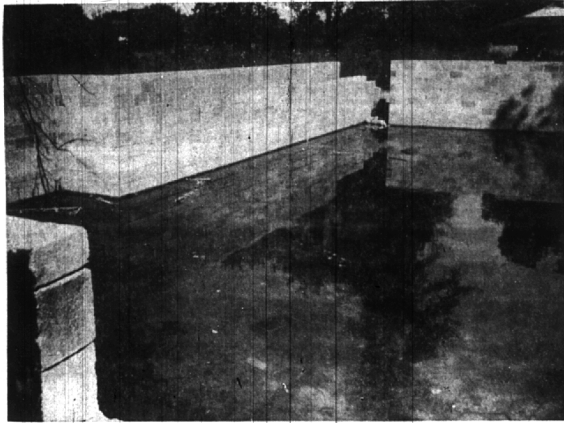


So often one utters many, many more words than are necessary to make statements, or to explore ideas on subjects under discussion. This generally comes about because of a failure to speak quietly, calmly and thoughtfully. All of which probably is responsible for the axiom: "Talk is cheap".



Different Kind of Flooded Basement

Valley Woods residents in the Eastlady road area have a flooded basement problem, but not of the usual spring rain-ruined storage variety. This basement is almost always flooded and presents a threat to children who might accidentally fall into the unfinished building. Southfield officials say the owner (who is in the process of sell-

ing) must tear down work already completed because the building's grade is too high. So for more than two years the building has been in a partially finished state. Township officials say the owner has until Sept. 23 to show some activity or the building will be bulldozed and charged to the owner.

No Cramped Offices at W. B'field Town Hall

By JEAN DAY

While many mushrooming communities near Birmingham are conducting civic affairs and officials business in cramped, inadequate quarters, West Bloomfield citizens and officials look at their newly-redecorated town hall with pride.

In July township officials sought bids to have the hall's large auditorium repainted and its plaster repaired. The work now is completed and the auditorium is ready for the September resumption of scouting, Four-H and other community meetings. It is the first redecoration since the 1940's. When township officers found it necessary to re-advertise to get bidders just to do the decorating they were more thankful than ever that the community had had "growing pains" in the 1920's.

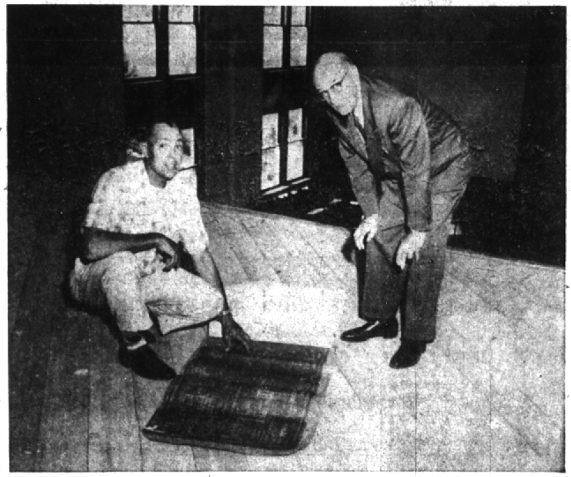
IT WAS ABOUT 1925, recalls Trustee Emmott DeConick, that citizens began to talk about moving the old, frame community hall on Pontiac Trail to a more central location on a paved road. The building had no heat, facilities or offices. Township officials in those days worked out of their homes with the treasurer holding office in a local bank during tax collection days. While there were almost 400 voters in the township at the time, only about 200 turned out for annual meeting day in the community hall.

DeConick recalls that when his brother Leo stood up at the annual meeting and proposed construction of a new hall, it was not done without opposition. The area was still a not heavily populated farming community. HOWEVER, THE appeal of a new building on an accessible, paved road won out. Many times during winter and wet spring weather groups had not been able to use the old hall. The location on Orchard Lake road was chosen and the building was constructed in 1927-8. Because the township sub-contracted for the square, brick building, official records do not show an over-all cost, but it ran between \$28,000 and \$30,000.

DESIGNED for an active community life as well as for the township's official business, the building boasts a basement, main floor with auditorium and a second story.

DeConick points out that the township needed no bond issue for the building and that it was paid for in the following two years. Present-day estimates value the building between \$90,000 and \$100,000. The DeConick brothers, who live at 5847 West Maple, are members of a West Bloomfield family who have farmed in the area since 1861. They have seen the hall altered to accommodate the growing community.

NO ONE IS more pleased to have expansion room than Township Supervisor Hiland M. Thatcher. Twice, as the township business demanded, he has had the main floor altered, taking auditorium space to build offices. Today the offices of Thatcher, Treasurer Lillian Sue Warner and Clerk Frank Hallett are at the



New Offices in Sight

West Bloomfield Township Supervisor Hiland M. Thatcher (right) and Building Inspector Harold W. Schoof examine plans for the new offices on the site of Schoof's new building department on the second floor.

front of the main floor. Upstairs rooms for civic groups are in the game or square dance is in progress. The township has courts of Justices Elmer C. Dietz and Robert F. Scott. The or Four-H groups meeting there police department and meeting while upstairs a basketball for all.



Birmingham Sextette at Ferris

These six students from Birmingham are among the new students who registered this week at Ferris institute in Big Rapids. Left to right are Bill Reilly, 983 Kennesaw;

Art Philip, 4105 Cumberland; Jack Douglass, 18570 Riverside; Larry Hower, 1326 Villa; Stu Frankford, 3926 Oakland, and Jim Kraus, 6954 Castle.



1957 Torch Drive Quota

Sherrod E. Skinner (right), General Motors vice president and general chairman for the 1957 Torch Drive explains the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin Region quota of \$226,761 to W. T. LaRue, of Cadillac Motor Division and campaign chairman in this area. A group of volunteer workers, headed by LaRue, have been preparing for the October 15-November 7 United Foundation campaign.



Greenfield Village Visitors

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Darling and sons Tom, Gary and Ricky, of 5675 Woodland Pass, Foxcroft, visited Greenfield Village in Dearborn recently and are shown here watching a candlemaking demonstration at the Susquehanna House. This early

American home was built about 1652 at the mouth of the Patuxent River on Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. For many years it served as both the town meeting place and the home of the King's collector of customs in Maryland.



Holland Visitors

Mrs. Walter Kasten (seated) and daughter, Tina of Mountainview, Franklin, during their summer European trip were outfitted in Dutch costume, and had their picture taken in this quaint setting—all for only a quarter. Holland was only one of several countries the Kastens visited.

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