The only right reason for the existence of a military force is to use it to repel an enemy; history, of course, reveals that some nations use their military machines for conquest . . . but that is not the pattern dedicated to the American way of freedom.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION ONE

76TH YEAR—NO. 39 | BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1953 | 46 PAGES SEVEN CENTS

Lathrup Village Becomes a City In Close Vote

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

A SHRINE OF FLORAL BEAUTY IN MICHIGAN'S NORTH WOODS

Up in Manistee County, Michigan, about 15 miles east of a little village known as Wellston, (this latter about 22 miles east of the city of Manistee) I recently came upon a scene that was as amazingly lovely as though I had discovered a diamond in a colorless clay bank.

As you may know, much of Michigan's areas in the north are covered with scrub oak, jack pine, poplar, and kindred foliage that does not suggest anything majestic. Now and then rolling land, a gathering of lakes, will break the monotony of the scenery.

To drive over some of this average country, and suddenly come upon a farmhouse, with its usual out-buiings . . . and to see adjacent to the house nearly an acre of beautiful garden, containing many flowers and shrubs, outlined by tall spruces, with a small flowing pool in its midst—this is, indeed, a rare sight.

YET SUCH was my experience recently when I visited the farm of two bachelor brothers, Gerry and Otto Sekanina. Their ages are 60 and 50 years, respectively.

Their farm, consisting of 160 acres, was cleared by their parents when they settled there in 1905. These men are two of seven children, and they live well, but about as far removed from material and worldly demands as anybody I have ever met.

The garden, located on the sands of that area, but plentifully aided by organic fertilizer, would do justice to the estate of a multi-millionaire.

I DON'T KNOW the names of all the flowers and shrubs within that lovely garden. Both Gerry and Otto do, though—especially Gerry, who can tell you the English and botanical name of everything they grow. Otto lends more of his efforts to growing various trees, both coniferous and deciduous.

These men, of Moravian ancestry, both wear beards. Gerry's is streaked with grey, and shorter. Otto's is longer and a reddish brown . . . and I swear that his countenance, set forth with clear dark eyes, plus his six feet of muscular frame makes him look like a character of Biblical environment.

What impressed me very much about their hobby as gardeners was the statement of Gerry: "Our mother, who passed on in 1946, ten years after our father left us, loved flowers. We have continued and added to her original garden, in memory of her wonderful care for her children."

HE SAID this in a soft voice, made more impressive by his complete lack of personal vanity or bragging. Otto, too, speaks likewise.

Yes, the semi-formal garden was an amazing sight—and then I saw a small greenhouse adjacent to the farm house.

We built it four years ago," explained Gerry, "and I take care of it."

My visit was in the middle of October, yet inside were blooming beautiful camelias, begonias, orchids, red roses, and several other potted plants. To enter this woodland greenhouse and see that expanse of color—it was almost shockingly refreshing!

This gardening and nursery project is a considerable chore to maintain, along with their regular farm activities, too. In one small building there is a combination blacksmith and machine shop set-up, operated mostly by Otto.

BOTH THESE men, although born in Moravia, (a part of former Bohemia), came to America when but a few years old. They have lived for the past nearly half century on their present farm . . . and Otto admitted that he has never been to Traverse City, their nearest "big" city.

But both men do plenty of reading, as evidenced by the excellent English they speak. Not impacted upon by radio, TV, or too frequent issues of newspapers, they are not unaware of what is going on . . . they quietly, and with 100 per cent self-reliance, live out their lives as highly respected citizens among their few neighbors.

TO MEET these men, to learn what they have accomplished in their humble surroundings . . . to know several other members of their family . . . to view the little cemetery on their farm where their parents are buried . . . to see the beautiful garden and greenhouse they lovingly tend . . . well, to me it was a grand experience.

Not all of this life's grandeur is enshrined in marble, mahogany, amidst the tinsel of great cities—for I have seen something refreshingly inspirational on the sight of a clearing in the otherwise monotonous scenery of Michigan's north woods.

Order your LA-Z-BOY CHAIR and LUXURY ROCKER now for Christmas from the Royal Mattress and Upholstering factory, 22329 Woodward, Ferndale. Dial "O" and ask for Enterprise 4319. —ADV. (4)

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6319. —ADV. (4)

Group Opposes 14 Mile Opening

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

A concerted campaign to block attempts to open 14 Mile road, between Evergreen (Cranbrook) and Southfield, was begun this week by a group of residents in southwest Birmingham and in Southfield and Bloomfield townships.

According to Thomas M. Emery, 1072 W. 14 Mile road, petitions have been printed and were to be placed in the mail yesterday or today to persons who would be asked to circulate them, then forward the signatures to the state highway department, the Oakland county road commission, and county plan commission, protesting any opening to traffic of this uncompleted half-mile stretch of 14 Mile.

"We have sent identical letters to these three groups outlining the reasons why the people in our area do not want the road opened," stated Emery, who is secretary of "The 14 Mile Road Committee."

President is Jerry Lundquist, 1108 W. 14 Mile; vice president, Robert L. Neff, 1190 W. 14 Mile; and treasurer, John E. Lane, 1870 Latham.

THE COUNTY plan commission, at its year-end dinner meeting last night in Bloomfield Hills, was to have officially received the letter.

George Skrubb, director of the county plan commission, said Monday he did not believe the planners at their Wednesday meeting would do other than note it and place it on the agenda for a subsequent meeting.

"The year-end meeting is devoted primarily to a review of the past year's work," explained Skrubb.

Emery said the road commission has acknowledged receipt of the letter and advised the committee the county had no plans "at this time" concerning 14 Mile road.

AT ITS ANNUAL meeting Tuesday night, held at the Birmingham Community House, the Birmingham Hills Assn. "voted unanimously to back the 14 Mile road committee in its effort to block the Birmingham plan," according to Lundquist.

Richard P. Benecicke and Howard Johnson were named to cooperate with the committee.

Preceding the vote, the group of approximately 50 persons heard City Plan Director Robert Boatman and Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley present the city's arguments in favor of the 14 Mile road opening.

While city commissions in past years have expressed a desire to have 14 Mile completion accomplished, it was only in August of this year that the commission officially asked the county road commission to expedite the acquisition of the necessary right-of-way.

LATE IN THE month, the commission also approved the city engineering department's making the preliminary engineering surveys of the section of road between Southfield and Evergreen.

City officials claim opening of the road will provide east-west traffic with means of getting past Birmingham without having to go through the highly congested business section.

To complete the opening, it would be necessary to acquire some right-of-way along the south edge of the Birmingham Country Club and bridge the River Rouge and its ravine.

Emery said the first "mass meeting" of interested residents probably would take place shortly after the first of the year. He said tentative approval has been obtained to use the Pierce school auditorium.

WHILE THE 14 Mile opening is only in the discussion stages, it is not expected to be seriously con-

(See OPENING, Page 6, Part 1)

HOSPITAL'S CONCRETE FORM UP; NOW READY FOR INSIDE WORK (Eccentric Staff Photo)

(Inset) Five months ago, basement was being constructed

JOHN S. BUGAS

Hills Commission Elects J. Bugas To Fill Vacancy

John S. Bugas, Ford Motor Company vice-president in charge of industrial relations, was appointed to membership on the Bloomfield Hills city commission Tuesday night by a special vote of the other four members of the commission.

Bugas' appointment brings the commission to full strength and fills the vacancy created by the resignation of then Mayor Walter O. Briggs, Jr., in October. Bugas will serve as highway commissioner until the general election next spring.

Bugas, his wife, son, and three daughters live on Vaughan road and have been residents of the city for several years.

To Make Counter Parking Proposal Monday Night

What the Residential Protective Assn. believes should be done about off-street parking in the northwest portion of the central business area is expected to be outlined before Birmingham city commissioners Monday night.

The commission has agreed to give time for this group, which consists primarily of residents in the Tooting lane area directly opposite a proposed 1,600-car parking lot north of Willets and west of Woodward, to outline the results of a study which has just been completed.

John A. Gilray, Jr., attorney for the group, said the presentation would be made by George Devlin, vice president of National Garages, Inc., of Detroit.

"Devlin will tell of his study of the proposed Wabeek-Jacobson plan, bring out his own ideas on how off-street parking can and should be financed, and the size of any such development," Gilray said yesterday morning.

GILRAY EXPLAINED the group's aim "is to have privately operated facilities if possible, and let the demonstrated economic need control their size."

The city commission five weeks ago was presented with a proposal from William Yaw of the Wabeek Corp., and Nathan Rosefield, president of Jacobson's, Inc., which tentatively would call for the city to lease on a trial basis close to $400,000 worth of property that Wabeek and Jacobson's have acquired during the past year for a parking site.

At the end of the test period (mentioned as two or three years), the city would have the choice of dropping the whole idea, or entering into a purchase agreement with the owners that also would include certain short and long range obligations to develop the parking site.

GILRAY SAID his group was not necessarily opposed to the use of property between Willets and the Rouge as a parking area.

"However, we are unalterably opposed to any multi-level parking garage that would be built in the Rouge ravine," he declared.

"We aren't basically challenging the fact that parking may eventual-

(See PARKING, Page 8, Part 1)

Men's Night Successful, Reports Say

Men's Night in Birmingham can be considered an outstanding success if satisfied merchants are any criterion.

"Women's shops, of course, drew the largest number of men who went on Monday night's buying spree," said Dick Wilson, chairman of the retail merchants' committee of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

"The affair was planned to give men a chance to shop for the women folk in their families—and they certainly did.

"Some merchants have told me that the affair was not as big as they had anticipated, but all were entirely satisfied with the evening's business."

BOTH WILSON and Charles Mortensen, Chamber of Commerce secretary, said there was no way to estimate the number of shoppers but that the downtown area was packed.

One city commissioner commented that for the first time since he began serving in that capacity, he had difficulty finding a place to park. He had been forced to leave his car four blocks from the city hall.

Shopping was brisk and accommodations for the men were of the best. Stores displayed merchandise especially suitable for Christmas giving, and many and many a clerk found herself trying to estimate size from a masculine description of the lady of his heart.

MANY MORE clerks were called upon to make suggestions as to what type of gift to give, explain color tones and shades and give other advice to bewildered males.

Oakland Hospital Ahead of Schedule

Operating on a schedule which calls for completion of Oakland Hospital a year from now, Ellerbe & Company, architects and engineers, and the O. W. Burke Company, general contractors, announced today that construction is actually ahead of original timing.

Shown above is what has happened in five months. The inset photo shows the way things were on July 9, only a few days after ground was broken. Here concrete footings have been poured and forms and reinforcing steel erected for pouring the foundations.

The large photo shows progress to date (Dec. 9), with the fifth (top) floor concrete and roof underway and the building ready for enclosure for winter work.

Brick already is up on the power house and the towering chimney completed.

CONSTRUCTION progress has spurred payment of pledges to the hospital, according to E. A. Tomlinson, president of the board of trustees, who said that remaining unpaid pledges again will be notified of their indebtedness.

Moreover, some substantial additional contributions have been made by individuals whose generosity was further prompted by the physical progress being made, he said.

The architects, contractors and engineers, favored by good weather, stole a march against the onslaught of Michigan's usually tough winter.

THE PLAN was to pour as much concrete as possible for the hospital building before cold weather could bring on the usual complications and they resorted to every "trick of the trade" to accomplish this end. As a result, the building is ready for enclosure and construction expedited during the cold months.

In one instance, they were able to hold in abeyance the job of digging basement trenches for sewer and electrical connections, by use of a compact mechanical digger that could operate in limited space, and thus keep on pouring concrete at full tilt, floor after floor.

The digging machine was lowered by crane through a small areaway into the basement and performed its tasks while other construction continued without halt. Cost saving also was effected.

THE HOSPITAL, ultra-modern in every detail of design and construction, is 239 ft. x 217 ft. 6 in. with basement, five stories and equipment penthouse.

It has a capacity of 206 beds with all hospital departments and services, including a large emergency and outpatient department.

Bloomfield Township Dog Owners Forgetting Anti-Rabies Shots

Many persons in Bloomfield township are neglecting to include a notice that their dog has been inoculated against rabies along with their application for a dog license, according to Arno L. Hulet, township treasurer.

Hulet said every dog must be inoculated before it can be licensed and owners must furnish proof of the inoculation in the form of a slip from a veterinarian.

Woman 58, Beaten During Robbery Of Troy Grocery

Troy police report no clues in the Saturday afternoon robbery-beating of a 58 year-old lady storekeeper.

Mrs. Bertha Peters, who with her husband operates the Peter's Market, Seventeen Mile and Rochester roads, told police she was alone in the store when a "well dressed" man entered and demanded money.

Mrs. Peters told the bandit that he must be joking. He responded by striking her on the side of the head with a "black object". He struck her several more times and demanded that she give him the money in the cash register.

MRS. PETERS complied and turned over an estimated $100 to the thug, who then fled the store and drove north in a black car.

Patrolman Willard Schwandt, of the Troy township police, responded to Mrs. Peters call for police assistance. He found her wandering about the store dazed and bleeding. He summoned an ambulance and she was taken to St. Joseph hospital, Pontiac, where she was treated for cuts and bruises and released.

Schwandt said that, so far, investigation has turned up no clues or witnesses. Mrs. Peters was not sure the bandit had a gun.

"She may have been struck by a wrench, since there was grease on her hand where she was struck while trying to ward off a blow," said Schwandt.

Her assailant is described as dressed in a brown suit, hatless, about 30 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall and lightly built.

Ask Cost Study For New Sewer On West Side

The question of pollution of the Rouge river from sewage flowing through the alleged "illegal" Bloomfield drain may become solely a problem of Bloomfield township.

City commissioners Monday night instructed City Manager Donald C. Egbert to obtain preliminary cost studies of constructing a new sanitary sewer to serve the city's 500 westside homes in a possible move that would see the city abandon the present Cranbrook sewer that is tied into the Bloomfield drain.

Should such a sewer be constructed, the city could not be cited for sewage flowing through the Cranbrook sewer into the city's disposal plant.

THE CITY'S action follows a suit filed Monday in Oakland County Circuit County by City Attorney Forbes S. Hascall to prevent the Cranbrook Development company from constructing any more homes on the 40 acre southwest corner of Maple and Cranbrook.

City officials feared that any major development in this adjacent Bloomfield township area would cause a burden on the city disposal plant.

The injunction seeks to contain the builder to the 16 homes that were under construction on the site December 2.

The court action also asks that

(See STUDY, Page 6, Part 1)

Reaffirm Aim to Keep City Residential

Birmingham will continue to remain primarily a residential community, city commissioners and plan board members reaffirmed during a two and a half hour closed door session last Thursday evening.

According to Robert Boatman, city plan director who attended the meeting, "We didn't get down to a definite vote on any specific points, but it was agreed that Birmingham would continue to maintain and foster the basic principle of keeping the city one of single family residences."

Boatman described the evening's efforts as "a good meeting, a good discussion."

CALLED TOGETHER by Mayor Ralph A. Main primarily to exchange ideas for development of the city, the group did not get into the matter of how the plan commission was to work on projects, Boatman said.

"No one brought out for discussion whether the plan board was to progress more or less on its own, bringing in on recommendation certain general phases of city growth and development, or whether it would work 'on assignment' from the city commission," Boatman said.

At several of their meetings in the past, one or more plan board members have admitted the board has had little real opportunity to get into planning because of specific projects assigned it by the commission to work out in considerable detail.

MAIN EXAMPLE is the proposed off-street parking ordinance, tabled some weeks ago by the city commission.

The measure would require all new or expanded businesses to provide off-street parking facilities.

"This parking ordinance may be up before the commission again before too long," Boatman predicted.

He said the two groups undoubtedly will hold another meeting, probably in January, to explore further and exchange more ideas on city development "and how to keep and foster Birmingham as a residential city."

AT THE PLAN board's next meeting—scheduled for either Dec. 15 or 22—members will try to finalize their ideas on how Birmingham can be kept to single family development.

"Then we probably will meet again with city commissioners and discuss our detailed ideas with them," the plan director said.

He added that all seven members of the plan board and six city commissioners were present at the Dec. 3 closed session.

Only Commissioner James C. Allen was absent, Boatman said.

B'ham JA Members Named To Offices

Two high school students from Birmingham were elected to office in the Junior Achievers Association Sunday at a meeting in Detroit.

The association heads up Junior Achievement organizations in Southeastern Michigan.

Jack Gary Garvy, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Garvy, 452 Puritan, was named as association president. Jack is a senior at the University of Detroit high school and president of Compact-Table company, a local junior achievement firm sponsored by the Wabeek State bank.

Sally, his 16 year-old sister, was elected recording secretary. She is secretary of the Birmingham's Panda Products, a JA firm sponsored by The Eccentric, and a student at Birmingham high school.

SEVERAL HUNDRED MORE CHILDREN WRITE LETTERS TO SANTA CLAUS

See Page 2, Section 5

Twp. Rule Ended By 59 Votes

By NORMAN DOUGLAS

Southfield township's 36 square miles of territory lost its first parcel of land Monday as a new city was born at the polls.

The City of Lathrup Village becomes the newest municipality in rapidly growing Oakland county as voters narrowly favored the city charter by a 59-vote margin.

Inception of city rule for the 2¼ square mile area was assured when voters approved the charter by a vote of 622 to 563 and elected five councilmen and a justice of the peace.

First meeting of the newly-organized city council will be held Monday night, Dec. 14, at 8 p.m. in the Lathrup school. Officials will be sworn in at that time and will determine the time and frequency of council meetings.

ELECTED TO the council were John G. Campbell, 689; William H. Harvie, 633; Kathryn Feyereisen, 511; Thomas N. Reed, 504; and David B. Redwood, 392.

Unsuccessful candidates were William G. Kronauge, 320; Clarence E. Wormuth, 351; Robert C. McMillan, 318; and Mrs. Marjorie T. Thayer, 179.

Leonard V. Pylkas, who was given 482 votes, becomes Justice of the peace over L. Bernard Cross with 282 votes.

In Monday night's meeting, the council members will elect a mayor, mayor pro tem, and an acting clerk.

Prior to Monday's meeting, charter commissioners plan to certify the charter and submit two copies to the Oakland county clerk's office and two to the Michigan secretary of state. The charter becomes effective immediately on the filing of these certified copies.

QUESTIONED about the election, Councilman John G. Campbell, who also is a charter commissioner, stated: "I am sure that the vote was so close, but I believe that within five years even the most bitter of incorporation opponents will be satisfied that our move was the right one."

"We did not leave the township because of the present administration or because we disagreed with the people of Southfield," Campbell furthered. "Our community is of a homogeneous nature and we believed that we could best be governed by local rule."

Campbell added that he hoped there would be no hard feelings among township officials, residents who opposed incorporation or any Southfield residents.

"IT IS OUR hope now to live within Southfield, sharing good friendly relations with our neighbors," Campbell concluded.

Passage of the strong council type of government for the home rule city will necessitate the hiring of a city administrator and establishment of a board of review and zoning board.

Action to incorporate the Lathrup area began in January of this year with the filing of incorporation petitions. An 85-vote majority passed on the question of incorporating the area on May 12 when charter commissioners were elected and began their chore of drawing up an acceptable charter.

Townsite Association Holds Annual Meeting

Annual meeting of the Townsite Association, Inc., will be held Tuesday evening, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m. in the Townsite Community church.

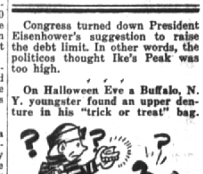
The meeting, held to review progress of the association throughout the year, will include election of officers and hear reports from the board of directors.

What will probably be the first appearance of the newly-elected Lathrup council as visitors at a civic meeting will be on that night as the association has extended an invitation for the council to attend.

STRICTLY FRESH

Congress turned down President Eisenhower's suggestion to raise the debt limit. In other words, the politicos thought Ike's Peak was too high.

On Halloween Eve a Buffalo, N. Y. youngster found an upper denture in his "trick or treat" bag.



The woman who claimed it the next day learned the hard way that you shouldn't hand the bite that feeds you.

Play it safe, men. If the wife insists on learning to drive, don't stand in her way.