

'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 TWPS.

12-Town Case Gets Underway

PONTIAC-The long-awaited 12-Town Drain case was scheduled to move into high gear today as the City of Troy presented its opening statements before Oakland County Circuit Judge H. Russell Holland.

Both Troy and Southfield townships have had suits pending against the drain commission for more than a year. Southfield presented its opening arguments before Holland Tuesday.

THE TWO communities are basing their cases on whether the drain commission followed the law in setting up the \$44,000,000 project and whether such a law is constitutional.

Township Attorney Harry Dell, who is handling the case for Southfield, reviewed the history of the case in his opening statement Tuesday and raised the following questions:

- 1. IS THE law giving the drain commission power to assess over the township's 15 mill limitation valid?
2. If the law is valid, is it constitutional?
3. Can Southfield be forced to take part in the project when it never joined in the petitions asking to become part of it.
Dell also is expected to raise a number of other questions during the course of the trial.
Regardless of which side the Circuit Court rules in favor of, the case is expected to be appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court by the side ruled against.

THE DRAIN commission is expected to deliver its opening statements today or tomorrow.



Christmas Dolls for Goodfellows

A Jack and Nancy Nowak look happily at a few of the 18 dolls prepared by their neighbor, Mrs. Charles Lifka of Evergreen for the Goodfellows who will give them to little girls for Christmas. Mrs. Lifka, who began her hobby seven years ago, collects bits of material and costume ideas throughout the year for her prize-winning Christmas dolls.

Dismissal Petition Denied

BLOOMFIELD - Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Clark J. Adams has denied Bloomfield township's petition to dismiss a petition requesting an injunction to halt the levy of 1957 taxes and has ordered the case to trial. Adams, in a written opinion on the dismissal request, points out that "the motion to dismiss is denied without prejudice" and adds that "because of the public interest involved and the urgency of the final determination, the case should be heard at an early date and an order will be issued accordingly."

ADAMS HAS set no date for the trial as yet, and township officials say they have no idea when the case will come up before the judge, although one speculated that it might not be until next February. The request for an injunction to halt the levy of 1957 taxes in the township was made recently by the township board at its Nov. 26 meeting to ask for help in improving conditions in the southwest corner of the township. Mrs. John Jenkins, spokesman for the group, told the board that the association was trying to improve part of the township but that there were two problems on which it needed help. Mrs. Jenkins named these as a condemned house which was still standing and another house which was constructed out of two old school sheds.

She called the condemned house a "fire trap" and "dangerous to children" and the shed structure an "eyesore."

The board told the group it could not legally force the owner of the condemned house to tear it down but it could see that the building was boarded up and instructed its building department to do so. It also said it would ask the police department and building inspector to check the shed structure to see if any violation exists.

IT WOULD SEEM that if the plaintiffs are to prevail they must show that not only have the defendants acted improperly but that such great amounts to constructive fraud, thus precluding judicial consideration of bad conduct.

Named Eagles were Daniel Jackson and John A. Ruth. In addition, three boys were advanced to Life Scouts, one to Star Scout, five to First Class Scouts and 11 to Second Class Scouts at the court.

Westchester WNFCA Schedules Workshop

WESTCHESTER - Mrs. Earl Potter will open her home to the Westchester branch of the WNFCA for a workshop Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. with Mrs. John Schuster and Mrs. Kenneth Kravis assisting.

The demonstration of holiday decorations last month met with such enthusiasm a workshop was set up for the making of such decorations as miniature Christmas trees, the kissing ball and wreaths.



DANIEL JACKSON

Two Youths Get Eagle Scout Rank

BLOOMFIELD-Two area Boy Scouts received the highest rank in scouting Monday night when they were awarded the Eagle Scout rank at Troop B-17's court of honor at Kirk-in-the-Hills.

My Neighbors



"Tranquillizing pills will help you stop worrying about inflation. But they're gone up in price, too!"

Explosion Wrecks Trailer, Burns Man

SOUTHFIELD - Ralph Littleton, 30, suffered severe facial and body burns Saturday when a gas stove in his trailer blew up as he tried to light it. Littleton was taken to Redford Receiving hospital.

Southfield township firemen who handled the blaze, said the trailer was parked adjacent to the AAA Sanitation Trailer Co., 19424 W. Eight Mile road, Southfield township.

They said the trailer was completely destroyed by the fire and explosion but that the neighboring company building was not damaged.

Southfield Group Asks Board Help

SOUTHFIELD-Some 10 members of the Southfield Improvement association appeared before the township board at its Nov. 26 meeting to ask for help in improving conditions in the southwest corner of the township. Mrs. John Jenkins, spokesman for the group, told the board that the association was trying to improve part of the township but that there were two problems on which it needed help.

Mrs. Jenkins named these as a condemned house which was still standing and another house which was constructed out of two old school sheds.

She called the condemned house a "fire trap" and "dangerous to children" and the shed structure an "eyesore."

The board told the group it could not legally force the owner of the condemned house to tear it down but it could see that the building was boarded up and instructed its building department to do so.

It also said it would ask the police department and building inspector to check the shed structure to see if any violation exists.

Board Rejects Constable's Request for Call Letter

SOUTHFIELD-A request by Wesley Skowron, township constable, for a short-wave radio call letter was rejected Nov. 26 by the township board at its regular meeting.

Skowron, who told the board he did not legally possess a radio with a police wave-band in his car without the letter, claimed he had been issued such a letter but that it had been taken from him by unknown persons.

Debate Employe Protection

SOUTHFIELD - The City of Southfield charter commission was unable to agree Monday night on whether to have all employees of the future city covered by civil service or just the members of the police and fire departments.

The commissioners tabled the matter for further study after failing to reach agreement.

SOME COMMISSIONERS felt that only police and firemen should be hired on a civil service basis and all other employees by the respective department heads. Opposing commissioners pointed out that such a system might lead to unjust or wholesale firing of employees by department heads.

IF THE TOWNSHIP becomes a city, the new city cannot assume pension responsibilities for township employees. The employees claim, however, that they would like to see their pension obligations assumed by the city and would like the commissioners to hear their views on the matter.

Portions of the charter approved hold that the mayor, city treasurer and city clerk shall be elected for two-year terms but that constables will be appointed and not elected.

Board Rejects Constable's Request for Call Letter

SOUTHFIELD-A request by Wesley Skowron, township constable, for a short-wave radio call letter was rejected Nov. 26 by the township board at its regular meeting.

Skowron, who told the board he did not legally possess a radio with a police wave-band in his car without the letter, claimed he had been issued such a letter but that it had been taken from him by unknown persons.

EUGENE SWEM, township supervisor, told the board Skowron never had been authorized by the township to possess such a letter and that he had had the police band installed on the radio in his car without going through proper channels.

Swem said that after it was found Skowron had such a radio band Police Chief Philip LaVigne allowed him to keep it with the understanding that it could be recalled when LaVigne felt it was needed.

Broomfield Attacks Mackie Plan for County Toll Road

SOUTHFIELD-A request by Station WXYZ to rezone a parcel of township property from residential to commercial has been referred by the township board to its zoning board.

The station asked the township board at its regular meeting Nov. 26 to have the property, located south of 10 Mile, west of Evergreen and opposite Lawrence Tech, rezoned so that it could expand its broadcasting facilities.

The station made a similar request previously which was denied when residents protested against the station's plans to erect a 1,000-foot tower.

In its latest request, the station said it had amended its petition so that its broadcasting facilities would be set off from the surrounding residential area by "green belts."

The township board said it would hold the application to the zoning board for a public hearing.

Deny Extra Policeman Request

LATHRUP - A motion to hire a second paid police officer on a 90-day trial basis was turned down Monday evening at council meeting.

Police Chief Arny Van Meer told the council that the city needs an officer on duty from midnight to 2 a.m.

The city has a patrol car on duty during the day and afternoon, but a car on patrol from 5 to 9 a.m. would reduce speeding on Southfield. It would also make a man available to protect school crossings at the early hours, he said.

THE VOLUNTEER police force in Lathrup has been active for 3 1/2 years. The men patrol from 8 p.m. to midnight with members of the force on an after midnight call basis.

Van Meer said it was getting more and more difficult to get men who worked days but were willing to dash out in the early morning hours in response to police calls.

Councilman Richard Cogger who had met recently with the Lathrup Woman's Club and PTA safety committees favored greater protection for the school children on Southfield road. Councilwoman Elizabeth Mitchell favored the additional man for greater home protection during the night.

MAYOR L. MACKIE requested a complete report from City Manager Leonard Watchowski showing how salary, benefits and equipment were distributed.

Van Meer was ordered to show proof of the need for an additional man by compiling a list of midnight to 2 a.m. calls, and to work out a suitable schedule for his time.

DOG INVADERS House, Bites Boy and Flees

SOUTHFIELD - Southfield Police are searching for a brown and black Alreale dog which bit Ronald Curcuro, 15, last Friday.

Mrs. Robert Curcuro, 18603 Warwick, said the dog ran into her home as she entered and began fighting with the family dog. During the melee, she said, her son was bitten.

Mrs. Curcuro said a doctor treated her son for his wound, but she would like to see further treatment if the dog were not found by police and tested for rabies.

THE PROPOSED storm water disposal system will divert rain water from the sanitary sewers, but it will not abate the pollution problem. The system will cost an estimated \$325,000. Lathrup's share of the South Evergreen interceptor will cost \$13,000 with additional costs for tie-in.

The City of Lathrup Village has a population of about 4,000 at present with 1,000 homes. The

Claims N'western Shift Unnecessary

Congressman William S. Broomfield (R-Oakland county) charged today that State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie wants to swing the Northwestern highway extension away from its original route in order to "build a toll road."

"Evidently," Broomfield said, "Mackie wants to swing Northwestern out of the way so he can build a toll road. He doesn't want any competition."

MACKIE RECENTLY revealed plans to swing the extension of Northwestern westward on 11 Mile road to the Farmington-Brighton bypassway. Original plans called for the highway to be extended northward to south of Fenton.

Mackie said the original idea was dropped because a \$25,000,000 bond issue would not cover the cost.

"The highway department," Mackie said, "is not planning on extending Northwestern to the Wayne county line, but if the Michigan Turnpike Authority

wants to do the job, and they can't do it with the highway department's plans, they can't build the bonds needed to build such a road."

THE TURNPIKE authority is expected to meet sometime this month to decide whether it wants to undertake the project and whether it can be financed.

"If we find we need a toll road, if it can be fitted into our plans, and if it can be successfully financed, we will go ahead," Mackie said.

Broomfield charged the proposed toll road was "totally unrealistic and in flagrant disregard of the traffic needs of the Detroit metropolitan area."

He said construction of such a road would "turn into a taxpayers' nightmare."

Mackie's plan would divert Northwestern away from traffic. Broomfield said, "I always thought the purpose of a highway was to carry automobiles, not to build expensive throughways away from the major source of traffic."

Broomfield said a recent survey made by the federal, state and Wayne county governments showed "the immediate need for north-south highways to relieve congested Woodward avenue."

"Instead," he said, "Mackie has decided to use this money to create an east-west highway which won't be needed for a number of years."

"EVEN THOUGH" the federal government is paying 90 per cent of the bill for these new roads, no reason for Mackie to waste money. Michigan is only allowed a certain percentage of this money for its road needs. Once it is gone, we will have to build our own roads with our own money."

Broomfield said "I believe Mackie is forgetting the basic reason in favor of these roads. They are emergency means of financing new highway construction because a few funds weren't available from other sources."

THE UNILATERAL action of Mackie in changing routes whenever he feels like it," Broomfield said, "is going to hurt Michigan's traffic situation in years to come. We can't afford to waste our money on highways that aren't needed. There are too many that are vitally necessary."

Suicide Attempt Climaxes Quarrel

BLOOMFIELD TWP.-A family argument precipitated a suicide attempt by a 22-year-old wife Sunday morning at Square Lake trailer park.

Bernice Allinger, 1165 Fairfax, Bloomfield township, is in fair condition in St. Joseph Mercy hospital, Pontiac, after shooting herself in the left shoulder with a .45-caliber pistol.

Her husband, Albert, 29, told police he left his trailer Friday after an argument.

When he returned Sunday, Allinger noticed the gun was missing from its usual place and asked about it. His wife brought it out and shot herself just under the shoulder bone, he said. The bullet narrowly missed Allinger as it went through her shoulder and lodged in the refrigerator.

Southfield Board Will Meet Earlier

SOUTHFIELD - The Southfield township board has rescheduled its regular Dec. 24 meeting for Dec. 17 because of the proximity of the holiday season to the original date. The board also has approved a plan to close the township offices at noon Dec. 24.

Discuss Roads

BINGHAM FARMS - Road repairs and drainage were discussed by members of Bingham Farms village council at their Nov. 25 meeting.

Prepare for Franklin Christmas Fair

Helping in the preparations for Franklin's Dec. 7 Christmas fair are (from left) Mrs. Robert J. Swift and Mrs. Paul J. Zielgebur. The two women pause for a moment to look over some of the items to be sold at the many booths. The fair will be held at Franklin community church.

Helping in the preparations for Franklin's Dec. 7 Christmas fair are (from left) Mrs. Robert J. Swift and Mrs. Paul J. Zielgebur. The two women pause for a moment to look over some of the items to be sold at the many booths. The fair will be held at Franklin community church.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

- School Taxes 1-D
New Swimming Pools 1-A
Decorate Christmas Trees with Care 8-F
Teen Court 5-C