

# Vision Screening Device Used in Testing Plan

LANSING—A commercial model of a vision screening device designed by the Michigan Department of Health will be used for the first time this year to test the sight of large numbers of preschool children.

Although local health department vision technicians have been testing the vision of Michigan school children for the past 15 years, there has been a long-felt need to reach children with defective vision before they entered school.

However, the limited ability of preschoolers to communicate and the lack of an effective vision screening device had frustrated previous efforts to check the vision of these children.

THE NEW screening test employs a simple, yet effective screening device designed by staff members of the state health department. The device has proved successful in a number of experimental screening programs testing the vision of three-year-olds, health officials report.

Preschool vision screening programs will be conducted in 12 counties this year.

The three-year-old is selected for screening because he is old enough to communicate with and yet young enough to allow for corrective procedures before he enters school, say the officials.

"ONE ADVANTAGE in working with this age group is that they more readily accept glasses or patches to strengthen weaker eyes. If they have learned to accept glasses before they go to school, there is also less chance of psychological trauma involved."

The new screening device avoids the use of such abstract concepts as up and down and right and left. Instead, the youngsters are asked whether the letter "E" is pointing to a rabbit, flower, clouds, or grass.

A miniature replica of the testing device is mailed to parents of children to be screened, giving the child an opportunity to become familiar with the "game" before the actual screening is done.

APPROXIMATELY six percent of the children screened during the early screening programs were referred to their eye doctor because of possible vision defects spotted during the tests.

Three percent failed the test, and another three percent were referred on the basis of symptoms such as squinting or watery eyes. "Poor vision is frequently responsible for a child's behavior,"

said one official. Because of inadequate vision, a child may be regarded as slow or retarded, and consequently may not receive the attention and stimulation a parent would normally extend, thus depriving him of an important part of his development.

"A SCREENING program to discover vision loss early and refer the child to a specialist to correct

the condition, can prevent such unfortunate situations and make sure that children start school without the handicap of poor vision."

At present preschool vision screening programs are scheduled for Antrim, Calhoun, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Ingham, Kalamazoo, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Midland and Wayne counties.

## Diabetic Classes Scheduled by Health Dept.

A series of five classes for diabetics and their families will be held at the Birmingham City Health Department beginning next week, the Oakland County Health Department has announced.

The classes will be held from 1 p. m. to 3 p. m. and will be taught by Mrs. Katherine Claus, Public Health Nutritionist and

Mrs. Katherine Kripke, Public Health Nurse.

Topics covered will include: introduction to diabetes, proper selection of diet, food for all occasions, insulin technique, urine tests and personal hygiene.

The classes are sponsored by the Oakland County Medical Society, the Department of Health and various Adult Education Departments. All persons attending the classes must have the written approval of their physician.

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## On Macomb-Oakland Line

What a difference in six months! Both photographs were taken from the interior park road on the combination bridge and upper dam structure looking northeast toward 28 Mile Road in Stony Creek Metropolitan Park, now under development astride the Macomb-Oakland County line. Top photo:

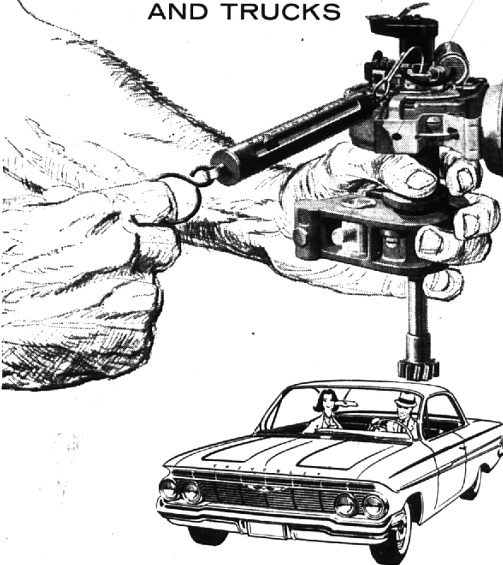
taken November, 1961 shows park officials looking at trees and dense undergrowth. Bottom photo: taken April, 1962 shows the transformation which has taken place once spring rains and melting snow filled the lake area. The water surface will be drained to permit additional clearance this summer.

## Leaders Named By Oakland Board

Arno L. Hulet, Bloomfield Township supervisor, has been unanimously re-elected vice chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors.

Delos Hamlin, Farmington supervisor, was also re-elected to serve another term as chairman of the board. Hulet, named to a third straight term, thanked the supervisors for their vote of confidence as did Hamlin, who is beginning his seventh term.

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## Attends Case ROTC

Michael Hughes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur V. Hughes of 4581 Burnley, Birmingham, is a member of the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps at Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland, Ohio. Cadet Hughes, a member of the freshman class, is a member of "B" Flight in the basic corps. He is a 1961 graduate of Seaholm High School.



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