

# Lathrup Police Take Positive Path to Youth

By IRMA DAVIS  
Lathrup Correspondent

LATHRUP—When Rockefeller foundation sociologists studied the Detroit area—way back when—they prophesied Lathrup would beat other northwest area communities to incorporation.

They did. Then, the foresighted local citizens wasted no time after incorporation, in 1953, in organizing a police department that would benefit Lathrup and especially its young people.

In an attractive booklet issued in late June by the Lathrup police youth recreation department, inc., the organization's history and its accomplishments are reviewed. With a 1959 budget of \$2,121.10, it has donated hockey team equipment, flood and illuminated skating rinks and sponsored Little League baseball as well as organizing a girls' summer recreation program.

Since 1957, the department has delighted all age groups with an annual fireworks display and a yearly visit from Santa Claus.

The three men mainly responsible for organizing the police department are Arley Van Meer, Joseph J. Zafarana and Kenneth Parham, first chief of police. Serving ever since as president, vice president and secretary-treasurer respectively, they are assisted by a board of 12 directors.

THE REGULAR PAID police department, instituted in March 1955, is now composed of Chief Thomas Tellefsen, Lt. Francis Murphy and Patrolman Patrick Whalen. It is supplemented by a

volunteer force of 12 residents. The department includes Ward Jenks, juvenile officer; Dr. Gerald Fitzgerald, police photographer; and Thomas Munson, safety officer. Then there is police co-ordinator Van Meer who relates the activities of the paid and volunteer force and the Honorable James K. O'Leary who serves as judge.

LATHRUP POLICE provide 24-hour protection to the city, maintain an accident investigation bureau and public health department, and take care of many other services. Their program includes never-ending training of personnel.

During 1959, police were on the spot to investigate 100 crimes involving numerous arrests. They recovered \$5500 in lost or stolen property and recovered 14 missing persons. Sixty accidents required attention with 650 violations issued. Vacant homes, 1350 of them, were checked during the year to say nothing of 486 school crossings covered and 725 driver's licenses issued.

BUT THE HEART of the local police force beats at double tempo when it comes to the city's young people. Each year, it donates colorful caps to whimsy and imports Santa Claus from a Detroit department store. The bearded sofiest driver by helicopter for a personal visit with area children and some adults.

Summer heat fails to slow department generosity and a Fourth of July fireworks display is staged yearly. These kind operations were inaugurated shortly after incorporation.

SINCE 1957, Little league baseball has flourished with four fully equipped major league teams, comprising 60 boys. This venture was originated and sponsored by the police youth department with continuing aid and support from local residents. Minor league is sponsored by the Lathrup Lions club.

Twenty youngsters, from 12 to 16 years, participated in the 1959 and 1959 hockey program and Recreation director Adam Phillips hopes soon to place a group of 14 to 17 year olds in a league from nearby cities.

LAST SUMMER, 64 little girls, age five or older, joined in a girls' summer recreation program under the leadership of Carol Heym, daughter of the Ray Heyms and a first grade teacher at Parchment, Mich. Other organization-sponsored projects were a spectacular teenage dance two years ago and this April's Country music show at Southfield high school.

The program is supported from the contributions of approximately 200 local residents. Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Kelley have given generous aid in the form of free use of several land tracts for the various activities.

MAKE NO MISTAKE, the Rockefeller foundation sociologists had an excellent crystal ball. It just wasn't made of rose-colored glass. That's what was needed—way back when—to see the excellent police and recreation program as it is today.

# Project

(Continued from Page 1-E)

For each owner's share of the lateral can also be spread over a 15-year period.

A \$260 tap-in charge will be collected for payment of the village's share of the Oakland county DPW Evergreen interceptor carrying sewage to Detroit for treatment. That charge can be spread over ten years, Cline said.

ALL CHARGES can be paid in a lump sum at the time of billing, Cline said, or paid with interest over the period set.

The 20 districts were set up by legal consultants on the recommendation of village engineers. "They based their recommendations on the topographical lay of the land involved and resulting physical location of the actual extent of mains and laterals in each district," Cline said.

ONCE THE assessment roll is finally approved, it will take 10 to 15 weeks to get the state's permission to sell the bonds. Bids will be requested on the entire project during the waiting period.

Several of the residents at the hearing charged "discrimination" when they were told two large acreages had been excepted from the special assessment districts. "The areas at the village's western border are the sites of Nottingham Forest and Beech Grove subdivisions. They are owned by an area group of Birmingham area investors and being developed by the firm of Andrews and Briggs."

THE DEVELOPERS must pay the cost of and build their own sewer laterals, the residents were told. The two sewer systems will connect directly into the Valley Woods interceptor, and the subdivisions are sharing in the cost of that interceptor.

Under village ordinance, subdividers must build sewers and deed them to the city. Besides a \$5,205 assessment against Charles E. Preese III, 21060 W. 12 Mile road, it was revealed Thursday that one owner has been assessed \$8,881. He is Eugene A. Magnell of Lahser road.

PREESE, who owns six acres, told The Birmingham Eccentric, "I won't pay it. I'll sell first." He objected because his property had been estimated as potentially large enough to hold five homes. His assessment was then figured at five times the \$1,053 charge per home in that district.

"I think the charge should be figured on a lot basis, or on a front foot basis, or by valuation, but treat everybody the same," Preese said. His is one of the districts set for a review.

SOME assessments in the 20 districts are figured on a front foot basis, some on a lot benefit basis or by aggregate units, or a combination of both.

Magnell has made his home on the Lahser road property since 1934, told The Birmingham Eccentric he was undecided what to do about his \$8,881 assessment. "I don't see how I can raise that kind of money," he said.



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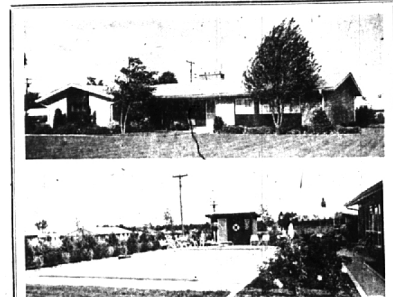
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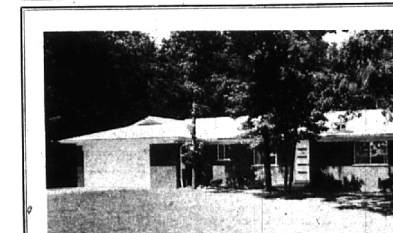


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