



The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

# Add Radar Car in 'Woodwarding' Battle

## B'FIELD MAN SLAIN

### Detroit Faces Murder Charge

A 33-year-old Detroit man who told police he had trained himself "to forget about bad things" will face examination on charges of first-degree murder next Thursday in the slaying of a Bloomfield Township businessman.

Charles Lafian, a former mental patient, is charged with the fatal stabbing and beating of Thomas L. Houle, 57, of 7448 Franklin Court.

### Early Deadlines For Next Issue

The Birmingham Eccentric will be closed Labor Day. All advertisers and news contributors are reminded that early deadlines will be in effect and are asked to submit their copy to our offices at 1225 E. Bowers as early as possible.

### Seek to Make Historic Site Of Old Home

A cultural organization made up of more than 100 Birmingham area families has offered to lease one of the community's oldest homes when and if it is purchased by the City.

The house is located at 288 Townsend at the corner of Bates. It is located in the block where the City plans to build a seventh municipal parking lot.

At the present time it is one of three houses the City has not been able to buy in the block and is under private ownership.

In a letter to the Birmingham City Commission, a copy of which was sent to The Eccentric, the group, known as the Atlanta Society, proposes to operate the house as an office building for nonprofit organizations serving this area.

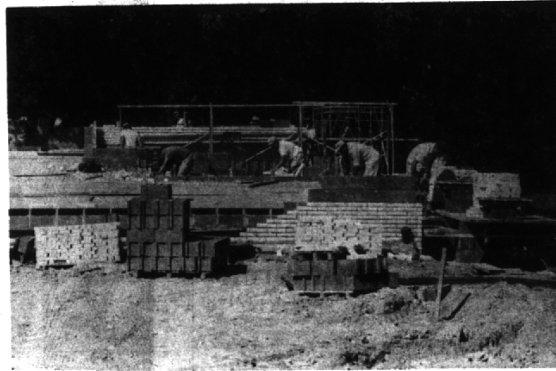
**GARVIN BAWDEN, Jr.**, chairman of the committee for Atlanta house, said the society believes the home "should be kept as an historic building that will help preserve the charm of the city."

He noted the commission went on record June 10, when the need for the lot was determined, that parking spaces on a City-owned lot may be lost if such loss enhances the appearance of the lot.

Bawden said the house is one of the oldest in Birmingham—dating back more than 100 years.

"It is an excellent and classic example of the pre-Civil War Michigan farmhouse," he said, "its architectural beauty was highly valued by a former owner, Eero Saarinen."

THE SOCIETY thinks the (See HOME, 6-A)



ONE OF THE largest construction projects going on in Birmingham at the present time is the 77-unit apartment complex on N. Woodward between Oak and Redding. Birmingham Building official Richard B. Schlosser said he issued a \$1,360,500 permit for the project. The development will be known as the Burlington Apartments.

### P. O. Details Measures To Use in RR Strike

Mail service could be sharply curtailed in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area if a crippling nationwide railroad strike goes into effect today.

Birmingham Postmaster Blouffe W. Reese and Assistant Bloomfield Hills Postmaster Herbert Holboeth said that planes, trucks and buses will be pressed into service to move air and first class mail to its destination.

BOTH NOTED that they have received instructions not to accept mailings other than first class, air mail and air parcel post which are destined for points beyond the second parcel post delivery zone, which extends about 150 miles from this area.

"We are prepared to handle any letter or parcel addressed to any point provided first class or air mail postage is paid on the item," Reese said.

Both postal officials cautioned that service may be temporarily suspended on second class magazines and newspapers, third class matter and four class parcel post packages addressed to points beyond the second parcel post zone—extending 150 miles from the point of mailing.

AN ARTICLE bound to be of interest in this month's magazine is "Old Settlers and New Peoples—How Do They Mix?" Editors of suburban newspapers, like The Eccentric, were asked to speak up on this ticklish aspect of today's rush to the "peaceful" suburbs.

Nobody realizes how sick he is, laments Edward Streeter, author of "Father of the Bride," in a feature story headlined "Listen, Doctor."

### Construction Permits Top \$4 Million

Multiple family and commercial developments continue to dominate the construction scene in Birmingham as the season starts to slow down.

Construction permits totaling \$4,000,762 have been issued by the Birmingham Building Dept. for the first seven months of 1963.

This figure compares to \$1,341,405 for the same period last year. Of the total, \$3,452,467 has been for the construction of new buildings, according to Richard B. Schlosser, building official.

THE LARGEST permit for a multiple dwelling was issued in April for the amount of \$1,360,500. Under construction is a new three-building apartment complex with 77 individual units at 1111 N. Woodward.

Located south of Colonial Court between Oak and Redding, the apartments are being contracted by the Paul H. Johnson Co. of Detroit. There will be one, two- and three-bedroom units in the brick and block buildings.

Two large multiple unit projects are also under way on E. Maple. One is located near the corner of St. Andrews and the other is near the intersection of Coolidge and E. Maple.

A 28-UNIT apartment project is being built on 14 Mile near Pierce across the street from the Pierce Elementary School.

Smaller apartments are being constructed on Tottenham, S. (See PERMITS, 5-A)

### City Editor Challenged in Test Drive Encounters Racers On Woodward

By LARRY EVOE  
City Editor

I went "Woodwarding" Tuesday night.

With my wife Barbara riding "shotgun," we logged nearly 80 miles along Woodward between Royal Oak and Bloomfield Township.

The purpose of our little expedition was to see if the "sport of Woodwarding" was really as popular as we'd been led to believe in recent weeks.

Our journey began at the traditional starting line for the activity—Woodward and Ten Mile roads in Royal Oak—and progressed through Huntington Woods, Berkeley, Royal Oak again, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and ended at Square Lake Road in Bloomfield Township.

ALTHOUGH the first drive-in is just a few hundred feet north of Ten Mile and the hour was an early 7:30 p.m., the place was packed.

All of the stalls were filled with cars, the driveway was jammed and there were 12 autos, all full of youngsters, lined up out on the street waiting to get into the restaurant.

The average length of today's automobile is about 17 feet; multiply that by 12 and you have over 200 feet of highway blocked by standing autos.

We had to wait until almost 14 Mile Road before receiving our first challenge to "drag."

Although no words were spoken (See CHALLENGE, 2-A)

### Case Disputes Lack of Interest 'Accusations'

By SAVILLA SLOAN  
Special Writer

Bloomfield Township has added radar as an additional weapon in its fight against "Woodwarding" and excessive speeding on arterial highways within its boundaries.

At a meeting of the township board Monday night, an expenditure of \$950 to equip a patrol car with radar was approved by members of the board.

The move had been contemplated for more than three months, but actual approval of the purchase was delayed until FCC authorization was obtained. This came through last week.

In asking for radar equipment from the township board, Supervisor Homer Case took exception to what he termed accusations from Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney George Taylor and Detroit-area news media that local governments were not interested in doing anything about slaughter on state and federal highways.

### Brief Illness Takes Life Of Giffels

Raymond F. Giffels, president of Giffels & Rossetti and co-founder in 1925 of the world's largest architectural and engineering firm, died Monday after a brief illness.

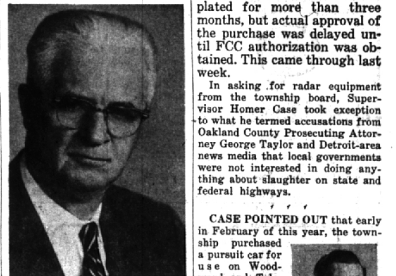
His firm designed in excess of \$5 billion of industrial, defense, nuclear and institutional construction.

Notable among metropolitan projects are Gobo Hall, the new Detroit Post Office and the Detroit Metropolitan Airport Terminal Facility.

Born in Lainsburg, Mich., in 1893, Mr. Giffels, of 929 Glenarry, Bloomfield Township, was a graduate civil engineer of Michigan State University and devoted his entire career to the engineering profession.

During World War I, he was a flying officer in the United States Army. Prior to cofounding his own company, he was employed by the American Bridge Co., Whitehead and Kales Co., and was later associated with the Albert Kahn organization.

MR. GIFFELS held registration as a professional engineer in Michigan and 18 other states and with (See GIFFELS, 2-A)



R. F. GIFFELS

CASE POINTED OUT that early in February of this year, the township purchased a pursuit car for use on Woodward and Telegraph roads and added additional patrolmen.

The township has two miles of Woodward within its boundaries and six miles of Telegraph Road. Of particular concern besides the teen-age racing of cars "Woodwarding" has been the excessive speed of commercial trucks on Telegraph.

Proof of concern by township police with mounting traffic dangers, Case added, is in the record of moving violations issued. In July, 1961, there were 36 tickets issued. In July, 1962, there were 95. In July of this year, the number increased to 165.

IN DISCUSSION, Case said that he did not think that the entire answer lay with local police control of speeding on local portions of state highways. He believes that state police should bear more responsibility.

"It is a legislative problem," he said. "The state highway patrol needs additional hundreds of men and the state should allocate the funds to hire them."

He pointed out that at a meeting of the Governor's Regional Conference on Traffic Safety, which he and Police Chief Norman Dehke attended last Friday in Pontiac, it was concluded that the state highway patrol needs 400 additional patrolmen to properly police state highway systems. (See RADAR, 2-A)

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# It's Their 1st Year in School

## Kindergarten Teacher Likes 'Children of Younger Age' How Do You Get 5-Year-Olds To Talk About Expectations?



MISS SUZY AIKENS Ready for first assignment

By LARRY EVOE  
City Editor

A 21-year-old Michigan State University graduate selected the Birmingham schools to begin her teaching career because she knew it "to be a good system."

Suzy Aikens from Leawood, Kans., will take over her duties as kindergarten teacher at Pembroke School next Thursday.

An honor student at MSU, Miss Aikens is not a complete stranger to the Birmingham area. Her parents lived in Bloomfield Hills for two years while she was attending college.

Along with about 70 other new teachers, student and substitute teachers, she was in Birmingham a week early (Monday) to attend a special pre-school workshop.

THE WORKSHOP for the elementary school teachers is strictly on a volunteer basis and those who attend receive

no pay. This is the second year such a workshop has been conducted in Birmingham.

In the morning, the teachers attend classes at Torrey School in language arts, math, science and the social studies. The afternoon finds them in their respective new buildings meeting with the principals and preparing the classrooms for the opening of school.

Workshop director Jane Heckman said the purpose of the meeting is to give the new teaching staff an opportunity to become familiar with their teaching materials and to get acquainted with the schools and the school system.

ALTHOUGH she majored in home economics, Miss Aikens chose to follow a teaching career.

"I took a child development course and decided to switch my major," she said. (See CHILDREN, 2-A)



DARCIE WEEDMARK and DONALD MARSHICK Name tags for the first day of school.

By DAVE PHILPO  
Township Editor

One thing they don't teach in journalism school is how to interview a five-year-old. Youngsters in this age group have definite ideas about what kindergarten will be like, but getting them to tell you is an entirely different story.

As only grown-ups can, you try to bridge the gap of years with the commonplace questions that immediately come to mind:

"What do you think school will be like?"

THE QUERY was directed to Darcie Weedmark, 4, (she'll be five in October) and her playmate, five-year-old Donald Marshick, both of whom live on Pine Lake in West Bloomfield Township.

Darcie, a petite brunette with large brown eyes, bravely evaded the question with a perfectly logical "I don't know."

Donald, a husky blond, grinned shyly and said he didn't know either.

I tried another approach. "What will you do in kindergarten?"

Darcie: "Play in the sandbox."  
Donald: "Play outside on the swings."

EMBOLDENED by initial success, I rushed on to a trickier question. "Why do you want to go to school?"

"I could tell that another mistake had been made by the way the little girl looked at me."  
"Because I like to learn things," she said impatiently. "Yeah," added Donald.

At this point, Mrs. Weedmark came to the rescue. "What happens to you in kindergarten when you are naughty?"

Darcie (with no hesitation): "You get put in the corner."  
(See TALK, 2-A)