

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

# Facts or No, Residents Still Fearful of Rezoning

To the Editor:

I read carefully attorney Gilray's letter in the Nov. 21 Eccentric on behalf of his clients who wish to erect a motel and cocktail lounge on Woodward between Manor and Big Beaver.

He correctly observes that there is heat on this issue, but he erroneously assumes that if only the facts are considered the residents' fears will appear groundless.

On the contrary, I insist that homeowners in the area have plenty of fears based on the facts of the plans presented to us.

IT IS MY ASSUMPTION that if this rezoning is allowed the developers will do just what they say they will. Can Mr. Gilray deny that the following items are facts in the situation?

1. They are attempting to revise a zoning ordinance passed only last summer.
2. When the public hearing on the zoning ordinance was held his clients did not protest the office classification given this land.
3. This motel would be farther to the east of the property than any other building in the area and thus closer to land now zoned for single residences.
4. The motel would operate 24 hours per day seven days a week.

The cocktail lounge would be open until two a.m.  
 5. The parking area provided for a restaurant seating over 200 people is inadequate by any reasonable standard.

RESIDENTS in the area are faced with a situation wherein they cannot judge this development solely on its own merits but must consider it also in relation to its effect on land to the east now zoned for single residences and land to the south now zoned for offices.

The facts are that this rezoning would adversely affect all the residents in the area except those who now own land on which rezoning petitions are pending.  
 EDMUND W. PRATT  
 5600 Brookdale  
 Birmingham



JAMES CLARKSON

## Clarkson to Seek Re-Election as S'field Mayor

Mayor James Clarkson, 38, of the City of Southfield, announced Tuesday that he will seek election to a second term as the city's chief executive.

Clarkson, whose nominating petitions were to begin circulating this week, became the first to announce his candidacy in Southfield's spring election.

Elected Southfield's mayor in 1961, Clarkson previously served in the state legislature as representative from Oakland County's fourth district.

"In running for re-election to the office of mayor," said Clarkson, "I am fulfilling my promise to those who supported me in the last election . . . that I would seek a second term in office. I believe that more than one term is required to do justice to the position."

CLARKSON pointed to two of his major platform promises, of two years ago, that he said have come to realization:

1. Successful opposition to penalty taxation on home improvements.
2. A re-appraisal program for uniformity in assessments throughout the city, now nearing completion.

Clarkson, an attorney, is currently a Southfield representative on the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, in addition to his mayoral duties.

He, his wife Betty, and their three children live at 23825 Valley View, Southfield.

## Witnesses Absolve Township Resident In Traffic Death

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Oakland County Prosecutor George Taylor said Friday that no evidence of negligence had been indicated on the part of a Bloomfield Township resident, Donald Thal, who was involved in a fatal accident Nov. 18.

A 65-year-old Detroit woman, Josephine C. Case, died following the two-car crash at Maple and Lahser.

Taylor said that witnesses indicated that Mrs. Case ran the red light at the intersection. Her car struck that of Thal on the left side, according to police. Mrs. Case died in William Beaumont Hospital.

Thal resides at 1428 Ardmore in the township.

## Happiness Made Of Small Things, Writer Advises

By RUTH VOIT  
 Special Writer

In normal times, most specialists preach that if a person deliberately sets out to chase happiness it'll leave him exhausted and unfulfilled.

Would it be a possibility that in view of these authorities, in viewing our current scene, might not add a supplement to read:

"With the daily news quite full of bewildering and suspended actions between nations, it is permissible for the early riser to say to himself—the minute he jumps out of bed—now, a smile is going to be my companion this whole long day and it's not going to wilt into a scowl no matter what seeps in, via the papers, TV or radio." Yes, they might add this sensible postscript soon.

ALSO, IT MIGHT be wise to suggest that people (not being too obvious about it) sort of learn the trick of deliberately seeking out tiny moments of happiness which maybe had been overlooked earlier. Such things as:

The big sky overhead. The bare trees standing so stable; the quiet nights when a mile walk can be undertaken with no expense on-

tailed; the stars that long for admiration when they burst through the evening curtain.

MIGHT IT NOT be money in the mental bank if just a simple "hello" was cherished when heard, or a smile from the check-out girl at the grocery store encountered—or a wave from a school child while waiting for his bus, or the milkman's grin or the mailman's polite salute as seen from his scooter.

Even at the moment when the recent Cuban crisis was churning around, until not even our best informed columnists had answers or solutions to offer for a few taut days, there seemed to exist a sudden atmosphere of closeness in humanity that had been absent the week before.

THE CASHIER taking the lunch check didn't seem to be in such a hurry to ring it up without looking at the customer. The salespeople behind counters didn't keep their heads down quite as much over their salesbooks when they tallied up the things bought.

Neither did the drivers in the other cars appear to be so anxious to get where they had to go in the quickest time possible. Some even allowed the left turner time to make it! Others nodded and one was caught, so help me, with a smile of tolerance on her face as she had to wait her turn to move.

WAS ALL THIS present because all of us sensed that none of us might be here the next week, the next month or even for Christmas if our leaders didn't succeed in reasoning with each other? It probably was.

We are here this week. We will, undoubtedly celebrate the holidays as we always have.

However, we are aware that the world must travel cautiously and carefully from here on in and make the right judgments so we can continue our business of living.

THAT IS WHY none should be ashamed to keep the eyes, ears and the hearts wide open for any little bit of happiness which we might have ignored in calmer times, in order to help us to keep that smile going strong on our faces.

Smiles are funny things. You see a person carrying one and unconsciously you are so pleased with the results that you slap one on too.

## Birmingham Man Completes Course

Second Lieut. Arthur F. Dries Jr. of Birmingham is being reassigned to North Truro Air Force Station, Massachusetts, following his graduation from the U. S. Air Force technical training course for weapons controllers here.

Lieut. Dries was trained in the detection, identification and interception of unidentified or hostile aircraft attempting to penetrate the North American Air Defense System. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur F. Dries of 217 Hillboro Drive, the lieutenant entered the air force in March. He received a B.A. degree from the University of Michigan.

## A Sailor Now

GREAT LAKES, ILL. (FHTNC) —John R. Fortuna, III, son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Fortuna, Jr., of 32505 Lahser rd., Beverly Hills, recently completed recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill.



ROBERT N. COX

## Area Resident On Board of State Society

Serving on the board of directors of the Michigan Society for Crippled Children and Adults is Mrs. Fred H. Rollins Jr. of Birmingham.

The announcement was made at the recent annual meeting of the society at which time Robert N. Cox was made the new executive director. He succeeds Percy C. Angove of Northville who has directed the activities of the Eastern Seal Society for the past 20 years. Cox comes to Michigan from

## The Birmingham Eccentric

Thursday, November 29, 1962

The "art" (the actual conscious response to the emotion we call "gratitude") of being grateful for one's good things of life is not highly developed among human beings. To be sure, one does now and then express appreciation of something—but is such expression more often than not a casual affair? Within most people, the potential of developing the "art" of gratitude does exist—but like many other potentials, most of us are indifferent about them.

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN  
 SECTION F

Elgin, Ill., with an extensive back society, with headquarters in Chicago, ground of service in the health and care. During this time he visited welfare field. For the past nine Michigan frequently and is familiar years he served as fund raising and with the state and its program of organization representative for the services to the handicapped.

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