



Three Maids A'Dancing'

An appreciative audience, including visitors from Russia, Japan and Africa, enjoy a graceful dance as performed by these fifth grade mothers of the Dance Theater group at City and Country School of Bloomfield Hills. An "around the world" theme

was chosen by the group who presented the musical program for the education and education of children from the nursery school, kindergarten and first through fourth grades.

This & That

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2) He represents his township on the county board of supervisors, the governing body for the county.

THE SUPERVISOR, then, is really an officer in two units of government, the township and county. He is usually considered to be the head of the township, but his word is not binding upon the members of the township unless the rest of the township board agrees.

Since the members of the Township Board are elected individually, the supervisor has no power over them. As a township officer, he is merely "one among equals."

If the other township officers do not agree with his policies, he is powerless to carry them out. The supervisor is chairman of the judicial board. He has the power to vote, but generally does not use it unless there is a tie.

THE CLERK keeps the records of the township. He, or she, is responsible for registering voters and keeping registration books. The clerk is also secretary of the township board.

THE TREASURER has the duty of collecting taxes and accounting for townships funds.

Prior to 1952, the trustees were actually elected as justices of the peace. Four justices were elected in each township. But very few of them maintained courts, and only two were active as trustees. Often they were elected solely to be members of the township board.

In 1952, the State Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional for justices of the Peace to be members of the Township Board, a legislative body. This, they ruled, was contrary to the rule that the judicial, Legislative and Executive branches of government be separate, which is the basic principle of government.

For a while after this decision, township boards consisted only of the supervisor, clerk and treasurer. The Legislature passed a new law providing for election of two to four trustees based on population. Bloomfield Township now elects four trustees to its board.

TWO OTHER TYPES of officers are elected in townships. The constables act as court officers, a justice of peace. In some cases the county sheriff may use the constables to assist him.

The Board of Review consists of two property owners and the township supervisor. It reviews property assessments made by the supervisor and changes or assigns the amount which it judges to be unfair, and may add property which has been omitted from the tax rolls. When Michigan's population level on farms, the townships were important units of government. If anything was done at all, the townships did it. They built roads, looked out for the health needs and provided relief for the poor. Gradually their activities have been taken over by the county and/or state.

Today, townships exist mainly for two functions: elections, and assessment and collection of taxes.

OF COURSE, some townships do more than this. Some maintain fire and police departments. A few have building inspectors, and operate water and sewage systems (which is true in the case of Bloomfield Township).

Now, with this general background in mind, let us consider our township, its board and composition.

Your Supervisor, Arno L. Hulet, Clerk, Deloris V. Little, Treasurer, Homer Case, and four Trustees—Robert A. Heid, George T. Getzinger, Henry M. Hogan, Jr. and Samuel J. Reeve, comprise your township board.

Our township has two other officers that are elected for a four-year term and serve on the Board of Review. Members of the board are Howard T. Keating, Jr. and Stephen Tompkins. They, along with your Supervisor, are the board of review.

The only function this board serves is to review assessments. It meets once a year on the first Monday after the first Tuesday in March and remains in session until all assessments are reviewed and all complaints are duly heard and considered.

The board gives final approval to the assessment rolls and constitutes the only body with power to change assessment rolls at township level.

SEVERAL OTHER township offices are filled by appointment by your supervisor with the consent of the seven-man board. These offices are:

- 1) Building Inspector—Karl E. Rhodes, Sr.
- 2) Fire Chief—Valentine Yanuszski.
- 3) Police Chief—Norman Dehnke.
- 4) Assessor—William E. Malone.

Our township elections are held in the odd year. Our next election is April, 1961. The primary election is held the third Monday in February and the final election the first Monday in April.

IN ORDER to qualify for any one of the elective offices and have a candidate's name appear on the primary ballot, he must file duly signed petitions with the township clerk on or before the seventh Monday preceding the primary election.

These petitions must have signatures of not less than one per cent, and must be signed by 25 per cent of the previous election registrations. Registrations for 1960 were approximately 12,000.

Let us briefly run through the various departments and duties performed in your township: **Platting:** Most of the original farm lands have been platted into subdivisions. There are presently 248 subdivisions on record in this office.

All plats that have been put on since 1955 must include the black-topping of all streets with gutter-ditching and drainage. When possible, new subdivisions are constructed with a rapidly expanding system of sewers, and, when possible, the subdivider is required to install a sanitary water system which is then turned over and operated by the township.

Roads: All roads are under the jurisdiction of the County Road Commission. In an effort to provide better roads, the township residents voted one-half mill to supplement the normal road funds available which are derived from the gas tax and weight tax. (This is the gas tax and auto license plate fee).

In spite of these efforts, some roads leave something to be desired. Many subdivisions have petitioned their residents to black-top existing gravel roads. The township will gladly prepare these petitions for interested areas.

Sewers: We began working on sewers in Bloomfield Township in 1961 through the authority of the North Evergreen which was dissolved when the County Department of Public Works took over in 1958. We now have some 2,500 homes with sewers, and many more in the planning stage.

Water: In 1960, the Township formed a water authority by uniting the existing water systems in Bloomfield Village subdivision and Westchester Village. This combined district was bonded for \$296,000. Since then, many new water systems have been added, until

today we have approximately 2,600 homes being served by community water. The prospect of having water from Detroit or from a source north of Port Huron is under study.

Projects as large as this require much planning and cooperation, and progress at times seems slow. We will attempt to keep our residents informed through the local papers.

Assessment and Taxes: With approximately 15,900 separate descriptions on our rolls, it becomes quite a task to levy assessments so that there is equity. In 1966 and 1967, all properties were reassessed, using the State Tax Commission assessor's Manual as a base.

We use the square foot area of the home as our basis for measuring value. Persons who feel their assessment is unfair can appeal to the board of review which meets each year in March to review assessments. This year the board will meet on March 13, 14 and 17. If, after the board studies your assessment, you feel there is still inequity, you may ask the State Tax Commission to review your assessment and give a final decision.

Fire Protection: The township is presently served by three fire stations which are manned at all times. Station #1 is located at the Township Hall; #2 is on Westview Road just west of Adams Road; and #3 is on West Maple, one block west of Telegraph Road.

A fourth site has been purchased, and this new station should be in operation within one year. This will be located on Franklin Road, one block north of Square Lake Road.

We have at present 16 full-time firemen and 36 volunteers. These men are trained to fight fire and render first aid in case of electric shock, drowning, heart attack, etc.

Police Protection: The police station, located at the Township Hall, is manned by 16 full-time officers in addition to 5 auxiliary officers.

We have three radio-controlled cars on call at all times with a full-time dispatcher. All reports are investigated, and we urge everyone not to hesitate to call our police department when the need arises.

NEXT WEEK: Guest columnist will be Marvin Cline, Council President of Beverly Hills.

Race

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partnership with his father, Ezra H. Fry, is a newcomer to the field of politics.

A Bloomfield Hills resident since 1957—Eyre is a member of the Hills' Parent-Teacher Organization. Among his major interests are Wayne County school activities and Detroit and state Bar Association work.

JOHN S. BUGAS, 52, of 850 Vaughan, a vice president of Ford Motor Co. in charge of international affairs, has been a commissioner since 1952.

DOMINICK VETTRAINO, 46, of 32 Valley Way, head of maintenance, police and fire at Cranbrook Foundation, has been on the commission since 1955.

LYMAN J. CRAIG, 72, of 1200 Orchard Hedges, retired, is seeking a third commission term.

BLOOMFIELD JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

ALVA J. RICHARDSON, 68, of 91 W. Long Lake, retired Hills policeman, will open another four-year term as J.P. He has held the office since 1945.

Although runners have left the race, the field is still a month off of the 10 starters, only three will "run out of the money."

Voters' registration deadline in both Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills for the April 3 elections is 8 p.m. March 6 at the respective City Clerk offices.

How To Judge The Value Of Your Newspaper

Have you ever judged the value of your newspaper? What it actually means to you and your family? Then, let's pause a second and analyze its true value.

Right from the very first page to the last, your newspaper is packed with all the latest news about your community, your county, your township and municipal government. Also there's business and youth news and sports coverage. For mother, there are features that appeal to her whether it's fashion . . . social events . . . home-making or a dozen other feminine interests. In all these and many other fields, you'll find this a complete family newspaper . . . a newspaper that becomes a family affair the minute it arrives.

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