

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Electric

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

Lathrup Okays Swimming Pool Safety Ordinance

LATHRUP — A swimming pool safety ordinance was adopted here Monday night but not before council became sidetracked to a discussion on recent building permits issued in violation of the zoning ordinance.

Councilman Richard N. Cogger's resolution, introduced to protect youngsters from drowning in unprotected swimming pools, touched off discussion which included threats of replacing City Manager Leonard Watchcock or Building Inspector David J. Bourgeois, or both, for failing to issue proper building permits.

Mayor John G. Campbell said Tuesday that Antoinelli had agreed to remove the porch projection to satisfy council.

Cogger's pool ordinance applies to any man-made pool deeper than 12 inches. All must have a fence around them, and must comply with minimum backyard and setback requirements.

Campbell said Tuesday that four of the five councilmen agreed that the 30-foot minimum must be located between the pool and the owner's house.

Owners of pools already in existence have 60 days to erect a fence. The deadline is June 15, to erect a protective fence.

Permits for pools will be obtained from the building inspector except where they would violate minimum backyard and setback requirements, in which case the permit would have to be granted by the board of appeals, said Campbell.

Members of the choir which will be heard over CBS radio broadcasting system Saturday night at 10:30 p. m. at Redwood, for 24 years the director of Chevrolet Glee Club of Detroit, will be his guest.

For the mass singing at the convention of American Association of Women's Clubs, the glee club is a member of the Michigan Male Chorus association.

Continuing a drive survey of the area, a group of men started a while back. They found most of the manholes plugged with dirt, and the sewerer, Ken Matins, is worthless.

"We have to clean out the sewers," said Ken's big question since the drive was solved—"Who's going to pay for cleaning out those sewers?"

"I don't see how it can be done," said Ken, "but I don't see how it can be done."

LATHRUP HOPES that with its new policy of disconnecting downspouts from basements and prohibiting building in critical areas, it will have a better building of the past. A few weeks ago, however, flooded basements were not uncommon.

The Electric said a heavy dew would flood the basement of Edwin R. Blake, and that we now have learned that it wasn't the Edwin R. Blake basement that was flooded.

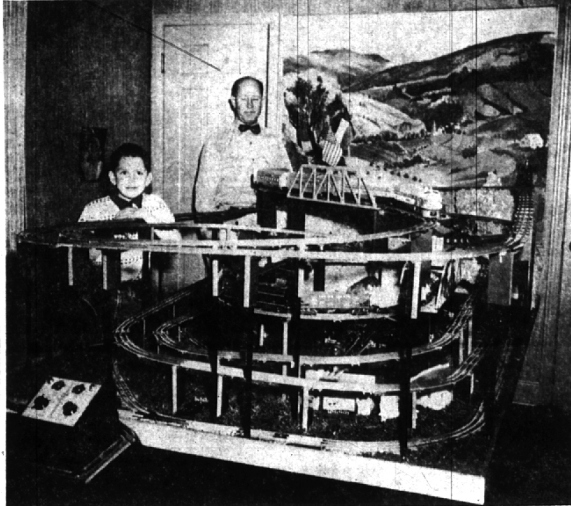
SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP soon will have its own tornado detector. A Lawrence Institute of Technology, Northwestern at Chicago has asked for a building fund of \$25,000 for this equipment.

COUNTY CUTS \$95,000 From Sundry Budget

SOUTHFIELD—A one-half million dollar cut in the county budget of \$95,000 of that to be made by the township to run its government under the proposed 1956 budget.

GREENFIELD-BEVERLY Appoints New Committee Heads

EAST BEVERLY — New committee chairman for the Greenfield-Beverly area is Robert W. Spencer, public works director.



J. WILLIAM DUHN, 31875 Lahser road, and 10-year-old son Jim spend many happy hours together working this elaborate electric train set-up. Jim's pet hamster gets a daily ride in one of the freight cars.

Tri-Level Train Set-Up Is Hobby Of J. William Duhn and Son Jim

By MARGE DEUEL

VALLEY WOODS—Hobbies are fascinating, especially if it is something you have wanted to do since you were ten years old.

Mr. Duhn's desire for an electric train goes back to the time when he lived on the farm and due to the lack of electricity was unable to have one.

THEY STARTED out in Jim's bedroom with a five by eight foot plywood board mounted on a wooden frame.

THE FOURTH, still in the plan-

LIT Donates Site For Tornado Detection Center

SOUTHFIELD — Lawrence Institute of Technology has donated a range of land to Southfield civil defense to house a radar station to be used in detection of tornadoes and to spread the alarm.

OFFICER in charge of surplus government equipment has promised to donate surplus equipment.

BOBSON said the cost of the building and equipment would run about \$50,000-\$60,000, and would provide the radar equipment, the building, and wiring system.

ENTERTAINERS Sorority

Mrs. Cecyl D. Conrad of Square Lake road will be hostess for the final dinner meeting of the year, Friday, June 8, for Alpha Mu Sigma, musical and social sorority.

WANTS Villages To Incorporate In Near Future

BINGHAM FARMS—Village officials here will try to make a move to incorporate in the near future.

TEEN-AGE Council Is Organized In Lathrup

LATHRUP — Plans for a civic and social organization for the teenage group in Lathrup were fruit last week with the formation of the Lathrup Junior Council.

Race Track, Four Industries Keep Livonia's Taxes Down

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last of three articles which have attempted to solve problems of two township-sized cities—Troy and Livonia—with Southfield. We hope it has stimulated thinking of Southfield voters, and given the charter commissioners something with which to work.

By WM. H. THOMAS

Everybody in Livonia with whom I discussed the transition of a large township into a single city form government made one declaration: such a change is made the taxpayers must realize that the allowance for revenue is not to be reduced.

IN 1948 Livonia's tax rate (under township government) was \$1.07 per thousand of assessed values (county equalized) and it remained so until 1954.

IN 1948, Southfield collected no tax from residents, but set a rate of \$1.07 per thousand of assessed values to help pay for township government.

THIS YEAR Southfield will receive from township residents one mill for local government operations. It must be remembered that although on paper this represents only a 25 cent per thousand increase in taxes, that Southfield has increased assessed values and is taking in more revenue from increased building, as is Livonia.

IN 1950 Livonia's population was about 17,000 and today it has an estimated population of about 25,000.

A & Asphalt of Birmingham, lowest of four bidders with \$95,000, was granted the contract pending approval of the bond sale by the Michigan Municipal Finance Corp. The bid includes 10 per cent for engineering and miscellaneous costs.

AVERAGE cost per front foot will be \$2.91, 51 cents over the average estimated by Arthur W. King, engineering firm.

WANTS Villages To Incorporate In Near Future

BINGHAM FARMS—Village officials here will try to make a move to incorporate in the near future.

THOSE in the northeastern part of Southfield see to benefit from the Evergreen Interceptor sewer and other township drains, and a similar project in the area.

RAINBOW circle, Rainbow township, southwest to Red River, \$1.98.

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50,000. In 1950 Southfield had under 9,000 residents, while today the estimate is about 30,000 for the township's 30-square-mile area.

SOUTHFIELD has only one tax source which can compare with Livonia's, four large industrial plants. That is Northland, valued for tax purposes at \$8,200,000 in real property and another \$5,300,000 in personal property.

Livonia, in comparison, has a \$9 million Ford transmission plant, a Ford parts dept. valued at \$1 million; a GM Fisher Body plant, valued at \$4.4 million, and a GM Chevrolet spring and bumper plant worth \$15.5 million.

In addition, Livonia government treasury benefits to the tune of \$500,000 in taxes yearly from the MRA race track which this year paid one-third of the city's operating expenses.

LIVONIA this year had a state equalized value of \$17,205,018, which is very close to Southfield's \$13,434,182 state value.

Livonia's four major plants and the race track which this year paid one-third of the city's operating expenses alone. Last year, industrial and commercial property accounted for 65 per cent of the city's assessed valuation.

In Southfield, however, much more of local government costs must be borne by residents because of the high cost of large industrial development.

ABOUT 15 per cent of Southfield's assessed value is personal property, which is almost exclusively a tax on business industry, according to Ted Sage of the Oakland county tax allocation board.

Of the remaining assessed values, less than five per cent is from improved business, about 17 per cent is from improved buildings, and the remaining 65 per cent is residential property assessments.

It must be pointed out here that cost of improvements in the way of sewer or sewer systems or other improvements that usually are paid for by the benefited property owner, would not be included in the cost of running the government.

THE FORMER mayor pointed to the 63 per cent of Livonia's taxes paid by industry, which comes from only 44 per cent of the assessed value.

"You take these four large industrial tax sources away from Livonia and you have a tax income would be lowered greatly," Hartom continued.

"The MRA race track brings us an annual income of \$500,000, a circumstance which is a valuable asset to our taxpayers."

"Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the fact that sufficient industrial, business, personal and real estate properties from which to collect taxes merely changing from township to city status effects nothing, except to give more authority to its governing authorities, amounts to little in the way of industrial improvement."

HOW ABOUT election of clerk and treasurer?

"If this thing should be elected, especially the treasurer," said Hartom, but he added, not under a city-manager form of government.

"I worked against the mayor form of government," said Hartom. "The city-manager type is theoretically best, and I didn't switch my mind until I saw that."

Now Hartom believes that a newly-incorporated area, which has a growth problem, should have a strong mayor-type government to guide it through its formative years.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECENTRIC

Birmingham School District Vote

School

Church