

## Lathrup Village Home Assessments To Be Reviewed

To correct inequalities in property assessments in the City of Lathrup Village, city councilmen Monday night approved the hiring of an assistant to City Administrator Leonard Watchowski and instructed Watchowski to review all assessments in the city.

The council acted after hearing a plea for more accurate assessment procedures by Lorenz Becker, board of review member, who claimed that many instances of non-uniform assessments were brought to the board's attention when it reviewed assessment rolls with taxpayers.

"I am not blaming anyone for the mess the records are in," Becker stated, "But something must be done before this board meets again next year so that we can justify assessments made on all property in the city."

BECKER ASSURED councilmen that protests over valuations were answered in the best way possible, but added that the board could not adjust any of the questioned assessments for lack of a good basic assessing procedure.

Watchowski added that in many instances the township had used as many as three assessing methods on similar homes in the city and agreed that every home should be studied under a revised assessing schedule.

To help Watchowski accomplish regular city business and begin the reassessment program, councilmen authorized the employment of Walter H. Sparlock of East Detroit to assist in building and heating inspections, dog complaints, office maintenance and assessment work at a salary of \$4,500 a year.

**Lathrup, Southfield Discuss Settlement**

Lathrup Village city council and Southfield township board members put their heads together Wednesday night at the township hall to discuss settlement of township property with the newly organized city.

Auditors and attorneys for both municipalities were to be on hand to explain their findings as to the amount of the settlement.

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## City's Investment Rating Now 'A'

Birmingham's municipal credit rating this week ceased to be "Baa" and became "A," City Manager D. C. Egbert was notified by letter from Moody's Investors Service, oldest and best known municipal investment rating service.

According to Egbert, last time the rating was boosted was about three years ago.

"The new rating," said the manager, "places Birmingham in as good a class, or perhaps even higher, than any other city in Oakland county."

A little over a month ago, Egbert sent the company a brief containing latest city financial data, and asked for a higher rating.

**THIS WEEK** Moody's Municipal Dept. Manager Matthew P. Malony replied: "We have completed our rating study of the information you sent us recently, along with other available data in our file. Our rating committee has decided to assign the rating of A to outstanding obligations of the City of Birmingham. This new rating will appear in our various services next week."

**City Defines Aim Of Water Study**

An adequate supply of quality water to serve only the residents of Birmingham was decided on Monday night by city commissioners.

Reporting on the city's present water supply and commenting on future sources, City Manager Donald C. Egbert stated that the city would have to continue its present wells and overhead storage tanks and use only Detroit water at times of peak demand if the city is to continue present water rates.

When asked if the present water study should include providing a supply for further annexations to the city, commissioners agreed that its policy would be to serve only the area within present Birmingham city limits including the Forist property.

**THE QUESTION** of treating the city's well water to satisfactory mix with Detroit's treated water also adds to the problem of a combined water source.

Chemical tests on mixing of the two waters are now being made.

Egbert estimated that it would raise the rate for water from the present 20 cents per 1,000 gallons to 20-35 cents per 1,000 to buy Detroit water.

Commissioners instructed Egbert to come up with comparative costs of serving the city's maximum population with well water as against Detroit water.

**BIRMINGHAM**, a member of the South Oakland water authority which proposes to build a water main to this area from the Detroit system, has a heavier demand per capita than any other member an average of 250 gallons per day for Birmingham users as against about 150 gallons for persons in other nearby cities.

**Lathrup Delays Action On Voting Machines**

Action on the bid of the Automatic Voting Machine Corp. for three voting machines called for by Lathrup Village councilmen was delayed Monday night as councilmen decided to wait until Wednesday night's settlement meeting with Southfield township.

The city will seek to gain three machines now being used in Lathrup by Southfield as part of the city-township settlement.

The sole bidder quoted a price of \$1,475 for each machine.

**GRANT CAPLING**, 61, of 561 Watkins, Birmingham's parking meter maintenance man, marked the beginning of his 30th year of employment with the city Monday by doing his regular rounds of meter inspection. Capling is now the city's oldest employee in point of service. He worked 27 years as maintenance man on water meters and began caring for parking meters a little over two years ago. Capling received the state health department's Edward Dunbar Rich Award four years ago on completion of 25 years with the water department. He services Birmingham's 440 parking meters, inspects them three or four times a day, collects money from them on Tuesdays and Thursdays and repairs any that break down. Capling says he enjoys the routine because the walking gives him plenty of exercise.

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## Patches Being Chucked Into Holes in Streets

Spring weather has brought out the Birmingham patchwork crew.

B'PW Supt. Robert Kenning said Monday that last week his department had three trucks traveling over city streets putting cold patches on the chunk holes that become more evident at this time of year.

## US and Foreign Stamps Ready for Club Auction

The monthly auction for the Birmingham Stamp club has been scheduled for Monday, March 22, at 8:30 p.m. in the Community House.

According to E. E. Puls, club officer, 110 lots of United States and foreign stamps will be offered at the sale which is open to the public.

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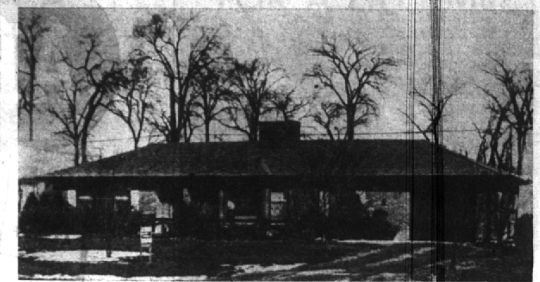
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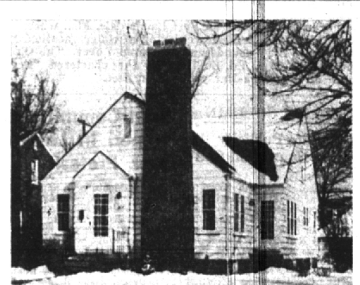
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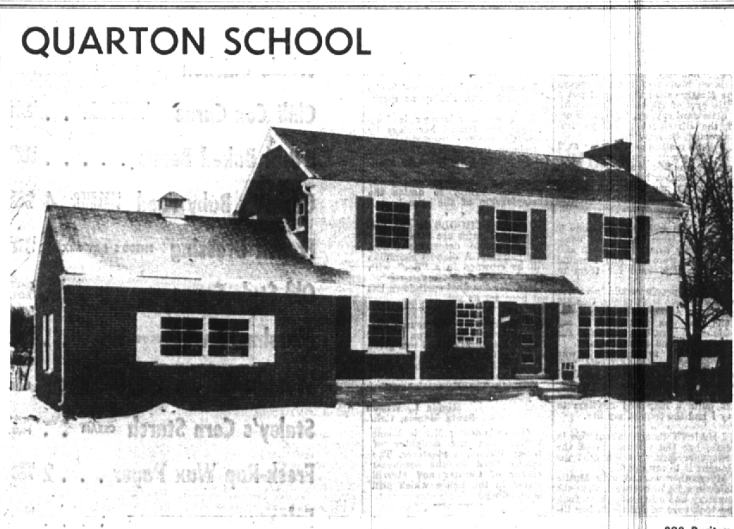


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