

# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM

MICHIGAN

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

## 'round the towns news

### PTA Boss Offers Food For Thought with Meal

By NITA HARD  
Special Writer

Mrs. James C. Parker would rather talk about PTA work than eat.

Which is probably why she is president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and such a trim-looking woman grandmother of five.

She was gracious enough to sandwich in an interview between the entire and main course of a dinner in her honor Sunday night, following dedication ceremonies at Southfield High School.

HERE FROM Grand Rapids with her husband who is a retired business executive, Mrs. Parker spoke before an audience of 800 that afternoon. She reaffirmed the high

ideals set forth by Alice M. Birney when she founded the PTA back in 1857. The new \$1,387,500 combination elementary-junior high school on Evergreen road was named after her recognition of the PTA's important role in modern education.

After talking to Mrs. Parker, we won't be surprised if they name a new school in the country in her honor, someday.

The second Michigan woman to hold this high national office, Mrs. Parker rose from local leadership. A former teacher, and an active chairman for a Grand Rapids elementary school unit, she became president of a high school unit which led to presidency of the Grand Rapids PTA council and editorship of the Michigan Parent-Teacher magazine. Soon after, she became president of the Michigan

Congress of Parents and Teachers. She has served on the national board of managers since 1942. In 1957 Mrs. Parker was made director of The National Parent-Teacher: The PTA Magazine, a job she still holds, even after becoming national president for a three-year term in 1958.

SHE HAS WRITTEN articles on home and family life, some of which have appeared in Better Homes and Gardens and other magazines. Her news and feature articles have been published in the Christian Science Monitor.

Which probably accounts for why she was so very nice to this reporter even though her steak was getting cold.

With vigorous concurrence from her husband, Mrs. Parker said she spends about 18 hours a day on her job. It demands that she travels about three quarters of the time. Whenever possible, she tries to be home on weekends.

HOWEVER, as national president of an organization with 1 1/2 million card-carrying members, she has spent considerable time in Europe, Alaska, Hawaii and South America.

Last April she attended the convention of the European Congress of American Parents and Teachers, made up of U.S. government employees and business representatives living there.

She represents the National PTA Congress in UNESCO, a committee in the White House Conference on Children and Youth. President Eisenhower made her a member of his citizens' advisory committee on fitness of American youth, on which she holds executive post. She is also on Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield's Citizens' advisory committee on obscenity through the mails.

Only five cents out of every PTA membership dollar is spent at the national organizational level she tells us.

### 2 Blazes Threaten, 3 Stations Operate

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — A blizzard of two fires which threatened wide-scale disaster were averted by Bloomfield station firefighters as this township fire station went into operation.

Both ended with the danger averted.

A gasoline pump ablaze above an underground tank held 19,200 gallons of fuel brought out by a very fire-fighting equipment Monday night.

On Sunday, stations one and two were off in full force on a fire at Bloomfield hospital.

The call to Reeve's service station at Maple and Telegraph came on the same day that Bloomfield's third fire station went into operation. At Woodbank and Maple, just a few thousand feet from the service station.

It was answered, not only by station three's new pumper, but by all equipment. Station number one at Telegraph and Long Lake. Police cars hurried to the scene.

It also brought out township officials, who had just concluded their board meeting when fire trucks roared from the station headquarters just beneath their meeting room at the service hall. (Missing was board member Dan Reeve, owner of the service station, who was on a trip to Chicago.)

Danger of a holocaust was averted by quick action on the part of long-time station employee, Albert "Shorty" Dickerson, assisted by employee Jack Taylor.

Dickerson used foam fire extinguisher hanging on the inside of the station door, to put out the burning gasoline. At the same time he cut off air supply to underground lines which by then were ablaze. Without air, the underground fire went out, while all equipment stood by in case it didn't.

The fire was started when a customer's car was being washed and knocked over a pump. Electrical lines to the pump shorted, igniting the gasoline.

An employee at Bloomfield hospital also extinguished the fire at the hospital by throwing soda at the blaze. The alarm was sent out

when grease, accumulated in an area, ignited.

Firemen examining the cause of the blaze recommended a fire inspection at this premises at the private hospital.

Open House Set At Fire Station

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — An open house will be held Sunday, Nov. 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Bloomfield township's newest fire station. The public is invited to the event.

The station, serving the township's southern portion, is located at Woodbank and Maple, one block west of the Maple-Telegraph intersection.

Oil Heater Causes \$1200 Fire Damage To Lathrup Home

LATHRUP — A defective oil heater is blamed by firemen for a blaze that caused \$1,000 damage to the dwelling and \$200 to the township's newest fire station at Danboise, 2741 Lathrup boulevard. The fire occurred at 7:51 p.m. Friday.

Originating in the heater, the fire spread to a recreation room wall and was confined to that area. The home was insured.

Engines from Southfield fire station one and three put out the fire.

### Oil Heater Causes \$1200 Fire Damage To Lathrup Home

LATHRUP — A defective oil heater is blamed by firemen for a blaze that caused \$1,000 damage to the dwelling and \$200 to the township's newest fire station at Danboise, 2741 Lathrup boulevard. The fire occurred at 7:51 p.m. Friday.

Originating in the heater, the fire spread to a recreation room wall and was confined to that area. The home was insured.

Engines from Southfield fire station one and three put out the fire.

### Our Thanksgiving Issue Will Be Out Wed., Nov. 23; Please Get Your Copy in Early; Final Deadline: Monday, Nov. 21.

MRS. PARKER believes the PTA is "completely unselfish" and works for a diversity of people of all religions, educational backgrounds and social stations.

She also predicts that this year's membership dollar is used for state level activities with the PTA appointing a state chairman of legislation to look after anyone whose school matters are introduced. The PTA serves effectively as a pressure group at both state and national levels. So, out of our dollar membership (less in some areas), 75 per cent remains with our local unit where we can personally direct its use, if we're interested enough to do so.

MRS. PARKER said as her husband gently nudged her to heed the now-warm flat.

## Methodists Plan Church Near 13—Evergreen Corner



BEVERLY HILLS—Agreements to purchase seven acres of Beverly Hills land across from Groves Junior-senior high school were signed by the First Methodist church of Birmingham and the Detroit district of the Methodist church.

Its plans are to begin a mission church on the site on Evergreen road 4 miles north of 13 Mile. The plans were revealed Tuesday night at a Birmingham board of education meeting.

AT THAT TIME the board gave C. M. Dotterer, Jr., head of the church's committee on missions approval for a mission congregation to meet temporarily at one of its schools near the site.

Dotterer said five acres of the property are being acquired from a Detroit property owner. Two additional acres are part of the total under option by Lee Keating and two Detroit investors.

On Aug. 15 Keating's group was asked Beverly Hills approval for a meeting request for a 14-acre development at the 13-Evergreen intersection's northeast corner. The group proposed to build two ten-story cooperative apartment houses on the site.

APPEARING before the board of education Tuesday was Dotterer, of 16632 Reedmore, Beverly Hills, told the board the total cost of the seven acres would be \$62,000. He said a full-time pastor would be appointed for the congregation as soon as a temporary meeting place was established.

Plans are to begin holding church services in January. By July 15, Dotterer told the board, his church would be able to give the board a definite timetable on construction.

The board's approval was for a six-month period, beginning Jan. 15.

### Anti-Burglary Action Shows In Bloomfield

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Statistics can be dull reading, but Bloomfield township tells an interesting "coups and ruses" story.

Three items on the police report show a great increase over previous months.

The first is the number of breaking and entering cases—31. Second is the total mileage police cars were driven—23,668. Third is the number of traffic violation tickets issued—70.

THE LOCAL rash of breaking and entering cases is a pattern of increased burglaries in many suburban areas surrounding Detroit, all with a similar pattern in method of forced entry, ransacking and items stolen.

In an effort to curb the robbers, local police officers, serving extra duty, used their own personal cars in patrolling the Bloomfield area. This increased the average police car mileage 50 per cent during October.

The 70 ordinance tickets issued were also a part of the effort to catch the burglars. Recent court rulings in Michigan have made it illegal for police to stop any vehicle merely to search it for possible stolen goods. Police kept on particular alert during October for traffic violations.

Victor's cars could be legally searched.

WHILE THE gang police believe responsible for the majority of the breaking and entering has paid off, so far.

Last week there were no breaking and entering cases in Bloomfield township, according to Police Chief Norman Dehnke.

Southfield Asks Road Dedication

SOUTHFIELD — Board of education member Will Oliver was appointed to discuss and negotiate with the city of Southfield on dedication of frontage on the north side of 11 Mile road, south of the Birney school.

The city has asked the board to increase the city's easement from 25 feet to 60 feet in order to construct storm sewers on 11 Mile. They will empty into the Evans ditch.

Yule Gift: Add Day To School Vacation

SOUTHFIELD—The Christmas vacation schedule for Southfield was set to 23 days, including Dec. 22, changing the closing date from Dec. 23 to Dec. 22.

The extra day's holiday was granted at the request of the Southfield education association to allow an extra day of traveling time for teachers spending the holiday out of town.

### School for Parents

This was the week when parents looked over their children's schools, sat at their desks or walked their long hikes from classroom to gym to shop to kitchens. In Beverly Hills, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Lackner hurried down the halls in a game of "Beat the Clock" at Groves junior-senior high school last Thursday. The Lackners live at 32577 Wing Lake road, Franklin. Out at Hickory Grove school in the Bloomfield school system, two first grade "pupils" for that night were Mrs. R. E. Nelson (left), of 2850 W. Hickory Grove, and Mrs. Albert F. Meadows, 2972 Hickory Grove. Mrs. Nelson got her son Kirk's perspective on school, while Mrs. Meadows took daughter Patricia's place that evening. All Birmingham schools and many others in the area held open house during National education week, Nov. 6-12.

### Residents Scent Recreation Use Of Local Dump

CRANBROOK VILLAGE—Residents from Cranbrook are expected to dump expressions of disapproval at the zoning board of appeals meeting tonight at Southfield city hall.

Word of a proposal to convert the Acattas dump to a "recreational" area has drifted Cranbrook—and property owners don't like it.

The dump, on Southfield road between 12 and 18 Mile roads, has been the subject of resident complaints in the past. The proposed new use would provide a dance pavilion, trampolines, a miniature golf course and public parking.

The proposal has not come before an official city body but Cranbrook residents came to a Nov. 7 council meeting to voice their disapproval.

HENRY HASTINGS, speaking for a Cranbrook village home owners' association, said the project appeared to be a commercial venture, rather than a "recreational" development.

Council referred the matter to the zoning board and concurrently expressed opposition to rezoning the area.

Three council members voted against the action because they felt the "recreation" matter should be directly presented to the council rather than be routed through the zoning board.

The meeting to hear objections to the assessment roll, is scheduled for 8 p.m. Tuesday night at Bloomfield Village school.

Total cost of the proposed project is estimated at \$43,000. Residents will be assessed on a front foot basis with additional charges at corner lots. Cost per front foot will be approximately \$4.

Sixty-seven per cent of village residents signed the petition for road improvement.

### Beverly Hills Advised On Basement Flooding

BEVERLY HILLS—An action requiring all home owners in the western third of Beverly Hills to disconnect downspouts by next April is planned by the village council. The action is being taken on the recommendation of village engineers in a special report formally presented to the council last week.

The engineers also recommended, "that the information in this report be used to aid in getting federal funds for further study and preliminary design and report of the needed improvements to the system."

BEFORE IT passes the new regulation Monday, the council plans to hold a hearing at its 8 p.m. meeting at the village hall on 13 Mile road.

The area involved is bounded by 13 and 14 Mile roads, Greenfield and Southfield, where 180 homes have reported flooded basements at some time. The area has buried storm and sanitary sewers.

Engineering consultants Johnson and Anderson also recommended that the village should restrict catch basins in some areas, if disconnection of downspouts did not relieve flooding conditions.

LAST WEEK the village council allocated \$250 to cover cost of additional catch basin covers for an area bounded by 14 Mile, Beverly, Pierce and Southfield. Covers restricting the flow of storm waters into drains can prevent water from backing up into basements. The village has already put some catch basin covers.

(See FLOODING, 2-E)

### You Think You Need Track Shoes? Beat This One!

BEVERLY HILLS — You think you have it tough when schools have open houses? You think your feet hurt? Well, draw up to foot bath and listen.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Heister, 31065 Stafford Drive, attend open houses at five schools.

Regina, 15, attends Marian high school; Douglas, 14, is a student at Brother Rice high; Ann, 12, and Michael, 11, attend Holy name and Patricia, 10, goes to St. Regis. For good measure, Roberta, 6, and James, 5, are students at Beverly school.

Their parents get to every last open house.

Beverly school held its open houses on two different nights last week to accommodate parents with more than one child in the school. You guessed it. The Heisters were there both nights.

### Hearing Tuesday On Bloomfield Village Roads

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — A large turnout of Bloomfield Village residents is expected at the first public hearing on paving of roads in the subdivision.

The meeting to hear objections to the assessment roll, is scheduled for 8 p.m. Tuesday night at Bloomfield Village school.

Total cost of the proposed project is estimated at \$43,000. Residents will be assessed on a front foot basis with additional charges at corner lots. Cost per front foot will be approximately \$4.

Sixty-seven per cent of village residents signed the petition for road improvement.

### Talk of the Towns

By JULIE CANDLER

Being one who loves politics and parties, I left The Birmingham Eccentric's office with high hopes last Tuesday night.

I was invited to several election parties. My evening would be a cross between the Mardi Gras and New Year's Eve on Times Square, I anticipated.

A Kennedy victory was beginning to show about 11 p.m. when I joined my husband at the Village Players' election party.

There amidst the red, white and blue streamers, every gray head looked like it was in traction. Through the thick air, I heard an occasional moan about the income tax. The others in the room should have had him fun on a labor party night. "The more it looked like a Kennedy victory, the emptier the playhouse became.

I LEFT to look for a gayer mood at the Southfield township office. Besides, I was assigned to get the election results there. At least the Republicans were taking every vote in Oakland county, and Southfield Township Clerk Fannie Adairton, Jr., ought to be happy about that. He was chairman and she was vice-chairman of the field township "Volunteers for Nixon." They had rallied four Nixon votes for every one for Kennedy in their township.

He was being as cheerful as possible when I asked him for the results and said "Hello. My voice echoed out of a famous silence."

There sat township officials, their spouses, and challengers from

both parties, all waiting for the last two precincts to report in. No one said a word. They just stared at me, like people in shock.

I WANTED to stop by the Chester Guilmetts in Beverly Hills on the way to my next assignment. But there wasn't time, and by then, I figured the party at Guilmetts' had ended.

Anyway, my next assignment was to get a picture at Democratic county Democratic chairman, looking over the county return like a man watching his house burn. The others in the hot-smoky room watching TV must have seen that and thought it was their house burning.

UNSHAVEN and in shirt sleeves, Jim looked at me and said sadly, "One thing is certain. Democrats aren't carrying Oakland county."

I took a picture. Then I gave up and went home.

I heard later they really had a ball that night in Hamtramck.

For the first time in his life, a Franklin resident will know a president. He knew president-elect Kennedy when they were both U.S. Navy PT boat men in World War II.

A neighbor asked him what Kennedy was like.

"Well, unshaven. He was a heck of a nice guy... then."



### School Leaders Meet PTA President

SOUTHFIELD—About 800 persons are estimated to have heard special guest speaker Mrs. James C. Parker (center) of Grand Rapids, speak at Southfield's new Alice M. Birney school's dedication Sunday. Mrs. Parker is president of the National



### West Bloomfield Gets New Head For Public Library

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — The Library Board of West Bloomfield Township announces the appointment of Mr. Edward J. Melanson, as head librarian of the West Bloomfield township public library, effective Nov. 9, 1960.

Melanson was formerly first assistant in the business and industry department of the Flint public library. He was a staff member of the Detroit public library prior



### School Leaders Meet PTA President

Congress of Parent Teacher Associations. Also participating in the ceremonies were School Superintendent Glenn Schoenhals and Southfield school board President Mrs. Elsie Lloyd.

### Furnace Explodes; Beverly Man Hurt

BEVERLY HILLS — Albert Kray, 40, was in critical condition Wednesday at St. Joseph Mercy hospital, Pontiac, following injury he sustained when a gas furnace at his home exploded Tuesday at 7:32 a.m. He lives at 18168 Dunham.

Kray received a compound fracture of the skull and lacerations in the basement of his home. It is believed he was checking the furnace at the time of the accident.

### Insurance Expert To Speak to Lions

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Durin W. Hickok, representing the Michigan insurance information service, will address the Bloomfield township Lion's club Tuesday.

His subject, "With Justice for All" is a discussion of the workmen's compensation law in the state. David F. Breck is program chairman.

### ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

- Let's Pretend We're A Train, A Tree or A Talking Doll **Toy**
- Architectural Firm Leaving Bloomfield Hills **1-A**
- Parisian Flavor At Old World Market **1-C**
- Candid Countdown At GOP Headquarters **1-D**
- Seaholm's Maples Beat Southfield **8-B**