

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 TOWNSHIPS

Sidelights

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

I HAD TO LAUGH the other day when, after steering conversation around to a project that I have given much thought to, took the amusing turn for the better.

My project (and I'm really not serious about this, I'm afraid) is that in the next war the women should be drafted and the men should keep the home fires ablaze.

Perhaps you can conjure as we did: the artillery barrage laid down, machine guns rattling, protective fire and the hoards of infantrymen charging out of their foxholes and up to the brink of the enemy positions, only to halt short and comment on what beautiful uniforms the enemy soldiers have and "where did you have your hair done, my dear. Sit down."

Or perhaps during a lull in the fighting a group of women sitting in little groups talking and knitting little woolen holders for their little grenades.

Maybe instead of information and education lectures the army could sponsor a fashion show with the most modern models wearing or carrying a different-type weapon.

Some of the old GIs will appreciate the consternation of their sergeant if he were to hear, "Why, my dear, I think that short carbine case something, your figure and the color just matches your hair" or, "You really should carry your .45. You seem so awkward carrying that Browning automatic."

Maybe the good old days are still with us.

RECENT NEW members of the pleasure of Paris club are Ernie Ristan and Vince Zetell, both of Lathrup. Ernie made membership about a week ago ice skating with daughter Pam and is modelling a cast on his arm.

Vince, an explorer scout advisor, found roller skates without holes and is looking fairly interesting with his arm in a black sling. Both wives are wondering where they will hang the autographed casts.

VERN HODGES, Lathrup streets superintendent, as I understand it, is doing an outstanding job these days of keeping city streets open to travel. During and after the past several snow storms Vern was seen in the morning hours plowing the white stuff off the roads. We know you're appreciated, Vern.

GENEROSITY on the part of Everett F. Hayes, Lathrup city attorney and Wayne County Probate Judge Arthur E. Moore, Hayes named an attorney in the recent Highland station sale, saved Lathrup \$3,000.

Two new residents were established last week in the west end, charged, and at \$25 an hour it adds up mighty fast.

W. Beverly Hills Wants Status Quo

WEST BEVERLY — In a recent survey conducted by the West Beverly Hills Association, 54 per cent of the members declared their intention to the city of Birmingham; 41 per cent wished to remain a township and 5 per cent wished to become a city.

Only 3 per cent of the people surveyed, expressed a preference for incorporation as a City of Southfield.

Chet Guilmet and John Powers, officers of the association, conducted the survey in which all West Beverly residents were requested to express a choice of one of the following three propositions:

1. Remain a township by adopting any proposed charter for the city of Southfield.

2. Annexation of West Beverly Hills to the city of Birmingham. Voting was especially heavy, Guilmet and Powers report.

New Teachers At Walnut Lake

WALNUT LAKE — Two new teachers are welcomed to the staff of Walnut Lake school this year. With the third grade is Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson, of Ruffner street in Birmingham, a graduate of the University of Kentucky.

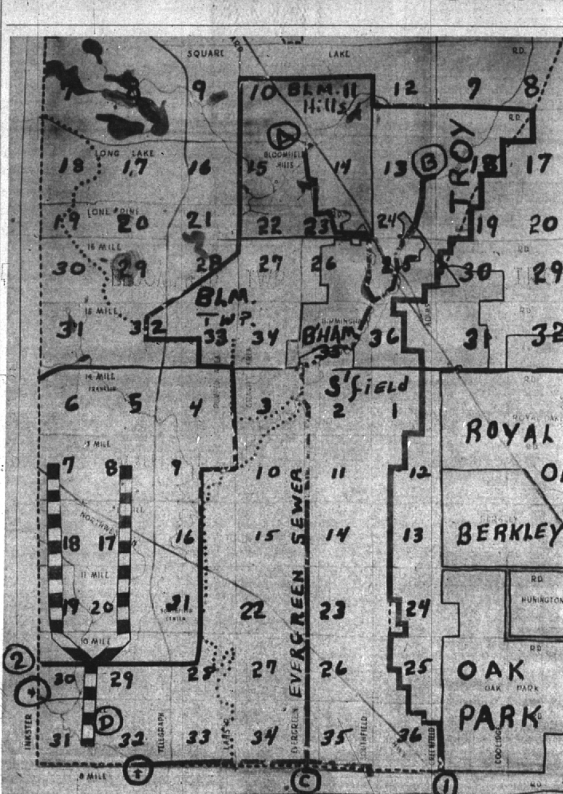
Mrs. Richardson taught in Caro for a year, and in Charleston, S. Carolina two years while her husband was serving in the Navy. Richardson is in the engineering department of the Michigan Bell Telephone company.

Miss Nancy Henry of Pleasant Ridge, is teaching the new split section of fourth and fifth grade pupils. Miss Henry attended the University of Michigan, where she majored in sociology and graduated in January.

Co-op Nursery

Mayfair Cooperative Nursery of Farmington is sponsoring a square dance Feb. 18 in the Farmington high school cafeteria from 12 p.m. Proceeds of the dance will be used to purchase toys. Ticket chairman is Mrs. Audrey Fishman, 22205 S. Shrewsbury, Farmington. Knolls.

S'fld Leaders Unable to Plot Charter Policy



AREA TO BE SERVED immediately by the proposed Evergreen Interceptor Sewer can be traced on the map (above) by following lines marked "1" and "2". Northern-most tips of the interceptor are indicated by "A" and "B" while "C" marks the southern end. Area south of arrows (lower left corner) is that part of Southfield which will be included in the proposed Farmington Interceptor sewer district. Dotted lines ("D") show a sewer proposed for western portions of Southfield north of the main El district. North of 10 Mile, this proposed sewer would run either west or east of Holy Sepulchre cemetery. Eastern portions of Southfield not in the El district, will be served by the 12-Towns drain, already established.

Study Evergreen Interceptor History, Progress and Future

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Tuesday, Feb. 20, Southfield residents will be asked to approve expenditure of 1.3 mills of a two-mill levy authorized by voters last Spring, for the Evergreen interceptor sewer and a system of trunkline sewers in the township.)

In order that residents there, and in other communities might have a clearer picture of what they are voting upon, The Eccentric is printing a map of the Evergreen district, long with background and other information relating to the project. This is the first of two articles.

By William H. Thomas

No other subject has ever caused more confusion or been misinterpreted more, than the Evergreen Interceptor sewer (EI) with which local communities hope to abate pollution of the Rouge river.

The EI authority was brought into being after State Water Resources Commission (WRC) in Sept., 1952 forced a final order of determination on Southfield, Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, and Bloomfield township, ordering them to determine a plan to abate Rouge pollution by May 1, 1954, and to have the project in operation by Dec. 31, 1954.

LATER Lathrup, which incorporated in Dec., 1955, was brought into the authority. Final date for pollution abatement handed the city by resources commission, was Dec. 31, 1956.

Troy, sixth member of the authority, was not a party to Rouge pollution, but joined the authority so that it might give relief to parts of its western area.

Cost of the EI as estimated in March, 1955, by the authority engineers, Hubbell, Roth and Clark, was \$2.7 million.

ALLOCATION of costs was broken down as follows: Birmingham, \$353,490; Bloomfield Hills, \$168,850; Lathrup, \$167,550; Bloomfield township, \$306,382; Southfield township, \$1,603,996; and Troy, \$150,152.

With northern branches into Bloomfield Hills and Troy, would extend from 14 Mile along Evergreen road in Southfield township, and join the Detroit system below Eight Mile road, for treatment in that city's sewerage plant. (See accompanying map.)

ON APRIL 4, 1955 Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills annexed their charters so that city commissioners could commit the city for the cost of the EI.

Report on S'fld School Bldg. program

By DOROTHY ZATELL

SOUTHFIELD — On Sept. 12, 1955, Southfield voters approved a special school election asking for a \$3.5 million bond issue for school expansion.

Funds from this bond issue will furnish Lathrup school with a modern kitchen to provide hot lunches for the 712 children now enrolled there. Work on the kitchen is now in progress.

At Nine Mile road and Evergreen, a 15 room school has been roofed in and interior work is nearing completion. Architects O'Dell, Hewlett and Luckenbach designed this building to be used as an intermediate school, but at present, lower grade classrooms are so much in demand, that plans have been changed to meet the necessity. The Southfield school board plans to use 3 or 4 of the new rooms in early spring.

GROUND was broken for an addition to McKinley school in December and footings are in, and work is scheduled to be finished by September. This addition will consist of 8 classrooms, an all-purpose room, and a kitchen.

With 80 to 90 students using the pool each hour this fall, approximately 4 rooms can be made available for class use.

THE SOUTHFIELD school board will open bids for additions to Angling road school on Feb. 27. Designed by architects Jensen and Keough, the addition will call for 5 classrooms and a multi-purpose room.

The board is making a thorough study of swimming pools in and around Detroit, and architects Jensen and Keough are awaiting their final recommendations on the pool to be added to Southfield high school.

With 80 to 90 students using the pool each hour this fall, approximately 4 rooms can be made available for class use.

On Scout Sunday, Feb. 12, Roger Spoler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Spoler, of Lois Lane will receive the God and Country award, the highest religious award in scouting. He is the first of his troop to receive it.

BONDING Attorney Claude H. Stevens declared this vote invalid "You will note," said Stevens two weeks after the election, "that the same purpose (as specified by the proposal) is paying the principal on the bonded indebtedness of the township is not to be issued by the county and the indebtedness of the township is not to be bonded indebtedness, but rather a contracted indebtedness."

Shortly after this, on June 7, Southfield's situation became more confused when residents there voted to incorporate all but Lathrup, Birmingham Farms and Franklin Village.

THE VOTE decapitated Southfield politically, leaving the area unable to indent its future because of its in-between political status.

While Southfield struggled under this added handicap, WRC brought further pressure on Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield township, by raising a second court decree which ordered that three communities to vote to incorporate all but Lathrup, Birmingham Farms and Franklin Village.

After postponement that extended into Jan., 1956, Lathrup received the same dates by decree of Dec. 31, 1957.

SOUTHFIELD because of its in-between political status, was not ordered to abate pollution. A hearing on a decree against that community is still pending. Lathrup, according to Eugene Swem, Southfield township supervisor, there were three alternatives after Stevens declared last spring's vote null and void: no available income increase to no avail; an interpretation from the Supreme Court as to whether the Southfield millage vote was sufficient to satisfy legal requirements.

Memorable 'Firsts' In Southfield's Past

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Dan Hughes, 25881 Berg road, has lived 83 years in Southfield and is a descendant of Southfield's pioneers. On the program at the Silver Anniversary Dinner honoring Fannie Adams, Mrs. Hughes gave a brief history of Southfield and had many requests for a copy of her talk. Here it is, as it was given by Mrs. Hughes.

By MRS. DAN HUGHES

The earliest entries of land in Southfield township was 1821. The first settlers were in 1823—on reaching his land the next spring a settler came with his wife and five children, a barrel of pork, a large bag of dried apples and 50 cents in money—his entire movable effects.

The first child born in Southfield was in 1825. In 1826 the first team of horses was brought in. First justice of the peace—1828—by appointment from Governor Cass.

The first marriage took place in 1828, the first death in 1828 and the first frame house in the township in the summer of 1828. The first school house in Southfield, as the word "burgh" was then spelled, and a log one in 1829.

FIRST SETTLER in Southfield Center, a Mr. Green in 1829. He built a blacksmith shop and manufactured cow bells. My son, Clifford Hughes, has one of his bells. The first saw mill built in 1829. The first public house built in 1830.

The township organized in 1830, first named Osawema—17 days later—Southfield. First township meeting April 4, 1831, held in a private house. Other meetings in Thomas' tavern, Cornelius Lawrence hotel, ball room, and Murphy's wagon shop.

Henry Babcock was elected first supervisor for one year; A. H. Green, town clerk for one year. Township clerk asked to procure three blank books and three copies of paper for use in said township.

SECOND ANNUAL township meeting held the first Monday in April, 1832. Another report on Feb. 17, 1845 settled with the treasurer and had the sum of \$61.09.

First road laid out was Territorial road, now Farmington road, a distance of a mile and a half in Southfield in 1830. More roads in 1832. First church was the Covenant (now known as Reformed Presbyterian) in 1832.

First post office, 1833—mail once a week. Letters written on foolscap paper, folded twice, sealed with a drop of red wax and 25 cents written on the right corner. I had three of those letters and gave one to each of my children.

My great-grandfather's (Ezekiel Sablin) grist mill first in Southfield, built in 1837. First school district was established in Southfield Nov. 9, 1833. Nine districts were first established, later 10 districts, with 487 attending school in the township.

First doctor in 1833. Cornelius Lawrence, (my grandfather) built a large frame house.

Charter Wants Differ

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

SOUTHFIELD—Those who led the fight to defeat the charter ran into some tough sledding last week when only a few of the various subdivisions showed up for what was to have been a policy-making conference at the Southfield-10 school.

Before the evening was out both Henry M. DeMeyer and Marvin E. Marsh had decided there was too much diversion of desires from among 19 subdivisions officially represented, and, weary from the campaign to defeat, both men decided to back out of the political hotbed that developed overnight after Southfield decided to incorporate last June 7.

BOTH HAVE since declared they would be candidates for charter commission in the April 14 election. Several of the northern associations' representatives wanted outright that their groups wanted no part of incorporation and that they would do everything they could to defeat any charter in order to remain a township.

Two or three groups have indicated they would prefer annexation to Birmingham if they could not be a part of Southfield as a township.

OTHER differences of opinion, as predicted by those who backed the recently defeated charter, sprang up among those who favored incorporation.

Richard J. Blackhall, speaking for Beverly Artisan association, said his group had mixed feelings. A minority would vote in favor of changes in the charter.

Berkshire Hills' Charles Shull said they wanted no part of Southfield as a city.

JAMES S. CLARKSON, speaking for Berg Road Hills Association, said a majority of his people wanted no incorporation, was not a township, and a tax rate of five mills with a five-mill voted increase, council members to serve three years, a reappraisal of assessed value breakdowns, and zoning and planning provisions included in the charter.

Greenfield-Beverly Hills' group, it was announced, was not permitted to accept any expensive city plans although the association had gone on record as being in favor of a limited charter.

ROBERT SUESS, Farmbrook subdivision Assn., told the audience that incorporation was necessary. He questioned the terms for officials, election of clerk and treasurer and civil service for employees.

Samuel Garcia, Oakland Hills, came out for incorporation with a five-mill increase, sewerage system and two-year terms for elected officials. Garcia's city is concerned with the sewerage system as it would affect Pons Trailer camp on their border.

(See CHARTER, Page 2, Sec. 5)

Highest Scouting Awards Presented Two in Troop S-7

SOUTHFIELD—John Kimunen, 5, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Kimunen, and Bruce Greenfield, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Myron Greenfield, both of Ravine road, will receive Scouting's highest award, the Eagle badge, at a Court of Honor ceremony at the United Presbyterian church, sponsors of the award.

George Moezous, assistant executive of the Detroit area council, will present the awards at ceremonies at the United Presbyterian church, sponsors of the award.

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Gas Station Appeal To Supreme Court

LATHRUP—Everett F. Hayes, city attorney, said Tuesday that an appeal of the Highland station case has been filed with the State Supreme Court.

Hayes advised that briefs would probably not be filed before May and that a decision would not be rendered before Fall.

Lathrup lost a decision to the oil company in Oakland county circuit court last year when the oil firm contested the city's right to deny a permit to erect a gas station within the city's limits.

A brief on the recently ended Speedway Petroleum suit in circuit court, would be filed within the next week, Hayes said.

A third suit by Socony Vacuum Co. is still pending in circuit court.



GETTING TOGETHER after the Silver Anniversary dinner last week honoring Fannie Adams. Southfield township clerk who served her community in government office for 25 years, were (left to right), Mrs. Adams, Don L. Swanson, toastmaster and recent township trustee, and Mrs. Dan Hughes, who reviewed the historical events of the township. Held at Devon Gables, the dinner attracted state, county and local dignitaries and long-time friends of Mrs. Adams who was presented with a watch inscribed with her name and length of service. About 250

CALENDAR
Today
Southfield MOMS business meeting 7:30 p.m. at Mrs. Bertha Coe, 10175 Marshall.
Sixth Grade Southfield Dance, PTA sponsored, at Lathrup school, 7:30 p.m.
Lathrup 7th Grade dance classes, at Lathrup school, 7:30 p.m.
Birmingham Club Party, 8 p.m., at Church of Good Hope, 3414 10th St.
Wing Lake PTO square dance, Bloomfield Hills high school, 8:30 p.m.
Franklin PTA meeting in multipurpose room at Franklin school, 8 p.m.
Franklin WNGF meeting, 12:30 p.m.
Valley Woods WNGF meeting at Birmingham, 12:30 p.m.
Beverly Hills WNGF meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Birmingham Area PTA Council, 7 p.m.
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Franklin PTA meeting, 12:30 p.m. at home of Mrs. Ralph Woodburn.
Lathrup Women's Club luncheon and card party, 12:30 p.m.
Southfield Club meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Franklin PTA meeting, 12:30 p.m. at home of Mrs. Philip Price.
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