

'round the towns news

The Birmingham Eccentric

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West Bloomfield Woman Knows Civil Defense—From Ground Up

By SAVILLA SLOAN Special Writer

WEST BLOOMFIELD—"Civil defense is a grass roots operation. It is the individual people of a community that make a function. It's how much they think of their own community and their country—and themselves.

"Especially themselves, for there is nothing so selfish as civil defense. It is the means of survival for the individual."

THE SPEAKER was blonde, dynamic Virginia Lee (Mrs. John) Warren of 6245 Willow Road, West Bloomfield Township.

Her words carried conviction for as coordinator of Emergency Welfare Services for Oakland County for the past six years, she has helped develop an emergency welfare service operation plan that is

regarded as a pilot program throughout the state.

Recognition of her abilities as an organizer brought her recent re-appointment to a third term as chairman of Welfare Services Coordinators for 16 counties in South-eastern Michigan.

HER APPOINTMENT to a post of such responsibility in a prime target area is easily understood when one is exposed to this "five-foot-two, eyes of green" ball of fire.

Her conviction that adequate civil defense can mean survival for broad masses of the population is coupled with complete dedication to its cause.

"I know scientists are divided in their opinions on survival under atomic attack," she said, "but I prefer to believe that Dr. Teller is

right when he says it is completely possible, if the population is prepared."

IN CARRYING OUT her own duties, many of which take her voluntarily through her 16 counties, she has yet to miss a single engagement in eight years.

Her schedule is such that would send many an individual to a rest home. Classes are held both day and night. State-wide meetings mean trips to Lansing, Battle Creek or other points.

"I put 30,000 miles a year on my car," she laughs, but she is serious about keeping it in perfect running condition because of her many nighttime trips through scarcely populated areas.

TO UNDERSTAND her exact function in the civil defense set-up requires some knowledge of the simple, yet complicated, machinery of civil defense.

On both local, county and state levels, there are eight special service branches which must function in an emergency. They are: Communications, Engineering, Fire, Medical, Police, Supply, Transportation and Welfare.

The Emergency Welfare Service (EWS) is charged with the duty of caring for the needy, which includes providing assistance to individuals until they can re-establish themselves and take welfare activities. It will make every effort to keep families together.

ON A COUNTY level, Mrs. Warren has charge of the operations of welfare, which include mass emergency feeding, mass emergency lodging, mass emergency clothing, registration, information, and temporary rehabilitation.

Because each individual community in the county must be organized on a local level to provide these services within its community, it is her job to see that individuals are trained in the services.

When she found no manuals of procedure from which to guide local welfare directors, Mrs. Warren was instrumental in having manuals compiled. Procedures outlined in the manuals have since been incorporated in the official Oakland County survival plan.

As the Oakland County welfare coordinator, it is her job to synchronize welfare services with the other phases of civil defense operation.

SCHOOLS, BEING a separate entity of individuals in charge of their own evacuation program. However, since they are, like Emergency Welfare, under the Department of Health, Welfare and Education, Mrs. Warren is called upon to assist them in evacuation plans and organization of schools as logical emergency welfare services.

Mrs. Warren, along with Oakland County School Supt. William Knecht (Dr. James P. Burt) of the Detroit Public Schools, Clairmount School Supt. Louis E. Schaefer and Michigan State Board of Education J. Senicki, has developed a plan for civil defense welfare operations in the school system that is considered a model program.

HER EYES light up in speaking of this area of her work. In performance of her duties, she has been recognized under conditions simulating an atomic attack.

One particular one held in 1959 in Pontiac, which she supervised at the request of Pontiac school officials, has brought recognition to Oakland County from the national level.

Exercising her initiative, she decided that it would be a good idea to have the entire defense action at the school filmed. She arranged with the father of a school pupil—a professional photographer—to take motion pictures. She purchased film for the project from her own pocketbook.

THE FILM produced was so good that the department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington accepted it. The department has since reimbursed her for cost of the film and paid for the addition of a sound track.

The film is being made available to school districts to show how they can organize school personnel for quick evacuation of schools—should this be necessary—or to serve as a roving center for evacuees from other areas.

IT WAS AS a PTA president that Mrs. Warren first began the (See DEFENSE, 2-E)

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Bloomfield GOP Women to Hear Woolfenden Speak

BLOOMFIELD—The monthly meeting of the Bloomfield Republican Women's Club will be at 10 a.m. Monday at the home of Mrs. Franklin Butler, 168 Westwood Drive, Birmingham.

Henry Woolfenden, Constitutional delegate from the 11th district, will be the guest speaker. Mrs. John Crisman, president of the club, has invited all club members and their friends to attend.



New Angle for Fair

VALLEY WOODS—As material comes in on each exhibit for the Nov. 4 Valley Woods School Fair, the committee of dads gets more involved. The reason for their added attention is a 70-foot NIKE launcher, a Civil Defense emergency communications truck and two fall-out shelters (package units) that have received CD approval. The men (from left) Bruce Newton, activities co-

ordinator; Melvin Mermell, chairman of the fair; Richard Page, member of the committee; and George Fulkerson, PTA president, have arranged for the exhibits which will be open to the public. The fair is from noon to 4:30 p.m. In addition to a chance to see the much talked about fall-out shelters, there will be games, pony rides, a carousel and other events for the children.

2 Hearings Set Monday In Beverly

BEVERLY HILLS—Residents of the South Berkshires area will be concerned with two public hearings slated Monday at the village hall.

Two necessity hearings are scheduled, one on road widening and a second on extending water mains.

THE HEARING on the extension of water mains to the southwestern portion of the village has been set for 8 p.m. Monday.

Sixty per cent of the residents in the South Berkshires, the area south of 13 Mile from Evergreen west to the village limits, petitioned the council in May for action on the water situation.

Residents in the Marlin-Kennedy-Stafford area north of 13 Mile Road have also indicated interest in the project.

Another "strip" on Evergreen north from 13 Mile to 14 Mile is also involved to early estimates by Johnson and Anderson, village consulting engineers, the water project would cost in the neighborhood of \$441,000 and would serve approximately 340 units.

AT 9 P.M., many of the same residents will hear plans for a road drain project for the South Berkshires area.

According to Johnson and Anderson's early estimates for the drain plan, it would cost about \$20,144.

SOUTHFIELD—City officials dug in Oct. 24 to correct an oversight involving two blocks of road along Marshall, south of 12 Mile Road.

About 60 residents along the street will get a free ride and a new street—better than the one they're riding on, said Donald V. Smith, City Administrator.

Residents won't get the concrete paving until the project. The contractor for the street is digging up the street Oct. 20. By the time he had reached a depth of 18 inches, someone at city hall called 12-Town Drain officials had picked Marshall as the location for one of their large pipes.

CITY OFFICIALS stopped work and began ridding the street of loose fill taken from two neighboring streets that were also being dug up.

Smith said the city would get a base in, compact it and cover it with a 6-inch layer of concrete. The error will be about \$4,000, he said.

Some out of Southfield's general fund, Smith said.

The city administrator said he would have to assume the responsibility for the mistake but said he hadn't known about the 12-Town plan.

Elsewhere in the Eccentric

Library Board Meets with Beverly On Contract Plan 1-A

Birmingham Approves Civil Defense Plan 1-A

Dr. and Mrs. R. T. Hatt Back from Trip To South Rhodesia 7-B

Pontiac State Hospital Volunteers to Sell Christmas Cards 1-C

Maple Harriers Make the Grade; Qualify for State Meets 8-E

Bates Re-elected School Association State Board Member

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Bloomfield Hills School Board member Merrill O. Bates has been re-elected to the State Board of Michigan School Board Members Association. He has been appointed to the executive committee of the association.

Bates has also been asked to serve on an advisory committee to the Michigan State Public School Employees fund board.

Rezone 12 1/2 Mile-S'field Shopping Center Site

SOUTHFIELD—The site of a proposed 26-acre shopping center at Southfield and 12 1/2 Mile roads was rezoned Monday night even though a written protest was filed against it.

Approximately 100 residents attended the public hearing that gave a 5 to 2 nod to Rodney Lockwood's plan for a multi-million-dollar center of "high fashion stores."

REPRESENTATIVES of the Southfield Land Co. protested at the meeting. Indications are that a court suit may result from the decision.

Southfield Mayor S. James Clark said he would study the legality of the rezoning before deciding if he will let the decision stand without a veto.

The property was rezoned from residential to regional shopping.

IN OTHER ACTION Monday, the council turned down Woodrow Nelson's request for rezoning because of objections from neighboring residents. Nelson proposed a nine-acre shopping center at the southeast corner of 12 Mile and Evergreen.

In taking both steps, the council indicated its choice of a larger shopping center over the smaller rezoning.

Southfield City Planner George Vilcan recommended that Lockwood's center be turned down. He called it too big and poorly located.

ACCORDING TO statements made to The Birmingham Eccentric last July, Lockwood said the center would contain stores of at least as high a class as Birmingham's with a few stores beyond the quality of Birmingham.

The center's gross building area of 201,000 square feet would exceed Birmingham's 192,200 square feet, according to Lockwood.

Parking will be prohibited soon on a five-mile section of US-10, northwest of Pontiac, the State Highway Department has announced.

Parking is now prohibited on six short sections of the highway and the new highway department order will cover the entire five miles from the west city limits north-west.

THE NEW PARKING order, a result of cooperative safety studies by the highway department, state police and local authorities, has been signed by State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie and State Police Commissioner Joseph A. Childs.

The order will take effect within a month, as soon as "no parking" signs are placed along the route.



Virginia Lee Warren confers with other West Bloomfield Township residents in the 1959 test which drew national attention to mock atomic attack alert held at one of the Pontiac schools. This is a scene from that 1959 test which drew national attention to Oakland County.

Bongo Bailey Goes Ape With 'Trick or Treat'

CRANBROOK VILLAGE—Blame for a banana shortage in the local area has been placed on a small "trick or treat" who was out raring doorbells Tuesday evening.

Wholesalers said the small-fry Halloween who wore a built-in hollow mask and a fur coat, answered to the name of Bongo Bailey.

"VICTIMS" said they willingly gave the trickster any and all bananas as he climbed front doors, leered and chattered at them. A number of residents claimed the beggar was accompanied by a gang of very small accomplices who cheered him on and encouraged

him in a series of monkey-shines.

Other reports noted that the "banana fiend" was followed by a henchman wearing an African-style safari hat. The same sources said the pair were aping two well-known television personalities, B'wana Don and Bongo Bailey.

THE TWO WERE last seen entering the home of Don Hunt at 2948 Pleasant Trail. A trail of banana peels led to the residence.

B'wana Don, acting as spokesman for his chimpanzee friend, Bongo Bailey, said he will be donating to a worthy chimpanzee charity, the chimp indicated.

Royal Oak Driver Dies After Accident On Telegraph Road

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—A 63-year-old Royal Oak man died Saturday morning at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, of chest injuries suffered in a two-car collision on Wednesday afternoon of last week.

Dead is Albert Clyde Lockwood, driver of one of the cars. The other driver, Schuyler Davey, 62, of Pontiac is in satisfactory condition at the same hospital.

POLICE SAID Davey apparently attempted to make a left turn out of a private driveway onto northbound Telegraph. His car was struck by that of Lockwood who was heading south on Telegraph.

The accident occurred across from the Miracle Mile Shopping Center. Bloomfield Township police are investigating the accident.



Retires from Fire Department

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Les Allan (left), receives a check from Township Director of Public Safety Homer Case. The event signifies Allan's retirement from the fire department—the first under the township's new retirement plan. Watching approvingly is Ralph Hemmerly (right), former fire chief who has been with the township for nearly 27 years.

Allan has been a township fireman for 18 years and is retiring before age 66 because he suffered a heart attack six months ago. He is retiring with the rank of captain.

Franklin Association in 25th Year

By NITA HARD Franklin Correspondent

FRANKLIN—About 25 years ago, the Franklin Community Association dedicated itself to "promote a more neighborly relationship between the residents of Franklin community; to promote the general welfare; to help in providing better health, education, recreation and safety; to take a broad interest in local government, free from political partisanship

and to aid and assist in whatever way possible all Christian churches now or hereafter located within the Franklin community."

For about 25 years, it has pursued these aims with varying degrees of enthusiasm and energy.

HOMELESS FOR nearly four years, since fire destroyed the old Community Hall on Franklin Road, the FCA spreads its talents and facilities generously to include neighboring communities.

In a quarter century the association has graduated from the hot woodstove league to face the growing demands of a broader, more sophisticated community. Once just a handful of local men who met as an informal but influential "protective" organization, the association now boasts a membership that transcends governmental boundaries; to include residents from Bingham Farms, Wood Creek Farms, Meadowdale, Farmington, Bloomfield and West Bloomfield Townships as well.

ONE OF THE most cohesive factors in the outgrowth of suburban development in Franklin, the FCA spreads its talents and facilities generously to include neighboring communities.

Characteristic of this trend is the annual Barbecue and Bonspiel held each fall on the village green. Ten years ago the day-long homecoming event was planned to accommodate 200 residents. This September the Bonspiel was attended by nearly 300 persons.

ITS YOUTH PROGRAM has been one of the most outstanding (See 2nd PAGE, 2-E)



The newly-elected officials of the Franklin Community Association are (standing, from left) Fritz Geib, secretary; John Menrath, director; Oliver Garwood, treasurer; and George Howard, director. Dr. John Burger (seated, left) is the new vice president and Dr. Ralph Smith, president.