TEN CENTS OCTOBER 12, 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

Lathrup Gives Tentative Okay To Road Plan

LATHRUP—Tentative approval of a project to widen Southfield and 12 Mile Roads in the city was given in an Oct. 5 letter from Mayor Richard N. Cogger to the Oakland County Road Commission.

Lathrup council members and county road commission representatives met Oct. 4 to discuss the proposed widening to five lanes of Southfield Road through Lathrup. Also discussed was the widening of 12 Mile Road to four lanes, east of Southfield to the city limits.

MAYOR COGGER'S letter, reflecting the outcome of the meeting, suggested a boulevard type of road for Southfield Road.

Cogger's letter asked for two lanes on each side of the road with a median strip of two lanes width.

COUNCIL MEMBERS feel a boulevard type of road would ease crossing problems for pedestrian and car traffic, especially at Lathrup School. The boulevard would also facilitate the making of left turns, council members feel.

Also contained in Cogger's letter was a suggestion to synchronize the traffic lights at 11 and 12 Mile Roads at Southfield to provide safer crossing at the school.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR Jerald Stone, in a statement Tuesday to The Eccentric, said financing problems still have to be worked out.

Cost to Lathrup of widening Southfield would be $88,500. The 12 Mile Road strip would cost Lathrup $3,750.

THE WIDENING of both roads would be part of a network road improvement project under which the county would pay 75 per cent of the cost, the municipalities 25 per cent of that portion of road improvement within their borders.

In addition to portions of Southfield and 12 Mile Road, parts of Greenfield, Mape, 14 Mile, Cranbrook, Big Beaver and Crooks roads would be widened in 11 other communities besides Lathrup.

B'field Township Asks for Study Of Lahser Traffic

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Bloomfield Township is recommending to the Oakland County Road Commission that a traffic study be made on Lahser, between Lincoln and Fourteen Mile Road.

The township board agreed to recommend the study after hearing complaints of traffic hazards from parents of children attending the three parochial schools in the vicinity.

Some 30 parents of students at St. Regis, Brother Rice and Marian High Schools attended the board meeting Monday night.

They asked that stop lights be placed at Lincoln and Fourteen Mile Road intersections.

SPOKESMEN for the group pointed out that 1700 students now attend the three schools and that the number will increase to 2200 in the next few years.

They said that earlier traffic studies showed no gaps in automobile traffic on Lahser which would provide periods of safe crossing to children who must walk across Lahser to and from school.

Another hazard pointed out was lack of safe entrance and egress off Lahser for automobiles bringing children to school at the same time that heavy early morning traffic is moving on the road.

Lathrup Council Polls Residents On Library Tax

LATHRUP—Residents of Lathrup have been asked by the city council to fill in a questionnaire aimed at determining public opinion on a charter change to allow a one-third mill tax for libraries.

Residents are asked whether they would support a change at 33-1/3 cents per $1,000 of assessed valuation or about $2.33 a year for a house assessed at $7,000. Charter limits is now $7.50 per $1,000 of assessed valuation.

LATHRUP RESIDENTS can be included in the City of Southfield library service if the city sets a rate comparable to Southfield. Residents of the latter city are taxed three-tenths of a mill for library service.

Firemen Say Blaze Caused by Cigaret

SOUTHFIELD — An attic fire Oct. 4 at the home of Leroy Glime, 13640 Balewood, is believed to have been caused by sparks from a cigarette, according to firemen.

Two trucks, from stations one and three, fought to put out the fire, reported by Glime when he smelled smoke. Amount of damage was set at about $1,000.

205 Harrow Circle

Dream Home to Rise from Smoky Past

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Staff Writer

NORTH ADAMS — Mr. and Mrs. Keith A. Jenkins have found what they have been searching for.

Back of a weedy wilderness, they discovered the remains of a house—two chimneys, a basement and a garage—some tumbling walls of off-white brick and a beautiful ravine lot.

It doesn't sound like much now. It isn't.

But it's what it will be that is the exciting part of the Jenkins' story. They will reconstruct it into their dream home.

Friends, neighbors and curiosity seekers stop frequently to look and watch and wonder.

THE RUBBLE HAS been cleared away. The two chimneys and the garage remain. Old and new floor joists criss-cross the enlarged basement.

The Jenkins' dream house begins to rise at 205 Harrow Circle.

NOT VISIBLE, but equally present are rumors. Stories of buried treasure, hints of possible arson and union trouble in the house's troubled background, even occasional whisperings that the house was haunted.

The neighborhood children, along with little Lisa and Tim Jenkins, may prefer the latter tale; Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins deal with the realities.

Some of the realities provided headlines for Detroit and area newspapers in late July, 1959, after a fire broke out in the house, owned at the time by Mrs. Sylvia Paris.

THE TEAMSTER son of Mrs. Paris, Charles O'Brien, his wife and two children shared her home. They were out of town when the fire occured. Mrs. Paris was at a township meeting with neighbors.

O'Brien was under subpoena to McClellan committee which was then investigating James Hoffa. Mrs. Paris blamed her son's union organization attempts as the reason for the mysterious fire. O'Brien said "No."

Two fuel oil cans were found on the premises after the blaze had gutted the inside of the home.

Two years later, the Jenkins came along.

They saw much more than the ruins of a burned-out building with a past obscured in smoke. That part of the house's history interests them no more than it does any other citizen.

WHAT THEY DO see is a two-story house with a basement playroom for the children and a workroom for Dad. They see a kitchen with room for mother's copper collection and a barbecue grill in the family room for indoor cooking and outside flavor.

But the curiosity seekers still come. They ask their questions and peer and maybe prowl around a bit. The Jenkins patiently answer their questions.

"Buried treasure? Well, John found a tiny bag of foreign coins — worth perhaps a few cents — in the ruins."

John is the handyman employed by builder William J. Holmes who the Jenkins insist is "inspired." He is managing to incorporate latter-day changes in the plans with little or no added expense to the Jenkins.

WITH TENDER, loving care he has babied the structure along, removing the useless parts piece by piece with a crowbar, adding a bit here, a bit there.

Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins have watched the struggle of machinery up the ravine to install lateral sewers, sweated out the

(See HOME, 5-E)

The way is finally cleared for the dream home of Mr. and Mrs. Keith A. Jenkins, shown here leaning on the remains of a wall of a house that was gutted two years ago by fire. Out of the ashes and that part of the earlier structure that was worth salvaging, the Jenkins' new home is slowly rising. The adventuresome couple bought the property in August of this year.

Pontiac Resident To Be Arraigned In Morals Case

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — A 20-year-old Pontiac man was arraigned before Justice of the Peace Alice Gilbert Friday on charges of indecent exposure.

Larry John Glass pleaded guilty and bond was set at $1,000. He was bound over to Circuit Court with arraignment set for 1:30 p.m. Monday.

DET. JAMES KELLER of the township police department said Glass was traced through the license number of his car which had been seen in the area after several complaints from the parents of young girls to whom Glass had spoken.

KELLER SAID the car had been seen following school buses on several occasions and that complaints had been coming in since Sept. 14.

Glass was called by township police Friday morning and asked to come in to the station where he made a statement to police, according to Keller.

In one incident, Keller said, a 10-year-old girl was asked by Glass to come over to his car.

Country Club Drive Assessment District Dissolved by Court

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Paving of Club Drive is, at present, a dead issue in Bloomfield Township.

Residents on Country Club Drive have won their court fight to dissolve a special assessment district set up to pay for the road improvement.

The decision in favor of the residents was based on the township's having come to an agreement with Forest Lake Country Club as to the amount the club would be assessed for its share of Club Drive frontage before the assessment district was set up.

ELSEWHERE IN THE ECCENTRIC

Birmingham Gives Tentative Okay To County Road Plan 1-A

Noted Artists To Perform At St. James 6-B

Glittering Theatre Preview Draws Local Couples 1-C

Groves Gridders Lose League Opener 8-E

McNutt Quits Job in Arizona

SOUTHFIELD—Robert McNutt, former city manager of Southfield, resigned his post as city manager of Scottsdale, Ariz., after a dispute over the annexation of a residential area.

Mystery surrounds the situation. A fire broke out in the city hall destroying some of the petitions. Other petitions were presented bearing false names.

SCOTTSDALE councilmen have called on city and state officials for an investigation.

McNutt resigned in August, 1960 from his Southfield post. Before that, he had been city manager of Harper Woods, assistant manager of Oak Park and manager of Hazel Park.

New Brent Hospital Gets Building Okay From S'field Board

SOUTHFIELD — Brent General Hospital of Detroit received approval last week from the Southfield Zoning Board of Appeals to build a new hospital at the northeast corner of Nine Mile Road and Southfield.

The 34-acre site will be used for a 200-bed hospital. The ultimate building is planned to accommodate 500 beds.

THE PRESENT Brent General is at 16260 Florence, in the vicinity of Six Mile Road and Livernois. The new building would replace the present 120-bed hospital.

Giving approval, the zoning board stipulated that construction must start within the next year. The proposed hospital is in a residential area.

IN BEVERLY HILLS

Habits of Residents Topic of Study

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth and last in a series of articles on the Beverly Hills master plan recently published by the village's planning board. Previous articles were on zoning, streets and water and sewage.

By DENI SCANLON
Township Editor

BEVERLY HILLS—"The People of the Village" is the title of the last chapter in the master plan.

It is a study of population, work habits, shopping habits and future growth.

ACCORDING TO the village planning board's survey conducted in late 1959 and early 1960, the total population of the village was 8,313. The 1960 U. S. Goverment census, however, officially noted the population at 8,633.

The distribution of the village population, the report reveals, is heaviest in the approximate half-mile area enclosed by Greenfield, Beverly, Pierce and Dunblaine. The least populated area is east of Lahser Road from 14 Mile to 12½ Mile and in the area below 13 Mile from Evergreen to Lahser.

THE LARGEST age group in the village are persons between 31 and 60 years old. The second largest is between seven and 13 years. It is interesting to note that nearly 400 of the village residents are over 61.

The distribution of the village population between male and female is practically even.

THE PLANNING board's population study of '59 revealed that there were 4,145 female residents and 4,185 males in Beverly. Distribution within the various age groups is also quite uniform with the exception of the 21 to 30 bracket.

In this age group, there are 105 more female residents than male. In the pre-school and school age, the distribution is approximately even.

PLANNERS STUDY of how villagers earn their living found that the sales, engineering and management fields far outnumbered the other classifications combined.

The total wage earners engaged in these three fields total 1,163 which is equivalent to better than 56 per cent of the entire working population.

LOOKING AT where villagers work, planners found that Detroit provides the work locale for 1,234. The total employed in Birmingham was 171; Warren—147; Royal Oak—93; Dearborn— 91; Ferndale—48; Pontiac — 47; Southfield — 45; Troy—21; and more than 200 elsewhere.

Only about one per cent of the work force is employed within the village limits.

THE PLAN BOARD'S study also sought information on villager's shopping habits.

According to their report, more than 87 per cent of all shopping is done in Oakland County; approximately 13 per cent is in Detroit. Of the 87 per cent of shopping done in Oakland County 48% is conducted in Birmingham.

Convenience goods such as meats, groceries, drugs, housewares and hardware purchased in Birmingham—74 per cent; Royal Oak—14 per cent; Northland—1 per cent; Southfield—2 per cent; elsewhere—9 per cent.

BIRMINGHAM sells villagers 35 per cent of its specialty goods —radios, sporting goods, automobiles, jewelry. Northland is second with 31 per cent. Detroit ranks third with 24 per cent.

Shopping goods such as household appliances, furniture and clothing shows Northland on top with 48 per cent, Birmingham—35 per cent; Detroit — 8 per cent; Royal Oak—5 per cent and 4 per cent elsewhere.

Many residents told planning board members when the survey was conducted that the absence of complete shopping facilities within the village was not detrimental but was a desirable condition because it contributed to the over-all objective of maintaining the residential character of Beverly Hills.

PLANNERS ALSO attempted to forecast the population growth from results of the survey.

Noting 1,599 vacant lots, with the average family at 3.5 persons, the planners estimate an ultimate population of 14,233.

If the present rate of growth continues, planners stated, it would require nearly 40 years to reach the anticipated maximum figure. However, they continued, the construction of water and sewer facilities in the western half of the village will probably speed up the development.

Beverly Hills to Seek Alternate Route For Proposed 14 Mile Road Extension

BEVERLY HILLS—Vilage officials plan to meet with Oakland County Road Commission representatives this week to see if they can negotiate "a way around" cutting 14 Mile Road through from Southfield to Cranbrook (Evergreen).

Councilman Leo J. Linsenmeyer, head of the village's road commission, stated Tuesday, "We want to discuss the basis on which the county has determined the volume of traffic that would be converging at 14 Mile and Southfield, the destination of the traffic and the best possible routes to carry this flow."

LINSENMEYER wants to know if the majority of people would be using the proposed route because of residency in Westchester and the east part of Bloomfield Township—and if so, would they be able to use alternate existing routes.

Another point Linsenmeyer will raise is the excessive cost of the 14 Mile route because of extensive bridging that would have to be done across the Rouge River valley east of Evergreen (Cranbrook).

"We also want to determine if the county's cost estimates are too conservative in view of the lack of detailed construction plans," Linsenmeyer added.

SOME 72 RESIDENTS in the Riverside Drive-14 Mile Road vicinity filed into a special meeting of the council Monday to protest the 14 Mile extension—a part of the Road Commission's proposed project in the area.

The proposed continuation of 14 Mile Road from Southfield to Cranbrook is one of four road improvement projects in the village. They fit into a system of improvements planned to provide a network tying in with area expressways now under construction.

THE OTHER THREE proposals from the county include:

1. Widening Southfield to five lanes from Northwestern to 14 Mile Road.
2. Widening Greenfield to four lanes from 11 Mile to 14 Mile.
3. Widening 14 Mile Road to

(See EXTENSION, 5-E)

Guilmet Councilman In Beverly

BEVERLY HILLS—Chester F. Guilmet, 54, was appointed to the village council Monday night to fill the vacancy left by Charles M. Dotterrer Jr.

Dotterrer, who lead the field of candidates in the March 13 election, was transferred in August to New Jersey.

Guilmet, a former village councilman, will complete a year and a half of Dotterrer's two-year term.

BEFORE nominating Guilmet, a committee of four councilmen screened some 20 prospects for a replacement.

According to Councilman Edward M. (Ted) Shurtieff, the decision to nominate Guilmet came after reviewing the suggestions. It had no bearing, Shurtieff said, on the fact that Guilmet was next in line according to vote totals in the March election.

GUILMET

Council President Marvin B. Cline stated the committee did not want to set a precedent by merely nominating the person next in line. The committee—including Councilmen Leo J. Linsenmeyer and Claude A. Shephard—took about six weeks before deciding on Guilmet.

GUILMET, A former councilman for four years, was a charter commissioner of the village. He is president of the Beverly Hills Association, secretary and director of the Birmingham Country Club and is a member of the Beverly Hills Improvement Association.

A resident for 12 years, Guilmet and his wife, Betty, live at 19053 Riverside Drive. They have a daughter and a son.

Guilmet is distribution manager of the Dodge Truck Division, Chrysler Corporation.

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Gen. Marshall's Wife Speaks in Lathrup

LATHRUP—Mrs. S. L. A. Marshall, wife of Gen. Marshall, (left) receives coffee and a special greeting from Mrs. Charles Herr (center) who poured following the recent Lathrup Woman's Club meeting. Mrs. John J. Shada (right) spoke at the meeting—her topic was "The Wonderful World of Women." Mrs. Marshall appeared before the group on behalf of the United Foundation.

Pedestrian Killed Standing on Road In W. Bloomfield

WEST BLOOMFIELD — A 64-year-old pedestrian was dead on arrival at Pontiac General Hospital Monday evening after he was struck by a car on W. Maple at Middlebelt Road.

John Hjmer Kristola, 6615 Middlebelt Road was standing about two feet into the roadway and was believed to have been reading a newspaper when he was struck, according to a witness who was waiting in a car on Middlebelt for the traffic to clear.

THE DRIVER, Carl Ernest Reisig, 30, of Milford was questioned and released. He told police he was partially blinded by a flasher traffic sign as he was approaching the intersection. He said he did not see Kristola until he was about 10 or 15 feet away and could not avoid hitting him.

Reisig was driving west on east on Maple. The accident occurred at 7:10 p.m.

Township Needs Parks, B'field Planners Report

Nearly 80 acres of land for recreational sites will be needed in Bloomfield Township to provide for ultimate needs of the area, the Township Planning Commission reported today.

In a master plan study of the community's neighborhood recreational needs, the Township Planning Commission cited the need for 72.6 acres of Township-owned land in addition to the existing 129 acres of school playgrounds.

The planning group also recommended an additional seven acres for school playgrounds which could be acquired as future school sites are purchased.

The studies made by the Commission were based on the American Public Health Administration standards.

A PLANNING Commission spokesman said, "It is evident that the school system will serve as the basic source of recreational facilities in the Township.

"However, we would suggest that even with the provision of generous sites by the school systems the distance factor is such that a number of residential areas will not be conveniently served by neighborhood recreational areas.

"Bloomfield Township's low density pattern of residential development provides a pleasant open environment for living. Nevertheless, children still require active recreation facilities such as baseball diamonds (which need a three-acre site). The most desirable facilities would be within walking distance of all homes."

THE PLANNING Commission reported that a total of 208.7 acres will fill the overall needs of Bloomfield Township's recreational plan. Of this acreage, 136.1 acres would be provided in conjunction with school sites, and 72.6 acres are recommended to be Township-owned neighborhood parks.

Currently, the school districts have, or plan 129 acres for recreational parks on school sites. Bloomfield Township does not own any parks.

TO MEET THE need for adequate recreational sites, the Planning Commission is giving consideration to the establishment of a recreational committee to explore the desirability of a Recreational Commission which would be empowered to acquire land and accept gifts of land for recreational purposes.

The planners are also studying possibilities of giving developers incentive to include open space in new subdivisions.

If approved by the Commission, these incentives would be included in the new zoning text which will be presented to Bloomfield Township citizens within the next few months.

America's Auto Topic of Book

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Frederick A. Chapman, township highway commissioner and member of the planning board, has written and edited a 114-page paperback, "Automobiles of America."

Published by the Automobile Manufacturers Association, the book took about a year and a half to complete.

Chapman, 4726 Pickering Road, Bloomfield Township, is a member of the AMA public relations staff.