

### Teacher to Assist in Counseling Program

William Clark, tenth-grade counselor and algebra instructor at Birmingham high school, will assist the staff of Michigan State college this summer in its annual counseling clinic program.

The program is designed to introduce incoming fall freshmen to college life. This summer, 1,500 high school students are expected to participate in 11 three day sessions beginning June 22.

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## Equalization Study by County Bearing Fruit, Chairman Says

An effort begun six years ago is beginning to pay dividends in a fairer equalization of the county and school tax burden throughout Oakland county, but much work remains to be done, County Equalization Chairman Elmer W. Haack said this week.

"The committee has been trying to work out arrangements whereby each municipality in the county pays its just share of taxes collected on a county basis," explained Haack, who also is Birmingham assessor.

"Our effort is aimed at determining the taxable wealth of each municipality to find out its relationship to all other municipalities of the county. If municipality X possesses 10 percent of the entire county's taxable wealth, we feel it

should pay 10 percent of the tax burden."

BECAUSE it felt there were inequities in the assignment of the tax load as it was spread through various municipalities in counties, the state-tax commission began a study of the situation in 1948.

In 1951, a report on the state's findings was admitted to the Oakland county board of supervisors. In general, the state claimed the

county's valuations should be about 50 percent higher, and that townships were not paying on a par with other governmental units.

"This state report was adopted for use by the Oakland equalization committee in 1951 and has been used by that body (with revisions for additions and losses of buildings) in its efforts to equalize the tax load equitably during the past three years," Haack said.

IN THE meantime, the committee, using county allotted funds, has been conducting its own survey into equalization problems.

A staff of five persons is surveying the assessing practices of

townships, cities and villages, Haack said.

Field investigations are conducted throughout the year to determine at what percentage of real value various municipalities assess property.

SOME UNITS assess at 80 percent of value while others assess at other levels ranging as low as 20 percent.

Haack explained, "We are not concerned over what percentage is used. Once we have established what it is, we can determine the percentage of a given municipality's wealth to the total county wealth."

"We are compiling our own re-

port which we hope we will be able to use to supplant the state report within about two years. Changes in land values in recent years have outmoded the state report, and we feel a new one is necessary.

"Up to now the research staff has limited its activities to finding out at what percentage of full value personal and residential property is being assessed by the various units.

"IT is contemplated that in the ensuing year, further sampling of personal and residential property will be made and research will be extended to include commercial property. Following a full

study of commercial property, we will go into assessments on industrial property," Haack said.

To undertake this task, the committee is planning an expansion of its investigative staff.

Now composed of a real estate appraiser, assistant appraiser, auditor, statistician, and clerk, the staff will be enlarged by adding another appraiser and another clerk.

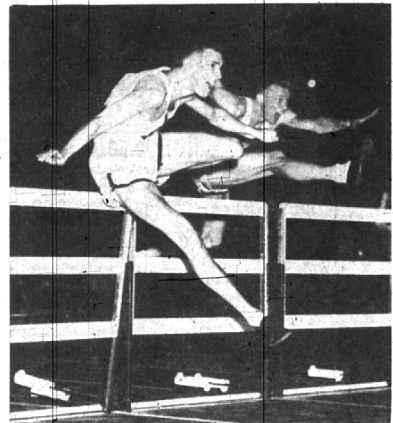
"We are the only county in the state of Michigan that is undertaking such a study," Haack said.

tax burden to various local units. "Southfield township has appealed to the state tax commission against our raising its equalization percentage of the county collect taxes. In years past we have never been able to support our decision by factual data. Through a study, we now have a good basis on which to explain our decision," Haack pointed out.

He also stated that the committee's staff reports had resulted in the adjustment of the tax load on communities in the Birmingham area.

Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills had their equalized percentages of county taxes lowered slightly and those in Bloomfield, Troy, Southfield, and W. Bloomfield townships were increased.

Want ads cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday.



THIS SCENE WILL BE repeated for Cornell Track Captain Mac Booth in London, England on June 12 when he will join other members of a track team from Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania against runners from Oxford and Cambridge. Booth is an entry in both the low and high hurdles as the English schools play host to the American schools in a home and home series started last year when Cambridge and Oxford travelled to the United States to compete against the two Eastern schools. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Booth, 845 Fairfax, and Birmingham High school graduate left for London by air last Sunday and expects to tour Europe for two months after the meet in England. His time of 22.9 seconds for the 220 yard low hurdles set in a meet with Colgate May 22 stands as the best College time in the country for the lows this year.

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