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DEEDS REGISTRY OFFICE MAKES YEARLY REPORT

[illegible] Register of Deeds has [illegible] report of his office for the year ending December 31, 1939. We are glad to be able to report that the office has been [illegible] during the year 1939 [illegible] were deposited [illegible] in the General Fund of the County.

[illegible] report follows:

[illegible] cost of the office is fixed by budget by the Board of Supervisors. The amount of the budget is determined on an estimate of the needs for the year [illegible] for the Board of Supervisors [illegible] within a reduction [illegible] from 1932. We are glad to report that we have been able to keep within a reduction [illegible] in spite of an increase of [illegible] per cent in the 12 years covered during this period. No additional employes were required and only the most necessary supplies were purchased. The large single item of expense in this office is the purchase of photostat paper used in the recording of documents. This item increases proportionately as the amount of work increases. Other items of expense were reduced to offset this increase.

"The increase in business this year required several changes of procedure in order that no extra employes would be needed.

"In order to facilitate the return of recorded papers to patrons, particularly mortgages, in the least possible time, indexing is now done daily with the result that recorded papers are returned through the mail the third day.

"In March, 1939, under the sponsorship of this office, the W. P. A. appropriated $33,822.20 to be used for labor in re-indexing the Tract Index. This Index locates deeds, mortgages, or other instruments with the legal description as the key, and follows the chain of title to each property from the original government patent to the present ownership. The only County expense for this project is for supervision and materials. The work is carried on at night from 5:15 p. m. to 12:45 a. m.

"That part of the index which has to do with deeds requires the transcription of more than one-half million descriptions and typing the same into new index books. The legal side of the index for deeds and bounds descriptions is now complete in Addison, Barrian, Groveland, Holly, Rose, Avon and Highland Townships, and Holly and Milford villages. The project has covered an average of [illegible] people during the year.

"Oakland County is exceedingly fortunate that this important index is being made with a minimum of local expense."

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Highway Department Has Cash Balance of $3,359,671

At the end of the year, the state highway department closed its books with a cash balance of $3,359,671.71.

State Highway Commissioner Murray D. Van Wagoner pointed out, however, that heavy fixed charges must be met early in the new year which would substantially reduce this balance.

Heading the list of fixed charges was disbursement Jan. 15, 1940, of $1,375,000 to counties from gasoline tax collections included in the "going expenses" of the department due almost immediately were $650,000 for maintenance, $410,000 for construction and right-of-way and $180,000 for the highway planning survey, traffic and safety work and miscellaneous bills.

"This recapitulation shows the state highway department has been operating within its budget and on a business like basis," Van Wagoner said. "It shows also that we have been building up our reserve over the last few months to meet anticipated expenditures."

ROAD INFORMATION SERVICE TO BE OPERATED AGAIN

The state highway department is again operating a winter highway condition information service covering the entire state.

State Highway Commissioner Murray D. Van Wagoner has sent out directions to departmental units throughout the state outlining the system to be used in reporting road conditions. The service is set up on a daily basis.

County headquarters will gather information and relay it to their district headquarters before eight a. m. each morning. By nine a. m. this information has been summarized and recorded in the Lansing headquarters. A general report covering the entire state is then prepared and relayed back to the local units.

"This service has been in operation for the past several winters," Commissioner Van Wagoner said. "We find that hundreds of individuals as well as newspapers and radio stations find this information very useful. It is used by the maintenance division in directing field operations during storm periods."

The road condition information is available to the public at the traffic office of the state highway department, at branch offices in Kalamazoo and Detroit; at district offices in Crystal Falls, Newberry, Cadillac, Alpena, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Kalamazoo, Plymouth; and at county maintenance garages.

READ THE WANT ADS

HEALTH OFFICIALS TO PLAN ATTACK AGAINST DISEASE

A joint meeting of directors of city, county and district health departments with presidents and secretaries of county medical societies will be held January 21 at Lansing to map a cooperative attack upon the preventable causes of disease and death, it has been announced by Dr. H. Allen Moyer, state health commissioner.

The joint meeting, a feature of the Annual County Secretaries' Conference of the State Medical Society, will be the first time in history that leaders of the medical and public health professions have united for the promotion of physician-participation in preventive medical programs.

Dr. Henry Cook, Flint, past president of the Michigan State Medical Society, will preside over the joint meeting in the afternoon following the secretaries' conference Sunday morning. A panel of outstanding medical and public health authorities will speak on "Participation of Physicians and Health Departments in Preventive Medical programs." Speakers will include Dr. L. Fernald Foster, Bay City; Dr. L. O. Gelb, Detroit; Dr. M. R. Kinde, Battle Creek; Dr. Bernard W. Carey, Detroit; Dr. James D. Bruce, Ann Arbor; Dr. Henry F. Vaughan, Detroit; Dr. Carleton Dean, deputy state health commissioner, and Dr. Moyer.

Health officers will hold a separate meeting at 10 o'clock Sunday morning, joining the medical secretaries at dinner. Dr. Moyer has also called a special meeting at 9:00 a. m. of the State Council of Health, members of which include Dr. Vaughan and Dr. Dean; Dr. John L. Lavan, Grand Rapids; Dr. A. D. Aldrich, Houghton; and Dr. Roy C. Perkins, Bay City.

The officers and executive council of the State Medical Society will be present at the secretaries' conference. The first meeting of the legislative council of the Michigan Public Health Association is also being called at 2:00 a. m. by Dr. Charles A. Neatie, Pontiac health officer.

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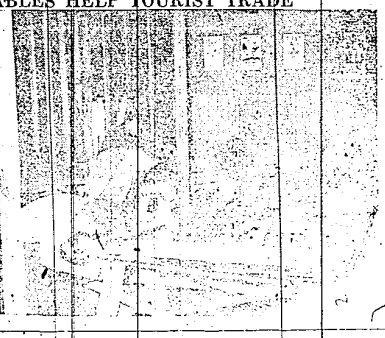

Shown above are workers in one of the 46 work centers operated for unemployed Michigan youth by the Michigan National Youth Administration. Here youth gain work experience which will assist them in getting private employment. Among the many useful articles turned out are roadside picnic tables used by the State Highway Department and County Park Commissions which the boys in the above picture are engaged in constructing. Nine hundred seventy-eight of these tables have been made during 1939, 500 of these being for the Highway Department. In most cases youth on these projects are given supplementary instruction in cooperation with local Boards of Education to provide them with background information for the work to which they are assigned.

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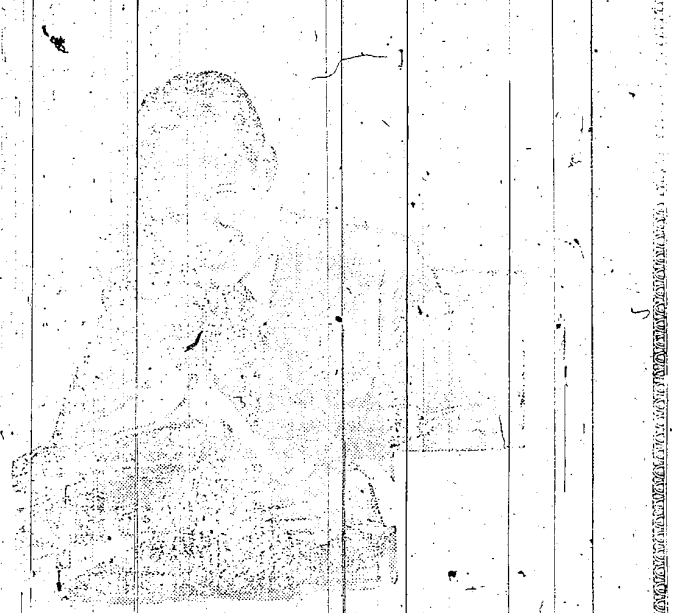

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