



Two basic types of thinking are widespread among people. One of them is formed largely from actual experience with life; it is called "empirical." Another may be found in the educational world; outside of the sciences where men and women, using the mental processes that are free from practical responsibilities, speculate. The latter's method presumes that people always respond to "idealism," however it may be clothed—so often with ragged garments!

Engineers Wear Many Hats



BIRMINGHAM'S CITY Engineer William T. Killeen, (seated) and his assistant Andrew Nestor (standing) spend much of their time at the drawing boards working on projects that are going to be undertaken by the city. Here the pair go over the final plans for the Chester St. widening program that was approved by the city commission on Dec. 3.

The following 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 Engineering Department.

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

The members of Birmingham's engineering department wear many hats as they go about their daily chores.

Duties of the department range from preparing cost estimates for city projects to making sure that vehicles using city streets are not overloaded.

THE DEPARTMENT is headed by William T. Killeen, city engineer. Killeen, a registered civil engineer, has been with the city since 1953.

His assistant, Andrew Nestor, came to Birmingham in 1960 after serving in a similar position in Flint.

The principal project handled by the department goes through many phases before completion.

The department first makes preliminary estimates on the cost of the proposed project and then makes a report and recommendation to the city manager and commissioner.

A public hearing is then held and detailed estimates on the cost are received. The project is advertised by private contractors are reviewed.

The department makes recommendations on the bids to the commission and the contracts are let. Once actual construction on a project is started, inspectors from the engineering department work with the contractors to make sure all the specifications are carried out.

CITY ENGINEERS must approve all completed projects before the construction is released from his obligation.

One of the major tasks undertaken by the department is the sidewalk replacement program. During the past few years the city has been conducting a program in which various sections of the community have their sidewalks replaced and repaired. A different section is taken each year.

The engineering department also issues permits to individuals who are planning to construct such things as sidewalks, driveway approaches and cutting curbs.

Birmingham has established certain rules and regulations that must be met and the department inspects individual projects for the protection of the city.

Utility companies also must receive permission of the engineering department before working on major projects.

A LITTLE KNOWN job that the department handles is the enforcement of weight restrictions on Birmingham streets.

The department's weighmasters check on many vehicles each year to make sure that they are not overloaded. This is especially enforced during the spring, according to Killeen.

If an overloaded vehicle must use city streets, a permit and certificate of travel are issued by the department. The department also has the right to refuse an overloaded vehicle use of city streets.

MANY OF THE city records are (Continued on 5-A)

This and That

by George R. Averill

One of this century's greatest feminine singing voices was killed recently when Norway's Kirsten Flagstad passed on at the comparatively youthful age of 67. She was said to have been the unequalled Wagnerian soprano, and for many years sang before American audiences. Her voice was an important rung on the ladder that extends to regions where one's inner self is lifted, regenerated; where loftiness of the spirit reaches its hands down to help humanity get its feet out of the mud, and even if only for the moments of the song's singing!

Musical critics, like those who write about books and operas, are given almost unrestricted privileges, insofar as what and how they say it. Though these three newspaper departments frequently are found to find fault (constructively) they perhaps more often than not write in praise. This is especially true when a musician of deserved fame appears—the great singer, pianist, violinist, and the like, do get splendid eulogies from most critics.

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Two well-known U.S. writers recently wrote an article for the long established Saturday Evening Post, and in it they cleverly suggested that Adlai Stevenson was soft on Fidel Castro and Cuba during the recent Caribbean episode. Adlai, quite naturally, denies that he was soft—though it seems that he that he would be hard not to attain

(Continued on 5-A)

License Office Once Again on Park Street

Roy J. Russell, branch manager of Birmingham Secretary of State Office, has moved his office from 630 S. Woodward to the former location at 292 Park, Birmingham.

The move was made, Russell said, to provide more efficient service and greater parking facilities for the family car makes an "ideal Christmas gift" and if purchased before Jan. 1 their cost becomes a deductible item for the 1962 income tax.

S'field Home Broken Into; Apprehend 2

LATHRUP—Two teenage boys were apprehended by Southfield police Sunday night shortly after a Lathrup home was broken into.

Police said they were called to the home of Virginia Freese, 2708 Lathrup Blvd., at 7:20 p.m. The residents, who had been out, said they heard glass breaking on the second floor of the home soon after they returned. A window had been broken and police found blood at the scene.

Lathrup and Southfield police checked at William Beaumont Hospital and found that a 17-year-old boy had been treated for cuts on the face and leg. Securing the address of the youth, Southfield police watched his home and apprehended both boys when they arrived at the house.

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Suggests Regulations For School Bus Law

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley presaged the city commission with three recommendations to add to the existing law that the city attorney is preparing for Birmingham.

Moxley recommended that the proposed ordinance include provisions for:

1. A police record clearance for driver and a physical examination for person whose physical condition is questionable.

2. A police approval of bus routes and bus stops.

3. A more uniform training period for prospective drivers.

THE CHIEF also said he believed that the ordinance should cover the painting of a school bus as provided by state law and should also cover the definition of a school bus. Moxley said that the police clearance proposal would eliminate potentially "undesirable drivers" such as sex deviates and those persons who have extensive criminal records.

He noted that the matters could be handled much as applicants for driving cars.

ALTHOUGH MOXLEY feels that is against all safety principles

60 Residents Present at Road Meeting

By KAY SMITH
Special Writer

BEVERLY HILLS — The first real cold snap of the season didn't freeze this village's interest Monday in a spring issue—the placing of a road program on the ballot in March.

Some 60 residents risked cold feet and stuck automobiles to participate in a discussion on Councilman Claude A. Shephard's \$696,100 program to pave Evergreen, Beverly and Pierce with village funds, and to participate to the extent of 25 per cent in the county's plans for widening Southfield and paving 14 Mile Road. Other roads also would be improved.

SHEPHARD EXPLAINED the program in detail, adding that it would go on the ballot only as a proposal for "X" number of dollars and that other information would have to be circulated by newsletter. A 60 per cent majority is needed to carry it.

Each area had representatives in the crowd. Among the major issues talked over were the possibility of putting the village and county programs on the ballot separately, the use of asphalt instead of concrete (asphalt is 25 per cent less expensive but would cut the life of the road) construction of bridges, method of assessment and safety for school children.

TRAFFIC CONTROL and safety were main concerns of the villagers.

Such comments as "this will make our quiet road a raceway" and "will there be stoplights and stop signs for the children" came up often.

Shephard explained that speed signs, construction of islands and

overpasses were being discussed by the council.

A statement by Robert F. Stansberry, 19960 Sunnyslope, brought applause.

"We stayed a village in the first place because we had it rather than lower taxes even if we had to put up with some rustic inconveniences, such as unpaved roads. We prefer it that way rather than to funnel other communities' traffic over our roads," Stansberry said.

ANOTHER ROUND of "hear, hear" greeted the remarks of Thomas Cavanaugh, who owns the home on 14 Mile Road, when he said, "I want to make it clear that while I'm personally opposed to the paving of 14 Mile Road, there is no objection on the part of the council has't done a good job or has been remiss in any way in getting this proposal before the residents."

The question also was raised as to whether the city of Birmingham, in wanting to take some of the traffic load off Maple, had offered any inducement to the Oakland County Road Commission to

In Wood Creek Farms The Citizens Take Their Turns in Office

Second of three articles
By NITA HARD
Special Writer

WOOD CREEK FARMS — Holding office is no "political" plum in this tiny village. It is merely a matter of sharing public responsibility.

Citizens who have been tapped to serve their mile square community are incorporated in 1957 have dutifully "taken their turn" with the proper spirit. But, so far, none have aspired to prolonging their tenure indefinitely, if someone else is willing.

In order to perpetuate the type of community they selected, the contractor for their family homes, the people of this area adopted a home-village charter five and one-half years ago, succeeding from Farmington Township strivings to become one big city.

To fulfill the requirements of this provincial independence, "to preserve our simple rural way of life and the character of our community," Wood Creekers elect a village president and treasurer to legislate village affairs.

Each serves for a two-year period. The village clerk, assessor and treasurer are elected every second year, also.

Augmenting this group are several appointive jobs. Among these is the highly responsible task of the street administrator. The temper of the community rises and falls with the administration of this office.

Though there are only a little more than 5.2 miles of gravel roads in the village, and all perimeter roads belong to the county, the street administrator nevertheless is a key position.

Accountable to the state, the council and his neighboring friends, he needs to be clairvoyant, patient and resourceful.

In addition to these endearing attributes, the street administrators in the past five years have also been cheerful, strong and light-sleepers, invaluable assets to a community that depends on wheels 24 hours a day.

The council wears two hats on occasion. It becomes the zoning board and zoning board of appeals, arranging for public hearings to be held in a large social hall at the St. Vincent-Sarah Fisher Home on Inkster Road.

Planning commission functions faithfully as an important adjunct to the council. Matters such as swimming pool ordinances and ordinance amendments generally are passed by the planning commission for

recommendation and study. Although the village government and its elected representatives have assumed many of the problems once resolved by the Wood Creek Civic Association, the subdivision protective group still provides a sounding board for policy. As the governing body gains experience and confidence, less and less is referred to the association for opinion.

Wood Creek Farms relies on its township for police protection, schools and building department.

The village clerk issues building permits but only after plans have been studied and approved by the civic association's building committee and a newly appointed building inspection committee, reaffirmed by the council recently. The township collects the fees and provides complete inspection services.

Fire protection is subcontracted with the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department which responds as a "first call" but has Farmington and Southfield cooperating closely on a reciprocal basis.

Although Wood Creek Farms has never been a member of the Power Co. franchise, the gradual construction of gas mains is being permitted. Close check is kept on the construction, with the company providing detailed

maps of the installations so that village roads and drainage are not disrupted.

With properties held to a 33,000-square-foot minimum size limitation, homeowners dig private wells for water and maintain their own septic systems.

A once-a-month rubbish disposal is contracted for by the village.

The village has no official address. Monthly meetings are held in a small conference room at the St. Vincent-Sarah Fisher Home. Records are kept at the village clerk's home. The township handles the collection of township, county and school taxes. So, until the day comes when the village needs to exercise its three-mile limitation or create special assessment districts, the bookkeeping is fairly simple.

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Dean Farm to Become Custom Home Project

By NITA HARD
Special Writer

WOOD CREEK FARMS — Once considered as site for the proposed mother house of the religious Sisters of Mercy, the 80-acre Dean Farm at 27800 W. Twelve Mile Road has been sold to Joseph Ericoli and John Bologna, builders and developers, for about \$200,000.

The property was the private estate of the late Hugh Dean, former vice president of General Motors Corp., and Mrs. Louise N. Dean. It is one of the largest undeveloped tracts of land in the area.

The purchasers plan to develop a custom home project for the property in the near future. Wood Creek Farms zoning requires 33,000 square feet minimum for each building site.

The purchase by the developers was negotiated between Jerome Benjamin of Benjamin and Bishop, Inc., realtors of Birmingham, and Bruce J. Annett, Inc., realtors of Pontiac.

Board Delays Zone Decision In Township

By SAVILLA SLOAN
Special Writer

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Reopening of Big Beaver property, vacating a portion of Lincoln Road, a library for the township, and a resolution furthering Detroit City water for the township were included in the agenda at the Bloomfield Township board meeting Monday night.

A decision on rezoning of the Brown-Olaj property on Big Beaver from R-3 (residential) to multiple dwelling was postponed by board members. It will be made at the next board meeting, Dec. 24. Because the meeting falls on Christmas Eve, the time has been moved up from 8 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

THE BOARD made no change in its previous decision to oppose vacating Lincoln Road between Windham Lane and East Brookfield, despite a resolution by Westchester Village Civic Association condemning the board for its stand.

After reviewing the problem, board members agreed "to receive and place on file" the association's protest.

A professional library survey made for the township by Frederick Wezeman were distributed to the board members for study.

The board has yet to decide whether a millage request will be made for operation of a township library. Before making the decision, a study meeting, as well as a meeting with the Birmingham Library Board, will be scheduled sometime before the first of the year.

ONE MORE STEP in acquiring Detroit water for the township was taken by the board in passage of a resolution authorizing the Oakland County DPW to expend up to \$20,000 for engineering and administrative costs in connection with the project.

Other board action included authorization of a condemnation suit to obtain an easement across property owned by Standard Oil Co., at Telegraph and Square Lake roads. The easement would be used for a sanitary sewer later to serve Miracle Mile shopping center and other business and residential areas in the northwest section of the township.

See related story, I-F
Appointment of an acting state controller to serve during the few weeks remaining before the new administration takes office Jan. 1 will be left to Gov. John B. Swainson, Gov.-elect George Romney indicated Saturday.

Romney declined the opportunity to name the new controller as offered by Swainson earlier. The post was left vacant by Ira Polley who became executive secretary of the Michigan Council of College Presidents on Friday.

IN A TELEGRAM to Swainson, Romney said he thought it would be best if all new state officials took office together Jan. 1.

The governor-elect also said he would receive fine cooperation from the present government on the budget process and therefore felt there was no need to have a Romney appointee as controller before the new administration takes over.

Green Paint Gives Hoses Yule Color

SOUTHFIELD — Firemen inadvertently emerged from a fire-fighting chore last Thursday with a Yule color scheme and are still working to remove green paint from the department's hoses.

The green paint soaked hoses and the firemen as it flowed out the front door of the United Paint and Chemical Corp., 24671 Telegraph, during a fire on the night of Dec. 9.

An office section and showroom were destroyed in the blaze which is believed to have been caused by two gas furnaces located in the front of the 50-by-150-foot plant.

AN EXPLOSION at 9:20 p.m. was followed by the fire. About 50 feet of roof over the front section of the building caved in. The stored paint fed the flames as 14 Southfield men fought the blaze. They were assisted by the Franklin department which sent two trucks and 12 volunteers to the scene.

The plant is owned by John G. Plets, 5700 Wabek, Bloomfield Hills.

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