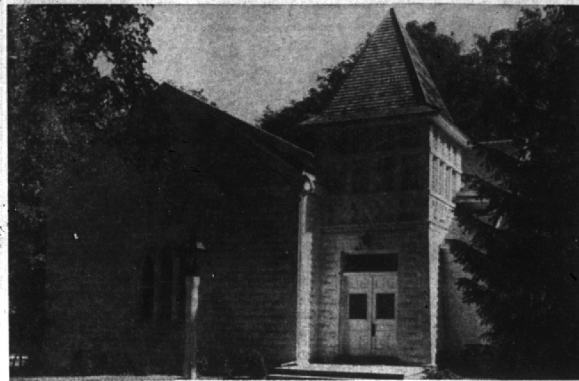
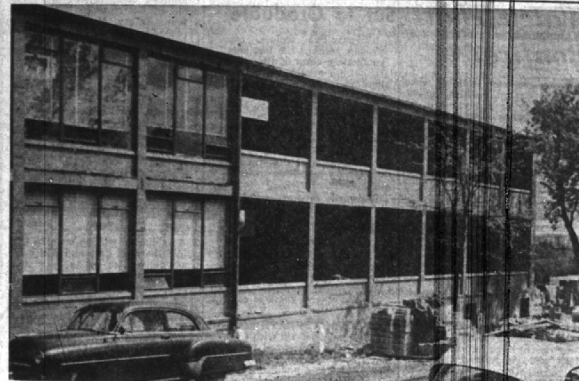


THE COMMUNITY IN THE NORTHWESTERN corner of Southfield township has been known as Franklin for 126 years when the new name replaced the settlement's awkward title of Stoughton and Bullock in 1828. Earliest settlers of the area actually arrived four years earlier in 1824. Without railroads or main highways the town has retained its village-like atmosphere and promoters of village rule hope to protect its idyllic surroundings. The community library sign standing beneath the huge shade trees and on well-trimmed lawns is representative of the quiet, sleepy town.

When you beautify your own yard and garden you not only provide something lovely for your own family to gaze upon . . . but think how much pleasure your neighbors may get from your effort . . . and maybe they, too, will catch the spirit that makes you a gardener.



ALONG SHADY GERMAN MILL street stands another example of Franklin's quiet beauty. Franklin's undenominational church was built in 1860 at a total cost of \$210. Since those early horse-and-buggy days the church has held Presbyterian, Methodist and Methodist Episcopal congregations, and in later years has been undenominational. The lone Franklin church represents a community-way of life still for many residents.



THE RAPID GROWTH of the Franklin area in post-war years has prompted the cries for incorporation to maintain Franklin's identity in the equally fast-growing Southfield township. Opening of one new subdivision after another has brought school enrollments bulging out the doors at the Franklin school as workmen hurry the completion of the school's new addition.

Will Franklin Voters Approve Village Rule?

By NORMAN DOUGLAS

First major change in the life of the Franklin community in 126 years may be decided on Tuesday, June 15.

Residents of the area will vote on that day whether to adopt a charter for the village government in an attempt to retain the sleepy town's identity.

The June vote will be the last step in the first attempt to bring local rule to the picturesque community in the northwest corner of Southfield township.

NO REAL CHANGES in the pattern of the town's civic life has occurred since 1828 when seven families adopted the name of Franklin for their area.

The final phase of this incorporation question concerns the passage of a village constitution for the area bounded by Inkster, Fourteen Mile, Telegraph and a line east and west midway between Twelve and Thirteen Mile roads.

Since the date of the incorporation vote November 3 last year, charter commissioners Edward J. Green, Stanley S. Krentel, Marguerite F. Ritner, Bert D. Wood and Clifford H. Harrison have been preparing a suitable charter for Franklin's village rule.

THE CHARTER IS in readiness and the deadline for nominees to the first village government is 4 p.m. Saturday, May 29.

To be elected to office are president, six trustees, clerk, assessor and treasurer. The three trustees receiving the highest number of votes will serve for two years if residents approve the charter. The remaining successful trustee candidates will serve for one year. The president will serve for two years.

With the close of voting registration on May 17, 583 had registered for the June ballot. Charter Commission Secretary Stanley S. Krentel estimated that between 800-900 residents were qualified for registration with two-thirds of those qualified ready to go to the polls.

RESIDENTS will vote in the Franklin Community Hall.

Petitions for one slate of candidates in the charter vote have already been filed with the commission clerk, according to Harry Henderson, 25520 Thirteen Mile, and candidate for village president.

The original group of incorporation supporters met last week at the home of George Smith, 25831 Romany Way, and elected this slate as the village's first officers should the charter be approved.

Candidates for the six trustee seats are Harry B. Rotters, 25295 Thirteen Mile; Edward J. Green, charter commissioner, 26585 Woodlore; Homer D. Hyde, 32683 Franklin road; Philip VanDyke, 31315 Franklin road; F. Glen Shoemaker, 24924 Riverwood; and Winfield C. Hinman, 27310 Wellington.

Jack Roberts, 27340 Ovid, will seek the village assessor's post. Candidate for treasurer is Norman G. Currin, 32620 Franklin road, and Bob J. Mitchell, 24684 Riverwood, will run for clerk.

THE RUSH to incorporate specific areas in the township was climaxed last year by a petition to incorporate the township as a whole.

These 40 men decided the time had come to preserve the character and identity of Franklin by taking the area out of the township's hands. They found the estimated population of 1300 did not meet population requirements of state statute for a home rule city, but learned that a village government would protect the area from being swallowed up by incorporations in adjacent areas.

They pressed their views to other residents of Franklin and the question won by a wide margin in the November 3, incorporation vote.

THOUSANDS OF LARGE TREES hamper a good photographic portrayal of Franklin but this shot (below) captures the hilly landscapes of one of the community's fast-growing subdivisions. Here children and pets frolic without fear of speeding autoists or the dangers of heavy industrialization.

ALTHOUGH SUBDIVISION growth has been rapid since World War II, little has changed in the quiet hamlet referred to as the "Town that Time Forgot" by real estate developers.

Since 1824 when the first settlers came to develop farms on the rolling, wooded land, the character of the town has been largely residential. Neither railroads nor main highways touched the town, and residents have managed to escape most of the ills of metropolitan life.

For years, Franklin was the most rapid growing area in Southfield township with tradesmen and farmers finding the surrounding land to their liking. But failure of the town to draw either a railroad or highway stifled growth in time.

The Franklin cider mill was erected in 1837 by a Detroitier and was to become a center for farmers in the area.

By 1870 the town boasted three physicians, a church, school, postoffice, hotel, three flour mills, drugstore, hardware, tin shop, four blacksmith shops and two wagon shops.

WHEN TRADE FELL OFF, the town virtually "stood still" for many years until the suburban boom in the past decade and a half brought home buyers to the area who were looking for spacious lots and custom-made homes.

Many of these people consider their town a community of itself, and like supporters of the Lathrup Village incorporation, ask that they be protected from outside governing encroachments.

CHARTER COMMISSIONERS were urged to draw up laws for the village that would call for a minimum of tax monies, support the continuation of volunteer governing services and enable voters to approve (by ballot) any major appropriation or change for the village.

By charter, the tax rate would be limited to \$3 per \$1000 of assessed valuation.

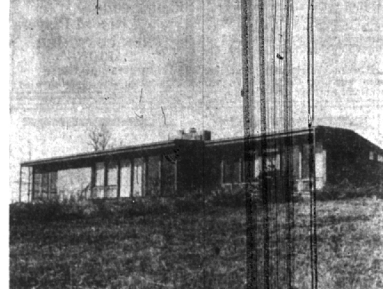
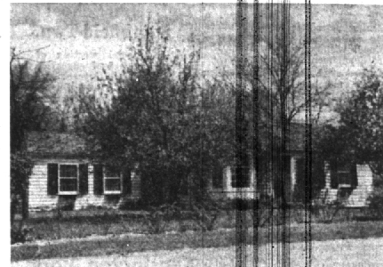
Incorporation promoters believe that if residents express a desire to bring city rule to the village when future population figures warrant, the transition to city government will be an easy task.

The town for years has supported its own volunteer fire department and it is hoped that most other community services can be furthered on a volunteer basis.



THE AREA HAS MANY spots of natural beauty for city workers to enjoy on off-hours. The pretty young lady pictured at left is caught by the cameraman in a reflective mood as she gazes into the cool stream and enjoys the shade of the stately trees.

FRANKLIN WOULD BE LITTLE-KNOWN to Detroiters but for the familiar sight of Franklin's popular cider mill (pictured below) as thousands of people cram Franklin road on the weekends in the fall to see the apple pressing and drink the cool apple drink.



WELL-KEPT HOMES FURTHER enhance the beauty of the 126-year-old picturesque community. Home architecture ranges from the trim small cottage in the top picture above to sprawling ranch homes, but still a great favorite in the area is the Cape Cod type shown in the middle picture. Developers have promoted large lots on the woody, rolling land and winding, gravelled roads complete the truly suburban type of community Franklin has become.

