

## 100 GIVE UP DATES FOR SATURDAY CLASS

Dinner-Class Lasts From 8:30 to Midnight

Students at Michigan State University Oakland are living up to Chancellor D. B. Varner's claim that MSUO is going to produce intellectuals.

Nearly 100 of the university's 550 charter class gave up their Saturday night dates for a standing-room-only dinner-and-class session to prepare for this week's final exams in the Western Civilization course. The novel class meeting which lasted from 8:45 p.m. to midnight, was the students' idea.

After the discussion, in the Greenfield Restaurant in Birmingham, many of the students came up to the professor — Dr. William Kluback — to thank him for "a wonderful evening." Some asked if such pleasant things happened in all universities.

The affair had started out as a small venture. The 32 students in Dr. Kluback's 6 p.m. class would have lost their last session before exams due to a peculiarity of the school calendar. A month ago they suggested a Saturday night dinner meeting to replace it. Other freshmen heard about it and soon 85 had asked to attend. Dr. Kluback was forced to shift the affair to a larger restaurant.

Seventy students showed up for the dinner, half a dozen of them with husbands or wives. Each paid \$3.40 for his or her meal. After the roast beef, salad

(Continued on Page Five)

## JANET LONG TO GO TO WHITE HOUSE

Student One of Six Chosen to Give 4-H Report to Ike

Janet Long, Michigan State University-Oakland student, and Michigan co-winner in the nationwide 4-H Achievement program, was elected one of six in the U.S. to present President Eisenhower and Congress with a report of the National 4-H Congress in session November 29-December 3 in Chicago. The personal presentation will be made at the White House in Washington, D.C. the first week of March, Congress officials announced today.

Miss Long, a scholarship student at MSUO, was chosen to represent the state at the National 4-H Conference in Washington next April.

A resident of 3988 Sleeth Road, Milford, Miss Long was Oakland County Dairy Princess and 4-H Fair Queen last summer. She received a certificate of honor along with Duane Crites of Albion for all-around achievements during eight years as a 4-H member, was sent as a Michigan delegate to the Congress in Chicago.

An attractive, dark-haired 18 year old, she is enrolled in the Teacher Education program at MSUO. She is also a stenographic assistant in the office of the Dean of Students, Roy J. Alexander.

She has been a member of the Exploratory Committee which will make proposals for a student government, and because of her interest in student activities, was chosen to attend the Regional Association of College Unions at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, November 21-22.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos G. Long, dairy farm owners, she contributed to her support in high school by work-

(Continued on Page Two)



Come All Ye Faithful

... COME LET US ADORE HIM

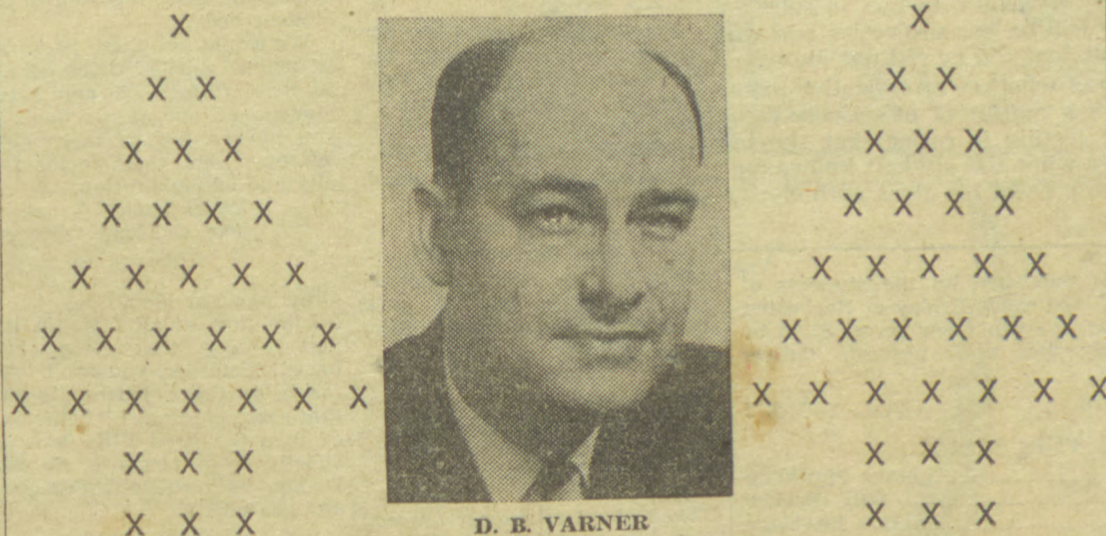
REMEMBERING THE TRUE AND LASTING

MEANING OF THIS HOLY CHRISTMAS SEASON.

MAY YOU FIND THE BLESSINGS YOU SEEK!

HAPPY HOLIDAY TO ALL

FROM THE OBSERVER STAFF



D. B. VARNER

## Varner's Christmas Message

To The MSU-O Student Body:

The Christmas season commemorates one of the great events in the history and development of the Christian world. This fact alone is reason enough for rejoicing; but in your case, I am sure that you can find additional pleasure in the realization that you have now cleared that first difficult hurdle in your path toward a college education—the first quarter.

You may not be pleased with your own level of achievement (I hope that you will never be satisfied), but the fact remains that it has been done—and surprisingly well. You have reason to relax and rejoice!

I hope that the holiday season is a good one for you and your families and that the year 1960 shall be pleasant and rewarding.

## Christmas Customs

by Janet Barber

American Christmas customs are familiar to all of us, but the origins of many of these customs are not too well known, and are certainly interesting. The customs of other countries, whether similar or different, are equally interesting.

Christmas itself is the commemoration of the birth of Christ. But most of the customs associated with it, including the date, come from pagan or Roman celebrations. Both the Roman Saturnalia and the pagan Mid-Winter Fire Festival came at the time of the Winter Solstice when the sun began to return North, signifying Spring or rebirth. The early Christian Church felt that by turning the festival into a Holy Day, many pagans might be converted to Christianity.

Perhaps the most popular Christmas custom is the giving of gifts. This was a common practice among the Romans, who exchanged gifts and gave alms to the poor during the Saturnalia. Giving gifts is also symbolic of the gifts of the Three Wise Men, whose gifts were in themselves symbolic—gold, of their acceptance of Christ as a king; frankincense ("pure incense"), of His deity; the bitter myrrh, of His death.

The origin of carolling is not certain. Some believe it began in England, where it is very popular. Others say it began in Italy, where carols were sung around the first creche, built by St. Francis of Assisi. Still others believe it goes back to Jesus' birth, when the angels' "tidings of joy" rang out over the plains of Bethlehem. Many of our Christmas carols date back to the Middle Ages, although one favorite, "Silent Night," was composed less than 150 years ago, by Franz Gruber and Fr. Joseph Mohr.

Evergreens, because they live throughout the year, were a symbol of eternal life. The Romans carried green boughs and small trees with lit candles in their processions, and decorated their homes and temples with greenery. The latter custom was taken up by the Christians, because the Romans, during the time of the persecutions, would torture or put to death the families found in undecorated homes. The Druids revered pine, spruce, fir, holly, ivy, mistletoe, and other evergreens. They thought spirits inhabited the forests, but that during the winter, the spirits had to leave the woods and wander about in the cold. Therefore, they brought evergreens (especially holly and mistletoe, both symbols of peace) into their homes in order to entice the spirits to come inside to take shelter. They hoped the spirits would reward them with good luck for the coming year.

The burning of the yule log was another Druid custom. The log usually an oak trunk, was lit from a faggot save from the yule log of the previous year. It was supposed to protect the home from lightning and fires, and insure thriving herds and good crops.

The custom of the creche, mentioned above, was begun about 1223, by St. Francis of Assisi. He set it up in a church in Greccio, Italy, using live cattle and donkeys, and life-size figures of the Holy Family.

The use of bells is a vestige of the Roman belief that ringing bells ward off evil spirits. In Britain and some parts of the Continent, bells ring for an hour

(Continued on Page Six)

## Objective Exams Pros, Cons Discussed

Reprinted from the Michigan State News

**PROBABLY EVERY** student on campus has by this time taken an objective test. Everyone has chosen the best answer out of five (or up to 15 in some cases). And everyone has matched items and filled in blanks.

The increased use of the objective test in the modern university, however, has led many prominent educators to speak out against this type of examination.

**PROF. BANESH HOFFMAN** in the November issue of Best Articles and Stories asserts that the objective test awards superficial thinking and punishes the student who tries to achieve depth in his answers. A student who has done extra research will be penalized when a question has more than one right answer and he must choose the 'best.' Is he to rely strictly on what he has learned in class or is he to use additional knowledge gained from true intellectual curiosity?

If he is to receive a good grade, he must use only material presented in class, according to Hoffman. This also presents a psychological barrier to the superior student who must 'outguess' the professor. Does the instructor want the 'real' correct answer, or only the one he gave in class?

The superior student will spend valuable time debating this question, subsequently lowering his score, while less-informed students put down the only answer they are familiar with and proceed to the next item.

**SEVERAL MSU** instructors tend to agree with this theory, saying that the objective test does give an adequate estimation of what the student knows, but that it is lacking in educational value for the student.

Dr. Stanley Idzerda, director of the Honors College, stated that objective tests do not teach the student to write and organize his thoughts. They merely present a series of answers from which the student can choose. This may be easier now, Idzerda said, but problems in life do not give a series of answers. A college education should not make a person dependent upon given choices in order to make a decision.

**DEAN EDWARD CARLIN** of Basic College feels that the only glaring weakness of objective tests is that students cannot organize their own material. The pitfalls pointed out by Hoffman are missing in most tests because they are prepared by experts. Exams prepared by professionals, such as those in the Evaluation Services department, have very few traps and are organized to challenge the students in nearly every respect.

According to Carlin, students are not asked to just pick an answer. They must evaluate and correlate material in order to arrive at the right answer.

This may be true, but students do not always thoroughly evaluate every question. Some merely mark an empty space and still others spend the entire test period looking for a "system" of finding correct answers.

To the conscientious student the objective test may be adequate in that he will carefully study every question. However, the average student tends to study the aspects of the question which were specifically covered in class and then darken a space.

Yet when used wisely, the objective test is just as fair and just as accurate as an essay exam. In fact in such an exam the instructor's grade will be less subjective and will indicate exactly what the student did or did not know.

The question, then, is not whether an objective exam is good or bad. It is rather a matter of effectively combining the two methods of testing in order that the instructor can find out exactly what the student knows and that the student can learn to present his ideas with clarity and originality.

The Oakland Observer is published by the students of Michigan State University-Oakland every Friday at Rochester, Michigan. Subscription rates: five cents per issue, \$1.50 by the school year. Advertising rates upon request. Offices located in the Student Center.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1959

VOL. I-NO. 5

### STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editor ..... Mary Moultrup  
Assistant Editor ..... Julie Becker  
Advertising Manager ..... Bob Davidson  
Circulation Manager ..... Steve Hall  
Art ..... Tom Moore  
Staff—Mike Deller, Lauree Webb, Patty Ferrell, Janet Barber, Shelagh O'Rourke, Mary Radtke, Clyde Jakobs, Gary Willson, Barbara Osborn, Steve Gold, Bob Smith, Tony Hammer, Don Peters, Fred Haley, and Hal Lanktree.  
Photography ..... Fred Vest and Conrad Hohnman  
Printed by the Advertiser's Press, Flint, Michigan.

The Observer will be happy to print serious comments concerning student life or thought. Faculty comments are also welcome. The staff must reserve the right to reject or to shorten letters. All letters must be signed, but the writer's name will be withheld upon request. Please turn all letters in to the newspaper offices in the Student Center.



## Phd. Oopes Sez:

In his address to the charted class of the new Meadowbrook Barnes University, Dr. Oopes expressed all the hopes and expectations of the administration and faculty. He said, "This institution plans to raise you, unintelligible embryos, to well oiled eggshells." He went on to say, "Most universities are proud of the fact that they prepare their students to take their places in the well-ordered society of today. But MBU, endowed with the pioneering spirit, will turn from the traditional attitude of training students to perform for society. It will keep you warm with the merits of ideals and nourish you with the fruits of philosophy until you have developed into a grade-A being with a shell of a sufficient thickness and strength to withstand the criticism of society which will be heaped upon you when society discovers that oval pegs will not fit into square holes."

## LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa,

I am in a state of maniac depression because I feel you might be inclined to disregard my wish. However, I am sure you will think it over when I tell you that I am not the only one who wants this wish.

My wish is to have Jayne Mansfield as dean for a whole week; chancellor, Sophia Loren; secretaries, Sandra Dee and Natalie Wood.

For English I would like Kim Novak; French, Bridgette Bardot; student advisor, May Britt; librarian, Elizabeth Taylor; and last but not least, intramural sports, Marilyn Monroe.

Watch it Santa, this is perishable merchandise.

Sincerely yours,  
J. A. Hammerhead

P.S. Just to show I'm not selfish, something for the girls: Rock Hudson and Marlon Brando as janitors.

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is a big doll and I want a choo-choo train for my brother. For my sister, I would like a muzzie. That's about all except I would also like a vacation to Hawaii or Europe, but if it is too much to bring down the chimney, you can wait and bring it next year.

Love,  
Mary Beth

Dear Santa,

We are students of Michigan State University-Oakland. It has been so long since we last wrote to you or received a present from you that we don't know just how to start. Anyhow, we think we have the right to ask for almost anything that we would want because you

owe us for the years that you've missed.

This may sound selfish, but we want 550 gifts. These gifts we would like are packages of spirit. This spirit cannot be just any kind of spirit, it has to be the type that is aroused when the Oakland Observer comes out. It's the kind that gives you a warm feeling down inside when all the facts have been judiciously reported to the student body.

We would like these packages of potent spirit distributed not to us, but to each and every student of our fair school. If you have a few of these gifts left over, send them to the faculty and administration.

Yours truly,  
The Oakland Observer  
Staff

Greetings Fat Man,

Like first of all I wanta tell you I dig that flaky-white beard! However, you can't tune me in on this reindeer gig and that crazy chimney bit. This bag of toys for good little boys is strictly from nowhere. So Big Daddy, let's cut out this jazz and get with it.

Sincerely yours,  
Swingin' Way-Out

Dear Santa,

I do not want very much for myself this Christmas. However, I would like 570 books on *How To Suffer* delivered to my classmates. For the faculty I wish to request 24 books titled *How to Suffer in Silence*. I hope these suggestions will not trouble you excessively.

For myself I ask only for one gift: a 1959 XK-100 Jaguar, fully equipped with a radio, heater, white-wall tires, full tank of gas, and Bridgette Bar-

## Letters to the Editor

### Irritated

To the Editor:

Until last week's issue of the Oakland Observer was published, I thought that the newspaper staff had done a fine job of reporting the news. The articles were interesting, and I especially liked the idea of publishing a student's theme each week.

In last week's issue of the newspaper there appeared a Phd. Oopes Humor Column. Who in heaven's name is Phd. Oopes? Do you think that anyone at MSU-O is silly enough to believe that Phd. Oopes really intercepted a letter from the United States mail service?

Secondly, who is that "ever loving son," Wilton? Remember, it was Wilton's letter which Phd. Oopes intercepted. Having thoroughly investigated a list of all the faculty, staff, and students of MSU-O, I am sorry to say that no person named Wilton exists. Don't tell me that he has left for that "sombre old military academy." If he did, I say, "Good riddance." Why? In the first place, I don't like anyone to call my fellow students, or me, jackasses! It was also very immature, on the part of dear Wilton, to compare any citizens of Michigan to cows.

What do you say, newspaper staff? Let's not publish any more rubbish! Put it in the trash can where it belongs.

An Irritated Student.

(We are sorry that you don't like this phase of the the paper. If you wish to add some feature that you consider to be of better taste, we invite you to the staff. —Ed.)

### Model Student

To the Editor:

I object vehemently! Why should some be favored and others not? I speak of the new ruling that all F's made this quarter may be redeemed if need be.

Why?

I work for my grades. I get home from school at about four p.m. I spend the next 6 to 8 hours studying (minus time for supper, of course). I arrive at school at eight a.m. My spare time is spent in the library, studying. I do not spend my time playing ping pong or imitating the Maverick brothers, as I have noticed a number of persons doing.

I am not flunking any course. As a matter of fact, I have an A average. I work for it and in truth I deserve it. And it is not a difficult feat to accomplish.

If some are given a second chance to pass a course they flunk, why couldn't I receive credit for courses I haven't taken and do not plan to take?

One of the better students.

### Janet Long

(Continued from Page One)

ing on the family farm.

A graduate of Milford High School, she took part in a long list of extra-curricular activities. She was Secretary-Vice President of the Future Teachers of America, Editor of the senior yearbook, and a member of the and All-League band, and Senior Class secretary. She enjoys Future Homemakers, Girls Athletic Club, Pep Club, Forensics entertaining organizations and groups with humorous readings.

As a 4-H member she has won several other trips for her outstanding achievements — a six day trip to New York as a State 4-H Food Preservation Demonstration winner, a trip to Colorado for the Rural Youth of the U.S.A. Conference, a two-week visit to Camp Miniwanca on Lake Michigan as state female winner of the Danforth award.

dot. If this will be too much trouble, you can forget the radio, heater, tires and gas. Thank you very much.

A loving believer,  
Ray Alex

## Literary Corner

Although not a function of the paper, the Observer will give an opportunity for students to have a short essay, story, or poem published. Most colleges have some kind of a literary paper or magazine as a regular feature of campus publications. Because it will probably take us a while to have anything of the kind, the Observer will furnish this important service to our readers. Whether we continue with this idea or not, will depend on whether you contribute enough material to make printing it worth while. Your contributions can be left with any staff member, with Mr. Pope, our advisor, or with Mrs. McNeil, his secretary.

Launching our literary section are two poems by Mr. Thomas Fitzsimmons, contributed "in trepidation, to urge the innocent forward."

### FREE OF MOTION

Purple cats and pink sea-otters  
Make a man stop and think;

I knew a cat who always said  
Whatever thinks must sink;

Then there's the pressing  
matter of  
Circles that won't complete;

Not to mention the presence  
here  
Of gods who have no feet.

Given a pause to contemplate  
The prevalence of wishes,

It's clear that trees know much  
of this

While men are caught in niches.

It's also plain that if you stop  
You have not hurried on,

And if you've stopped and  
thought and wished  
You're also there but gone.

Were I to wish that cats were  
pink  
And otters purple always,

That gods be footed and circles  
round  
And men as wild as waves,

I surely would be left in peace  
With quantities of trees,

Be present, thoughtful, free of  
motion,

Yet somewhat ill at ease.

This poem first appeared in the  
Chelsea Review No. 2, autumn 1958

### GOVERNMENT GROUP ELECTS OFFICERS

The student government exploratory committee elected permanent officers at its meeting last Tuesday. Elected chairman of the group was Gary Wright. His assistant is Harold Lanktree. Julie Becker is secretary. Since there are no finances to be handled, there is no need for a treasurer.

Lynne Anderson, Mike Deller and Karen Peterson volunteered to serve on the corresponding committee. The purpose of this committee is to compose a letter which will be sent to two or three hundred colleges and universities inquiring about their various forms of student government.

Two members of the faculty were elected to represent the faculty on the exploratory committee. Their names are Mr. Gerald Straka and Mr. Thomas Fitzsimmons.

### CHECKMATE

Anger is certain—  
And always hungry  
For the pale flesh of a tear,  
To crack the sinews of another's  
will,

And suck the marrow of a sigh.  
Poised in the folds  
Of each warm moment, darkly  
it proffers

The simple act: the stroking  
Claw, the spasm.  
No end to it.

Only equally certain love,  
thirsting always

To cool laughter, mead of  
lightly laid

Hands, spins in ritual light  
With darkness, glow in shadow,  
Counters orgy

With lasting awe, slashing  
Claw with circled dance,  
buckles to

Rhythm beast and spasm to  
make of one

A knightly kin, the other,  
a sign of grace.

Reprinted through the courtesy  
of the New Republic, September 23, 1957

### Wesley Group At MSU-O

Mr. Loyd Bates, of the Wesley Foundation at Flint, paid a visit to the campus November 4 to talk with a few students about starting a Wesley Foundation at MSU-O.

The Wesley Foundation, a program of the Methodist Church, is represented at 181 state and private colleges and universities. It works for the good of all students, regardless of particular denomination.

Mr. Bates plans to be at the Student Center in the future and would like to meet with all students who are interested in learning more about the purposes and functions of this program.

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The young political groups are doing their best to get organized in time for the membership drive during registration. Each group is trying to out do the other in gaining the most members.

The groups will be represented at the registration by members located in colorful booths.

## "C'est la Vie"

By Rockwell Rowe

My friend Norm is a paradox (and I do not mean two dogs). He is a true, loyal, and faithful friend whom I knew in my old home town. There is only one flaw in my boyhood chum. He is a dirty double dealing bum, to whom I made the mistake of writing the following letter:

Wednesday, June 3, 1958

Dear Norm:

As you no doubt know, my grandmother flew to Louisville for the Kentucky Derby. I envy her the trip, not because of "the race" but because it would have been cool seeing the gang.

Unfortunately, she left her new Mercedes Benz in our garage. She thought the car couldn't be driven because she had the keys. The old girl doesn't know a key is excessive to a member of a hot rod club.

The first two nights she was gone I hot wired the ignition and drove cross town to the fastest drag strip. The third night, out on the highway, I got heavy footed and really tried her out to see what she could do. Man, what a blast! Everything was fine until some square crawling along at about fifty or sixty, showed up in front of me. I slammed on the brakes, spun the wheel to the left, and ended up in the ditch.

I spent five minutes rubbing my bruises and getting scared stiff. I took one look at the car and saw that the Mercedes was bent; and that I would be too, if the truth came out. Then the brain waves started waving again. After wiping my fingerprints off of the steering wheel, I legged it to the nearest phone booth and called a buddy of mine to take me home.

After about an hour I called the police and told them my grandmother's rod had been stolen. The dopes must have believed me, because I didn't hear any more from them until several hours later when they reported that they had found the car in a ditch. They still think it was the work of some teenage hoodlum.

Well, that's the way the cookie crumbles. This is the worst mess I've been in since I broke into the blood bank and broke all those bottles.

As ever, your pal

Rocky

Grandmother Bradshaw is a sprightly old lady who used to

have a sports car. She likes to dance, drink and gamble. She buys fast cars but drives them at a moderate rate of speed. A sports car creates the illusion that she is a gay young thing. However, her disposition, when she is angry disproves the illusion. For this reason I gave her the same story I told to the police.

Friday, June 5, 1958

Dear Gram:

It is a shame to receive bad news while one is on a holiday, but you will have to hear it sometime. Some hoodlum stole your car from the garage, took a joy ride, and left it in a ditch. It's almost a total wreck. Unfortunately I had dozed off while reading "Hamlet." Otherwise, I might have heard the thief and frightened him away.

That dripping faucet in the bathroom awakened me. I decided to fix it right away. The tools, being in the garage, led me to the discovery that your car was missing. When the police arrived there was little I could tell them. Several hours later they reported that it had been found. They surmised that the thief had been going at least a hundred miles an hour. I cannot conceive anyone traveling that fast, risking his own life and more important, the lives of others.

It has been so dull with you away, especially with mother and dad in New York. Each night finds me in bed by nine o'clock so as to be alert in my classes, since I am striving for straight A's this term.

Sorry you had bad luck at the track also. Do hurry home. I miss my favorite grandmother.

Love and kisses

Rocky

P.S.

Monday, June 8, 1958

Gram:

How did you happen to run into Norm? Wait until I get my hands on that dirty little double-crosser!

Rockwell

## Amateur Interviews Professional Newsmen

By Mary Moultrup

Last week G. K. Hodenfield, education editor for the Associated Press, who works out of the Washington D. C. bureau, spent two days on the campus of MSU-O.

Students and faculty members were questioned by Hodenfield. The information he received, and the observations he made will appear in two Sunday feature stories sometime in December. The stories, running 1,200 to 1,500 words in length, will be published in the newspapers having AP service who choose to run them. "Hod" said, "I am always interested in any new adventure in education; I certainly think MSU-O is a wonderful idea, and think it will be a tremendous success because of its new approach to education."

A graduate of the University of Iowa, he was an overseas correspondent for five years during World War II. For the last fourteen years he has worked for the AP. He began by covering the Treasury and Commerce Departments. In addition to visiting educational institutions of every type, Hodenfield covers national educational conventions and speeches.

### Austin - Norvell Agency,

Inc.  
39 Years of  
Distinguished Insurance Service  
70 W. LAWRENCE (Cor. Cass)  
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN

### TUCKER'S

STATIONERY

GREETING CARDS

319 Main St.

Rochester

### AVON TAXI

Radio Dispatched

STUDENT RATES

PHONE

OL 2-6311

OR

OL 2-4587

ROCHESTER

### No Donuts Like DIXIE CREAM Donuts

MADE AT S. & J. DRIVE IN

46272 VAN DYKE

UTICA

RE 2-1001

### Rochester Secretarial and Telephone Answering Service

410 1/2 Main

OL 1-6691

2199 S. Telegraph  
Miracle Mile  
FEderal 8-9656

13516 W. McNichols  
at Schafer



Ah! Exams  
are nearly over!!  
Now for a  
three week  
vacation.

Nadons



Dr. William Kluback answering questions in review session at Greenfield Restaurant in Birmingham, Saturday evening, December 5.

## More PM Classes at MSU-O Anyone Good at Raising Bait?

Many of MSU-O students seem to think that this is a half-day institution. By scheduling all of their classes in the morning, it is possible for them to leave the campus at noon. But these students are not taking advantage of the opportunities before them. The facilities of the school are here for their benefit—the library for those who want to study and the Student Center for those who want to play cards, ping-pong, or just visit. Others should take advantage of this time for extra help from their professors. In order to encourage more

I, like many others, do not have enough money. That was why I didn't replace the headlights on my car when the low

students to remain on campus during the day, approximately 30 percent of the classes for the winter term will be scheduled for the afternoon. Students whose schedules conflict with those of other members of their car pool will have to direct their persuasive efforts toward the drivers. Although there will necessarily be a few exceptions the general rule will be that students will not be allowed to change from afternoon to morning classes for this reason.

beams burned out. Since the low beams were gone and I didn't relish driving without any lights, I chose to use my high beams last night on my way home. The greater part of my way takes me on Greenfield.

As I charged down Greenfield with my lights on high, the oncoming line of traffic resembled a string of Christmas twinkle lights. Everyone seemed to notice that my lights were rather bright and was trying to inform me of this fact. As I reached the 12 mile road, the traffic thinned out. With this change I became adventurous. Every time an oncoming car winked his lights, I obligingly lowered mine, which amounted to a

blackout. The reactions were many and varied. When I blacked out the first time, the other car frantically flashed its lights trying to revive the oncoming lights it had just killed. The second car veered way out of its path as the driver tried to see where the other car (mine) had disappeared to. Other cars tooted their horns questioningly (beep?).

Another car blinked its lights and I again gleefully lowered mine to nothing. But wait, what does it say on the side of that car, The DETROIT POLICE? Hello, Auto Supplies? Would you please deliver two sealed beam headlights to 16101 . . . . Thank you.



THE  
SHIRT  
YOU  
LIVE IN

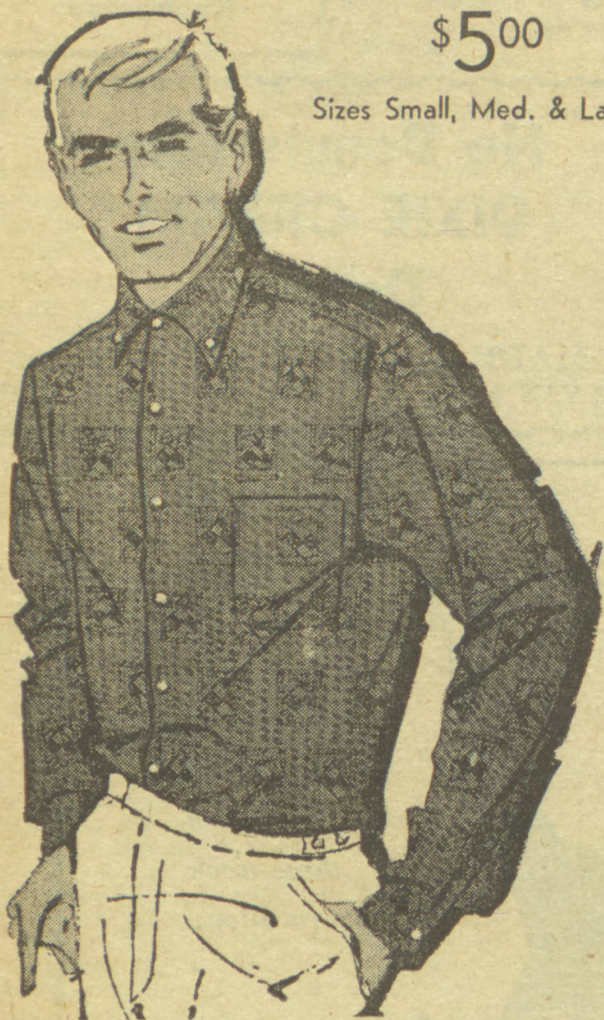
when  
you're  
really  
living

**DONEGAL**

BURNT OLIVE

\$5<sup>00</sup>

Sizes Small, Med. & Large



Young's

MEN'S WEAR, INC.

NORTH HILL PLAZA

ROCHESTER

## December 14 Dedication Set for Student Center

The student center building will be dedicated Monday, December 14, in ceremonies starting at 12:15 p.m., Chancellor D. B. Varner announced last week.

The structure will be formally named "The Oakland Student Center" with the unveiling of an aluminum plaque in the lobby. The name is in appreciation of the generosity of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors which made the building possible. The Supervisors have voted an annual appropriation of \$30,000 which has been carrying the cost of the \$635,000 bond issue for construction of the building.

Chancellor Varner will preside at the ceremonies. Delos Hamlin, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, will make the presentation speech and unveil the plaque. Senator Harvey Lodge, who represents Oakland County in the State Senate, will respond for the people of the state. Harold A. Fitzgerald, publisher of the Pontiac Press and Chairman of the MSU-O Foundation, will thank Mr. Hamlin on behalf of the community, and a student leader yet to be named will respond for the MSU-O student body.

The invocation will be given by the Rev. William H. Harbach, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Pontiac, and the benediction will be given by Rabbi Nathan Hershfield of Temple Beth Jacob, Pontiac.

Chancellor Varner will be host at a luncheon following for participants, members of the MSU-O Foundation and other guests.

## The Student Center Staff

would like to take this opportunity to

wish the student body, administration,

faculty, and staff a . . .

Very Merry Christmas

and

A Happy New Year

## Ski Club Has First Meeting

The Ski Club held their first meeting last week. Keith King, Editor of The Rochester News, helped to get things under way. He claims that skiing is not as dangerous a sport as most people believe. Only 4 out of every 1000 persons are injured while participating in this sport, and only 1 out of the 4 injured is hospitalized for more than one week.

Mr. King hopes this group doesn't turn out to be a bunch of "hillstanders." A hillstander is a boy who stands at the top of a slope looking over the pretty girls, or a girl who stands around gazing at the handsome fellows. Mr. Lepley immediately retorted, "Isn't that part of it? If it isn't I don't want to go."

Roger Ruhmann and Mike Popovich volunteered to be co-chairmen. Assisting them will be Richard Stier. Nadji White is treasurer and Myra Levering is secretary.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6 at 12:30 p.m. All new comers are welcome.

## MSU-O HAS FIRST FOREIGN STUDENT

Heard any new words lately that you couldn't classify as Russian or French? Very likely the words you heard were Turkish.

MSU-O has its first foreign student, Aydin Ilgaz, a boy from Turkey. Aydin is living in the Waterford home of Mr. and Mrs. William Shunck. Mr. Shunck is superintendent of the Waterford Township Schools.

Aydin, 19, comes from Istanbul, a city on the Bosphorus. In school Aydin's favorite subjects were physics, literature, and composition. Aydin attended a boarding school during the time most of us were in high school. Aydin's mother teaches literature in a public girls school in Istanbul. His father is a writer for a humor magazine in Turkey. Aydin has a sister, Yildiz, who is younger than he.

While Aydin is staying with the Shunks, Sally, their daughter is staying with the Ilgaz family in Istanbul. Aydin's mother had visited this country last year and met Mr. Shunck. Mrs. Ilgaz wanted her son to attend MSU-O, which had not yet opened. Both Mr. Shunck and Mrs. Ilgaz felt that it would be a good experience for their children to visit a foreign country. That is why our first foreign student is from Turkey.

## KLUBACK

(Continued from Page One)

and dessert, two dozen more came in for the class discussion itself, which started just before 10 p.m. There were more students than Dr. Kluback has in his classes. Many of them had driven farther to attend this night meeting than they do to attend campus classes on the Alfred G. Wilson estate between Pontiac and Rochester.

And, in contrast to the usual campus attire, there wasn't a bobby sox, a white tennis sneaker, or a sweater-and-skirt ensemble in sight. Nor was there a boy without a tie or coat.

In a candle-lit atmosphere, mahogany furniture, white nappery and wall-to-wall carpeting, coeds in party dresses, earrings, carefully groomed hair and high heels spent over two full hours asking questions and taking notes. The men were equally well groomed and equally busy.

In a soiree in which the parfaits were followed by Plato and the coffee by Copernicus, Dr. Kluback said such a setting was the logical one.

"This," he said, "is an elegant and aristocratic way to study for a final exam, and that is as it should be, because education is an elegant and aristocratic privilege."

The MSUO buildings themselves are without rugs, carpets, draperies or curtains. They provide a Spartan setting for an Athenian concept of a tough, liberal arts education.

The students took fullest advantage of the review opportunity. They asked Dr. Kluback to "trace the attitude of the philosophers toward the state from Plato on," to outline the differences between classical and Christian attitudes toward life, the rise of the capitalistic system, "to outline the outlook of the Middle Ages, economically, politically and theologically," and the development of the parliamentary system in England.

At one point, Dr. Kluback who has just finished his sixth book on philosophy, observed, "you ask the vastest questions." At midnight, the professor, drained by the effort, called a halt, and a dozen or more students moved to his table to thank him and to continue the discussion just a bit more.

MSUO, the nation's newest university, is reversing the direction of U. S. higher education to return to the liberal arts ideal. In this institution, every student must take at least half his work in liberal arts. The university also is seeking new ways of making the student responsible for his own education, and "making the professor dispensable at the earliest possible moment."

## Students vs Faculty

With the end of the term, many students and faculty members are able to look back with a new perspective. The general effect is a gradual metamorphosis "out of the darkness and into the light."

The term got off to a slow start. Students didn't know what was expected of them, and faculty members didn't know what to give them. For students it was a new and difficult adjustment to college work. Many of the faculty members were not accustomed to teaching in an American university and others found a different kind of a student body than they were used to teaching.

The result was a general attitude of discouragement. Test results were disheartening and

many students found it difficult to work under these conditions. The enthusiasm and eagerness for "new concept" in education had disappeared.

But, encouraged by Chancellor Varner in his talk to the students and by members of the faculty, students were able to stop, gather up loose ends and get off to a new start. As the term draws to a close, all faculty members have been able to report increasing improvement in their classes. Students have become "well-oiled machines running at top efficiency," more able to meet the challenge before them. Enthused by their new successes, students and faculty should be able to look forward to the new term confident that they have

## CHRISTMAS DANCE

A Christmas Dinner Dance will be held on Friday, December 11th from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. The dinner will be held between 7:00 and 8:30, and the dance will run from 9:00 to 1:00.

The cost of the entire evening of dining and dancing is only \$5.00 per couple or, if you are not hungry, \$2.50 per couple for an evening of dancing from 9:00 to 1:00, on an empty stomach.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Wilson will be the guests of honor and the chaperones will be Dr. and Mrs. Eklund, and Dr. and Mrs. Hoopes.

overcome the first problems of a new university, and that they will be able to take new ones in their stride.

## Old Prof's Book Shop

9 W. LAWRENCE

PONTIAC

FE 2-8432

"There is some worrying work to be done in selecting the right title for the right mind. One can dodge the effort by sending a gift certificate . . . so that the recipient can go after Christmas, and cash in at the book shop, selecting what he most wants. In reason, there is everything to be said for this method. It saves the giver the fret of choosing, if he does not enjoy the process; it avoids the gift of something which the other person already has or does not want. But Christmas, though it may, and no doubt should, be a flow of soul, is not a feast of reason. There is something too sensible and a shade too gray about the unspecified order to buy.

"Of course, if you closely understand the taste and the likely needs of the receiver, choosing the present can be a pleasing labor. He or she has admitted some gap in the shelf that ought to be filled, so that you can select with certainty and add the judicious inscription. The order to buy means that the inscription has to wait and may never be made, but Christmas books do require that personal touch to be truly complete. A printed thing is all the richer for little handwriting, be it the author's or the donor's."

Ivor Brown  
New York Times

### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS BARGAINS

### 10% off on all books

Except Dictionaries, Bibles, Texts, Technical Books

Through December 23

### ★ Best Sellers!

ELEMENTS OF STYLE . . . . . \$2.50

CHRISTMAS WITH ED SULLIVAN . . . . . \$4.95

ADVISE AND CONSENT . . . . . \$5.75

### ★ Quality Paperbacks—

JUST ABOUT EVERY TITLE FROM  
THE MAJOR PUBLISHERS

### ★ Dictionaries—

AMERICAN COLLEGIATE, WEBSTER'S NEW  
COLLEGIATE

### ★ College Outline Series—

Open Monday through Saturday 9:30 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.

## Auto Insurance

For  
Students under 25

10/20 Bodily

10 — Prop. Damage

\$35

a year

— If-You Qualify —

For Further Information

Call — Pat Degan

LI 9-4894

## Christmas Customs

(Continued from Page One)

Christmas Eve, proclaiming the death of the Devil. At midnight, they are rung again, this time announcing the birth of Christ.

The traditional twelve days of Christmas descended from the twelve-day rite following the Mid-Winter Fire Festival, when torches were lit, bells rung, and kettles banged to set up an ear-splitting roar to drive away demons. This period was set aside by the Christians to mark the twelve days it took the Magi or Wise Men, to find the baby Jesus.

Santa Claus was originally St. Nicholas, bishop of Myra, who was canonized for his piety and good works. After his death, he became known as the spirit of giving. In Northern Europe, children were told St. Nicholas, dressed in his bishop's robes, rode about on his white horse the night before his feast day, December 6, distributing gifts. In these countries, housewives had their chimneys cleaned before the Christmas season in order to make the fire burn better during the winter months. They explained to the children that the chimneys must be clean so that St. Nicholas could get down them more easily with the gifts.

In Italy, gifts are distributed by a female counterpart of St. Nicholas, Befana. Legend has it that the Three Wise Men passed her home while she was busy sweeping. They explained they were looking for the Christ Child, and she wanted to go with them, but wanted them to wait for her to finish her work. They continued on without her, and although she tried to overtake them, she never saw them again. Now she is believed to fly through the air on a broomstick on January 6, the Feast of the Three Kings. She goes to all the houses where there are children, hoping one of them will be the Christ Child, and leaves gifts near the manger scenes the children set up. She also leaves gifts for Russian children, by whom she is known as "Babouschka" or "grandmother."

In England, St. Nicholas was banned by Henry VIII and didn't return for three hundred years, until Prince Albert brought him from Germany. The English children of today know him as "Father Christmas."

The latest Christmas custom (with the exception of pink, blue or white Christmas trees) is the sending of Christmas cards. This once-a-year habit was started in England 1843 by Henry Cole. His cards, sold in shops after he had taken out enough for his own use, showed a Victorian family at their Christmas dinner, and bore the message, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You."

### TRY SPUDNUTS!

America's Finest  
Potato Donuts

For Special Party Prices

Phone FE 8-8721

**The Spudnut Shop**  
420 Orchard Lake Ave.  
Pontiac, Michigan

### SAVE ON PHOTO FINISHING

AND PHOTO CHRISTMAS CARDS

USE YOUR STUDENT DISCOUNT

OPEN DAILY TILL 6:00  
FRIDAY TILL 9:00



**ROCHESTER CAMERA SHOP**

OL 1-0401

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

What are your feelings about the name "Michigan State University-Oakland"?

The staff of the Oakland Observer interviewed many students, to find out their feelings on our school's name. Everyone asked, thought something should be done and some gave suggestions. We could find no one against changing the name.

Typical comments to the question were:

**Roger Ruhmann—**

"I think it sounds like a branch and we aren't. It should be Meadow Brook University."

**Richard Carleson**

"We are striving for individuality and we don't want to be connected with anything conventional. We are not a branch but a sister college."

**Sharon Elfes**

"Because everybody always affiliates us with M.S.U., East Lansing I am against it."

**Chuck Kemler**

"Since we are a new concept in education why can't we have a new name?"

**Bob Smith**

"I still think that East Lansing should change their name."

**Winfield Smith**

"I just don't like the name and everyone thinks I am going up to East Lansing and I do not appreciate this."

**Jannet Kelley**

"How can we develop this new concept in education when we have our name connected with something so sold and established?"

### PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE

Life • Hospital • Income

**Jack G. Trembath**

HO 3-8641

MT. CLEMENS

### CATHERINE BENSON

Old & Out-of-Print Books

406½ MAIN ST.

ROCHESTER, MICHIGAN

### BLUE STAR

Famous Pizza

### BLUE STAR

DRIVE IN

CURB SERVICE

&

COFFEE SHOP

★

Call 15 Minutes in  
advance and your  
PIZZA will be waiting!

★

Pontiac & Opdyke Road  
FE 8-1575

or

FE 3-9162

6 A.M. - 1 A.M. 7 Days



The holiday spirit took hold of MSU-O last week as students decorated the Student Center. Pictured above are Fred Haley, Marge Swoboda, and Alan Higgins putting the finishing touches on the tree. The first Christmas the college will have should be a memorable occasion.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

AT

### Colonial Hall

Free Horns and Hats for Everyone

NO RESERVATIONS NECESSARY

MUSIC BY

**Jimmy Williams and The Drifters**

15 MILE & MOUND, WARREN, MICHIGAN

9 P.M. - 3 A.M.

Admission \$1.50



**Community**  
**National Bank**  
OF PONTIAC

### Open for Business

The cafeteria will be in operation on a limited scale commencing Monday, December 14. From that date until Wednesday, December 23, the type of service will be limited to coffee, pastries and short orders from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. daily. Other than soup and short order sandwiches there will be no hot lunches during this period.

The entire building will be closed from 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 23 to 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 28 and also on Friday, January 1, 1960.

On December 28, 29, 30, and 31, and from Monday, January 4 until classes reconvene, the above type services will be available during the designated hours.

The Student Center staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the University Family a most joyous Holiday Season.

In Chesapeake and Ohio Railway's westbound coal classification yard at its giant Russell, Ky., terminal, there are a total of 62 tracks, 52 of which are used for classifying.

### LOOK OUT EUROPE!

Mrs. E. Fraser of Manning-Fraser Travel Bureau outlined in a meeting last week plans of a European tour for MSU-O students.

Mrs. Fraser explained the tour will take 43 days, from July 10 till August 22, and will visit England, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and France. The cost will be approximately \$1450. This includes 6½ hour jet service to and from Europe, all transportation while in Europe, hotel accommodations, meals, entrance fees, tips, and all sight seeing excursions. It does not include passports, vaccinations, and additional personal expenditures.

Manning-Fraser is independently outlining the trip and making all arrangements. It was emphasized that this tour is not sponsored by MSU-O.

Students who have any questions or would like booklets concerning the tour may contact the agency, 435½ Main Street, Rochester. Reservations must be placed by January 15.

## Forum

MSU-O is an educational experiment, an adventure. Along with the many congratulations we have received, a few people have expressed an interest in just how society will accept the product of this venture. This idea is well expressed in this letter to Dean Robert Hoopes.

\*\*\*

2014 Grove Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia  
October 19, 1959

Dear Dean Hoopes,

With this letter I lay myself open to the charge of being a crank, but this is not my intent. I read of the far-sighted purpose of the curriculum at the new Oakland campus, and at first I was elated. But then I asked myself the question, "Where would all these rebels fit in today's conforming society?" For myself, I have not found the solution.

I gathered from the article

### NEW STUDY METHOD

Dr. McKay, a Calculus professor, has told his students that if you cannot figure out a problem, think about something else for a few moments. During this period your subconscious will be working on the problem and usually will come up with the answer.

This method could also be applied to chemistry, trigonometry and economics. Here are a few suggestions on how to study!

Boy: Read Playboy, Popular Mechanics, Hot Rod, etc.; think of girls, cars, money.

Girl: Read Strength and Health, Glamor, Mademoiselle; think of boys, clothes, hair-do's, money.

Both: Read Mad, think of different torture methods for your instructors, watch TV, play poker or other suitable games such as post office.

We hope these suggestions will improve your studies.

("TIME", Sept. 28) that you propose to teach your students the ability to attack the fundamentals of a problem, regardless of social, political, or moral dogmas that might surround it. This certainly seems to be what true thinking should be, but isn't such an individual swimming against the strong main stream of thought? Who wants him? As an ex-Naval officer, I can say from a limited experience that the Navy does not. As a one time employee of a large business machine corporation, I can say that they do not. And as a current law student whose undergraduate degree was English, I can say that this law school does not. I see the urge to conform in each with the very practical proviso that if you do not, you will not succeed. I would like to be reassured that there is a real demand for "rebels with clear minds and uncowed consciences, critics of society and not adjusters to it." This is a very brave and beautiful ideal, but society is a stern mistress that tolerates only moderate criticism. Our country's greatest illness, in my humble opinion, is conformity. Yet at the same time I wince at the thought of the tribulation that lies ahead of your successful graduate. The need for them is great, but what about the demand? Who would allow these boat-rockers into their boat? I cannot answer my own questions; I turn to you. Yet I am not a fatalist, I still emit a feeble rock now and then. Forgive me if today, as I add my "hooray" for what you are attempting, I turn my head and flinch a bit from my contemporaries' scowls; I would not have flinched yesterday.

Yours sincerely,  
Thomas J. Harlan, Jr.

\*\*\*

The question posed by Thomas Harlan is the forum topic of the week: "How will society react to 'rebels with clear minds and uncowed consciences, critics of society and not adjusters to it.'"

The following is a selection from the Dean's reply to Mr. Harlan which will be printed in part, along with your contributions in the next issue: "What I should like very much to do is to share your letter with the editors of our new student newspaper and invite them to print it. It would serve admirably to elicit reaction and comment, and faculty members would be free to invite discussion, where appropriate in their classes."

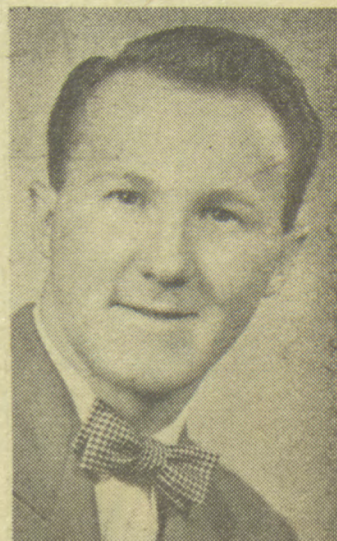
Your replies can be left at the newspaper office in the Student Center. Remember, we will print a contribution anonymously upon request, but we will not print anything which is unsigned when presented to the paper.

#### FRED VEST

Commercial Photographer  
PHONE Federal 4-2063  
70 S. GENESEE  
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN

### DR. RHODE BRINGS RICH BACKGROUND TO OAKLAND CAMPUS

His Ph.D. Marked A First for MSU



William E. Rhode

Dr. William E. Rhode, assistant professor of Political Science at Michigan State University-Oakland, has the distinction of being the first candidate to receive the Ph. D. degree in political science from Michigan State University in East Lansing.

He received a B.S. degree in 1952 from MSU where his major field was Police Administration and his minor field Social Science. During his graduate training he spent a year at the Maxwell graduate school at Syracuse University on an Alumni Fellowship, and was awarded his M.A. from MSU in 1954 in the field of Political Science and Public Administration. In 1957 he received his Ph. D.

His major field of training in Political Science included: Political Organization and Behavior, Administration Organization and Behavior, Public Law, Research Concepts, and Political Theory. The formal training was supplemented by personal participation in the operations of the political party system under the direction of the Falk Fellowship program at MSU.

Under the Falk program he taught basic government courses at MSU, worked as an assistant to the Legislative Secretary of the Governor of Michigan on the Executive Bill Clearance Program, as well as the Michigan Democratic State Central committee. His field training included participation in the 1956 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Ill., and the state conventions of both major parties in Michigan.

Previous to his appointment to the faculty of MSU-O, Mr. Rhode was an assistant professor of Political Science at San Diego State college.

He was singled out by his professors while in graduate training as "one with dogged determination to carry through research projects without taking short-cuts in the process," and "one aware of his own dignity as well as the dignity of others."

**Ted's**  
is family fun



WOODWARD AVENUE AT SQUARE LAKE RD.

### Campus Favorites:



Brushed pigskin

**Hush Puppies**

by WOLVERINE

from \$9.95 up

Colorful casuals light as a feather! 12 ounces per shoe. Soft, supple. Balloon crepe soles, steel shank support. Repels water, resists dirt. Brushing cleans, restores leather. Sizes and widths to fit anybody.

Loden green, Cavier grey, Beaver brown

**MITZELFELD'S**

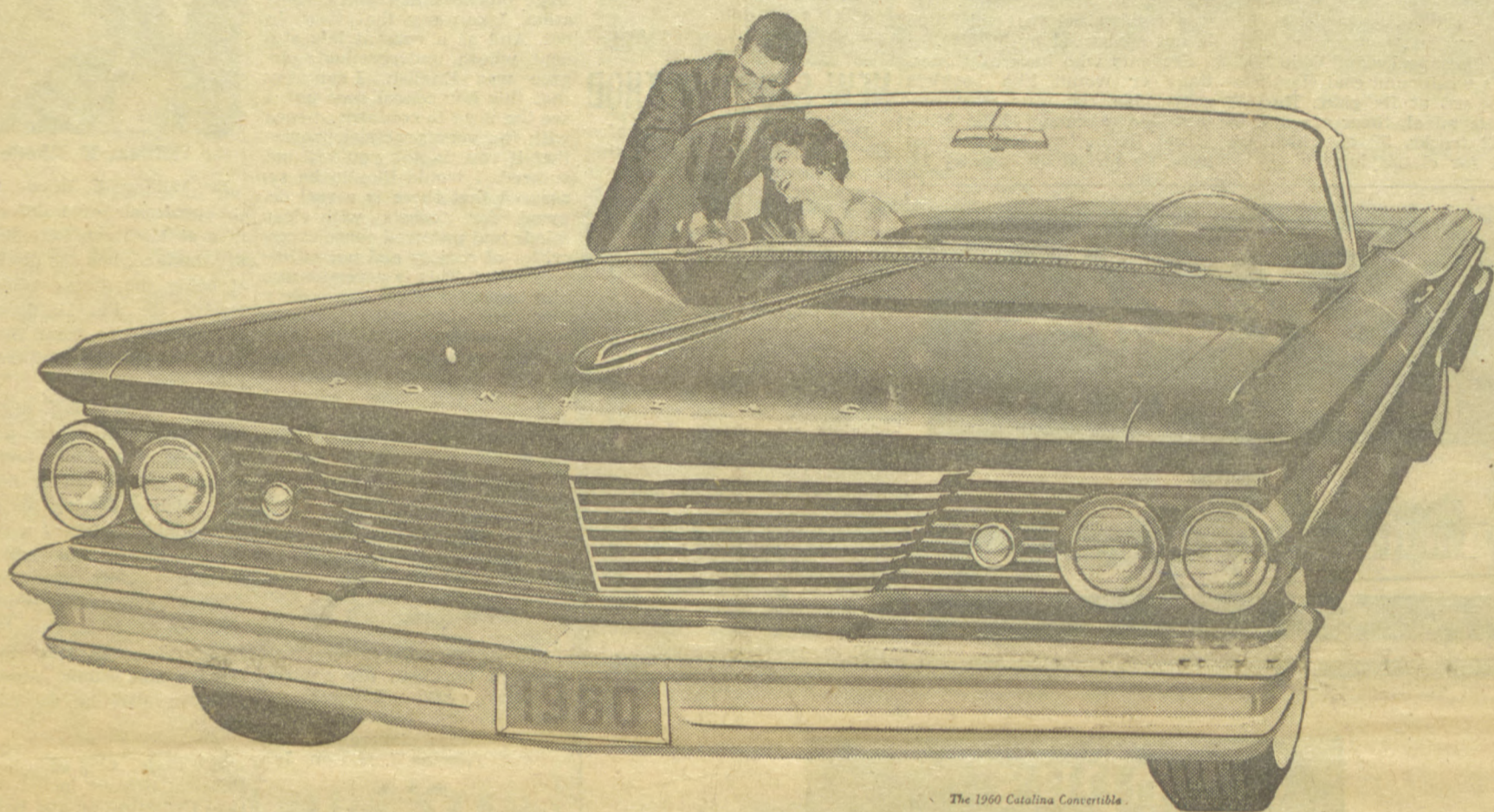
Downtown Rochester

FROM . . .

### Holland's Floral & Gift

A Merry Christmas  
and  
A Happy New Year

# Another fresh one ...from Pontiac!



The 1960 Catalina Convertible

You find it attractive because of the simplicity of lines, the absence of over-design.

You're drawn to its crisp freedom, its perfect form, its exhilarating freshness.

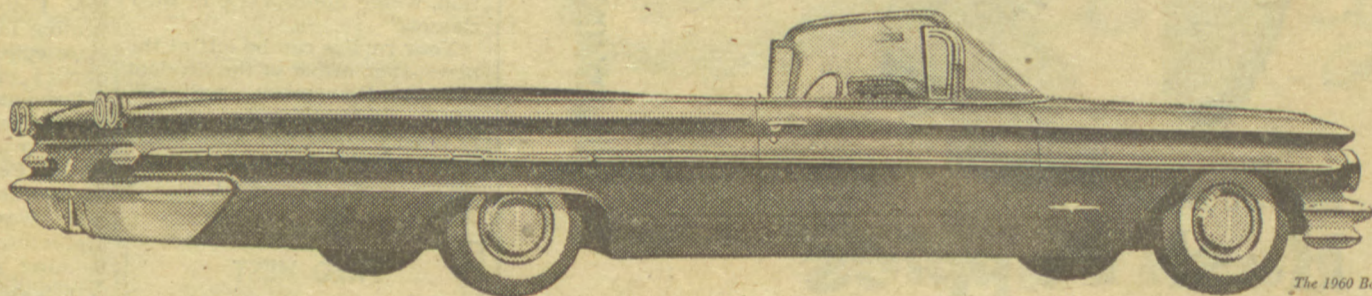
You'll find it amiably obedient because of Wide-Track Wheels and a thoroughly new suspension system. Wide-Track firms the foundation, stabilizes, balances. A softer suspension makes it responsive, quick and easy to take direction.

Pontiac's Tempest engines for 1960 are more vigorous

than ever. You have a wide choice of V-8 power packages, ranging from the high performance 425 to the economical 425E which prefers regular grade gasoline.

The car, the keys, the catalog, the courtesy—all await you at your Pontiac dealer.

**Wide-Track Wheels** give you swayless stability, solid comfort. You maneuver with skillful sureness, accurate control. It's the sweetest, most precise, most rewarding driving you've ever felt.



The 1960 Bonneville Convertible

**PONTIAC** THE ONLY CAR WITH WIDE-TRACK WHEELS

SEE YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED PONTIAC DEALER