

By MARJORIE EICHER
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More than 100 school board members and superintendents of schools from 29 Oakland County School districts gathered for a dinner meeting January 13 at North Farmington High School to hear a report on a year long survey of county vocational education needs.

A panel presentation explained the vocational survey and the resulting study and made recommendations to the local school boards. Panel members were Dana Whitmer, superintendent, Pontiac City Schools; Dr. Loyal Joos, director of systematic studies, Oakland County Schools; Roger Oberg, superintendent, Oxford Area Community Schools; and Donald Currie, superintendent, Royal Oak Schools.

According to Dr. Joos, Oakland County now receives only 2.7 per cent of the total state reimbursement for education in vocational studies although the county enrolls ten per cent of the state's total school population. Joos said the study showed some 50,000 new jobs will be opening in Oakland County in the next nine years. There will be an increase in jobs in professional, technical and administrative areas as well as in the skilled workers category. The

demand for clerical and sales help will also increase. EXPANDING CURRENT local high school facilities and community, he said. And few opportunities for vocational training will be an inadequate solution, claimed Dr. Whitmer. State and federal money for new programs is limited to areas offering these programs in a regional cooperative venture. Few schools can go it alone to afford the cost of a quality vocational program required in a highly industrialized community, he said. And few schools have enough students for these courses to justify variety in number and depth of content, he added.

Mr. Oberg analyzed the assets and liabilities to be measured when districts agree to exchange students and specialize within the local schools on particular vocational courses. This is done in three Michigan communities, Mr. Oberg pointed out. Students do their academic work in their local high school and their vocational work in the school offering the courses they want.

This plan presents problems of transportation and scheduling, Oberg said. In addition it is difficult to unify instruction in basic courses between the cooperating schools. In the end, the emphasis remains on academic instruction and not on vocational education.

DR. CURRIE presented the pros and cons of a county-wide plan for area vocational schools. He compared the mechanics of setting up such a program with the county's successful operation of the Special Education program which has gained nationwide recognition. An area-wide program would have the support of a broad tax base, would involve enough students to justify many different programs and permit specialized schools to be located in communities where there is the greatest interest for a particular program, Currie said. This

kind of cooperative endeavor would qualify for state and federal money for construction and equipment. Programs of this sort have been operating successfully in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Minnesota, Louisiana and Massachusetts, he added. Dr. William Early, Rochester superintendent of schools and chairman of the vocational education study committee, requested that each Oakland County school board appoint one member to a study committee on vocational education. The committee is to report to the Oakland County School Boards Association within 60 days.

PTA Slates Children's Movie

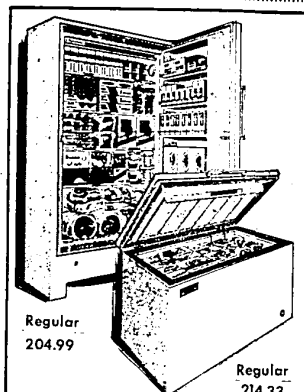
Acclaimed by critics in the movie industry as one of the best and most unusual motion pictures of the season in which it was released, the second picture selection offered to school children by the Longacre P.T.A. will be shown Friday, January 28, in the school's multi-purpose room at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The movie was made in rural Mexico and captures the breath-taking loveliness of that exotic country and uses it as a backdrop for a story of a small boy whose devotion to a doomed horse leads them through many adventures to the happy spot where their mutual affection safeguards them both. This heart-warming story is a favorite of young and old alike. A cartoon will accompany the main feature. Both will be in technicolor. Admission is 30 cents per person regardless of age and tickets WILL be available at the door. Refreshments will also be available. Longacre School is located at the end of Arundel backdrop for a story of a small boy whose devotion to a doomed horse leads them through many

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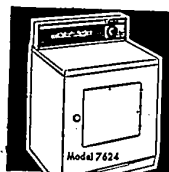
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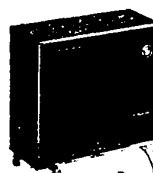
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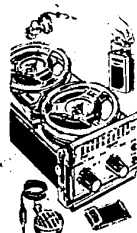
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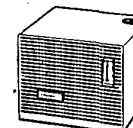
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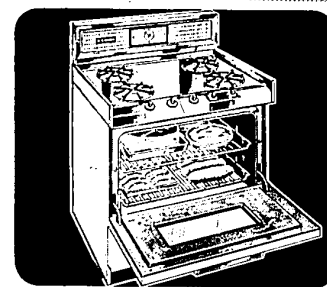
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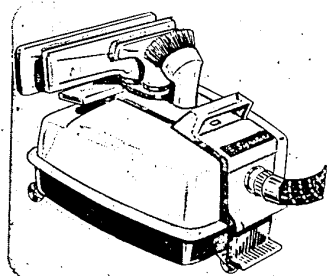


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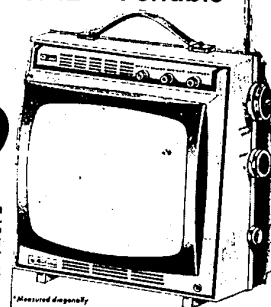
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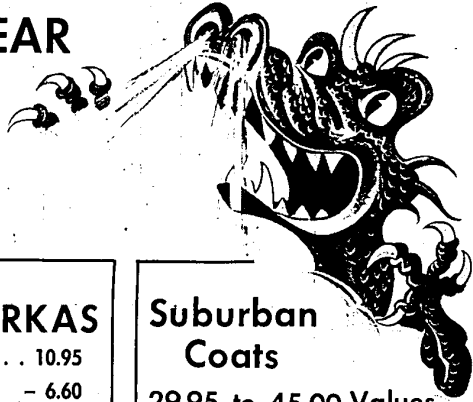
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