

Section 4A Chicago Tribune, Thursday, May 3, 1973

Lake County eyes vote on vocational center



New landmarks council president

A 32-year-old lawyer from Evanston has quit his profession to devote his time to providing a future for more than 100 area office buildings, Richard Miller, of 228 Bay and Av., Evanston, a partner in the firm of Mayer, Revna & Pflitz, quit last week to become president of the Landmarks Preservation Council, headquartered in the Old Colony Building, 467 S. Dearborn St.

Legal referral plan for poor, minorities open

A LEGAL referral service to assist poor people and members of minority groups who believe they have been abused by the police has opened at 21 W. Jackson Blvd. The service, which is operated by the Chicago Council of Lawyers, will provide attorneys at reduced fees, according to Richard Means, executive director of the council. The service is funded by grants from the Wilebald Foundation and the Fund for Justice. The service will operate from 2 to 6 p. m. on weekdays. If an investigation shows a complaint is valid, the person will be referred to one of 100 participating attorneys. The referral attorneys will charge the complainant a rate based on his ability to pay.

By Don Rulter
SCHOOL OFFICIALS in Lake County (Ill.) are hoping for a countywide referendum in October on a proposed area vocational education center.

In concept, a vocational center combines the resources of each school district within its boundaries to provide a range and depth of vocational education which no one district could afford.

The proposed center would be financed with 60 per cent state and federal aid, and 40 per cent local funds. County voters must approve a five-year levy of five cents for each \$100 of assessed valuation to be eligible for state aid.

ALL 16 HIGH school districts in the county are financing surveys to determine student and business interest in the center.

According to Merv Pflitz, planning director for the Lake County Area Vocational Center, the proposed center would resemble vocational centers already in Kane and De Page Counties.

"Students who don't want to attend college need to learn a skill," Pflitz said. "Seven out of 10 present secondary students should be receiving vocational instruction of some sort, but only one of these serves in."

Pflitz says the center could provide advanced classes in programs already under way in some high schools and offer new programs which aren't popular enough in any one district to warrant a class or teacher.

AT PRESENT, Waukegan High School serves as a vocational education center to 10

high school districts and 550 students in the county. Officials say the program is operating at capacity at Waukegan High and there is no room for expansion.

"Everyone agrees we need some type of vocational training," Harold Banner, superintendent of Adult Students High School in Prairie View, said. "The question is whether this type of education should be provided by public schools."

Banner suggests union or business training programs as a possible alternative to a public

ly supported vocational education center.

JOHN SWANSON, assistant school superintendent in Highland Park, said that a school district with a high percentage of its graduates going on to college does not have the staff or the finances to provide for the smaller percentage of students who do not go on to college. He said such a school district could benefit from an area vocational education center.

"We can't afford the money to establish programs for the growing number of our stu-

dents who are interested in going into the job market shortly after high school graduation."

Swanson said. "An area center could provide 40 to 50 specific courses we could never begin to organize or staff."

Pflitz said planners are discussing a proposal by which districts sending fewer students to the center would pay a smaller fee than those districts relying on the center heavily.

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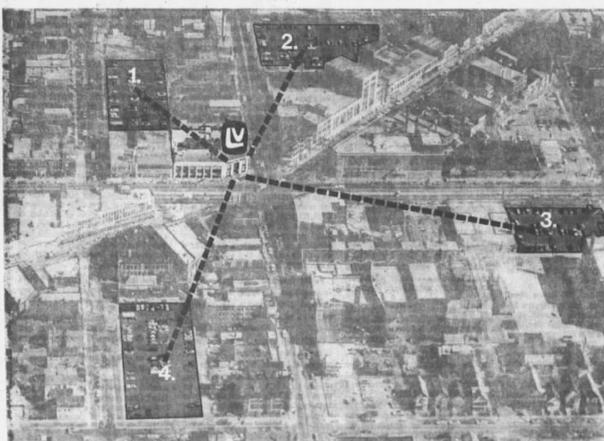
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