TEN CENTS APRIL 26, 1961 SECTION E

'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

Clean-Up Count-Down Serious Stuff, She Says!

By NITA HARD
Wood Creek Correspondent

WOOD CREEK FARMS—Ordinarily, I would say, my editor—Deni Scanlon Difazio—is a "good kid."

Deni is smart, understanding and extraordinarily hep to the hectic nature of Suburbia, especially for a gal who gets the pulse second-hand, through the somewhat muddled and misspelled media of The Birmingham Eccentric corps of correspondents.

NOW MIND YOU this kid has heart. She has suffered over sewers, nursed school bond issues, tranquilized a thousand township teapot tempests.

But, once in a while, you can tell she's strictly from Dreamsville and a small apartment—her ivory tower—to wit, this assignment:

Write a funny story about the Wood Creek Farms Clean-Up, Spruce - Up Campaign — she says!

Funny—my aching back!

NO DOUBT, if you're a potted Petunia-type gardener, a two-week clean - up, spruce - up campaign sounds like jolly fun. Conjures up cheery images of happy armies of residents merrily mulching and chatting over the fence.

But to the more than 500 residents of Wood Creek Farms, the third annual Clean - Up, Spruce - Up Campaign from April 29 to May 6 is serious business—and 14 days of hard work.

FOR THE next two weeks, the square-mile little village will be strangely devoid of social life.

Women will be culling through their homes for discardables. There'll be tense moments of decision. After many years of disuse, can she bear to part with it? He was gonna fix it, but hasn't—maybe tonight he'll have time.

ALONG WITH every household and it's expendable contents, there's a large plot of land. I mean a LARGE plot of land, most of them over an acre in Wood Creek. And as every property owner knows, the bigger the lot, the more places for broken tricycle wheels, rotting lumber, rusting rakes and such to collect throughout the winter months.

Then there are the places around each lot. The vast open fields and ditches zealously host the rubbish of casual visitors, the picnicking families, the nocturnal lovers and the passing workman.

It's all gotta go.

WHO SAYS SO? Well, first the village fathers proclaim the two-week period of the campaign. (This year they made it later, because residents complained they nearly freze trying to make a first of April deadline as in past years.)

Next, the Wood Creek Civic Association assumes the responsibility for getting the program under way, publicizing it, appointing work - survey committees and arranging for trucks to haul the debris to an appointed spot for burning on the last day. Richard Norwall is head of the schedule this year.

THEN, AFTER all is said and done, an inspection committee, complete with zoning inspector and respected members of the council and Civic Association, make a grand tour of the village. And, if all is not ship-shape and according to stringent zoning codes—hire a good lawyer.

STARTED THREE years ago, because members of the planning commission felt there ought to be a unified plan and effort to remove unsightly conditions generally prevalent after the winter months—(a universal condition, I might add)—the idea was snapped up by the council who gave it an official, we-dare-you-not-to ring.

They, in turn, inspired the Civic Association to take an active part, knowing full well the prospect of having a beautiful, big community bonfire with pop and goodies for the kids was all the reward they would need.

OF COURSE, the final punch is the genuine feeling of pride every Wood Creeker has as he surveys his domain at the end of the two weeks—not to mention, what an exhilerating effect this has had on property values in the remarkable little community.

Though there isn't any prize for the best or cleanest yard, there is a social stigma cast upon the slacker. Nothing will isolate a family from the genial circle faster than failure to get into the spirit of the campaign. There is a violation charge, if the case is extreme.

WATSON KINNEY, planning commission chairman who sparked the idea three years ago, states that Farmington Township and adjacent communities and subdivisions have adopted the plan too.

Chairman of the first campaign, he remembers that the initial year brought forth an unusual number of surprises.

The burning that climaxes each campaign claimed community fish - fry posters from a decade ago and made ashes of an outhouse that was the conversation piece of a hill-billy party.

DESPITE HIS wife's protests he insists there were several corsets along with a small mountain of old shoes to feed the flames.

The youngsters had a field day sorting pop and beer bottles out of trash piles. They collected more than six cases and cashed them in, donating the money to a worthy cause.

THE FINAL DAY of the campaign is always gaily climaxed by a great bonfire made up of prunings, old lumber and other combustible trash. Some 40 or 50 residents stand around to watch the blaze while the children have refreshments.

All the non - burnables are hauled out in containers and placed at driveway ends for the monthly first-Saturday pick-up hired by the village.

I GUESS THE "funny" thing about the Wood Creek Farms annual Clean - Up, Spruce - Up Campaign is that residents actually look forward to this grueling two-week period.

They're tickled silly when they look out over their broad, tidy vistas and laugh at the communities around them who tolerate unkempt conditions.

Come to think of it, more suburban areas ought to follow their example.

'Law Man Dillon' Likes His Role

By DENI SCANLON
Township Editor

DILLON

"Howdy, Mister Dillon" has become a popular greeting at council and township meetings in Oakland County.

The man on the receiving end of the hellos is Thomas J. Dillon Jr., attorney for Bloomfield Township, Southfield Township, Beverly Hills and Keego Harbor.

The clean - cut, dark - haired fellow, who divides his time at law amid these communities, usually sits quietly smoking a cigarette while officials of the municipalities conduct their meetings.

"WHAT DO YOU think, Tom?" and "Will you check this out for us?" are the two most popular requests — ones that keep him busy for the rest of the week.

A partner in the firm of Bond and Dillon, Pontiac, the ex-Marine finds his work in the field of government "the most rewarding service a man can perform."

HIS INTEREST in both law and government began during his high school days in Cadillac.

"I don't know why I took to political science," Dillon explained, "but I feel fortunate that I did settle on the kind of work that keeps me busy—and very happy."

Following his graduation from the Detroit College of Law, Dillon went to Pontiac to serve as a clerk for Probate Judge Arthur E. Moore. A short time later he "went upstairs" to serve Circuit Court Judge Frank L. Doty. Then he joined the Pontiac law firm and began his work with area municipalities.

IN DISCUSSING his association with the four Oakland County communities, Dillon was emphatic in his praise for the officials.

"Most of the government men in this area are of the highest caliber," he said. "They take a lot and do a lot for what they get in return."

"These officials are making a sincere attempt to solve some pretty big problems," he continued. "It's a shame that they have to take abuse from an overly vocal minority."

DILLON FEELS that a big part of the trouble in maintaining good government locally stems from restrictive limitations on townships and "a very old state constitution."

"What was good for a rural community in 1846 is not necessarily good for the urban community of 1961," he pointed out.

"People add to the problem for government officials too," Dillon added. "They want lower taxes and more services. That's a big request."

THE 36-YEAR-OLD attorney didn't spend all his time with law books.

During his youth, he earped his living and savings for school with an assortment of jobs.

At one time he vulcanized tires for the man who is now mayor of Cadillac. Walter T. Kelly, then an auto dealer, will get to see Dillon again when Beverly Hills and Cadillac exchange mayors for a day in May.

Dillon spent time as a driller in the oil fields in Michigan and Texas. He was also a sergeant in the Michigan National Guard after he returned from Marine duty in the South Pacific.

DEER HUNTING, puttering around the yard of his home at 2067 Devonshire Road, Bloomfield Township, and studying Civil War history, are his favorite ventures aside from law.

Dillon also enjoys his "half-complete stamp collection."

Chances are, at the Dillon household, there are also scads of papers written by a couple of dozen third-graders.

They aren't his responsibility, however. The youngsters are charges of his attractive wife, Doris, who teaches at Adams Elementary School in Birmingham.

"We spend many an evening advising one another on our paperwork," Dillon jokingly interjected.

HE FINDS TIME, too, to participate in the Lions Club and the Oakland, Michigan and American Bar Association. Dillon is secretary of the Oakland group.

Regardless of the time that his work entails, it's obvious that this Mister Dillon thrives on the life of a "law man."

2 Local Townships Among County's Top Areas for Building

Southfield and Bloomfield Townships were among the top 10 communities in Oakland County with the greatest number of dwelling permits issued during the first quarter of 1961.

Southfield Township ranked eighth with 83 permits and Bloomfield ninth with 76.

BLOOMFIELD Township ranked tenth for 1960. Southfield was not in the top bracket last year during this quarter.

Overall, Oakland County experienced a 4.3 per cent decrease in permits issued. The metropolitan area also indicates a housing lag with a decrease of 34.5 per cent.

W. Bloomfield Gets Fire, Police, Building Reports

WEST BLOOMFIELD — Yearly reports from the police, fire and building departments were submitted to West Bloomfield's Township Board at its meeting last week.

Loss by fire in the township from March 1, 1960 to March 1, 1961, totaled $67,540. Of this amount, $26,650 was loss on dwellings; $21,000 was house contents.

There were 257 runs made by the township fire department. Private fire departments made 32 runs.

THE POLICE department reported a total of 73,874 miles driven patroling township roads during the year. There were 293 tickets written, resulting in fines of $1,464 and costs of $1,820.

Speeding was the major traffic violation with 76 tickets issued. There were 15 breaking and entering cases in the township.

SOME 150 new homes were erected in the township at a valuation of $3,131,200. Four commercial buildings were erected at a $101,500 valuation.

Additions to present homes amounted to $281,307 and seven swimming pools amounted to $21,000.

Victim's Mother Sues Taylors for $25,000

BEVERLY HILLS — Attorneys for the mother of a victim of phantom sniper Garry Addison Taylor filed a $25,000 damage suit against his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milo A. Taylor on April 19 in Federal District Court. The Taylors live at 16192 Marguerite.

The suit alleges negligence on the part of the Taylors in not taking precautions to prevent their son getting access to weapons. It was brought by Mrs. Dorothy Lee Estes, formerly of Royal Oak, whose daughter Cindy was wounded by Taylor on Dec. 21, 1956.

The shooting was the first of a series of sniping attacks on women in South Oakland County. Cindy, now 18, was one of two injured, among the 10 who were fired upon. The Estes now live in Arizona.

Mrs. Estes' attorney, Terrance Lynch of a Detroit law firm, alleges the Taylors had prior knowledge of Gary's problem and should have either committed him to an institution or disciplined him themselves.

The suit also cites that Cindy was hospitalized for two weeks after the attack and underwent regular treatment for a year. It also alleges that she still suffers occasional pain and has a six-inch scar on her back.

Lynch said Mrs. Estes was angry because the Taylors had declined to help pay medical bills for Cindy. He said the suit had been considered for some time and that Taylor's April 10 arrest in Detroit prompted the final decision to file the suit.

Taylor admitted a knife-point attack on two women during a robbery atetmpt, following his recent arrest.

Widow Suffocates In Fire

BEVERLY HILLS — A fire, apparently caused by a cigaret that set a chair on fire, caused the death Saturday of a 73-year-old widow, Mrs. Catherine Dunn.

Firemen said she apparently fell asleep in the chair while watching television.

MRS DUNN DIED of smoke inhalation in a room at the rear of her home, 31079 E. Rutland. Her daughter, Mrs. Joseph Varga, 40, sleeping in an upstairs bedroom, smelled smoke when she awakened. She rushed from the house, screaming, and neighbors called the Beverly Hills fire and police departments.

The fatality is the first in a fire since the incorporation of the village three years ago.

Mrs. Dunn is survived by her daughter, Mrs. Varga, another daughter, Mrs. Stephen Onderko of New York; two grandchildren; and two sisters, Mrs. Glenn Swigart of Franklin and Mrs. Irene Clotfeter.

THE ROSARY WAS recited Tuesday evening. Prayers will be said this morning at 9 at Vasu Funeral Home with services at 9:30 from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs. Burial will be in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

New Demery's Birmingham Store Opens Thursday 1-A

Policemen Take Course In Detection 7-B

Civil War Series Begins 8-B

Baldwin Student Chosen for 25th Safety Rally 8-D

Bloodmobile Coming

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be stationed at the Franklin Community Church Friday, from 1:30 until 7:30 p.m. to give persons in the area a chance to donate.

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Start Sewer Work in Beverly Hills

BEVERLY HILLS — A sanitary sewer system to serve the western half of the village was started last week when Council President Marvin Cline turned the first shovel of dirt. Council President Pro Tem Leo Linsenmeyer (left) and Councilman Edward M. (Ted) Shurtleff were also present for the big occasion. Construction of project began at Coryell and Embassy Drive. According to Johnson and Anderson, village engineers, the work should be completed in February, 1962.

W. Bloomfield Toddler Drowns in Union Lake

WEST BLOOMFIELD — The body of a 22-months-old boy was recovered from Union Lake at 7 p.m. Thursday by a neighbor. The child, Christopher J. Drost, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Drost, 7396 Hardisty Road, had been left to play at the water's edge with his two little sisters.

Mrs. Carl Anderson, 7404 Hardisty Road, who pulled the boy from the water attempted mouth-to-mouth breathing without success. The child was dead on arrival at Pontiac General Hospital.

THE BOY'S FATHER said he left the boy playing in the sand with his sisters, Bonnie, 4, and Cindy, 3. When he returned the boy was missing. His sisters said he had gone up the hill from the lake towards his home.

While Drost and his neighbors were searching, the body was discovered floating face down about 200 feet from where he had been at play.

Southfield Residents Participate in Event

SOUTHFIELD—The final concert of the year by the South Oakland Symphony Tuesday evening featured paintings selected by Ilona Altshuler of Southfield and a musican selection, composed by her father in collaboration with another composer.

Miss Altshuler, who operates a gallery, L'Atelir of Art in Detroit, chose the painting of eight Michigan artists for exhibit in the lobby of Oak Park High School.

The pointing included work by Paul Kemp, recent Cranbrook Academy of Arts graduate. President of the Symphony Society which sponsors the concerts is Mrs. Palmer E. Sutton of Birmingham.

Helping to Build Goodwill

LATHRUP — Girl Scouts from Lathrup are getting a head start in a clothing drive for Goodwill Industries. Thirty Scout and Brownie troops in the South Oakland County Council will participate in the drive which begins in May. Discussing their role are from left) Linda Garrison, 19135 Saratoga; Mary Little, 18764 Dolores; Mrs. A. G. Wilson, 18835 San Jose; Jane Kassin, 18520 Dolores, and Becky Morris, 18610 San Diego. Mrs. Wilson is the leader of troop 475.

Rob B'ham Man At Knife-Point In Southfield

SOUTHFIELD—A Birmingham man was robbed of $20 last week by a man who jumped into his car, through the right front door, at the corner of Southfield and Northwestern Highway.

The robver took the money from the trousers pocket of Bernard Grant Rich, 6117 Lantern, while holding a knife against his victim's head.

Rich said the man missed $70 that he was carrying in another pocket. The robber ransacked the contents of the glove compartment and grabbed Rich's wristwatch which he dropped, however, as he fled the car.

AFTER THE robbery, Rich drove to the police station to report the hold-up.

He described the robber as a light-skinned Negro male, about 25 years of age. He said the man was good-looking; of stocky build; about five foot, seven inches tall; and weighed approximately 165 pounds.

The robber wore dark trousers, a black leather jacket and a green beret-type hat.

Judge Will Speak At Woman's Club

LATHRUP — The Lathrup Woman's Club will meet Monday in the House - in - the - Woods. Judge James Renfrew, Huntington Woods, will discuss "You and Your Judiciary."

Mrs. Guido Antonelli will be hostess for the tea following the meeting, with Mrs. Howard Humphrey and Mrs. Oliver Carson pouring.

Also serving on the committee are Mrs. Ellsworth Breen, Mrs. Emil Mehal, Mrs. Walter Aurand and Mrs. Melvin Humphrey.

Highway Department To Auction Property

Fourteen parcels of State Highway Department surplus property in Oakland and Macomb counties valued at $24,050 will be offered at public auction in Pontiac May 18.

The sale will be held at the Oakland County Courthouse, 1 Lafayette St., starting at 2 p.m.

Thirteen of the parcels are in Oakland County; one is in Macomb.

The highest priced property offered at the sale is a $19,500 lot at the southwest corner of M-24 and M-218 (Orchard Lake Rd.), southwest of Pontiac. It is almost one acre in size and is zone commercial.

OTHER OAKLAND County parcels and their lowest acceptable prices are:

A vacant lot in Pontiac at the southwest corner of Atkinson Ave., M-58 and M-218, $175.

A vacant lot in Pontiac at the northwest corner of M-58 and closed Garland St., $200.

A VACANT LOT on M-58 between Dorchester Ave. and Edison Ave. in Bloomfield Township, $250.

A lot at the southwest corner of M-58 and Wagner Ave. in Bloomfield Township, $200.

A lot at the southeast corner of Dorchester Ave. and M-58 in Bloomfield Township, $125.

A LOT WEST of the M-58 and Maward Ave. intersection in Bloomfield Township, $75.

A lot on M-58 between Desiax and Edison Avenues in Bloomfield Township, $500.

A lot at the southeast corner of M-58 and Leinback Ave. in Bloomfield Township, $250.

A lot at the southwest corner of Leinback Ave. and M-58, in Bloomfield Township, $100.

A ONE-ACRE landlocked lot west of and adjacent to the Michigan Central railroad about 350 feet south of Lake Orion, $225.

A landlocked lot in Pontiac at the northeast corner of the M-58 and M-218 overpass, $500.

A landlocked lot on M-58 about 300 feet southeast of Orchard Lake Rd. in Bloomfield Township, $60.

Six Persons Hurt In S'field Crash

SOUTHFIELD — Six persons were injured Monday in a two-car accident in Southfield.

Robert L. Jacobites, 38, of Highland Park and five children suffered minor injuries when the car in which they were riding collided with another driven by Frances Bressler, 26, of 28705 Stuart, Southfield. She also sustained minor injuries.

THE ACCIDENT occurred at Lexington Parkway and 11 Mile Road. According to police, the Bressler woman stated she stopped at the intersection, started to proceed but because of fogged windows did not see the approaching car in time.

New West B'field Library Forced To Curtail Hours

WEST BLOOMFIELD — Because of a lack of funds, West Bloomfield Township's library announced last week that it will be forced to curtail hours of service.

Beginning Monday, the hours will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays; 3 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays. The library will be closed on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The decision to curtail the library hours was made by the West Bloomfield Township Library Board of Directors.