

Mystery Solved—Homer Will Go Home Saturday

By JULIE CANDLER

That little rascal, Homer, has us all shook up. In as thrilling and corny a climax as any soap opera writer could dream up, we learned the truth about Homer. And now he's going home.

If the homeless homing pigeon was soared into the lives of residents out on Hylane drive could have talked on arrival, he would have said something like this: "Joe sent me."

For what happened, we learned in our "Big Story," was this: Homer, along with 11 other birds belonging to Joe Surowicz, of Detroit, was going through spring training.

PHILTON FANCER Surowicz and his son-in-law, Skip Chorzowski, were getting the banded pigeons ready for racing season. They freed them near St. John, Michigan, about 15 miles north of Lansing.

Birds was to release the birds frequently to return to their home loft, taking them more miles from the loft each time. Eventually the pigeons, bred for speed and stamina, return hundreds of miles to their home lofts. According to Joe and his son-in-law, it's pretty exciting to wait for the birds to come in first when a group is released.

Joe and Skip watched for the dozen birds to return from St. John, and it made it. But not Homer, as you may know if you've been reading "The Eccentric."

"I KNEW THAT bird was going to give us trouble when we let him out," said Chorzowski, who lives with Joe in a home near the lofts. "Twice he flew back to the car."

We found out about Joe and Skip through Bob Logie, of 17092 Addison, Southfield. Bob read Homer's number when it was published in "The Birmingham Eccentric" last week, then explained it to us.

"WESMINTAUG" means the bird is owned by the West Side Members' club, that his number is 1877, that he belongs to the American Racing Pigeon Union and was banded in 1956," said Bob, who knows about these things because his father used to be a pigeon hobbyist.

RACING PIGEONS. Bob told us, travel as fast as 60 miles per hour "on a good day with a tail wind." Bob contacted a member of the West Side Members club he knew. They he called WSM had a bar near Dearborn where the bartender, Walter, looked up Homer's owner.

And that's when we called Joe. Joe and Skip are planning to pick up Homer Saturday. Mr. Russell Link's garage at 2825 Hylane drive, where Homer has been kept food Mrs. Link feeds him.

THEY'LL ATTEMPT to restrain Homer, they say. He's worth at least \$25 to \$35, because he's a pedigreed checker, son of a checker, a blood pigeon who once flew an 800 mile race.

After the cushy existence and parakeet fare Homer has been enjoying in Birmingham, wonder if he'll ever follow in his famous father's radar beam.

Next time they release Homer for a training flight, we'll bet even money he heads straight for Mrs. Link's garage.

Zoning

(Continued from Page 1-A)

(Courts have made it plain that zoning must be seasonal, that it cannot amount to confiscation of property because of undue restrictions on development.)

At an April 10 committee meeting attended by only four plan board members, the multiple dwelling possibilities was discussed.

AT MONDAY'S hearing, Chairman Bennett Root said the board decided multiple family use was "too restrictive" for the property.

Planners suggested that business C restrictions be eased to permit dwellings on the property. Permittedly, the business C classification limits development only to professional offices.

City Attorney Richard Adams had said previously that as presently constituted, the business C zoning would be most difficult to defend legally.

Several hundred residents of the north of Highland and east end of Hunter have fought any business use of the small block, bounded by Hunter, Oakland, Madison and Lavender.

Hills Lions Elect McDonald President

Wesley McDonald was elected president of Bloomfield Lions club Tuesday to succeed Robert J. Stadler in the club's top office.

Other members of the new slate who will serve for one-year terms are Sam Reeves, first vice-president; Anson Priehs, second vice-president; Homer Case, third vice-president; Ralph Minkler, secretary; and Frank Noneman, treasurer.

Elected to the board of directors for two-year terms were William Love and Charles Galloway. Irving Menocci was named to serve a one-year term.

PLANS ARE being made for special installation ceremonies at a June dinner meeting.



Former B'ham Teacher Named School Principal

A former Birmingham teacher, Mrs. Donald R. (Marie E.) Shepard, has been named principal of the Royal Oak elementary school which is housed in Kimball high school building.

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Bailey of 927 Bates, Mrs. Shepard graduated from Birmingham public schools, attended Colorado State and Michigan State Normal colleges, and graduated from Wayne State university. In 1954, she received her master of arts degree from the University of Michigan, where she was elected Phi Lambda Theta, national honor society for women in education.

She taught in Walnut Lake and Royal Oak in 1952. A just president of the Birmingham Teachers' Association for Childhood Education. This will represent the association as a delegate to the international convention in Los Angeles, Calif. Mr. and Mrs. Shepard have four children, ages 28 months to 11 years.

Hickory Grove Schools To Be Annexed by Hills

Bloomfield Hills board of education unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday stating its intention to annex Hickory Grove school district at a special meeting April 30, subject to an expected affirmative vote of the Hickory Grove district residents.

Hills district residents are being extended an invitation to attend the explanatory meeting, which is expected to culminate three weeks' study on the proposed annexation.

Special action after hearing a specially prepared report by Dr. Donald Legu, of Michigan State University, outlining the similarities between the two communities. Atypical of both communities are density, economic level and occupational characteristics of the residents, and recommending annexation.

AFFIRMATIVE decisions by both Hills board and Hickory Grove method in this instance. The Hickory Grove district, for several years, has sought annexation to the Bloomfield Hills district. But Hickory Grove did not want to incur the expense of an election if the Hills board would not give its acceptance.

An election date for Hickory Grove would follow the Hills board's April 30 action.

FRANK ARNOLD, chairman, and Lyon A. Townsend, of the district's financial advisory committee, reported they had reviewed and approved the action as advantageous to Bloomfield Hills.

There was no change, Townsend told the board, in the committee's original recommendation made last July 6. A. C. Girard, Graham J. July 6, and R. T. Perrine, representative members of the committee, he said, also were "strongly in favor" of the move.

"Hickory Grove is, in terms of residents, the wealthiest school district in Oakland county. It has a relatively low per pupil debt, and a reasonable tax rate," Dr. Legu stated.

THE DISTRICT adjoins Bloomfield Hills on the south and most of its east and west sides. To the north it lies next to Pontiac and has 546 children. It lies within Bloomfield township and the City of Bloomfield Hills.

Dr. Legu termed Hickory Grove's new school located on a 26-acre site "one of Michigan's finest elementary school buildings" and pointed out that its facilities include a multi-purpose room, gymnasium and library. The building, he said, would eliminate the need for the purchase of an elementary site in the north central portion of the Bloomfield Hills district. At present, he added, it could house between 75 and 100 additional children.

SINCE HICKORY Grove now is sending its high school students to Bloomfield Hills on a tuition basis, the annexation would provide the district with secondary school facilities and administrative efficiencies, Legu reported. He said the district's residents indicate they are actively in favor of the annexation.

The board stressed that Bloomfield Hills will not be taking over Hickory Grove's already existing debt of \$250,000 as of July, 1957. Hills' residents continuing its debt will be in addition to assuming the Bloomfield Hills tax rate.

Dr. Legu's report showed Hickory Grove's per pupil valuations to be \$29,135 as compared to that of \$24,159 in Bloomfield Hills.

HE PROJECTED future enrollment to 1967, when, he said, a search indicates that on a land basis Hickory Grove area will reach a "saturation point of population with an estimated 720 children. At that point, he estimated, the Bloomfield Hills district enrollment will be 4,045.

Annexation now, he recommended, will give a broadened tax base. "One financial factor not available in statistical tables," he added, "is the desire of the residents to support a superior educational program."

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AN EASTER THOUGHT from one of our readers, Mrs. Ruth Vogt of Gilbert Lake, speaks for itself: "—And it came to pass that cars moved slower in the road lanes along Hunter and Main. And it was observed in super-market line-ups. Furthermore, kind words were uttered to parking lot attendants, to shop clerks, and yea! even to the policeman skipping nickles from the meters and to the children, skipping and running along the sidewalks. —What goeth on here? a bewildered business man was heard to whisper to a colleague who, too, was watching the throng. The populace seems in a different mood, he mused. The other answered: It is Holy Week. They have something else on their minds besides themselves and what they want and need. Turning back to their offices at the rear of the store, the other said: 'It makes the world a nicer place to be. And he meant the Market-Places in the year of our Lord, '57 A.D.'"

JUST BACK FROM A VISIT to his native state, the Rev. W. Glen Harris tells how he contacted a college friend in Dallas after 30 years. "I called him up, and he inquired about my Birmingham Presbyterian church activities." Rev. Harris said, "I tried to be modest as I mentioned that after next week, my congregation probably would exceed 3,000 parishioners. And he—being a Texan—responded, 'Well, Glen, I wouldn't worry — it'll grow!'"

JOANNE EASTHURN, daughter of the Thomas B. Eastburns of 475 Park, has been elected to membership in the Cornell chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

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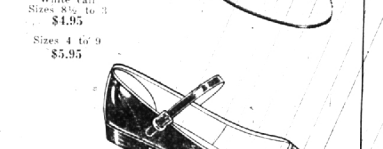
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