



The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly SEVEN CENTS

Are you on as friendly terms with your concept of God as you may be with your neighbor? Do you ever find yourself in the habit of thinking about the welfare of your neighbor as you do of your proficiency on a golf course? Do you think of your neighbor as your greatest concern to you?

79TH YEAR—NO. 15

THIS and THAT

By George R. Averill

Veteran U. S. soldiers appear in opposition of the "soft" training program currently said to be given our military newcomers. Indeed, the processes of self-guidance, including many freedoms, also contain the patterns of "softness."

After all, what is the basic difference between a "soft" military policy and the "soft" and apathetic attitude now so many officers show toward civil responsibilities?

Under either attitude, America can lose out against stronger enemy forces—whether on a battlefield or in the voting booth.

New York's Governor, W. Averell Harriman, recently announced his candidacy for President on the Democratic ticket.

Of all candidates for that office from any of all parties in many years, Harriman appears to me to be the softest kind of a Mittonite. He is as full of glib promises and solutions to staggering problems as a log trough is of sap at feeding time.

Now that the warm and hot summer weather has appeared, most every street and yard in America will blossom forth with bare legs and mid-ribs of human beings.

Such scanty attire provides the females with double exposure, they keep cool and are able to display their variety of shapes. For the men, well, they manage to keep cooler but, as for legs, etc., what have they to boast about?

Passing of Thomas L. Lucombe last week reminded me of the Brary Birmingham village election I reported here in April of 1929.

Mr. Lucombe was unopposed for the office of village president, so there was no competition involved. No local issues were to be voted on, either. Birmingham then was quiet, its population small.

The civic responsibilities incumbent upon its residents didn't impact very deeply—nor when the votes were counted Tom had received the grand total of 32.

It was the lightest vote I ever observed, though even contemporary ballot counts on some occasions are not large enough to win any awards.

There is no question but what many of Detroit's suburbs sewer and water requirements should be tied together into one master project, each community paying its just share of each project.

But when it comes to the political merging of all these suburbs into one city, that objective may never be attained.

After all, communities, like people, want their own way to be long as they are willing to pay for them, they'll fight to keep themselves like individuals.

Don Leonard is going about on his own, but he is not alone. (See THIS & THAT, Pg. 2, Sec. 1)

INSIDE THE ECENTRIC

Propose Home Rule City For Northern Southfield
Section 5, Page 1

Tops in Sports This Weekend
Section 5, Page 6

Photo Page
Section 4, Page 1

LPGA Tourney Horsho Show On Social Calendar
Section 2, Page 1

Franklin Congregation Moving to New Church
Section 4, Page 6

Section	Page
Amusements	3, 6
Bits of Birmingham	2
Business Briefs	4, 4
Church	4, 6, 7
Correspondents:	
Berkshires	5, 8
Bloomfield Village	3, 3
East Berrill	3, 3
Franklin	5, 3
Gilbert Lake	3, 4
Greenfield-Derby	3, 4
Rainbow Drive	5, 2
Lathrup Village	5, 2
North Adams	5, 2
Walnut Woods	5, 2
West Lake	5, 4
Westwood	5, 2
Wing Lake-Poeroff	5, 8
Down to Earth	4, 2
Nature News	1, 8
Obituaries	1, 6
Round the Towns	5, 1
Women's News	2, 3, 3
Sports	5, 6, 7
Theaters	3, 6
Want Ads	1, 4, 5

Birmingham Escapes Brunt of Weekend Torrents



Parking Program Costs Up

Birmingham city commissioners met in special session last night to evaluate the effect on the city's off-street parking program of a 29¢ per one lot, arising from an Oakland county court condemnation jury's award Friday.

The jury awarded six owners a total of \$129,937, or \$29,982 more than the city had estimated the lot acquisition would cost.

City Manager D. C. Egbert maintained that the city's two appraisal consultants had made sound figures, and attributed the size of the award to the jury's "sympathetic approach to the people who owned the property."

TOO LATE to report in this week's issue, the commission heard City Finance Director James Parkins report in detail the present costs and future commitments of the lot program.

It is believed the commission will decide to continue its program, having found the entire program financing not materially affected.

The award conditioned property along Park and Ferndale streets where the city has a 175-car parking lot under way. Two other lots the city is developing are a 43-car lot at Hunter and Hamilton, and a 65-car facility at Brownell and Detroit roads.

ESTIMATED cost of the three lots, approximately \$453,000 with 40¢ per lot to be paid by special assessment against benefited lots. The city also has \$305,000 in revenue bonds it is going to issue shortly, and has closed to \$100,000 in meter revenues that can be used.

Here is the jury awards made to the city's seven owners:

Paving Contract Awarded; 7 Streets To Get Resurfacing

Birmingham's 1956 paving program was awarded this week. It had been held up because of settlement of a property sale between Birmingham and the town of Edgewood.

The city bid \$212,118.85 award went to low bidder Tony Angelo of Hazel Park. It is expected that work will begin by August 1 on these streets: Edgewood, Lincoln to Catalpa; Willis to Woodward; East Edgewood, Birney to Catalpa; Bates street north from Willis; Bates, Catalpa to 14 Mile; Lincoln, Edgewood, and Edgewood, Bird to 14 Mile.

COMMISSIONERS also approved a tentative \$47,000 asphalt stamping resurfacing program this summer.

Bates and Henrietta, both from 29 cents, which cost \$1.25 per square yard. The asphalt stamping resurfacing program is scheduled for later in the season on an Willis street and the Oak street extension between Woodward and Hunter.



Retiring Hills Chief Recalls City in 1929

From 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every other day for 27 years, Bloomfield Hills Fire Chief Burton R. Bartholomew has been on duty in the department's combination office, kitchen and dormitory at the city's municipal building, but he says he doesn't know every family in town like he used to in "the early days."

Last week Bloomfield Hills officials honored the city of Bloomfield Hills presented Bartholomew with a gold watch, engraved with the words "in appreciation for 27 years of service."

Bartholomew previously announced his intention to retire as of July 1, and plans to take things easy, except for a part-time 16-hour a week job at the post office in Rochester, where he lives.

THE RETIRING CHIEF was 34 when he joined the Hills fire fighters in 1929, and he can still recall in names of families residing along many of the city's drives.

"I couldn't do that any more," he said, "but back in those days we knew everybody."

Back in those days the police department and city offices were located upstairs over what is now Kingsley Inn. Downstairs, Chief Bartholomew recalls, was a bank, a restaurant, and a barber shop.

IT WASN'T UNTIL 1934 that the fire department moved from a garage near Woodward on Long Lake to occupy the present municipal building with other city departments.

Bartholomew was named fire chief in 1948. A volunteer fireman in Rochester since 1915, he is married and the father of two sons, Burton G. and Phillip.

At last week's banquet in his honor, the Hills fire fighters gathered to bid adieu to the retiring chief.

In a robbery similar to one at the same store earlier this year, a \$400 brown mink staid in a display window at Dimas fur, 227 S. Woodward. At 4:15 a.m. Sunday police discovered the window glass had been kicked in. They reported that another neck piece in the same window was not taken.

Storm Torrents Hit Heaviest Outside the City

Monday morning found flooded basements, impassable roads, and a thoroughly drenched area following torrential rainfalls Sunday and early Monday.

What is believed to be a record two-day rainfall in Birmingham was marked on the city's rain gauge when nearly three and a half inches fell. From midnight Saturday to the same time Sunday, 1.96 inches poured down, and during the next 24-hour period 1.51 inches were recorded.

Even at that, Birmingham was exceedingly fortunate, according to DPW Supt. Robert Kenning, who said heaviest concentrations of rain hit to the north and south, outside the city.

THOUGH SOME Birmingham residents reported flooded basements in parts of the city, Kenning said none of it was of any great depth.

City officials explained that Birmingham is not situated to take the heavy rainfall that struck other areas because the city was not in the center of the rain pattern.

At Pontiac's county building, nearly an inch more rain was recorded. In Oak Park, boats were the only means of transportation between 10 and 11 Mile roads.

Even higher was the rainfall to the south, where a county rain gauge in Clawson recorded one and a half inches in a 24-hour period. In Clawson gauge showed 4.80 inches had fallen.

COSTLY DAMAGES were suffered in Clawson, Oak Park and Berkeley, where even basements that never before experienced flooding went in water almost to first floor levels.

Wet lakes as deep as five feet in Oak Park, boats were the only means of transportation between 10 and 11 Mile roads.

Transportation came to a standstill, east of Woodward on 14 and 15 Mile roads as well, forcing traffic to detour. Greenwood road in Southfield township was impassable from 13 to 13 Mile road, and Southfield road was flooded at 13 Mile.

WATERS DRAINING from higher land in Southfield were responsible for much of the inundation in neighboring Oak Park when even sandbags failed to stop the waters flowing across Greenwood.

The high waters in Southfield overloaded sewer systems and poured water into many basements.

Flooding of basements was widespread, said Southfield water department Director Leonard Lamb.

Lathrup village alone received 60 such reports, with many more believed still unreported. Water in many cases was said to be four feet deep, with one resident reporting the water level reached the top of the basement steps.

The wet basements prompted the Lathrup city council to begin immediately planning for a system of relief sewers.

TELEPHONE AND power failures were spotted throughout the area, but officials said service was restored within a short time.

Springdale, said of course was closed down for the day Monday because of the high Rouge river waters that forced workers to the down two bridges to prevent them from washing away. Manager Dale Ralph said the waters were within inches of closing off 16 Mile road.

Detroit Water Bolsters B'ham Underground Source

That red-tinted water you may have received Thursday afternoon, or which you may find flowing from your taps today—or perhaps tomorrow—won't hurt you a bit.

It is just evidence that Birmingham now are carrying some of Detroit water, delivered here via the new South Oakland water authority system up Greenfield road.

At 1:15 p.m. Thursday, water authority chairman L. R. Gare opened the gate valve at 14 Mile and Edgewood to let the new water supply take up some of the unprecedented demand which set a new consumption record here Thursday—6,142,000 gallons.

JUST THE DAY before, from only the six city works, a record 4,921,000 gallons were pumped. Previous high was 6,091,000 gallons used on a very hot day in May 1955.

Fire Chief Park Smith, whose department maintains the city's water system, said the rusty water might show up from time to time anywhere in the city.

It depends on the sections where the heaviest demand may be, he explained.

THE RUST, he added, can be attributed to two causes: 1) the reversal of flow of water in mains because of the new distribution routes that will be formed, as well

as 2) the combination of Detroit water containing large amount of oxygen with Birmingham well water which has considerable iron content.

City officials plan to use a 60 per cent of Detroit—40 per cent Birmingham water mixture. Users will have to wait at least a year before the city will alter its water treatment plant ready and thus be able to aerate Birmingham water before mixing it with Detroit water.

HOWEVER, the iron content will remain on the border line, according to experts who have analyzed the two respective waters and estimated the results of their combinations in various amounts.

Still in the office for Birmingham water users is an increase in rates, which may approximate 50 per cent more. Exact amount still is under study.

Short Skating Season Ruined Revenue Losses

It cost the city 96 cents each to permit 2,231 admissions to the abbreviated six-week season at Birmingham's Eton park artificial ice skating rink.

According to figures disclosed this week by City Finance Director James Parkins, it cost \$10,273.06 to operate the rink from Feb. 4 to March 18.

Admissions and merchandise sales netted \$3,015.24, so the city had to pick up the tab for the remaining \$7,257.82.

AVERAGE skating fee was 29 cents, which cost \$1.25 per square yard. The asphalt stamping resurfacing program is scheduled for later in the season on an Willis street and the Oak street extension between Woodward and Hunter.

Over the World from Top to Bottom This Icebreaking Sailor Journeyed

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If he had had more than a 15-day leave, Coast Guard Seaman Jon R. Meyer might have caught up with a few more of the holidays he missed while on Operation Deepfreeze in the Antarctic. As it was, Jon celebrated Thanksgiving with his family on Decoration Day, but still has a long excursion to the sea to go.

While his ship, the 6,500-ton icebreaker Eastwind, was in drydock having a lost propeller replaced, Jon was home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Meyer, 18890 Rainbow Drive, Lathrup. Jon enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard three months ago. After three months of basic training, he was sent to Boston and assigned to the Eastwind as a clerk-typist.

He is now up for a clerk-typist. When the Eastwind returned port from the Arctic, a call for volunteers for Antarctic Operation Deepfreeze was sent out. Having seen the top of the world, Jon decided he would enjoy a view from the bottom, and volunteered to stay with the ship.

ON NOVEMBER 10 last year, the Eastwind sailed to rendezvous with eight other ships in the Ross Sea. She stayed in the vicinity of McMurdo Sound, New Zealand, to take on fresh vegetables and milk. For hundreds of miles the ship left New Zealand, great schools of dolphins ride with the bow, giving an excursion to the tourists.

Following the rendezvous in the Ross Sea, the Eastwind went to McMurdo Sound on the west coast of Antarctica. There for three months in the ice, it withstood temperatures averaging 10 degrees below zero, and winds up to 100 miles an hour.



IT HAD BEEN planned that the expedition's two icebreakers would enter a channel for the cargo ships at the base of operations at Hut Point. However, the weather was so bad that the icebreaker had to be abandoned.

WHILE BIRMINGHAM SWELTERS and swims in the heat and the humidity these days, these Emperor penguins strut their stuff on the Antarctic ice. They show off for John Meyer and other members of "Operation Deepfreeze".

Disposal Plant Sale Gets Nod

Birmingham city commissioners this week tentatively approved sale of the city sewage disposal plant to the North Evergreen sewage disposal authority.

City Manager D. C. Egbert was asked to work out the formula by which the four authority members would pay for it, then from that basis determine the specific Birmingham costs.

This is a preliminary step which Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield township and Troy must take to permanently solve River Rouge pollution problems.

The authority will buy the plant and 1) enlarge it for permanent use at its lower end, and Evergreen (through Southfield township) fails to materialize, or 2) abandon the plant use of river connection to the lower Evergreen if it is constructed.

EGBERT figures the authority will be ready to acquire the plant by July 1, 1957.

Birmingham commissioners also agreed to let the other three units make immediate use of the Evergreen (through Southfield township) fails to materialize, or 2) abandon the plant use of river connection to the lower Evergreen if it is constructed.

AT LONG SOUTHFIELD has indicated previous interest in joining the larger Evergreen connection into Detroit, there have been recent rumblings that the township may attempt to go it alone in some of the disposal plant.

It will be mid-August before Southfield can join in the Evergreen project, if that course is the one decided on.

A couple of questions Birmingham wanted to answer is whether the Detroit system can handle the proposed volume, and what it might cost if Birmingham had to participate in the treatment of any Detroit drains.

North Evergreen authority would take over the Birmingham plant at its present value, which would be determined by replacement cost, less depreciation and obsolescence.

STRICTLY FRESH

City visitor from Minnesota said it pained him to sit through a dance concert, but his wife just called it ballet-ache.

Restaurant sign on the knife and fork trail: If you don't eat here, we don't eat at home.

A California dairymen told police he'd been robbed of a gallon of milk right out of the cow. There was only a quart left when he began milking.

Then there's the fellow who took out a bank loan so he could save money to cover the bill he was paying off the loan with.

Now that outdoor fern and garden" is up on, folks! And that their hands are many-splintered things.

All makes of lawn spring mattresses restored. Free service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, 2408 S. High St., Birmingham 16.

Lightning hit a TV aerial at the home of Adolph Kowitz, 979 Clark in Birmingham, causing a lead-in wire to burn. The fire department, summoned by a neighbor in the family's absence, quickly extinguished the blaze.

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