

'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 TOWNS.

Sidelights

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

DONALD BRYNN, five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Brynn, 28750 Everett, Southfield township, had never shown any enthusiasm for his older sister's brownie troop activities until a recent "fly up" which in brownie lingo is the graduation date for little brownies to girl scout status.

Donald, on this occasion, however, was interested in the start and Mrs. Brynn was hard put to explain this unusual interest until the "fly up" arrived and Donald asked his mother, "What are they going to fly up in, Mommy? Jet?"

SOUTHFIELD should turn out a record vote this November, if registrations are any indication. Mrs. Fannie Adams, township clerk, tells me that 308 persons registered Saturday alone.

Population estimates last spring placed population between 30,000 and 35,000. After the heavy registration which closed Monday, Mrs. Adams believes that Southfield has close to 40,000 residents if it has one.

Township employees are still trying to dig out from under the registration forms.

LATHRUP, too, had a heavy registration, although not as heavy as Southfield. Saturday's total was 88. Compliments to the women of Lathrup who volunteered to give up their nights and Saturdays to help out in the registration drive the coming election. No totals on the number of voters yet. City employees are still trying to recover from the onslaught.

IF I WERE a charter commissioner in Southfield, I would certainly be discouraged after Monday night's turnout of less than 100 persons out of a population of almost 40,000.

Charter commissioners worked late into the night all summer long, sometimes two and three days a week, to prepare the charter which, if okayed at the polls Dec. 3, will become the "law of the land" as far as Southfield is concerned.

Unfortunately, the charter, like other forms of government, won't mean much to most Southfield residents until it affects their personal desires.

Awaiting Freeway Information

SOUTHFIELD-State highway department officials have a decision to make—and they have to make it soon or their proposed freeway may not be there for money.

Andrew Nelson, realtor and developer, wants approval to build in his Roseland Woods subdivision just south of Nine Mile and just west of Southfield road.

But the right-of-way for the freeway cuts off about 20 lots in the subdivision, and James Hickey, township land planner, wants to know how the plat will be laid out should the highway shave off these lots.

Cedric Weber, chief state highway engineer, told Hickley that he would know within one week if this line were to be definite.

HOWEVER, State has taken no action to acquire Nelson's land before other parts of the subdivision are built up. Southfield will have no alternative but to let Nelson build on the land in the path of the freeway, which would mean additional costs of acquiring the land.

But if Nelson held back he would be paying the taxes on the land for an indefinite time and perhaps the road might not come through that area at all.

The subdivision, in the northeast quarter of Section 35, has about 64 lots.

Township board tabled final approval of the plat for one week, awaiting the highway department's decision.

Swanson for Mayor

SOUTHFIELD—Don L. Swanson, 24088 Pennsylvania, township board member, has taken out a nominating petition for mayor of the City of Southfield. He will run for the post at the Dec. 3 charter election. If the charter is approved, those elected to office will head the city's first government.

My Neighbors

"Think I've discovered a way to save—crunch, crunch—enough to pay our income tax!"

DAN GARAN

Small Crowd Hears



MANUFACTURERS National Bank officials opened a branch office at 4077 W. Maple road (at Telegraph) last week. Among those attending the opening were Robert Vanderkoot, 1200 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield township; William A. Mayberry, bank president; Arno L. Hulet, Bloomfield township supervisor; and Clark M. Green, Bloomfield township police chief.

'Charter Protects Rights' Says Edward A. Elsarelli

By EDWARD A. ELSARELLI

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the seventh in a series of nine articles to be written each week by a different member of Southfield's second charter commission. This week's writer is Edward A. Elsarelli, who also is justice of the peace.

When I was elected as member of the Charter Commission of the City of Southfield I entered upon many duties with the idea of incorporating into the new charter three (3) basic ideas:

- (1) To create a form of city government which protected the people in their inherent right to self government;
- (2) To create a form of city government which would prevent any individual or group of individuals from obtaining too much power to the detriment of the welfare of the people;
- (3) To establish a tax structure whereby the cost of city government to the people would be kept at an absolute minimum but at the same time permit efficient operation of city government.

IT IS MY sincere belief that the charter as drafted represents the opinion of the majority of the members of the Charter Commission and has embodied the three (3) principals stated above. Under the terms of the present charter all major offices are elected whereby the people retain the right to select their governing body.

The charter also provides for the election of a mayor, by the people, who has the veto powers necessary to maintain a system of checks and balances similar to that of the federal government.

This provision protects the people of Southfield so that no small group of individuals can arbitrarily take action detrimental to the rights of the people. In addition to the system of checks and balances, the people are guaranteed the right to initiate the enactment or repeal of an ordinance by referendum.

ONE OF the highly controversial portions of the charter was the question of tax limitation. It was the unanimous opinion of all members of the Charter Commission to hold the tax limitation as low as possible.

The tax limitation of five (5) mills was finally adopted as a compromise and with a firm conviction that city government in Southfield cannot be operated with less than such a limitation and at the same time render the basic services which the people demand and have a right to expect.

The charter also provides for

Auto Collision Injuries Fatal To G. H. Edsall

Govette H. Edsall, 30, of 4134 Tanglevale court, Foxcroft, died in St. Joseph Mercy hospital 2 a.m. Saturday of injuries suffered earlier in an auto collision at Telegraph and Maple roads.

According to Oakland county prosecutor's office, Edsall, northbound on Telegraph, was thrown from his auto after it collided with one driven by Michael D. Malega, 18, of Detroit.

Following the crash Edsall's car struck a tree and caught fire. Malega, traveling east on Maple, was making a turn from Maple onto Telegraph, it was reported. The Detroit press was released after making a statement at the prosecutor's office.

EDSALL, owner of a gas station at Fenkell and Telegraph, had moved to Foxcroft 18 months ago. A graduate of Redford Union high school and Michigan Normal college, Edsall was born in Detroit Aug. 28, 1926.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; daughters Mary Kathryn and Sue Ann; parents Mr. and Mrs. Louis E. Edsall and a brother, L. B. Edsall.

Burial was Tuesday in Holy Sepulchre cemetery following a high requiem mass at Holy Name Catholic church.

S'ld Ht Students In Radio Broadcast Friday Morning

SOUTHFIELD High school students will participate in a special radio broadcast over station WFLX, Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. The broadcast will feature Frank Boyd, Margaret Gray, Linda Brethen and Gloria Schwallier will be the featured speakers.

The "Public Affairs" toward Teen-Agers.

The music department will furnish the program, beginning and end of the program.

Classes who can work the program will be the subject of the broadcast throughout the school.

Utilities Resolution

BLOOMFIELD TWP.—Township board passed a resolution Monday requiring inspection and approval by township engineers of all water and sewer systems which may be future date come under the management or supervision of township officials, according to Supervisor Arno L. Hulet.

Tax Rate Is Major Concern

SOUTHFIELD — A small gathering sat in judgment of the proposed city's second charter at a public hearing Monday night, and with the exception of a millage, little fault was found with the document.

Less than 100 residents turned out at Southfield high school to hear the proposed charter of a charter which they and more than 15,000 other residents will have an opportunity to vote for or against at the Dec. 3 election.

If approved, Dec. 3 it would mean the incorporation of 30 square miles of Southfield, including the areas of Lathrup, Franklin and Bingham Farms.

Next step for the charter commission is to make final revisions, sign the charter, and send it to Governor Williams for his approval and signature.

RESIDENTS in June of 1955 voted for incorporation and have only to adopt a charter to make the township a home rule city. If this charter is adopted, Southfield residents will have until June, 1957 to adopt a charter or revert to township status.

The first proposed charter was defeated by more than two to one. It was rejected because the people felt the charter was not suited to Southfield, and specifically because some residents, particularly in the north end, did not want to join in incorporation of Southfield.

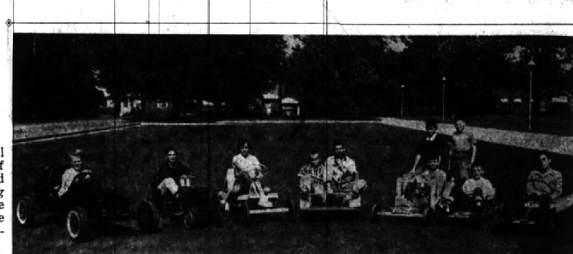
CHARTER Chairman J. Leo Walton, township supervisor, said he was pleased that the charter and listed the main points of the charter as follows:

- (1) Six wards were created, each with a councilman to be elected from the city at large, making a seven-member council.
- (2) A mayor would be elected from the city at large but would not be a voting member of council.
- (3) He would have the right to veto council action and it would take five council votes to override the mayor's veto.
- (4) City clerk and treasurer would be elected by the people.
- (5) Justice of the peace would be elected for four years and all other judicial officials would serve two-year terms.
- (6) Two judges would be elected by the people.
- (7) A city administrator, to coordinate the various departments and with other powers expressly given him by council, would not have the right to hire and fire employees but would make recommendations.
- (8) City attorney and assessor and city supervisors would be appointed by council, except for the mayor who also acts as city representative on the county board of supervisors.
- (9) A planning commission of seven members would be appointed by the mayor and responsible to the council.
- (10) Tax limit of five mills is established.
- (11) SPECIAL assessment districts can be created by 60 per cent vote of the people.
- (12) A special assessment district created by council can be rejected by a majority vote of the people.
- (13) A special assessment district created by council can be rejected by a majority vote of the people.

Asked by a new resident why city government was proposed for Southfield, Walton said the present township was not set up to deal adequately with problems of sewerage department.

(See CHARTER, Page 2, Sec. 5)

Field Charter Discussed



THESE WEST BEVERLY youngsters spend much of their spare time put-putting around the Beverly school paved parking lot in their homemade motorized autos. From left to right they are: Dave Campbell, 13, of 18488 Beverly; Tom Forster, 12, 19400 W. 13 Mile road; Cheryl Durward, 11, 18906 Beverly; Tom Neff, 11, and his brother, Bob, 13, 1190 W. 14 Mile road; Michael Dunn, 9, and his brothers, James, 13, and Tex, 11, of 18362 Beverly; Russ Danielson, 10, 18442 Beverly and Bill Rosemont, 13, 18389 Devonshire.

It's Fun—and West Beverly Kids Learn 'What Makes 'em Go'

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR

Automotive engineers of tomorrow surely will come from some of that group of West Beverly youngsters who, today, spend many hours tinkering, building and overhauling putt-putt cars.

Most are Beverly school students and drive their cars in the circle drive around the school on weekends when parked cars are gone. To Malcolm Ferguson, Beverly school principal, it's a fine place for these young motorists, and he's all for it.

One girl, Cheryl Durward, a sixth grader, is amongst the boys, but according to reports, doesn't mind this at all. Her car was built for her by her father, Robert L. Durward, 18906 Beverly road, using a 1½ horsepower motor from a lawn mower. As a midget motor car company.

BOB NEFF, son of the R. L. Neffs, 1190 West 14 Mile road, has a 2½ Briggs-Stratton motor in his auto. It has a tubular frame, "made of pipes," as Bob explained it, and was assembled from a make-it-yourself kit from a midget motor car company.

Helping him assemble the midget was his brother Tommy, also half-owner, while Mr. Neff played the role of consulting engineer. Bob, 13, is a student at Garner Junior high school.

David Campbell, 13, of Beverly road worked on his car with his father and proudly explains the transmission, bought from a surplus store, was originally a transmission operating the guns on the wings of a B-24 bomber. David is a student at Derby junior high.

ANOTHER Derby student and midget car owner is Tom Forster, 12, who with his father, Lloyd M. Forster, 19400 13 Mile road, spent a month making his midget auto. His motor is also a 1½ horsepower Briggs and Stratton and Tom has painted the wooden body of his car a dull red.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland W. Rosemont of Devonshire, married at the way son, Bill, 13, built his car from scraps and odds and ends. (Bill calls his junk) and made without help from anyone, although Mr. Rosemont, a mechanical engineer, was "willing."

Dad and brother Jim, 13, and Tex, 11, helped Michael Dunn, son of the James Dunn of Bay road, make his sturdy car using odds and ends and a ¾ horsepower motor from a lawn mower given to Michael by his aunt, Michael, 10, is in the fifth grade at Beverly.

DOWN THE ROAD from the Dunn lives Russell Danielson, 10, also a fifth grader, who made his car from wooden 2 by 4's and a lawn motor. His car is named after his brother Les, a 10th grader. Russell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Danielson.

The car now owned by Bill Bandy, 11, a Beverly school sixth grader, is several times a "hand-me-down" which Bill has painted, fixed up. He is the son of the R. F. Bandy of Evergreen road.

There's a lot of activity in the Herbert Ashcraft garage on Devonshire road as Art Herbert, 12, is rebuilding his midget auto. It's running once this summer, but part of the fun of his hobby is re-building, fixing up and, incidentally, learning what makes autos go.

BIDS FOR paving Santa Barbara from Martha Washington to Mt. Vernon and Lafayette Circle from Santa Barbara to the end of the street will be requested by Oct. 30. A public hearing will be held Oct. 31 at 8 p.m. at the township hall. Bidding estimates for Santa Barbara and Lafayette are \$15,284.64 and \$10,327 respectively.

\$1500 Fire Damage

SOUTHFIELD — Fire starting from a burned out refrigerator motor spread throughout the kitchen and into the den of the Arthur J. Wass home, 26619 Midway, early Tuesday morning. Southfield fire department estimated \$1500 damages.

Postpone McKinley School PTA Meet

SOUTHFIELD — McKinley school PTA meeting, originally scheduled for Oct. 9 has been postponed until Oct. 16 when new classrooms now under construction are expected to be completed.

Because of daytime interference with classroom, carpenters are working at night to finish classrooms.

The postponed meeting will begin at 8 p.m. A panel will discuss "Why do we have PTA?" McKinley PTA members are starting work on the Nov. 2 Fun Night to be held at the school. Committee members say the event will have many more attractions than last year.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

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