

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1955 IN BIRMINGHAM AND VICINITY

(Continued from Page 1, Sec. 1)

Zonta club organized a chapter in Birmingham, with 21 signing the first charter. Mrs. Kathleen Flint was named temporary chairman.

Bloomfield Hills eyed purchase of at least three elementary schools and kindergarten fourth, at over \$100,000 following a report by a Michigan State college expert on a six-man study of the school district.

A \$10,000 artificial ice skating rink in Eton park was available for either terms or booklet but was placed on Birmingham's April ballot.

Issue of Jan. 27

Birmingham 4-0 and West District B. Ireland indicated that the district would support a \$2 1/2%

\$3 million bond issue for a new auditorium and two school swimming pools. He said he would not move any bid, proposed not including in the amount.

City Manager D. C. Eubank suggested a \$100,000 revenue bond issue, which commissioners approved, bringing total to \$200,000 for parking facilities, with \$125,000 for the Pevier, Merrill and Brown lot.

Council of Community Services adopted formation of permanent Youth Committee to aid in ever-growing problem of youth, with special emphasis on two to eight per cent who may become social problems. Mrs. Harvey B. Greene was named head.

South Oakland county water au-

thority had received favorable bids on its \$6 million system and a signed contract to purchase water from Detroit to boost water supplies.

George Romney affiliated, as his niece, Karen Richards, was wed to Harold Styler.

Attending General Motors morning in New York were the Phillip D. Monaghan, the Henry Gierock, the Roger Kyles, James Goodman and C. E. Wilson.

Attention focused on Lathrup's participation as Birmingham, Bloomfield and Bloomfield and Southfield townships had action deferred on suit for pollution of the Rouge River. Lathrup's share in building sewer constructions for the area community was in question.

Birmingham's eagres won their

eight game, downing Port Huron, 5-1-4.

Issue of Feb. 3

Birmingham eyed a civil defense program. A state executive explain how a full-time director might be required.

James revealed plans to enlarge its store here, adding one floor.

Vincent C. Watkins decided to run for a second city commission term; Richard M. Patterson declined.

The Maxwell Feeds returned from a year trip around world, with Larry in Switzerland and Jean, Richard T. Purdy was elected president of Nash and Hudson port car companies of Canada.

Franklin Community church's fund drive for \$15,000 was underway. Wing Lake PTO changed its year's program to include mental study programs following talk by Dr. George Barahal, Wayne University psychologist.

Lathrup's council sought agreement on city's participation in the Evergreen drainage district. A committee met with the project's authority, debating the \$175,000 share in the \$2 million-plus sewer works.

A talk on turnpike was held Feb. 7 at Birmingham high school for Southfield-Bloomfield area residents who wanted details.

Raymond Giffels was subject of a story in a top magazine on how Giffels and Vallet, Inc., designs and engineers a variety of buildings.

Maple eagres downed East Detroit, 69-34, with little contest. Lathrup nine wins in ten games. Coach John Petrakis used all 12 players.

Issue of Feb. 10

Robert E. Navin resigned from city commission after serving a year, because business required him to move his family to Michigan City, Ind., and take a Hays Company position.

John Endicot, pioneer merchant and successful Detroit financier, died at 87 on Feb. 6. Search for body of Robert L. Perry, who disappeared Feb. 1, was being given up, though his car was near the Rouge river. Mrs. Elizabeth McBride McDonald marked her 100th birthday on Valentine's day.

Named to the youth committee of the Council of Community Services were 15 leaders in the community, including school and church officials.

Weddings included Suzanne Anderson's marriage to Harold John Stenglein, Jr., and Clarissa Adams' exchange with Thomas Clifford Good.

Franklin Community church opened its fund drive to finance a \$127,000 building program, with D. James Crawford as chairman. Birmingham's Civil Air Patrol moved its base of operations to Berz airport.

Southfield township joined Lathrup in questioning its Evergreen drainage share of funds.

Southfield and Bloomfield townships told Michigan Turnpike authority engineer why they didn't want the road after hearing a talk Tuesday but little on routing.

Local eagres escaped with a 45-41 defeat over Ferndale, holding its second spot in the league.

Issue of Feb. 17

Commissioners were wondering who would run for the three vacancies in the April election, with deadline on Feb. 26 and only Commissioner V. Watkins announced.

Attention focused on several meetings on Evergreen interceptor on its fund share and Lathrup with two councilmen attacking that town's share as inequitable.

Mrs. Jane Briggs, widow of late died at 72 on Feb. 13 in Miami Beach. Thomas G. Kavanaugh sought nomination for Supreme Court Justice at Feb. 26 state democratic convention.

A two-year wrangle over storm and sanitary drainage for a triangle of Troy township bounded by Birmingham, railroad and Derby and Adams roads, ended as Birmingham agreed to provide an outlet.

Betty Quillian of Birmingham and Beverly Baker of Clawson won Pevier Hill DAR good citizenship awards.

Semon E. Knudsen was named general manager of General Motors Diesel.

Lathrup purchases voting machines as Southfield, Troy and Bloomfield townships looked for Feb. 21 elections. 10,000 voters were eligible, with little interest in candidate competition.

Maples took 11th win against Hazel Park eagres.

Issue of Feb. 24

Ten candidates came out for Birmingham commission, including a housewife, Mrs. G. Howard Willett, Jr.

Kenneth Allison and Douglas Anderson were leaders of Detroit industrial, engineering, scientific and professional societies organizing to promote peacetime exchange of information of atom for industry.

Jet pilot John D. Anderson's death Feb. 19 during a training flight over Ohio was still unexplained. James J. Nance was elected president of Automobile Manufacturers, with George Romney treasurer.

Floyd Diamond, 16, had confessed the killing of Kathy McLaughlin on Feb. 17 and was awaiting a decision on whether he would be tried as an adult.

Joan Lowke, sixth-grade violinist, was first Franklin township to belong to Birmingham all-city grade school orchestra. Mrs. Ferdinand M. Brook led three-day installation at Albion of new Kappa Alpha Theta chapter. Mrs. Herman H. Lubbe became vice-president of Michigan Republican Women's club.

With 10 per cent of Troy and Bloomfield township voters at the polls, Albert A. Clark and Mark Kravay won two vacant seats in Bloomfield primaries. Clark won the justice nomination as well. Bloomfield supervisor David Anderson was unopposed, while Troy Supervisor Norman Barnard headed the Republicans for election battle against Democrat Roy Dupcan.

Despite two meetings a week earlier, which failed to settle differences on costs, the answer to Rouge drain problems went to Lansing on Feb. 24 for decision on financial study.

Plans for the Eton Park artificial ice rink were revealed, with cost estimated at \$125,000. Maple eagres downed Port Huron, 5-5-1.

Issue of March 3

Tax assessment rolls totaled more than \$16 million higher than previous year's property valuations as tax boards of review for Birmingham, Bloomfield, H. H. Lathrup, Troy, Southfield, and Bloomfield townships began sessions, by negative figures tallied by The Eccentric. Birmingham was up \$4 million to \$52,700,000. The youth committee invited groups working with youth to explain their program and activities.

Petitions for city commission totaled 13: Stiney Sullivan, Mrs. G. Howard Willett, Jr., V. B. Watkins, Donald K. Bill, Marley Bailey, John M. Raby, Atwell E. Smith, Harry Denny, Jr., Frederick Focseinann, Omar Hansen, Carl J. Luegram, Dr. Bernard O'Dell and Watta Wacker, Jr.

Carlton M. Higbie, industrialist and financier, died. Arthur F. Blakeslee was named the J.C. "Man of the Year" in Birmingham. Clara Gordon escaped wedding vows with Henry Whiting, Jr.

Mrs. A. E. Arnold was named Michigan Pressed by the photographer of the Year. Frank Duffy ruled in Western Hemisphere Olympic eliminations in Mexico.

About 100 persons heard Robert VanderKloof, chairman and author of the new Citizens Protective association of Michigan plan strategy to halt the Rockwood-Saginaw turnpike before it can get underway. About 20 communities were represented at the Devon Gabrier meeting.

One of oldest in area, home of Mrs. Stella P. Phillips on Clanton

burned, with Bloomfield Hills department battling the flames.

Issue of March 10

Troy township March 7 filed petitions seeking to incorporate as a home-rule city in an effort to block an earlier announced effort by Royal Oak to annex some 70 acres of township land.

Sidney Sullivan withdrew from commission candidacy. Rep. Rich and Van Dusen asked questions on the turnpike. Mrs. Wallace Court had a painting in the Scoville club exhibit.

Clark Stevens was named chairman of a group of 50 persons who the Birmingham kept "as we know it" and against moving of Shain park.

Rudgate home development on Lowe line was opened for sales by Mac Brock, Inc. Northminster Presbyterian church officials were actively planning their new building on Big Beaver road.

William E. Slaughter, Jr., explained in an 11-page report why turnpike was going north along Telegraph to Ferndale and then east, rather than the residents' suggestion of three miles west of Telegraph. It must "go close to the cities in question," he said.

Bloomfield Hills put into use two white police cars, with conspicuous aimed at preventing traffic violations.

Birmingham eagres won the Eastern Michigan league championship when it downed Muskegon, 48-30, and looked towards meeting Mt. Clemens again in the state tourney March 10.

Issue of March 17

Birmingham city commission and plan board were studying how it could acquire "problem properties" which if commercially developed might be considered a threat to adjoining property values. One method considered was neighborhood sharing of the city costs.

Collection of dead elm wood to prevent further spread of Dutch elm disease in Birmingham was set for April 11.

Edward E. Wilson became regional finance director of the Republican party, turned his county chairmanship over to Chad M. Ritchie.

Barnum junior high school's leadership featured Dr. John C. Sullivan, educational psychologist, and 18 other discussion group leaders skilled in their fields.

Rep. Richard Van Dusen

questioned soundness of the \$186,000 budget for the toll road in a letter to Chairman William Slaughter, Jr. Clarence Over announced he would not seek Bloomfield Hills commission reelection after 25 years on commissions of the city and previous village.

Clawson indicated hopes to annex the 75-acre property of Kesters, Inc., sought by Royal Oak, and Troy township as well. Voters plan to build a \$2 million headquarters and research center. Birmingham district will have 11,000 students in fall of 1959, a

study committee said.

Mayors of Junior Chamber of Commerce members accepted their new auxiliary charter.

Birmingham eagres looked to Mt. Clemens to lose state tourney.

Issue of March 21

Because one Town Hall series wasn't enough, duplicate events were set up for the coming year by the sponsors, St. Anne's guild of St. James Episcopal church. Ticket requests had far exceeded available seats for the single schedule set up previously.

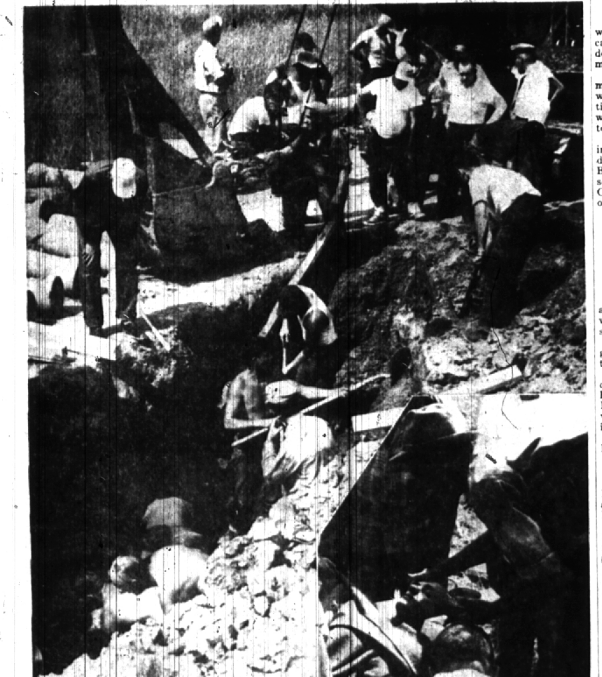
(Continued on Next Page)



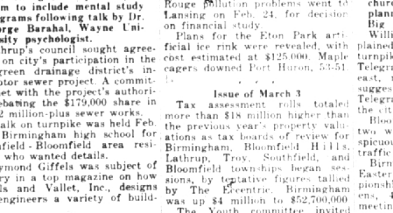
ARCHITECT'S drawing of the contemporary building of the new St. Bede Catholic church, now under construction at 12 Mile and Southfield. The 9.6-acre plot was purchased by the archdiocese of Detroit in 1951 and two additional pieces acquired since by the pastor, the Rev. Cyril J. Kouting.



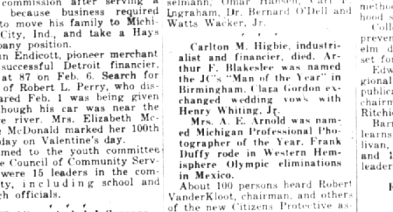
ONE OF the most cherished possessions of Maple, Birmingham, is a citation received in April. The 86-year-old dentist was named the "outstanding dentist of 1955" when the state dental association convened. Dr. Spalding, leader in the field of successfully treating pyorrhea, has been practicing in Birmingham since 1924.



WORKERS DIG rapidly in June to reach the trapped Roy Carps in a Southfield cavern. Bottom right, Carps is given first aid after being rescued.



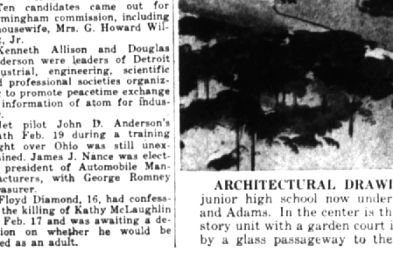
Maple eagres downed East Detroit, 69-34, with little contest. Lathrup nine wins in ten games. Coach John Petrakis used all 12 players.



WEDDINGS included Suzanne Anderson's marriage to Harold John Stenglein, Jr., and Clarissa Adams' exchange with Thomas Clifford Good.



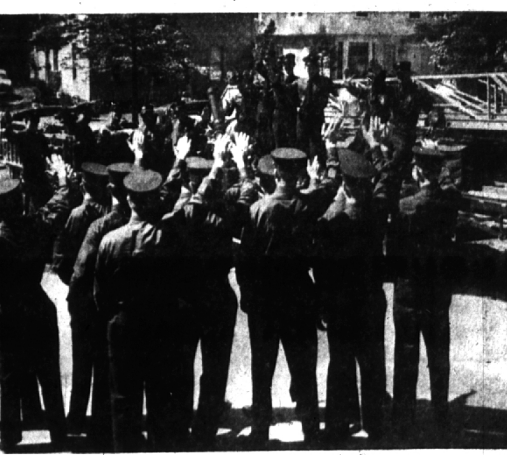
BIRMINGHAM'S "Man of the Year" for 1954, Arthur F. Blakeslee, 1010 Mohegan drive, Birmingham, was honored in March at a banquet sponsored by the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce.



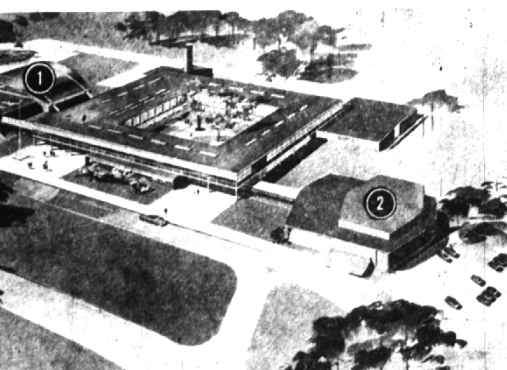
ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING of the new Derby junior high school now under construction at Derby and Adams. In the center is the main rectangular two-story unit with a garden court in the center. Connected by a glass passageway to the extreme left with the



"MIRRORED THOUGHTS"—a handsome young man reflected in a pretty girl's sun glasses signify the vacation memories she would have during the winter—through a second place award for Birmingham Eccentric staff photographer Joe Aperi-much in the 1955 Graflex Photo contest in May. The photo was entered in the weekly newspaper best photograph division.



CHESTERFIELD CREW of the Birmingham Fire Department departs for new westside quarters—eastside group waves goodbye. The first day the fire department occupied its new quarters at Chesterfield and West Maple was May 12. Another fire hall at Adams and Bowers was ready about a month later.



arched roof is the 100-foot square gymnasium. Future plans call for the construction of a swimming pool (1) adjacent to the gym, and an auditorium (2) which also will be connected by a glass hallway.