

That little boy or girl who comes into the home deserves ALL of the very best that can and love that parents can bestow upon them. In essential reality, food, clothing and shelter are the least, though necessary, to provide. Indeed, it is the mind, the spirit, the ultimate character of a child that should be chief parental concern. LOVE is its source.

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Thursday, May 10, 1962

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



3-A

More Than One Way to Finance a Government

EDITOR'S NOTE—Here is the first in a series of three articles on the village of Franklin. It explains the community's methods of financing governmental needs. Ensuing articles will deal with the governmental structure and the character of Franklin.

By NITA HARD
Special Writer

FRANKLIN—Maintaining a home-village government doesn't cost Franklin property owners one red cent!

Subsisting comfortably on the funds from state sales and intangibles, rebates, this quaint little community has been managing nicely, thank you, with the cooperation and talents of generous citizens.

Only twice, since incorpora-

tion in 1954, has the village levied any millage to supplement the coffers. In 1959, one mill was assessed; it was reduced to a half-mill the following year.

Village fathers hastened to remove this slight promptly when 1960 census figures brought an increased revenue.

Better than 722 part-time country squires can make this boast to the gang at the office. But it belies and obscures the fact that he still does get two stable tax bills a year which will keep him plugging for more than his daily bread.

AT THE END of each year, this enviable chap gets a tax bill from the Southfield Township acting as a collection agent for county and school district, and taking a breath over 1 mill for the responsibility.

Each July, for the past three

years and probably the next two, he modifies vacation plans to pay a road tax, 8 mills. Sometimes he has a hard time remembering he voted for it in 1959, so that the gravel road in front of his home will be kept passable as he shuttles between city and country to pay the mortgage.

THIS PERIODICALLY dusty privilege often becomes a controversial issue between himself and his neighbors. Increased rumblings on the back roads are prophetic of hard-surfacing in the near future. Enough so that, when the five-year, 8-mill program runs its course by 1963, special assessments will probably take their place.

The village assessed 8-mill road construction tax is based on township valuation which uses a point system and a 60.65

equalization factor. The average assessed valuation of homes in the village range between \$10,000 to \$12,000, representing approximately one-third of their market value.

Homes in the older part, and vacant properties, were reassessed three years ago by Southfield Township to adjust and equalize the assessment proportionately. As stringent zoning codes and high standards of new homes enhanced general values, older homes (many much-rebuilt) were reappraised to establish better equity.

Today, the total assessed valuation of Franklin's real property is \$7,980,810.

PART OF the village's ability to operate on the amount budgeted for general operation is the

fact that there are no sewers, no public water system, no public utilities and no recreation department.

The Franklin Volunteer Fire department is a private corporation and solicits a \$15-per-year family contribution to provide an outstanding service and protection.

Because the fire district surpasses the incorporated village limits, encompassing several adjacent communities, it remains independent of village funds and receives only a token from the village treasury.

THE RESIDENTS of Franklin can also claim a growing library. But, this too is independent, relying on family membership at \$5 per year and a few avid supporters organized as the Friends of the Franklin (See FINANCE, 6-A)



Quads Start Nursery School

An important day in the young lives of the Ullman quadruplets came up Monday when the famous foursome started to nursery school at Echo Park Day Camp and Primary School. Enjoying a morning fruit juice break with their teacher, Mrs. Woods Proctor, 777 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, and their four-year-old sister, Louise, are

(from left) Marion, Helen, Martha and Catherine. The quads are the children of the Chester Ullmans, 538 Hendrickson, Clawson. Their nursery school rooms are in a mansion on the former Newcomb estate, once known as "The Junipers" on Echo Road, Bloomfield Township.

This and That

by
George R. Averill

Mich. Constitutional Convention Somewhat Like U.S. Con-Con in 1787

A document that will affect the lives and property of all our form of government, though the best and therefore the most difficult to develop and operate with maximum efficiency and economy, "is the only kind on earth that turns the average man and woman (on the one hand), so to speak, to shape their own political, social and economic destiny."

You have heard, and you have read about the occasional "outbursts," the heated debates that have taken place at Michigan's current Constitutional Convention. Admitted that the preponderance of Republican delegates is bound to leave the eventual document with a majority of "Republican principles," with the Democrats doing the same, whenever and wherever they can, when they can win enough Republican support—admitting these conditions should one be surprised when the give-and-take of open debate among delegates should now and then reveal more heat than light? Of course not. On the whole, most of these delegates are seriously trying to do their job well.

ONE MAY RECALL that when the Constitution of the United States was in the process of being fashioned, way back in 1787, plenty of heated argument took place. . . . though that Constitutional Convention was blessed by having such men as Washington, Franklin, Madison and Hamilton. (Seventy-three delegates were chosen, only 55 got to the convention.)

One of the important problems facing the Colonists was that of apportionment of the members of Congress. The larger states wanted both Houses filled on strict population, while the smaller states opposed this plan. (Just as in Michigan today the problem of apportionment looms large, as the (See THIS & THAT, 5-A)

Area Youths Receive Academy Appointments

Two Birmingham-area boys have received appointments to the Annapolis and Air Force military academies.

Emmett, 18, is a senior at Birmingham Seaholm High School. A member of the National Honor Society and a National Merit Scholarship finalist, Emmett has always wanted to attend Annapolis, but where are there any "oracles," anywhere, in any government these days?

A SENIOR AT Groves High School, Rotter, 17, is a charter member of the National Honor



Emmett

Society at Groves; active in sports as a varsity basketball and baseball player; a member of the Varsity club and Junior Achievement. A resident of Franklin for 13 years, he also attended Franklin and Derby schools and played Little League and Babe Ruth League baseball. He also served as student council treasurer.

OK Bond Resolution, Study Revised Budget

LATHRUP—In its last meeting at the House-in-the-Woods, the council Monday adopted a \$525,000 storm water bond issue resolution and reviewed the 1962-63 proposed budget, revised down to \$152,870.

City attorney Everett Hayes said he would try for early preparation of the bonding papers for the Michigan Municipal Finance Commission so that the city would be able to expedite construction of the long-proposed project, according to John S. Hillock, spokesman for the medical group's board of directors.

HAYES ALSO noted that the city's bonding attorney, Claude Stevens, had recommended allowing for a \$20,000 tax levy to cover the first interest payment on the general obligation bonds—should the interest be higher than expected when bonds are sold.

Council Clarifies Floor Regulations For Split-Levels

CRANBROOK VILLAGE—Minimum floor space requirements for split-level homes in village subdivisions one through six have been clarified by Southfield Council.

The revision, he said, was due to a change in accounting procedure in three areas: debt retirement, water and the DPW.

The general fund budget does not cover revenue and expenditures for the Evergreen Interceptor nor for the city's sanitary and storm sewer programs, all lumped together as debt retirement.

Village Clerk Asks For Part-Time Help; Council Gives Assist

BEVERLY HILLS—A request for part-time help was presented to the council Monday by Mrs. Betty Chinn, village clerk.

Eight night meetings in nine weeks, preparing the minutes from these, correspondence, recording the notes from the various village boards and record-keeping add to more than the 50 hours a month specified as village clerk working hours.

The council adopted a motion to take \$200 from the contingency fund to provide part-time help for Mrs. Chinn for May and June.

The proposed new budget, as revised, estimates revenue for the storm water fund at \$10,400.

Difference between the \$525,000 bond issue and the \$455,454 low bid by Lakeview Excavating will be needed for engineering, legal, financing and contingency fees, Hayes said.

CONTRACTOR John Boll, representing the low-bidding firm, explained an error in an alternate bid, revising the figure up.

ON THE GENERAL budget fund revised down from a previous estimated \$189,000 to \$152,870, City Administrator Jerald Stone said no change in spending, income or tax rates was involved.

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Board May Relax Water Skiing Hours

WEST BLOOMFIELD—One principal objection to the new ordinance restricting water skiing after 6:30 p.m. was the township board last week and may be revised.

The objections came from about 30 water-ski enthusiasts who attended the meeting.

SUPERVISOR John C. Rehder told the group that Oakland County is considering the adoption of a uniform code regulating boat usage on county lakes. He said points raised by the water-skiers would be considered not only by the township board but by the association in drawing up the uniform code.

Rehder added that if the county code differs from the township's, the township board would consider changing its ordinance to conform to the uniform code. Township would not be bound by a county-wide code.

Rehder is serving on a nine-man board writing the code to be presented to the Oakland County Township Supervisors Association for possible adoption this week.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTION to the new ordinance restricting water skiing after 6:30 p.m. was the township board last week and may be revised.

Residents on township lakes told the board that they hardly got home from work before that hour and would be prohibited from enjoying their favorite water sport except on weekends. They added that they had no objections to the 10 a.m. restriction.

\$2,500 Fire Caused By Soldering Torch

WEST BLOOMFIELD—A soldering torch that sprung a leak was the cause of a \$2,500 fire Friday morning, according to the township fire department.

The blaze at the home of John Trudale, 1025 Orchard Lake Road, started the attached garage and caused smoke damage in the house. The Walnut Lake Fire Department assisted the township department in extinguishing the fire.

The property was insured, firemen said.

"WITH SUMMERTIME daylight lasting well past 8 in the evening," skier Corliss Miller told the board, "it isn't reasonable to prohibit skiing after 6:30 on the grounds of safety."

Resident Paul Fink suggested that evening restrictions apply only to weekends.

THE UNIFORM CODE, drawn up by supervisors of West Bloomfield, Waterford, White Lake, Commerce, Springfield, Highland, Independence, Orion and Pontiac townships, has modified restrictions on hours for water skiing.

It allows skiing until sundown on week days, but limits it to 7 p.m. on weekends.

It also differs from West Bloomfield's own code in that it allows children under 14 to operate a boat with engine power up to seven and one-half horsepower. West Bloomfield prohibits children under 14 from operating any motor boat, unless accompanied by an adult.

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- ★ WATER SKIING — We Furnish Everything No extra charge for lessons for beginners
- ★ SAILING — No charge for sailing lessons
- ★ ROWBOATS — For fishing and pleasure (no charge)
- ★ PICNICING — Tent camping — cookouts — (no charge)
- ★ DOCKAGE FOR PRIVATE BOATS — a few left at our "Port of Missing Men" on Cass Lake

Do housework only on rainy days. Children — Teenagers — the College crowd and mothers live out here. Dads join them after work and on weekends.

WHAT DOES IT COST? TOTAL — EVERYTHING

The average family spends less than \$200 for the whole summer. This includes water skiing, sailing, hamburgers, ice cream and guest fees.

Duckage for your boat might cost \$50 more.

BEER—WINE—Liquor and picnicing on the beach forbidden.

Our wonderful families observe all of the old fashioned proprieties.

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