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SOUTHFIELD MAN SEEKS NEW VENUE

Charles Martin, Held For Observation Under Governor's Church Services

Charles Martin, 60 years old, who, according to members of the Governor Church at Southfield, has been a disturbing element in the church for years, has caused to be filed in Circuit Court, a mandamus action seeking to obtain a change of venue for his insanity hearing from the court of Probate Judge Dan McGaffey.

Martin is now in Ann Arbor for observation in the psychopathic hospital. He was declared insane here in 1928 by three juristic physicians.

He was ordered confined at Ann Arbor following a disturbance at the church June 23 when he took charge of the services of the protest of parishioners and demanded the teaching of hypnotism in the church. A deputy sheriff was called and he was taken to the county jail.

Judge McGaffey has been directed by Judge Frank L. Covert to appear in Circuit Court August 19 at 10 o'clock and show cause as to why the change of venue should not be allowed.

Martin demanded the change of venue because he said Judge McGaffey's wife has a relative who is a member of the church and because the judge is charged with having stated on several occasions that Martin is insane and should be confined in an asylum.

Martin was once enjoined by injunction from disturbing the congregation of the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church after he had removed the furnace doors during the winter months to prevent the building of a fire.

years. We have been informed that unless unforeseen events beyond our control, the railroad should be operating on the new line in ample time to allow the State Highway department to complete the actual paving of Woodward Avenue by the end of the next highway season.

Of course, if the fills and grade separations require longer time than the engineer's estimate, the department itself may not be in until late next fall or early winter.

"Our whole thought in the matter has been to clear the legal angles out of the way as rapidly as possible so that the department actually in charge of the construction might go ahead. The various lawsuits have been reported by most able counsel and therefore the fight has been more serious and strenuous than you have perhaps appreciated. We have not perhaps, given enough thought to the matter of clearing up the general public informed of the progress, and the prospects, and because of this fact, I have gone somewhat into detail in this letter in the hopes that you may fully understand the whole situation and appreciate what tremendous obstacles have been placed in our path, and which we were helpless to avoid."

Very truly yours, K. F. CLARDY, Assistant Attorney General.

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verdict Orr expressed satisfaction with its findings and said that as far as was concerned the case was closed.

"I have never doubted MacKillean's story for an instant and this inquest was held only to make the case a matter of record," Orr explained.

Lieut. Donald Leonard, of the state police, to whom Balke's brothers threatened to appeal, listened to the testimony and said at the inquest's close that he agreed with Orr that there were grounds on which to have a reasonable doubt of MacKillean's story.

MacKillean, the principal witness, repeated on the stand the story he had told the week previous to the shooting to his companion, Miss Fay Williams, 496 Clairmont avenue, Detroit, from assault at the hands of Balke.

The only important addition to his story was that a darkened automobile was parked about 40 yards from the scene of the shooting.

Mystery Auto This automobile, it is believed, may have contained the man who called the Detroit newspaper and described the slaying in detail later offering to appear in support of MacKillean if he was assured that no attempt would be made to learn the identity of his woman companion.

Prosecutor Orr assured him through newspaper reports that his companion's name would not be sought and hope was felt until the day of the inquest that he might identify himself at the hearing, but he did not appear.

The coroner's jury, carefully drawn so that its decision would be received with respect, deliberated about 15 minutes before, through its foreman, James J. McQuaid president of the Pontiac Real Estate Board, it returned its verdict. Other members of the jury were Mark Denison and William C. McRath, retired farmers; L. H. Cole, operator of a string of filling stations; Floyd J. Miller, manager of the Daily Tribune of Royal Oak; and George R. Averill, publisher of The Birmingham Eccentric.

Relates Shooting MacKillean said Balke approached his car, parked in a lonely lane adjacent to the Birmingham Golf Club, about 10 o'clock, June 23, and demanded

Villagers and the Village

By THE WANDERER

One evening, recently, a member of the Wanderers' staff happened to be sitting on the sidewalk at Park, between the six and seven mile roads. He marvelled at the number of automobiles parked along the curbs, and audibly conjectured as to the cause of so many apparent automobile breakdowns.

His younger brother, who perhaps keeps better posted on modern progress and the explanation that each car might contain a man and his maid—or something equally poetic. Whereupon this member of the Wanderers' staff, looking back to his own youth, agreed that, since the traditional front porch is now an architectural thing of the past, perhaps the motor car has come to take its place—for, as every one knows, moonlight, men, and maids will always find a way to decrease a letter drop.

She was all business. The screen door on the front of the Eccentric office opened and closed very quickly as she walked in at six o'clock Wednesday afternoon. She walked right up to Archer W. Brant, our printing gentleman, and, as she offered him a small package, said "I'd like to mail this, please." The lady was directed toward the post-office, the one of many who from time to time, come into the Eccentric office, looking for the new location of the post-office.

Village Commissioner Lawrence Hubbs generally receives the honor of moving resolutions having to do with the borrowing of money or the renewing of the village as well as other financial matters, at the village. At commission meetings the other six members nearly always call on him to lead them into or out of financial fields, because of his years of auditing in large corporations.

In the opinion of this wanderer, the tight-rope walker or trapeze performer in a circus has nothing on the chap we saw Sunday afternoon, trying to cross traffic-jammed Woodward avenue with a half dozen ice cream cones and a bottle of pop. Actually, he required not less than three minutes to walk 70 feet—had he probably come within an inch of being brushed by passing cars a dozen times; yet he smiled toward those waiting for him in his machine, and finally came through with only a few spots of water or ice cream upon his coat. Of such stuff, we presume, are heroes made!

Harry Allen, member of the village commission, believes in the pastoral life as a thing to struggle and strive for—and that he finds it right here in Birmingham. He has a beautiful home and grounds at west Maple and Southfield avenues. However, if you'll make the effort to view his premises from

that Miss Williams get out of the way, explaining, "I'll entertain the lady for a few minutes." Balke covered him with a revolver but when he moved to open the door for Miss Williams he lowered his weapon and MacKillean grabbed his own pistol in the front of his waist and shot Balke once. The gardener fell. His body was found two days later.

Miss Williams corroborated her story. Chief James Anderson of Birmingham and Under-sheriff Frank Greenan described the finding of the body and the position in which it lay. Drs. George F. Raynal, Birmingham, and D. M. Ernest, Pontiac, who conducted an autopsy on the body, described the course of the bullet and stated that the one shot would have been sufficient to cause instant death.

Bruce McDougall, Detroit, a friend of both MacKillean and Orr who induced MacKillean to go to Orr with a story of the slaying, told of MacKillean approaching him on the subject of confessing the shooting, and of his advice to him.

MacKillean said he decided to confess after Mrs. Marion Balke, Birmingham, widow of the gardener, and her cousin, Dale McKillean, Royal Oak, were arrested in connection with the shooting. Both were released without charges having been placed against them.

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acted as leaders, converted it into a "singing camp," particular emphasis being placed on vocal work and a study of music appreciation.

Each boy was required to study with some particular group during the morning, the following persons instructing in handcraft, Merlyn Smiley; nature study, Rev. Floyd E. Logee; elocution, Douglas O'Brien; and Elmer Wiseman; beginning swimming, Willard Snyder; boating, Douglas O'Brien; and Bruce Schwartz; diving, Jack Lambie and Willard Snyder. A glue club and piano, Robert Richards and Edward Edwards; camp craft, Bruce Schwartz; and journalism, Winfred Peck.

For the most part the afternoons were given over to competitive athletics with occasional long hikes. Soft ball, horse shooting and pillow fights were popular among the contestants.

A water carnival was one of the features on the closing program. Water sports commanded considerable interest at the camp, the boys being divided into three groups according to their ability to swim. Two men were stationed on the water front and every precaution taken to assure safe swimming.

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feated L. W. Porter, 2 up; W. D. Thompson won by default from J. A. DeFarr; G. H. Stendel won by default from M. L. Leary; E. L. Beymer defeated E. N. Nyland, 1 up; Dr. W. S. Summers defeated W. W. Raymond, 2 to 1; T. H. T. MacMahon won by default from Charles Craig; Dr. Victor Adams defeated M. E. Williston, 2 up.

ROCHESTER VOTES ON CHANGE TO CITY

Nearly Oakland County Village To Settle Issue September 30

The village of Rochester, in a movement backed by the Executive club there, will vote September 30 at a special election to determine whether or not it will become a city of the fourth class.

First petitions presented to the village council were drawn up when the objection was made that they did not contain the signatures of the required percentage of registered electors. The village board considered hiring a manager, but deferred action until after a decision is reached regarding the form of government.

Rochester's population is estimated at 4,000. If Rochester becomes a city it will be the sixth city in the county. Portage, Royal Oak, Pleasant Ridge, Farmington, and Ferndale now have the city form of government.

In addition to voting on the change in form of government, the voters will be asked to cast ballots on building a new sewer, to cost \$72,000. The sewers were disapproved at a recent election.

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A flare in the sky at 9 p. m. Friday attracted many villagers to Glenbury and west Maple roads where a stack of new mown hay had caught fire. Birmingham firemen extinguished the blaze.

Do you know that clerks in the various government postoffices are required to maintain an accurate time clock record of their hours of work? According to James W. Cobb, local postmaster, clerks are allowed four minutes overtime; that is to say, if they are waiting on you at one of the windows and the time comes when they should be through for the day, they may leave you for a moment to "ring out" on the time clock, and then come back and finish serving you. A close watch is kept by inspectors of working cards, and violations of working hours are causes for demerits. When a postal employee gets too many demerits he stands little chance of getting to a higher position.

Birmingham lawns and gardens look good this year. The reason did—all because we have enjoyed plenty of water and sunshine; water in the garden, the clouds, and the clouds. That's why local people wish to conserve their own water supply, especially people who have lived here during water shortages up to four years ago.

Birmingham's village commission will do well to chase the water line room, their apparent personal feelings of "No Birmingham water will be sold to outside subdivisions."

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TAX PENALTIES EFFECTIVE TODAY

One Per Cent To Be Added On All Unpaid Village Taxes

Tax receipts for the village, up to July 31, were, in proportion slightly behind those received during the same period a year ago. The books of village treasurer Charles Plumsted, revealed today. Up to yesterday treasurer Plumsted had received \$115,850.00, of a total tax expectancy of \$132,287.27; a year ago, of \$128,287.27. The \$21,000 had been received by July 31.

Effective today, one per cent is being added on all unpaid taxes, stated Mr. Plumsted; during September and October four per cent will be charged, after which the rate is turned over to the county treasurer for collection, where, added to the four per cent penalty, three-quarters of that per cent will be charged for each month or fraction thereof that delinquent taxes remain unpaid.

"NO WATER SHORTAGE HERE," STATES PARRY

No water shortage exists in Birmingham, Village Manager James W. Parry asked the Executive club to emphasize to local citizens today. "For two hours last Saturday evening low pressures were maintained in several portions of the village, due to extreme demands on the water supply," stated Mr. Parry. "The water in the elevated tank lost 500 gallons, with both our pumps running at full capacity; yet this should not raise alarm, because under such conditions loss through friction in pipes at certain places in our water main system is bound to result in low pressures, even though no actual water shortage exists."

However, now that we have the new well ready to pump an additional 1000 gallons of water per minute into our water mains, or an increase of 40 per cent in the village's total water supply, citizens may rest assured that danger of water shortage or curtailment of supply exists in Birmingham.

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kidnapping. Stockers is married and has three children. He is reputed to own considerable property in Detroit. Although Birmingham police doubt parts of Stocker's story, the matter has been reported to Detroit police for investigation.

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