

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

WESTWOOD • BINGHAM FARMS • FRANKLIN • WOODCREEK FARMS • LATHRUP • BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD CITY

Kids' Schools Eliminate Substitute Teachers

Things Look Rosy, Say Young Greens Salesmen

FRANKLIN—A pair of rugged individuals, 14-year-old Bruce Coburn and Dan Dozier keep an anxious eye on daily weather forecasts. Non-zero temperatures are good for business, but pretty rough on the kids and mice.

The idea of selling Christmas trees and greens may leave a lot of people cold, especially these two fellows. But there's a nice warm feeling they get watching their bank accounts grow when nothing else will.

For the third year in a row, Bruce has set up his spruce and Scotch pine at Franklin and Wellington roads. As a result he owns a fine big tractor which he uses for plowing jobs in the spring and summer.

The Derby school ninth grader also puts money aside for college after, of course, buying presents for his two sisters and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Coburn of Secor.

It gets you right here when a boy like Bruce thanks you politely for your interest in his project and suddenly blurts with devotion, "Say something nice about my dad," he helped me so much with this."

You look hard at him, a strange, grotesque figure stomping for calculation, bundled in a coat the raw cold of a swirling December day in a beat-up jacket and knitted cap.

And though you know this boy has a lovely home and suffers no hardship, and can sit in a cream-colored station wagon parked close by, you see a glimmer of the "privileged" boy, grateful for a chance to share.

BECAUSE Bruce's customers come to his door, the long line of cars wait in between. . . and this is what Dan Dozier avoids.

Starting work earlier in the season, Dan takes to the road. Tugging from house to house every day after school, he has rung a lot of Franklin doorbells to take orders for wreaths and roping.

The distance between homes would intimidate most pedestrians, but Dan cheerfully says he'd rather keep working on the job.

Also a Derby ninth grader, Dan is a born salesman. Hardly ever discouraged, he's a joy to find parked on your doorstep. Pink-checked and gregarious, he accepts the "cut" with the same grace as the "yes's." Taking orders first and delivering later, Dan really gets to know his customers.

Because of this personalized service, Dan's business enterprise has succeeded despite the dejected national picture.

OBVIOUSLY thinking as he walks the hilly roads, Dan has decided to try the stock market soon. Last year, A.P. (after presents), Dan banked his money. But by the year of a kid who never quite sits still, this static arrangement palled.

He studies the financial papers with an eye to investing while his feet thaw out after his daily rounds.

Dan is the eldest of four children. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Preston Dozier, Jr., of Willowgreen, are proud of their bewildering offspring, who is enthusiastically learning the rudiments of business.

There isn't any moral to this story. . . life has always fun to write about kids, especially kids who are giving a Christmas "Ho-Ho-He" to the holiday hoopies of our time.

Weekly Rubbish Pick-up Available to Westwood Homes

WESTWOOD—Residents now paying private trucking firms for weekly service may continue to have weekly rubbish pickup after Jan. 1, Westwood Village President Marvin Cline explained Monday night.

The village provides rubbish pick-up twice monthly by the trucking firm of Painter and Rotherberg, of Detroit. Residents desiring to continue weekly service after the first of the year can contact the firm at LA 6-2596 or VE 3-3668.

The village's agreement with the South Oakland county garbage and rubbish disposal authority provides that after Jan. 1 to private truckers are to pick up the village rubbish, other than Painter and Rotherberg.

The measure guarantees the authority that all Westwood rubbish will thus be delivered to it.



Customers may not be able to see him clearly, but it's evident that Dan Dozier is selling Christmas wreaths and greenery for holiday decorations.

BRUCE COBURN

Bruce Coburn sizes up a healthy Scotch pine on his tree lot at Franklin and Wellington roads. The enterprising youth manages his "firm" alone.

Book Is Like 'Visit To Grandma's Attic'

By NITA HARD
Eccentric Correspondent

As old fashioned as tansy bitters, "Franklin's Yesteryear" by Bert D. Wood, a 215-page country chronicle by an indefatigable octogenarian, should appeal to those who like their history warmed over a pot-bellied stove.

Written by a man who lived all of his life in the community, "Franklin's Yesteryear" leaves a great big sigh for the Good Old Days. Like a Currier & Ives print, it sweeps over hill and dale, encompassing a century of rugged "do-it-yourself" living, describing barn raisings, wheat washing, family gatherings. It charts the pulse of a rural community's rise and fall to the path of twentieth century progress.

THE BOOK, published by Edwards Brothers, Ann Arbor, is a virtuous account that leads to the door of the distilleries and taverns, but righteously says you don't drink. "Franklin's Yesteryear" is a seriously printed work with cracker barrel philosophy and humor. The author is an astute man to publish.

It is a little less than heroic effort to keep faith with the deplorable and, probably ought to be included in every transfer of deed and property title as new atomic age families move into the area that once was a mecca for hard-working farmers and plain folk.

\$500 Truck Fire
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—A fire caused \$500 damage Monday to a truck owned by John Elliott. A defective heater caused the blaze while Elliott was driving on Telegraph near Long Lake.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

Mrs. Donald Parry Resigns From School Board 1-A

Rev. Allen Wittup Makes Religion Appeal to Children 7-B

Linda Burkman Named Birmingham's Miss DAR 1-C

Candy Is Dandy At Birmingham High 1-D

Maple-Tankers Sweep Cereal Bowl 8-E

Two Homes, Storage Shed Burn in S'field

SOUTHFIELD.—Three fires kept Southfield fire officials busy Tuesday afternoon and early Wednesday.

Fireplace embers started a blaze at 1:05 a.m. Wednesday at the A. Abate home, 29416 Murray Crescent, causing an estimated \$2,500 damage through the ceiling of the home.

A STORAGE shed at the rear of the Edwin Combs home, 24245 W. Nine Mile road burned Tuesday night causing approximately \$900 damage. Fire officials speculate that children with matches started the blaze.

NEARLY \$500 damage was done Tuesday to the outside wall of the Fred G. Braun home, 25485 Farmbrook. The cause is undetermined.

Better Lighting At Etan Ice Rink Being Studied

Does Etan skating rink need better lighting, and what would its effect be on revenues?

This assignment was handed Recreation Director Robert Girardin this week by the Birmingham Recreation Board.

Board Chairman John S. O'Gorman, who also is a city commissioner, said the report is due in a few weeks.

"The board also has taken the position that the municipality which owns the particular recreation facility should stand the cost of any improvements," O'Gorman reminded.

THIS WOULD mean the city would finance improvements to such as Etan ice rink and Springfield golf course. The Birmingham school board would concern itself with school playground or building facilities.

Evelyn, Franklin No-Turn Traffic Route Modified

FRANKLIN—Residents of Franklin once again be legally permitted to make turns onto Evelyn avenue and Franklin court the council agreed Monday.

Signs restraining commercial vehicles from using the small short-cut route will replace the hasty disputed no-turns. The roads will also be posted for local traffic only.

THE COUNCIL action was made dramatic by the local police force, said Richard Kidericher, who reported that a young directed receding the no-left-turn from Franklin road to Evelyn avenue was justified, but suggested retaining the no-right-turn from 14 Mile to Franklin court.

The two short roads that cut the corner of 14 Mile and Franklin in the village have been left to give relief to dust-beset residents and curtail the increasingly expensive maintenance caused by excessive external use.

HOWEVER, a persistent campaign of residents living beyond the village limits has been failed to bring about a review of the situation and the modified routing is expected to produce an equitable solution.

10 Apply

WESTWOOD—Dr. Douglas A. Wood and Robert Reed, Westwood councilmen, are currently reviewing applications received by the village from ten engineering firms. The applications are in response to the village's announcement that it was seeking a permanent engineering consultant.

Lathrup May Sue For Deed

LATHRUP—A festering sore that has long plagued the Lathrup council is scheduled to come to a head at the Jan. 5 meeting.

On that date the council will either accept a new quit claim deed from the City of Lathrup Village, or take the first steps in a declaration of rights suit against the Kelleys.

Monday City Attorney Everett Hayes told the council that Oakland county DPW bonding attorney Claude Stevens believes Lathrup needs to remove the cloud of questionable ownership of the city's sewers through a quit claim deed.

STEVENS does not admit to any doubt of ownership of the sewers by the City of Lathrup Village, Hayes said, but recommends a shorter form of resolution from the council to the court and the Water Resources Commission, and a declaration of rights suit against the Kelleys.

Last Thursday members of the council met with Mr. and Mrs. Kelley and their attorney to go over the latest quit claim deed form. Paragraph by paragraph, Mayor Richard J. Cogger said, council members pointed out items not acceptable in the Kelleys' proposed deed form.

Monday Mayor Cogger said, "The attorney for the Kelleys knows what we want, and the City Attorney knows what we want. The attorneys have agreed to meet and work out a satisfactory form for a quit claim deed. I want all this submitted to the council members by Jan. 29. No more of this last minute stuff!"

IN SETTING the Jan. 5 date for the council's next action on the matter, Cogger said, "I want this thing cleared up. I don't want to go to jail for contempt of court."

After two and one-half years of negotiations and a declaration of rights suit, the council rejected a deed form submitted by the Kelleys at a special meeting on Nov. 24. The latest deed form was handed to council members that night just as they set down at 7:30 p.m.

ON DEC. 1 the council approved a resolution describing their efforts to obtain a satisfactory quit claim deed and asking protection from penalty. They named Charles D. and Louise Lathrup Kelley as co-defendants in a suit to be filed in court.

Hayes was to seek approval of bonding attorney Claude Stevens for the resolution's presentation, so future bond issues of the city would not be jeopardized.

Lathrup road, along with other cities, has been cited in court action by the state for polluting the Rouge river. Unless action is taken to halt the pollution through additional sewage facilities, officials of the township of the township would be involved could face prosecution.

IT WILL take courage to identify yourself with new thinking. You probably have heard of the recap (See COMMITTEES, Page 7-E)

THE BIRMINGHAM Eccentric has asked me what further plans I have in mind. If you will refer to my first letter you will note that I am not a "new" man. I am a volunteer of assistance in any further work that needs to be done.

It has been suggested that new thinking should be along the lines of greater efficiency in the operation of the school system with resulting economy, and the turning out of students who are better equipped to handle life problems.

If you stand for these things you are automatically on that committee. If you so desire I will help you organize for constructive purposes.

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Santa Came to Town

"Oh, ho ho . . . and have you been good little Lathrup lads and lasses?" said Santa last week when 400 children of all sizes and ages filed past him to express Christmas wishes. Old Saint Nick was invited by the Lathrup Police Recreation department, Inc. Candy canes, a traditional tree and the Southfield high school band under the direction of James Burrows enhanced the event. Each year just two weeks before Christmas Santa sleighs in for a quick conference with area youngsters.

Graupner Suggests New Citizens' Committee

To the Editor: You, the property owners and citizens of the Bloomfield School District, have expressed your opinion at the School Election on December 8. In spite of the weather and driving conditions, about 1400 citizens voted. The large turnout is a sign of community interest.

I personally wish I thank the citizens who through an avalanche of phone calls and personal contact and interest on my courage and commitment. I express myself through The Birmingham Eccentric letter box, a mailing of this letter to voters in this district and at a meeting at Bloomfield township hall. Since the election there has been a volunteering of assistance in any further work that needs to be done.

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Other Cuts In Teaching Staff Set

Both immediate economy and drastic reduction in school expenditures for 1959-'60 were contemplated by Bloomfield Hills board of education at its meeting Tuesday night.

Several money-saving policies were adopted by the board to go into effect immediately. There will be no substitute teachers hired. Classes will double up when a teacher is absent. No teachers leaving the system this year will be replaced. An increase in nominal charges made to civic groups as use of school facilities will be made.

CURTAILMENT of the teaching staff, abolishing of school bus service, elimination of kindergarten and double sessions at the junior high were discussed as possible economy measures for next year.

It was the board's first meeting following rejection by voters Dec. 8 of a four-mill tax increase to offset an operating deficit of \$300,000 in the school system. A \$1,165,000 bond issue for additional school facilities was also defeated.

"With an operating budget next year of \$1,385,000 and an anticipated income of only \$1,100,000, we face another \$285,000 deficit. We must cut our expenses by that amount," said Mrs. Ellen Maritz, with whom other board members agreed unanimously.

"THE GOLD rule is that if \$300,000 has to be cut from the budget, it will be a major operation on the school system," stated school superintendent Eugene Johnson as board members searched for ways to lop off expenses without mortally wounding the "patient."

Since teachers' salaries constitute approximately 80 per cent of the school budget, board members David Lee and Max Miller felt no major budget reduction could be made without eliminating some of the teachers.

The board agreed that should special education teachers would be the first eliminated in order to retain adequate academic instructors.

THERE would be no art, music, shop, home economics, elementary, French or physical education in the school for \$45.07 per \$100 it would save over \$150,000 according to board estimates.

Discontinuance of transportation of students to and from school would save another \$50,000. Eliminating kindergarten would not only take off \$35,000 from the budget but would release five classrooms to relieve overcrowded school facilities, according to the board.

DOUBLE sessions at the junior high will be necessary, the board said, because it is already crowded and an additional 300 students are expected in the school system next year. (See TEACHERS, Page 4-E)

Your Christmas and New Year's Issues of The Eccentric Will Be Published On Tuesdays, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30

You Can Help Us Immensely These Next 2 Weeks by Getting Your News and Advertising Copy To Us Early

Classified ad deadline will be 11 a.m. Mondays

Westwood Clarifies Tax Increase

WESTWOOD—No matter what action they took, Westwood voters would have faced increased taxes eventually, Village President Marvin Cline said Monday night.

Cline said he had received from taxpayers in the village a letter such as, "I just got my tax bill, I'm still charged a township tax, and now I'll have to pay a village tax on top of it."

"I think," Cline said, "that this is the case with the village is that it is more completely misunderstood than any."

IF RESIDENTS of the area had chosen to stay in the township, Cline explained, they would have paid the township taxes. For with the City of Southfield's incorporating, Cline said, the township portion of the township would have had fewer taxpayers to provide the revenue to continue taxes in the village.

On the other hand, if the village residents had voted to become part of Southfield City, they would have had to pay additional taxes to that city, Cline said.

"What we voted to do was to control our own destiny by creating our own village, and keep the costs down," Cline added.

COUNCILMAN Hugh Allerton, who is Southfield township supervisor, said that over 75 per cent of the tax bills sent this month to Westwood and other Southfield township residents were for school taxes.

A home valued at \$2500 by a local assessor, for example might be valued at \$5000 for county and school tax purposes if an equalization factor of 2 is applied.

Southfield's city tax billed in the summer, is 5 mills, while Westwood's is \$4.50. The equalization factor is not applied to city and village taxes.

SOUTHFIELD CITY residents pay the same equalization factor as Southfield township, Southfield

Township School general School voted increase: 1. bonded debt retirement—8.50 2. additional operating millage 6

County tax Huron-Clinton metropolitan authority 25 County special education, for handicapped children 50

1.55 1.247 22.66 8.78 .39 .78 46.83

*Southfield township equalization factor—1.548766

Breakdown of Southfield Township Tax Bills

\$1 per thousand equalization (mills) is applied