

'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.

2 Justices Named But 1 Declines

SOUTHFIELD — New, smaller Southfield township named two justices of the peace at a special court Thursday, but one of them has declined the appointment. Harland C. Hubbard, named east side justice, said Tuesday afternoon he was unable to accept for personal reasons. The side justice will be Orland H. Ellis, 45, of 24600 N. Cromwell, Franklin.



Flo and Ian Wilson in their shop.

Creativity Overflows Into Ceramics Shop

By NITA HARD Staff Correspondent

FRANKLIN—About 10 years ago, Flo Wilson decided she had to make things of a more permanent nature than jams and jellies. With three children her culinary products disappeared almost before she had a chance to enjoy their color and texture, so she turned to ceramics as a lasting art.

Westwood Proposes Dog Law

WESTWOOD — How many teeth does a dog law need? The one Westwood is considering provides penalties up to \$100 and 90 days for owners of offending dogs, but sets \$3 to the violations bureau as the more usual bite for dogs without licenses, strays and habitual barkers.

The law allows dogs to do as they please on their owner's property, but when they visit, they must have company manners or their owners are in trouble. Councilman Douglas Wood explained that the ordinance requires that dogs must be on leashes or under verbal control when away from home.

It also requires licenses and rabies immunization. CRUCIAL to the dog problem, Wood said, is a pound—which other communities have found expensive and difficult to maintain. Westwood has been using Southfield's pound, but must make other arrangements, which Wood is investigating.

Noxious Weeds Given The Axe

WESTWOOD—It's against the law to raise chardack, dandelion or rhus toxicodendron in Westwood. Attorney Tom Dillon translated to black mustard, wild carrot and poison ivy before the council passed a law Monday providing for removal of these and other noxious weeds. The ordinance provides for a weed commissioner, who will be Walter Waldy Osborn. He may order property owners to cut offending weeds. If they do not comply, the commissioner has authority to have them cut, and add the cost to the property owner's tax bill.

Fire Chief Of Franklin Resigns Job

FRANKLIN—After nearly 30 years of fire fighting in the Franklin area, Fire Chief William Jones announced Monday night that he would resign his post with the volunteer department. Jones said that personal business and other obligations forced him to take the step. He has been with the department since its inception and incorporation in 1946. Before that, Jones was an active volunteer when random villagers answered appeals for help with buckets and garden hoses.

A testimonial dinner is being planned to honor him, according to William Albee, president of the fire group. JONES' announcement was made at the annual meeting of the fire department at the Franklin Community church. THE GROUP also passed 1958-59 budget of \$6,607 and discussed buying the site of the burned Franklin community hall to expand their facilities. The volunteers would build a new building there within two years if the community group accepts their offer of \$8,500 for the present building and land "as is."

After several days visiting the Blacks, Carlin left early May 1 for Montreal, on the last lap of his fantastic trip. FOXCROFT—You could hardly see the world traveling yellow amphibious jeep for the starry-eyed, open-mouthed youngsters. Parked in front of the John Black home on Tanglewood, the peculiar 18-foot boat-on-wheels announced the presence of its owner, Ben Carlin, visiting the Blacks as he wound up his 12-year trip, wallowing around the world in a jeep he calls "Half-Safe."

Sound Sleepers Lose \$90 to Soft Footed Burglars

WESTWOOD—Cat-footed burglars broke into Frank McGowan's home here Saturday morning and prowled through the whole house, including the bedroom where the McGowan's were sound asleep. Sgt. Floyd Batts of Westwood police said the burglars broke a rear bedroom window, but that the sound had been muffled by a door closing off the rear portion of the house. Finding no money in the living rooms, the burglars entered the McGowan's bedroom and took a purse and billfold from a closet. They contained about \$90. The purse was found later by 53-year-old Howard Jones in woodshed behind his parents' home at 31710 Glencoe, and turned over to the police. McGowan's home is at 31740 Glencoe.



It makes quite a buzz when the 12 children of the Robert Blakes gather around the dinner table of their Leebury drive home, Chapel Hills Estates, to relate the happenings of the day. They are (from left)



BEN CARLIN AND HIS BOAT-JEEP "HALF-SAFE"

Around the World in a Jeep With Stopover in Foxcroft

By KAROL DARLING Staff Correspondent

FOXCROFT—You could hardly see the world traveling yellow amphibious jeep for the starry-eyed, open-mouthed youngsters. Parked in front of the John Black home on Tanglewood, the peculiar 18-foot boat-on-wheels announced the presence of its owner, Ben Carlin, visiting the Blacks as he wound up his 12-year trip, wallowing around the world in a jeep he calls "Half-Safe."

After several days visiting the Blacks, Carlin left early May 1 for Montreal, on the last lap of his fantastic trip. BLACK met Carlin in India during World War II. Australian-born, Carlin first saw an amphibious jeep there and the idea that "you could go around the world in one of these things" began to haunt him. Since then, "Half-Safe" has traversed 38 countries and is the smallest motor "boat" ever to cross the Atlantic and Pacific. Upon reaching Los Angeles in December, 1957, she had covered 9,400 nautical miles and 29,300 land miles entirely under her own power. Carlin considers bridges fair but not ferries.

Westwood Picks Chief Inspector

WESTWOOD—A. A. Steele, building inspector for Franklin, will be chief building inspector for Westwood too. The council named him Monday after interviewing applicants for the job. Steele was chosen because of his experience as a builder and his availability during the daytime. Westwood will name other inspectors, including electrical, engineer and lives in Detroit. Westwood will name other inspectors, including electrical, engineer and lives in Detroit. Westwood will name other inspectors, including electrical, engineer and lives in Detroit.

MONDAY'S appointments were steps in Westwood's program to supply its own services. The village has been getting its building inspections done by Southfield township, but the Southfield incorporation complicates this. Also, building departments not only pay for themselves but are a source of revenue.

Village Clerk Alice Spencer will act as the building department clerk. She will receive applications for permits, building plans and so forth, forwarding them to the appropriate inspector. Buildings already started under permits issued by Southfield, will be inspected by Southfield.

Probe Continues In 2 Land Deals

SOUTHFIELD — Investigation of Robert Wuerfel's activities as chairman of the old township's zoning board is progressing. Assistant prosecutor L. W. Rennie said Tuesday, but no conclusions have yet been reached. Wuerfel admits accepting checks totaling about \$3,400, but calls the transactions legitimate. The investigation arose when Phillip J. Maloney questioned the Oakland county prosecutor about two transactions Wuerfel called Maloney's "politics."

Northland Offer: Tax Advance, Offices

SOUTHFIELD—Two offers from Northland shopping center—office space and a tax advance—left the new city council gassing Tuesday. No final action was taken on either, pending an investigation. City Administrator Eugene Swann reported Northland's offer of five rooms totaling 1,500 square feet, for token rental and the cost of utilities. Later Swann casually mentioned that Northland had offered to advance \$25,000 to \$30,000 in taxes to help the city until the fiscal year begins a tax come in.

SWEM reported that he had investigated seven possible spots for city offices with rents ranging up to \$350 a month before hearing Northland's offer. Mayor Den Swanson wondered about if streets might be attached to the gift because zoning questions and other problems might arise after the city becomes established. Council members viewed the offer as a "nice gesture," a "fine thing," and "with favor."

Meetings and city business now are in the old township hall on Berg road. It remains the property of the township, although it is far south of the villages of Bingham, Franklin and Westwood which now comprise almost all of Southfield township. The building is inadequate to handle either or both may move out. The council asked a final report of the office situation at its meeting Monday.

SWEM quietly commented that the city might not need an interim office building. Allen reported that Treasurer Clara Lane to borrow \$50,000 so that the city can meet its payroll until taxes come in. Northland officials, Swem added, volunteered an advance on their taxes while discussing office space. Miss Lane told the council that the township had offered to meet the May 9 payroll and perhaps the May 23 one.

IN OTHER actions the council: Invited former Birmingham mayor James C. Allen to the meeting Monday after Mayor Swanson recommended him as city attorney. Allen lives at 1108 West Maple, Birmingham, and is a member of the firm of Allen, Haas and Selander, Detroit.

Authorized Swem to act on petitions for calcium chloride application to roads. Swem said the existing sections for about 13 miles of road. Accepted a proposal for setting up the municipal court from Judge Clarence Reid. Mr. Action was postponed until Monday.

Set a public meeting for 8 p.m. today to finish the agenda. LATHRUP Confirms Road, Safety Group

LATHRUP—The re-appointment of the road and safety committee was confirmed by the Lathrup Village council Monday. Thomas Reed leads the committee consisting of Kenneth LaBarge, Gerald Wicks, Walter Kohn, W. B. Commons and Arley VanMeer.

WESTWOOD—The village's public safety department plus three new men will attend a special 100-hour fire course starting May 12, and get in the fire-fighting business. The council Monday authorized public safety director Robert Murphy to hire three more men to take advantage of the free training being offered by Oak Park. The present department employees will go, too, scheduling their police work to make them available.

Murphy said the new men will bring the combined police and fire department to nine men. Two will be on duty seven days a week, 24 hours a day—once primarily as a fireman, the other primarily on police duty. Two more men are contemplated for later this year to allow for vacations. Village President Marvin Cline said the fire training would help a situation with "Southfield city employees on Southfield township property operating for Westwood village."

WESTWOOD—The village has a conscience and half a heart. The council decided Monday when councilmen weighed ethical, legal and moral obligations in the matter of Patrolman Voorries' station wagon. Here's the conflict: The village, when brand new, contracted to rent Voorries' station wagon for about \$425 a day. The contract specified that if the wagon were out of service Voorries would provide a replacement. Then Patrolman Robert Rick wrecked the police car while chasing a suspect, and Voorries' wagon was in the repair shop for nearly a month. As per contract, Voorries rented a replacement, but this cost him \$10 a day.

Clearly, the village had no legal obligation, but what about ethics? Voorries had worked long hours for the village, the \$425 was cheap. Voorries hadn't pressed the village for the rental cost until after the village had any funds, and he wasn't complaining now either. Still a contract is a contract—a precedent for undue generosity with the taxpayers' money. Solution: Split the loss. The council voted to cover 75 percent of the difference between the rent of Voorries' car and its substitute. The council also voted \$129 to pick up back rent on Voorries car and terminate the contract. Westwood now has a patrol car of its own in service, ending one of the village's growing pains.

ORLAND ELLIS

No Citee No Payee

Who owes who? What happens when an attorney helps draw up a city charter that doesn't pass. Julius E. Berns wants Oakland County Circuit Court to decide who owes him \$2,500 for helping Southfield draw up a charter in July, 1955. There was no city to pay Berns' bill when the attempt failed last June. The township said it wasn't responsible, the county refused to pay and the new city is not geographically the same one Berns worked for.

S'field Township Numbers Precincts

SOUTHFIELD — Election precincts for new, smaller Southfield township were re-numbered last week by Clerk Fannie Adams. No. 1 now is former precinct 14 in the northeast quarter of section one. No. 2 is former precinct 14 in the northwest quarter of section one. No. 3 remains the same, the northwest section of section 1. No. 4 is the former precinct 7 in section 2. No. 5 in Franklin and Bingham Farm remains the same. No. 6 is the former precinct 15, extending west from Evergreen road to Bingham Farm.

Southfield Council Studies Proposals

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