



The value one places upon what his church or synagogue provides for him in the way of inner strength... those supports that are gifts of grace from Divinity... is evidenced in the quantity and quality of personal and financial offerings to his religious shrine. Even the widow's mite deserved the approval and what one places in the collection basket to a great extent reveals one's gratitude—or lack of it.

## This and That

by George R. Averill  
**'A Good Samaritan'**

I knew this young person when she was a toddler... a lovely little girl who grew up in Birmingham to become a respected and loved young woman. She adored her slightly older sister... she was an inspiration to her parents... and her friends were many, and enduring.

In the vigorous splendor of young womanhood, a dozen years ago, she was stricken with an illness that almost became fatal... but she made much recovery from it... and in her going about, she went about doing good for others. She afflicted herself with several voluntary organizations whose objectives were to aid the sick and the distressed, the young and the old.

A year ago another physical illness affected her health... finally she became painfully bed-ridden. Yet, through all the years of her physical handicaps, this young girl remained a cheerful, an optimistic person. I visited her often... and always she smiled her greeting; she never complained, never spoke bitterly about the problems that beset her. Last week she entered into enduring rest, peace.

The life and the personality of Mary Louise Taylor provided an inspiring impact upon all who knew her. She lived above the confusing bondage of ordinary criticism; she leaves memories of the blessings of a life that was lifted above personal selfishness. She proved her divinity in her charity. She was, indeed, "A Good Samaritan!"

(See THIS & THAT, 4-A)

## Adopt 2 Ordinances, Set Date for Boston Tea Party

By IRMA N. DAVIS  
Township Editor

LATHRUP — Two ordinances were adopted by councilmen Monday night, a first payment to Lathrup's storm sewer contractor was approved and the mayor was authorized to proclaim Dec. 16-23 as Metropolitan Boston Tea Party Week in the city.

## Bidding Policy Report Evinces Little Comment

By KEN WEAVER  
Managing Editor

Perhaps it was due to Men's Night. Perhaps it was due to the subject matter. But whatever the reason, Birmingham city commissioners made it clear Monday night they didn't want to discuss a report on the city's bidding policy.

## Wood Creek Farms: Tidy, Thrifty Village

By NITA HARM  
Special Writer

WOOD CREEK FARMS—Ripped up the middle by traffic teeming along busy Northwestern Highway, Wood Creek Farms village nevertheless thrives on thrift, tidiness and together.

To keep uncomplicated, though incorporated, Wood Creek Farms stays non-taxed.

And has, ever since it adopted a home rule village charter in 1957.

A FRINGE area of Farmington Township, the village has never felt a need to exercise its three mill limitation, choosing instead to live within the means provided by state funds, roughly \$3,000 a year for the general operating budget from sales and intangibles taxes and about \$7,400 for roads from gasoline and weight receipts.

The 1962 assessed valuation of Wood Creek's total property (50 per cent developed acreage) is \$1,117,750 according to Farmington Township rolls. Totally residential, and fiercely hoping to stay that way, it has a personal property valuation of \$19,058. Considering that this covers only about 160 homes and a population of barely 700, the village is not exactly poverty stricken.

WITH SLIGHTLY over 5.2 miles of gravel roads, the street funds, carefully administered, seem to be adequate for the present. Leaving a comfortable margin for snow removal, the village has about two miles of major roads and three miles of local roads get additional gravel on schedule.

True, Wood Creek Farms is dependent upon other communities for its schools, church, police and fire protection, but its residents liberally and conscientiously lend support to show their appreciation.

USING A room at the Sarah Fisher - St. Vincent Home for council meetings sets a modest and for public hearings, the village has no official address. For \$7.50 a meeting, the sisters provide their own with clean, cheerful quarters and a tray

and controls for heating and air conditioning installations and permits licensing of plumbers and contractors to do such work in Lathrup. The new ordinance updates the current ordinance.

Both ordinances become effective Dec. 17.

THE COUNCIL approved payment of \$112,469.23 to storm sewer contractors Lakeview Excavating, Inc., Roseville, for work done to date. The contract was awarded the \$455,554 contract in August.

of ice water and paper cups. The home occupies 80 acres in the village. The hospitality of the village clerk's home is given for village records. Though she is the only paid employee—a salary of \$1 a month—she not only provides all the secretarial service but has to get up bright and early to issue building permits.

Councilmen are dollar-a-year men, and a monthly rubbish pick-up is the only municipal service provided, costing about \$1,000 annually.

WOOD CREEK FARMS watches its pennies these days, accruing a healthy bank-balance under "surplus for contingencies" in its fiscal budget. This has been carefully accumulated over the years to supplement the present legal allowance of \$2,000 if serious threats imperil the all-residential zoning.

Although lots are restricted to a minimum of 33,000 square feet, Wood Creek Farms voted to participate in the Farmington Interceptor sewer project. Applicants for new building permits must pay a \$250 tap in charge to Farmington, but so far old residents have not had to contribute to the project.

TO AN outsider, but one who has observed with pleasure the steady conservative progress of this small community, Wood Creek Farms appears to be unanimously determined to preserve the luxury of simplicity. It is not afraid to work toward this end.

Last winter, the village invested in a pair of culvert cleaners which are stored at the street commissioner's home. Residents with clogged culverts borrow them to clean their own culverts and see that they are promptly returned.

Although the village has contracted for snow ploughing, Wood Creekers with tractors quickly volunteer their equipment and time to their neighbors.

EVEN THE elections are economical. The election board not only works without pay but also serves coffee and appetizer baked cookies to voters. Ballots are cast at polls set up in some resident's cozy recreation room, at no charge, and no electorate.

Inauspicious, sincerely hospitable and thoughtfully thrifty, Wood Creek Farms deserves a "good-homeskeeping seal of approval."

STONE WILL ALSO incorporate appropriate price information in a city news-letter—in a proposed coordinated program to enable residents to have culverts installed in front of their homes. The work could be done either by the city or outside contractors working with the city, whichever was more economical for residents.

THE mayor's proclamation of Boston Tea Party Week is aimed at supporting the efforts of the Vigilance Tax Committee to get signatures for petitions opposing the Detroit income tax. Residents that petitions will be available at the city hall and other locations.

MAYOR RICHARD N. Cogger said the week of Dec. 16-23 was chosen because it commemorates the 110th anniversary of the original "tea party."

## Special Meeting Is Scheduled by Beverly Council

BEVERLY HILLS—A special council meeting will be held Monday at 8 p.m. at which the proposed \$200,000 road program will be discussed.

The program, as proposed, would include paving Evergreen Road to a width of 24 feet and Beverly and Pierce to a width of 33 feet, with curb and gutter, except for the south half-mile of Pierce which would have open ditches.

OTHER ROADS would be improved under the proposed program. Claude Shepard, road committee chairman, presented a report on a five-month survey of roads in the village, to the council in July.

Shepard said at the Nov. 5 council meeting that the program would fill major road needs for about 10 years.

The bond issue, as presently projected, would cover cost of the both the village and the county road program.

## 9 Area Men Named to U-D Drive Posts

Nine Birmingham area residents have accepted positions as leaders in the current University of Detroit Chapter Fund Drive.

Named area chairmen by the Very Rev. Laurence V. Britt, S.J., U. of D. president, were: James E. Collins, 18656 Midway, Southfield, between Southfield and Greenfield; and open 14 Mile from Southfield to Cranbrook. Under the county program, 14 Mile also would be paved to a width of 24 feet, with open ditches from Evergreen to the western village limits.

FR. BRITT named the following as secondary district chairmen: Dr. Murray A. Clark, 4029 Country Club, Birmingham; Patrick Costello, 363 Dalebrook Lane, Birmingham; James E. Hays, 7097 Valleybrook, Birmingham; George Hedges, 31059 Rutherford, Birmingham; Addison T. Dunn, 22455 Fairway Drive, Southfield; Carl D. Damburn, 18165 Avilla, Lathrup Village.

The \$10,000,000 Challenge Fund, under the general chairmanship of Walker L. Ciser, Detroit Edison president, is to cover the capital needs designated by Fr. Britt at a fund kickoff dinner a year ago.

## B'ham to Pay Drain Share In Advance

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night authorized the payment in advance of the city's apportioned share of the cost of the second phase of the Red Run Drain project.

The City's share is \$33,784.74. Coming from the sewage treatment fund, it will be paid on or before Jan. 1.

This is the same procedure Birmingham followed to meet its share of the Twelve Towns Relief Drain, at a savings of several thousand dollars to the taxpayers.

## B'field Plaza Set For Men's Night

The Bloomfield Plaza Businessmen's Association will sponsor its annual Men's Night from 7 to 10 p.m. Monday.

## GUIDE CITY'S GROWTH

### 'Dreamers' Plan Development

This is another in a series of articles The Eccentric is presenting on the various departments in the city of Birmingham. It deals with the work of the Planning Department.

By LARRY EVOE  
City Editor

City planners and their departments are often referred to as "dreamers" and "ivory tower" boys. Birmingham City Planner William Brownfield and his predecessors are no exception.

Planning Department records show that Birmingham's first planner was Arthur C. Comey, who was hired in 1929 to develop a general plan for the city. One of his "dreams" was the laying out of Hunter Blvd. as it is today.

THE PLANNING department is charged with the responsibility of the present and future development of land within the city of Birmingham.

It regulates the use of all types of land—residential, commercial, industrial, public property, streets and classification of streets.

The department also regulates how a building sets on land, see that proper open spaces are maintained and sees that adequate parking space is allotted.

Although Birmingham is 90 to 95 per cent developed, the department still has many problems, according to Brownfield.

The city is currently developing a comprehensive plan. The first part of the plan projects the needs of Birmingham for five years and the other part is a 20 year projection.

ONE OF THE biggest problems Brownfield faces (in Birmingham the Planning Department is a one-man operation) is the redevelopment of the city's older residential areas. He must determine the best way to redevelop them.

The primary concern of any planning department is to preserve the health, safety and welfare both of residential and commercial property in a community.

Although the city planner is directly responsible to the city manager, he must work closely with a plan board.

When Birmingham streamlined its ordinances in 1951, the name was changed from plan commission to plan board.

THE PLAN BOARD is made up of a group of seven citizens appointed, without pay, by the city commission.

They recommend to the commission what they feel is the proper development of the community. A detailed report on the work of the plan board will appear soon in The Eccentric.

Brownfield recommends the academic and technical philosophy be applied to problems handled by the plan board.

A LONG - TIME Birmingham area resident, Brownfield, 26, is only the third full-time city planner. The department was first established as a full-time job in 1952.

Although no permits or zoning changes are issued by the plan department, Brownfield often advises residents on planning principles, zoning problems and public planning.

Next week's article will deal with the functions of the Engineering Department.

CITY PLANNERS are often scoffed at for the "pipe dreams" of their cities of the future. Birmingham's planners have been no exception.

The first planner, Arthur C. Comey, who was hired in 1929, predicted the laying out of Hunter Blvd. as it is today. The current planner William Brownfield is shown at his drawing board going over plans for the Birmingham of the future.

Mayor Florence H. Willett asked Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley to prepare recommendations for the local ordinance.

That law, however, applies to only rural areas unless adopted individually by cities and villages.

Birmingham city commissioners have debated the subject several times and were reluctant to adopt the state law because they felt it treated too much confusion.

BUT THIS confusion could be eliminated in a local ordinance, according to James H. Howlett, legal counsel.

The commission, he said, can decide for itself whether it wants to include all school buses, including those not properly marked. (The state law applies only to public school buses, not to those operated by commercial firms.)

Furthermore, the commission can ignore a provision in the state law that requires children to cross in front of a stopped school bus.

This was one of the problems that concerned the local officials. They felt that a stopped bus prevents oncoming motorists from seeing children crossing in front of it.

"I VOTED against the resolution last week," commented Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham, "but this possibility appeals to me and I would like to discuss it some more."

LATHRUP — Santa Claus will arrive at 3 p.m. on Dec. 16 on his helicopter for Lathrup's annual Christmas tree party. The event will take place in front of Lathrup School.

A London broadcasting company fired a television newscaster because he went on the air recently without a tie.

## City School Bus Law Can Be Different

It isn't necessary that Birmingham's school bus law be exactly the same as the state ordinance, city commissioners were informed Monday night.

Commissioners last week ordered the city legal counsel to draft a measure patterned after the state law, which requires motorists in both directions to stop when a properly marked school bus stops.

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