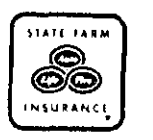


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**FLOWER POWER** -- The sunflower of Bob Groth, 4138 Seeger Street, has 15 heads, not all of which have blossomed. Normal is only one. Groth didn't plant the flower. He figures a bird being fed sunflower seeds last winter dropped a seed in his garden.

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# Water and gas mix

Continued from page one

parts needed. By scrounging, it didn't cost Bacon anything.

The largest single item needed is a strong plastic bottle to hold the water. Bacon's is about a pint in size which holds enough water for 2-3 weeks. "Everyone thinks it's dumping gallons in there," he explained, but it's not. The device in MEN uses a one-quart bottle.

The water as it flows from the bottle to the carburetor manifold must be in a bubbly state. Bacon used a device that isn't easily obtainable but the one shown in MEN uses an "air stone" designed for aquarium tanks, which breaks incoming oxygen into little bubbles so that it mixes with the water. That plus the tubing costs \$1.74.

There has to be a means for air to get into the bottle, other than by leaving the

cap off. Bacon's has a built-in inlet in the cap; MEN used one-eighth inch tubing leading to the air stone.

The other line leads from the bottle to the carburetor or manifold.

There are, Bacon said, usually some unused fittings on the manifold, which makes it easy to connect the water bottle to the manifold.

The slightly more complicated MEN design adds a T-fitting to the carburetor vacuum line and then connects the line from the bottle to the fitting.

The only other work needed is sometimes a final adjustment to the engine timing.

**IT SEEMS TO WORK** for me, as far as I can tell," Bacon commented. When he runs out of water, the engine runs rough.

The pharmacist installed the device in April. When cold weather comes, he will switch from water to a mixture of water and rubbing alcohol.

There are more complicated water injection devices on the market, which vary the amount of water injected according to engine speed and load. One that is advertised sells for \$70.

But considering his investment, Bacon is content with the one he has.

His next project is to do away with gasoline. He is working with Howard Rexin of Cass City in building an alcohol still to produce their own fuel, probably using corn as the raw ingredient.

He is rebuilding a 1940 Chevrolet pickup with a 1953 6-cylinder engine, with the aim of running it on alcohol.

The obvious question concerning the water injection is that if it works, why doesn't Detroit install it on its cars on the production line.

The answer apparently isn't as obvious. Bacon doesn't know and articles he has read on the subject haven't mentioned why either.



**SIMPLE** -- The only connection on Otto Bacon's water injection system is the top tube, which runs to the carburetor manifold. Vacuum action of the engine sucks in the moisture. Tube underneath isn't connected to the bottle.

## Michigan Mirror

# Special interest groups protesting fund cuts

By Warren M. Hoyt  
Mich. Press Association

Two state department directors are warning Gov. William G. Milliken that his latest budget cut recommendations will significantly harm services they are responsible for providing.

Meanwhile, the education community is criticizing the cuts in the kindergarten to 12th grade (K-12) area on a number of grounds.

The House Appropriations Committee, meeting during the legislative off session, has neared completion of its work on the school budget proposal but refused to cut the \$100 million the governor

has recommended.

The directors of the Departments of Mental Health and Corrections expressed the most anguish about absorbing their recommended share of \$105 million in cuts the governor has recommended.

Their comments were contained in reports submitted to the Department of Management and Budget outlining their priorities for where the cuts should be taken.

For Mental Health, which was required to cut \$21.2 million, Director Frank Ochberg said taking the full cut would seriously impair patient care and probably shift responsibilities to courts and other agencies.

He said he could only find \$7 million in cuts he could accept -- \$5 million from nursing home conversions and a \$2 million savings by cutting the number of staff assigned for patient care at the Plymouth Center for Developmental Disabilities.

The \$2 million saved from cutting staff-patient ratios would require agreement from citizen care groups who have won a court order forcing Plymouth to maintain a specified staff-patient ratio.

OCHBERG SAID HE hoped to convince the groups to agree to the cut in order to provide the \$2 million that would otherwise be cut for developmental disability programs across the state.

The director outlined another \$5.6 million in cuts he said would be seriously detrimental, including \$3 million by providing for institution staff levels at 87 percent of the staff needs assessment program standard, rather than 90 percent; \$1 million to cut children's units staffing to 90 percent, and cutting \$633,000 from central office staffing.

According to Ochberg, the least desirable cuts, which he said would interfere with patient care and erode partnership between the department and other agencies and recipients, include \$3.7 million by eliminating expansion of the community mental health program and \$1.8 million by closing the Michigan Institute for Mental Health.

**CORRECTIONS DIRECTOR** Perry Johnson, whose agency was told to cut \$5.9 million, said the only way he can meet the goal is by delaying the opening of some facilities which are badly needed to handle current overcrowding conditions in prisons.

He said \$2.4 million could be saved by delaying the opening of the new Ypsilanti maximum security prison to the 1981-82 fiscal year (it is now scheduled to be opened in February) and another \$122,000 by delaying the opening of Camp Tuscola.

He said delay in opening Ypsilanti "is the only alternative that remains without significant impairment of our ability to manage existing institutions and jeopardizing the security and safety of our employees and inmates."

Deputy Management and Budget Director Douglas Roberts said it is unlikely, despite the protests, that budget cuts would be shifted to other departments.

Meanwhile, K-12 interest groups and legislative leaders in the area are taking

strong exception to the \$100 million cut the governor is recommending.

Rep. James O'Neill (D-Saginaw), chairman of the House K-12 subcommittee, said the panel agreed to the governor's funding level for the basic membership formula, on declining enrollment and bonding millage. But, it kept other categorical programs at current-year levels pending further meetings with legislative leadership and the administration.

Senate Appropriations K-12 Subcommittee Chairman Kerry Kammer (D-Pontiac) called some of the recommended cuts unconscionable, especially those in special education.

He said that area is causing the largest cost increases for districts and has been the least funded.

The farm-to-retail marketing bill for food in the U.S. is estimated at \$163 billion for 1979, up \$19 billion or 13 percent from 1978.




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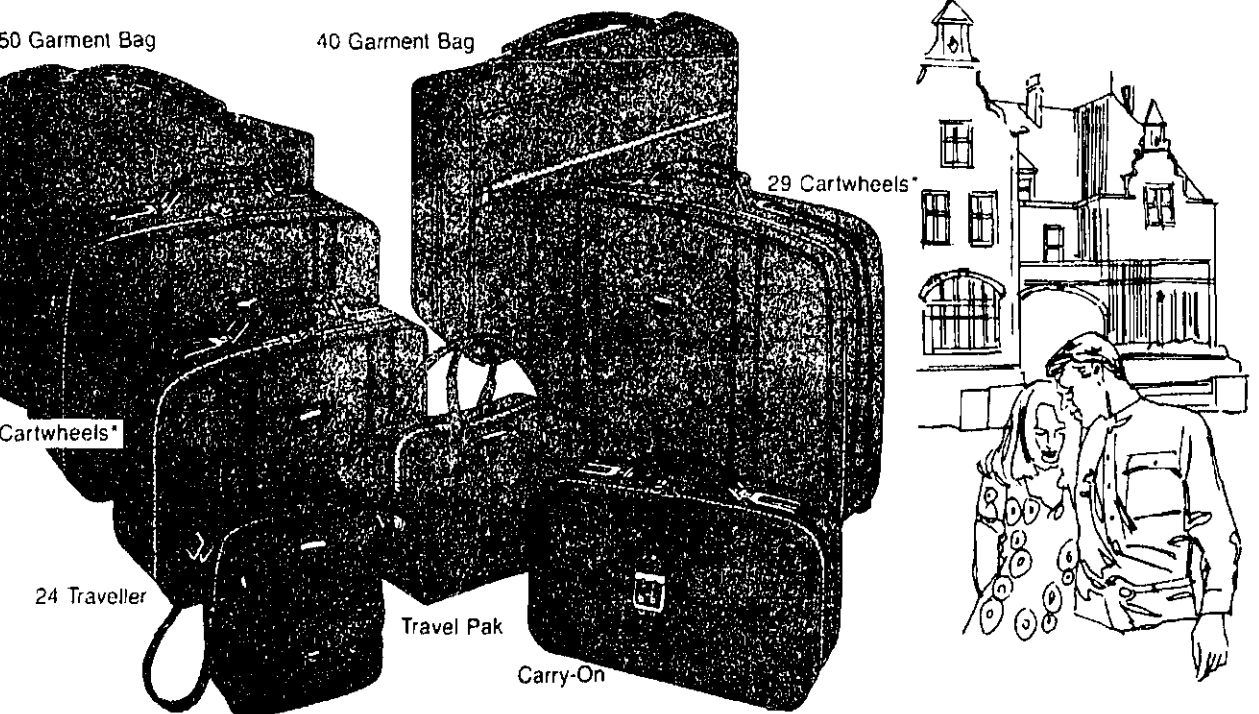
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