'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

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# Villages on Record Against El Sewer Tax

## Sidelights

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

FOR THOSE who have asked and those who have been wondering why the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department's big tanker goes out on the road every weekend, the management has recommended a hard run at least once a week to keep the valves freed. Officers of the department take advantage of the weekly run to familiarize volunteers with the technique of driving a 14-ton emergency vehicle.

I SEE THAT Veld E. (better known as "Doe") Blue has been appointed acting postmaster in Lathrup. Those who know "Doe" say he is a quiet-spoken, effective worker who is well-equipped for the job of "building" post office facilities in Lathrup. It'll be a big job but it appears that Representative George A. Dondero selected a capable man.

MRS. LYNN N. Hershey, co-director of Southfield civil defense, knows first-hand what an impossible job it would be to send out warning of an enemy attack by telephone. She started Sunday to phone officials and civic leaders throughout Southfield township to invite them to a CD meeting Feb. 22. Tuesday evening about 5 she finished the chore and announced to this reporter that she certainly had earned a weekend of skiing up north. If you've been on the phone that long, you certainly do, Mrs. Hershey.

FRANKLIN has been "rockin' 'round the clock" but not to the tune of some bop band but to the more deep-throated chords of dynamite. Well drillers have been hitting bed rock, and to get through, have been blasting. Sure wouldn't want to have a headache out Franklin way these days.

KECKEMIC PHOTO

BRUCE GREENFIELD, 15, (left) son of Mr. and Mrs. Myron Greenfield and John Kinnunen, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Kinnunen, both of Ravine road, will receive Eagle Scout awards at Troop S-7 Court of Honor, Feb. 23 at United Presbyterian church. George Mozelous, executive in the Detroit Area Council, will make the presentation.

## Dynamite Blasting Protested

FRANKLIN — Underground explosions by well diggers to open up rock formations has caused a great deal of concern to villagers here, and led council members Monday to ask their attorney to draft an ordinance that would either prohibit or regulate and control use of explosives within city limits.

Residents threatened to obtain court injunctions to halt the blasting, if necessary.

Appearing in protest at the council meeting were Dr. Lynn N. Hershey, 31230 Ramble, Eric J. Opitz of 31280 Ramble, Edmund F. Wozniak, 31040 McKinney, and George C. Wilsher, 31093 Franklin.

BLASTS have been heard almost every day for the past week and in some instances have shaken foundations of homes one-quarter to one-half mile away, according to reports.

Jack Roberts, town marshal said Monday's blast was in the Kirks subdivision near 13 Mile, is a 127-foot well and that six sticks of dynamite were used.

Another blast was reported Tuesday by residents who said it was much more mild than previous explosions.

WOZNIAK said he was concerned with loss of water. Several months ago, said Wozniak, blasting occurred and effected water pressure as well as cracking ceilings and walls.

"It (Saturday's blast) rocked my home and homes of my neighbors for one-quarter of a mile like a miniature earthquake," said Hershey who added that such explosions might do severe damage to foundations.

Wilsher pointed out that in previous blasting he had lost the use of his well, which had sanded up for three weeks, and feared that permanent damage to rock strata might cause loss of water to users.

Opitz said his insurance company assured him that they would sue the well drillers if it could be proved that home damage was caused by the blasts.

## Review Evergreen Sewer Problems

By William H. Thomas

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of two articles reviewing problems and history of the Evergreen Interceptor Sewer.)

Last June, after the area voted for incorporation 3,176 to 2,111, it was decided that a charter was just around the corner.

With Southfield as a city, officials there were assured by charter that they could approve the allocation for the sewer.

That hone faded when on Dec. 12, Southfield voters defeated the charter 4,925 to 1,923.

Some other means was needed to pay for the EI. Attacking from two angles, township officials decided to have the people clear 1.3 mills of the two mills voted last April. Outcome of that vote will be known Feb. 20.

THE OTHER tack was to enter a bill in the state legislature asking that body to authorize townships in the throes of incorporation (such as Southfield) to indebt the community's future. Action on this bill is also pending.

Reaction to the millage vote came when tax bills went out in December.

Franklin and Bingham Farms Villagers awoke to find they were being asked to pay for something from which they felt they would never benefit.

COURT ACTION was contemplated to stop the election Feb. 20 so that Southfield could not spend the money they were already collecting.

After conferences with county and township officials, village officers believe that a solution can be worked out to the satisfaction of all, but are still hanging on to the club of court action should their hopes not materialize.

How they plan to pacify their citizenry has not been revealed, but both Franklin's president, Harold A. Roseberry, and William King, Bingham Farms president, are optimistic.

EUGENE SWEM, township supervisor, meanwhile, has outlined plans for a sewer in the sparsely populated western segment of the township which would be paid for by all or a part of the remaining two mills now being collected.

The sewer, which would extend the EI district to Inkster road, (already authorized by the EI advisory council) would start from the Rouge river in Section 31 and go northward, swinging either to east or west of Holy Sepulchre cemetery and pushing up into Franklin, if needed that far north.

(With large lots and septic tanks now setting a pattern in the two villages, it might be that they would never need such a line.)

IF NOT needed that far north, the sewer would halt at 11½ Mile road, and still be within one and one-half miles of any unit. The plan now anticipated in the Evergreen district proper.

After this sewer hit the Rouge river, sewage would be carried down the Rouge to Eight mile where it would join the Farmington and Evergreen Interceptor flow and move on to Detroit.

This "spur" of the EI sewer, which backs up from Evergreen road along Eight Mile to about 800 yards west of Telegraph, and from there to the Rouge, would act as a safety valve in case of torrential rains.

HEAVY flooding would throw sewage, which could not be handled by the EI, as overflow into the Rouge. Engineers predict that this would happen only once or twice every ten years.

And in the Southwestern corner of Southfield is a section, south of the Rouge which will be serviced by the Farmington Interceptor sewer, when and if this line becomes a reality. Cost of this service to Southfield would be $44,000.

Eastern portions of Southfield and parts of Birmingham are scheduled for the 12-Towns drain which serves many of the Southeastern Oakland county cities.

Some officials in the authority as well as some state officers feel that Detroit has not been specific enough in declaring how much sewage flow it would accept.

Some say Detroit could not handle the sewage because it would have to make elaborate and time-consuming structural changes while others believe that Detroit can make the switch to meet the added flow with little difficulty.

County officials and EI engineers seem to be of the opinion that Detroit will be ready to accept Oakland county sewage when the two systems are joined.

DETROIT, while not committing itself by contract, has told Oakland county drain officials that it would treat 70 cubic feet per second (cfs) through the Evergreen interceptor.

In addition it would service 50 cfs through the Southeastern sewer, 50 cfs in the Farmington main, and 20 to 30 cfs in a proposed Troy sewer district along John R.

Detroit officials have said that if an inverted siphon running under the Rouge river in Détroit, can

(See KING, Page 2, Sec. 5)

(See EVERGREEN, Pg. 2, Sec. 5)

## Open Letter On EI Sewer

SOUTHFIELD—In an open letter to Township residents this week, Eugene Swem, township supervisor, attempted to answer some of the questions that may be in the minds of voters asked to approve expenditure of 1.3 mills voted last April to pay the township's share of the cost of the Evergreen Interceptor Sewer.

"We shall try to answer the questions that have come to this office from various sources," said Swem. "The information given here is the most complete and accurate that we can give at this time."

FOLLOWING is Swem's letter:

1. Did the Water Resources Board order the building of the Evergreen Interceptor? Answer—No.

2. Then why build the Interceptor? Answer—The Water Resources Board admits that the Interceptor offers the best, cheapest, and only permanent solution for the problem of pollution of the Rouge River. The Board has delayed legal action in the hope that the Interceptor will be built.

3. Where is the pollution of the Rouge? Answer — There are at least fourteen sources of pollution, only five of which have so far come to the attention of the Water Resources Board. They will find the others.

4. Why then, does the Court order mention only the Acacia Drain? Answer—I have been told on at least four occasions that decree is entered only to get some action started. When this pollution is corrected, the Water Resources Board will move on to the next, and the next, and the next. In other words, if we do not clean up now, we may be in court for twenty years.

5. WHY NOT assess the cost of the Interceptor to those properties that will benefit? Answer—When the County Board of Supervisors set up the Evergreen Interceptor District, it established the fact that all of Southfield Township except an irregular area along Greenfield road will benefit directly from the Interceptor. The Greenfield area receives certain indirect benefits.

6. How will the Evergreen benefit Franklin Village? Answer—If the Village remains a part of the District, there will always be available an outlet for sanitary sewage through Southfield, an advantage that cannot be obtained in any other way. Whether Franklin uses this service now or twenty years from now is immaterial. The same is true of several other areas.

7. Is Detroit able and willing to accept sewage from the Evergreen? Answer—Yes, if the Evergreen is built within a reasonable time.

8. WHY IS there a time limit? Answer—Detroit has only a limited capacity and flowage right to sell. Other communities are ready to contract for all that is available. The County Drain Commissioner is holding in reserve enough for the normal needs of Southfield. If we do not contract for this capacity soon, it will be taken by some other municipality.

9. Why should that part of the Township in the Southeastern Sewage District pay a part of the cost of the Interceptor? Answer—It is a matter of balancing ultimate load against capacity. Some of the sewers in this area will be connected to the Evergreen and this will reduce the load on others.

10. Why do we vote only 1.3 mills for the Evergreen Interceptor out of the 2 mills voted increase? Answer—The other 7 mills is reserved to extend trunk sewers to the rest of the Township.

11. WILL TWO mills be collected every year for twenty years? Answer—No. Right now we doubt whether any special sewer tax will be spread in 1956. After that, only enough will be collected to meet the debt service.

12. Suppose no Interceptor is ever built? Answer—The tax will be refunded.

13. Will that be bad? Answer—Yes. The pollution would be corrected by disposal plants, and wherever septic tanks become unsatisfactory, they would create a very expensive problem. Furthermore, no one would wish to hear Southfield described as a "Septic Tank Community".

14. Can we get more information? Answer—Yes. Call ELgin 6-1100 and ask for the supervisor's office.

VELD E. BLUE

## Appoint Lathrup Postmaster

LATHRUP—Veld E. Blue, retired personnel director of Chrysler Corp., was named as acting postmaster of a post office to be located in the city, it was announced this week by Rep. George A. Dondero of Royal Oak.

"After months of exhaustive investigation, the Federal government has decided to locate a post office at the city of Lathrup village," said Dondero.

NEW POST office in the city will provide improved mail service and give some relief to the overburdened post office in Birmingham, which is now serving Lathrup, said Dondero, adding that postal service will begin as soon as quarters can be obtained.

"No doubt the rapid development in Southfield township and other nearby districts will necessitate the establishment of more postal facilities," Dondero stated.

BLUE, of 18911 Bungalow drive, took a pre-medical course at Ohio Northern university and received from Ohio State university an M.D. degree.

His first employment in Detroit was in industrial medicine with Dodge Brothers Motor Co. Blue taught night college classes for about five years as a student instructor in Detroit, and at the same time obtained his doctorate in psychology.

After the merger of Dodge and Chrysler corporations, Blue, in 1944 was named director of personnel. He retired in April, 1954.

More recently, Blue was named president of the Masonic Temple association.

SELECTION of Lathrup as site for the post office came after a civic committee, headed by Herman F. Luhrs, 27315 Rainbow circle, prompted application for the new postal outlet.

Executive board under Luhrs consisted of Blue, vice chairman; Charles D. Kelley, secretary; Mrs. Marjorie T. Thayer, treasurer; Miss Nancy Jean Ringland, attorney; honorary officers were John G. Campbell, present mayor, and William H. Harvie, city's first mayor.

The new postal service is expected to begin as soon as possible in only temporary quarters if available. The acting postmaster will then cooperate with the postal department in the selection of a permanent Lathrup site and the construction of a building," said Luhrs.

## Battle At Polls Expected

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

FRANKLIN—Village council decided Monday night there was no other course of action open to them except to resolve that Franklin is opposed to Southfield township's recent assessment for general sewer purposes.

This followed a 1½-hour discussion between councilmen, Bingham Farms President, William King, and the two villages' attorney, Harcourt S. Patterson, who advised against a suit to halt the election.

Patterson did advise a taxpayers' suit to recover monies paid by villages as required by a vote last Spring which authorized collection by the township of two mills to pay for a system of trunkline sewers, including the Evergreen interceptor sewer (EI).

THE RESOLUTION backs up a similar one made last month by Bingham Farms officials who feel the tax will not benefit their area.

Franklin's resolution protested the tax because it was made on a general basis and if the Monday vote is approved by voters to free 1.3 mills for the EI, then most of the money will be going to one area, and would benefit less than one-half of the township, according to councilmen.

They also believe the tax is invalid because they believe Southfield does not have the right to levy a tax for sewer purposes because of their being neither a township nor a city, but in-between the two.

HAROLD A. Roseberry, village president, reviewed history that led to the vote Monday, and expressed the hope that a request to Ralph A. Main, Oakland county drain commissioner, to establish a special drainage district in the Franklin-Bingham Farms area, be granted, and that money now being collected by Southfield be returned to the villages.

"I think you have a fair chance of recovering tax levied last year if it is worth the time and money," Patterson told the council. Estimates place the tax collected under the two-mill levy between $12,000 and $15,000.

PATTERSON is serving both villages in place of their regular attorney, William Hartman, who stepped aside in this case because Hartman also represents Bloomfield township, and cannot serve the best interests of both communities in this case.

The villages' new attorney also suggested that independent taxpayers petition to have Main create the separate drainage district.

All present felt that, should the vote be approved Monday to spend 1.3 of the two mills being collected for the EI, then all areas of Southfield, including the villages, would be "on the hook for 20 years."

IN LIGHT of this, Patterson advised that villages attempt to defeat the proposal Monday at the polls and then launch an attack to down a bill being introduced in the State legislature which would allow townships such as Southfield, which are in the midst of incorporation, to indebt their area's future.

Such a bill would allow a township to indebt not only its own future, but that of incorporated villages which would not be a part of the future city, according to King.

"The first vote was a general tax presumably to benefit everyone. Then the second vote comes along and provides that 1.3 mills is for the Evergreen Interceptor—that borders on fraud," said Councilman Harry B. Rottiers.

VILLAGE officials fear that turnout of villagers at the polls will be light. "The people who will be out will be those who will benefit and the subdividers and those who might want to stop using septic tanks," said Rottiers.

Councilman Robert Mitchell urged caution in attacking by means of a lawsuit.

"We might have no recourse but to pay more because of possible pollution in the village," said Mitchell, who quoted, as a possible way out of the immediate dilemma section 552 of Michigan Statutes Annotated, which provides that it

(See VILLAGES, Page 2, Sec. 5)

## Logie Shares Views With School Board

SOUTHFIELD—Robert H. Logie, chairman of the school education committee of the Southfield PTA, discussed three issues which the "Southfield citizens are wondering about" with school board Monday night.

The discussion involved around a master plan for selecting future school sites in the district, disposition of $425,000 for school sites and a closer working harmony between the school board and the planning commission.

Logie cited surrounding districts as an example for the need of a master plan. "Areas around us use a master plan for selecting sites and have for some time," Logie said. "You should have something to follow in choosing sites."

THE BOARD does have a plan drawn up by Geer Associates, Southfield planning consultants but the board is not in total agreement with the population estimates.

It is not always possible to follow a set plan, the board told Logie, because the land may be priced too high or not available.

Logie urged the board to act quickly in buying sites with the $415,000 allotted for school sites from the November bond issue.

THE BOARD said that sites have been studied intensively and several purchases are presently near the final stages. Board members emphasized that purchases were not made public until completed or price would likely skyrocket.

On the question of the Planning commission working closer with the school board, Fred W. Leonhard, board president, said the planning group is limited in what they can do for the school board.

"They meet once a month," Leonhard said, "and lately we have been meeting practically every week."

SUPT. of schools Glenn Schoenhals said that every effort was made to work as close as possible with the township boards and Geer Associates on school site problems.

Schoenhals told the board that information they requested on the advantage and disadvantages of a third class school district over Southfields present township school district had not been received from the state.

Copies of the 1955 Michigan school code are being printed now and Southfield should receive a copy very shortly, Schoenhals told the board.

The third class district would increase the present five-member board to seven, if approved.

## School Board Gets Lockwood Site Price

SOUTHFIELD — School board Monday night received a letter from Rodney Lockwood, Cranbrook Village developer, disclosing his price and terms for a piece of property the board was interested in for a school site for his subdivision.

The 9.1 acre site is located on the north side of 12 Mile road, west of Southfield which Lockwood priced at $53,922. The figure would include some property improvements which Lockwood would include in a package deal.

In return Lockwood would pay the topsoil and board would have to put a green belt around the school when completed. The deal would be void if the township board did not approve Lockwood's plat by May 1.

The school board took no action on the letter.

OTHER BOARD action included approval of preliminary architect's drawings of the Southfield high swimming pool, discussion of a blanket bond covering all employees in the district and authorizing purchase of a reconditioned power lawn mower.

The indoor high school swimming pool will be 75 feet long and seven lanes wide (42 feet) with a setback section for two diving boards. The pool will be 62 feet wide in the setback section which can be used for junior high school meets. Estimated cost of pool is $355,000.

John Grimes, Southfield township real estate and insurance agent, asked the board to consider a blanket bond for all the districts employees. At present only a few employees who handle money are bonded.

GRIMES pointed out the economical features of a blanket coverage instead of individual bonding. Grimes will bring more statistics to the board's next meeting before the group makes a final decision.

The board authorized purchase of a reconditioned power lawn mower for $655. The machine which will carry a one-year guarantee was described as "practically new."

After the regular meeting the board went into executive session to discuss possible school sites.

## Resolution Slaps Approval of Post Office in Lathrup

SOUTHFIELD—Township trustees approved a resolution by Donald L. Swanson, asking that Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield withhold approval of the Lathrup branch post office until the area could be re-surveyed and so that "28,000 Southfield citizens are not deprived of adequate and sufficient postal facilities."

Swanson, in his resolution, called the approval, as announced this week by Rep. George A. Dondero, "an obvious example of poor business management, gross example of area selection and in direct contradiction to efficient and sound operating procedures."

Copies of the resolution will be forwarded to all interested parties.

## At Press Time

### SOUTHFIELD

TOWNSHIP board Tuesday night passed a health ordinance, which licenses food handlers, and a traffic ordinance, which will allow money collected in costs to be returned in part to the township. They tabled a weed ordinance.

SPECIAL MEETING of township board has been called for Feb. 23 to discuss several items tabled Tuesday, including planning commission's recommendations for changing overall planning in Section 24, population report, decision on uses of planning consultant, plat revisions, zoning map and change in zoning from R-2 to R-4 in Section 25 and 31.

APPROVAL WAS granted Chris Nicholson for holding public picnics on his property at Franklin and 12 Mile roads this summer.

PLANS FOR A RADIO station, proposed for construction at 12 Mile and Lahser in Section 15 by Metropolitan Broadcasting Co., was referred to the township planning commission. The station, with three 225-foot towers, would have a broadcasting radius of 7½ miles.

INTENTION to change zoning in Section 10 from R-2 to R-4 was declared. Part of Section 10 is already zoned Residential Four.

TRUSTEES TABLED a request by H. T. Keating, realtor, and Miller Homes, Inc., that the township take over a proposed temporary sewage disposal plant to be constructed near the County Day School site at 13 Mile and Lahser. The plant would open up for construction 79 acres of land to the west of the school and the Hi Dawson property in Section 4 west of Lahser and about one-quarter mile north of 13 Mile road. The sewage plant, if not taken over by the township, would require private corporation to maintain the plant until some township sewer system, such as the Evergreen Interceptor sewer becomes a reality.

### LATHRUP

COUNCILWOMAN Kathryn Feyereisen has taken out two nominating petitions for the April 4 election. She is not a candidate this year. Ernest J. Coverdill, 28452 Woodworth way, has taken out five petitions. None have been returned to Clerk Beth Cole. Deadline is Monday.

## King Attacks State Bill

BINGHAM FARMS—Village President William King, this week in a letter addressed to State Senator S. Broomfield, attacked a bill introduced in the legislature which allow townships to contract during the period between the time township residents have voted to incorporate the township and final adoption of a charter.

Parts of King's letter to Broomfield are reprinted below:

A FEW WEEKS ago I felt it my responsibility and duty to appraise you of the possible far-reaching consequences of an apparently innocuous bill that was being prepared for submission at this session of the legislature.

On the surface it would appear that such legislation is reasonable and necessary to enable the township (Southfield) to function in a normal manner.

However the effect of such legislation would be to give the township the power to obligate incorporated villages and other areas of the township not within the boundaries of the incipient city to a contract or contracts from which they would derive no benefits.

CERTAIN communities in Oakland county have been cited by the State Water Resources Commission for pollution of streams, and have been ordered by the court to correct these conditions.

It has been determined that the cheapest way to comply with the court's order is to construct the Evergreen Interceptor sewer—a major portion of which will traverse the township of Southfield.

According to figures that have been published, the sewer will take care of 40,000 sites, 25,914 of which are to be in Southfield.

Inasmuch as the cost to Southfield has been estimated at $1,750,000 which would indicate an average cost per tap of $67.53, one finds it difficult to reconcile the cost with the tax levied.

MANY, in fact all, of our citizens will find themselves paying several hundreds of dollars for a service they cannot possibly use. The number of taps allotted to Southfield could not possibly take care of an area in excess of one mile east and west of the proposed sewer.

In other words, a major portion of the township could not possibly be served by the sewer as now contemplated. Apart from limitations imposed by capacity of the sewer, it would not be feasible from an engineering standpoint to service either our village or the village of Franklin by this sewer. No benefit, direct or otherwise, would accrue

## CALENDAR

**Today**

Southfield Optimist club meeting, 6:30 p.m. Fruitridge Inn, Southfield at 13 Mile road.

Franklin Evening circle meeting at home of Mrs. Philip Price, colony Hill road.

Franklin Father-Daughter Scout dinner, 6:30 p.m. at Franklin school.

**Saturday**

Lathrup Village Square Dance, 8:30 p.m. Southfield high cafeteria.

Women's Auxiliary VFW Dunham-Rea Post card party, 8 p.m. at Nelson Realty company, Southfield at 10 Mile road.

**Monday**

West Bloomfield Blood Bank, 1:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at West Bloomfield township hall.

Franklin Fellowship circle meeting at home of Mrs. Oliver Garwood, Balsam drive, 12:30 p.m.

**Tuesday**

Beverly Hills Hostess club meeting at home of Mrs. William Rigler, 18565 Bedford road, 10 a.m.

Pack B-24 Beverly school, Father-Son banquet at Birmingham Community House.

MOMS social meeting, 12:30 potluck at home of Mrs. Robert McAfee, 28765 Sutherland.

Franklin Lenten Study Group 9:30 a.m. at home of Mrs. Vernon Fisher, Wellington road.

West Bloomfield League of Women Voters, luncheon 12:30 at West Bloomfield township hall.

**Thursday**

Angling road PTA meeting 8 p.m. at Southfield 16 school, Berg road and 16 Mile.

Franklin Cub Scouts potluck dinner at Franklin school multipurpose room, 6:30 p.m.

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