

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM MICHIGAN

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

Bingham Ditch Law Adopted

BINGHAM FARMS—Councilmen discussed three new ordinances Monday night and took immediate action on one to regulate ditches and culverts.

With a little gentle urging from resident V.A. Vesper of Council court, and agreement on the part of street administrator Evan Reim, the Bingham Farms council adopted Franklin's ditch and culvert ordinance to assure proper installation of culverts under new drive-ways.

Reim reported that unless he could implement drainage control with some formal rule, residents would be allowed to create obstructions to the natural flow of storm waters, and this eventually added to the cost of road maintenance.

THE NEW LAW reads that a steel reinforced concrete culvert must be installed and pass inspection before any machinery or materials can be brought on a piece of undeveloped or vacant property. A permit must be obtained from the village clerk for such work.

Designed to prevent the breaking down of present ditches or filling in of public right-of-way for access to properties, the ordinance also specifies that all debris and construction materials must be cleared away from the ditch area before final approval.

If driveways are built without providing the approved culverts, the village has the authority to order one installed. Cost would be borne by the property holder, or it would be placed as a lien on the property.

ADOPTION OF the new state law was postponed until Oct. 6, giving council time to consult its legal advisor, William Hartman. Reim said the law was directed to investigate what signs would be required, particularly along telephone lines, but controlled by the state highway department.

A ditch 2-in. diameter control ordinance was also tabled until October pending consultation with absent councilman John Longley on his survey of blight in the village.

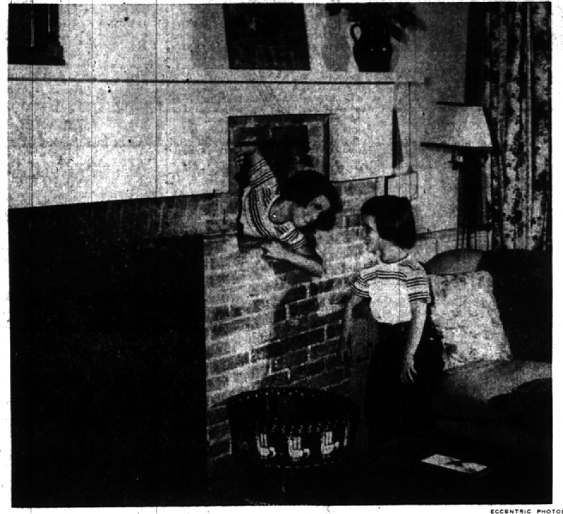
Are Ducks Ducking Lathrup Ordinance?

LATHRUP — Are Ducks disorderly?

Under Lathrup's Disorderly-Persons Ordinance No. 48, ducks, pet skunks, peacocks or doves could be disorderly.

Even though you love these little pets, best thing to do is check the ordinance before you adopt any unusual pets.

The ordinance will also protect residents from state law enforcement trucks and other loud noises that might create a nuisance.



Just like Daddy used to do, five-year-old Anne Gillette peeks out of the old fireplace at Wing Lake did all their baking in Anne's oven at her twin sister, Margaret. In 1833, the original residents of the Gillette house hid in place. Oven door has been removed.

125-Year-Old Charmer Still Has 'em Swooning

By VIRGINIA COLE

Eclectic Correspondent

WING LAKE—A house that's been spoiled, pampered and loved with unusual devotion in its 125-year span stands today at 6115 Wing Lake road, a beautifully preserved monument to the care of only four families who have been sheltered in its warm embrace.

Since it was before Michigan bore the signature of President Andrew Jackson.

BULL, became a deacon in the church. For many years after him, when at evening the bull-frog croaked in the lake, the common saying was, "There goes old Deacon Bull."

Elisha Bull's family further established itself in Wing Lake history when a daughter married the first schoolmaster of Wing Lake school. The original one-room schoolhouse is, itself, a century old this year.

Following the second owners of "Old Oak," came the Jeffersons, Thurbur family, and finally the fourth owners, the John W. Gillette.

Mrs. Gillette, widow of the late John W. Gillette, now resides in Birmingham. Since this summer her son and family, the Rev. and Mrs. Louis C. Gillette and children Louise, John Sam and twins Margaret and Anne, have lived in "Old Oak."

MR. GILLETTE is vicar of Nativity Episcopal church on 14 Mile road, one of three recently organized missions of Christ Church parish.

The new occupants of "Old Oak" live in a hillside house, with three rooms one side and two on the other. An oak tree, estimated to be well over 200 years old, shelters the original six-inch pine planks still floor the entire house. Six-inch square ceiling beams support the structure every 10 feet throughout.

BRICKS FOR the fireplace in the original kitchen, now a charming living room, were imported from England. They didn't make bricks in America when "Old Oak" was built. Beside the fireplace is a wall where families once baked their bread.

The Rev. Louis Gillette recalls that the old oven was a favorite hiding place in his childhood days. In 1935 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford were dinner guests of the Gillettes. Ford found the house so completely historical and a lovely that he said it was even a shame to have the modern electric light switches showing. So he took it upon himself to have the switches throughout the house recessed, with a small door closing over each one, so it could be painted to match the original woodwork and not mar its beauty.

With fondest memories of 33 years of happiness in raising her family at "Old Oak," Mrs. Gillette is thrilled now to see her grandchildren growing up in this truly gracious, traditional and historical home.

KEESHOND BEST — A champion keeshond belonging to Mrs. Charles (Shirley) Liffa, of 23250 Evergreen, Southfield, took best of breed honors in the recent Livonia dog show. The dog, Mr. Keeshond Best, has five major judges' best of breeds in his major titles.

"THIS IS going to look bad when we are back in court again," said Cogger.

The mayor then instructed Hayes to write a letter to the Michigan state health department, the state judge in Pontiac, telling them that the Lathrup subdivisions are still co-owners of the city's sewers and therefore responsible in any action taken.

"I'M TIRED of waiting and

Foxcroft Weighs Plunge Into Community Pool

FOX CROFT—A group of residents here are pooling their efforts and hoping for the beginning of construction next spring on a Foxcroft community swimming pool.

"We hope for spring construction, providing we can work out the few remaining problems that lie ahead of us," a spokesman for the group said Tuesday.

He is Robert H. Smith, 4165 Valley Forge, a member of the committee now headed by R. J. Coughlin, Jr., 6130 Lantern lane.

THE COMMITTEE recently outlined its plans and reasons for a pool in a letter to Foxcroft residents who have so far expressed an interest in the project.

They propose to place the 25 by 60-foot pool north of the playground area between Oakridge and Telegraph, just south of Sandy Lane.

The letter stated that the owner of the property, Mrs. Clayton H. Gray, had agreed to make a gift of the land, providing the pool is built.

The plans call for swimming, wading pools, lounge, deck and bath house and septic tank, to be built at a total cost of about \$85,000.

Financing would be through the sale of memberships, the committee stated, and a life guard would be kept on duty.

THE COMMITTEE's letter said a community pool, once built, would be refreshing and healthful, less bother and expense than owning one's own pool, would add to the "recognition and prestige of Foxcroft" and enhance land values.

As originally drawn up, the Foxcroft development included plans for a pool, the committee said. Smith said 75 to 80 per cent of Foxcroft's 140 families expressed interest in having a pool in replying to a survey made earlier by the committee.

HE SAID about 20 residents have actually participated in working out plans for the pool, and that the work has been underway for about a year and a half.

Smith said no date has been set for solicitation for pool membership.

"There are a few bridges we have to cross before that," Smith said. He declined comment on what the bridges were.

W. Bloomfield Zoning, Roads Occupy Board

W. BLOOMFIELD — Four persons were re-appointed to the zoning board, a new zoning by ordinance was adopted, and more blacktopping was okayed by the West Bloomfield township board at its regular meeting last week.

As part of West Bloomfield's 1958 celebration Oct. 4, delegates from the area's boys' clubs have been given approval to assume the duties of township supervisor, clerk and treasurer for the day next Friday.

Superior Hill and Thatcher, clerk Frank Hallett and treasurer Lillian Sue Warner expect to be on hand to give information and advice. The township board voted to cooperate in the celebration on its August meeting after a date conflict with the annual Kiwanis day was resolved.

AT ITS September meeting last Wednesday, the board re-appointed Leo DeConick, Claude Whitner, Verne Barker and Lucy Ann Connor to the zoning board. Three other zoning posts, vacant due to resignations and a death, are expected to be filled next month.

The board voted unanimously to adopt a new zoning ordinance to update its 1954 code, as recommended by the township planning board. Most changes are in construction codes. More business frontage was zoned on Green Lake road. Booklets with the new ordinance will be available in 30 days, according to Hallett.

Contract for blacktopping Sylvan Lake manner subdivision was awarded at \$54,872, with the one-month project to begin Friday.

THE BOARD agreed to call a special session, probably next week, to take blacktop bids for Franklin Knolls subdivision. Engineers' plans are in process of being approved by the Oakland county road commission, Hallett reported.

The board accepted letters from Walnut Lake school and subdivision association residents thanking it for marking cross walks on route bordering school.

Blow Torch Causes Fire In Westwood

WESTWOOD — A blow torch started fire on the basement level through the living room wall Saturday at the home of Fred Schneider, 12260 West 15 Mile road.

Schneider had been soldering copper tubing in 12260 West 15 Mile road when the fire occurred. According to Westwood fire officials, most of the damage was attributed to smoke.

Heaps of Hoops Lead Lathrup Lass To Terrific Tally

"I just stood there and moved a little" and it went round, round, round to the tune of 6,580 turns of the hula hoop.

This magnificent feat was achieved with little effort and 45 minutes' worth of time by Mary Osborne, daughter of the James M. Osborne of Sunset drive, Lathrup. It was witnessed by neighborhood pals and an older cousin.

Joan, her three-year-old sister, hit the 25 mark and is fast approaching competitive ranks.

The nine-year-old hoop specialist suggests for best results adults ought to wear dress with a full skirt to help shift it up.

Well, men?

Polio Clinic Set At Lathrup Church For Tuesday Night

LATHRUP — A second polio clinic will begin at St. Bede's church, Southfield and 12 Mile road, Tuesday from 6 to 10 p.m., under the auspices of St. Bede's sanctuary society.

Because most doctors advise an annual booster shot, the clinic will not only offer boosters at \$150 each, but will start a new series of shots for those who did not receive the vaccine at the 1957 clinic.

Mrs. Alphonsa Toppetto, chairman of the clinic, has arranged for future dates in Nov. and May. Children as young as one month may be started on their shots at the clinic.

The 1957 clinic held at St. Bede's gave polio protection to more than 300 persons.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

Fur-Coated Female Takes Social Plunge. Rev. Elmer Nevala Is Busy Pastor League for Handicapped Moves to New Quarters. French Exchange Teacher Starts at B'High High. Hunters Guide to Special Deer Areas. Little Football Rosters, Schedules. Birmingham High Wins Grid Opener.

1-A Author Bert D. Wood, of 20086 Carol, authorized copies of his book, "Franklin's Yesterday," at Saturday's annual Franklin round-up. The 73-year-old lifetime resident sold 120 copies during the event.

8-E Copies of the book, priced at \$3, are available at the Franklin club mill, the Hunter's Whip, Leslie's dry cleaners, and the Franklin Vigor drug store, all on Franklin road.

8-E The volume will be reviewed by The Birmingham Eccentric at a later date. Its publishers are Edwards Brothers, Inc., Ann Arbor.

Round-Up Is a Rouser, Again!

By NITA HARD

FRANKLIN — It happened all over again... the same wonderful, rollicking, tootin', rough 'n' ready Round-Up magic that brings everybody in Franklin on the village green for a day long spree of togetherness.

As usual Saturday began dull eyed and cloudy (just to give harassed committee workers something to think about. Then, just as the annual parade was beginning to form, a benevolent sun emerged and radiantly parted the curtain for the big show.

The Little League all-stars were the first big attraction with an exhibition game.

Then while Franklin's finest men in blue held outside traffic at bay, a blue parade of firefighters, Indian dancers, marching bagpipers, old cars, new cars, village officials, kids on bikes, and a parade of wagons, and on foot smartly paraded the village green.

The make-up booth skillfully displayed more color than small, flushed faces and bright-eyed youngsters surged from the pony corral to the fern wheel, to mid-way of games and back to Dad for more tickets in a delicious dance of debauchery.

It's a guess, but safe to say that about 2500 festive Franklinites and about 2500 festive spectators gathered to watch the Wuesting Indian dancers perform, the skirling bagpipers play as satiated kids youngsters step-step-step to the highland bagpipes, see the dancing horse-shoos, maneuvers, cheer the corn-bunkers; hover

around the hula-hoopers and play an endless game of "capture the chief" who strayed while parents visited with "long-time-no-see" neighbors.

AT 4 P.M. the show call sounded from the vicinity of an open pit barbecue and ravenous lines formed to disintegrate hundreds of pounds of prime beef, 2,000 ears of buttered corn, bushels of sliced tomatoes and gallons of coffee, milk and ice cream. The magnitude of the caloric consumption is modestly estimated at "more than 2000" dinners, with generous seconds.

As exhausted families dispersed into the hills, a dedicated crew of volunteers collected the clutter and by church time the next day, the 1958 Round-up had vaporized into the past, and Franklin was a financial step closer to a new community hall.

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Mayor Richard Cogger read a transcript of testimony made in court in June wherein the Kelley attorneys promised immediate action.

"THIS IS going to look bad when we are back in court again," said Cogger.

The mayor then instructed Hayes to write a letter to the Michigan state health department, the state judge in Pontiac, telling them that the Lathrup subdivisions are still co-owners of the city's sewers and therefore responsible in any action taken.

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Bloomfield Civic Group Makes Gain

BLOOMFIELD—They put a check beside the names of 26 out of 62 Bloomfield township civic associations Tuesday night at the first full meeting of the Federated Civic Association at Bloomfield Hills high school.

The check marks indicate paid-up memberships in the new, larger association, which hopes to organize most or all of the Bloomfield civic groups, from Applewood lane to Woodcreek farms, into one township-wide organization.

"This is a fact-finding committee, not a fault-finding committee," emphasized the Federated association's Vice President Harvey Beggs, reporting for the legislative committee.

EARLIER Mrs. Margaret Beggs, secretary of the group, read the legislative committee's statement that population growth forecasts of future expansion which our present form of township government will be unable to cope with.

"Therefore," the committee continued, "the fact-finding committee must seek a possible solution before the problem becomes too acute (See Page 7-E)

Franklin Chronicle Now Off Presses

FRANKLIN — The story of Franklin, told by a man who says he doubts if anyone living is any more firmly rooted there than he is, was released by publishers last week.

Author Bert D. Wood, of 20086 Carol, authorized copies of his book, "Franklin's Yesterday," at Saturday's annual Franklin round-up. The 73-year-old lifetime resident sold 120 copies during the event.

Copies of the book, priced at \$3, are available at the Franklin club mill, the Hunter's Whip, Leslie's dry cleaners, and the Franklin Vigor drug store, all on Franklin road.

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A Fireman Rises to Lofty Heights

FRANKLIN—It's all done with ropes, the trick performed here by young members of the Franklin volunteer fire department.

Waving from atop the extended ladder supported by his colleagues is Alan Young, Dick Lee stands by at the base of the ladder, while Ron Garwood (back to camera), Tom Burdick, Clint Wells and Don Foulkrod hold the lengths of rope which support it at distant corners. Eight Franklin youths will represent the department Saturday at a fire prevention week field day at Pontiac,

which begins with a parade at 1:30 p.m. Joined also by Mike Fricker and Don Emerling, the high school and college age youths will perform the ladder "eviction" pictured here at the Saturday event, along with a hose evolution. Volunteers in charge of the group are John Carmichael and Bob Bell. Harry Allen is commission representative on the volunteer fire department, which services Franklin plus Bingham, Meadow Lake and Woodcreek farms.

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