

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Millage Need Told By Schools

SOUTHFIELD—To inform voters about the millage increase sought in the June 8 school election, the Southfield board of education next week is sending an explanatory brochure to the occupant of every dwelling in the school district.

The brochure points out that the tax millage voted for Southfield schools' operating purposes is presently one of the lowest rates in Oakland county.

Southfield schools now operate on three mills voted increase for operation, compared to six mills for Birmingham, 11.20 for Bloomfield Hills, and 11.60 for Oak Park.

THE BOARD seeks voter approval June 8 of an additional three mills for operating purposes. But the higher rate would mean only two additional mills to be paid by Southfield school district taxpayers. A one-mill drop in rates to be collected for retirement of bonded debt will bring the overall increase to just two mills.

Southfield School Superintendent Glenn Schoenhals said Tuesday, "We feel people will understand that in order to compete with surrounding schools we have to have money that is comparable."

"We feel this requested increase is reasonable in the face of what lies ahead," Schoenhals said, "and we have faith that people will consider the request is reasonable."

SCHOENHALS said that to date, "as far as I am able to determine, we haven't heard very many people who are opposed to it."

Members of the school board are (See MILLAGE, Page 7-E)

Budget Passed By Lathrup Council

LATHRUP—A balanced budget in the amount of \$123,896 was approved by council members at a brief business meeting Monday evening.

Visiting Mayor, Ronald M. Goodwille of South Haven presided.

Only four items of business had been placed on the usually crowded agenda. The 10 p.m. adjournment of the Lathrup council meeting was almost a record.

Talk of the Towns

By JULIE CANDLER

All the visiting mayors seemed to be having a good time when they were squired around our area Monday.

Some hosts had a good time, too. We had fun tagging along for a while with Mayor Earl Crego as he was being shown the village of Beverly Hills.

Lathrup hockey star Gordie Howe helped with Mayor's Exchange day and Mayor Crego change day on the receiving end of the first loss in the Little League open on that day.

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THE CLERK of Athens, Michigan, told his Franklin hosts he just wanted to ride around and see the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area he had heard so much about. His wife, a former school teacher, thoroughly enjoyed the visit at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

NOW TO Lansing's Mayor Crego. He's a tall, fine-looking fellow with a little moustache and a big supply of charm. White-haired veterans Mrs. Crego sported a whopper of a white orchid given to her by the village of Beverly Hills.

We joined them at Stouffer's at Northland, where they lunched with official host, Councilman Chester Guilmet and his wife, along with other village officials and/or wives.

Village Clerk Alice Spencer donned a pretty beige silk suit and a handsome feathered hat and spent the day helping to host the visiting Village Public Safety Director Robert Murphy also joined the tour.

Wing Lake School's Life Is a Century of Charm

EDITOR'S NOTE: The 100-year story of Wing Lake's little stone schoolhouse is recounted here as the school's 100th year is being celebrated this week with special ceremonies and a fair (see story inside this section).

By VIRGINIA COLE
Wing Lake Correspondent



Wing Lake school as it looked before the turn of the century.



The century-old schoolhouse today. Wall of most recent addition is at right.

WING LAKE—There are things in this changing world that still remain permanent, year after year. Two of these things are stone and the eternal fact that two times two is four.

For the past one-hundred years, these have remained as permanent ingredients of a beloved landmark of Bloomfield township — Wing Lake school.

Little did the good farmers of 1859, who erected this school on a half acre area donated by George Sly, homesteader, know that 100 years later the original building would still be standing and actively in use, teaching boys and girls their "sums" in preparation for coping with job-atomic age.

MANY A SCHOOL of this vintage, the country over, either can be seen by passers-by as a long vacated shambles or has been torn down to make way completely for bigger and better educational structures. But at Wing Lake school, when increasing population made expansion necessary, the people of the area found it prudent to preserve it and to add to it in kind.

The first addition was built adjoining the old school and designed in matching stone. There have since been two larger adjoining additions built in modern design but still seeming to blend with the time-honored stones of this original seat of learning.

THERE IS AN ATMOSPHERE of awe and respect among parents, faculty and children alike for Wing Lake school, the pulse of this residential section. There is a feeling of serene possession in the heart of everyone, past and present, whose good fortune it is to use and preserve such a monument of education.

GENEVA FORSLUND, now principal of Wing Lake school, began teaching here when it was still a one-room school. For more than 30 years she has devotedly served to guide its curriculum in modern channels, yet maintain an atmosphere of deep respect for "the old stone school" on Maple road as it was referred to many years ago.

In 1824 when George Sly migrated from Elmira, N. Y., to homestead 160 acres in Bloomfield, now marked by the intersection of Franklin and Maple roads, this charming area was inhabited by 8 Indians who found the hunting and fishing excellent.

AUSTIN WING, in 1818, located the northeast one-quarter of section 29 (east of Derby school) in Bloomfield. He later was elected delegate to Congress. On one of his trips through Oakland county he was accompanying General Cass and they rambled on the bank of Wing Lake which now bears his name and hence the name of the school.

THERE IS peace and quiet, dignity and charm in this old stone school, welcoming the boys and girls of September 1959 to share the start of her second century as she serves to say to them, "two times two is four and will be so, forever more."

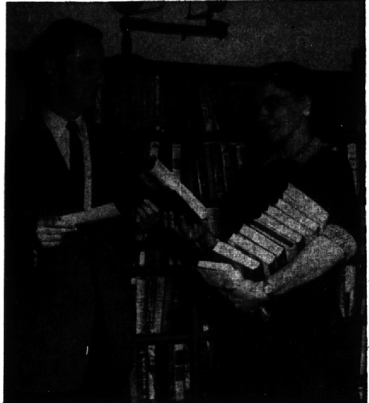
Table with 2 columns: Location and Description. Includes entries for Elsewhere in the Eccentric, Area Council Needs Everyone's Help, \$200,000 Donation Given to North Congregational Church, Torch Drive Event Stated to Honor Women Workers, Cranbrook Heads For State Meet, Painters, Viewers Pleased with Exhibit.

Welcome to Our Towns, Your Honors



BEVERLY HILLS—Pointing out some features of the new junior-senior high school at 13 Mile and Evergreen roads Monday is Architect Linn Smith, with Beverly Hills Councilman Chester Guilmet and Lansing Mayor Ralph Crego (center). The school, which has won awards for its design excellence, was shown to Mayor Crego after he was presented with a framed proclamation of welcome and thanks for being the village's onest on Mayors' Exchange

FRANKLIN—Enjoying the chance to substitute for the mayor of Athens was Clerk Charles Hollinger, who stopped at Cranbrook Institute of Science with his wife and their escort for the day, Mrs. Oliver (Elsie) Garwood (right), Franklin clerk. Business commitments prevented the mayor of Athens, a town of about 1,000 near Battle Creek, from participating in the exchange. Later Clerk and Mrs. Hollinger dined with village councilmen and their wives



James O'Neill gives the first contribution to the Franklin Library membership drive to Mrs. Eugene Kawecky.

Franklin Starts Campaign For Library Membership

FRANKLIN—With a hundred dollars as a contribution from the Franklin Community association, the Franklin Community Library embarks this week on its annual membership drive with real vigor.

James O'Neill, president of the men's group handed Mrs. Eugene Kawecky, library head, the contribution last week, as a token of its support. Another check for \$250 will be forthcoming from the village in July.

Now, the rest... and they can use as much as people are willing to contribute... is up to residents of Franklin, Wing Lake, Bingham and Wood Creek Farms, Meadowlake and southeast West Bloomfield, who are welcome to use its facilities.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP is \$5 a year, and Mrs. Kawecky says the library hopes to add a lot of new books this year to further stimulate interest in the struggling project which has served the community for nearly a quarter of a century.

Soon, it is hoped, the library will have a weekly story hour for elementary school children headed by Mrs. Paul Robertson. Library doors will be open at the usual hours all summer long, this year.

O'NEILL INDICATED that plans to house the library in the proposed new community hall, to be built near the village green have full acquiescence of the association.

Area residents will receive a mailing this week from the library and are urged to mail in their \$5 as soon as possible.

If the library could raise the equivalent of 3/10 of a mill for Franklin's six million-plus valuation, there is a chance the library would be eligible for a loan of book collections from the state library.

Bloomfield Views Problems To Be Met In Expected Growth

Allocation of county funds to the township, changing the present school districting, abolishing county government... these were among the subjects brought up for discussion by questions from the floor at the first open meeting of United Home Owners association of the fast-growing Bloomfield township Tuesday night at the junior high school. Forty township residents were present.

The queries were directed to individual members of a five-man panel who, earlier in the program, discussed future growth in the township.

Hulet discussed the Evergreen interceptor's part in taking care of the township's sewage problem and revealed that arrangements for the sale of bonds financing the interceptor are nearing completion.

"I'M GOING TO fight to get the township 4 mills for operation this year. I've received 3.5 mills last year. With an assessed property valuation of \$105,000,000 we should have the increase," said Hulet in answer to the question on allocation of funds by the county.

"If anybody can answer the question as to the basis on which the county reaches a decision of how to allocate its funds, I'll be glad to yield my place here. I can't answer that one."

HULET ALSO ANSWERED a question as to whether Michigan shouldn't follow the example of Connecticut and abolish county government. He supported township government, stating that any government in which the officials are in direct contact with the people they serve furnishes the best government. He also stated that he was not in favor of a county manager, and definitely would not like to see the county board of supervisors abolished.

THE PROBLEM of redistricting existing school boundaries, which admittedly are illogical geographically, was explained by Spies.

"Any community wishing to change school districts has to first receive permission to leave the system it is in, then has to be accepted by the district it wishes to join. If it is good financial deal for the district it is presently in, that district won't give it permission to leave. If it is un sound financially, the district it wishes to join won't want it. The only remedy to the situation is a change in state laws."

Answering a question on the cost per pupil of school building in the township, Spies said he had never seen cost figures broken down on a per pupil basis. That where a school was designed to serve 25 children per classroom, but was serving 35, it made it difficult to judge on what basis the figure could be reached.

GETSINGER answered a query as to whether the township was controlling commercial and industrial development in Bloomfield township. Young said that he believed the township was exercising control on this and Getsinger stated that he believed he spoke for 90 per cent of township residents who wish the community to remain strictly residential.

THE COUNTY ROAD commission has agreed to build a four lane intersection at Southfield and 12 Mile road, but Lathrup's share would be \$8,500. Lathrup does not have funds available at this time for the work.

THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE, Johnson went on, would be even more expensive. If the road commission widens Southfield from Nine mile road, the cost to Lathrup amounts to \$40,000.

Lathrup Man Named Dental Society Head

LATHRUP—Dr. Paul S. Butcher, a resident of Lathrup, took office today as president of the Detroit District Dental Society which has a membership of more than 2,000 dentists.

Dr. Butcher, 37, is a 1948 graduate of the University of Detroit where he was elected to all three U of D honor fraternities, Blue Key, Alpha Sigma Nu and Omicron Kappa Upsilon. Dr. and Mrs. Butcher have five children, Paul Jr., 12; Joseph, 10; Steven, 8; Mary Beth, 5; and Patrick, 3.

Lathrup—Pinning a corsage on Lathrup's special guest, Mrs. Donald Goodwille of South Haven, is Councilwoman Elizabeth Mitchell. South Haven's Mayor Goodwille watched the pinning before the trio set out for Monday's tour of Lathrup and environs. They ended up at Catter's for dinner with other Lathrup officials. Later Mayor Goodwille presided at Lathrup's council meeting. South Haven, a town of about 5,000 population in western