

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM

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BEVERLY HILLS • BINGHAM FARMS • FRANKLIN • WOODCREEK FARMS • LATHRUP • BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD CITY

Bingham Maps Plans For '59-'60

BINGHAM FARMS — All the new officers of Bingham Farms, except village clerk Mrs. Pauline Marson and incumbent William Hyland, took the oath of office Monday night.

In Mrs. Marson's absence, retiring clerk Mrs. Jessie Colwell administered the oath to new president Haskell Wright, councilmen Donald Morse and Donald Kiger, treasurer James Washburne and assessor Walter Gerick.

The new administration appointed Donald Morse to replace Evan Reim as street administrator and submitted a proposed 1959-60 budget.

Raising their general fund \$3,000 from sales tax and intangibles tax receipts, the village has included a \$10,000 figure for local fees, \$200 for insurance, \$400 for rubbish collection and \$500 for the clerk's salary and office expenses.

On a tax roll this year for the collection of 2.57 mills for road work, the council postponed decision until the April meeting.

An \$11,150 proposed road budget provides for additional culvert and ditching work along with two spring gradings for Bingham road and Bristol lane and a single going over of other village roads, a summer and fall grading along with calcium chloriding.

Repair to the Bingham road bridge is scheduled for July. Ditching and ditching work along with two spring gradings for Bingham road and Bristol lane and a single going over of other village roads, a summer and fall grading along with calcium chloriding.

The council also decided it would not participate in the Mayors Exchange Day in May.

Elm trees red-tagged last fall will be rechecked shortly, councilman John Longley told his colleagues. Diseased trees which have not been properly removed will be ordered cut down by the village with costs billed to property owners, the council agreed.

Warn Dog Owners About Licenses

LATHRUP — Keep Towser locked up, or look out for the man with the net, warns Lathrup city council.

According to City Administrator Gerald Stone, dog policing will increase with pleasant weather.

Stone told council members that dog licensing was far above last year, but that he now has a man out picking up stray dogs.

The city will try to convince residents that although the time is past for half-price licenses, all canine residents of Lathrup must have tags.

Talk of the Towns

By JULIE CANDLER

He became Bingham Farms' new village president when he was sworn in Monday night, which reminds us of the observation Haskell Wright made a few weeks ago.

That was when the Bingham council nominated Wright and his name was placed on village ballots as the unopposed candidate for village president.

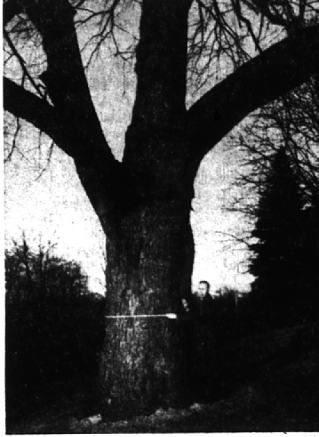
Wright had formerly been village treasurer. At a council meeting after he learned that the village presidency was inevitable, Wright said, "I only missed one kind of a high price to pay."

Just to show you what listening to radio and watching television can do to the younger generation: One of my favorite "private eyes" in Bloomfield township tells me that the little four-year-old granddaughter of a Birmingham

little. Susie, was saying her prayers and her daddy was listening. Susie got nicely to the end of her prayer. But, instead of ending it with the conventional "Amen," she said, "I'm praying for you."

One of the favorite people among the believers in coeducation of old folks' homes. When it's time for her to go over the hill, she's going to have a home for both men and women.

Says she, "I'm darned if I'm going to end my days with a bunch of old women."



East Beverly resident Paul W. Thompson is dwarfed by the size of the mammoth black cherry tree he "discovered" in this tree-hunting. The tree is the largest black cherry in the state, possibly in the nation, and over 200 years old. Its location is the James R. Koch property, 5395 Kensington, near North Adams and Big Beaver roads.

Hunt Deer? No! East Beverly Man Hunts Big Trees

By AILEEN STOCKER
Beverly Hills Correspondent

EAST BEVERLY—Neither wintry blasts, nor the rains or heat of summer, deter the "hunters" of big trees. Because of the efforts of one of these "hunters," a Beverly Hills resident, Birmingham can boast three of Michigan's largest trees.

Paul W. Thompson, carries a long tape measure in his pocket. It's always ready for action. When he spots a possible champion of its species through his car window or on a walk along a tree-bordered street or in a virgin wood, out comes the tape measure to check the tree's girth.

Thompson could be termed the prototype of all dedicated big tree hunters. One of the three big Birmingham trees he catalogued is a candidate for national champion of its species. He discovered the black cherry tree, with a 160-inch girth, near the North Adams and Big Beaver intersection.

Thompson lives at 17505 Kirkshire with his wife, Dorothy, and daughters Jane, 16, and Mary 12. He is a research chemist with the Ethyl corporation, where he specializes on fuel oil stability.

His interest in botany, particularly big trees, is a hobby that began two years ago. That was when he became a member of the Michigan botanical club and chairman of its big tree committee.

Since then the club has collected over 300 records on more than 70 different tree species. The big tree committee intends to mark many of the larger trees with metal signs, according to Thompson. Members hope that public interest will thus be generated in the state's giants, saving many of them from the axe or disease.

Thompson and his tree-hunting compatriots are submitting their big tree finds to the American Forestry association as candidates for national champions.

From the material Thompson and his group have compiled, it is evident that king-sized trees do grow in Michigan. Many big trees reached their huge girth because they were left standing along roadsides. In other cases, the giants developed because their owners took pride in them and refused to have them cut.

But the most striking tree finds, Thompson reports, are in wooded lands that are relatively virgin stands.

THE TREE surveyors found that Oakland county is well named, since it has state champion oaks: a white oak is 196 inches in girth; swamp white oak, 185; black oak, 184; chestnut oak, 152; pin oak, 112; and Hick's oak, 49.

In age-old forests, Thompson says, many trees are larger than their species in areas disturbed by man. In the virgin pine forest on Bois Blanc island in the Mackinac straits, all of the tree species are represented by huge specimens.

The age-old Russ forest near Douglas, has the state's largest tulip tree and second largest white elm. Warren Woods in Berrien county has a mammoth beech in the heart of the forest.

South Manitou island in Lake Michigan contains the nation's largest black cherry tree. The island's state park contains a large stand of giant hemlock.

Thompson believes parks, forests and preserves will play an increasingly important role in conserving forest record-breakers and letting young trees grow to champion sizes.

He and his fellow members of the Michigan botanical club believe many record breakers are still undiscovered in nearby locations.

Those anyone discovering a big tree, Thompson suggests, should send the name of the species, trunk circumference at 4 1/2 feet height, its location and other data to Julia Hunter, 4602 Cooper, Royal Oak.

Who knows? You, too, might become a tree hunter and some day discover a national champion.

Pools, Park, Zones Worry Franklin

FRANKLIN—After months of frustrating confusion regarding a zoning ordinance which was incomplete for the want of attached zoning maps, Franklin's new council moved firmly Monday night to reenact Ordinance 1 as amended in 1956, with maps properly affixed.

Despite a protest from councilman Eugene Kawek's about inequities to certain property owners along Franklin road, the council adopted the same code that has prevailed since the village incorporated.

Newly elected officials, Councilman Fred Ziegel, Clerk Elsie Guilmet, Treasurer Robert Winkel were sworn in, with incumbent trustees Don Hunter and William Warrenter, and Assessor Alfred Emmerling.

CUTTING THEIR political eye-teeth on a meeting that dragged on fatiguingly until midnight, the newcomers heard Richard Gawne ask for a reappraisal of the existing pool ordinance which requires fencing of all new and existing pools.

Gawne stated that his pool and several others were located away from the traffic of wandering children and that a fence was unnecessary and aesthetically undesirable. He urged the council to improve it. He urged the council to improve it.

Ex-village president Harold Rosborough introduced the ordinance that a 40-acre park in Southfield township was being discussed by the village of Beverly Hills, who wish to improve it. He urged the council to consider any possible interest Franklin might have in it for recreation purposes, stating that the matter would be discussed at the April 4 annual meeting of the township.

THE COUNCIL also authorized Councilmen Warden and Street Administrator Stanley Hunter to consult with engineers for a master plan to determine schedules of a village master plan. Stating that such services would cost in excess of money available, Warden also said much work had been done by the village and would be working without outside help.

Planning commission chairman Fred Worden reported that his group decided not to hire professional consultants for development of a village master plan. Stating that such services would cost in excess of money available, Warden also said much work had been done by the village and would be working without outside help.

Working on an area basis, Worden said his group was presently studying property purchased by the Franklin Community association for recreation purposes.

Franklin's proposed fiscal budget will be discussed next week when the council will reconvene to finish the agenda.

Bloomfield UHO Board Member Bartlett Resigns

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — The former membership chairman of the Federated Civic association resigned last week from the board of the newly organized United Home Owners association.

He is Burke Bartlett, of 425 N. Evansdale, Bloomfield township. Bartlett said he would continue to be the representative at UHO meetings from his own subdivision, Charming Cross Highlands.

He has recently accepted appointment as Township Supervisor Arno F. Hulst to a newly organized Bloomfield township planning commission.

Bartlett was named to the UHO board after the Federated Civic association and the Suburban Home Owners group combined to form the new organization, made up of representatives from 42 Bloomfield township subdivisions associations.

Clubhouse Roof Damaged by Fire

SOUTHFIELD—Riverbank golf course clubhouse on Northwestern burned Monday for the third time, according to Southfield fire officials.

Damages to the roof were slight. The fire was caused by chimney sparks.



I Solemnly Swear...

FRANKLIN—While passive Ben Franklin looks on, the oath of office for Franklin's village clerk is passed on from one woman to another. Mrs. Elsie Guilmet (left) was sworn in Monday by retiring clerk Mrs. Mildred Taylor. Others to pledge loyalty to their community before taking office were newly-elected councilman Fred Ziegel and Treasurer Robert Winkel.

Area Voting Is History Repeating, States Guilmet

BEVERLY HILLS—Voters will always give preference to a friend or neighbor they know personally, Beverly Hills Councilman Chester Guilmet said this week.

Guilmet made the statement in response to a charge by Councilman Ted Shurtleff that "area voting" in the March 9 election was bad for the village.

"I am sorry my fellow councilman feels this way," Guilmet said. "However," he went on, "it is historically true that most people are inclined to vote for the candidate best known to them."

"I do not subscribe to any area preference," said the councilman, who received the greatest number of votes in the village election.

"HOWEVER," Guilmet continued, "I do not think that you will totally erase the desire of your neighbor to support you."

Guilmet and Leo J. Linsensmeyer, both West Beverly residents, were endorsed by the West Beverly association, which supported their candidacy for the village council through mailings and newspaper ads.

With 462 voting in West Beverly, Guilmet received 408 votes there. The election resulted in only two men from the more heavily populated East Beverly area holding seats on the seven-member village council.

THIS WEEK Guilmet said "no one has any control over what associations do," pointing out that associations do not have the power to prevent an association from endorsing a candidate.

"The associations are democratically operated," he stated, "it is up to them to do what they think best."

He added, "I personally wish to take this opportunity to thank my friends and neighbors for their support of my candidacy."

Lathrup Hires City Engineer, Sets Paving

LATHRUP — At a continued council meeting Monday night, council members approved the appointment of Samuel A. Walker, Jr., of Birmingham as city engineer.

The 1959 Lathrup paving program includes Bloomfield from the northeast corner of lot 2809 to 1611 Mile Road, Goldengate lots 1893 and 1894, and Eldorado from Goldengate to West California.

City Administrator Gerald Stone told council members that day that he had contacted officials for permission to place a road over the Buckeye pipeline where it crosses Goldengate.

Got A Light?

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—A committee will investigate the cost of installing an all-night light for the Wing lake school parking area, as requested by area parents. The residents told the Bloomfield Hills school board last week that the school spent too much on lighting and drinking parties.

Southfield Township Taxes on Downgrade

SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP—Southfield township's tax bill will be slashed approximately in half if Franklin, Beverly Hills and Bingham Farms residents approve the township's proposed budget at the April 4 annual meeting.

At a budget settlement meeting Tuesday, township officials set the 1959-60 financial estimate at \$67,735. Only \$20,000, or about a half-mill, is needed to fill that quota, with about \$45,000 already in the accounts receivable fund.

Although the township's proposed budget should make a tax cut possible, officials have included a \$20,000 allotment for the proposed addition to the township hall.

AT THE TOWNSHIP annual meeting slated at 2 p.m. April 4 at the Country Day school, 13 Mile and Lahar, township residents can alter or approve the budget by a majority vote of persons present.

The township officials, who will be in an election race April 6, will be at the meeting to discuss budget items with the residents.

THE BIGGEST budget item for the coming year is the \$20,000 for the proposed building addition. Township trustee Harold A. Iosbrough of Franklin presented revised drawings and specifications for the structure to the board, who set the cost estimate.

The township supervisor on 13 Mile road, west of Southfield are presently shared by the Village of Beverly Hills and the township.

NOTICEABLE CUTS in the budget as compared to last year's figures include a drop in salary for the township supervisor from \$9,500 to \$7,000. Funds for the township appraiser's fees, clerical salaries, accounting fees, township board and attorney fees were also cut.

Much of the alteration was due to the final settlement between Southfield city and the township. Funds jumped over last year's estimate for park improvement, fire department equipment, civil defense, drainage and sewer repairs to equipment and the building.

A UNIQUE FEATURE of the proposed budget is that this year's total is approximately \$9,000 more than it was last year. Yet, the township tax statements will probably be reduced with an addition to the building thrown in for good measure.

When the Tuesday meeting concluded early Wednesday, officials wondered if the "phenomenon" was due to a new equalization factor, strategic planning... or late hours.

With matching funds from the county, the township also indicated it would authorize completion of Willow road by May 1, tentatively approving \$15,355 from the revolving improvement fund for back-tapping.

THATCHER advised a representative for the Pine Center development that the township could not take over the subdivision and sewer system until Nov. 7.

He stated that \$4800 in escrow funds be required on the previous conditional resolution was not binding.

Burn Rubbish, Prevent Fires, Meet Neighbors

"Our last cry for help was answered," Bloomfield township trustee "Big Case" Thompson said. "We need a catch basin problem is solved," he said, "but, now grass fires are on the rampage."

Six such fires were reported in the township Monday. They were caused by rubbish burning in dry areas.

Case suggests that residents maintain a closer watch on burning rubbish. This is another of his methods promoting the "meet your neighbor policy."

Urges W. Bloomfield To Approve Millage

WEST BLOOMFIELD—The 6,700 registered voters of West Bloomfield township are urged to pass the one-mill question they'll find on the April 6 ballot, or schools may suffer.

Affraid that constituents think this is an additional tax, township officials repeated this week that the vote is necessary to merely extend the same millage for another three years.

"THIS IS NOT an additional tax," said Supervisor Hiland Thatcher, "it is a renewal of the same millage that we have been paying for the past five years... no more."

The township needs the revenue for its general fund and operating costs. If the question loses, we may have to ask for help from the 15 mill district for school county and township operation. This would undoubtedly affect the school budget.

The township suffered a loss in revenue when people moved from West Bloomfield to a city in 1954.

The one mill approved for township operation at that time is expiring now and the new mill will simply take its place for three years as equalized in 1960.

Work to Start On Evergreen Interceptor 1-A

B'ham Area Churches Plan Services For Holy Week

Lathrup Kindergartners Present Fashion Show

Maple Thinsclads Ready for 1st Meet