

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Beverys, Berkshires Considering Village Possibilities

Sidelights

Lathrup police have a way to make people, who jump the stop sign on Southfield road, stop, think and forever remember that particular sign. In a usual hurry, the motorist goes through, only to be stopped by Lathrup police who in a quiet, friendly and unobtrusive manner, ask his name, ask to see his license talk about the weather, remark about the congestion.

The Upper Teens club first outing at Southfield park was a bang-up affair, club officers reported. Over 100 teenagers played baseball, badminton, and tossed horseshoes. After the picnic supper proceeded to the girls, there was dancing to favorite teen-age records.

Mrs. Edward Lloyd, return president of Southfield PTA council, reminds Southfield residents that the school election Monday June 11, is most significant as it concerns the re-education of the school district.

Glenn W. Levey, editor of the Southfield Kawanian, had better do something about changing his residence phone number in the Kawanian Bulletin. The folks at HL 6-7100 (the number listed in the bulletin) say they are getting pretty tired answering the phone for people who want to speak to him.

David Bingham, 13, son of the Carson Bingham of Bingham Farms is raising two orphaned baby robins. He has named them Orville and Wilson after Wright Brothers, and hopes that soon they will be able to fly as well as their man-made Orville and Wilson are thriving under David's care and enjoy seeing the world perched on his shoulders.



THE OLD TIMER

"The income tax law really has teeth in it, and they develop an ache for everybody!"



FRANKLIN girl scout leaders plan an active, busy scout season next year. Mrs. J. H. Holmes, 27345 Ovid, standing left, has been elected new neighborhood girl scout chairman.

Mothers Solve Lack of Teenage Social Events

By JEAN KITTLE

VALLEY WOODS—When Mothers get together and discuss a problem, an answer is bound to come up. The Valley Woods Teen club began its existence when Mrs. John Calhoun of Bellevue Trail asked the Valley Woods Women's group, "What can we do to give our teenagers interesting social group activities?"

Discussing the problem, the women's group conceded suburban living sometimes limits the opportunity for young people to get together because of the distance involved between homes.

Age, too, they said, presented a problem. In the early teens seventh and eighth graders find their social life somewhat confining. Being 'in-between,' they are too young to be allowed complete freedom and too grown-up for neighborhood play.

OUT OF THE QUESTION posed by Mrs. Calhoun and its discussion, eight mothers interested in the problem met to do something about it.

Over a coffee brunch, the first meeting took place at Mrs. Calhoun's home. Present were Mrs. Kenneth Walling of Eastlady road, Mrs. Vera Kilby of Westlady, Mrs. William Harris and Mrs. Kenneth Kittle of Westlady, Mrs. William J. Duhn of Lahser, Mrs. William S. Kreis of Bellevue Trail and Mrs. Robert Groves of Hampstead.

Plans were made for the teen-ager group to meet once a month during the school year. The young people were brought into the plans and were most interested in the type of activity they were most interested in.

SO FAR, the teenagers have participated in several evenings of varied fun—roller skating, ice skating, a supper party and dancing. Weather permitting, a hope-to-be hayride and a scavenger hunt is planned.

The teenagers are completely self-supporting—even reimbursing their mothers for food sent to the parties. When the young people are contacted for the event, the price of the evening is included with the when and how to dress. Cost of the entertainment is decided by four mothers taking turns in chaperoning for the evening.

To show the success of the project, Valley Woods has 28 active youngsters taking part in the fun and parents are becoming young-again themselves. At the rink, look carefully—Mother and Dad are out there, too!

Riverwoods Branch WNGF to Hold Plant Sale June 5

SOUTHFIELD—A plant sale and an original skit by club member Mrs. J. Earl Bush will be on the program of the River woods branch of the Women's National Garden and Gardeners association meeting June 5, at the home of Mrs. Andy Broad, 24575 Edgemoor drive.

Assisting Mrs. Broad will be Mrs. John J. Zink and Mrs. John Crosby. Re-elected to the offices of president and vice presidents of the Riverwoods branch were Mrs. Joseph W. McDougal and Mrs. Eugene Hill. Newly elected were Mrs. Stephan Balabaner, recording secretary; Mrs. John A. Klett, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Andy Broad, treasurer.

Lathrup Council Sets Drainage Conference June 1

LATHRUP—In accordance with recommendations of the County Drain Commission made one year ago, the Lathrup city council decided on a policy of handling excessive storm water (as far as possible) separate from sanitary drainage.

The council called for a June 1 conference with its consultant engineers and county authorities and their attorneys, on comprehensive plans for further handling of drainage and for the protection of Lathrup Village from the effects of storm water by neighboring communities into the official Lathrup Village assessment territory.

The coming Evergreen interceptor, when built, is expected to take the entire sanitary flow from Lathrup, leaving the natural stream at its western border to handle storm water to comply with Michigan's stream control commission.



My Neighbors

NEW SCHOOL building construction in Southfield will give the community one of the finest junior high school facilities in the state. The large addition to the E. J. Lederle school will face Nine Mile Rd. on the 19-acre wooded plot now occupied by the elementary school.

East Southfield Plans Year's End Activities

EAST SOUTHFIELD—School will be excused June 15 for summer vacation. Before that date, however, the school is buzzing with activities. Many classes will be going on trips, some already have been and others in the process of going.

Marion Simms, principal, lists the following teachers and trips the students will take: Kindergarten class with Katherine Wine will make a return trip to Acacia Park cemetery to feed the ducks. Annie Evans will take the first grade to Lola Valley park for an all-day picnic.

Margaret Crawford and Marie Young second grade teachers will be going to the Southfield Recreation then to Lola Valley park for lunch. Third grade with Margaret Hanes have been to a dairy and plan a picnic in June.

Margaret Baize and Patricia Dwyer, also third grade teachers, plan a trip to Cranbrook planetarium and Southfield park for lunch. Traveling by bus to Plymouth to ride the train into Detroit then to Acacia Park for lunch. Fourth grade on the lawn was the adventure enjoyed by fourth grade with Helen Bree.

Helen Shaw will take her fourth grade on the same trip, stopping to watch a gingerbread plant to its product. This class also made an earlier tour through Michigan Bell Telephone Co.

A tour is planned by Isa Vough for her fifth grade through Greenfield Village. A picnic in June with swimming, if weather permits, is scheduled for Mrs. Kunko and her fifth grade.

Sixth grade went on a lake through Kensington Park with Mrs. Helen Jones. Seventh grade have been to the Rouge plant and have a play scheduled for Mrs. Thelma Pomeroy is their teacher.

Mrs. Don Cameron To Be President Of Business Women

SOUTHFIELD—Mrs. Don Cameron will be presented the gavel of the Southfield Business and Professional Women's club June 6 by retiring president Mrs. J. A. Blacklaw, during the installation of officers ceremonies following the dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Congregational church, Southfield road.

Mrs. Ha Mae Pearl past president of the Northwest club will be installing officer. The club is offering an annual \$100 scholarship to a deserving local girl planning to take a four year college or nurse's training course.

Margaret Allen conducted a silver craft demonstration at the home of Mrs. John Grimes recently and over a hundred dollars was raised to complete the scholarship and to finance the sending of a local child to Camp Oakland for two weeks this summer.

Delegates to the recent state conference in Detroit were Florence Johnson, Margaret Allen and Ruth Cameron. Reports will be given on sessions attended.

Family Gathering

EAST SOUTHFIELD—Mr. and Mrs. George Hender former residents of Selkirk, have been visiting their daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Welch of Aberdeen. A family dinner was served to honor Mrs. Hender and her granddaughter Suzanne Welch on their combined birthdays. Mr. and Mrs. James O'Bannon came over from Selkirk to help celebrate.

Close Look at Livonia's Gov't Provides Interesting Comparisons to Southfield

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last week we presented opinions of Norman R. Barnard, former Troy city manager, on how government there was set up and how it was working. This series has been compiled to aid Southfield in selecting their second charter, now being written. This week we take a look at government in Livonia, a township which incorporated as a city in 1950.

BY WILLIAM H. THOMAS

Factionalism split Livonia during its period of incorporation perhaps even more so than Southfield, if that is possible. Biggest Livonia hassle was the dispute as to whether the city should have a strong-mayor or strong-manager-type government.

The strong mayor system won out when voters accepted the first charter presented to them. The mayor has veto power which requires a 5-2 vote of council to override.

Since then one amendment has been made to the charter, and that was to have the clerk elected, rather than appointed. Both the clerk and the treasurer, whose posts have been elected since the beginning, have remained in office during the period since incorporation.

A SLIGHT review of the political situation in Livonia is necessary at this point. Term of office for the seven councilmen was set at four years, while that of mayor was for two years. The first government, or pre-incorporation element, lasted four years.

At that time another mayor and a majority of council went into office from the other side of the judicial street. They lasted two years, until this spring when the attorney who had advised the original charter commission was elected mayor.

THE PRESENT mayor, William Brashear, the man who guided the charter writer's hands, is, of course, mainly satisfied with the present form of government.

He points out that one government is more efficient than if Livonia had broken into several smaller incorporated areas.

Pointing to Royal Oak, he notes the vast amount of duplication in the original township area of 36 square miles.

In that area are 10 political units: Madison Heights, Hazel Park, Oak Park, Huntington Woods, Pleasant Ridge, Ferndale, Berkley, Royal Oak city, the bulk of Clawson, and Royal Oak township.

THIS AREA with approximately 230,000 people, will spend during 1956 for cost of local government (excluding water rates and taxes to schools and county) about \$9,800,000.

Livonia, with their fiscal year ending in November, will spend \$1,596,028.03 for local government to provide services to about 60,000 people.

Livonians boast of having the lowest tax rate of any city in Michigan with maximum allowed under their charter of 5 mills.

THEY TALK on state equalized values which brings their tax rate in reality up to \$5.76 per thousand dollars of actual market value. Both Livonia and Southfield list assessments on property at about one-third of the actual market value.

Brashear, who recently discouraged Waterford township towards any incorporation move because their industrial tax base is low.

AT THE MEETING last week, the commission asked Mrs. Molnar to resign as secretary and after her refusal, commissioners Edward A. Elzehill, Thomas M. Costello and Marvin Marsh took the attack to remove Mrs. Molnar as secretary because of her actions in de-

Growing Interest Evidenced

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR

Residents in the northern part of Southfield township are exploring the possibilities of uniting into one governmental unit to extend from Greenfield road west to Bingham Farm's eastern boundary and from 14 Mile road south to approximately the 12 1/2 Mile road.

An educational program will be carried out to inform residents of their situation and polls to determine residents' desires, first will be taken before petitions are filed for a new village.

GREENFIELD-BEVERLY association board members, meeting Monday night, discussed the possibilities of a new village.

"There is growing interest in this suggestion," George Murphy, past president said, "but people have many questions that need to be answered."

The poll to be distributed to Southfield City 421 annexation members has been left to a fact-finding committee, headed by Murphy, to be worked out.

BERKSHIRE Hills board also meeting Monday night, felt it advisable to consider the aftermath if the next Southfield charter is defeated, since the area south of 12 Mile has already filed a petition to incorporate.

Berkshire Hills board members believe their area has assessed valuation high enough to support some type of government, whether it be a village or a township, without a foreseeable increase in taxes.

EXPLAINING that residents of their community should be prepared for all eventualities, spokesmen for the Greenfield-Beverly and for the Berkshire Hills Protective associations said they believed an independent village or township would be their residents' first choice between (1) becoming a part of Southfield City, (2) annexation to Birmingham, or (3) becoming an independent city or village.

The choice of becoming an independent governmental unit would be available to Southfield residents north of the 12 1/2 mile road, only in the event two more Southfield charters are defeated or time runs out June 15.

THE SECOND Southfield charter probably will be voted upon sometime in September. If this is defeated as was Southfield's first charter, there is some speculation that attempts to consolidate all of Southfield township into one city will be made in the near future.

While annexation to Birmingham is the hope of some northern area residents, it is a pretty slim hope, it was pointed out, as annexation is a long drawn-out and complicated process.

WHILE NO DATE could possibly be estimated at this time, it is fairly certain that the problems of annexation to Birmingham will be dealt with in the next few months.

Question Berkshire residents will be asked in their poll will be, "Would you like to be a part of the incorporated city of Southfield, Yes or No?"

New officers of the Greenfield-Beverly association elected at the board meeting are Ted Shurtleff, president; Robert Reed, vice president; Mrs. David Schultz, second vice president; Mrs. Charles Letts, secretary and Charles Brook, treasurer. Chairman of board captains for the area is Edwin Schreck.

Third Birthday Observed by OES Chapter 519

SOUTHFIELD—Chapter 519 OES celebrated the third birthday of the Birmingham Masonic Temple with a turkey dinner. During the special meeting which followed, Sibyl Wampler and Helen Waste were initiated and honorary memberships were presented to Marion Hunt, Stella and William Hanley by worthy patron Mildred Glascock and worthy patron John Barber.

The chapter will meet the second and fourth Wednesday evenings in June and then will vacation until September. Installation of officers will be held in October during the special meeting.

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