

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

Petition for City Below 2 1/2 Mile; Charter Writers Want New Charter

An Editorial

May Southfield's Civic Santa Be Good To All!

One of the finest and most valuable of needed gifts that could be presented to the citizens of Southfield township this Christmas would be a nice tin-wrapped package that contains the solutions to all their civic problems.

Indeed, such a gift would be gratefully received by most every governmental unit on the face of this earth—for all of them, big and little, have a variety of problems always before them.

In the case of Southfield township, however, its problems are more than average, as its people endeavor to throw off the limitations of township government and take on the larger responsibilities of blazing a trail toward the status of a city, or cities.

LAST JUNE 7, when Southfield's voters approved the idea of changing from Township to city status, the issues were not clearly defined in all physical details.

It was comparable to what a young man generally does when he meets a nice girl and—because it's a case of love at first sight—he proposes to her.

She replies "Yes!", and so they announce their engagement. Meant the wedding day soon after, the honeymoon, and then the settling down to married life.

In those unfortunate cases where the courtship was not long enough to allow each party to become sufficiently acquainted to determine their practical compatibility, domestic difficulties too often are created.

OR, AS WE mentioned last week, the future may result in bringing about two incorporated communities in Southfield's 31.5 township status square miles.

Continental avenue, owned by the school district, will be turned over to the city for use as a school and the association wants the school board to build a new road. It is the subdivision's only access to 10 mile road.

THE BOARD also approved the bid of \$2,093 for the purchase of a Ford station wagon from the Bering-McHugh Ford agency of Ferndale.

GROUND-BREAKING ceremonies held for new addition to school.

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North End Would Be Cut Off

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

SOUTHFIELD—Petitions asking incorporation of the south half of the township were filed Monday in the Oakland county clerk's office, by the Southfield Urban Association.

And last night leaders of the opposition to the charter rejected by voters Dec. 12, expected to file petitions with Defacto Mayor or Donald L. Swanson, asking for election of a new charter commission.

A \$600 good-faith check was delivered with the petitions signed by 511 residents in that area outlined for incorporation.

BOUNDARIES of the proposed city would run along 13 Mile road between Greenfield and Evergreen, then drop to 12 1/2 Mile road and, except for a small piece of Bingham Farms which runs almost to 12 Mile, the northern boundary would run to Inkster road.

Oakland County Board of Supervisors Chairman Floyd Andrews referred the petition to the board's boundaries committee.

SHOULD Southfield adopt a charter in one of two remaining places, the new city request would be established for two years from Jan. 7, 1957. Southfield would revert to township status and the new petition would be in order.

IF extensive changes are made in the present charter, think the people will vote it down, at the next election, and if a third charter is rejected then the people in the south end will try to incorporate by themselves, said Christensen. "I will support the present charter if no extensive changes are made."

WHILE the city petition was being circulated, mainly in the south end, another one, in the north and west, was making the rounds.

Heading this movement was Henry M. DeMeyer and Marvin R. Marsh, both of whom fought the first charter in 1952, and who are in charge of a filing station on Lathrup.

IF THE petitions for a new election were not found in order, according to law, the old charter commission will continue in office, and according to Julius L. Berns, president of the Urban Association, may provide for revisions and amendments and a new original charter as may seem fit.

"Redrafted charter will be submitted to the people in the same manner and with like notice and proceedings as required in the first instance," said Berns.

ALL RESIDENTS, they stated, attacked the proposed gas station from several viewpoints, among which they said the station would cause a traffic hazard, would do not reduce the value of the property, and that lighting would be a nuisance to nearby residents.

Also on the stand for Lathrup were Leonard A. Watzkowski, city administrator, who studied city records and sketched the city's character, and Richard Jeffrey, an appraiser who appeared as an expert witness.

Jeffrey testified that zoning of property to eliminate gas stations would not reduce the value of the gas company's land.

PETERMAN introduced a Speedway and John Morse, both Speedway officials, Lichtman told the court reasons offered for his refusal of the permit and Morse outlined what type of building Speedway planned for its corner lot, bought from Charles D. Kelley for \$30,000.

In defense of the city's position, Hayes contends that the company's building plans were inadequate and that the city has a right to keep gas stations out of Lathrup if we so see fit.

HAYES added that when Speedway asked for a permit last April 15 the city officials had no law in process and the city was working under protection of Southfield's zoning law which did not permit gas stations without board of appeals approval.

"It's a device to end juvenile delinquency; you apply it to their rear end!"

LATHRUP • RANKLIN • WING LAKE • GILBERT LAKE • WALNUT LAKE • FOXCROFT • W. & E. BEVERLYS • THE BERKSHIRES • VALLEY WOODS • SOUTHFIELD, BLOOMFIELD & W. BLOOMFIELD TWP.



HOLDING its annual Greens Workshop, the Wing Lake branch of the WNFEG met in the first level room in the home of its president, Mrs. Edgar Delandit, on Indianwood Trail last Tuesday.

Grownups Find Christmas Has Changed Since Their Childhood

By DOROTHY ZATELL

LATHRUP—To a group of Lathrup residents, Christmas today is different than when they were children, Christmas, they say, was brighter, more exciting and filled with the thrill of anticipation.

Perhaps the reason for this lies in the changes that have come into our way of living. To many, Christmas memories are tied to small towns and villages or life on a farm.

Where oranges were once a rare Christmas treat, modern transportation has made them an everyday occasion. Where once only sleighs or traveled snow-covered roads, modern snowplow activities and truck-pushed snow plows now keep smooth roads open.

At the turn of the century, many Christmas gifts were hand made, lending a spirit of giving and a frenzy to get things done in time for Christmas.

NOVELTY and sentimental memories of Christmas are reflected in today's attitudes by adults.

"I remember trying to climb up on the outside window ledge for just one peek through the starched lace curtains into that room. Just as we got close enough to peer through the glass, a hand appeared with a warning tap and an admonishing finger."

"To me it seemed like the hand of God. My brothers were frightened, and I jumped a picket fence, but had to come back to rescue little sister who was left hanging in mid-air by her skirts."

CHRISTMAS on a farm is remembered by Mrs. Elder Craig, 1874 Wynbrook, who said, "We kept Christmas today very much as we did when I was a child on a farm near Cassville."

"We didn't have a mantle on which to stack gifts, but the six children in our family hung them on doorknobs throughout the house. Our usual gifts were stacks of books and stacks of books."

Childhood home of Mrs. H. H. Alger, 19051 Dulok, is in western New York.

"I remember most," she said, "the planning and secrecy of Christmas. Most of our gifts were hand-made and worked with loving care. A tree did not play an important part in our Christmas, there was more of a spirit of making and giving."

"WE LIVED NEAR Brighton on a farm," Mrs. E. Robert Isbell, 18311 Saratoga recalled.

"Thinking back, I believe my happiest Christmas was the year I was five and received my doll's bureau and a tiny stove that cost."

"My father was wonderful, he kept the spirit of Christmas a real and live thing."

From Mrs. R. J. Marshall, 27460 Goldenside, comes memories of a white Christmas.

"My home was in Cornwall, Canada. There were five boys and

For This Week's COMPLETE TV LISTINGS See Sec. 1, Page 2

Wins Disneyland Trip in Contest

Mrs. J. L. Braden, 16280 Locher-bid, was awarded an all-expense trip to Disneyland for herself and her family.

THE youngsters in her family in the Northwest Center opening festival contest which drew more than 200,000 entries, night, in our little town, always seemed to be bright, loud and clear, and though the snow was melting, we were in Christmas spirit to admire the huge tree decked with gifts and receive our set of books of poems and an orange."

Mrs. R. C. Stoger, 18330 San Diego, also remembers the snow at Christmas.

"We lived near Buffalo, and by Christmas it seemed that the snow was always higher than our heads and whenever walking to church through a world that seemed to be all snow, and the wonderful snow was the big tree as we came in out of the cold. I too, remember what a rare treat an orange seemed to be to us children."

Mrs. G. H. Hutb, 27416 Golden-gate, said, "We lived near Young, Ohio and there were seven children in our family. Our father played Santa, and it amazes me that I remember how pleased we children were with the new stockings filled with gifts."

Time changes all things, but perhaps the greatest change of our lives is the big one, the change in the children of today, there still is excitement, anticipation and happiness in the Christmas holiday.

Charter Writers Canvas Vote; Pay \$5,300 in Bills

SOUTHFIELD—Charter night to canvass the charter of three bills amounting to \$5,329.44.

Attorney's fees, amounting to \$2,500, were authorized for Julius L. Berns, commission bill from commission deputy secretary Elvi C. Yoki, and a

bill for 16154 Marquette, and John P. Clark, 23855 Hunters Lane.

Receiving one vote each were: Howard, 21200 Telegraph; Howard B. Whitecarver, 13855 Edwards; Thomas J. Langan, 27000 North-western; Gordon C. Applegate, 18485 Dorset; R. J. Johnson, 24107 Glenview; third-place city commission candidate.

OTHERS who received one vote were: Stephen T. Onderko, 31375 Wildcat, thirteenth in city commission race; Clarence A. Durbin, 1741 Saxton, eighth place in city commission voting; and "Donald Hoexter" may have been an in-cluded vote for Donald D. Hoexter of 17333 Birchwood.

Also listed, but unidentified were "R. Semmes," "C. Buel" and "Adams" which may have been for Mrs. Fannie Adams, township clerk, who was not seeking office.

Lathrup Lights Community Christmas Tree at Ceremony

LATHRUP—Pamela Price, 2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Price, 18434 Coral Gables, pulled the switch that lit the Lathrup Village Community Christmas Tree at special lighting ceremonies Sunday, 7 p.m., near Lathrup Community church.

THE civic ceremony in which featured singing of Christmas carols, Santa Claus and a well-wishing speech by Lathrup Mayor John Campbell.

ROY SCOTT, with Southmaster Donald Harshman, their color guard and pledge to the flag, presented the tree to the community, and the Rev. John S. Rose of the Community Church offered a Christmas prayer.

JUDGE Leonard V. Pelkas spoke briefly and introduced Pamela and the Rev. John S. Rose of the Community Church offered a Christmas prayer.

Tree lighting ceremonies concluded with the arrival of Santa Claus, who distributed candy, came to Lathrup's young citizens.

Last Charter Commission's Validity Eyed

SOUTHFIELD—Julius L. Berns, charter commission attorney, in a letter to the commissioners last Thursday, brought to light a point that would have invalidated the Dec. 12 charter election.

"In relation to filing of nominating petitions for charter commission, the petitions may be accepted for filing up to 4 o'clock eastern standard time in the afternoon of the tenth Tuesday preceding the date of the special election," said Berns.

This was a ruling given to Wayne county officials in April, 1950 by the State attorney general, according to Berns. If so, all candidates in the last charter election to apply to elections which were held as filed after the legal deadline, according to Mrs. Fannie Berns, township clerk, who said herself a successful candidate for the commission.

According to Berns, Defacto Mayor Donald L. Swanson will remain as such until replaced by a mayor elected by city councilmen, or until June 7, 1957 when Southfield would revert to a township if no city charter were approved.

In another part of the letter, Berns said, "It appears the law contemplates that a new registration be had and used in a newly incorporated city and from the wording of the statute, it would seem to apply to elections which follow the vote on incorporation up to and including the election at which the charter is approved and the first city officers are elected."

Hayes contends that the company's building plans were inadequate and that the city has a right to keep gas stations out of Lathrup if we so see fit.

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B of E Declines Responsibility for New Wash. Heights Road

By RICHARD M. KELLEY

SOUTHFIELD—School board members and Washington Heights Civic association officials agreed Monday night on the need for a new road to replace Continental avenue but the agreement ended there.

Continental avenue, owned by the school district, will be turned over to the city for use as a school and the association wants the school board to build a new road. It is the subdivision's only access to 10 mile road.

WILLIAM SHAW, James Smith and Dave Clark appeared before the board on behalf of the association in hopes of getting the road built. The board declined to do so.

The road has been used by school buses in the past but will be shut off when construction of addition begins. The board agreed on the need for a new road, but thought it had a better chance of being built if they didn't accept full responsibility for it.

THE BOARD also approved the bid of \$2,093 for the purchase of a Ford station wagon from the Bering-McHugh Ford agency of Ferndale.

GROUND-BREAKING ceremonies held for new addition to school.

THE GROUP left the meeting when they were to discuss the question was over but the board brought the question up again at the next meeting.

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Testimony in Station Suit Ends

LATHRUP—Oakland County Circuit Judge H. Russel Holland gave Speedway Attorney Nathan Peterman and Jan. 17, 1956, a brief outlining its stand in demanding a building permit from the city.

Testimony concluded Tuesday with Mayor John G. Campbell and reasons for not issuing the company a permit to build a filling station on the southwest corner of 12 Mile and Southfield.

City Attorney Everett F. Hayes has until Jan. 31 to file an answer brief, before Holland hands down a decision.

PETITIONS bearing signatures of 771 Lathrupites were brought into court by Hayes but were not admitted as evidence by Holland. Signers authorized the city council to take "the legal and lawful means" to prevent erection or operation of a filling station on Lathrup.

If the petition were acceptable, a new election would be needed to select a commission. None of the first nine commissioners are in a seat on a new charter commission.

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FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

The Birmingham Eccentric's work will also be one day short as the Christmas and New Year holidays are observed on Monday.

We'd appreciate your assistance in getting a copy in early for these next two issues.

School News Section 2, Pages 3, 4, 5, 6

Wing Lake Students Produce Play Section 2, Page 3

Church Section 4, Pages 6, 7

Photo Page Walnut Lake School Library Section 3, Page 1



My Neighbors