TEN CENTS THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1958 SECTION E

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM MICHIGAN

12-Town Appeal Is Launched

The cities of Southfield and Troy voted Monday to appeal the 12-town drain decision to the state supreme court. The Troy commission and the Southfield council unanimously authorized the citys' attorneys to prepare the appeal, necessary before the drain can proceed.

When Southfield was still a township, it and Troy challenged the constitutionality of the drain in a circuit court case. Circuit Judge H. Russel Holland ruled the $44 million sewer constitutional and necessary for the public health.

This stopped the entire project because a supreme court ruling is necessary before bonds can be sold . . . and the communities fighting the drain were reluctant to appeal.

The Southfield council acted after President John Hollywood read a memorandum from Mayor Don Swanson estimating the total cost to each city at $2,500.

The attorneys, Swanson said, have agreed to keep costs to a minimum. The memorandum, result of a June 5 meeting with Troy Mayor Frank Costello, was included in the Southfield resolution.

Swanson said that no immediate action need be taken to meet with the county drain commission to settle internal problems in view of the pending appeal.

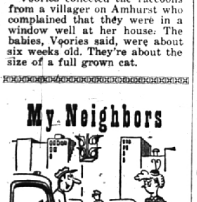
Baby Raccoons Put the Bite On Westwood

WESTWOOD — Four baby raccoons — "just at the biting stage, boy, do they bite!" belong to the Westwood public safety department.

Because the village doesn't seem to be taking its responsibility in the matter of raccoons seriously, safety officer Richard Voories took them home to his wife, Barbara, who "loves 'em and feeds 'em left-overs."

Voories collected the raccoons from a villager on Amhurst who complained that they were in a window well at her house. The babies, Voories said, were about six weeks old. They're about the size of a full grown cat.

My Neighbors



"Isn't it a shame! You went and broke your winding stem and main spring!"

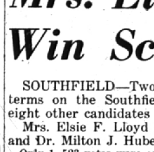
Mrs. Lloyd, Huber Win School Posts

SOUTHFIELD—Two political newcomers won four-year terms on the Southfield school board Monday, outpolling eight other candidates including the incumbents.

Mrs. Elsie F. Lloyd topped the balloting with 551 votes, and Dr. Milton J. Huber won his seat with 498.

Only 1, 523 votes were cast of a registration of about 10,000. Even so the vote was heavier than the usual Southfield school election—564 votes cast in 1955; 716 in 1956; and 2,205 in 1957, when a bond issue was on the ballot.

THIS DESPITE the fact that Southfield schools get 12.38 mills in taxes from property owners and spend an annual operating budget



MRS. LLOYD AND HUBER

of about two and a half million dollars. Southfield and Lathrup voters, who make up almost all of the school district, turn out much more faithfully for city elections. About 7,000 registered to vote on the Southfield city charter, and about 6,000 turned out. About 46% of Lathrup's 2,080 registered voters cast ballots at the last city council election.

The unsuccessful candidates Monday were John G. Campbell, 359; Ernest J. Coverdill, an incumbent, 354; William F. Mueller, 340; Mark W. Rehbine, an incumbent, 331; Daniel F. MacKinnon, 215; Mrs. Lillian C. Siegel, 172; Thomas J. Grady, 68; Clifford Thompson, 46.

Mrs. Lloyd and Dr. Huber take office July 1.

MRS. LLOYD has worked with the schools through PTA for 15 years and has been active in child guidance work. She has had two years teacher training in her native South Wales and taught for five years. She lives at 21005 Tamarack.

She decided to run for the school board because of her keen interest in children and education. She believes in, and will work for, cooperation and mutual respect between parents and educators.

DR. HUBER has an outstanding record in child welfare work. He is executive director of Boys Republic, where he received a national award for creative programming. He is one of 50 consultants for the state department of public instruction on emotionally disturbed children in the school system, is legislative representative of the Michigan association of children's institutions and is co-chairman of the Detroit council of churches committee for serving exceptional children.

He was recently elected one of Michigan's outstanding young men by the state junior chamber of commerce.

Dr. Huber is 35 and has two preschool children and a 6-year-old. He lives at 27080 W. 9 Mile road.

Rouge Project Called Too Big For Lathrup

LATHRUP—Robert Norris, engineer for the city of Lathrup Village and member of the firm of Ayres, Lewis, Norris and May, has advised the city council not to approve the Rouge No. 1 project as proposed by the county drain commissioner.

Two years ago the city petitioned the county drain commissioner to clean out and straighten the small stream that runs along the western boundary of Lathrup. In the petition the commissioner was asked to set up a drainage district.

Entering Lathrup in the northwest corner, the redolent little stream runs along carrying from three to six feet of water. It twists and turns along the western boundary of Lathrup until it crosses Evergreen road just north of 11 Mile road.

CHOKED with trash and clogged with log dams, in summer the stream forms stagnant, unpleasant little pools. Home owners in the path of rising westerly breezes that fan over the ditch hurry to close windows.

With the drainage district set up and the rights of many people involved, the drain commissioner has proposed a project that Norris calls right for the sections north of Lathrup, but far too large for Lathrup itself.

The Rouge No. 1 project would widen the meandering little stream to a river, 28 feet from bank to bank, with a depth of 12 feet. It would change the course of the stream, moving it to the western side of Evergreen road at about 11½ Mile. Although the dry season flow of water would be slight, the gigantic ditch would be built to handle the big storms that come about once in five years.

SEEKING an inexpensive storm water drainage system, Lathrup city officials were shocked last year to learn that the project might cost the city $50,000. Monday they heard that the cost had gone up to between $80,000 and $100,000.

According to Norris the wide and deep ditch won't be needed for another five to ten years.

Mayor Richard Cogger will invite drain commissioner Daniel Ilary to meet with the council and interested residents as soon as possible.

Another Hearing On Lathrup Paving

LATHRUP—Residents living on streets scheduled for paving this summer will learn the costs at a second public hearing at the council meeting next Monday.

Three bids were opened last Monday evening on the bituminous surfacing scheduled for this year. The Detroit Concrete Products bid of $25,821 was lowest of the three.

On Project B, gravel roads, a bid from Doherty and Doherty for $3,931.50 was low.

It's Not TV, It's Not A Movie

. . . believe it or not it's Bloomfield. And although there's no tumbling tumbleweed, father and son stop to enjoy some "clear cool water" during "Operation X", a recent mock tornado drill. Serving as members of the Oakland county sheriff's patrol are Bumpy Westcott (left) and his father Menden L. Westcott, advisor of explorer post Birmingham. The Westcotts live at 30005 Telegraph.

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

School's Out . . . 'Nuff Said

These Bloomfield Hills school district youngsters and those in Southfield were loosed this week. Birmingham schools will close for the summer Wednesday.

Evergreen Talk at Westwood

WESTWOOD—The village's stake in the Evergreen interceptor was outlined for councilmen Monday by Harold Schone of the Oakland county department of public works. In essence, this is the situation:

Schone anticipates that the interceptor will be started this fall and the main line finished by fall, 1959.

Either Westwood or Southfield township can participate. In either event the Westwood share would be $220,200. Bingham Farms and Franklin would be committed for $80,000.

The Acacia drain, which now serves about 1,100 Westwood homes, could be connected at once. Originally a storm sewer, it now handles septic tank effluent as well.

Westwood, or the township, could pay its share by any of three methods: a connection charge of about $200 per home; an increase in the sewage charge; or by levying a tax. Schone recommended the connection charge as most fair.

INDICATING its concern over drain problems and interest in the Evergreen interceptor, the village council nevertheless postponed making any decision Monday. Village President Marvin Cline said the council would study the proposal and the legal aspects of participating alone or with the township before making a decision.

Schone had urged that Southfield township (which consists of the three villages, Westwood, Bingham Farms and Franklin) participate as a whole. Separate contracts are possible, he said, although he urged that the township act now for all three to avoid "serious problems" in Franklin and Bingham. Westwood could later sign an amended contract for itself alone, Schone added.

A study session with Schone to bring members of the Southfield township board up to date on the Evergreen interceptor was set Tuesday for June 17.

An invitation was extended to the village councils of Franklin and Bingham Farms to meet with them.

Green and White, New Look in Signs

LATHRUP—Main thoroughfare entrances to Lathrup will soon be dressed up with new green and white street signs. With present signs rusted and difficult to read at night, a few residents have been asking for lights on Southfield.

The new, reflective signs will be made of aluminum, 24 by 6 inches. They will be installed within the next month along with 55 new stop signs in white on red to replace the obsolete yellow signs now in use.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

Barnard, Lovell Win B'ham School Board Election 1-A

Doctorate Bestowed Upon Rev. Gass 7-B

'B-Day' At Quarton Honors 10-Year Principal 1-C

921 Musicians Play In B'ham's All-City Instrumental Music Festical 5-C

Rec Board Shuns Ball Field Care Appeal 7-E

S'field Talks Zone Officials City Hall Vote

SOUTHFIELD — A clash over Samuel Garzia as a zoning board of appeals member and proposal of a city hall bond issue were the highlights of a packed agenda taken up by the Southfield city council Monday.

An election next August on a bond issue up to $300,000 for a city hall and a new fire station for the northern part of the city was proposed in a letter to council president John Hollywood from city administrator Eugene Swem.

Garzia, a member of the old township zoning board who was proposed for the city's board of appeals last week and left off this week's slate, questioned the council and Mayor Don Swanson from the floor.

Clarence Durbin, Howard Coleman and Garzia were proposed for the board last week. The slate was tabled after Swanson said he would veto Garzia.

THE NEW slate, replacing Garzia with William C. Hund, was proposed Monday and adopted.

Garzia spoke from the audience to ask if his name was not being considered because of his representing Melody Lanes bowling alley in a controversy with residents of the area.

He asked for the right to defend his position. Garzia, a lawyer, stressed that he had contacted township officials to make sure there was no conflict of interest. He declared emphatically that he had satisfied himself that the bowling alley problem "had nothing to do with zoning."

When his client bought the property, Garzia said, it was already zoned commercial. The dispute was over deed restrictions, he added.

SWANSON repeated that he intended to veto any council action proposing Garzia as a zoning official because of "one over-riding factor." He said this was that Garzia's interest had been to get what his bowling alley client wanted even if citizens of the community opposed it.

A mild dispute also arose when

(See COUNCIL, Page 5-E)

Franklin Nibbles at Food Law

FRANKLIN—A food ordinance for Franklin—a tasty little morsel that has appeared on the council table time and again—was sent back to the kitchen Monday for a little more stewing by councilmen Edward Green and Jack Roberts.

The latest offering was dished out by Edward O'Rourke, deputy health officer of Oakland county, and served up as a "model" which the county hopes communities will adopt.

The left-overs will appear again at a special meeting Monday.

DON HOGUE, chairman of the council's special assessment study group, drew a knowing smile from the council when he said that determining assessment districts was very complex "because there are a lot of people to convince about conflicting details."

Hogue asked the council for an opinion from its attorney, William Hartman, to clarify the village's position in establishing procedures. The charter, he said, apparently does not make any provision for issuing bonds or setting up machinery for levying of assessments.

The assessment situation is being considered as part of the council's study of Franklin's perennial road problem. Councilman Edward Green urged a referendum of the people to decide whether Franklin should keep its rural roads or hard-surface them. He suggested a series of neighborhood meetings to sample public opinion.

THE COUNCIL also accepted street administrator Stanley Hunter's recommendation that engineers be retained to inspect new subdivision roads.

A meeting later this month will be held with the Oakland county road commission to discuss Franklin's taking over maintenance of 13 and 14 Mile orads, Franklin and Inkster, which would be made major roads. Preliminary surveys have been made with the state highway department.

Bloomfield Okays New Street Lights

BLOOMFIELD—Township board Monday night approved installation of street lights near the Maple-Cranbrook intersection.

Cost of the lights will be born by residents in the area, acording to Arno Hulet, Bloomfield supervisor.

In other action, the board approved acceptance into the Bloomfield system of the Birmingham Farms subdivision water system. The subdivision is located southwest of the Maple-Telegraph intersection.

Divorce Hard S'fields Find

Joint Meeting Airs Settlement Problems

By MARY H. SCHMIDT
Township Editor

SOUTHFIELD—As is the way with divorce settlements, the one between Southfield city and Southfield township gets more difficult as time wears on. Tuesday night the city council and the township board got together to set a few ground rules for future negotiations.

The first is that the split shall be roughly 75 per cent to the city, 25 per cent to the township.

The second is that almost all the state tax rebates will go to the city—the township being entitled to rebates for only those people who are not in the villages of Westwood, Bingham Farms and Franklin that comprise almost all of the township. There are only 28 township residents who are not villagers.

The third is for fire protection, and involves the two Southfields and the village of Westwood.

THE FIRE protection agreement provides that Westwood shall man the fire hall on 13 Mile road; Southfield township will supply the hall and the fire fighting equipment; and Southfield city will add one full time fireman to the Westwood force. For this Southfield city will get protection in its northern sections which it presently is unable to protect without a northern station. Westwood adds fire protection to the functions of its public safety department. Westwood and the rest of Southfield township get the services of an additional fireman.

Although neither objected to the basic fire plan (Westwood had already approved it), negotiations bogged immediately over the question of who owns the fire hall on 13 Mile road.

The joint resolution proposed by the township said it was township property, but city officials said they owned it jointly until the settlement. Township supervisor Hugh Allerton, Jr., read an opinion from the township attorneys, Howard I. Bond and Tom Dillon, that real estate still in the township belongs exclusively to the township whereas real estate in the city is jointly owned.

Southfield Mayor Don Swanson said that a court opinion was the only final settlement of this problem, so both agreed to change the wording to get around it for the time being.

THE 75-25 division of everything from fire trucks to paper clips was arrived at after totalling assessed valuations of the areas involved. Before the city incorporated, Southfield township had an assessed valuation of $100,419,700. Of this $75,105,720 is now city, leaving $25,313,980 in the township.

By law the division of assets must be in the same ratio as the assessed valuation . . . and so must the division of debts.

THE STATE returns proportionate shares of state sales tax, gas tax, motor vehicle weight tax and other such revenue to cities, villages and townships on a population basis. Although village residents live also in townships, the money due for them goes to the village not the township.

Therefore, new Southfield township is entitled to money for only those residents not in any village—and there are 28 of them living in eight houses on scattered parcels of land that got overlooked in all the incorporations.

Both city and township agreed that the city should, in lieu of taking a special census, get 99.998872 per cent of such revenue.

THEN THE meeting turned to a polite, if pointed, discussion of division of personal property—and that's where fire trucks and paper clips came in.

Various city officials in various ways indicated that they didn't think it "co-operative" of the township to take "first pick" of all the property. The city view was that the township could use office equipment and such things, moving them to the fire station on 13 Mile where the township plans to set up offices, but that it should be clearly understood that possession was not "nine points of the law" in this case. Actual ownership, no matter where located, the city officials said, would not be determined until the final agreement was all signed.

Mrs. Fannie Adams, township clerk, pointed out that the quicker the township moved the better, because the old township hall was badly overcrowded "with no desk for the city clerk, the township supervisor sitting on a wastebasket and no office for the mayor."

Allerton said that the township had planned to take only the oldest equipment, listing such items as a ditto machine that "sometimes" works.

"You make me cry," Mayor Swanson said. "You outfit your whole office with this old stuff, and you get a lot of it for little value because it's depreciated to nothing but we have to replace every item by spending good hard cash."

SOUTHFIELD city councilmen insisted that even an item depreciated on the books to nothing was worth something if it was usable. A fair appraisal of value should be made, the city said, and then a division made.

"If we can't agree on what's fair," city council president John Hollywood said, "we can sell the stuff and split the money 25-75."

IT WAS Allerton that referred directly to the "famous Saturday" when Southfield township switched fire trucks with the city. The township view was that the trucks were township property and that the city fire chief made no objection to the change. The city felt the township had "jumped the gun" and by its action cancelled a "gentleman's agreement" to be co-operative.

Allerton said the city fire chief had sent along a small pickup truck and other equipment on his own initiative, and that the township had no present use for them Allerton offered to send them back

THESE details thoroughly aired, township trustee Harold Rosebery who was acting as chairman of the joint meeting, called for adjournment, and the two governing bodies split into separate rooms to consider their losses and gains.

Southfield city started out by having city administrator Eugene Swem and fire chief A. W. Kruck (it was 11:30 p.m.) to get the pickup truck back at once.

Then it approved all three joint resolutions on general policy and fire protection.

HOLLYWOOD summed up the city's post mortem on the joint session:

"We shook hands and said the settlement was going to be co-operative. So far the only co-operation consists of their taking what they want. And it's not going to be that way."

He suggested adding another member to the city's bargaining committee, which consisted up to then of Mayor Swanson, Administrator Swem and Councilman Robert Wuerfel. Councilman Emanuel Christensen was named to the job.

MEANWHILE Southfield township was in the front room of the old township hall, quietly ploughing through its regular agenda. Settlement matters were hardly mentioned until just before adjournment at midnight, when the township board approved the three joint resolutions.

Top Teacher

Because the Southfield PTSA wanted to recognize "superior teaching", the new award "Teacher of the Year" was created. First recipient is Miss Mary Lou Lake, who has been teaching at Southfield high school since it opened in 1951. She will direct testing for the entire Southfield school system this fall.