'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

LATHRUP • FRANKLIN • WING LAKE • GILBERT LAKE • WALNUT LAKE • FOXCROFT • WEST & EAST BEVERLYS • THE BERKSHIRES • SOUTHFIELD, BLOOMFIELD AND WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIPS

'Full-Speed-Ahead on Turnpike'-Higgins

IT WAS A WEEK of farewells for the A. G. Bradburys of 24500 Inkster, Southfield, who this week departed for Vero Beach, Fla., where they will take up permanent residence. Mrs. Bradbury, a township trustee, was treated to an ice cream and soft drink party after her final meeting last week. Bradbury, charter member and second president of Southfield's Soroptimist Club, was presented a plaque, honoring him for service to the club, by his fellow members. (Eccentric Photo)

City Has $16,000 Surplus

LATHRUP—Annual audit report made by the city administrator, Leonard Watchowski, to the city council Monday night, showed a surplus of $16,000.

Watchowski attributed the savings to a cautiousness on the part of city officials who were unsure of the amount needed to run the city in its first complete year of operation.

Another factor, said Watchowski, was the collection of $3,389 in building fees above the expected figure, a greater profit from the water department than was figured, as well as surpluses from the contingent fund and miscellaneous expenditures.

HOWEVER, said Watchowski, the current budget is lacking in provisions for needed clerical help, additional department of public works employees, and dog policing.

Also figured short in the 1955-56 budget were attorney's fees, because of the suits brought by the Highland Oil company, who are seeking a permit to build in the city against the city's wishes, and a suit initiated by the State Water Resources Commission to halt the city's pollution of the Rouge River. Other suits are pending.

NEEDED, too, said the city administrator, was a tractor to handle city maintenance.

Councilmen ordered Watchowski to prepare and report at the next council meeting, a list of the city's most urgent needs. The audit was completed by Bert Reeves, Detroit certified public accountant.

Condemned Elm Toll Mounting

LATHRUP — State Agriculture Department officials already have condemned 37 of the city's diseased elm trees, and all reports on specimens sent to Lansing have not been reported on yet, Vernon Hodges, road superintendent said this week.

"I am certain there will be quite a few more," said Hodges. "State officials said they would return later this year to conduct another survey."

Condemnation of trees dead or dying of Dutch elm disease is a result of a survey conducted by the state two weeks ago.

HODGES said the city intends to purchase a power saw within the next few days and take care of tree removals with city personnel.

"We hope to be able to maintain the trees better this year and cut losses to the disease next year," Hodges added.

Death Takes Blm. Village Patrolman

BLM. VILLAGE — Residents here were saddened last week to hear of the death of Alger E. Colden, 52, one of the trio of policemen who patrol the area.

Colden joined the force in April, 1954, and since then has become a familiar figure in the neighborhood.

A retired fireman, Colden's experience in fire-fighting made him a valied assistant, also, to the Village Volunteer Fire department.

Colden, who lived at 498 Alameda, in Detroit, died unexpectedly on July 25, after a gall bladder operation, and was buried in Roseiawn cemetery on July 28.

Eyes Area Sewage Plant

LATHRUP—Although the city is still maintaining its plans of participation in the Evergreen Interceptor project, it now would like to discuss with Southfield the possibility of a sewage treatment plant to serve both areas.

This was revealed in discussion Monday night at the council meeting, as the city authorized the city attorney, Everett F. Hayes, to prepare an answer to a suit, by the State Water Resources Commission, asking a stop to pollution of the Rouge River.

OTHERS cited in similar action by the commission are Bloomfield township, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Southfield as both a city and a township, and Ralph A. Main, Oakland county drain commissioner, who has been working with the communities to find a solution to abatement of the pollution.

Northerly communities in the Evergreen Interceptor project are now talking of improving the Birmingham sewage treatment

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plant at an estimated cost of $700,000. Troy township is included in plans for the plant, although it was not cited.

HAYES, in his answer to the bill of complaint by the commission, said, "Defendants admit that plans and specifications for complete and adequate sewage treatment facilities and apertures as necessary to abate pollution of the Evans Ditch have not been submitted because the defendant, in concert with other communities is endeavoring to consummate plans which will result in a complete, satisfactory and permanent solution to the Evans Ditch, but the completion thereof has been delayed by circumstances beyond this defendant's control as the commission well knows."

(Hayes here refers to the present inability of Southfield township to sell bonds to cover the cost of its share of the Evergreen Interceptor sewer, thus stalemating the entire project.)

DRAIN laws permit adequate solutions, said Hayes, who pleads the indulgence of the court in that "this defendant may not be forced into a hasty and unnecessary expense action, and that it have opportunity to work out the solution of this problem in a manner satisfactory to the commission and at the least cost to the taxpayers."

Harry Merritt, Oakland county corporation counsel, defending Main in the court action, said, "We have gone to great lengths to work out a most expedient and economic solution" (to pollution abatement.)

Merritt said he did not believe the commission, and most surely the communities involved, wanted to have a sewage treatment plant built, at great expense, only until such time as the Evergreen Interceptor was completed.

Southfield Backs Out Of Twelve-Town Drain

SOUTHFIELD — The township has backed out of the $30,000,000 12-Town drain authority for what it believes will be a cheaper system of relieving flooded basements.

Except for a small area of the township that will remain in the 12-Town drain, Southfield now plans on sending its storm water to the Rouge River via the Evans ditch.

THE NEW plans were formulated last Thursday night when trustees met with Don Ringler and William Pemberton of the Oakland Country drain commissioner's office.

The two proposed a $4,080,775 drain for 3773 acres in the township, at a cost of $1,081 per acre. The 12-Town Drainage system had been estimated at from $7 million to $10 million and would bring relief to only 1450 acres.

RINGLER proposed four east to west lines. The trunk lines, up to 10 feet in diameter, would run from eastern Southfield to the Evans drain at 13 Mile, 12 Mile, just above 10 mile and at Nine Mile roads.

Only part of Southfield to remain in the 12-Town system would be that served by the Murray drain on 10 Mile road.

Charter Progress Reported

SOUTHFIELD — Charter commissioners last night were scheduled to take up Chapter V of the proposed charter, dealing with general provisions regarding officers and personnel of the city, according to Eugene Swem, commission chairman.

Proposals okayed by the commission at their July 27 meeting included: a one-year term for mayor (formerly set at two years); $15 a meeting for councilmen with a maximum of $600 yearly; $800 a year for the mayor, who would have extra powers in cases of emergency.

THE commission decided that removal from office without cause, of any employe could not be done unless at least five councilmen approved such action at a special meeting called to consider the removal.

In the charter will be placed a two-year term for city manager, who unless he has special permission from the council, must take up residence in the city within six months of his being hired.

ANY attorney hired as the city attorney, must have at least three years of active practice behind him to qualify for the post.

During the July 28 meeting the commission turns its eyes to the problem besetting the township: troubles over Rouge River pollution which brought a suit by the State Water Resources Commission ordering an abatement of the stream pollution.

In order to make definite mention of the Evergreen Interceptor Sewer (the solution to the problem) and to make certain that part (of the sewer) can be financed by general taxation because the amount of vacant property in the Evergreen Interceptor district would make creation of a special assessment district difficult at this time, Swem proposed the following for inclusion in the charter:

"BECAUSE of the urgent need, a part, not to exceed 40 per cent of the cost of a system of interceptor sewers and or disposal facilities may be provided by a general property tax. Such a system shall include interceptors to provide such outlets for sanitary sewage as may be found necessary or desirable, or a disposal plant so situated as to provide for the needs of the city, or both.

"Not more than two mills, or two-tenths of one per cent of the assessed valuation as equalized may be assessed for this purpose in any one year unless authorized by a majority of the electers voting in a referendum election as provided in this charter."

SWEM said this week that both Claude Stevens, Detroit bonding attorney, and Julius Berns, the commission's attorney, would study the proposal and give opinions on it, before it was included as part of the charter.

Will Attend Eighth Student Congress

SOUTHFIELD — Thomas G. Sawyer, son of Glenn L. Sawyer of 16023 Elizabeth road, is among those registered for the Eighth National Student Congress, Aug. 21-31 at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.

A student at the University of Michigan, Sawyer will join more than 300 other college students, who will discuss campus, national and world problems affecting student interests.

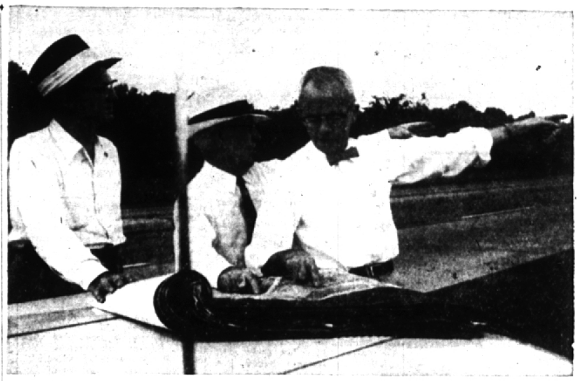
These for this year's Congress will be "Education for Freedom." Voting delegates to the Congress are chosen by student governing bodies or elected by student vote in member schools of the U.S. National Student Association.

Elect McCracken GL Estates Head

GILBERT LAKE — Harold J. McCracken, Shadow lane, was elected president of the Gilbert Lake Estates Protective Association at their meeting on July 25.

Other officers elected were E. J. Hollenbeck, Snowshoe circle, vice-president (tentative), F. D. Knoblock, Shadow lane, secretary (tentative), and George Thomas, Cottontail lane, treasurer.

"The Socialists will never take over this country. They couldn't afford to pay the taxes!"



DURING A SURVEY of the proposed Rockwood-Saginaw Turnpike route Monday, MTA chief, George N. Higgins (center) discusses with new 'pike commissioner, Carl H. Smith, Sr. (left), and Chief Engineer E. Thomas Baker, the proposed Telegraph overpass, 1700 feet north of Lone Pine road. (Eccentric Photo)

Surveys Route Monday

Under full speed ahead orders from Chairman George N. Higgins, the Michigan Turnpike Authority moved into high gear this week aiming for final route approval and financing of the 113-mile Rockwood to Saginaw Turnpike this fall.

Monday Higgins, heading a five-man survey team studying the route south of Pontiac, stopped at the Eccentric to discuss plans for this area with staff members.

IN THE party were newly-appointed commissioner Carl H. Smith Sr., of Bay City, the commission's treasurer; E. Thomas Baker, chief engineer; Otis Hardy, administrative officer; and Leonard Schramm, public information officer.

Higgins said Monday that 20- to 30-foot underpass was planned to relieve east-west congestion at West Maple and other arteries now crossing Telegraph road.

THE TURNPIKE, which will parallel Telegraph west of Birmingham, will start to dip one-half mile south of Maple and will return to surface level just before it swings across Telegraph and a huge overpass, Higgins said.

The survey party planned on visiting major newspaper plants along the path of the route, according to Higgins, who said the next move would be discussion with those affected by the route and a detailed survey to determine the exact location of the toll road.

The order came when hopes for new federal highway legislation were killed for this session in the Congress.

"MICHIGAN'S ten-year highway needs of three and a half billion dollars wouldn't have been met even if the needed federal highway legislation had been passed", Higgins said. But Highway Commissioner Ziegler told us last week he would build freeways competitive to the turnpike anyway. He also said that if the federal program didn't pass in this session then he would take another look at the Turnpike program."

"I'm calling a Turnpike meeting for August 8, and at that time hope the Highway Department and the Turnpike will come out united with cooperative and not competitive programs."

"MICHIGAN can still get a good highway system if Mr. Ziegler will use his recent one and a half cent gas tax increase and Turnpike financing."

"The recent state tax bike will give the Highway Department some $27,000,000 yearly in new money for construction or reconstruction of interstate highways or state trunklines. This coupled with the $164,000,000 north-south Turnpike scheduled to open in 1959 will place Michigan within sight of a solution to its pressing highway needs. Later, increased Federal aid can push us the rest of the way."

"I AM hopeful Mr. Ziegler will join with me and agree that Michigan's roads need so much improvement that it would be ill advised to turn turnpike toll financing aside."

The Turnpike requires no public debt or use of state credit and will provide tax free a 112 mile four-line divided limited access highway from Rockwood north to Saginaw through an area that contains almost two-thirds of Michigan's population and industry. At its southern terminus of Rockwood it links with the 26 mile limited access highway now under construction by the State Highway Department which goes to the Ohio line.

"AT ITS northern terminus, the Turnpike links with the Saginaw U.S. 23 by-pass scheduled for further improvement next year. This Turnpike will be linked to the state system. Let's link our thinking and work together now because we have the tools to do a road building job for Michigan."

"In spite of the fact Congress failed to pass needed federal road aid, the Michigan Turnpike Authority sees in the recent state gas tax increase and Turnpike programs as a chance for every section of Michigan to get well underway on needed new roads."

"IN some cases they will even be limited access superhighways compatable with the type of super facility the Turnpike will build in southeast Michigan. But, if Turnpike capital is turned aside, it should be painfully apparent that other sections of the state might as well forget hope of obtaining many needed highway improvements for years to come."

"WE WILL speed financing of the project as soon as a Michigan Supreme Court ruling is obtained to validate the sale of bonds to finance the Turnpike," Higgins said. The decision is expected this fall.

Washtenaw Circuit Judge James Breakey, Jr., last month upheld the constitutionality of the Turnpike Act in a lower court decision.

DeMeyer on Twp. Board

SOUTHFIELD TWP. — Henry M. DeMeyer, 43, 24107 Gleneyrie, was appointed last Thursday to the Southfield Township board of trustees, to fill the vacancy left by Eugene Swem.

Swem, a former trustee, moved up to fill the spot left vacant by the death in May of William Roeser.

DeMeyer's experience as manager of budget and general accounting for the Continental division of Ford Motor co., will stand him in good stead, he feels, in helping to handle township business. He was in charge of Continental's program budget of $22,500,000.

"And we stayed within the budget," DeMeyer added.

A resident of Southfield township for the past year and a half, the new trustee formerly lived in Detroit for five years. He is president of the Oakland Village Civic association, a four-square mile association in his neighborhood, and is keenly interested in civic affairs.

Appointed trustee for a two year term, DeMeyer will be out of a job by fall if the Southfield voters approve the city charter now being drafted by a nine-man commission.

"I'll probably run for a place on the city commission, though, if the voters approve the charter," DeMeyer said.

There has been more excitement around the Gleneyrie household than the stir caused by DeMeyer's appointment. Their house was struck by lightning at 5 a.m. last Sunday, resulting in a fire that started in an attic louver and did $5,000 worth of damage to the property.

The new trustee attended the University of Buffalo and DePaul university in Chicago. He is active in the Detroit chapter of the National Association of Cost Accountants.

GLENN SCHOENHALS

Is Coordinator Of '55 UF Plans In SOC Schools

SOUTHFIELD—Appointment of School Supt. Glen Schoenhals, 27075 Lahser, as school chairman of the 1955 United Foundation Torch Drive in south Oakland county was announced today by Horace Carpenter, Jr., general chairman.

Schoenhals will coordinate Torch Drive activities in the 11 south Oakland county school districts, including both public and parochial schools.

He is an officer in the Southfield Kiwanis club and active in the PTA group of the area. He also is active in the Michigan association of school administrators and the Michigan Education association.

Want to Annex Isolated Area

LATHRUP—Two pieces of township property now within or adjacent to the city will probably be annexed by the city.

Councilmen discussed the probability of such a move Monday night. The areas in question are a 1.3 acre tract owned by the city's developer, Charles D. Kelley, and the 165 by 100 foot lot owned by Southfield school district on the west side of Southfield road between Margate and Santa Ann.

THE two parcels were left out, either by accident or design, when Southfield township drew up its boundaries preparatory to petitioning the Oakland County Board of Supervisors for city status.

Since the school property no longer touches on township (or city) property, it must remain as the township with the Kelley property and a nine-acre area, Orphan Acres, in the northwest corner of the township, or be annexed to Lathrup.

ORPHAN Acres faces a similar situation. It must remain as township property because it does not join the township (it is cut off by Franklin Village) or it must turn to Bloomfield township for governmental supervision.

Kelley's property, formerly owned by Carrol Lucia, can go either to Lathrup or to the city of Southfield, since it touches both governmental units.

It however, can better be transferred to Lathrup since it is the last piece of property east of Evergreen on the city's western limits that does not belong to the city.

Sentence Second Man for Breakin

SOUTHFIELD—John W. Smith, 22, of 675 Purdy, Birmingham, was placed on three years probation Friday for his part in a Southfield breakin three weeks ago, by Oakland County Circuit Judge Frank L. Doty, who recommended that Smith be admitted to a Veterans' hospital for treatment of wounds suffered in Korea.

According to Probation Officer Norman Walker, Smith is to be treated for wounds inflicted by a Chinese communist machinegun while Smith was fighting in Korea.

AN accomplist of Smith, Gerald Gravlin, 17, of Rochester, earlier last week was sentenced to three years probation and assessed $150 costs.

The two pleaded guilty to a breakin of Beverly Hills service station at 13 Mile and Greenfield.

Gravlin surrendered at the scene after Southfield patrolmen fired warning shots, but Smith, wounded in the hip after he failed to heed warning shots, surrendered himself to police later.

Find Cash for Road Repairs

SOUTHFIELD—Found—$5,000.

"Now all we have to do is transfer it to the road fund," said Township Supervisor Eugene Swem.

Township officials have been looking several days for funds which could be transferred to the township road fund, in order that secondary roads might made suitable for winter's onslaught.

THIS week Swem found the cash —$5,000 set aside in the yearly budget for an administrative assistant to the supervisor. The assistant was never hired because State Attorney General Thomas Kavanaugh ruled it illegal.

If the $5,000 can be legally transferred to the road fund, and some other monies taken from the general fund, Swem feels that roads can be patched up to hold out through the winter and spring breakups.

Car-Truck Collision Injures 3 from LP

BLM. TWP. Three Lincoln Park residents were injured when a truck crossed the centerline and struck their car on Telegraph near Long Lake road Saturday, according to township police.

Treated at Pontiac General hospital were: the driver, William Engle, 29, for shoulder injuries; and Miss Darlene Thomas, 20, and Teresa Bernier, 22, both in Engle's car, for cuts and bruises.

Postpone Suit Between Oil Firm And Lathrup Until August 18

LATHRUP—The suit between the city and Highland Oil company was postponed last Friday until Aug. 18 by Oakland County Circuit Judge Frank L. Doty, who is vacationing.

Highland Oil is trying to force the city to issue a permit to them to build a gas station at the NE corner of Glenwood and Southfield.

The case is being watched by several other firms who have purchased property in the city with intentions of building for commercial purposes.

"IT IS just another case of growing pains," said Glenn C. Gillespie, who with James G. Hartrick, both Pontiac attorneys, are presenting the oil company's case.

Gillespie said this week that he has completed directed proof, but will be ready with rebutal testimony as the city brings on its witnesses.

Both he and Everett F. Hayes, city attorney, believe the case will be in the hands of Judge Doty after two or three more days of testimony.

HAYES, who with Probate Judge Arthur E. Moore, is defending the city, said the city's contention is that the gas site (if built upon) would be in violation of Ordinance 18 which calls for professional buildings in that area.

"The size of the lots have nothing to do with the case," Hayes said Tuesday. To the oil company's contention that no zoning ordinance was in effect until the city replaced it with Ordinance 18 on April 28, and with Ordinance 22 on July 14.

GILLESPIE maintains that the area in question has been classified as commercial for 30 years, and that the presence of 20-foot lots and rear alleys backs up this contention.

"No ordinance was in effect when the property was purchased," said Gillespie. His associate, James Hartrick said earlier in the suit that the Southfield zoning ordinance which Lathrup took as their own died on June 7, 1954, according to the charter. This was five months before the property was purchased from the Charles D. Kelleys at a figure reputed to be $31,000.

ACCORDING to Gillespie a Michigan Supreme Court ruling of four or five years ago held that the property in question could not be used for residential purposes.

Rigid restrictions, Gillespie said, renders a 20-foot lot useless, because present zoning requires a 40-foot front set-back, a 35 foot rear yard, and 15 feet on the sides. "That's 90 per cent of the 20-foot lot that couldn't be used," said Gillespie.

"NO ONE could build and meet restrictions (of the Lathrup zoning law) unless they had at least three lots for commercial buildings, four lots for residential properties, or six lots if the residence has an attached garage."

Gillespie summed up the whole case Tuesday when he said, "It is a question of the courts to decide whether ordinances 18 and 22 are reasonable."

CALENDAR

TODAY

Southfield Zoning Board, 8 p.m. township offices, 26000 Berg road.

Walnut Lake Women's club annual picnic at Job No. 1 Beach. Picnic formerly scheduled for July 28.

SATURDAY

Children's Story Hour, for 5 to 8-year-olds, at W. Blm. Twp. library branch at 3261 Orchard Lake road, 11 a.m.

MONDAY

Franklin Village Council meeting, 8 p.m. Franklin town hall, 32107 Franklin Rd.

Red Cross Bloodmobile, First Methodist Church on W. Maple, Birmingham, 2-8 p.m.

Lathrup public hearing on special assessment rolls for paving projects, 8 p.m., House in the Woods.

TUESDAY

Southfield township board meeting, 8 p.m. township offices, 26000 Berg road.

WEDNESDAY

W. Blm. Twp. board meeting, 8 p.m. township offices, 4660 Orchard Lake rd.

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