

Inkster Schools Get Reprieve From Closing

WESTLAND POLICE and the FBI are hunting for two bandits who successfully held up a Westland bank Jan. 26 and got away with \$12,500. The pair, who threatened several residents before they finally obtained an escape car, apparently left few solid clues for the police to fall back on.

THE MICHIGAN Association of School Boards estimates that two-thirds of the state's 738 school districts "are in serious financial difficulty at the moment." The Association reported that Michigan's schools face a cash shortage that threatens the quality of education for two million children. The State Department of Education has identified 62 districts that are already running in the red, the ones most seriously in trouble are Bedford, Tawana, Hart, Memphis, Carsonville, Taylor and Inkster. These school districts are caught between sky-rocketing costs and vanishing local and state tax resources. Monday Inkster voters turned down an emergency millage proposal that would have helped the school district revive.

PAMELA SMITH, of Northville, has been crowned Michigan's Miss Junior Miss of 1968. Pamela, 17, is a student at Northville High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the choir, Theatians, and the debating team.

THE INKSTER SCHOOL District may have to close its doors this Friday. Spokesmen for the system said that the district could not meet its payroll after the end of the week. No hope is in sight for the financially ailing Wayne County district because Inkster voters turned down a 10 mill levy Monday which virtually put a stop to any further attempts to get out of the red.

State And Local News Round Up

LANSING -- Last minute financial arrangements by the poverty-stricken Inkster School District will permit the district's nine schools to operate at least until April 12, it was announced. Inkster Superintendent, Dr. Edward Fort, said he had been assured of enough money to meet payrolls at least through April 12. He said he had been assured by the city treasurer of Inkster and Westland that some \$485,000 in local property taxes, collected by the cities and turned over to the district, can be available in time to meet last Friday's payroll.

ROYAL OAK -- After receiving two Purple Hearts and two wounds, 21-year-old Marine Corporal Bob Sharp, from Royal Oak, was sent to Okinawa from the South Vietnam battle zone. However, while on the island, he tried to relieve old days at Royal Oak Dondoro High School, but broke his ankle when playing football. Since then, Sharp has alternated between the Great Lakes (MI) Naval Hospital and convalescent leave at home.

DETROIT -- General Motors Corp., the world's largest corporation, reported that its 1967 net income fell 9 per cent to \$1,627 billion on sales of \$20 billion. A decline in sales of GM cars and increased material and labor costs were blamed for the drop, but, it was noted that 1967 was still GM's third most fruitful year.

DETROIT -- Simon E. Knudsen, executive vice-president to General Motors Corp. Board of Directors, has resigned his post to "pursue personal interests."

DETROIT -- Increased lay-offs due to parts shortages resulting from strikes, all settled at least tentatively, pushed the number of General Motors employees out of work to 134,200 Thursday. A GM spokesman said an additional 24,685 workers at plants short of parts were sent home Wednesday.

GRAND RAPIDS -- Refusal

LANSING -- Sen. Robert Richardson, R-Saginaw, posed a bill that would cause a driver to forfeit three times for drunken driving within a two-year period to lose his license for five years. The measure passed 30-1 and was sent to the House after deletion of a portion of which several senators said they felt was too stringent. Also approved were bills regulating the labor in Michigan's prisons and limiting construction of waterways on

the Great Lakes and on Michigan's inland lakes and streams.

LANSING -- Refund checks were being issued Wednesday by a computer at the rate of one every three seconds to persons who overpaid the new Michigan income tax. The first refund check for \$22.98 went to a Walled Lake taxpayer whose name was not disclosed because of the secrecy provisions of the law.

LANSING -- Long-awaited

legislation aimed at repealing Michigan's controversial criminal sexual psychopath law was pending in the House Wednesday. "Mere sex deviation, in itself, should certainly not be a working legal defense for any and all crimes," said Rep. David M. Serotkin, R-Mt. Clemens, sponsor of the bill. Many criminals, Serotkin said, evade name was not disclosed because of the secrecy provisions of the law, where they work for early release. The statute was passed 27 years ago.

LANSING -- Rep. Thomas L. Brown, R-Lansing, introduced a bill to the House that proposes minimum salaries for Michigan prosecutors. Half of the minimum salaries would range from \$6,500 to \$30,000 annually would be paid by the state. The prosecutors would be paid on an escalating scale according to the population of their counties.

LANSING -- Earl H. Green,

of Farmington, fired as a State Highway Department construction engineer for an alleged conflict of interest, has appealed his dismissal to the Civil Service Department. He was scheduled for a hearing Wednesday before a Civil Service hearing officer, Arnold Embree, of Pontiac. The Highway Department dismissed Green on Dec. 5, charging conflict of interest because of "ownership of a construction firm" without departmental permission to engage in outside employment.

LANSING -- Philip H. Anderson will turn his \$58 million yearly shopping list over to an as yet unnamed successor when he retires Saturday as chief of the State Purchasing Division. As head of the division since 1963, Anderson has been responsible for purchasing the more than 4,000 different items the state buys for its offices, schools, hospitals, prison and other institutions.

Which Gifts Are Tax Deductible?

This is another in a series of articles prepared by the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants on money-saving tax "tips" and errors to avoid in preparing the 1967 Federal Individual Income Tax Return. You can deduct contributions to recognized religious, charitable, educational, scientific and literary organizations by itemizing them on your 1040 Federal Individual Income Tax Return. Contributions to nonprofit organizations engaged in research or education for the cure and alleviation of diseases and disabilities are also deductible, as are contributions to humane societies such as the ASPCA and ASPCC.

THE REGULATIONS say you can deduct up to 30 per cent (30 per cent, in certain instances) of your adjusted gross income as charitable contributions, if the contributions are made in cash or by check, money order, etc., in the event they are questioned and you are called in for an audit. There is no announced official policy as regards unsubstantiated charitable contributions, but the Internal Revenue Service has been known to attempt to limit them to \$75 a year (\$1 a week to your church and 50 cents a week to miscellaneous charities) when reviewing a taxpayer's return.

You should be able to authenticate such contributions with canceled checks, money-order stubs, receipts, etc., in the event they are questioned and you are called in for an audit. There is no announced official policy as regards unsubstantiated charitable contributions, but the Internal Revenue Service has been known to attempt to limit them to \$75 a year (\$1 a week to your church and 50 cents a week to miscellaneous charities) when reviewing a taxpayer's return. And don't estimate your contributions in itemizing them on your return since the IRS has a tendency to regard round numbers with a fishy eye.

CONTRIBUTIONS must be either in money or property. If in property, the amount is determined by the fair market value. Stocks purchased for \$500, for example, but worth \$1,200 when donated to your church building fund, are regarded as a \$1,200 contribution. Contributions must be claimed for the year in which they were made. A contribution made by check as late as Dec. 31 should be claimed on your return for 1967 even though it did not clear your bank until early this year. You cannot deduct gifts or contributions to friends and relatives, political organizations and candidates, social clubs, labor organizations and chambers of commerce. Contributions to veterans' organizations can be deducted, however.

THE MARKET value of blood donated to the Red Cross or a hospital blood bank is not deductible. Neither is the value of time or service donated voluntarily to a charitable organization or agency. You can, however, deduct out-of-pocket expenses incurred in donating such service. If you used your own car, for example, to drive volunteer donors to a Red Cross blood bank, you can deduct a standard mileage fee of five cents a mile as a contribution. In the event your out-of-pocket expenses exceeded five cents a mile, you can deduct your actual expenses for gas, oil, tools, etc. Depreciation on your car and insurance are not deductible, however, nor are repairs.

Reasonable payments for meals and lodging while away from home on volunteer service for a charitable organization are deductible. OTHER THINGS to watch for: Raffle tickets, even though purchased for benefit of charity are not deductible. The courts have ruled that purchasers receive "just what they paid for" a chance to win a valuable prize at a fraction of its actual cost. Tuition paid to a parochial school for your children's education is not deductible as a contribution to a religious organization. It is a personal, non-deductible expense.

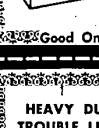


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