

# Concept

(Continued from 1-A)

are combined into a single office in Oakland County.

The coroner or medical examiner in Oakland County is appointed by the senior judge of the Probate Court, the prosecuting attorney and the clerk-registrar of deeds and a drain commissioner are elected. Under the new constitution, these officers will be elected to four-year terms.

A COUNTY SCHOOL district is provided for, although not required, by general law. The law states that the district shall be governed by a five-member board elected either by the voters or by delegates from the school districts in the county.

Oakland County employs the water method.

Delegates from the county's 30 school districts elect board members to six-year, staggered terms at biennial meetings open to the public.

The five-member county school board hires a county superintendent. This board has no direct authority over the individual school districts.

IN OAKLAND COUNTY, however, it provides the special education programs for retarded children, etc.

Members of other county boards, such as the Board of Auditors, the Board of Canvassers, Road Commission, Social Welfare and Tax Allocation Boards are appointed by the board of supervisors.

The 83 counties in Michigan are divided into 40 circuits, in each of which there is a state circuit court, presided over by one or more circuit judges. The number of judges is determined by the size and population of the area, and they are elected.

Under the old constitution, each county elected court commissioners to serve as aides to the court, the number determined by the population of the county. This will be changed by the enabling legislation for the judicial article of the new constitution.

Each county has a probate court in which the number of elected judges depends upon the county's population.

AS THE COUNTY government has been forced to add new functions, the officials to administer have been made appointive. Similar or closely related functions have been divided among several county agencies and all executive and administrative functions are carried out by a complex system of committees, boards and commissions.

In Oakland County, there are 25 standing committees, ranging from the important Ways and Means Committee to the Flowers Committee, whose sole function is, according to the Oakland County Directory: "To send flowers to the proper persons on occasions which the committee deems appropriate, to keep the flower fund solvent by requests for contributions from the members of the board of supervisors when funds are needed."

THE SIZE of the board of supervisors varies according to population and the number of cities in the county, but they tend to be large.

At the present time, there are 86 members on the Oakland County Board of Supervisors and there is no limit to the number it may have in the future. The law allows for increasing representation with population increases as well as adding representatives for newly formed cities.

These representatives are both appointed and elected, as we have

noted, depending upon whether they represent a city or a township.

UNDER GENERAL law provisions, the county board of supervisors holds both legislative and administrative powers, but there is no executive head of county government. There is a chairman of the board, but he is not directly responsible for the functioning of county government.

Elected officials, whose administrative positions are comparable to department heads in industry, are totally independent of each other. They are free to carry out their functions according to their individual standards and policies, with no clear-cut lines of accountability to the board of supervisors.

(NEXT: THE COUNTY UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION)

## Two Franklin Men Appear at Songfest

Franklin residents Ralph Hoder-ness and Oliver Garwood will participate in the 21st annual "Holiday of Harmony" of the Pontiac Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

The program will be held at 8:15 p.m. Saturday at Pontiac Northern High School. Hoder-ness sings lead and Garwood sings with the Pontiac Revelaires chorus. This year's show will feature five quartets.

## Cost

(Continued from 5-A)

time with the chamber's assistance in the purchase of materials, but in a monetary form," Middlewood said.

"With the money provided by the chamber, we would purchase material which we feel would require less maintenance and require less replacement during the season," he said.

He noted that the major problem still facing his department was the type of light which was purchased for the lighting of the trees.

"WE ARE faced with the situation of having some 400 sets of troublesome lights for the coming season," he said. The lights, he said, were intermittently shorting out and were becoming badly corroded.

"The lights were UL (Underwriters Laboratory) approved for indoor use only," he said.

"I appreciate the position which the chamber has taken in supplying the materials for this seasonal program; however, I also feel in view of our first-hand experience in erecting and maintaining this display, we would be better qualified to handle these purchases," he said.

"It seems," he said, "our primary difficulty with materials has arisen in the type of Christmas tree lights used and not in the other materials purchased and donated by the chamber."

# Franklin Election Sparked By Potpourri of Issues

By NITA HARD  
Special Writer

FRANKLIN—It doesn't take a crystal ball to predict that Franklin voters will have a lively election March 9.

Not only will they have to elect a new village president, (Calvert Thomas announced Monday he would not run again after serving four years as president and two as councilman), but three council seat contests and two charter amendment should also stimulate interest.

OF PRIME PRIORITY is the destiny of village roads. Voters will have a chance to literally "put up or shut up" on the question of whether or not they want hard surfaced roads throughout the village.

Upon the recommendation of the special road study committee, the council and the planning commission, all of whom have made exhaustive studies of the economies of long range maintenance costs, a charter amendment is proposed which will permit the village to borrow enough money to do the job all at one time by issuing general obligation bonds on a ten-year basis.

A simple majority of those voting on the question will decide.

INCLUDED WITH THE proposed amendment will be a companion question, requiring approval by 3/5 of those voting on the question, setting the amount to be bor-

rowed at \$230,000.

In a final report of the special road study committee headed by Councilman Richard Oberschulte, it is proposed that "a hard surface facing program during 1964 for all Franklin roads officially registered with the State Highway Department be accomplished on a 10-year bonded ad valorem basis at an approximate cost of \$320,000. This amount is to be secured by \$90,000 from anticipated Michigan State Highway funds and \$230,000 from local property taxes resulting in an estimated three mill tax."

A PRELIMINARY PLAN and estimates drawn up by village engineers, Giffels, Webster Engineers, Inc., the surfacing material recommended will be a hot asphalt mix with natural stone chips giving a course gravelly appearance, which is expected to retain the "country-road" character cherished by many residents.

Having decided to "go for broke," to avoid piecemeal paving and endless special assessment districts, the council will devote their energies now toward distributing comprehensive data and information to their constituents for the fullest understanding of the questions possible when ballots are cast.

PRIOR TO THEIR REGULAR meeting Monday night, the council held a public hearing on the proposed vacation of a portion of Irving Road at the request of the

Franklin Community association.

Despite the objections raised by adjacent property owner G. W. Smith, the council agreed to "close" that portion of Irving rather than vacate it. Unimproved as a road, the property in question will be used to increase recreational facilities for the community and the association was advised that any changes in contour that were needed to provide better drainage would be permissible.

COUNCILMAN Edmund Webb reported that the original plan for the Helman Woods drainage district, at \$39,000 with an open drain, was rejected by the City of Southfield. An alternate plan at \$58,000 with 1400 feet of closed drain was also rejected by them. So, at this point, said Webb, a third plan at \$37,000 with Southfield's share around \$500 is being considered. Although the area is acutely affected by standing surface water is relatively small, the contributing area is quite extensive, thus there was a large representation of residents and property owners north of 13 Mile who will be included in the ultimate assessment. No decisions on the matter were reached Monday night.

THE COUNCIL AGREED that no more plat plans for new subdivisions will be considered in an impromptu presentation at monthly meetings. Developers will have to submit

their plans ahead to the clerk, building department and planning commission, so that details can be checked, approved, and properly recommended at least two weeks before the council meeting.

Henceforth, no other procedure will be considered.

VILLAGE ENGINEERS were assigned to prepare plans and specifications for the improvement of

Bruce Lane, so that a public hearing on the proposed assessment district can be held Feb. 10 at 8 p.m.

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