

Michigan Every Day **By Patrick Sullivan and Carole Eberly**

Oct. 30, 1956

*Elvis emulators give up their hairstyles,
but what about those Blue Suede Shoes?*

High school boys in Romeo, located in northern Macomb County, really thought Elvis Presley was great and emulated him in the early days of rock and roll. Most notably, they wore the sideburns and duck-tail haircuts favored by Presley. In 1956, Elvis was just gaining national attention for his unique style, both in music and attire. Administrators at Romeo Community High School would have none of it. Teachers complained that the new look spawned defiant behavior – and they wanted it stopped. Superintendent T.C. Filppila took immediate action, telling the 52 boys if they did not get haircuts by Oct. 30 1956 they were not to attend school the next day. Two local barbers offered free haircuts to the boys who could not afford them. All boys complied and went to school the next day.