

# 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

LIKE SO MANY, H. Glen Shoemaker, 2624 Riverwood, Franklin, councilman, wiped the slate clean to start the New Year off right—but it backfired on him. Seems he kept all important coming events on a slate near his back door. Included in his list was mention of a special council meeting held last week. Yes, that's right. He missed the meeting. It might be a good idea for friends of Glen, who expect him to show up for some event in the near future, to give him a little reminder so he can get his slate (and his dates) back in order.

JOHN M. LACKNER, 32575 Wing Lake road, Franklin, tells a pretty tall tale. A few of the residents have complained about stopped up sewer lines, and Lackner maintains that it was caused (at least partly) by a car which plugged up a ditch in front of his home New Year's day, causing lines to back up. If he hadn't laughed to night he believed him.

MRS. RICHARD CHAMPION, 15751 W. 14 mile road, has found a good way to "tame wild Indians." She sends her little girl Susan, 3, to a nursery school in Birmingham. "One little boy was just a wild Indian when he started there, but now he is quiet and mild-mannered," says Mrs. Champion. (It's Mrs. Glen, Custer didn't have something like that to turn to 75 years ago.)

BINGHAM FARMS is, indeed, an unusual community. It is a lot of things to be proud of. It's the first community we've heard of that meets in a riding stable. It's the first riding stable, officials did things up brown this year. They left up their New Year's decorations, making Bingham Farms council the first to meet in a BINGHAM riding stable. Very pleasant.

WILLIAM MILLER, 20550 Bristol Lane, Bingham Farms, former FBI agent, was appointed this week by Village president William King, to serve as town marshal. They're sure not sending a boy to do a man's work in this case.

We feel that the fine, upstanding citizens of Bingham Farms will give you little trouble, Bill.

REP. GEORGE A. Dondoro this week told Miss Clara Lane, Southfield to be a wretched man of the Fannie Adams Silver Anniversary dinner Jan. 15. "Devon County, Ohio, that for a prize?" that he would not be able to attend the dinner because he had to be in Washington for congressional session. We hope to see you there, George.

THE FULL effects of inflation came with the new Nuneley, Bingham-Farms councilman Monday night. The fact that the dollar just went up 10 cents to be spotlighted when Nuneley suggested sending penny post cards to members to tell them about village matters. Can't hardly get them penny post cards no more.

HOLD ONTO your hats. The Democrats and Republicans have found something they aren't going to fight about. At least in Southfield. They're going to fight about it. Eugene Swem, township supervisor, seems both sides are going to bring it up in Southfield to serve the area. "Here's a case where the Republicans and the Democrats don't fight," said Swem. (See his belief, Eugene.)

JAMES H. BARRETT, 32627 Bingham Lane, Bingham Farms, is quite an expert on the U. S. Constitution. As we get it, Barrett belongs to an organization, "Campaign of the 48 States," which hopes to bring back to the nation what they term a constitutional form of government which they say is now lacking due to U. S. amendments 16 and 17 dealing with unlimited taxation and election of senators, respectively. In fact, Barrett will attend a meeting of the organization's board in Memphis later this month to plan a program of education aimed at American grass roots. We'll probably hear more of this project in the near future when publicity experts start the ball rolling.

TOM MYERS, past president of Southfield Kiwanis, was presented with a fine piece of luggage by members of the organization in appreciation for his leadership as president during the past year. Tom and his wife Betty, will put the luggage to almost immediate use on their forthcoming vacation in Florida.

WHAT'S THIS we hear—Albert P. Meadows, Bingham-Farms councilman missing a council meeting because he had to baby sit? Come on, Al. We know it's a woman's world, but let's put up a little bit of a battle anyway.

We Heard It Said By: JOHN G. CAMPBELL, Lathrup mayor, in answer to opinion that use of surplus would not leave money for legal fees acquired in fighting gas station suits: "We're not here to issue them (attorneys) LOU's for a while."

## Lockwood Proposes School Site

By DICK KELLEY

SOUTHFIELD — Rodney Lockwood, Cranbrook Village developer, appeared before the school board Monday evening to discuss possible school sites in his development.

Lockwood told the board of his tentative plans to build a shopping center on the east 10 acres of the Agattis dump and suggested the west 10 acres as a possible school site.

The whole project would hinge on the legality of the school board condemning the 20 acres when only 10 acres will be used as a school site.

ARGATTIS dump covers 20 acres on the west side of Southfield road, south of 12 mile road. The dump has long been a community eyesore. Lockwood told the board the property was valued at \$2500 an acre and if he could get the 20 acres for that price, he would turn the east 10 acres of the dump to the board for \$1000 an acre.

Lockwood gave the board an alternate site on 12 mile road, eight of a mile west of St. Bede's Catholic school site. The property is located on the southeast corner of Cranbrook Village which would necessitate extra buses to transport the children.

DISCUSSION on the site lasted close to two hours with the board finally taking the whole matter under advisement pending further meetings.

Other action taken by the board included approving bids for the new school, kitchen remodeling and authorizing superintendent of schools, Glenn Schoenhaus to make an offer for a possible school site.

REMODELING bid went to Baughman-Sigler for \$3941 and kitchen equipment to Great Lakes Hotel Supply for \$6,472. Bids totaled \$711.

Schoenhaus was authorized to make an offer to purchase 10 acres on 11 mile road, west of Franklin, for a future school site.

The new Lathrup Village office of the National Bank of Detroit, which is rapidly nearing completion with occupancy scheduled for January, Carlton N. Richards, vice president in charge of the bank's branch office division announced.

Richards have the latest in banking facilities and best complete banking and trust services for Lathrup Village and the surrounding area. There will be 5 inside customer windows, large safe deposit vault, night depository, and latest in banking services—drive-in banking.

THE BUILDING, which has a banking floor area of 3,100 square feet, is colonial design, in keeping with residential architecture of the community. Exterior is of red brick and the interior is finished in natural birch.

A large lobby and management area and two adjoining paved parking lots will be features of the new office. Grounds will be fully landscaped.

Joseph J. Easton will be manager and Carl H. Bes, assistant manager.

This new office is tangible evidence of our belief in the sound future of this fine community," said Eddie road, west of Franklin, for a future school site.

NAME DEPUTY CLERK SOUTHFIELD — Mrs. A. V. (Florence) Thomas, 22175 Maplewood, has been named as deputy clerk by Township Clerk Fannie Eliza to replace Mrs. Thomas E. (Elsie) Yold who has retired because of health. Mrs. Thomas has been assisting in registration work. Appointment was made Friday.

INSIDE THE ECCENTRIC Wash Room Bandit Section 1, Page 1

Society Franklin Couple Recall Memories of Native Pest Section 2, Page 2

Holiday Season Spent in Mexico, Couple Return to Lathrup Home Section 3, Page 4

School Section 3, Page 5

Church Section 4, Pages 6, 7



RETIRING PRESIDENT OF Southfield Kiwanis club, Thomas H. Myers (right), 18856 Sun Quentin, Lathrup, beams as he turns over the president's gavel to 1956 Kiwanis leader, Albert Geraert, 23270 Waycross, during installation of officers last Wednesday night at Southfield Community Church. Congregational. About 110 Kiwanians and their guests attended the dinner-installation and heard a short musical program in the church's basement.

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## Lathrup Eyes School Land As Office Site

SOUTHFIELD — A possible future site for Lathrup municipal offices was made public Monday night when Leonard Watchowski, city administrator, appeared before the school board to get their feelings on selling a piece of school district property to the city.

Located on the west side of Southfield, between Santa Anna and Marquette, the property, 100' x 165', is located in the city limits but still belongs to the township.

Board members were receptive to the idea of selling and asked Watchowski to make them an offer when the legal aspects of such a sale are thoroughly investigated.

THERE is a possibility that the sale would need voters approval, but the move would have to wait until the next general election.

Value of the property in that area is valued at \$50 a sq. ft. The plot is zoned for single family dwellings.

Definite action was put off until legal opinions on the action is given the school board.

Charter Vote Cost Residents \$11,919

SOUTHFIELD — It cost residents here (or will cost them after the outcome of incorporation has been decided) \$11,919 to hold their charter election, and this does not include another \$1,500 for binding voters to keep registration records.

So far the county has been picking up the tab, but when Southfield decides whether it will become a city or a township, they will pay the cost of election and for the next one or two.

Costs incurred by the first charter incorporation probably will be recouped to some degree, but attorney and clerk costs along with other necessary capital outlay should not be so great the second time, because ground work has been laid, and it should not take as long for the second commission to bring out a new charter.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY: JULIAN OFFENSTEIN, president of Walnut Lake Estates Sub. 2: "People of the Walnut Lake area are depending on the Birmingham Public Center more every week for news and notices of community events."

THE LETTER also proposed a department of public works which, in addition to rubbish pickup and emergency road service now existing, would provide better road maintenance, including removal of potholes and curbs.

IN CONJUNCTION with a department of recreation, Wagner wants a master recreation plan which would call for procurement of recreation sites, and a superintendent to manage the new department.

CALLED FOR, too, was "a more detailed review of the temporary city water taps as touched on by L. (Leonard) Lamb (township water superintendent) at a recent meeting," said Wagner. "It is felt, considering overall development of Southfield's water system, that temporary taps be denied."

WAGNER feels that sufficient time has not been spent in study and discussion of the annual budget by the township board. He advocated an earlier start to avoid last minute rush to beat a deadline.

"Since there is no more available space at the township offices, and addition would seem necessary, it is suggested that plans for a new building be drawn which would include the review of present site with further expansion possibilities," said Wagner.

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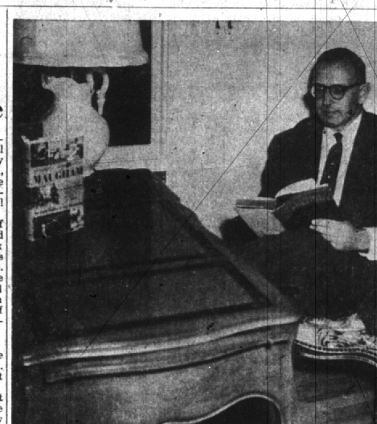
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LEONARD MELDMAN

Leonard Meldman Collects First Editions of Somerset Maugham

By ELIZABETH BUNNELL

Amongst the neglected books on your shelves or in your attic do you have a first edition of Somerset Maugham's 1909 novel, "The Hero?" Diamonds bring happiness to some, Cadillacs or a new Continental to others, but to Leonard Meldman, of St. James road, Birmingham, the aforementioned book would be the ultimate.

Meldman, a Detroit attorney, has been collecting first edition Maugham novels, plays, essays, short stories and travel tales for the last ten years, a hobby which began because of his particular appreciation of the author's style.

He reads and rereads all of his favorite writings, and enjoys again and again the philosophy and humor therein. His collection is among ten or twelve Maugham collections in the Detroit area, and has been praised as one of the best in this country.

Listed frequently in catalogs when Meldman first began assembling his finds, Maugham first editions are getting very difficult to locate because of the author's more recent popularity as a writer. Especially delighted were Miss Lillian Hagerman, her aunt, Mrs. Effie Young, and Mrs. Young's son, Percival Reilly, of 16916 Buckingham, Beverly Hills who had the pleasure of returning the dog to five brothers, ranging in age from three to eleven.

Re-unite five boys with their dog that has been lost for almost a week and you have a scene that would make for happiness all around. Especially delighted were Miss Lillian Hagerman, her aunt, Mrs. Effie Young, and Mrs. Young's son, Percival Reilly, of 16916 Buckingham, Beverly Hills who had the pleasure of returning the dog to five brothers, ranging in age from three to eleven.

THE BOYS, Gary, Larry, Danny, Neil and Allen Granger of 18841 Warwick, lost the four-month-old dog, Brownie two far from home for the puppy to find its way back.

ON A Saturday it came to the Buckingham address and Reilly brought in the dog—hungry and full of burrs—after it refused to leave. Miss Hagerman, Mrs. Young and Reilly started a campaign to locate the owners.

They called police, boy scouts and schools, but it was until the following Thursday they read an "Eccentric" want ad which said, "Lost, brown water spaniel, four months, needs distemper shots, child's pet. Reward."

"They were all so excited when we called," said Mrs. Young, who refused the reward and payment for keeping the dog. "That was something for us for Christmas—to see those boys get their dog back."

INTERESTING sidelights develop from such a hobby, one of which is a close correspondence with Raymond "Tom" Storer, an Englishman who is a close personal friend and bibliographer of Maugham. In the course of this six-year correspondence the two men found other similar interests. In that Storer's office in London is a former with the Attorney General's office in England, Meldman is one of the world's leading collectors of circus books, and also the smaller or the success or the failure of his bids.

THROUGH STORER, Meldman has bids in the present time on a manuscript of the "Moon and Stencils" one of the works included in the tremendous collection of Sir Gerald Kennedy recently put on sale in England, but to date has no news on the success or failure of his bids.

HOMES burglarized were those of Edgar G. Dehnbart, 6244 Indianwood trail; Paul A. Davies, 4385 Sly court; Samuel Archer, 4887 Sly court; Harold S. DeOrlov, 6660 Indianwood trail; Ralph Oehala, 4556 W. Maple; Samuel Fishman, 6815 Orinoco circle; Joseph Janiewicz, 4530 Niagara; William Eagleston, 6185 Indianwood trail; and Lynn Baker, 6011 Eastmore.

MUCH of the property was recovered with the arrest of the pair last week, but the money was spent and whiskey and beer consumed.

Chief Green said one of the two juveniles was arrested with an adult while the two attempted to steal gas from a truck. Questioning, said Green, implicated the second juvenile in the break-in.

THURSDAY Southfield Kiwanis, installation of officers, Devon Gables, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY Lathrup 18th grade dance classes at meeting at 7 p.m.

MONDAY Franklin Fellowship Circle 12:30 p.m., meeting at home of Mrs. Richard Rose, 23175 West 14 mile road.

TUESDAY Southfield Area PTA Council, regular meeting at 7 p.m., room of Southfield high school.

WEDNESDAY Franklin Family Circle, 12:30 p.m. in social room of Franklin Community Center.

THURSDAY Franklin Fellowship Circle meeting at home of Mrs. George Howard, 34442 W. 14 mile road.

FRIDAY Walnut Lake PTA Square Dance, at Lathrup Women's Club party, 1 p.m. at home in the

## Villages View Tax As Unfair

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

A storm appears to be brewing for Southfield in the Bingham Farms-Franklin Village area, where citizens resent paying taxes for the Evergreen Interceptor sewer—a tax they feel will never benefit them.

Both villages have their attorney, William A. Hartman, looking into the legality of the tax which was approved by voters last Spring, authorizing the township to collect two mills for 30 years to pay Southfield's share of "the Evergreen Interceptor sewer and a system of trunkline sewers throughout the township."

BINGHAM FARMS officials have hinted that, as a last resort they would halt by court order Southfield's Feb. 1 election, in which township officials hope voters will free 1.3 mills of the amount being collected, would Southfield's share of the project.

"Our people are not going to willingly pay that," said William King, Bingham Farms president, adding that it would cost villagers about \$5,000 to \$40,000.

"I personally believe that there is no question that we can get out from under this load," King added.

FRANKLIN councilmen met in special session with Hartman last week to discuss the same tax—a tax which when equalized amounts to \$3.50 a thousand of assessed valuation.

Both communities agree with Southfield that the tax is necessary for Southfield, but officials of the two villages also indicate a belief that the tax is an unfair burden on their residents.

HARTMAN has been instructed by Bingham Farms to "take whatever steps are necessary," Bingham councilmen indicated. They like to see the problem resolved in the near future.

Both communities involved, Hartman, an Oakland county Drain Commissioner or Ralph A. Main.

S'field Patrol Car In Smashup; 3 Hurt

SOUTHFIELD — Two township patrolmen and a dashboard motorist were injured Saturday when their car collided at Northwestern and Nine mile roads.

Officers Patrolman William Roy and Patrolman 24, were on an emergency run, and were going through the intersection when they collided with a car.

When the light changed, Joseph Mullholland, 33, of Dearborn, driving a Jaguar, cut the intersection and the vehicles crashed together.

All three were treated for cuts and bruises and were released. No ticket was issued, said police, who estimated damage to their auto at \$500 to \$600.

At Press Time

SOUTHFIELD

LEONARD A. WATCHOWSKI, Lathrup city administrator, asked township board to consider accepting rubbish hauling contract for Lathrup. Lathrup has trouble keeping private contractors because there isn't enough profit in the one day a month job. Board asked supervisor Eugene Swem to prepare cost estimate of Lathrup hauling job for next meeting.

Special board meeting scheduled for Jan. 18 has been moved forward to Jan. 17. Closed order on vacant trunks and four openings on planning board has been interviewed that night.

Single parking on 5 mile between Southfield and Lathrup was approved by the board. This was recommended by Southfield Business Assn.

Tentative plans for Northland Garden plot was approved. Board, noticing there was no school site in the proposed sub-division, instructed Swem to notify the school board of lack of a school site in the plot and find out if they are interested in purchasing a site. Swem will report back to the board when the plot is given final approval.

Petition of names from Murphy Orchard subdivision to change zoning ordinance from R-2 to R-4 was forwarded by township board to planning commission.

THURSDAY Franklin Fellowship Circle meeting at home of Mrs. George Howard, 34442 W. 14 mile road.

FRIDAY Walnut Lake PTA Square Dance, at Lathrup Women's Club party, 1 p.m. at home in the

Board approved purchase of 1000 tons of limeclash at \$2.25 a ton to stockpile for spring road emergency.

County court of officials in Pontiac said that another suit necessitated immediate hearing, and caused public works to delay the pollution case until Monday.

State Water Resources Commission's suit which seeks to set a deadline for pollution abatement of the Rouge by Lathrup and Southfield, was postponed Monday for one week.

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