

'round the towns news The Birmingham Eccentric

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MICHIGAN

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To Make a Long Story Short — This Is About a Tree Spree

By GLORIA JESSUP Special Writer

Hail the good old days—especially the custom of Santa bringing the Christmas tree.

AFTER CHURCH on a recent cold Sunday, our family piles into the car, even Grandma.

none of these pre-cut Scotch pines for this family. We've got a do-it-ourselves project going!

WE ARRIVE with saw in hand and everybody tumbles out of the car—except Grandma.

Off we go into the wild wonder-land of ten thousand trees and find the one waiting for us.

NOW THIS kind of an excursion is like a mirage. Each child runs in a different direction, falling, of course, into the many holes left by those who dug out their trees.

"OKAY, KIDS. Mom and Dad had your Take over!"

It's like the little boy who took his finger out of the dike. Each child runs in a different direction, falling, of course, into the many holes left by those who dug out their trees.

"Here's a good one." Definitely—if you happen to have a 20-foot ceiling.

"HERE'S A good one, Dad. What do you think?" "Well, I guess it might trim

up even though it's a little bare over here. Let's cut it. Grandma must be getting cold."

"HEY DAD, HERE IS A BEAUTY—I think."

Now, there you are, a mile from the car. The kids have fallen down so many times they're covered with mud. Your nose and fingers are frozen. Gram must be frozen.

BUT YOUR son has found ONE more tree to look at.

Well, Christmas is for the kids so over the top, through the maze to little Sir Echo. There it is. Yes, sir, a close look says it's perfect. This is THE TREE for us and probably the only one in ten thousand growing in a hole.

Good Ole Dad says he'll get it out and he does. Now all we have to do is get it back to the car.

AS WE APPROACH the road, we see a tractor pulling a hay wagon. The driver says he'll be back in a few minutes to give all of us and our magnificent tree a ride.

After waiting what seems an eternity, we decide to "Go It By Ourselves." So up goes the tree and tramp, tramp, tramp back to the car with three mud and snow-covered cherubs trailing behind.

WELL, WE MAKE IT! The tree is at home in that perfect spot, adorned with ornaments and tinsel. The snowflakes have been washed and the boots are clean. Mom and Dad's backs are normal again. Even Grandma has thawed.

Are we ready to do it again next year? You bet! The heck with the good old days. Santa has lost his job!

Prayer Policy Draws Protest At Hills B of E

By SAVILLA SLOAN Special Writer

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—A temporary policy prohibiting teachers from giving prayers in classrooms was vigorously opposed Tuesday by a group of residents.

The policy was adopted three weeks ago by the Bloomfield Hills Board of Education.

SOME 50 patrons of the school district attended a meeting of the board Tuesday. It was the first meeting since the restricting order was issued.

BOARD MEMBERS had prepared a proposed statement of policy which would have made the exclusion of prayers and other observances a permanent policy until the next scheduled meeting, Jan. 15.

The temporary policy is still in effect over protest of those who attended.

"We thought that by eliminating prayers in the schools, we were avoiding a controversy," Lee says. "We have not," School Board President Dave Lee told the assembled audience.

The statement which the board prepared was read to the audience by Lee.

It said in part, "Participation in any religious observance, such as singing Christmas carols, will not be compulsory for any student or employee. Teachers and other employees, when preparing for these observances and when conducting them, will avoid the use of expressions or symbols that would be offensive to anyone present."

"If they so desire, teachers may provide an opportunity for a moment of silent prayer in classes or at meals, but in order to avoid sectarian practices that might be offensive to some members of the community, teachers will avoid delivering prayers or leading their students in prayer."

ASKED BY the audience when they had drawn up the statement, Lee told them that the statement, taken up the matter at a special meeting the week before.

Board members had voted unanimously to prepare the statement (See POLICY, 7-E)

Our Offices Will Be Closed Monday, Dec. 25; Please Get Your Ad, News Copy In Early Friday



Annual Holiday Deal

BEVERLY HILLS—It's a good bet this quartet will enter many a full house tonight between 6 and 9 p.m. Four of Santa's helpers relax in a popular card game until tonight when they will visit the homes in the Beverly Artesian area to talk with kiddies and deliver candy canes and rattles.

Area Residents Receive End-of-Year Tax Bills

Tax bills have been mailed to residents of eight local communities with a deadline for payment set at Jan. 19, except in Bloomfield and West Bloomfield Townships.

LATHRUP, with a citywide total assessment of \$8,559,635 has a tax rate of \$11.42 per \$1,000 of assessed value for county and \$40.52 for Southfield schools.

IN SOUTHFIELD City, county taxes will cost taxpayers \$9.29 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation plus \$2.45 to all city residents for the Eight-Mile Storm Drain.

LINSENMAYER, 31, will not be replaced by an appointment. His position will remain vacant until the village election in March. His resignation is effective Feb. 1.

HE COMPLIMENTED the councilmen Monday on their work for the village and expressed regrets in leaving the area.

B'feld Fire Truck Skids, Hits Tree

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—A Bloomfield Township Fire Department tanker truck was damaged Saturday when it skidded on a patch of ice and hit a tree.

Comment Getsinger

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Trustee Gordon T. Getsinger received recognition last week for his work on the township board.

Legal Snag Nullifies Beverly Water Plan; Re-Hearings Stated

BEVERLY HILLS—The water extension program in the village was nullified Monday by a court decision after discovering that four property owners in the South Berkshire area were not notified of the necessary hearings.

BEHAVING the project steps anew, Beverly Hills will hold another set of hearings—the first, the necessity of which will be at 8 p.m. Jan. 2 in the village offices, 18500 W. 13 Mile Road.

WHEN THE necessity hearing convenes, the four property owners who have received notification of a second difference will be the exclusion of the Norwood-Sunnylope loop in the system.

RESIDENTS in the Kenneway Circle area also objected to being in the plan and were not included in the project as it was formulated at the Dec. 4 meeting.

MEADOWLAKE—In what school board officials consider an innovation in this area, a group of parents were given the opportunity Monday night to learn what goes into the planning of a new school.

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SPEAKING FOR the Birmingham School District were William Corliss, director of elementary curriculum; Norman Wolf, assistant superintendent in charge of buildings and grounds; and Albert Schumm, principal of Walnut Lake School, where the meeting was held.

LATHRUP—Drafting of an ordinance to control solicitations in the city and the first reading of a liquor control ordinance took up council attention Monday evening.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR Jerald Stone will provide Hayes with copies of representative ordinances from other area municipalities.

THE PROPOSED ordinance is aimed at the control of purchase (See LAWS, 2-E)



Christmas Cherub

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Little boys who get into big sister's property usually don an angelic look, no matter what the season. However, Bobby Wood, age two plus, managed to make merry mischief at one and the same time when he "borrowed" the angel costume belonging to his 10-year-old sister, Susan.

BEVERLY HILLS—Three requests for rezoning were sent to village planners Monday night.

Lathrup Still Objects To 5-Lane S'field Rd.

LATHRUP—General disagreement with the Oakland County Road Commission's recommendation that Southfield Road be widened to five lanes, each 12 feet wide, with no median strip was expressed Monday by council members.

LATHRUP has proposed four lanes, each 12 feet wide, with a median strip, a suggestion which the road commission does not consider practical.

THE WIDENING project was proposed by the county in early October, part of a road network plan involving area communities.

ONE OF THE problems bothering council is the safety of pedestrians crossing Southfield at Lathrup School.

THE TWO CREDITS would come close to covering Lathrup's 25 per cent of the cost of widening Southfield, Cogger noted.

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ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

Handmade Clowns Add Bright Color To Santa's Pack 1-A

B'ham Area Churches Plan Christmas Services 4-B

Midvale Brownies Entertain Ladies At Villa Franciska 1-C

First Graders Try Geometry At St. Hugo of Hills 2-D

Crane Cagers Win First After 4 Losses 8-E