

# 'round the towns news

# The Birmingham Eccentric

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

## Sidelights

By William H. Thomas

Usually we think of the U. S. Army, guided missile post at the mile road near Telegraph as being there to aid the surrounding area, but last week the situation reversed itself when the army oven broke down as the soldiers prepared dinner for youths from the State Republic.

Coming to the rescue were Berkshire residents Mrs. Lohr Barribeau of Oakland Drive, Mrs. Ray Rapp and Mrs. John Walrath of 1000 W. Fernon drive, and Mrs. Amy Porter of Birmingham, who cooked turkeys for the soldiers' Christmas party dinner in their own yards.

A group of young girls of the West Lake area went caroling Christmas Eve, and because they had difficulty refueling money last year for their merry songs, they decided to accept gifts this year and turn the money over to charity.

So Mrs. John Bolin, of West Dartmouth road, is custodian of the nine dollar a collected, which the girls have decided will go to the city fund. Present at the caroling party, which wound up with refreshments at the Bolin home, were Susan Byers, Susan Feeley, Susan Robinson, Lynn West, Doris Robertson and Barbara Bolin.

This is the reason for resolutions and we know one resolution that is almost certain to be kept. Mrs. Clayton E. Adams, 17045 W. 14 Mile road, has resolved (as have a good many people) that she will have no resolutions. It is one of long standing with her and the easiest one to keep, says Mrs. Lewis.

Mrs. Walter O. Stecker, Wing Lake road, has made a "five list" of resolutions promising that she will throw out her old bathrobe, carter and slippers and greet Mr. Stecker at breakfast full of vim and vigor, answer last year's stack of letters, and give up the tenth of the month; follow her "defected" diet so she can get into last year's clothes; reason with the younger Stecker instead of grabbing the nearest middle-aged woman; and Mr. Stecker to burn the trash. Mrs. Stecker says she is going to stick to her resolutions with "do or die" determination.

When Mrs. Mrs. Stuart Vorbroker went home to Chicago for Christmas all of their friends and relatives banded together for writing. So, says Mrs. Vorbroker, she is going to answer all correspondence promptly for the coming year.

All I can say, as a good resolution breaker, my dear friends, is "Perhaps it was a little ahead of time and perhaps the party broke up a little earlier than usual but did you know that the Lathrup house held their New Year's Eve party at the home of Sharon Walter last Friday night?"

Those of us who are young folks, wouldn't it? Realizing that most of the parents in Lathrup depend upon their children to help them miss their own parties, the kids just moved it up one night.

Anyone who gets in an argument with one of the four young Southfield high school debaters recently appearing on "Junior Town Meeting" is in for a real struggle. We know because we heard their recorded round table discussion between the radio Saturday night. Coach Carl Buttenmiller's speakers were poised, energetic and prepared with rebuttal to every point brought up against their arguments.

**Kavanagh Refuses HP Attorney Post**  
SOUTHFIELD — Thomas G. Kavanagh Jr., 32865 Faircrest, turned down appointment as Hazel Park's city attorney, commenting that he did not think he would have time necessary for the position.

Kavanagh, last Friday moved to Birmingham and formed a partnership there with Cass Wilson and Carl Ingraham.

But which Kavanagh had accepted earlier, was filled with appointment of Jack Moskowitz, Hazel Park attorney.

**Resuscitator Run**  
SOUTHFIELD — Township Fire department answered a resuscitator call Dec. 30 when Carl Erickson, 15771 Fourteenth, said his dog suffered a heart attack. He was taken to New Grace hospital, Detroit.

**My Neighbors**  
SHIFTING back to the 30's, Miss Lane was appointed to fill Everett's successor, Albert Johnson, who in the election was defeated by Henry Delling. Delling remained until his resignation was accepted in late wartime goods production.

Miss Lane was appointed to fill

"No, no, boy! That's a decoy. The kind we want goes 'Quack, quack!'"

## Pay Hikes For Lathrup City Officials

LATHRUP — Pay raises were approved Tuesday which up the annual budget by \$1,738.

Councilmen indicated a need for the raises, proposed by City Administrator Leonard Watchowski in a lengthy report.

Richard N. Cogger, councilman, who had also made a pay survey, pointed out that though some raises were justified, others were not in line with the going rate for similar types of employment.

ALL WERE in general agreement, however, that a minimum number of well-paid employees would carry out the type of government work required by the city, and at the same time hold the budget within bounds.

Watchowski hinted that a number of the six-member staff had expressed dissatisfaction and that there had been talk of leaving if pay adjustments were not made.

THE PAY raises and new salary scales, which are retroactive to Jan. 1, are: city administrator, an increase of \$61, to \$7,202; city clerk, \$19,250, to \$23,500; administrative clerk, \$2,570, to \$3,375; street superintendent and building inspector, \$71, to \$8,122 each; and maintenance man, \$234, to \$3,393.

The indicated increases, above, are based on six month period ending June 30. A review of salaries is expected before the next fiscal year, beginning July 1.

## Sub 2 To Host Community Party

WALNUT LAKE — At the regular monthly board meeting of Walnut Lake Estates Sp. 2, held at the Maynard Mott home on Sunnycrest, it was announced that the entertainment committee contemplates a community party in January.

Work still continues on the formal plan of a new system, and council meeting for lake safety, to be held soon after the first of the year.

There was a discussion on the membership letter being made up of January 1956, and the letter will discuss articles to be brought up for vote at the coming general meeting for subdivision members.

**Take Rubbish Bids; Study Future Action**  
LATHRUP — Three rubbish bids were received by council Tuesday night, ranging from 48¢ to 70¢ per ton.

Low bidder was Van Dyke Disposal, with Van Dyke with the 48¢ per unit bid, followed by Commercial Removal of Detroit, 60¢ and Painter and Ruthenberg of 71¢.

Veterans Disposal Service of Rochester, now holding the contract at 39¢ per unit did not bid. The Rochester firm had asked to be let out of its contract because owner's money was being lost.

City administrator Leonard A. Watchowski and City Attorney Everett P. Hayes, will study bids, and make report at the next meeting.

They have been asked to investigate the possibility that the city may be obligated to join the Area Garbage and Rubbish Authority, check tonnage, and review possibilities of the city operating its own rubbish and garbage disposal system.

**Luncheon Meeting**  
SOUTHFIELD — A luncheon meeting of Southfield Business Association will be held Monday, Jan. 9, at 12:30 p.m. at the Rosemont Hotel, 30300 Inkster. Business will be followed by the luncheon.

**Hearing Is Tonight**  
SOUTHFIELD — Public hearing will be held tonight at 8 p.m. at the Southfield-10 school to discuss rezoning of Section 25 from R-2 to R-3 and several lots in Section 31 from R-1 to R-2. Meeting has been called by the zoning board.

**We Have Seen**  
the beautifully decorated windows of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs school. Of frosty white paper, angels and the nativity scene are silhouetted against the windows. The designs were drawn by the sisters of the school and cut out by students.

the million gallon water tank on 14 Mile road near Pierce, looking like a giant, dirty-red, wooden structure.

When, and if, it gets painted a silver or light grey, it won't look quite so bad.

the log cabin at 1500 Lone Pine road which, sans electric lights, could easily be taken for an illustration of a pioneer log cabin in a history book.

several wild mallards, paddling in the River Rouge on the north side of the bridge on Riverside drive. South of the bridge, kids skating, taking advantage of an expanse of the ice-covered river.

windows of the Franklin Mill boarded up and the mill closed for the season.

the attractive holiday decorations on homes in East and West Beverly. One that interested us very much was the old-fashioned sleigh, piled high with packages, in front of the Ellis home on 18827 Riverside.

# Lathrup, Southfield Seek Answers to Pollution as Court Bout Nears

## Study Bill To Okay Interceptor

SOUTHFIELD — Legislative committee of the Michigan Association of Drain Commissioners are expected to discuss a bill Monday which would authorize the township to spend money now being collected for construction of the Evergreen Interceptor sewer.

Meeting will take place in Oakland County Drain Commissioner Ralph A. Main's office, and a copy will then be sent to the State legislature for passage, according to Claude H. Stevens, Detroit bonding attorney.

HARRY J. MERRITT, Oakland county corporation counsel, is now studying an early draft of the bill before Stevens finalizes it for presentation to Main.

After Monday's meeting, the bill, besides being placed into the hands of legislators, will be a thorough going over, at an annual meeting of Drain Commissioners' Association Jan. 19-21 at Fort Huron.

"I'm going to try and get as much support from the other commissioners as possible," said Main Tuesday.

SOUTHFIELD has pinned its hopes for a sewer from Birmingham into the Detroit system, and the bill, which along with authorization from the electors Feb. 20, would clear one of the last road blocks to the sewer, intended for relief of Southfield, Lathrup, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and Troy and Bloomfield townships.

Stevens is also wording the proposal for the Feb. 20 ballot which he hopes to have in the hands of Southfield officials this week.

SHOULD the bill be voted down, Southfield officials plan to ask Michigan Supreme Court for an opinion as to what Southfield voters wanted when they approved themselves 2 mills for 20 years, "to pay for the Evergreen Interceptor sewer and other trunk line sewers in Southfield."

Bonding attorneys said the proposal's wording last Spring did not guarantee investors that money voted under the two mills would guarantee payment of the bonds.

Passage of the bill or favorable opinion by the Supreme Court would allay such fears.

**School Buses Use Washington Drive**  
SOUTHFIELD — Slag has been poured on George Washington drive in the Washington Heights subdivision by the school board who will use the street as a school bus route for McKinley-Brooks school, George Washington road east and west from Southfield road.

The action was taken when Continental avenue, the former bus route from 10 mile road, was torn up with the beginning of the addition to the school. A new road from 10 mile is planned in the spring.

## Lathrup Seeks Aid Of Main

LATHRUP — Councilmen approved a resolution requesting Oakland County Drain Commissioner Ralph A. Main to help them find an alternate to the Evergreen Interceptor sewer in case that project should not develop.

City Attorney Everett F. Hayes objected to an original resolution, fearing the wording might be interpreted as a request for construction of a sewer by the county, taking the initiative out of Lathrup's hands.

A compromise resolution, finally adopted, struck out the move location of the sewer, and made the passage effective upon review and approval of Oakland County Corporation Council Harry J. Merritt.

LATHRUP, along with Southfield, face court action Monday when the State Water Resources Commission will try to get a decree in Oakland County circuit court asking establishment of deadlines to end pollution of the Rouge river.

Northern communities in the Evergreen project have already been given until May 1 to determine their course, and have decided, should the Evergreen sewer project not materialize, that they would join in expansion of the Birmingham plant.

SOME officials view this as a smoke screen put up to give an impression of progress towards solution of the Rouge pollution problem.

Others, however, as the May 1 deadline nears, fear the move may turn into more than just a smoke screen if road blocks to the Evergreen project can not be ironed out satisfactorily.

Hayes said he believes Southfield will fight the decree on the grounds that they are not in position to obligate the township because of the "between" city-township status.

SOUTHFIELD is trying to beat the May 1 deadline by collecting 20¢ to 25¢ in fees for the two mills now being collected as voted by voters in the last election.

This coupled with a bill which Southfield would like to have state legislature to appropriate money for the way for them to join others in the Evergreen sewer project—viewed by some as the best solution to the area sewage problem.

Lathrup, said Hayes, will continue any design unless it links Lathrup with Southfield.

Without Southfield or other communities to support, Hayes and councilman admitted Tuesday night, the only way out might be to remove treatment plant within their city.

**Spend \$3,241 from \$10,000 Surplus**  
LATHRUP — Councilmen reduced the \$10,000 surplus by \$3,241 when they voted money to cover expenses of 13 items.

The allotments were: Printing, \$150; official's expenses, \$75; janitor's supplies, \$150; telephone, \$150; plumbing inspection fees, \$450; electrical inspection fees, \$675; building department printing and supplies, \$400; legal equipment, \$500; employees' salary increases, \$864; parks and recreation, \$300; police telephone, \$150; dog pound equipment, \$200; and street maintenance tools and supplies, \$150.

**We Heard It Said By:**  
LEONARD A. WATCHOWSKI, Lathrup city administrator, to councilmen in regard to limiting hockey playing hours on city skating rinks, said the meeting of signs: "You don't want to get it (hour regulations) too complicated or the cost of your signs will go up."

**INSIDE THE ECCENTRIC**  
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TO GUARANTEE standby fire protection from Detroit for Southfield township, Maurice R. Geisel, treasurer of Southfield Business Association, turns over a \$2,845.36 check to Township Supervisor Eugene Swem, as Association President Harry Chapman looks on. The money assures the township that Detroit will help fight fires in Southfield, if needed, during 1956. Each year Southfield businessmen assure the extra protection by payment to Detroit, through the township of 3¢ per \$1,000 of township value. Check presentation was a follow-up of a resolution passed by township trustees in November.

Harold F. Thompson waters his prize collection of African violets, which includes the Honey Bud, a rare double pink variety.

**Rare Double Pink Violet Grown by Local Couple**  
By RUTH ANNE SILBAR  
A breezeaway converted to a green house has made a "just-right" setting for the hundreds of African violets grown by Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Thompson, 26580 Evergreen road.

In their cheerful little greenhouse, more than 1200 African violet plants of 205 varieties are on racks or in neatly arranged pots on damp sand.

Among the varieties are large deep purple blooms, almost two inches across, called the General Berkimer and the delicate Fleurette with feathery ruffled petals of pink. Most cherished, and rarest, is the double pink variety, quite new in the African violet field.

While the raising of African violets is a "together" hobby, Mr. Thompson keeps hands off her husband's collection in one corner of the room. These plants are not for sale and are given special attention by Thompson only.

"TWENTY years ago, the African violet was hardly known to the average person," Thompson said. "Since that time, it has grown in popularity until today it is America's number one house plant."

"In my experience, it is possible to have the plants bloom all year, hardly without interruption, although there are seasons in which they seem to bloom more heavily than others."