TEN CENTS AUGUST 18, 1960

SECTION D

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM MICHIGAN

BEVERLY HILLS • BINGHAM FARMS • FRANKLIN • WOOD CREEK • LATHRUP • BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP • NORTH ADAMS • SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP • SOUTHFIELD CITY

'10-Story' Proposal for 13 Mile Turned Down

1,232 Sign Protests, Denial Vote Is 6 to 1

BEVERLY HILLS—Without lifting a hand, the Beverly Hills council Monday night wrecked the two ten-story apartment buildings proposed for the 13 Mile-Evergreen intersection in their village. It was an action which 1,232 village residents had petitioned the council to take.

The council's six to 1 vote denying the rezoning needed to permit construction of luxury, cooperative apartments was cheered by nearly 100 residents.

Earlier the residents had ridiculed, derided and hurled angry charges at the men who spoke for the proposal. They were Lee Keating, Birmingham real estate man, John P. O'Neill, Detroit attorney, and Harry Mountain, a Beverly Hills resident and attorney.

Mountain was spokesman for owners Keating, O'Neill and Richard D. Cleary, of Detroit.

Mountain failed to convince the council that the present single-family residential zoning for the 14-acre site across from Groves high school is unreasonable.

COUNCILMAN John A. McClanathan later moved for the denial "because it has not been shown that the present use of the land is unreasonable." Michigan's Supreme Court has ruled that a municipality's zoning of a given property shall stand unless it can be shown to be clearly unreasonable.

Councilman Hugh G. Allerton, Jr. seconded the denial motion which drew a "yea" vote from all councilmen except Ted Shurtleff. Ever since the ten-story apartments were proposed last April, Shurtleff has stated he believed they would be an asset to the village.

Only one Beverly Hills property owner spoke up for the apartment petition Monday night. He was Charles E. Freese, Sr., 21200 W. 13 Mile.

"IN TEN years' time," he told the crowd, "this will be built up solid from here to 8 Mile road, and you will wish that you had let this man (Keating) put up these apartments so I would rather see that than a gas station."

Interrupted by several in the crowd, Freese finally muttered, "What's the use, they won't listen," and withdrew from the talks.

Mrs. David Schutte, 32015 Beverly Circle, observed, "I came here with an open mind. I'm still undecided. But if one thing could decide me, it's the way each side has presented its case here."

"THESE gentlemen have listened politely to the arguments against them, but they haven't been treated in the same manner," she said. "I'm very proud of my home here, but I believe that everyone should be heard, and with respect."

Chief objection to the apartment proposal was the claim of depreciation of property values. Along with it was the charge voiced by one property owner Monday, "Anybody can walk into those apartments, and as long as they got money, they will get in."

Replied Mountain, "Isn't that true anywhere? I thought the point system was only on the East Side"

KEATING said he felt there was a need for the luxury-type apartments in the Birmingham area. He said modern planners recognize that suburbs do not now offer adequate housing for older couples or widows who wish to remain in the community, but do not want the responsibility of home maintenance.

The petitions against the $20,000 to $40,000 apartments were presented by Leslie Poland, association president for the Beverly 12 subdivision near the proposed site.

Poland presented the council with copies of a chart prepared after a survey showed 117 of 140 residents of areas surrounding the site preferred that it remain single family residential.

THE ASSOCIATION head argued that other land would be vulnerable to multiple story structures if the request was approved. He also claimed that increased traffic, higher cost of operating

(See PROTEST, Page 4-D)

Hearing Monday On New Zoning Along 13 Mile

BEVERLY HILLS — A public hearing to discuss the new residential zoning classification proposed for land on 13 Mile road is scheduled for 8 p.m. Monday at the village hall.

The planning board has recommended to the council that an R-1A classification be created for part of the homes in a 172-home subdivision proposed by land developer Al Borinstein, of Detroit.

The subdivision, to be known as Beverly Hills Estates, would be built on a 77-acre site just west of the village offices. The new zoning would be a compromise in size between the top residential zone of R-1 and R-2.

It's Now or Never For Swim at Groves

BEVERLY HILLS — Tomorrow will be Beverly Hills' residents' last chance to swim this year at Groves junior-senior high school, according to Councilman John A. McClanathan, who heads the village's recreation committee.

McClanathan said the three-day-a-week swimming program was extended for a third week because of the successful turn-out in the first two weeks of August. Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. will be the last swim for the year, however.

BEVERLY HILLS — With prospects looming that much of the vacant land on 13 Mile road will soon be developed, Beverly Hills Public Safety Officer Bob Risk and Lt. Bill Reed (left) look toward the open fields west of the village hall where they soon may be providing police and fire protection. A 172-home subdivision proposed for land near the hall on 13 Mile will get a hearing Aug. 22. Monday a proposal for two 10-story apartment houses at 13 Mile and Evergreen was turned down by the village council.

Hills School Vote Seen As Survey Shows Growth

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—"By 1964-65 it is estimated that there will be approximately 5,150 pupils in Bloomfield Hills school system . . . this means that additional space for about 900 elementary pupils, 500 junior high pupils, and 500 senior high pupils is needed."

This statement is the crux of a written report made by Michigan State's department of education to Bloomfield Hills board of education early this summer.

Its conclusions mean a vote on a new building program for the school district, if they are validated by the board. School population has grown at the rate of 300 to 400 pupils a year for the past five years.

TH BUILDING program would require an additional bond issue in the school district. It must be authorized by a majority vote of property holders within the school district.

The survey, ordered last November by the Hills school board, has been held confidential while board members wrestled, at a series of meetings this summer, with building problems raised by the survey.

The board expects to come up with a definite building-program proposal in the near future. It released the survey to The Birmingham Eccentric this week.

THE REPORT recommends immediate expansion of junior and senior high school facilities to accommodate 900 additional pupils. It noted that even those expanded facilities would be overcrowded by the 1964-65 school year.

The survey calls for addition of four elementary schools within the next four years for the anticipated increase from 1,967 to 2,710 pupils in kindergarten through the sixth grade.

Four additional site purchases were recommended to the school board.

ACCORDING to the survey, the ultimate school district population will be 10,000 pupils. It will require two high schools, three junior high schools and 10 or 11 three-unit elementary schools.

At present one junior high, one high school, and six one or two-unit elementary schools serve 3,700-plus students.

The survey team believes that purchasing land ahead of needs, while still available at reasonable cost, is an economy to the school district. It also allows better location of schools.

THIS IS the fourth survey made for the school district by Michigan state. Previous surveys have proved to be conservative in estimates of yearly school population growth.

In reaching their figures for the coming four years, the survey team worked jointly with Bloomfield township, West Bloomfield township, and Bloomfield Hills planning commissions. They analyzed the number of homes constructed during the past year, the average number of residents per home, range of property evaluations and projected building estimates.

Factors such as the development of the Detroit sewer hook-up and the Chrysler Throughway were also studied for their effect on growth patterns in the school district.

Hog Piggy Bank, Loot in Robbery In Bloomfield

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — The home of Perry Valassia, Sr., 3558 Darcy drive, was burglarized during the past weekend. The robbers took approximately $1,110 in cash, stocks and bonds and an undetermined amount of jewelry, according to police. The robbery was reported Monday morning.

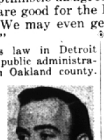
The Burglars forced a door leading from the garage into the house with an axe. Ransacking the house, the removed a strongbox containing $250 in stocks and bonds, a piggy bank holding about $700 in half-dollars, three glass jars containing $30 in pennies and $70 in dimes, as well as the jewlry.

County Dems' Leader Hails from Franklin

By IRMA DAVIS
Special Writer

FRANKLIN—With tongue in cheek, a local resident claims that James M. Ginn may be the only Democrat in the Republican stronghold of Franklin. The 32-year-old Franklin villager, recently appointed county Democratic chairman, obviously was in optimistic disagreement when he said this week, "The chances are good for the Democratis in Oakland county in November. We may even get some people in Birmingham to vote for us."

Ginn practices law in Detroit and is the state public administrator for Southern Oakland county. He was also the former Democratic chairman for Southfield, city and township. His homefront supporters at 30135 Woodside court include his attractive wife, Sally, two daughters and a son.



Ginn

HE POLLED 102 votes to 50 for Ralph T. Johnson, of Oak Park, at a stormy county convention at Pontiac's Roosevelt hotel last Thursday.

The nominees named in the Aug. 2 primary, who officially appoint the county chairman, abided by the convention's recommendations. They made Ginn's and other convention appointments official at a session Friday night.

Ginn was the choice of a convention which saw control of the county Democratic organization placed in the hands of a liberal-labor wing led by Mrs. Harriet Phillips of Huntington Woods, and AFL-CIO leader August Scholle.

ASKED AFTER the convention if labor was supporting him, Ginn said, "I have the backing probably of a lot of groups in the party."

Serving last night as mediator at a meeting concerned with the constitutional convention issue, Ginn faced a possible controversy that could disrupt party harmony. During the April county convention, local Democrats were split on the con-con issue.

SCHOLLE AND gubernatorial nominee, Lt. Gov. John B. Swainson, are leading anti-con-con forces in the state. Gov. Mennen Williams said Monday that both he and Swainson squarely backed constitutional reform, but were in conflict on the method.

Other problems facing Ginn in his new post are the healing of ruptures between various factions within the county organization. These include anti-labor and anti-Phillips forces.

Ginn, however, looks at these tests with the equanimity derived from his previous experience as a local party leader. Sharing the youth of so many of this year's candidates, he remains level-headed and optimistic.

4th District Canvas Puts Baker Ahead

A recount of the Aug. 2 primary vote placed Ray D. Baker, Sheriff of John A. Titus who was at first declared unofficial winner of the Republican nomination for representative from the 4th district. Baker went 23 votes ahead of Titus after the votes were canvassed last week.

The mistake in the count created a need to revise the candidate endorsement resolution at the Oakland county Republican convention last week.

The error appeared when canvassers were checking returns from Farmington township. County Clerk-Register Daniel T. Murphy, Jr., said votes cast for Prosecutor George F. Taylor were totaled in with Titus' column. Although Titus is expected to demand a recount, his total was reduced by 80 votes on the canvassers' check.

THE YOUNG Berkley insurance agent led Baker, also of Berkley, by 57 votes in the unofficial returns. Titus' name was included in a resolution endorsing the primary winners. At the GOP county convention last Wednesday night a seat on the stage had been reserved for him. However, it was occupied by Baker. The resolution was revised to include both Titus and Baker's names, whoever is official winner after the recount is certified.

The 71 precincts in district 4 includes Southfield City, Beverly Hills, Franklin, Bingham Farms, Lathrup, Wood Creek Farms, Quakertown, Farmington, Farmington township, Novi Village, Novi, the south half of Wixom, South Lyon, Lyon township, Berkley and Oak Park. Northville was the only precinct to use paper ballots.

During his temporary unofficial status as winner, Titus served as temporary chairman of the district caucus Monday night. He also sat in on the GOP nominees' re-election of county chairman Arthur G. Elliott, Jr. and other members of the county executive committee.

House-in-Woods Owner Offers a Deal

LATHRUP—Land developer Louise Kelley told council members Monday evening she intends to offer Lathrup Woman's club members an opportunity to purchase the House-in-the-Woods on a family share basis.

The announcement came as a surprise development following a report by Tom Munson that the newly-formed swimming pool investigation committee could not find land in Lathrup. The committee had been unsuccessful in negotiations with Mrs. Kelley over purchase of acreage in Lathrup for a pool. Munson said Mrs. Kelley told him vacant land was being held for residential purposes.

In his report, Chairman Munson told council members his seven-member committee had met once since its formation by the council two weeks ago to decide what Lathrup needed, based on 1,000 families.

THE COMMITTEE, Munson explained Monday, then began to search for a five-acre plat; two and one-half acres for pool and parking area and an additional two and one-half acres to be developed later into tennis courts, shuffleboard and picnic area or baseball diamonds.

A cost of approximately $450 per family would finance purchase of two and one-half acres of land and build a pool 82 x 42 feet with a good size diving ell, Munson said.

At this point Mrs. Kelley announced that it was her intention to negotiate with the Lathrup Woman's club. She suggested a corporation stock deal based on 1200 families at $208 per share which, according to Mrs. Kelley, could be purchased at $20 down and $20 per month.

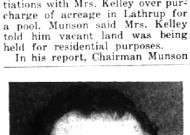
MRS. KELLEY also suggested a change in the 400-member club's name from Lathrup Woman's club to the Lathrup Village club, so that men could become interested and active members.

Continuing, Mrs. Kelley told council members that it would cost between $250 and $300 thousand to duplicate the House-in-the-Woods at present prices. The circle of land around the House-in-the-Woods, excluding the house, totals approximately six acres, adequate room for a pool and tennis courts.

Council members were not too sure about the future use of the House-in-the-Woods. Mayor Richard Cogger recalled the proposed use of the house for a woman's club sponsored library. Residents on the circle around the house protested vigorously that any additional use would add bicycle and car traffic.

MUNSON promised the council an early report on his committee's investigation into property outside of Lathrup.

The House-in-the-Woods is owned by Mrs. Kelley and her husband, Charles. The couple no longer lives there, but permits the city to use the large English-type manor house for its offices and council meetings. The woman's club also uses the house, without cost, for its meetings.



HOMER CASE

EUGENE L. JOHNSON

Lions' Roar Heard In Official Circles

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—School and township officials have a lion's share of the Bloomfield Lions club board of directors posts for the 1960-61 season.

Past president Homer Case (township treasurer) was recently installed as zone chairman of the Lions organization's Region One, with jurisdiction over the Auburn Heights, Bloomfield, Lake Orion, Huron Valley, Oxford, Pontiac, Rochester, Waterford, Westlakes, Wixom and Walled Lake clubs.

Eugene L. Johnson, Bloomfield Hills school superintendent, has been elected president of the Bloomfield club.

TOWNSHIP board member Henry M. Hogan, Jr. was named secretary and police chief Norman Dehnke is the Lions' Tail Twister. Township Supervisor Arno L. Hulet is on the club's board of directors, as is Bloomfield Hills high school principal Richard Spiess.

Dawson C. Baer, of Pontiac was named first vice president.

He is manager of the Bloomfield branch of the Community National Bank. Architect Charles MacMahon is second vice president and Ralph E. Minaker, manager of the Maple-Telegraph branch of Manufacturers National Bank, is third vice president.

David Manley will be treasurer and Frank W. Muholland is official Lion Tamer. Stewart Schultz is a board member.

ALL POSTS are for one-year terms.

A charter member of the Bloomfield Lions club, Case has served as treasurer, chaplain, 1st vice president, president and is presently a member of the board of directors. He lives at 839 Halston, Bloomfield township.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

Special 'Back to School' Section

'Youth Protection' Program Asked In Birmingham 1-A

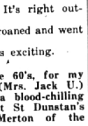
What About Teen Age Girls? 1-C

Sculptor at Work 8-C

Southfield Bows In Play-Offs 8-E

A Contest for people who never enter contests! 300 valuable prizes! See the September issue of Suburbia Today with the Sept. 8 Birmingham Eccentric.

Talk of the Towns



By JULIE CANDLER

My neck is a little stiff as a result, but it was well worth it. (Now that's an intriguing lead, if I ever wrote one.)

It's not what you think:

I've just attended my first satellite-watching party, and it was exciting.

Beverly Hills Councilman Ted Shurtleff hosted the party informally outside the village hall Monday night. It was 11 p.m., just after the council meeting.

The Echo would be soaring across the Beverly Hills skies about 11:05 p.m., Shurtleff announced.

BETTER WATCH IT, "we have an ordinance giving us control of the air," commented Councilman Hugh G. Allerton, Jr.

"I'll watch it from my own back yard," allowed Village President Marvin Cline, and he dashed out the door.

About five of us stood waiting, looking up. Every star in the clear sky seemed to move. Then Shurtleff spotted the Echo, like a bright, bluish star weaving across the sky. There could be something alcoholic in the gas inflating its ten-stories-high sphere, judging from its erratic course.

"THERE'S still time to get home and point it out to Betty before it's gone," concluded Councilman Chet Guilmet, and he ran toward his car.

We had spotted the Echo coming toward us from Southfield. Then we craned our necks to gawk overhead as it orbited over Beverly Hills. When it was over Birmingham, I hurried to my car, to race home and show the man at our house where it was.

I dashed in the house spacerasily excited. He was in bed.

"GET UP," I said, "and you can see the satellite! It's right outside the window!"

"So what!" he groaned and went back to sleep.

I still say it was exciting.

The star of the 60's, for my dough, is Joyce (Mrs. Jack U.) Klarr, who had a blood-chilling role in the recent St Dunstan's production of "Merton of the Movies."

The stars overhead were dripping icicles the chilly night I saw the show at Cranbrook's Greek theatre. There I sat, wrapped in a blanket and shivering, and there was Joyce, my former college roommate, talking about plunging into the Greek theatre's pool.

She was playing a stunt girl. She gave a heroic leap into the ice water, then came out with an ad lib on her purple lips. Through her chattering teeth she said, "Anybody that tells you that pool is heated is crazy."

GETTING BACK to orbits, a guy named Bill Arthur is making them these days. There's a new star at his house, name of William J. Arthur, III, who weighed in at just under nine pounds on Wednesday of last week.

Bill's our former sports editor, and the news tip was phoned in by former society editor Eleanor Vinall. She and Bill are doing public relations work at the American Society of Tool and Manufacturing Engineers offices, Detroit.

Eleanor's report the morning after was, "Mother and son are fine, but father's a nervous wreck!"

The proud papa has recovered nicely.

Lathrup to Begin Road Repairs Soon

LATHRUP—Repair work on the large sections of Lathrup roads that were broken up by last spring's rapid thaw will begin within the next week or two, says City Administrator Jerald D. Stone.

Faced with two bids for the road repairs for $1,848 for sealcoating and $6,000 for asphalt, council members want time to look at some sealcoat jobs before accepting the bids.

Literary Prospects Hopeful

LATHRUP—Lathrup's lonesome library is waiting for a home. For two years, hundreds of books, some donated, some purchased by a special committee of the Lathrup Woman's club, have been gathering dust on a few shelves in the House-in-the-Woods.

Members of the woman's club decided to establish a library in Lathrup in 1958. Interest was aroused. Books from private collections poured in. A committee headed by Mrs. George Ritter began the big task of sorting and cataloging.

The project was proceeding smoothly until a legal snag put a stop to all plans.

LATHRUP city offices and the U. S. post office were already using the House - in - the - woods. Council members were advised not to grant another non-conforming use to the residentially-zoned property. Even plans for a Woman's club reading room came to a halt.

Since that time, the library has been stored in a home. Books are piled high in boxes, on window sills. Fictional characters wait on pages that have not been turned in years.

Two weeks ago a faint light of hope again brightened on the library horizon—a letter written by the recreation commission at the urging of a number of residents, asked council members to establish a committee to investigate the possibilities of a swimming pool and recreation center which could include a library for Lathrup. On the committee are Donald Forrest, Mrs. David Anderson, Tom Munson, Jack Heaton, Louis Camilli and Mrs. John Kehl.

ACCORDING TO Councilwoman Elizabeth Mitchell, the "where" and "how" before the committee will take more than the concentrated efforts of five people. "It will take the cooperation of the entire population of Lathrup, determined to establish a recreation center to benefit every resident of the city," Mrs. Mitchell said.

Township and DPW Expected to Share Cost of Drain Plans

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Cost of plans for the controversial $44,000 Lahser-14 Mile drain project, turned down by the board of the Oakland county department of public works at a hearing Aug. 9, probably will be assumed by the township and the DPW, according to a township treasurer Homer Case.

The township board is expected to approve paying a share of the $2500-$3000 cost of engineering plans prepared by the firm of Hubbell, Roth and Clark of Birmingham. The board meets Monday night. According to the same official, residents would be assessed for the plans if the drain project is installed at some future date.

The official also said the DPW will not order plans for future new projects until the estimated cost of engineering plans has been paid in advance.

Southfield Leads June Construction In South Oakland

Building in South Oakland county in June showed a $2 million increase over May figures with the City of Southfield leading in new construction. Southfield's total of $3,149,395 included some $2 million in 10 commercial structures.

A total of $6,542,436 for South Oakland topped the June, 1959 figure of $4,847,074. Troy construction, costing $841,500 in June, included $205,000 in school additions.

Beverly Hills spent $173,087 and Lathrup totaled $90,300 in new buildings for the same period.