

Bankmobile Draws Comments of Writer

By CLEO SYMONS
Special Writer

BEVERLY HILLS was familiar with book-mobiles, bloodmobiles and mobile X-Ray units. Now another convenience has appeared for the public; the bankmobile and Beverly Hills is up-to-the-minute with one of its own.

The migration of city dwellers to the wide open spaces of suburbia has brought about many changes to downtown facilities, including banks.

The large department stores and specialty shops were first to feel the change. To meet the needs of residents of outlying districts, shopping centers have been mushrooming all over the country. Not to be left behind, city stores opened branches in most fast-growing communities.

While this has proven a boon to millions of shoppers—particularly mothers of young children—it has had a tendency to work a hardship on many parent establishments downtown.

BUSINESS has fallen off at an alarming rate, leaving main stores high and dry in many instances. Conditions have become so acute in some cities that special inducements such as shuttle buses and free parking have been offered to lure customers back.

Banks too, have been faced with some of these problems. For it where there is activity, there are banks. As fast as shopping centers are sprung up in expanding areas, branch banks are quick to follow. Sometimes a whole chain of them will be provided by well-established city institutions such as the National Bank of Detroit.

So great has been the demand for these more accessible branches that many have opened in most "un-bank-like" surroundings such as stores, dwelling houses or mere cubicles—anything large enough to accommodate a teller's cage and a vault safe.

THE REASON for these makeshift quarters? Almost before anyone was aware of it, some suburban spaces proved neither so wide nor so open as had been believed. Naturally, as soon as conditions warrant, these temporary buildings are replaced by permanent structures.

Just outside the city limits of Birmingham, we find one of the first bank-mobiles in the area: a branch of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. doing business in a large trailer parked beside Southfield Road, in Beverly Hills.

Although this one is grounded (most of the wheels have been removed), one was observed traveling through an Indiana country town not long ago.

ONE OF the casualties of this curbside movement of banks is the routing of deposit boxes. Many downtown institutions report that from 25 to 30 per cent of the little steel boxes hiding behind glittering plate glass windows are now empty.

Since these receptacles, holding the world's treasures and trash, rent all the way from \$6 to \$100 per year, the loss in revenue is something to consider.

Speaking of deposit boxes, calls to mind some of the customs which surround them. As you are aware, access to your own box is gained through a long-established ritual—all in the interest of safety and protection.

An attendant leads you to a wing of the vault where boxes are kept, and keeping always within sight,

S'field, Oil Firm Sight Agreement In Court Case

SOUTHFIELD — A settlement was tentatively reached between the Shell Oil Co. and the City of Southfield, City Attorney James C. Allen has reported to the city council.

It provides that if and when right-of-way for widening Lahser and/or 11 Mile Roads is acquired by any public authority, Shell will remove all installations at its own expense from the right-of-way and waive any resultant loss due to such removal.

THE SUIT grew out of the city's refusal to issue Shell a building permit to construct a service station at the corner of 11 Mile and Lahser.

The council denied the application to prevent possible future expense should Shell claim consequential damages resulting from removal of pumps placed in the future right-of-way.

The suit commenced March 23 before Oakland Circuit Court Judge Frederick Ziem.

Birmingham Farms Young People Start Flag-Selling Plan

BIRMINGHAM FARMS — Birmingham Farms Home Owners Association will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Wing Lake School.

A committee of teenagers from the association will report on plans for their flag-selling campaign. The campaign starts at the meeting and will continue until May 27 when the flags will be delivered

by scouts in the area. Chairman of the committee is J. D. Phillips of Cedarbrook Road. He is assisted by his brother, Joel; Sally Stone and Bonnie Hyman. Persons interested in purchasing a flag can contact any of the young people on the committee.

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