no city-wide organization devoted to combating drug abuse.

Major accomplishments, according to Taylor, were the poster and essay contest held among local students on the drug issue; "our infamous fight with city hall" on \$20,000 eventually approved for expansion of the Community Commission on Drug Abuse; initiating a regular contact with local teenagers; and the use of a billboard at Wayne and Marquette Rds. to show an anti-drug use message, taken from one of the prize-winning posters entered in the spring school contest.

THE CONTINUOUS contact with teenagers has been accomplished through Friday night dances sponsored by the Wayne Ford Civic League, of which committee members are all members.

The dances are manned by committee members and have built up a rapport with the teens. Then efforts were made to "introduce an anti-drug element" for the teens.

Those moves included bringing in speakers and films telling about the evils of drugs.

The billboard is located near the entrance of John Glenn High School and the message and art work changes monthly.

TAYLOR FEELS that the use of a billboard to display an anti-drug usage message "is one of the best things we've done."

The billboard's message is subtle and not pushed on anyone, Taylor stressed.

The message deals with the ambiguous matter of attitudes and that's hard to measure, he said.

The billboard art has shown a hypodermic needle and a coffin handled by six pills pictured as symbolic pillbearers.

"THERE IS nothing pretty about a coffin scene or a needle," said Taylor in responding to published criticism of the committee's billboard.

"This is reality and something teenagers know about," he said in pointing out that the billboard scenes were taken from the winning posters entered by local students last spring.

The billboard is another move to let "teens talk to teens and try to change attitudes" about drug usage, Taylor said.

Discussing the committee's frustrations, Taylor said that one of the "disheartening" aspects of the first year has been that "we can't measure our success."

TAYLOR SAID he can only compare the committee with other programs and make a conclusion.

The only other program with specific figures is the federal government's rehabilitation center for addicts in Lexington, Ky.

The federal hospital has only a two per cent success ratio, the chairman said. "But we must have enough confidence in ourselves to

continue our program," he emphasized.

Other frustrations came from published criticism in a local daily newspaper concerning the banquet held in May to honor the poster and essay contest winners and the chairman's name on the Wayne-Marquette billboard.

TAYLOR SAID that the committee itself agreed to put the chairman's name in the corner of the billboard—and then only so passers-by could have someone to contact if they wanted to contact the committee.

But in future billboards, starting in February, the chairman's name will be dropped and replaced by the committee's logo.

The group is an open one and interested persons may attend its monthly meetings, held in its member's homes.

ON THE "infamous fight with city hall," Taylor reiterated the committee's position in opposition to the \$20,000 extra funds for the CODA, now headquartered in Livonia but looking for a Westland crisis center site.

The committee is opposed to any "duplication and fragmentation of services," Taylor said.

"There is already a master plan proposed for Wayne County designating Wayne County General Hospital in Westland as the program's center."

All the local small drug abuse groups will have money troubles, the chairman added.

Local Kids Helped

Bright Yule For Indians

Christmas day was considerably brighter for Indian children at Holy Childhood Mission School in Harbor Springs, as well as for other Indians throughout northern Michigan.

Observerland residents, led by youngsters, sent 1,365 cans of food, including 1,165 collected as admission to a Clarenceville School District holiday choral program.

In addition, the load included 19 bicycles, more than 200 boxes of clothing, 10 cartons of toys and a variety of soaps.

LEADING THE drive and making an all-night drive by truck for a s.a.m. delivery was Hank Chruscial, chairman of the Indian affairs committee of the Western Wayne County Conservation Assn., and Ed Goldstein.

Helping with the loading were Indians from the Muskegon area, who received a load of 865 cans of food and 10 cartons of toys for their area.

Aiding in the collection were Girl Scout groups headed by these neighborhood commissioners in the suburban area: Mrs. Mike Dubovich, Mrs. Robert Hudson, Mrs. Earl Todd, Mrs. Jack Hacker, Mrs. Daniel Wismer and Mrs. Grace Wiebel. Sacred Heart Byzantine Rite Church donated items left over from a rummage sale, and WWCCA Paul Cooper aided in loading a truck donated for the northbound trip.

AN EARLIER load of clothing, food and toys went to another Indian Enterprises outlet in Berrien Springs, in the southwest part of the state. In a letter, Wilbur and Wanda Shagonaby, who distributed the gifts, described the delight of Indians there who had received gifts.

"We have been swamped with people... They even come back to show us how nice they look in their clothing. It is really heart-warming to see how proud they are to have decent clothing."

"The food went to families who had been without work for over a year. One family had nine children."

"Needless to say, the toys are gone! Each child got one new and one used toy... We have served over 200 families since we last saw you."



NINETEEN BICYCLES, some new and some rebuilt, were loaded in Livonia for delivery to Indian children in the northern part of the state. On the ground (from left) are Jim Weaver and Doug Pierson, both of the non-profit Indian Enterprises group; Ed Goldstein of Livonia and Paul Cooper of the Western Wayne County Conservation Assn. On the truck is Hank Chruscial of WWCCA.



TEN CARTONS of toys and 200 boxes of clothing were received with smiles.

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