

# '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 TOWNS.

## Sidelights

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

STATE FAIR TIME is almost upon us again, and Don L. Swanson, 24068 Pennsylvania, Southfield township judge, has been found an array of entertainers are scheduled for the Fair which begins this weekend and runs for 10 days. "You won't want to miss it," says Don.

MANY PEOPLE, including myself, were pleased to see the appointment of James K. O'Leary as Lathrup township judge. Having seen O'Leary in operation while he served as the city's attorney, I have no doubts that he will do an outstanding job as Lathrup's judge. Judging from the applause, especially from the five-man police department at Monday's council meeting, it would seem that those two divisions of government will work well together.

THAT POOL TABLE the Boys Upper Teens Club of Southfield has been looking for has been found. It is already across the confines of the BUTS clubhouse at 23100 Northwestern, Franklin township. The \$17 to no need to be in it in operating condition, says Perry Heilmantel, club advisor.

LAST WEEK I failed to mention that the Pickering Cider Mill at 7111 Franklin road, will be open for business on Oct. 1. When I discussed the Franklin Cider Mill opening with the owner, Mr. Pickering tells me they don't begin their operation earlier because they enjoy the taste of later cider.

A GOOD CASE for widening Main and west Birmingham is the fact that traffic normally flows smoother and more rapidly on the four-lane stretch inside Birmingham's lights than it does between Cranbrook road and Telegraph Avenue. It is that stretch of road will tell you it is no pleasure to get bogged down behind some car which lurches along at between 20 and 30 mph. Oncoming traffic and a series of hills gang up on the luckiest motorist to make it almost impossible to pass on this stretch without taking your eye off the road.

HENRY M. DE MEYER, former township trustee and charter commissioner, will relocate in Dallas, Tex., as promotion manager in the Continental Motors, a Ford Motors division. De Meyer is the president of the layout of the Nieman-Marcus Department store in Dallas for the Ed Sullivan Show which will broadcast from that store Sunday. De Meyer expects to be situated in Dallas within the next 30 days.

I WAS SORRY to learn of James H. Barnett's resignation as Birmingham Farms Village treasurer, as were, I'm sure, the village council and BE villagers. Barnett has had an active hand in shaping the village government since the village was conceived and his efforts will most certainly be missed by his fellow villagers. Barnett resigned for business reasons.

## Clayton F. Detmers Named to County Supervisor's Post

LATHRUP — Clayton F. Detmers, 26812 Eldorado, was nominated to fill the vacant vacancy on the Oakland county board of supervisors created by the resignation of Mayor John G. Campbell who has been unable to attend a board meeting since January because he has been working in Chicago. The nomination, which was unanimously supported, was presented by Councilman Lantz L. Mackey after Councilman Kathryn Feyereisen nominated for the post. Mr. Detmers, who has been working in Chicago, was not supported in his nomination. Mr. Detmers, who has been working in Chicago, was not supported in his nomination.

## We Lose Monday

as a news gathering and news-writing day. Next Week (because of Labor Day) ... so please help us out with your News and Advertising Copy by getting it in to us as Early as Possible

## THE STEEL STRIKE

has delayed completion of the Walnut Lake school addition. When finished by late November, (school authorities hope) facilities will include five new classrooms and one kindergarten; a new boiler room to serve the entire building; and an enlarged kitchen and storage facilities. Remodeling will provide lighting and acoustics in the oil building where needed, and a library, lunchroom and teachers' room. Cost of the remodeling and the addition is \$233,135. Architects are Eberle M. Smith associates, Detroit.

## W. Carleton Scott Is Gilbert Lake's Own 'Ernest Hemingway'

By LOUIS GROPP

Gilbert Lake—Although W. Carleton Scott of 5420 Lane Lake drive is well known in the Birmingham area as a successful contractor, amateur actor, tennis, sports car enthusiast and pilot—when he leaves this area it's his beard that attracts the most attention. Because of it, Scott has often found himself signing Ernest Hemingway's signature in some advertising material. "I try to convince them that I'm not the author," Scott says; but he must not do too well for he admits that he's "quite good" at signing the famous author's name. It was in Mexico, on one of the Scotts' flying trips below the Rio Grande, that the mistake identity first came up. Since then it has become an almost amusing sight whenever the Scotts travel.

FOR SEVERAL years Scott flew his own plane when he and his wife made their frequent trips to Mexico. This past January, however, Scott crashed and spent a month in a Mexican hospital with a broken back. Returning to the United States, Scott walked around with his back in a cast for four months. Before he crashed with his Navion, Scott had owned and piloted a Waco and Stinson. Also a sports car enthusiast, he once owned a Jaguar.

THE STUDENT will have a practical test of his language studies in Spain this fall. Mr. and Mrs. Scott are leaving in October to spend two months in Europe. Besides Spain, they will visit France, Italy and Switzerland. They plan to fly to the continent, returning by air.

The Spanish language is also used by Scott in his singing. An actor, tenor, one of his favorite hobbies is barber shop quartet singing.

SCOTT APPEARS in the spotlight as one of Birmingham's Village Players. Past president of the group, one can be remembered as "Captain Robert" in the presentation of "The Captain." Scott turned sportsman to play the part of Joe Ferguson, former member of the national fraternity Zeta Psi.

One of the Scotts' two married daughters, Mrs. Carlyle Adams, will teach art in the Birmingham school system this fall. His other daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Hopkins, lives with her husband and two sons in Baltimore, Md.

## Small Water Tap-in Okayed Over Protest

LATHRUP — Over protests of Charles D. Kelley, subdivision council approved one and one-half inch water main instead of the usual eight-inches for a home being built by P. and R. Construction Co. on Rockham drive. Council gave its reason that the small main was to serve only one home. The small main is to be connected to the end of an eight-inch line on Sunnybrook made 200 feet away. Kelley reminded the council that they had passed a resolution earlier this year outlawing the small, temporary connections, and that the temporary connections made prior to that had to be replaced by standard eight-inch lines. In okaying the line, council felt that it could allow the switch from established pipe because no more homes on Rockham are expected to be built and served by a large line would be an unnecessary expense.

## J. K. O'Leary Appointed Lathrup JP

LATHRUP — James K. O'Leary, former city attorney, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of justice of the peace vacated by the resignation of L. Bernard Cross Aug. 4. O'Leary, who held the city attorney job from Aug. 1954 to April, 1955, was council's unanimous choice after they voted 3-2 against appointment of Miss Nancy Ringland to fill the vacant position. The three councilmen who voted against her apparently did not object to Miss Ringland but had no time to investigate O'Leary's qualifications since Councilman Kathryn Feyereisen proposed his name last week.

## Wants Over-All Plan for Sewers

LATHRUP — Engineering advice as to what would be the best way to handle Lathrup's flooding, will be sought from two or three engineering firms. Councilman Frederick O. Johnson called for the move in an attempt to bring order out of a sewer drainage situation that has had residents in that area up in arms for years. Johnson's motion asked the engineering firms to be selected by City Administrator Leonard A. Watchowski, to present to the city by Monday with a line drawing of the project, cost estimates and their recommendations. The councilman hopes that a final course of action can be detailed within 60 days.

CHARLES D. Kelley told council that he has proposed a resolution bearing 45 signatures, with the Oakland county drain commission and the city of Detroit. He is handling preliminary engineering for a county controlled sewer that would stage its street sale to benefit 11 1/2 Mile roads along Southfield, and to be paid for by benefiting property owners in that sewer district. Kelley indicated that he feared Johnson's resolution would interfere with the half-mile sewer project, but was told by Johnson that it was decided the resolution would sidetrack Kelley's efforts.

JOHNSON said that he only wanted to be sure that when new sewers were built they would carry an overall plan for sewage and storm water elimination. Watchowski stated that citizens of Lathrup's west side have circulated a petition, now containing City Attorney Everett F. Hayes' support, to increase storm water flow. The petition is being signed by benefited property owners.

## May Invest Surplus Cash in Securities

LATHRUP—About \$8,000 surplus special assessment payments on the \$13,000 in building fund money may be invested in government bonds by the city. City Attorney Everett F. Hayes is drawing up a resolution which, if okayed by council, would place that money, or at least the first \$8,000 in one-year government notes paying 2 1/2 to 3 per cent. City Administrator Leonard A. Watchowski, who presented the idea to council Monday night, said the \$13,900 could be invested also. The council did not have immediate plans for the money's use on a building site. Mayor John G. Campbell recommended that funds in the current operation budget should be placed in one of the local banks where it would draw one per cent until withdrawn by the city. The overages in the special assessment funds for 1954 and 1955 can be invested because the money will not be needed to pay off bonds due until Oct. 1957, said Watchowski.

## J. Leo Walton Reviews Proposed Southfield Charter

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article, which examines City of Southfield's second completed charter, is one of a series of nine articles which each week will be written by a different member of the Charter Commission. This week's guest writer is J. Leo Walton, 26011 Berg road, Charter Commission Chairman. Probably one of the greatest contributions of this nation to the progress of mankind has been the introduction of a government that derives its just powers from the consent of the governed. President Lincoln described it so concisely as "that government of the people, by the people and for the people." It constitutes our rich heritage that we are honor bound to preserve. Such a theory of government has been incorporated in the Southfield charter. All legislative powers have been vested in officers elected directly by the people. And as a check on any possible abuse of legislative authority—veto power has been granted to the mayor. Furthermore, through out the whole charter there has been no delegation of authority. INFLUENCED to a great extent by several public hearings before writing the charter, the commission has provided for the following:

## Southfield Gears for Court Fight Over 12-Towns Drain Allocation



SOUTHFIELD A meeting on cost allocations of the 12-Towns Drain folded up Wednesday when a letter by Township Supervisor Eugene Swen was read protesting the township's share of the \$83 million sewer system. Swen's letter asked that Chapter XVIII-A of the Drain Law be amended to permit municipalities assessed in the legislature to project the benefited property in proportion to the benefits to the individual properties. Southfield's share of the sewer would be \$1,276,000, which is an increase of about \$796,000 over the original estimate of \$481,000.

THE SHARP increase is due to addition of 440 acres which Swen said "shrank to 352 acres" in the southeastern part of the township. Except for 30 homes the area is vacant and the added \$796,000 is twice as much as the \$107,000 assessed value of all the homes in the area.

Swen asked that local representatives in the legislature be requested to co-operate in bringing about the law change. As it stands now, the entire township would have to pay for the benefits received by the eastern area.

## Lathrup, Socony Find 'Common Ground' in Gas Station Site Talk

LATHRUP — Council promised Socony Mobil Oil Co. representatives Monday that the city would consider granting a gas station permit for the company if it moved its location from the northeast corner of Sunnybrook and Southfield to the southeast corner of 12 Mile and Southfield roads. Harry J. Peckheiser, 189 S. Glenary road, Bloomfield Village, Socony's regional representative, told council he would postpone a suit, if any were pending, against Lathrup until negotiations were completed or stalemated.

Last week City Attorney Everett F. Hayes said that Socony's suit in Oakland county circuit court was due to come up some time in September. "We're not set in our way. We'll do about anything that is satisfactory to the council and to the community," said Peckheiser.

## HP Man Arraigned On Assault Charges

SOUTHFIELD — William Brokenshire, 22, of Highland Park, demanded examination on charges of assault and battery and criminal assault when arraigned Saturday before Justice Edward A. Elsarrell. Brokenshire was arrested Aug. 13, three days after the attack on a Southfield woman, by Detroit police, on Police Chief Philip LaVigne. Elsarrell set bond at \$5,000, and examination will be held Sept. 10.

## Okay Bank Branch

BLOOMFIELD TWP. — At a special township board meeting Monday night township board gave permission to Pontiac State of Pontiac to operate a branch office at the new shopping center to be constructed at Square Lake road and Telegraph, according to Arno L. Hulet, township supervisor.

## Groups Organize Against Freeways

SCHOOL Opening Section 1, Page 1 Photo Page Section 4, Page 1 Society Sections 2, 3, 4 Bloomfield Village Column Section 3, Page 4 North Adams Column Section 3, Page 4 Church Section 4, Page 6, 7

PROTEST SHARP Jump in Cost Allocations SOUTHFIELD A meeting on cost allocations of the 12-Towns Drain folded up Wednesday when a letter by Township Supervisor Eugene Swen was read protesting the township's share of the \$83 million sewer system. Swen's letter asked that Chapter XVIII-A of the Drain Law be amended to permit municipalities assessed in the legislature to project the benefited property in proportion to the benefits to the individual properties. Southfield's share of the sewer would be \$1,276,000, which is an increase of about \$796,000 over the original estimate of \$481,000. THE SHARP increase is due to addition of 440 acres which Swen said "shrank to 352 acres" in the southeastern part of the township. Except for 30 homes the area is vacant and the added \$796,000 is twice as much as the \$107,000 assessed value of all the homes in the area. Swen asked that local representatives in the legislature be requested to co-operate in bringing about the law change. As it stands now, the entire township would have to pay for the benefits received by the eastern area. "FOLLOWING this policy the township of Southfield will cooperate in the legislature to set up wherever possible to set up special assessment districts to secure any services which the property owners want and for which they are willing to pay," said Swen. No mention of the 440 acres to be included in sewage flowing to the east was included in the June 10 allotment of costs, added Swen. "We deny that storm water creates a health hazard in this area. There are 26 homes in the area or about one house to each 13 acres. We deny that the natural drainage has in any way diverted or increased the flow of storm water in this area. Instead of the establishment of the Murray Drain District has reduced the surface runoff to the south," said Swen. SWEN SAID the altering, covering and filling of the area, and water courses in Royal Oak, Oak Park and Berkley has created a health problem in those municipalities, but denied that Southfield was in any way responsible for the creation of this problem. "We admit that the use of the 12-Towns Drain as an outlet for storm water is of great value and benefit in the future, to the following paragraph in the charter or their successors: "Stoekmeyer, Zussman, Lindenbaum, Carr, and the late Max Freedman, Eric, Rubenstein, Linden Investment Co., Practical Home Builders, Inc., Land Development, J. Slatinik and others. "THESE are substantial holdings in the area. We deny that such use will benefit the other 30,000 residents of Southfield township," said Swen. "We hold that the application of Chapter XVIII-A of the Drain Law (written this year) to this area creates a gross inequity in that the Murray Drain District adjoining is paying for a similar service on a special assessment basis but would be forced to contribute also to this project through a general assessment (spread over 30 years). "We hold further that the Drain Law as amended in 1956 is unconstitutional insofar as it applies to this situation, in that it would take private property for public use without just compensation. The property in this case is the tax money raised in the unaffected areas. "THE PUBLIC use is to enlarge storm sewers to save other municipalities from the effect of their past 30 years of neglect." (See 12-TOWNS, Page 8, Sec. 5)