

College Proposal to Go On Ballot Again in '64

Oakland County voters will be asked again next June for funds to establish a community college, William J. Emerson, county school superintendent, said today. The school board defeated the one mill tax to pay for it. Emerson said, "We are not sure if we will submit the same efficient and economical proposal the next time or whether we will make some revisions, but one thing is certain, we will try again."

He said it would be too expensive to call a special election, but the proposal could be put on the regular school election ballot next June. The proposed college would have been divided into three campuses. It would offer two-year liberal arts and technical courses for students who planned to continue their education elsewhere.

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Civil Service Examinations Show Increase During '62

More people took state civil service examinations during 1962 than in any year in its history, a Michigan Civil Service Commission study shows.

An analysis of its 1962 examination program indicated that 57,289 persons were examined with 24,892 receiving passing grades. Nine hundred and sixteen different examinations were scheduled during the year.

Examinations varied in content and included any one or all of four parts: a written test, oral appraisal, evaluation of education and experience and a performance test. Some examinations also included a field investigation of the personal background of the applicant.

The study also showed that there were a total of 7,100 appointments from employment lists prepared by the commission.

AUTOMATIC of the examination process received an experimental try during the year. A system, designed initially so that it could utilize existing state equipment, used an IBM card as an answer sheet programmed for scoring and analysis on a computer.

Over 4,000 persons took such examinations. Some tests were scored out in 45 minutes which would take over 300 man-hours to check manually.

State personnel director Franklin K. DeWald said the examination section has placed an order for a new scoring machine which will read ordinary pencil mark answers by a light-sensing process to ease test administration for both the monitor and the applicant. Expected during this year, he said.

Burn Dangers Lurk in Tub And On Stove

A child's first five years are the most dangerous for receiving accidental burns, said Dr. George H. Lowrey of The University of Michigan Medical Center.

"Because a child likes to explore and investigate things during these years, he is more susceptible to burn dangers," he said.

"The most frequent household pitfall for children is hot liquids, usually on the stove and often boiling. The youngster tugs curiously at the handle and suddenly becomes a candidate for the burn ward. Dangling cords from coffee pots or other heated cooking utensils also provide dangerous temptations for children."

DR. LOWREY cautioned parents not to leave a small child unattended in a bathtub, especially if the hot water is running. Those children are seldom capable of turning the faucets off, and painful burns and scalds often result.

"A burn can change a person's entire way of life. Burned hands can't make a living if the injury is severe enough.

"Psychologically, the individual is crippled if face burns disfigure him," Dr. Lowrey said. "Biting electrical cords, although not generally fatal, frequently disfigures the youngster around the mouth."

WHEN APPLYING first aid, Dr. Lowrey feels that many parents do harm with home-remedies. "These are often contaminated with bacteria and tend to infect the wound."

For the prevention of burns Dr. Lowrey advocates keeping pan handles on front stove burners turned toward the back, storing matches and inflammable agents out of reach of children, detaching electrical cords promptly and supervising a small child the entire time he is in a bathtub.

If parents keep constantly alert to the dangers of fire and hot objects, and supervise their children closely, he said, burn accidents among children will decrease.

THE COMMISSION reported 17 per cent of the 30,862 persons on the state payroll at the end of the year were provisionals. It also reported that 97 provisional appointments were replaced during the year when they did not score high enough to maintain their jobs when examinations were held. Another 56 provisional appointments made by state agencies were disapproved by the civil service because the appointees lacked required qualifications established for their positions, it was reported.

A TEST PERIOD under actual working conditions is required of ordinary pencil mark employment and being hired by an agency.

Summer Is Here, Says Sun

Astronomically speaking, summer is just around the corner.

The official opening of the season comes at 10:04 p.m. Friday but without any guarantee about the temperature, says University of Michigan astronomer Hazel M. Losh.

As the sun reaches the summer solstice, or the most northerly point reached in its apparent yearly journey, "we shall not necessarily be having our hottest weather then, even though we shall have our longest day, about 15 hours of daylight," the U-M astronomer explains.

"ON THIS DAY, Michigan will receive the most heat from the sun in any 24-hour period of the year, but the peak of the season usually comes from four to six weeks later."

The northern hemisphere will continue to receive more heat from the sun than it loses until about the first of August. The temperature can be expected to rise until then, Professor Losh says.

VA Announces Higher Payments For Dependents

Approximately 1,800 children and 1,300 dependent parents of deceased Michigan veterans will receive an increase of about 10 per cent in their monthly dependency and indemnity compensation payments in July.

Robert M. Fitzgerald, manager of the Veterans Administration regional office in Detroit, said today that the increases are the result of a new law signed by the President last week.

The increased payments will be automatic and will be reflected in the July checks mailed about August 1, Fitzgerald explained.

A CHILD NOW receiving \$70 per month will receive \$77 per month under the new law. Two children, currently receiving \$100 a month, will receive \$110 equally divided between them.

Three children, receiving \$130 per month, will receive \$143, also equally divided among them.

If there are more than three children, each additional child will add \$28 to the total which still is equally divided.

In the case of dependent parents living together with an annual income of less than \$1,000, their present payment of \$50 each will be increased to \$55 each, under the new law.

Nationwide, more than 45,000 children and 30,000 parents will benefit, Fitzgerald explained.

Michigan has 19 ports on the Great Lakes that handle a million or more tons of shipping annually, reaching all parts of the world through the St. Lawrence Seaway.

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Does Screech Owl Screech?

The screech owl's call isn't a screech; it's more like a soft tremolo on a descending scale, said George Hunt, professor of wildlife management.

"This pleasantly haunting sound is heard most often in the spring during the breeding season. Not much larger than a robin, the screech owl is approximately 10 inches or less in length, weight only five to six ounces and has a wing-spread of about one foot. Fluffy feathers and a large head give it a stylish 'bouffant' look and the two erectile ear tufts standing out from the head above the eyes make it look like a miniature great horned owl."

"THIS OWL" comes in two colors called "color phases." Some are grey, some reddish brown. You can get both phases in the same brood," Hunt said.

"Most nesting occurs in the hollows of trees but they will occupy nesting boxes if provided. They seem to like city life and sometimes nest in the granaries of buildings."

"Screech owls have one brood a year and both sexes incubate and carry out the work of hatching the clutch. The young stay in the nest and are fed until they are about six weeks old. This species is non-migratory but there is some wandering probably due to difficult winters."

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