

Growth

(Continued from 1-A)

22,000 when all land in the district is developed. With over 14,000 already in school, 18,000-plus appears in the cards for the 1968-9 school year.

The taxpayer can begin to look forward to a time of relative stability. But it is still a few years away. Much needs to be done in the meantime.

TURNING TO immediate building needs, the plain fact is there will be more children in the schools next fall than they are intended to accommodate. And the uneven distribution of the growth aggravates the problem. It will have to be met by bussing more pupils (400 from Valley Woods and Beverly alone) outside their regular attendance areas. There also will have to be some elementary school restructuring.

Fitting all of the children in already presents difficulties. In some schools special purpose rooms have had to be converted to classrooms. Needed alterations have been held

up until pupil overload can be relieved. The school administration has had to do some other juggling to take care of our burgeoning crop of school-age youngsters with as little sacrifice as possible of basic standards such as class size.

Groves High School, which should have only the top three grades, has been operating with a ninth grade as well. Berkshire Junior High has had to be converted to a two-year school. Expenditures like these are justified only on a temporary basis.

IT WILL BE possible with such devices to get by next year. But more physical plant will be needed when the schools open in September, 1965.

The building program to be financed by the \$5,350,000 bonding authority is designed to accommodate the higher enrollments immediately in view and permit a return to something like a "normal" operation in the district. The construction to be financed

under the bonding program included:

A new elementary school at 13-Mile and Evergreen Road. A 1,000-student junior high school at Quanton and Covington roads. Additions to Valley Woods, Meadow Lake, Franklin and Walnut Lake schools and to the Groves High School Library. A new science wing for Seaholm High School. A much-needed new administration building to replace the 1869 model Hill building. Some renovation and alteration of many of the older school buildings.

No additional taxes need be levied to pay for this building program.

THE FIVE mills now used for debt retirement will cover the new bonds, as certain earlier bond issues will be paid off shortly. The millage devoted to debt retirement, incidentally, has been reduced from \$5.5 mills to 5 mills in the last few years.

This was made possible in part by the board of education's action in developing a \$10 million plan in 1961 in place of an \$8.7 million plan recommended to the board by a professional survey group. This was accomplished by building fewer but larger school centers and by effecting substantial savings in construction costs.

The solid progress the board of education and administration have made in the last few years in reducing construction costs is illustrated by Berkshire Junior High School. This school—which is highly regarded for its design, construction and utility—was built in 1962 at a cost of \$13.10 per square foot, a very reasonable level relative to average school building costs in Michigan. While Berkshire has 5,000 more square feet than Dory Junior High, built six years earlier, its total construction cost was substantially lower than that for Dory.

MEADOW LAKE Elementary School, the newest elementary school building in the district, was completed in 1962 at a cost of only \$12.03 per square foot. The design of Meadow Lake points up the steps taken to about half of that in typical school buildings of earlier design.

Also, Meadow Lake and the other new buildings in the district have been designed so that additions can be economically attached should they be needed. This is approach \$15 million against the danger of overbuilding.

The board of education has pared its new building program down to the basic essentials. For example, the size and facilities of the planned new administration building have been cut way below the initial plan.

It will have no conference facilities, as was originally projected, and in fact will not be large enough to accommodate all of the administrative personnel who might well be housed there. But it will do the job with no-frills, and that is the

OCL

(Continued from 3-A)

Forum" held on campus last fall was also cited by Ouradnik.

IN HIS address, Varner called the community college another opportunity for youngsters to prove their ability to cope with a four-year college program (particularly boys, who often take longer to get down to the business of learning than girls).

"Many youngsters who cannot be admitted to universities will still

way our school officials propose to handle the whole program.

Next week in the last article of the series some of the main questions being asked about the school proposals will be discussed.

have opportunities for higher education in community colleges," Varner said.

"These colleges provide services we at Oakland cannot, such as technological education in vocational fields and teaching work skills to the student who is not four-year college material."

BACKING of the two-year colleges is essential, he continued, if the expected horde of "war babies" is to receive a higher education.

"If every PhD graduating in the next few years chooses to become an educator, we will still be 50 percent or more short of our need for university instructors," he predicted.

To teach more students with fewer instructors, Varner foresees increased use of technological aids such as closed-circuit TV, language laboratories and tape recorders.

Varner voiced his belief that dol-

Search On For Vandals In Franklin

FRANKLIN — Vandals struck Franklin School during the early hours of Monday morning, and again sometime before school

lars must never again be the determining of who goes to college.

"**PREDICT** a shift towards the determining of student tuition costs through ability to pay," he said. "If the student or his parents can afford to pay, they should do so. On the other hand, Michigan's new state scholarship program will aid the student who is intellectually but not financially equipped for a higher education."

"I think it is unfortunate that we did not adopt the community college program in Oakland County last year. The most important investment we can make is an investment in learning."

opened on Tuesday. Mrs. Grace Harris' kindergarten room was a shambles. Everything was such a mess, kindergarten children were sent home for the day.

According to Franklin volunteer police, everything in the classroom was strewn around the floor. Paint brushes spilled all over the washroom, poster and finger paint was tracked all over the floor. Acoustical ceiling tiles were chewed to bits. The aquarium was depopulated right down to the last morsel.

As word circulated around town other reports came in alleging trashing. Some residents were becoming fearful a riot police were urged to check every call.

had seen the tell-tale footprints of the culprit.

A trap was set. Although, as late as Tuesday night, the vandals were still at large.

The chaos, from all the evidence, is the result of one or two raccoons who have somehow gained entrance to the room. That they are potential drop-outs is clearly indicated in the apparent frenzy of their effort to find a way out.

They've climbed pipes, leaving footprints high on the wall and even the ceiling. They've scaled a tower of cardboard building blocks to find escape. Thwarted, they are hiding and school custodians are hoping that by abetting these delinquents, and leaving a window open, they'll skip school for good.

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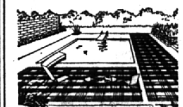


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