



WHAT'S UP, DAD? -- Ferris State College team physician Dr. Fred Birkam has special interest in a pair of Bulldog football players this season. Though he treats all team members for injuries, he keeps an extra medical eye on his

sons Steve (72) and Mike (66), both key figures on Coach Nick Cogo's squad. Steve, a graduate of Farmington High, is starting defensive end and Mike, who played football at Big Rapids High, is a promising freshman linebacker.

# Snowmobile Trails Are Longer, Better, Safer

Snowmobilers can look forward to using 900 miles of trails—about 200 more than a year ago—in northern Michigan's state forests at the onset of this winter, reports the Department of Natural Resources.

They can also count on smoother and safer going throughout most of the trail system during the entire 1972-73 season, thanks to a \$273,000 appropriation which the State Legislature granted this year for expanding snowmobile improvements in state forests.

By developing more trails, equipping them with better facilities, and keeping them in top condition with these funds, the DNR hopes to take considerable trespassing pressure off private lands in the northern part of the state.

THOSE POWER - sledding routes in northern lower Michigan which are now UNDER THIS year's \$273,000 improvement program, DNR foresters and

other field workers have also spent time and money to bring existing state forest trails "up to standard" by adding these same facilities, posting directional signs, and clearing the old routes for winter maintenance operations.

As a result of this work and the purchase of eight trail-grooming machines, the DNR will do its "leveling" best this winter to keep about 800 miles of state forest trails in top running order for snowmobilers.

These units, each costing nearly \$14,000, feature a wheel-track cab unit known as the ski-dozer and a 6 1/2 - foot-wide type of grader which is called the trail groomer.

As it is pulled behind the ski-dozer, the groomer breaks up snowmobile-worn ridges, levels out the snow, and packs it down to leave a smooth track for snowmobilers.

THE DNR HAS tentatively

mapped out three new state forest snowmobile trails for the Upper Peninsula. Those trails, soon to undergo final routing plans, are programmed for completion sometime this season.

They include the Paradise-Tahquamenon Trail near Newberry, the Silver Creek Floodwood Trail near Norway, and the Sturgeon River Trail north of Iron Mountain.

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## Builders See Power Shortages

Impending shortages of natural gas and electricity have become matters of concern to the residential builders of southeastern Michigan.

Shortages of rough and finished lumber and wood products, and rapidly escalating costs of these essential materials, have forced many builders drastically to revise their schedules for the rest of 1972 and for all of 1973, and perhaps further in the future.

Attention will be focused on these problems at a meeting of the 980-member Builders Assn. of Metropolitan Detroit, and its subsidiary, the Apartment Assn. of Michigan, Tuesday, Nov. 21. The meeting will be at Raleigh House, Telegraph Road near 10 Mile, and will start at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6. Representatives of Detroit Edison Co., Consumers Power Co., Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. and Michigan Bell Telephone Co. have been invited to participate in a discussion of power supplies and costs at the meeting.

## Snowmobile Course OK'd

PONTIAC Young persons in Oakland County wishing to operate snowmobiles must first attend classes and obtain certificate of training.

That is a new requirement of state law to help reduce snowmobile accidents. The Oakland County Board of Commissioners voted Thursday to spend \$5,000 with the state investing another \$15,000 for a snowmobile safety program.

Under the matching funds program, 40 per cent of the funds will be spent on law enforcement to cover salaries

and benefits of county sheriff department deputies.

The other 60 per cent is for 15 educational classes to be held throughout the county. There will be about 1,000 students per class with the session held from 7-9 p.m. on the dates scheduled.

One of the 15 classes will be held in Southfield High School, date to be announced later.

Snowmobile operators' licenses won't be granted unless applicants produce the certificate of training which will be given those who attend the classes conducted by the sheriff's department.

## Recycling Funds Voted

PONTIAC Oakland County Commissioners have approved an expenditure of \$20,000 to improve the county's recycling center at 550 W. Telegraph, Pontiac.

The building, once the county DPW headquarters and the old drain office, is condemned but is in use as a county recycling material collection center.

The money will be used to build four bins, add a cement pad, and be improved so collectors can go directly into the building, says Alex

Perinoff (D-Southfield), board vice - chairman.

At the same meeting, the board accepted an offer to sell the 1.5 acre site to Milton H. Ring Co., a plumbing firm.

The firm will pay the county \$75,000 for the land and condemned building, construct a warehouse for plumbing supplies, and sign a long-term lease allowing Oakland to use the old building as a recycling center free of charge.

About one-third of the land will be used by the county for its recycling operation, with the purchaser developing on the other two-thirds.

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