

'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

Area Exploration Reveals Archeological Finds

By IRMA DAVIS Staff Writer LATHRUP — Carl Wolgast knows how to get a head in this world. To prove it, his 13-year-old son, Kenneth, unearthed a cardboard carton from below a display case in the basement of the Wolgast home, and tenderly removed "Herman"...

nic pottery and jewelry to weapons and tools used by Indians in this area. He has dug and explored from Cass City to a point near Monroe and the Ohio line and has ventured as far north as Lansing. Upon occasion he has ventured even further afield. Indian burial grounds have yielded their finds to him in areas as local as the driveway of Birmingham Country Club or sites near a present Holy Sepulchre or Acacia Park, Cemeteries in Southfield. Like the Egyptians, the Indians buried a variety of articles with their dead.

SITTING TAILOR-FASHION on a ping pong table in the basement of the Wolgast home, he said he had had no formal training in the field of archeology. From the time he was a little boy he has learned by observation, exploration and research. He books in the field, records in county offices and old papers have helped him pin-point possible diggings. Through his collection of about 400 old reference books, he has added to this knowledge. Voracious reading on the subject of archeology has since then, his collection ranges from dog-

snicky technique practiced by the serious professional. "IF YOU KNOW WHERE to look and what to look for, there is material all around this area," he said. Generally he researches to find the sites of old Indian towns, usually located near water. Burial mounds, Wolgast noted, are almost always situated in back of the villages. Occasionally his finds are a "pleasant" surprise. He recalled waiting for a bus on Fort Street in Cass in Detroit when he was 15 years old. Workmen were digging to install a traffic signal pole and using a pipe-like tool from which they ejected the soil. As Wolgast idly watched them "squirrel the dirt out," a skull popped from the pipe into the street. Naturally he took it home. It was not too long before he learned that it had come from an Indian cemetery near old Fort Detroit.

EXTREME CARE in digging is necessary to avoid ruining the artifacts and also to prevent cave-ins though he generally "has sense enough to get out of the way when I see sand shifting down." His adventures over the years have ranged from assisting the po-

lice—to receiving pleas from them to "please finish up quickly. People are stopping traffic to come over and see what you are doing." Last spring he helped the Southfield police "solve a murder" when a consumer's Power Co. workman unearthed portions of three or four skeletons—including the skulls—near Berg Road on Fairway Drive. The "victims" were Chippewa Indians, buried some 250 to 300 years ago.

BURIALS ALSO include the "accidental." Wolgast noted, indicating a huge object on the wall. It resembled a large tree root until Wolgast pointed out its anatomical features. The object was the vertebrae of a woolly mammoth found in a gravel pit in Cadillac in 1894. The animal was probably caught in a glacial drive — drowned in earth, you might say — the archeologist said.

Wolgast once found the skeleton of a Revolutionary War soldier interred over an Indian burial ground. He explained that it was not unusual to find a white burial over an Indian one. "The early settlers would sneak out at night and bury their dead in an Indian cemetery to prevent the desecration of the grave."

WOLGAST, who is a purchase finish expeditor for the Ford Motor Co., Lincoln Mercury Division, has worked for the company for 27 years. Most of his collecting and digging was done "on weekends when I was between 16 and 25 years old." He whimsically refers to his avocation as a "singular occupation" because he prefers to work alone. In the last two years, he has taken son Kenneth along on many trips and plans to leave the boy's collection because he is "so intensely interested in it."

He belongs to no professional organizations because he likes to work at his own speed and in his own time. Burial mounds in the Orchard Lake area are of special interest as "Chief Pontiac had some 100,000 at his beck and call in villages thereabouts."

IT WAS WHILE working in this vicinity that he lost one of his choicest discoveries to a thief. Wolgast said he had found the skeleton of a little Indian girl clothed in a coat made of matted hair. The inside of the coat was made of a hand-woven material. Sewed to the outside was an intricate pattern of copper rings, "like chain mail." Wolgast said he laid it in the

sun to dry and came back a few minutes later to see a man running off with it. "I ran like everything after him but couldn't catch him. I've never seen or heard of anything like that coat around here and I've done a lot of research on it," he commented.

The Wolgast children, David, 17, Kathy (Mrs. Don Wilkinson), and of course, Kenneth, are intensely interested in their father's hobby. KATHY OPENED a cabinet and removed a tray of Indian jewelry. Arrowsheads intricately carved from various stones, including ruby, amethyst and amber, were arranged in a circular design.

Her father picked up a box full of Indian beadwork and held up a long white necklace as he described the method the Indians used to make each bead. A fiber string was dipped in water and sand and rotated between the palms of the hands to make the hole, he said. The beads are usually made of pottery. Kenneth then invited this reporter to dip her hand into a squat pottery cooking pot and remove a string of beads. A fiber string was dipped in water and sand and rotated between the palms of the hands to make the hole, he said. The beads are usually made of pottery.

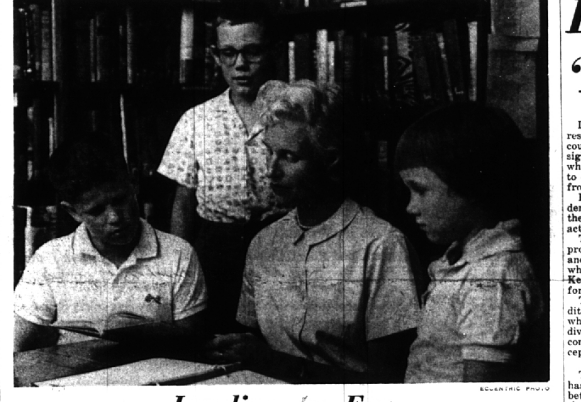


Carl Wolgast stands in front of part of his collection of Indian artifacts. A colorful accent to this section of the archeological display is the huge Alaskan totem pole above the display shelves.

Well—What About It For Recreation Use? B'field Residents Ask

By SAVILLA SLOAN Special Writer BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — You live in a relatively developed section of Bloomfield Township. The only vacant property nearby is a nicely maintained lot on which the well providing water for your subdivision is located. Wouldn't it make a nice recreation area for neighborhood children?

HICKORY HEIGHTS resident Harry Walsh, who appeared before the board seeking use of the Hickory Heights well site as a winter-time skating rink, answered their objections in relation to the Hickory Heights proposition. "We would obtain 100 per cent approval of all adjoining property owners," he assured the board. (See RESIDENTS, 4-D)



Lending an Ear

300 Uninvited Teenagers Try To Crash Party

BEVERLY HILLS—Police from Southfield and Beverly Hills dispersed a crowd of nearly 300 teenagers Friday night who tried to crash a neighborhood party at the home of John T. Kroll, 21800 Hamstead. The Kroll's son, Timothy, 16, was entertaining a small group of teenage friends. At about 11 p.m., the "crashers" arrived. Police sent the crowd on their way in about 25 minutes, according to Lt. William Reed.

Franklin to Seek Bids for Work On New Offices

FRANKLIN—Councilmen Monday night instructed one of the village officials to proceed with specifications and ask for bids on the remodeling of the new Franklin office. The remodeling of the future Franklin office has been lagging due to the illness of Councilman Edward Green who is spearheading the project.

FRANKLIN—Mrs. E. Peter Garwood, 25862 Hersheyvale, Franklin, is on the old John Dooder, 26875 Willowgreen, and Brian Ramsey, 31425 Raffin, take part in the program along with Brian's seven-year-old sister Betsy.

condense and modify existing road construction codes. The Street Commissioner Norman Naimark reported to the council that eight-mile road program work in the vicinity of Franklin and Telegraph between the River and 14 Mile Road has been completed and the area near Scenic is now being done. The road crew will move from Scenic in a westerly direction.

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Lathrup Group Protests 'Dump', Ditch Condition

LATHRUP—An irate group of residents appeared at Monday's council meeting to protest the "unsightliness and health hazard" of what they termed a "dump" and to complain about odors emanating from the Evans ditch.

In a petition, signed by 50 residents of the Roseland-Sunset area, the property owners asked for action to solve the two problems. The "dump" referred to is the property located between Roseland and 12 Mile Road, east of Sunset which Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Kelley have allowed the city to use for storage of DPW equipment.

members believe this would mean help control mosquitoes and insects. South pumps for some new homes. He will also investigate methods of rodent control. On the storage area, Stone was directed to investigate the cost of fencing to provide screening. He said the city had carted away truckload of debris recently. Residents in the area claimed that garbage and rubbish are being dumped there by unknown persons. The city administrator said he would be checked to see that it is being properly used. Mrs. Gordie Howe, acting as unofficial spokesman for the protesting residents, said "the point is (See PROTEST, 4-D)

W. B'field Library Board Tables Budget Issue

WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Adoption of a curtailed library budget, based on \$2,000 a month furnished from West Bloomfield Township's general operating fund, was deferred by the township's library board at its meeting last week.

Several other operational policies, including an increase in non-resident user fee, were adopted by the board. The budget issue is expected to be on the agenda of the library board's September meeting, after a study has been made of what percentage of the township's total income the library is receiving.

S'field Rotary Club To Entertain Crippled Children

SOUTHFIELD—The Southfield Rotary Club's seventh annual Crippled Children's Day Outing will be held Tuesday at Northland Center. Children from the Wayne County Easter Seal Camp and children from the Oakland County Crippled Children's Society will be treated to a day at Northland's Kiddieland. More than 60 crippled children in all will attend the annual affair which will get underway at 10 a.m. and will continue until about 2 p.m.

Elsewhere in the Eccentric

- Safety Conference
Attends Top State Officials
Student Tells More About Life in India
Cranbrook Country Club Setting for Luau
New Look In Prep Sports Picture
Back to School Special Section In This Issue

Hills School Census Reveals Amount, Location of Growth

An interesting statistical view of the Bloomfield Hills School District evolved recently following the completion of annual school census. Under the organization and supervision of Mrs. Jean Martz, member of the Hills Board of Education, and Irving Menuel, assistant superintendent, 21 persons assisted in canvassing the area.

Bloomfield Hills in Past Six or Seven Years

BLOOMFIELD HILLS in the past six or seven years has noted an increase of about 400 students each year. The most explosive population growth noted by the officials in the 1961 census is in the vicinity west of Telegraph Road and south of Maple.

Recent Census Shows that 6,720 Children between the ages of five and 19 live in the district.

Some in the 17 to 19 age bracket, however, have graduated from high school and are attending college. (See CENSUS, 4-D)

Hills School Census Reveals Amount, Location of Growth

Table with 7 columns: Zone, Yrs. (1-19), Total, No. Families, No. Children. Rows include zones 1 through 20 and street names like TELEGRAPH, SQUIRREL, ADAMS, HICKORY GROVE, WOODWARD, MAPLE, FRANKLIN, 14 MILE, TELEGRAPH.