



**WORKMEN HURRY THE COMPLETION** of Consumer Power company's 12 inch gas line through Troy township so that the line may be finished between the company's Adams regulator station north of Auburn road and the Coolidge plant at Fourteen Mile road and Coolidge within this year's building season. Workmen are pictured above laying the large pipe parallel to Coolidge road south of East Long Lake road in the north Adams section of Troy township. Use of the pipe line will bring an additional supply of gas into the Coolidge road plant for South Oakland County customers. (Eccentric Photo)

**Joint Installation For Optimist Clubs**

A joint installation of the Optimist clubs of five townships is planned for this evening. The affair will open with a 7 o'clock dinner at Huck's Redford Inn. At the recent Optimist club convention, the weekly bulletin of Starkey, president elect.

**Kiwanis President Reports Convention**

CHIEF Wright, president of the Birmingham Kiwanis club, last week told members of the emphasis placed on youth and religion at the annual convention in Miami two weeks ago. Wright said the international group stresses Kiwanis work among young people in the community and the furtherance of religious activities in the community and among members. "The local units are urged," he pointed out, "to follow the successful pattern established by the parent organization."

**Ye Olde Township Meeting Obsolete, Say Supervisors**

For reasons ranging from "inconvenience" to the possibility that it could allow arbitrary and unjust legislation to take place, three local township supervisors seem to be of the opinion that the basic law requiring the holding of an annual township meeting should be abolished—or at least altered.

Stressing that the requirement by law of such an annual meeting was based on conditions of many years ago, supervisors of Troy, Southfield and Bloomfield townships seem to agree that the meeting has outlived its usefulness.

"The law, requiring a township meeting to be called at 1:00 p.m. on the first Monday in April of every year, is outmoded as are many laws that govern the conduct of township operations" is the opinion of William Roeser, Southfield township supervisor. "Every year we have had to post notices and pay for advertising that an annual meeting will be held and then nobody comes," he said.

In order that the democratic intent of the law is carried out, Southfield township always postpones its meeting until a following day and hour when citizens will be able to attend. "If we can practically see a mental picture of farmers and woodsmen coming, aboard wagons, to the township hall on election day. After the farmer had voted and he and his family had enjoyed a picnic lunch, he would attend the meeting at 1 p.m. and participate in his township's affairs in truly democratic fashion."

NO ONE was present when the meeting was called to order in Southfield township this year on April 5 except township board members. In such a case, the board could proceed with the budget for the coming fiscal year and conduct such business as it deemed necessary, but following tradition it was postponed. Roeser added that township governments in this area hold public meetings monthly and any citizens wishing a voice can attend and be heard. With all these monthly meetings, it seems unnecessary to hold the annual meeting, Roeser believes.



**NORMAN BARNARD**, supervisor of Troy township, looks upon the annual meeting as a relic of horse and buggy days.

HE ALSO pointed out that the meeting could allow a minority group to exercise its right to the detriment of the rest of the township's citizens. "Our citizens have been sensible so far in their conduct at the meetings. But it would be possible for a disgruntled group to pack a meeting and disrupt all business. I understand in some Michigan townships such things have happened," he said. As a specific example of how such a thing could happen, Barnard referred to regulations concerning township fire departments.

ONE LAW reads in effect that if citizens vote appropriations for fire protection at the annual meeting in townships such as Troy, they may not vote more than \$50,000. If they vote the appropriation, they are stuck with it. "On the other hand if no appropriation for fire is voted, the township board may appropriate money for fire departments as it is needed throughout the year. We spent \$12,000 for fire protection in the township last year. If some misguided minority group wanted to campaign in the name of economy, it could hamstring our entire fire department operation," said Barnard.

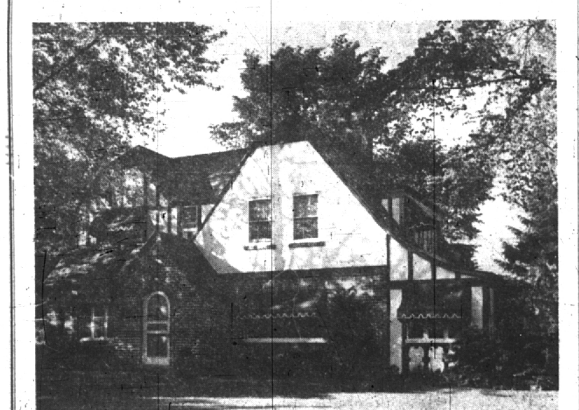
IN ADDITION, he said it is his understanding that legally, financial matters that would call for increases in taxes could be passed at an annual meeting. In this way, one interested group possibly could pass some measure for its own benefit that could require all the rest of the township taxpayers to shell out more money for taxes for years to come. "The problems of heavily populated townships are identical to those of cities of equal size. Yet

to hold them, but townships are," Barnard pointed out. HE FEELS such meetings should be abolished, or at least the law should be altered to allow the meeting to be held at a more suitable time. Bloomfield Township Supervisor David Anderson took a slightly different view. He said he would like to see the annual meeting retained for the sake of allowing people to participate more actively in township affairs that they can merely do by voting. He said, however, that public apathy has practically ruined the purpose of the meetings. He pointed out that not one citizen was present at the Bloomfield township meeting this year. "With that sort of public attitude toward the meetings, they might as well be abolished," he said. Attendance was slightly higher in Troy where 10 people attended. In Southfield township, 200 people attended the postponed meeting.

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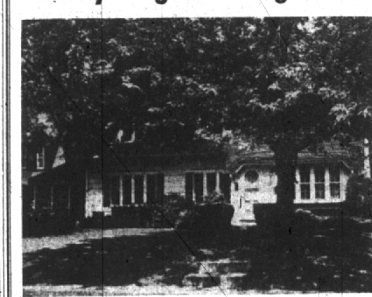
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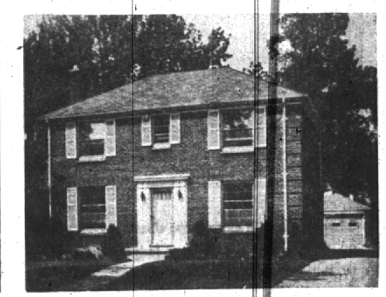
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