

# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM

MICHIGAN

## 'round the towns news

### Plan Commission Proposal on Ballot In B'field Township

EDITOR'S NOTE: Both Bloomfield and West Bloomfield townships have on the Aug. 2 ballot, a proposal to create a planning commission. The Bloomfield township zoning board has submitted two articles on the issue to the Birmingham Eccentric. This is the first. A second will follow next week.

**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP**—Voters in Bloomfield township may be one of the first townships in Michigan to use the new Planning Act of 1959 for the establishment of a planning commission.

The new act went into effect last March and gives townships the governmental tools to properly plan their communities similar to the city planning laws enacted in 1951.

Under the provisions of the 1959 Township Planning Act, unincorporated areas may establish a planning commission to better promote public health, safety and general welfare; utilize natural resources and general character of the community and provide adequate community services.

**RECOMMENDATIONS** for the establishment of a planning commission were made to the board of trustees last January by a citizen study committee appointed to study future planning and zoning of the township.

The committee conducted a 10-month review of the potential growth of the community, including a comprehensive population study and unanimously recommended that a planning commission be established as soon as possible.

Members of the citizen study committee included George C. Booth, chairman; Burke Bartlett, Frederick A. Chapman and Edward A. Fretter, chairman of the township zoning board.

**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP** trustees increased the zoning board from four to seven members and authorized the newly increased zoning board to work on a master plan. The trustees also approved the employment of Villan-Leman and Associates as planning consultants for the township.

In April, the trustees approved a resolution to place the question of a planning commission before voters. At the same time, the township board permitted the zoning board to function as a planning commission in so far as a planning commission is concerned.

Voter approval for a planning commission would give Bloomfield township the necessary tools to map out future growth and benefit from federal, state and regional planning assistance.

**A BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP** planning commission would replace the present zoning board and have a wider scope of interest. In addition to zoning, a planning commission would make a complete study of community needs, in with the township's geographic and economic character, and be a part of the township's master plan with anticipated township growth.

Next week—Why is a planning commission needed in Bloomfield township?

### Talk of the Towns

By JULIE CANDLER

Half the fun of working for The Birmingham Eccentric comes from the delightful people you work with.

And even after they leave this newspaper and move on to jobs with big daily papers or to public relations work, you still see them now and then. And man, they're your kind of people.

Fortunately, the man at my house likes them, too. He recently charcoaled steaks for a couple of ex-Eccentrics, both of them fresh from the tourist ranks. Farmer assistant township editor Audrey Mackneish brought exciting tales of people and paragon in Birmingham and the Midlands. Former Lathrup correspondent Dorothy Zatzell and her husband, Vince, had found colorful sights, interesting people and cities in the western half of the good old USA.

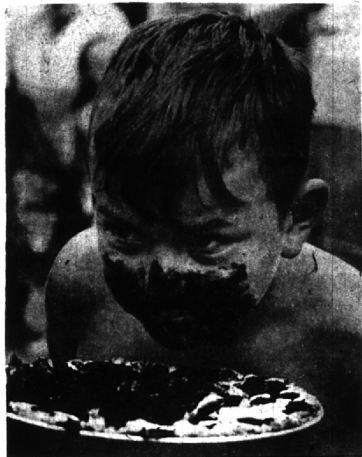
**THE TRAVELERS** brought terrific color slides to prove what they said.

While Dorothy was in Denver picking up her son, Jeff, at Colorado State, she clipped a news item for me.

It tells of a little Colorado paper whose community correspondent ran out of paper. She had used up all the kid's notebooks, and that was why she had to send about 100 beautiful handwritten letters at the end of her column on about 12 inches of toilet paper.

**THE PAPER** editorialized that all correspondents should be sent a box of stationery weekly, because their composing room staff found it easier to handle on a Linotype machine. Note to all Birmingham Eccentric correspondents: Please don't get any ideas.

**BIG NEWS** this week from two former Birmingham Eccentric



Almost 'Pie-Eyed'

**WALNUT LAKE**—Young Rolph Weeks of Walnut Lake had a literally delicious time competing in the pie contest at the second annual family picnic held Sunday by Walnut Lake Estates (apt 2). The fun included a gay regatta on the lake, canoe tilting contests, sack, wheelbarrow and three-legged races.

### Lathrup Vote Suit Debated At Stormy Council Meeting

By IRMA DAVIS  
Lathrup Correspondent

**LATHRUP**—Temper flared, time flew and the entire noisy scene at Lathrup's Monday night council meeting was summed up by Councilman H. Earl Hanson who asked in ringing tones, "Is this a council session or a bar-room brawl?"

Mayor Richard N. Cogger continued reminders "not to try the election suit here" failed to quiet the storm. The lines were first drawn when Councilman John Kohl's withdrawal of his earlier approval for a salary increase for City Clerk Frank Derby introduced the election subject.

The unsettled suit, was brought by sticker candidates Arley Van Meer and Richard H. Anderson against the two successful candidates, Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Mitchell and Councilman Vincent Zatzell. Van Meer and Anderson want certain misplaced stickers counted in the April 4 election results.

The election records are in the custody of Circuit Judge Clark J. Derby explained that he was re-

turning to a formal notification. The salaries were raised with Kohl dissenting. Included is a salary of \$6004 for Derby, \$5000 for City Administrator Gerald Stone, double-pay on holidays for the regular police force and increases for other city employees.

**THE MONDAY NIGHT** battle began with the discussion of the 1960-61 review of city employees' salaries. Kohl said he wanted to be on record as opposed to Derby's salary increase. He said he had lost faith in Derby and claimed Derby had played both ends against the middle.

Kohl's attitude, he believes, grew out of Derby's court testimony that he did not have any written knowledge of sticker candidates before the election. Kohl said he had told Derby the minute he reached a decision about his own candidacy.

**STEERING** committee chairman Edward F. Dolan said, "In view of the forthcoming trial date, the steering committee decided to withdraw the rezoning request. The question of whether or not the pool will be constructed will be left to the court."

**DETROIT YOUTH** Still Critical  
**SOUTHFIELD**—A Detroit youth, injured Sunday in an auto accident on Northwestern on 11 Mile road, was reported still in critical condition Wednesday by Beaumont hospital officials.

Joseph Garron, 19, was riding in an auto driven by James R. Spencer, also of Detroit, when the accident occurred, according to police.

**POLICE SAID** Spencer apparently lost control of the car, it left the road, traveled 109 feet before striking a metal sign, turned back onto the highway and traveled 147 feet across the northwest-bound lane of Northwestern. The car then rolled over, bounced 97 feet end over end and finally crashed into a utility pole.

The driver, Spencer, walked away from the mangled car unharmed. Garron, who was thrown from the vehicle, was taken to Beaumont hospital.

**SOUTHFIELD**—A Southfield youth suffered a fracture of the right arm when he fell from a ladder.

James White, age 18, 3939 2d Avenue was injured at Beaumont hospital, Royal Oak.

The accident occurred, according to police, when the ladder, Fernside, white White was helping to repair a roof.

### 3 Area Townships to Vote On Fate of Annual Meetings

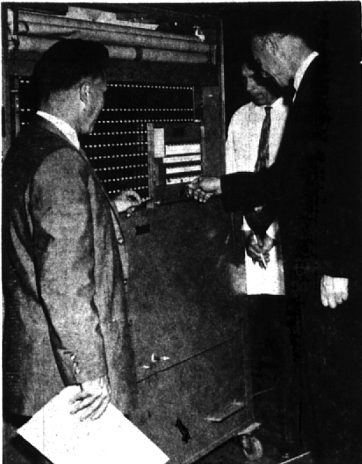
#### County to Start Widening Project On Maple Road

**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP**—A \$215,000 project to widen Maple road from Cranbrook to Telegraph will begin within a few weeks.

Traffic on the road will be maintained, but motorists are advised to take a different route until the work is completed.

The county has a 120-foot right of way that will allow for the present two lanes plus an additional 12-foot lane on either side. An eight-foot shoulder will be constructed plus a shallow seven-foot drainage ditch.

**A TOTAL OF 92** trees will topple between Cranbrook and Lathrup and another 135 between Lathrup and Telegraph to make way for the widening. The cost of the trees to be saved will be considerably more expensive, the chief engineer of the road commission said. Completion will take more than a month.



Examines Voting Machine

**LATHRUP**—Attorneys James G. Hartrick (left) and Harry D. Wise, Jr. watch intently at Lathrup school on July 11 as Circuit Judge Clark Adams examines one of four voting machines used in the April 4 election. Results of the election are disputed by sticker candidates Arley Van Meer and Richard H. Anderson. The two have brought suit against mayor pro-tem Elizabeth Mitchell and councilman Vincent Zatzell, seeking to unseat them. The case went to court July 12 and a decision is expected in about two weeks, settling the question of whether disputed sticker votes will be counted.

#### Beverly Group Withdraw Request For B-1 Zoning

**BEVERLY HILLS**—The Beverly Hills athletic club Monday withdrew its rezoning request for property near Beverly and Southfield roads.

The club had asked the village planners to consider rezoning for residential to business zoning. The club, seeking to build a swimming pool at the site, is in court on the matter.

A hearing on the suit has been set July 28 before Oakland County Circuit Judge Clark J. Adams. The judge will hear charges brought by five residents living near the four-acre site where the club wants to build the pool.

**STEEERING** committee chairman Edward F. Dolan said, "In view of the forthcoming trial date, the steering committee decided to withdraw the rezoning request. The question of whether or not the pool will be constructed will be left to the court."

### Beverly Hills to Hire Village Deputy Clerk

**BEVERLY HILLS**—Beverly Hills Village Clerk Fannie Adams has agreed to continue her job following the council's acceptance Monday of recommendations from a special government study committee that examined the work load in the village offices.

In an effort to head off Mrs. Adams' resignation, the committee recommended that a part time deputy clerk be hired.

The deputy will be expected to attend all council meetings, the committee determined, and take the minutes unless otherwise excused by the clerk.

The deputy will work in the village office and will be available to assist the village manager, with the clerk's permission.

**THE COUNCIL** also approved the hiring of a part time deputy treasurer.

"It is the opinion of the committee that Mrs. Merle Dawber, presently employed by the village is qualified for the job and should be hired."

**THE THREE TOWNSHIP** supervisors, Arno Hales of Bloomfield, John Baw of West Bloomfield and Hugh G. Allerton, Jr., of Southfield, are in agreement on the following general reasons for abolishing the annual meeting.

1. That vast majority of citizens do not attend.
2. The meeting permits a small minority group in attendance to dominate important affairs of the township.
3. The results of this can spoil sound planning and good management of the township board.
4. No structure could accommodate all citizens if they did attend the meeting.
5. The majority of citizens, therefore, would be disfranchised.
6. Voice vote permits voting of those in attendance who are not citizens to govern township affairs.
7. Inaccurate and indecisive results occur with a viva voce vote.
8. Viva voce vote is considered unconstitutional.
9. No absentee voting is permitted.

**THEB ARE** reasons on the other side of the fence too.

1. The annual meeting was originally established in 1940 to enable citizens to govern township affairs.
2. The meeting serves a useful purpose when the population is small.
3. With relatively few and simple matters to be considered, it affords everyone in the township an opportunity to have full knowledge of township affairs and to discuss them freely.
4. The viva voce vote enables all in attendance to have a voice in making the township affairs.
5. Township officers depend on actions taken at the town meetings to guide them in the few duties that they perform.
6. The Oakland township supervisors' association recently recommended that townships eligible under state law (those of more than 1000 population) should submit the issue to their electors.
7. Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Southfield township boards are doing this.
8. Because of the explosive population growth, (See MEETINGS, Page 4-B)

### Lawsuit Also Tests Legality

By DENT SCANLON  
Staff Writer

"Shall the annual township meeting be abolished?" Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Southfield township residents will say their yes or no at the polls Aug. 2. But a lawsuit opening tomorrow in circuit court may eventually settle the matter for them and all of Michigan.

Pontiac Attorney Robert Hodge has filed a petition against the Pontiac township board to test the constitutionality of the annual meeting.

"Either the disfranchisement of voters or suspension of powers of constitutional officers will probably be the points determining the court's decision," Hodge said.

**LEVERS GOING** down for and against the proposition on all three Birmingham area township ballots may well affect the result, too, Hodge commented. He does not expect a court decision before the vote.

He initially petitioned the state supreme court on the issue earlier this year. The suit was taken to circuit court for original jurisdiction. Hodge indicated that regardless of the outcome, it would probably be appealed to the state level to either establish the abolition of township meetings throughout Michigan or defeat the issue, leaving it in its present form.

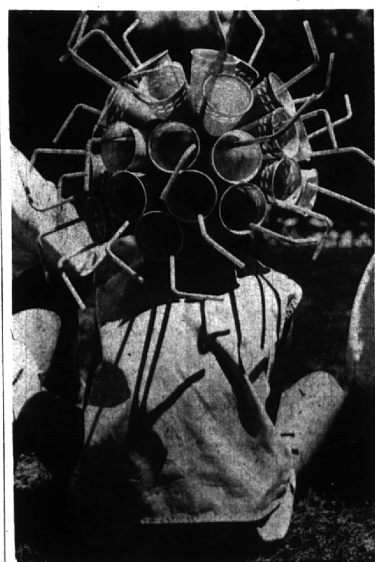
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**WESTCHESTER**—George Hummel, chairman of the 16th district Republican committee (left) and Paul Bagwell, leading Republican gubernatorial candidate, held a caucus of their own Sunday at a social gathering at the home of the Chester Sharps in Westchester village. Bagwell attended a "Meet the Candidates" night Tuesday at Bloomfield Hills high school.



Some Sombrero!

**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP**—The Birmingham Eccentric received a recent call about a sighting of strange unidentified flying objects one night last week. Could they have landed? Could this be a being from another world? No, it's little Harriet Hilliboo, 32350 Sumner, Franklin, with her concoction for the Roper Summer Day Camp Hat Show. The show was part of the camp program and several prizes were given.

**THE COSTUMES** designed. (See TALK, Page 4-B)

#### ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

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