

# County's Growth On Middle Growth In Detroit Area

While Macomb county lead both Wayne and Oakland counties in population increase during the past three years, highly industrial Wayne more than quadrupled Macomb's growth in new people.

Oakland county hit a middle ground but nearly doubled Macomb's efforts.

Facts and figures about the metropolitan growth of Detroit have been compiled by the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission and published in the January issue of "Regional Reporter," monthly publication of the commission.

Listed by percentages of growth, Macomb realized a 24 plus per cent increase according to figures arrived at by the commission's research department.

With a 1950 population of 184,961, July 1, 1953 figures for Macomb jumped to 220,000.

OAKLAND'S RISE from 396,001 in 1950 to 475,000 by 1953 was a 19.9 per cent increase while

Wayne registered an 8.6 per cent increase by growing from 2,435,227 in 1950 to 2,645,000.

Totals show an 11 per cent gain for the entire metropolitan area which now is estimated at 3,398,000.

Vital statistics data released by the Michigan Department of Health and natural increases of population accounted for 185,064 of the increase. The net excess in people moving into the region over those moving out amounted to 182,223 of the total increase.

Oakland county's growth through natural increases was set at 22,577 or 41 per cent of the county's total increase. Here again the suburban trend out North Woodward was evident when the increase through people moving into the area accounted for 58 per cent of the growth or 46,422.

## Saw Stolen From House

Oakland county Sheriff's detectives are investigating the theft of a table saw from a home under construction in Bloomfield township, according to Township Police Chief Clark Green. Valued at \$350, the saw was taken from 2790 MacIntosh Lane, during the night of Jan. 28, the chief said.

General news deadline is 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

Adults of this generation freely ought to admit that today's youth is confronted with more negative examples of living than were their parents. Try to imagine what the social impact of scenes on TV, in movies, in magazines has on youth's moral growth.

# The Birmingham Eccentric

## BIRMINGHAM BACKGROUND

Local History in Story and Picture

As Compiled and Written by RUTH ANNE SILBAR



THIS IS THE WAY West Maple looked in 1901 when John Bodine lived on the street. A dirt road, hitching posts, large shade trees were usual sights, but note the new cement sidewalks which then were called "artificial stone." The Bodine house was situated on a large lot where Sires is now located.

## John Bodine One of 1st B'ham Merchants

One sure way to distinguish a life long resident of Birmingham from a newcomer is by the way the name "Bodine" is pronounced.

The oldtimer will make "Bodine" rhyme with "line" which is the way it was pronounced by John Bodine, a prominent business man of early Birmingham days.

John Bodine came to Birmingham in 1835 and opened a tailor shop and clothing store. For many years he was in business on the west side of Saginaw street (Woodward), three doors from the main street intersection. He retired in 1885 when he was 70 years old.

## Pfc. Russell Podvin Scheduled to Return To U.S. from Germany

GERMANY—Pfc. Russell R. Podvin, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond C. Podvin, 6340 Franklin road, is scheduled to return to the U. S. on Feb. 19 from service with the 43rd Infantry division in Germany.

Podvin, who wears the National Defense Service medal and the Army of Occupation medal for duty in Germany, is a driver in the 169th regiment's headquarters company. He has been overseas since Aug. 1952.

Pfc. Podvin entered the army in February 1952 and completed basic training at Indiantown Gap, Pa.

## Race To Pontiac Started A City

By GIL HERMAN

They're still talking about the "mid-night ride of the Paul Reverses" in the New City of Lathrup Village.

While Villagers remain divided over whether it was a good thing or not, there is still a tang of drama in the wild race for signatures on petitions that launched the area of Lathrup Township on the road to city life.

The preparations that ultimately saw the origin of the first city in Southfield township go back beyond 1947 but the initial formal move toward incorporation began in that year.

A mass meeting was held to determine whether or not the residents of the Townsite wished incorporation. The consensus of that meeting was that incorporation would be sought only if a move on the part of another area threatened to destroy the identity of the Townsite.

ALSO FROM THE meeting came the determination to prepare petitions for incorporation that could be circulated immediately in case of another move on the part of a surrounding area.

An attorney was hired, Forbes S. Hascall, present Birmingham city attorney, to draw up the petitions, and a "watch dog" committee was set up to keep an eye peeped in the interest of the Townsite.

The petitions were filed away and all rumors of incorporation moves were duly investigated by the committee.

On Dec. 12, 1950, word came to the committee that a petition was being circulated in certain areas of the township.

HE SERVED on the village board as trustee and also as president for 8 one year terms during the period of 1873-1892.

As a member of the village school board, John Bodine worked hard toward the erection of the new school in 1869, which now is known as Hill school.

In 1912 when a movement was made to name the school house, some Birmingham citizens felt that the school should be named the John Bodine school.

ONE RESIDENT, in a letter to The Eccentric at that time, wrote: "The building of this school, Mr. Bodine gave up much of his time and it was by his business sagacity, his unbounded interest in the success of the school that gave us the building, built honestly, fairly and without a hint of graft."

"Through his efforts as a member of the school board, the burden of debt for the new building was all paid for before the taxpayers realized it."

John Bodine died in 1902 at the age of 87.

According to Charles D. Kelley of the Lathrup Town Hall corporation, township officials informed members of the committee that the petition was merely for the purpose of calling a meeting on the subject of incorporation of the whole of the township.

KELLEY REPORTS that the committee members were dissatisfied, and so they toured the township to pick up the trail of the petition and found that it was actually for the purpose of incorporating the township as a home rule city.

The discovery was made on Dec. 13 and on that night five members of the Lathrup committee assembled at Lathrup Town Hall, dusted off the copies of the petition drawn up in 1947, and sallied forth in an attempt to get their signatures and filed in time to beat the incorporation.

They were met by a group of men to force their area into an incorporation with the whole of the township. A thing that Kelly says the committee started their work for signatures at 8 p.m. and until 1:30 a.m. when they could no longer find any home lights on. They returned to the hall and totaled the results of their efforts. They found themselves wanting.

AT 5:30 A.M. they resumed their canvassing and at 8:30 a.m. re-assembled at the hall and totaled the names they had gathered. Now they had enough, and a race against time began for the county clerk's office to file the petition for the incorporation of Lathrup township into the city of Lathrup Village.

Signatures were duly notarized and the petitions were stamped received at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 14, 1951. Two hours later workers for the township incorporation arrived at the clerk's office and filed their petitions.

Lathrup Village actually was the second area to ballot on incorporation in Southfield township's 36 square mile area.

SOUTHFIELD PARK residents living in a 3 1/2 square mile area bounded by Egan, Mile, and Hollow Golf Club, Nine and one half mile and Greenfield turned down city rule in a special election December 20, 1951.

A portion of this area is again seeking to incorporate to include the J. L. Hudson company's multi-million dollar Northland Center.

A third incorporation within Southfield may be made when Franklin Village voters vote on a village charter probably sometime this summer.

Promoters of incorporation for the entire township are to be constructing by the actions of these communities within Southfield.

Call Midwest 4-1100 to place an Eccentric Classified Ad.

## New Service Group Chairman Planning Monday Meeting

New service groups chairman for the Oakland county chapter, American Red Cross, is Mrs. Sheldon R. Noble of 22800 13 Mile road. The announcement of her appointment was made this week by Harold B. Euler, chapter chairman.

Mrs. Noble served during the war years as chairman of volunteer services, working closely with members of the armed forces and their families and many chapter groups concentrating on the war efforts.

Her new office will make her responsible for the effective ad-

ministration of volunteer programs and the relationships between the several volunteer groups.

She will also coordinate the functions of service groups volunteers as related to the blood program.

Euler said Mrs. Noble would call a meeting of the various service chairmen in the morning, Feb. 1, at 10 a.m. in the new chapter office, 118 Franklin boulevard, Pontiac.

## To Speak to Nurses

George A. Jacoby, 245 Puritan Director of Personnel Services, General Motors Corporation, will speak on "Management and the Industrial Nurse" at the annual meeting of the Michigan State Association of Industrial Nurses in Detroit January 29 and 30.

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