

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM MICHIGAN

LATHRUP • FRANKLIN • WING LAKE • GILBERT LAKE • WALNUT LAKE • FOXCROFT • W. & E. BEVERLYS • THE BERKSHIRES • VALLEY WOODS • SOUTHFIELD, BLOOMFIELD & W. BLOOMFIELD TOWNS.

3 Killed In S'field Car Crash

SOUTHFIELD—Three men died Sunday in Southfield's worst crash in three years. Another man was critically injured in the two-car smash on 12 Mile road, about a fourth mile west of Lasher early Sunday morning.

Killed were Charles E. Nye, 46, of Farmington; Benjamin J. Kotowski, 41, of Pleasant Ridge; and Clarence Muncy, Jr., 32, of Detroit. A brother, Frank M. Muncy, 38, Detroit, is in serious condition at William Beaumont hospital with internal injuries and lacerations.

SOUTHFIELD police pieced together this story of the accident: Kotowski, driving east on 12 Mile, pulled into the left hand lane to pass a car and was sidwinded before he could pull back into his own lane. That car, driven by Ernest W. Elbert, 17, Northville, was barely scratched and Elbert was not injured.

Kotowski, however, lost control of his car and swerved onto the right hand shoulder. Cutting back across the pavement, Kotowski crossed both lanes of the road into Nye's path as he drove west.

NYE STRUCK Kotowski's car head-on. Kotowski was thrown from his car and killed instantly. Nye and his passengers, the Muncy brothers, were pinned in their car. All were taken to Beaumont hospital, where Nye was pronounced dead on arrival. Clarence Muncy died Sunday night.

Southfield police said the last crash in which three people were killed happened about three years ago on Telegraph road near 10 Mile.

Sgt. Charles Durbin and Patrolman Edward Rinehart said both were total wrecks.

Woman Injured In Auto Accident

BLOOMFIELD—A Detroit woman was injured early Sunday morning when her car crashed into a tree at Maple and Telegraph roads.

Mrs. Lucille Mead, 3172 Apple road, Detroit, received knee and face lacerations when her husband, Edward, failed to see a car waiting at the light and ran into its rear. Mrs. Mead was taken to William Beaumont hospital, driver, Mrs. Mead, was not injured.

Ten Hopefuls Seek School Board Jobs

SOUTHFIELD—Ten candidates are in the race for two Southfield board of education posts to be filled in a school election June 9.

This is the largest number in the history of the district to file two names, according to Glen Levey, assistant superintendent. Deadline for filing petitions was Saturday. Levey is in process of certifying signatures. Signatures of fifty registered voters are needed on each petition, but most candidates took the precaution of obtaining extra ones.

Among the candidates are incumbents Mark W. Sebbins, board secretary, and Ernest J. Coverdill. The list also includes two women, Mrs. Elsie Lloyd and Mrs. Lillian Siegel.

Other candidates are John G. Campbell, Thomas J. Grady, DeWitt J. Huber, Daniel F. MacKinnon, William W. Mueller and Clifford Thompson.



ECCESTRIC PHOTO

Franklin's Cozy Library

This dignified sign marks the cozy lean-to that has served as Franklin's community library for several decades. Inside are crowded shelves, and three days a week, a gracious librarian, and readers of all ages.

Young David Hall consults with Homer Heideman, president of the library board, on books for the tiny, though enterprising library.

Franklinish Library Peers Through Honeysuckle Veil

By NITA HARD

FRANKLIN—It happens all the time! People move to Franklin and live there for several years . . . then suddenly, one day, they take a good look at the back end of G. W. Smith's real estate office on Wellington road and discover Franklin has a library.

To their amazement they learn that this tiny sanctuary has been an archive for the world's good books since the 1820's. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 3 to 5 and from 8 to 9, Mrs. Walter K. M. Rodgers turns the key in the door and graciously presides at the librarian's desk.

IN A PAST moving world where many organizations compete for people's time and attention, the Franklin library has nestled unobtrusively behind a clump of honeysuckle and a veil of intellectual dignity. Once a year, it makes a timid appeal for financial support from the residents of Franklin, Woodcrest, Birmingham

circulator on a cold winter night, the warmth of Mrs. Rodgers' smile on a rainy day when clean newspapers are spread just inside the door for muddy boots.

SOMETIMES there's just a solitary child sitting at the small round table, lost in a glorious adventure book between book covers. Other times the lean-to is fairly bursting at the seams, as the teenagers bubble in clusters, arms loaded with school books and whispers charged with excitement.

THIS vital little mecca has never once held a bake-sale, a fashion show nor begged a cent from the village coffers. It stays in business in a proud, somewhat austere way, keeping regular hours and a steady though unpretentious flow of literature circulating throughout the area with a minimum of fuss.

However, with the growth of Franklin and its neighbors, the library is beginning to stir from its Rip Van Winkle-like existence. On May 20 the board of directors, headed by Homer Heideman, will invite "friends" to come to the Franklin Community church and hear Miss Jeanne Lloyd, head librarian of Birmingham, tell about the "Friends of the Library" program she instigated in Birmingham.

Some thought has been given too, to enlarging the facilities by working more closely with a larger library. But with innate conservatism, the directors are making no drastic changes . . . at least until they have a chance to digest Miss Lloyd's ideas over a cup of coffee, which Mrs. Harry Lang, Jr., will serve after the meeting.

Fire Damage Is \$50

BLOOMFIELD—Bloomfield firemen extinguished a small shed fire last Saturday at the home of Glenn Wilson, 74 Alce. Damage to the shed at the back of a garage was estimated at \$50.

Woodworth way, Lathrup, is competing for his first term on the board. He has two children in Lathrup school. Coverdill is head of the vocational department at South-eastern high school in Detroit.

REHNBINE, 22, of 25175 Farm-brook, has served on the board since the district's incorporation in 1946. He is instrumental in the consolidation of Southfield's schools, serving as organizational chairman last Saturday. Levey was board secretary ever since consolidation.

He is an executive engineering supervisor with Chrysler corporation and is a member of Southfield Optimist club. He and his wife have lived in Southfield 24 years. Campbell, 18, of 1451 Glenwood, Lathrup, has been a Southfield district resident for nine years. A construction supervisor, he has two sons at Lathrup school. He served a term and a half as Lathrup school board member previously as mayor of Hazel Park.

GRADY, 24221 Sunny Pointe drive, has been a resident of the district for two years. He has a grown son. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Southfield city council. A graduate of Ohio State university, he is sales supervisor for General Foods.

DR. HUBER, 35, of 27080 W. 9 Mile, is executive director of Boys Republic. He has lived in Southfield since 1954. (See HOPEFULS, Page 3-E)

Name Sura Justice for Westwood

SOUTHFIELD—The Southfield township board appointed Theodore Sura justice of the peace Tuesday and passed a smaller budget to fit the smaller township. The revised budget totalled \$91,267, which will require a tax of 1.55 mills.

Sura was the unanimous choice of the council to replace Harold C. Hubbard who declined the appointment. Sura will be justice for the east side of Westwood and Orland H. Ellis of Franklin, the west side.

SURA will have to resign as Westwood councilman. He said Wednesday that he felt his 20 years' experience in general law practice would be of more value to the community in setting up a court than on the council.

The state attorney general has called the two posts incompatible because the council employs the police who are complainants in justice court actions.

SURA said he would resign at Westwood's next meeting Tuesday. The council will appoint a successor.

The council changed their first budget to include its actual 1957-58 expenditures from April 1 to April 30. The original budget was for from May 1, 1958 to March 31, 1959.

General township operation including salaries in general law, building inspection and zoning, \$5,191; capital improvements, \$5,471. The fire department was budgeted at \$12,893, its April cost, \$1,191; capital improvements, \$5,471. The fire department was budgeted at \$12,893, its April cost, \$1,191; capital improvements, \$5,471.

FOREMAN LONG, the Gannons began to take a dim view of Homer. He despised his impoliteness at the feeder, he insisted upon roosting on the windowsill every evening to watch television. And he cooed and pecked on the window to let the Gannons know he preferred sophisticated drawing room comedies to Wyatt Earp. Besides he was a most untidy guest.

Gannon fired a couple of mud balls at Homer. Kind-hearted Mrs. Gannon aimed herself with broom. Finally they studied the window sill with long-thorned rose

Council, Mayor Snarl Over Two Appointments

The Pan Handling Pigeon, A Seedy Success Story

By DOROTHY ZATELI

Eccentric Correspondent

LATHRUP—Homer, the pigeon who wouldn't go home, has gone to seed.

In his previous appearances pan-handling around the towns, much of Homer's charm was his streamlined shape. But now

Homer's had too much high living. HE MADE his first appearance about a year ago, doing his "poor little lost bird" routine in Birmingham. The Eccentric tried to trace his owners through a leg hand, but it seems homing pigeon fanciers don't care about birds who won't go home. So, Homer just hung around, unannounced and casual, finding the best bird feeders and living on the bird seed set out for songsters.

In Lathrup Homer found his dish at the white brick home of the J. Gannons. The Gannons, Mrs. Gannon was generous with bird seed, and there was clean drinking water every day. Homer's broad wings gave the other birds the brush. They could only sit on the fence and chirp their protests.

There was Homer, bedded down right next to a hundred pound bag of wild bird seed, munching happily. It was obvious to Gannon from the state of the corner that Homer's been at home there all winter. It was obvious to Gannon from the state of the bird, too. He-time supply of the best seed and no exercise made Homer monumental. The bird turns his little gel-rimmed eyes around, and he looks at you with more poise than equilibrium out the garage door.

BEFORE LONG, the Gannons began to take a dim view of Homer. He despised his impoliteness at the feeder, he insisted upon roosting on the windowsill every evening to watch television. And he cooed and pecked on the window to let the Gannons know he preferred sophisticated drawing room comedies to Wyatt Earp. Besides he was a most untidy guest.

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branches and cut off the food supply. Still Homer hung on. As a last resort the Gannons closed the house and drove off on a trip east.

The fall days grew cooler and shorter. Homer flattered around. The neighborhood heard his protests, but, worried by the Gannon's experience, turned a deaf ear to the sad appeal. Then, about a week ago, the Gannons had gone. Homer disappeared, too. Of course the Gannons decided it was safe and came back to Lathrup.

AND THAT was the end of Homer . . . until, "Coop-up!" "Russ! Russ!" was celebrating spring by cleaning a wiper's clutter out of his garage, moving lawn equipment around when he heard this strange noise—half coo, half hiccup.

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THE COUNCIL next balked at Swanson's appointment of James C. Allen of Birmingham as city attorney, suggesting that his fees were too high and that a Southfield man should be given preference. Councilman Emanuel Christensen proposed that a relatively inexperienced attorney be hired full time by the city to establish offices in the city hall. Christensen suggested a salary of about \$8,000, with additional money available to hire a more experienced attorney as a consultant for court work.

Allen had told the council at a meeting Thursday that his fee would be \$25 an hour for ordinary legal work and \$125 a day for court cases. Christensen said this might come to \$30,000 a year.

SWANSON growled: "Does the council plan to provide office space? Where? A law lawyer? Does? A secretary?" Council President John Hollywood happily answered, "Few of us have office space." "But how can I look for an attorney if I don't have an attorney?" Swanson asked. He urged the council to decide these matters "now in the open."

Hollywood flared, "Let's have no more interferences." SWANSON then said that Allen had offered a seven page letter for review either up or down as it became clear how much legal work was needed. The council asked Swanson to document the amount of legal supplies and facilities for a full time attorney; stated that Allen was still making a bid for the job and tabled the problem until a special meeting Tuesday.

OTHER council actions: Established a municipal clerk and appointed Mrs. Margaret Glibby, 2215 Fairway, temporary court clerk at a salary of \$4,350. Asked Northland to advance \$30,000 of the taxes due in July to help the new city operate until other taxes come in. Rescinded appointment of Police Sgt. Charles Durbin as constable to name a "civilian," Wesley J. Skowron.

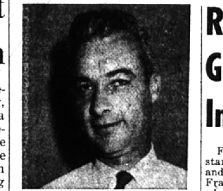
S'field City Gets Budget For Interim

SOUTHFIELD—At a special meeting Tuesday evening, the city council passed a \$162,444 budget for the period from April 28 to July 30 and resolved to ask the Michigan finance commission for its okay on borrowing \$187,000 for 90 days until tax collections come in.

Forestalling complaints from employees of the new city, councilman C. Hugh Dohoney said that some Southfield employees should get salary increases to make their pay comparable to that of surrounding cities. The civil service department must classify and fix wage rates as soon as possible, he said.

Police Chief Philip J. LaVigne told the council he is short one man now and will need three or four more. A civil service examination will be given May 24.

The fire department requires eight new men, the council learned, but no action will be taken until after July 1.



New Fire Chief

William Spinning, 357 Wad-dington, was elected fire chief of the Bloomfield village volunteer fire department recently. Treasurer of Rolf C. Spinning, advertising, he is married and has four children. Other fire department officers are F. C. Durgan, Jr., assistant chief and director of training; William L. Bartholomew, captain of company one, Garrett Mow, first lieutenant; Wendall Mow, captain of company two, James Risdon, first lieutenant and Frank W. Rennell, second lieutenant.

Roads Angry! Guess? Yep, In Franklin

FRANKLIN—Despite an earlier starting time for council meetings and a planned and posted agenda, Franklin village fathers still labored along into the night Monday, May 12, after midnight, with a dozen left-over problems requiring a special meeting next Monday.

No questions were raised at the meeting. Hearing on the council passed the budget for 1958-59 and moved to more controversial matters—roads.

"THE TIME has come," street administrator Stanley Hunter said, "to definitely put Franklin residents and find out what kind of roads they want."

"There's no middle ground," Hunter added. "Some want the present rural type with all their problems because it's part of living in the country and discourages speculators and heavy industry. Others want improved roads with hard surfaces which would cost them money but end this recurrent hassle over dust-laying treatments."

HUNTER is strongly advocating that the council give this issue early consideration so that a definite program in one direction or the other could begin immediately.

Discussing Franklin's drainage problems, Hunter said these stem from the topography and can be solved only by joining Franklin with adjacent neighborhoods, crossing bridges and heavy ditches.

Hunter said he would schedule scrapings for Wellington immediately. He said residents completed their applications for a permit to oil. In reply to a question from the residents, he said the procedure for possible paving of Wellington, Hunter stated that, if two-thirds of the residents of the abutting property petitioned the council for a special assessment district, hard surfacing would be accomplished shortly. He said it would cost about \$2.60 per linear foot.

LEONARD LAWTON, of the police department and Corlisse of Seenic said that paved roads in the village would jeopardize lives of residents. He quoted police surveys that speeds increase by 20 miles an hour when roads are hard surfaced.

Corlisse said "the chuck holes in front of my house are the best protection my kids have. But it beats me how fast drivers hit these holes and still don't slow down." Hunter also recommended a different kind of culvert for future installations. He said culverts with reinforced rings of concrete were preferred.

Hundreds Watch Westwood House Burn

WESTWOOD—A half finished house on 14 Mile road burned last Saturday at the home of Glenn Wilson, 74 Alce. Damage to the shed at the back of a garage was estimated at \$50.

These smouldering ruins are all that's left after Tuesday's fire

Two fire trucks from Southfield, two from Franklin and two from Farmington arrived at the scene, but all that could be saved was a tool shed and lumber stacked near the house. The youths jumped on the truck, rode to the fire and proved their value to their leader, Bob Bell, by handling the hoses and keeping the crowds back.

Elsewhere in the Eccentric

- Spring Art Festival Opens Saturday 1-A
- Birmingham Eyes Easy Regional Track Victory 6-E
- Little League, Babe Ruth Draft Selections 6-E
- Area Homes Open to Tourers 1-C