

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

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

In My Opinion . . . Attacks Palmer's Stand On Southfield Charter

TO THE EDITOR: The Citizens for Southfield Township is a group of people who feel that the incorporation of Southfield Township under the proposed charter is a real and a serious threat to the community we choose to live in.

As president of that group, I should like to answer Mr. Howard Palmer's letter that appeared in the previous issue of The Eccentric.

Since many facts have been distorted or hidden by some of the incorporation promoters, I feel that your readers should know that I am an engineer, have never taken part in politics except to discuss issues and vote, and am not running for any office.

INCORPORATION is an issue because Southfield will revert to township status if three charters are defeated or no charter is approved within two years.

The small number of people who voted for incorporation last spring were encouraged to vote "yes" by telling the southern half of the township that the only way to preserve their low taxes was to incorporate and keep the Beverly Hills area from annexing itself to Birmingham.

SINCE annexation is governed by State law which requires a vote of approval of Birmingham and the entire township, it is most unlikely that the Beverly Hills area would be allowed to join Birmingham even if the latter was the desire of the residents.

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WE BELIEVE that incorporation would have been defeated if this information had been presented to the voters last spring.

There are two major objections to this charter. First is the amount of taxes the city can levy and second, the control of this money.

Remember, a township cannot set a tax rate in excess of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of state equalized assessed value without approval of the voters; all voted increases are for a specified purpose, and when the project is completed, the special tax is eliminated.

THIS means that the taxes on a house having an assessed value of \$8,000 could go from \$392 to a township to \$654 as Southfield City and Birmingham.

Mr. Palmer says that we have control over our taxes and expenditures through our township. Remember that we elected two men from this area to represent us on the Charter Commission.

HOW MUCH control will you have if four councilmen are elected from Magnolia? This is the objection to a one ward system.

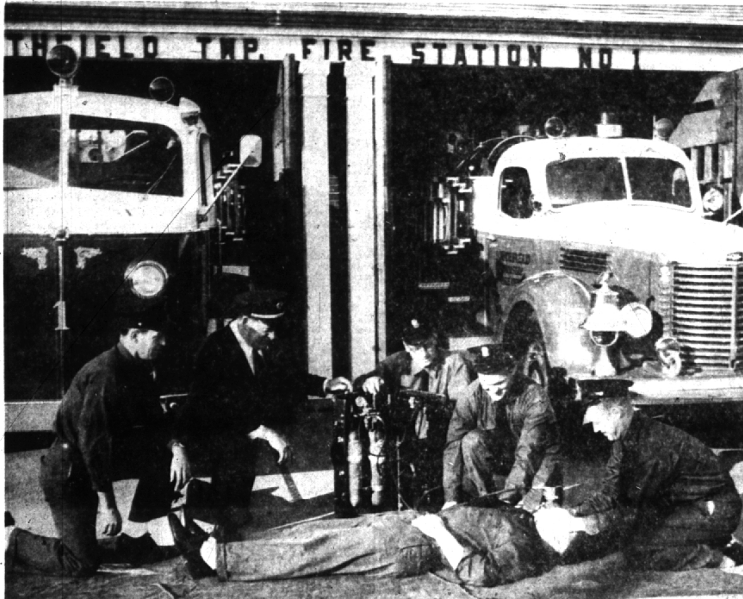
Mr. Palmer and members of the Charter Commission insist that a four-year term is necessary so that the councilmen can have two years to learn and two years to serve the community without having to spend a year campaigning for re-election.

Remember, Mr. Palmer, an honest public servant does not fear an approaching election. Mrs. Fanny Adams has been re-elected township clerk for 25 years. The four-year term provides protection only to the incompetent and to those who serve special interests.

IF YOU wish to see what a city government can do, look at Livonia. There, a group of men convinced the voters that reform was needed and that they would carry out a reform program.

MR. PALMER tells us, "There is no city government stronger than the city manager form as proposed by the Southfield charter." It is strange to us that only 10% of the 125 cities studied by Mr. Andes have the city clerk and Treasurer appointed by the council as proposed by this charter.

WHEN charter amendments are considered, remember that we will be asking the council to cut its term of office from four to two years; that we will be asking the council to cut tax rates from \$35 per \$1,000 assessed value to \$30



ANOTHER IMPORTANT PHASE in the life of a fire fighter is use of resuscitator in saving lives of those who have been overcome by fumes or heart attack.

Members of the department practice use of the equipment. Watching (left to right) are Matthew MacKenzie, Fire Chief A. Kruck, Robert McGregor, Robert Beattie, and Charles Kross, all of Station One.

Southfield Firemen Serve Wide Domain Three Fire Stations Cover 31 Sq. Miles in Township

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR

SOUTHFIELD—Starting this week the University of Michigan, school of business administration, Bureau of Business Research, will make a survey to provide a method whereby merchants in the area can obtain the thinking of their customers.

THE survey is sponsored by the Oakland County Planning Commission, and rates, after tabulating at the University of Michigan will be made available to all interested parties.

AS plans now stand, school children will be asked to take the questionnaire home, have it filled out, and return it to school within 48 hours. The Planning Commission is hoping for a better than 90% return.

Tri-Youth Club Plans Activities

SOUTHFIELD—More than 250 teen-agers attended a skating party on Nov. 14 given by the Tri-Youth Club. The club is made up of young people from St. Agnes, Our Lady of Sorrows, and St. Michael's Parishes.

Under the guidance of Rev. Allyn Moran, the St. Michael Youth Club is working out a social program which will acquaint young people from surrounding districts.

Another skating party has been planned for Dec. 12 from 7:30 to 11 p.m.

Beverly Road Ass'n Meets Monday Night

WEST BEVERLYS—The Beverly Road Citizens Association will hold a meeting Monday, Nov. 28, 8 p.m. in the Birmingham Community House to hear pros and cons of the Southfield Charter.

Marvin Marsh, representing the Citizens of Southfield township will speak in opposition to the charter while Hugh Allerton will be the proponent.



FIREMEN of Southfield's Station Two do much of the minor repair work for all three stations. Here James Sadler, (with drill) and Frank Hansen mend broken harness.

BRUSH FIRES and burning stumps are one of the biggest headaches of any suburban fire department. Here Firemen Louis Anderson (with hose) and James Martini from Station Three, get a lot of advice from young onlookers as they put out a typical smouldering stump fire.

Seventeen File For Commission In S'field Twp.

SOUTHFIELD—A comparatively small field of candidates—17—have filed nominating petitions which place them in the race for seven seats on the Southfield city commission, if voters approve the charter Dec. 12.

On that day names of council candidates, and two men who filed for justice of the peace, will be selected by less than 10,000 voters who have qualified for the special charter election.

Merritt Interprets Annexation Laws To Quiet Rumors

SOUTHFIELD—Oakland County Corporation Counsel Harry J. Merritt commented on rumors this week that Southfield, either as a city or as a township, could be chewed up, bit by bit, by surrounding municipalities.

Rumors here indicated that, in annexation, pieces of Southfield would fall prey to surrounding cities if the people of the area and the city, to take over the annexed territory voted favorably on such an issue.

This is only partially true, according to Merritt. In cases of annexation of a piece of property where the cities are involved, the cities require only a favorable vote in both the property to be annexed and the city which is to annex it.

When a city over 15,000 population is involved, and Merritt, it requires a favorable vote of both the parent government and the city which would receive the annexed property.

At Press Time

LATHRUP VETERANS' Disposal Service asked council Monday to terminate its contract in the required 90 days and seek new bids. The Rochester firm wanted to terminate its contract in the required 90 days and seek new bids. The Rochester firm wanted to terminate its contract in the required 90 days and seek new bids.

State Government Topic of W. B'ld Women Voters

WALNUT LAKE—Government at the state level was the topic of the Michigan State government and of the state constitution, was the topic of discussion at the West Bloomfield League of Women Voters meeting Nov. 15.

Mr. W. H. Heston, Jr., reviewed the different constitutions which the state has had since 1820, illustrating her explanations interestingly with a flippanthograph.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR Leonard A. Watchtower, reported that \$87,711.13 of the estimated \$68,000 surplus for the 1955-56 budget had been collected the first 10 months of operation ending Oct. 31. Expenditures were \$36,310.45.

COUNCIL authorized payment of Don Wells Inc., paving contractor, \$11,501.41, as second partial payment for work completed.

APPROVAL of 75 per cent of grading and graveling work done in Rainbow circle by developer Charles D. Kelley was given by council, which authorized Kelley to pay his contractor \$3,134.75 for work completed.

CITY ATTORNEY Everett F. Hayes is reviewing an ordinance establishing a public safety department, which Hayes said was necessary in setting up the proposed department.

DATE of the proposed meeting between residents and council to discuss city tree problems has been switched from Dec. 2 to Dec. 6 in Community Church Congregational.

Increased Use Of Twp. Library

W. BLOOMFIELD—At the November meeting of the West Bloomfield township library board there was a note of satisfaction that area residents are fast becoming aware of their library facilities.

Response to the children's story hour on Saturday is an enthusiastic one. The library staff looks forward to opening a children's room in the Keego Harbor branch as soon as possible.

Members of the board hope to schedule another program for the public at the township hall in January.

Southfield PTSA Holds Open House

SOUTHFIELD—The high school PTSA will hold open house Nov. 29 from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. Parents of the high school students have been invited to meet the teachers.

Next Monday night the PTSA will be held in the gym at 9 p.m. followed by refreshments in the cafeteria with 11th grade mothers acting as hostesses.

There will also be a bake sale in conjunction with the open house.

See Pontiacs Made

WALNUT LAKE—The girls of Scout Troop 125 took a conducted train tour through Pontiac Motors in Pontiac last week, following the making of a car in the entire operation.

My Neighbors advertisement with a cartoon illustration of a man and a woman talking.

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