

'round the towns news The Birmingham Eccentric

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Incorporation Won't Halt Freeway

Town's OK No Longer Necessary

By LES LINE

Incorporation of Westchester village as a home-rule municipality will not halt any proposed highway construction through the community...

A half-mile square area of Westchester will halt Monday night's incorporation issue, a move instigated primarily to block the freeway.

Westchester will vote at the Bloomfield village fire station from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday. The station is opposite the Bloomfield village school on Bradway blvd., near Lathrup.

Westchester residents based their action on a state law that required a city or village to share the cost of new highway construction through its boundaries.

Under the law, Westchester, if incorporated, could have blocked the freeway through the village by refusing to pay the community's share of the cost.

Bill No. 406, approved by the legislature and signed by the governor, provides that communities under 50,000 population are not required to share the road work cost, Mackie states.

In addition, Mackie said the state can condemn any property needed for construction of roads.



Pressure Not Enough

Firemen send a stream of water out from a heavy hose rushed to the south side of Kirk-in-the-Hills early in last Thursday night's destructive fire at the church, but a lack of water and the resulting pressure failure kept firemen from reaching flames near the top of the tower.

Anyone Missing A Spare Tire?

FRANKLIN — Franklinites who own station wagons — green ones in particular — had better take a look at their spare tires. They might not have one!

Oakland county sheriff's deputies arrested a youth early this week who admitted stealing a spare tire from a green 1955 station wagon in Franklin recently.

Subs Join To Solve Problem

NORTH ADAMS — Representatives from five subdivisions in this area have joined forces to seek a solution to the problem of safety and transportation of children who will be commuting to the new Harland school which opens on Adams road in the fall.

A three-member committee of Sebel, Mrs. Robert A. Kettle and Al Sausman was appointed to investigate methods of achieving a solution by the problem, a major one on the current agenda of all subdivisions in the area.

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES of North Adams subdivisions attending the first meeting included J. M. Hight of Hickory Heights, James Everett and C. F. Schorn of Thornwood, A. H. Dellar and P. F.



Flowers from Finland

Holding the traditional graduation red roses wired to her by her mother in Finland, Ritva Karvinen (right) poses in cap and gown with her 'adopted' sister, Ruth Mueller, just before Southfield high school's commencement exercises last week.

Lathrup Approves Weed Control Law

By NITA HARD

LATHRUP — The "growing season" lent impetus to passage of ordinance No. 39 by the Lathrup city council Monday night in order that control, cutting and removal of noxious weeds could become effective as soon as July 10, following publication.

Despite a recommendation for a amendment by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kelley, who own property which would make observance of the law a hardship, the council acted to establish a 18-inch limit of weed and grass growth under the penalty of a \$100 fine and/or 30 days in jail, with each additional day in violation constituting a separate offense.

Mayor Lantz Mackey promised Kelley the council would be "fair and reasonable" in the enforcement of this ordinance, but stated immediate passage of the measure was necessary in view of the lateness of the season.

The ordinance stipulates the city administrator can order a cutting of over-growth 10 days following notification to the property owner and that the cost must be paid by the owner or it shall be considered a lien on the property.

Historic Franklin Cemetery Dates to Early 19th Century

By NITA HARD

Just how many generations of ghosts dwell in the sylvan peace of the Franklin cemetery, no one seems to know.

A majestic black oak whose trunk measures 24 feet stands on the southeast corner as the only marker of graves dug so long ago as to have sunk almost into oblivion.

Some believe the oak was planted in the 17th century and its great arms give gentle shade to approximately a hundred early settlers of the small village.

Close by there are seven or eight small tablets which give mute testimony of the diphtheria plague that claimed nearly all the children of one family.

IN THE CENTER of the cemetery is a "potter's field," an area with 48 places dedicated for use by "strangers passing through," the charter reads. So far, no one is buried there—probably because no one is ever a stranger very long in Franklin.

Although several tombstones, eroded and barely legible, indicate burials in 1829, no formal records were kept until 1858 when Jim Bowden, former secretary of the Franklin Cemetery society, proceeded to do some orderly bookkeeping.

The Franklin Cemetery association was organized as a non-profit group in 1930 to raise money for maintenance and care of the hill-top resting place, but the original donation of land, 100-rod square, at the corner of Franklin and scenic roads, was made by Benjamin D. Worthing in 1869. At that time you could buy a six-place lot for \$2, and the sexton got \$1 for digging each grave.

HOWEVER DRASTIC this may seem, the treatment was approved by extensive vandalism prior to the organization of the Franklin volunteer police department, now patrolling the area regularly.

Once the west gate and the south gate are closed at sundown, visitors are not welcome, especially the "mean" ones, says "Gramp," once known as farmer William Fraser, homesteader in Northern Michigan, and father of Les Fraser, Franklin merchant.

"I don't fool with the bad ones who come at night to knock tombstones down and devil the dead. Never got to bed till four in the morning when I first took this job. — somebody was always climbing the fence late at night."

A cheerful host in the daytime, the sexton pointed out old family names. There are at least 10 members of the Bassett clan buried there, lots of Bingham, Van Ayrst, Germans, Gravelins and Formans.

Northwestern Water Plan Lathrup Polio Clinic on June 25

LATHRUP — Another polio clinic will be held at St. Bede's church June 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. This is to handle second shots for those who received their first shots June 4.

Blm. Auxiliary Police Halt Activities; Blame Disinterest

BLOOMFIELD — Lack of support of township civil defense activities by township residents and government officials was blamed this week for discontinuance of all CD auxiliary police force activities.

Henry A. Houston, 3915 Oakland drive, township CD director, said members of the auxiliary force voted at their last meeting to discontinue all activities until the citizens of the township and the township board agree to give their unequalled support to the whole civil defense program.

"Everyone agrees that we should have a civil defense organization," said Houston, "but as soon as they find out that there is some work connected with it, they are too busy to do any of it."

"THE WHOLE program would have disintegrated long ago, had it not been for a few loyal workers who have carried on as best they can carrying on in one sector of the township," Houston added.

"The supervisor (Archie L. Hulet) says that the township does not have enough money to bond or insure to appropriate \$300 for civil defense but that will not insure the men and you cannot expect the men to risk their lives without some protection," said the civil defense director.

"THEY WANTED \$6,500 and we didn't have it," said Hulet. "Birmingham has them (equipped auxiliary police) and they (Bloomfield CD officials) think they should have equipped auxiliary police. I think we need fire equipment more than we need uniforms and guns."

"If a tornado should strike this area, I trust no one will be hurt, but just remember that a good civil defense organization could render valuable assistance in taking care of the injured and helping to get the community back to normal," Houston concluded.

Boys' Upper Teens Club of Southfield Building Fund Progress

Table showing building fund progress with columns for amount and percentage. Total goal is \$90,000.

Wing Lake Owners Hold Meet

WING LAKE — The Wing Lake property owners association held its annual meeting at Wing Lake school June 11. A detailed report on the wells and water supply was given by the wells chairman, Jack Irvine.

It was requested, however, that if the pressure seems low, all residents turn off their hoses so that indoor pressure remains full and people have the water for family use.

A REQUEST was read from a resident that dog owners be more vigilant in keeping their dogs from running over other people's property. Dogs are also to be kept strictly from the water-front.

Ralph Darling reported that the flood condition along Maple road is much better.

A suggestion was made that the association organize a few family get-togethers during the year such as a Fourth of July potluck supper and fire works at the park area of the waterfront, hayrides, Easter egg hunts, etc. The board will discuss the possibilities of such a plan.

Two new board members were elected. They are Julius Pohlen and Henry Brannen.

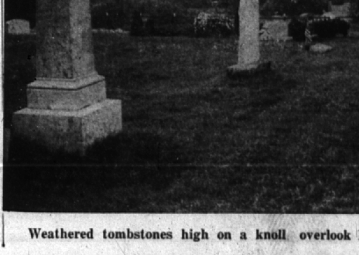
Officers selected were Randall Crabb, president; Pohlen, secretary; Brannen, treasurer; John Irvine, vice president in charge of water supply; and Jack Townsend, vice president in charge of property maintenance, which includes the beach, roads and park.

Braes Schedules CD Registration

BRAES — At the request of the Bloomfield township civil defense organization, Braes of Bloomfield No. 1 and 2, have started to register their some ninety residents.

Also, Mrs. Krolmer and Mrs. Carolyn of Durand road and Mr. Douglas Bus of Wing Lake, medical deputy of Bloomfield township and assistant to Mr. H. R. Hafey, sector warden.

All residents are requested to co-operate as quickly as possible. Call Teague for your block warden.



Weathered tombstones high on a knoll overlook Franklin Community church.



This huge oak tree, possibly older than the cemetery, stands as a silent sentinel in one corner of the Franklin cemetery.

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