

'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 TOWNSHIPS.

12-Town Hearing Delayed

SOUTHFIELD—What was supposed to be a final public hearing on the allocation of costs to 14 communities in the 12 Town drain area ended quickly Oct. 31 in an indefinite stalemate.

Drain commissioners and representatives of the communities involved in the drain project, including those from Southfield and Troy, were among the 25 persons who gathered at 131 S. Troy in Royal Oak last Thursday for the hearing.

The hearing was scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. but did not get underway until 10:25 a.m. Ten minutes later it was over.

DANIEL W. BARRY, drain commissioner, restated the 12 Town's position and then ordered the session adjourned because injunctive relief by Southfield and Troy prevented any action from being taken.

The injunctions, issued by Oakland county circuit court, enjoin the drain board from taking any action until the two injunctions are decided in court.

EUGENE SWEM, Southfield township supervisor, said that regardless of who the courts decide for, the project still will be studied because both sides plan to appeal to the state supreme court if the lower court decision goes against them.

Southfield's Swem said, "I did not ask nor petition to get in on this drain project. We want our share of the project, which is expected to cost some \$4,000,000, reassessed and no action is going to be taken until the injunctions held by us and Troy are decided."

Dates for the court action to begin still have not been set.

Council Fills Board Vacancies

LATHRUP — Resignation of Clayton Detmers from the county Board of supervisors and the zoning board of appeals led council to fill the vacancies at its regular meeting Monday night.

Detmers told the council he was resigning because he was leaving the city. Council accepted his resignation with "extreme regret" and ordered a letter be sent Detmers commending him for his "many years of service to Lathrup."

Mrs. Elizabeth Mitchell, councilwoman, was named to take Detmers' place on the board of supervisors of a temporary basis until a permanent appointment can be made.

Vernon Peel, a member of the Hills, conferred with council to serve out the remainder of Detmers' unexpired term on the zoning board. Tom Reed, a former council member, was named chairman of the road committee and William Commons was appointed to fill Peel's place on the committee.

The council also named Mrs. Dorothy C. Zetall as chairman of its Christmas committee and instructed her to select her own committee.

Crash Injures One SOUTHFIELD — Royal E. Decker, 68, 4500 Lahser, Bloomfield Hills, collided head and body injuries Monday night when his car was driven by Ralph L. Wofford, 31, 2521 Manister, Oak Park, collided near Lahser and 11 Mile road. Wofford was not injured. Decker was treated at William Beaumont hospital.

My Neighbors

"We call him 'Creeping Inflation'—he's too big, too weak, too costly, and good for nothing."

Bloomfield Tax Ruling Expected This Week

BLOOMFIELD—A ruling on a request for an injunction to halt the levy of 1957 taxes down this week by Oakland County Circuit Judge Clark J. Adams.

The suit was originated by 23 township taxpayers who contend that two methods of assessing property for tax purposes were used by township officials in determining the 1957 tax roll.

These 23 people were joined by 45 others when the case went before Adams last Thursday.

ADAMS WAS ALSO asked to rule on a motion for dismissal of the case by Oakland County Circuit Judge Clark J. Adams. He also asked the taxpayers involved to provide a list of the names of the taxpayers who were assessed at a rate of review hearing as prescribed by law.

The taxpayers contend, however, that they had no way of knowing that older homes were assessed on a cubic foot measurement while 35 per cent of the township, including 2,000 of the new homes in the area, were assessed on a

square foot measurement during the past two to three years.

THE SQUARE FOOT method, say township officials, means a 12 to 15 per cent increase in taxes, while the taxpayers say it amounts to an average tax increase of 17 to 18 per cent.

The basic issue, as pointed out by Adams, is: Are the township officials, who admitted using two sets of assessing measurements, guilty of constructive fraud?

IF THE TAXPAYERS are successful in halting the spread of 1957 taxes, would mean a re-examination of up to 12,000 descriptions of property, township officials say.

ADAMS said before he would issue a ruling he would take supplementary petitions from Township Attorney A. Floyd Blackie and Taxpayers' Attorney Glenn C. Gillespie no later than Wednesday.

Lathrup Honors Township Editor

LATHRUP—William H. (Bill) Thomas, who soon will leave his post as township editor at The Birmingham Eccentric, was honored by the Lathrup council Monday night at its regular meeting.

Thomas, who served as township editor for more than two years, plans to go into business for himself.

Mayor Lantz L. Mackey, City Administrator Leonard A. Watchowski and the council members stopped the regular order of business to pay individual tribute to Thomas.

"It has been nice," Mackey told Thomas, "to call you Bill and think of you as part of our official family. Your constructive criticisms always have been carefully considered. You wrote what you felt was right and we respect you for it. You spoke honestly, fearlessly and courageously."

"We don't know," he said, "how possibly thank you for the understanding you have of our problems. We have enjoyed your writing and seeing you at our meetings. We extend you every good wish for the future and join in wishing you the best of luck."

Thomas will be succeeded as township editor by Philip L. Thomas. The two are not related.

Court May Rock Downspout Repeal

Referendum Election Assured; No Date Set

LATHRUP—A court order could keep the controversial downspout ordinance on the books even though voters voted for the law's repeal, council announced Monday.

Council the same night ordered a special referendum election to be held at the next special or regular city election.

Mayor Lantz L. Mackey indicated the next election may be on a sewer bonding issue, possibly in February.

"A change in the decree (ordering Lathrup to end Royal River pollution) may render the election unwieldy and a waste of money," said Mackey.

Dedicate New S'field School

SOUTHFIELD—Formal dedication ceremonies will be held Sunday for Southfield's new E. J. Lederle school.

The new Junior high school, located at 1225 W. Nine Mile road, will be presented to its principal, William Adeock, by Fred D. Leonard, county commissioner.

Arthur F. Lederle, chief judge of the U.S. district court of the eastern district of Michigan, will deliver the dedication address. He is a brother of the man for whom the new school is named.

Glenn Schoenhaus, superintendent of schools, will preside over the ceremonies which will close with a tour of the new school building.

E. Lederle was born in Leeland, Mich., in 1881 and taught in various state school systems until he went to the Village of Royal Oak in 1911 to serve as superintendent. In 1916 he was named county superintendent at Hastings, Mich., and held that post until 1919 when he returned to Royal Oak where he served as the last president of the village and later as the district superintendent of the Royal Oak schools.

Lederle was elected Oakland county commissioner of schools in 1923 and held that position until 1941 when he was appointed Oakland county superintendent of schools. He retired in 1949 after 25 years on the job and died Sept. 3, 1951 at Leeland.

Flashy Sword Handler

Bloomfield Hills teenager James J. Schultz is making a name for himself among amateur fencers. Jim, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schultz of Colonial way, is 15 and a junior at Bloomfield high school. He began to study fencing five years ago under the tutelage of Bella DeTusch.

Byron Krieger, twice Olympic champion, now is coaching Jim who has won four first places in tournament competition and numerous second and third places. Jim is a member of three fencing clubs, including the Birmingham fencing club.

Collector's Canes Hold Comfort, Protection

By NITA HARD

FRANKLIN—Not many men walk with canes today. As a matter of fact, not many men walk—just for the sheer joy and pleasure of walking.

But Don Hunter of Carol road, almost every day, in good, bad or indifferent weather, this jaunty citizen can be seen taking a leisurely stroll and most generally he will be expertly swinging a walking stick—any one of the 70 he has collected in five trips abroad and countless antique prowls with his wife.

Hunter inherited his fondness for canes, just as he inherited the gentility they represent. His father and men of that generation carried sticks because it was fashionable and not because they were needed. Any man of that generation carried a stick as a weapon and went out to traveling over rough terrain.

IN SUBSEQUENT years, many refinements have altered the general appearance but left unchanged the basic function of the cane, both as a weapon and as a pedestrian's companion.

Ingenuous craftsmanship, from Bavarian forests to Africa, devised these slender rods to cleverly conceal such protective instruments as a rapier, a gun or a lamp to light one's way.

Hunter has three such canes in his collection. Any one of the three would be enough to show the lot, soon finds himself incredulous with the variety of gadgets. The quality twist of the handle will expose.

THE LANTERN cane is an unpretentious looking stick whose simplicity comes to light when the inornate handle is removed.

Inside the hollowed Malacca are two telescoped chimneys that pull up with a small oil lamp wick fixture. The balance of the cane's shaft provides ample storage for fuel.

One cane conceals a Buddhist sword, also includes several of Hunter's four-edged steel blades which Hunter says was made in Switzerland and cost \$170. From Lorraine he acquired an innocent looking walking stick which actually fires a 22

Westwood's Charter Ready for Approval

WESTWOOD—The first draft of a charter for this area has been drawn up by the Westwood Village charter commission and has been taken to the people for approval.

The commission first began work on a charter Sept. 23. It applied the finishing touches Oct. 30 and took it before the people Nov. 6 in the first of three meetings.

Main features of the charter as it now stands are the creation of a village council governing system and a five mill tax rate.

THE COUNCIL would consist of six members and a president. The charter provides for a village manager but also makes it possible for the council president to assume these responsibilities.

The general purpose tax is limited to five mills and may be raised to 10 mills for any three-year period by a majority vote in a general election.

Marvin B. Cline, commission chairman, said the group's Oct. 30 meeting would be its last until Nov. 18 when the commission members would meet again to discuss

and, if necessary, revise the charter in accordance with recommendations made by the people at the three public meetings.

THE FIRST such meeting was held Wednesday night at Valley Woods school for all residents west of Evergreen. The second, for the village area between Southfield and Greenfield roads, will be held at Greenfield elementary school Nov. 11 and the final one on Nov. 14 for residents of the area between Southfield and Evergreen roads.

Cline said residents who cannot attend the meetings in their area are urged to go to the other meetings.

Also serving on the commission are Robert G. Reed, vice chairman; Hugh G. Allerton, Jr., secretary; Edward (Ted) Shurtleff and Chester Guilmet.

Quit Claim Sewer Deed Still Unsettled

LATHRUP—City officials are still at odds with city developer Charles D. Kelleys over final settlement of a quit claim deed to the city's sewer system.

A request by the Kelleys that the city furnish trucking services for their undeveloped city properties led to an unofficial final refusal by council.

"The Kelleys want to know the city's plans for a proposed separate sanitary and storm water sewer project before they surrender ownership of the sewers to the city."

Disaster Sirens To Sound Off The disaster warning sirens which go off periodically in Southfield townships, Lathrup, Birmingham Farms and Franklin are being synchronized with those of the city of Detroit.

Mrs. Mary S. Hershey, civil defense co-director, says all forthrighting sirens will be sounded on the first Saturday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in conjunction with Detroit.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC Open House at Birmingham Schools for Education week. 1-A Date Steady—Or go Steady? 4-B

Advices Against Tunnel Living 5-B Room for the Whole Family 5-C Problems of Water Supply 7-C

Northbrook School To Start New PTA

SOUTHFIELD — Northbrook school is set to have a new PTA. At a recent meeting in the gymnasium of the school a temporary chairman was elected to form a PTA.

Working with Mrs. Clyde Blasinger, chairman, are Mrs. Thomas Robertson, temporary secretary; Mr. John Dineley, publicity chairman; Mrs. Jack Knottner and Mrs. James Carey co-chairmen of membership. Mrs. Eugene Gardiolski is acting hostess chairman.

Members of the nominating committee are John Dineley, Jack Rolinger, Sid Zwiern, Charles Hodas.

Members of the bylaws committee are Larry Akman, James Cary, William Pursak, Bernard Rubiner, Gregory Dean and Robert Cleland.

Attend Ceremony LATHRUP — There were 13 members of the St. Bede's youth choir who attended the service for the closing of Catholic Youth week at U. D. Memorial building Sunday.



Franklin Cane Fancier

Donald Hunter, 26202 Carol, surveys some of his most prized walking sticks. Among those shown are several knife or sword canes, one which conceals a pipe and another (held by Hunter) that hides a small sectional kerolite lamp for inquisitive night owls. Third cane from the left holds a .22 caliber rifle mechanism.

"It is lamentable that this little add, to my neighbors, but charming accessory isn't used by men more generally," Hunter notes slyly. "In fact, I guess I look a