

Parks Lose Public Favor As Voters Reject New Funds

By TIM RICHARD
(First of a series)

analysis

Parks, you would think, are like the flag and apple pie—something everyone is for, especially in an era of concern for the environment.

The fact, however, is that parks are under severe attack—from public officials, taxpayers and the older citizenry. Consider:

• The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, which operates nine parks in southeastern Michigan, was turned down nearly 2-1 in its Aug. 8 bid for a mild property tax increase.

• The City of Livonia was turned down Aug. 8 for the second time when taxpayers refused a mill for a major parks expansion.

• The Wayne County Road Commission, operators of the county parks system, including the E.M. Hines Parkway, considered advancing its 11:30 p.m. curfew to 10 p.m. but was stopped by the County Board of Commissioners, though not without some dissent.

• Plymouth's police chief and other administrators are pushing for an ordinance to slap a curfew on (particularly) the popular Kellogg Park in the center of town—a measure which critics insist would only shift problems and destroy efforts to build harmonious relations between young people and adults.

• The Dept. of Natural Resources reports state park usage declined seriously this year—17 per cent by day users, five per cent by campers. Bad weather and fee increases can take some of the

blame, but the onus is on "bad publicity" which is "scaring away" nice people.

• Houghton Lake State Forest—Yosemite—the "Horseshoe" in Hines Park—Cass Lake—all have been scenes of so-called "confrontations" between park users and authorities.

• Pondering the Livonia defeat, Mayor Edward McNamara blamed the school segregation case for causing a negative public reaction to all programs of civic improvement.

A handful of persons may have told McNamara that, there are plenty of other reasons—the proliferation of tax proposals and the sour attitude of many voters chief among them.

An incredible number of tax proposals are being thrown at the poor voter these days. On Aug. 8 alone, there were 10 mills of taxes for Detroit schools, the HCMA proposal in five counties, Livonia's local proposal, and a one mill renewal for Wayne County. Everything was beaten.

Recently the State Supreme Court ruled the state constitution doesn't mean what most people thought it meant, and that the 15-mill limitation has a gigantic loophole in it. Certainly, that helped convince many voters that they can't even rely on a constitution to protect them.

Meanwhile, Wayne County is preparing a tax proposal for jail facilities...Gov. Milliken

In Macomb County, which looks upon any form of regionalism as a tool of the devil, HCMA got 20 per cent. In Wayne County, where voters had an abundance of tax proposals, it got 37 per cent.

And in two counties which would greatly benefit with new parks developments, it got 37 per cent support in Oakland and 42 per cent in Washtenaw.

PERHAPS, TOO, the HCMA plan suffered from some legalistic sleight-of-hand when the Legislature wrote the bill putting its tax proposal on the ballot.

HCMA billed its plan as a quarter-mill tax increase for parks, which was true enough. But the legal wording showed that HCMA's existing quarter-mill, approved by voters 30 years ago, would have been attraction to (ugh) city people, the favorable vote was only 22 per cent.

They were being asked to approve a quarter-mill for HCMA parks and another quarter-mill for their county tax allocation boards to split between counties, schools, and townships. One taxpayers group considered it understood enough to buy advertising opposing the metro park package.

Yet all the talk about taxes can't obscure the fact that the "silent majority," which is increasingly less silent, doesn't like parks because young persons inhabit them. (Next week—A conflict of life styles.)

U of M Award
The Roger Vanko Memorial Award for an outstanding junior in the chemistry program was given to Paul K. Wolber of 29408 Guy in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and promise.

Tri-County Citizens Charge Roth In Error

Tri-County Citizens, a suburban parents group fighting plans to bus students from the suburbs to Detroit, Friday filed their briefs with the US 6th District Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

Attorney for the group, Robert J. Lord of Fair Haven (north of Mt. Clemens), said in his brief that Judge Stephen Roth erred in his March 1972 decision ordering metropolitan desegregation.

Lord said that since none of the suburban schools has been charged with, or found guilty of, racial segregation, they cannot legally be included in any Detroit plan.

IT IS NOT in Roth's power "to consider judicial enlargement of the public school desegregation area beyond what a constitutional violation was claimed or shown, so as to ultimately include not only Detroit public schools but also numerous suburban public schools, concerning which no constitutional violation was ever claimed or shown," Lord wrote.

Lord, in the brief, said the "WE WANT TO DO MORE FOR YOU."

AAA MICHIGAN

LATE NITE SNACKS 9:30 P.M. 'til 11 P.M. Hillside Inn 4161 Plymouth Road Plymouth 422-4300

Hillside Inn 4161 Plymouth Road Plymouth 422-4300

metro busing plan is "not merely too much baggage for one vehicle but all baggage without a vehicle; not merely a cart before the horse but a cart without a horse."

The Tri-County brief further argues that if the Detroit schools are segregated, then the Roth remedy should only involve Detroit. Lord will not argue against Roth's finding that Detroit's schools are segregated.

THE APPEALS Court will begin hearing arguments on all four orders from Roth, beginning Aug. 24. Tri-County Citizens is claiming over 49,000 members, who pay a small fee to join; the money goes for legal costs.

All seven Observerland communities are represented in the group. Leaders listed by the organization for each



L. BERNARD MUENCH of Redford Township has been named light truck product planning manager of Ford Truck Operations. Muench earned bachelor's degrees from Columbia College and Columbia Engineering School and a master's degree from the Columbia business school. He joined Ford in 1968 as a product planning analyst.

suburb are: Marthanne Siefenko, Livonia; Maryann Rossman, Farmington; Betty Matthews, Redford Township; Micki Grossman, Southfield; Phyllis Turowski, Garden City; Linda White, Westland; and Ellen Ruland, Plymouth.

CPA Course At Oakland U

ROCHESTER Five review courses covering all phases of the certified public accountant examination begin at Oakland University on Thursday evening, Aug. 17. The courses end Oct. 26, in time for the candidates to sit for the Nov. 13 CPA examination.

CPA candidates may enroll for one or more of the six subject areas; practice I, practice II, theory, law, auditing and economics. Supplemental lectures in statistics, EDP, quantitative methods and APB 15 also are available.

Because the candidates who complete the review course have been so successful, in passing the CPA examination, the Division of Continuing Education has increased the course guarantee to cover one-third of the tuition. To register, call the division.

Troha Earns Promotion

Roy Troha, 35922 Ladywood, Livonia, was promoted to director of accounting and office administration of Great Scott Supermarkets. Troha joined Great Scott as office manager in 1966. Prior to that he was employed by National Tea Co. for 22 years, the last two as controller for their Detroit division.

On Dean's List

Barbara J. Wilson, 1925 Rainbow Dr., Southfield, has been named to the Dean's List for the spring quarter at the College of Wooster in Wooster, O.

ski-doo
*Trade Mark of Bombardier Limited

YELLOW TAGSALE

MODELS:
300 Olympic \$649
399 OLYMPIC \$849
340 TNT \$939

SAXTONS GARDEN center inc.
587 W. Ann Arbor Trail PLYMOUTH - 453-0250
"EVERYTHING FOR THE GARDEN BUT THE RAIN"

STEREOLAND CLOSEOUT CLEARANCE SALE!
SAVE \$90 THIS WEEK!

SONY SUPERSCOPE

REG \$289.95 SALE 198⁰⁰

3311 PLYMOUTH ROAD 261-8170
IN THE SHELTER SHOPPING CENTER
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS HONORED - BANK FINANCING AVAILABLE

FOREST CITY
YOU MUST BE SATISFIED • WE GUARANTEE IT!

FOREST CITY PRESCRIPTION SAVINGS

Rx Fast, Efficient Service!
Price your prescription, then see us! Registered pharmacist on duty at all times!

insulin U40 89¢
insulin U80 1.79
30-day disposable syringe 3.59

Modess comfortable sanitary napkins 89¢
Limit 2 Box of 40 1.59 Size

Revlon protein formula hair spray 43¢
1.25 Size 13 Ounce Can

Foster Grant sunglasses spec-tacular savings 1.29
Compare \$3 to \$5 Fashion wire and molded rims in styles for men and women.

Polaroid #108 colorpack film super low priced 3.69 per pack Limit 2

Thermos lunch kit with 1/2-pint beverage bottle 1.88 Compare 2.53

Off! or G-12 insect repellent for outdoor use 69¢ 0.5 or 7 Ounces 1.33 Size

Johnson-Johnson BAND-AID Brand sheer strips 2 \$1 1.25 Size 10 Pkts. 29 Free

Dial Family Deodorant 99¢ 13 OZ. Car. Rep. 1.49

Muriel cigars... magnum, corona or panetela size 5 45¢ per pack

Schick Plus Platinum double edge razor blades 99¢
Dispenser of 10 Blades 1.69 Size

LIVONIA 1567 Middlebelt at Schreiber's 427-6671
OPEN MONDAY THRU SATURDAY 9:30-5:30 SUNDAY 11:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

master charge