

Business Flourished In Twp.



HORSE-DRAWN WAGONS HAUL LOGS TO EARLY SAW MILL
Mill was one of many township businesses in 1800's.

By JANE D. MANN
Special Writer

Bloomfield Township, now a fast-growing residential area, was not always destined to be so. Early in its history it rivaled nearby Birmingham in the growth of small businesses and manufacturing concerns.

From the year 1820 on, small mills, stores and distilleries sprung up throughout what is now Bloomfield Township and only later did business activity become concentrated in Birmingham.

After its brisk beginning in the township, business slacked off in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and the area became primarily a rural one. During recent years, a further change from a farming to a residential area characterizes the township.

AN EARLY CENTER for commercial activity in the township began at Bloomfield Center, the present location of Woodward Avenue and Long Lake Road.

In 1832, William Morris, an early settler, built a frame tavern across the street from Bagley's and this building was used for social activities and public meetings, in-

cluding the Bloomfield Township meetings, for many years.

Morris also established a brick and pottery works near his tavern. Among Morris' other endeavors was the operation of a saw mill, which he purchased from a Mr. Corbett and a Mr. Monroe of Detroit.

Located on the west branch of the Rouge River about two miles northwest of Birmingham, the mill was converted by Morris into a grist mill.

MEANWHILE, Morris' pottery works at Bloomfield Center was sold to John Daines of Birmingham. Daines proceeded to invent a machine for the manufacture of drain tile, and began operations in 1842. He continued to manufacture the tile there for 23 years; later proprietors were Harvey Weston and Alanson Piersall. The plant closed about 1873.

The first sawmill in Bloomfield Township was the one built by Corbett and purchased by Morris for operation as a grist mill. Other early mills were the Young Saw Mill, erected in the same vicinity in 1833, which later became the Opdyke Flouring Mill; and the Van Every Mill and the Steele Saw Mill, both located in the extreme southeastern part of the township.

In the mercantile business, Bloomfield Township had a headstart on Piety Hill, or Birmingham. The Doolittle Store opened at Fairbank's Corners in the 1820's, and soon this location, on what is now Kensington Road north of Birmingham, was supporting many small businesses.

ALSO AT Fairbank's Corners, the manufacture of fanning-mills was begun in 1829 by Zeba Rice. What was probably the first distillery in Bloomfield Township was built by Ralph Chittenden near the house of Asa Castle, about 3/4 mile southeast of Fairbank's Corners.

A paint mill was built in 1874 just southwest of what is now Adams Road and Long Lake Road. It was discovered that a durable paint could be made from a mineral dug from the land on the homestead of Samuel Satterlee. Steam power was used to roast and grind the crude mineral at Satterlee's paint mill.

From these early beginnings, business activity in Bloomfield had slowed down considerably by the end of the nineteenth century.

TODAY A half-dozen or so farms are scattered through the township, and small local businesses are established on the main highways.

Although the township contains no heavy industry at all, a few light manufacturing concerns operate in the extreme north part of the township.

Last year a study showed that only 6 per cent of the assessed valuation of township property was attributable to commercial concerns, consisting mostly of small local businesses such as stores, gas stations and restaurants.

The remainder of Bloomfield Township is residential, and with the continued boom in homebuilding in the area, everything points to a future for the township as a primarily residential one.

TO BLOOMFIELD HILLS POLICE

Six Alert Lights Flashed Alarm

By DOTTY BREIDENBACH
Special Writer

If, in 1927, you had traveled out the two-lane Woodward Avenue toward Bloomfield Hills you would have found, near the intersection of Long Lake Road, the offices of the newly incorporated village.

They were headquartered in the building now called the Barbour Building and more recently occupied by The Kingsley Inn. Behind that building and on West Long Lake Road the fire department was housed.

A police chief, Art Putman, and a fire chief, Russell Moore, were appointed that spring and each man was assisted by two others. There was one fire pumper and a volunteer fire force upon which to call.

BEFORE THAT time, the county sheriff's office and the volunteer township fire department were the measure of safety for the five square miles of Bloomfield Hills made up mostly of large estates.

Stanley Kevern, who joined the force in 1929, and retired as police chief in 1957, gives us a picture of the activities of Bloomfield's first police.

At that time the safety forces knew all the citizens by name. Due to the incomplete coverage by telephone in the 1930's, five or six alert lights were installed around the village. When a patrolman spotted one of these lights shining, Kevern immediately went to the

nearest telephone to call the station.

With the advent of radio the call was sent to the Pontiac receiver and then was relayed to the patrol car.

Cranbrook and Kingswood schools have their own force deputized by the village and an excellent fire department and two trucks and a volunteer force. The only fire hydrants in the Hills are at Cranbrook.

In the 37 years since the incorporation of the Village of Bloomfield Hills there have been five heads of police; Putman, Harry Starr, Banks, Kevern and now Walter Sluiter who was appointed in 1957.

SLUITER IS assisted by a force of 11, three sergeants, Ted Banks, Ralph Powell and James Fowler and seven patrolmen, William Moore, Carl Hall, George Crisman, Creighton Kerr, Merrill Schlaack, Paul Christensen and Kenneth Livingston.

Succeeding Moore as head of the fire department was Burton Bartholomew in 1948 and Raymond Wachter in 1957, the present fire captain. There are four firemen, Eldon Aderholdt, James Willard, Lyle Haverstick and Robert Brown.

The office of Director of Public Safety was formed by the city commission on July 9, 1957, and is presently held by Robert Stadler.



ROBERT STADLER
Hills' safety director.

Advent of Autos Increased Township Police, Fire Squads

By HUGH MUNCE
Special Writer

Back before the advent of the automobile, the people of Bloomfield Township had no drastic need for a top-notch police force. Fires were scarce, too.

Trouble didn't spread fast in those days. With no telephone, fast transportation, etc., only an occasional fire or shooting cropped up.

But, by about 1920, the population started to soar and automo-

biles added to the growing problems. By 1923-24, the people of Bloomfield Township were storming their public servants for more and better police and fire protection.

BY 1927-28, the Township police and fire departments were getting full attention at council and board meetings.

Constables were appointed in the community and police were given scout cars.

Bloomfield Chief Putnam and his prime patrolmen, Banks and Kevern handled the Bloomfield stretch with dispatch and determination in the "roaring twenties" and the three-man team continued until the population began to swell.

More men in blue were needed to patrol and enforce laws in this five-square-mile City of Bloomfield and in the Township.

Over on the Telegraph Rd. strip, things were humming, too. Trucks, travelers, and hunters made the area one of the busiest in the state. This brought new responsibilities to Bloomfield Township.

After the "thirties and forties" migrations to Southfield, Bloomfield, West Bloomfield, etc., who would doubt that full-fledged, 24-hour fire and police protection was needed by every village, township and city in the area.

BIRMINGHAM and Bloomfield City doubled population, and Bloomfield Twp. grew 10-fold.

Police work and fire-fighting in these modern days now required constant schooling of force members... by the FBI, University of Michigan, MSU and Oakland Univ.

Today Bloomfield Township has police protection from 28 officers using eight cars and 22 firemen at five locations: Maple and Telegraph, W. Long Lake near Telegraph, Franklin near Square Lake Rd., Westview near Adams, and in Bloomfield Village, Lahser at Maple.

The Township's present fire chief is Volly Yanuszski and the police chief is Norm Dehnke.

Township residents can also count on help from Bloomfield City police and fire protection, under Director of Public Safety Robert Stadler, centralized at E. Long Lake near Woodward.

Sixteen men can double as fire fighters or police, though five are regularly assigned to fire protection and 11 to police, using 3 cars.

THESE modern-equipped teams have reciprocal agreements with some nearby communities to share special equipment and manpower.

Noteworthy is the special force available at Cranbrook with rolling equipment manned by 10 trained Cranbrook maintenance men.

Without a doubt, Bloomfield Township's residents are protected by well-manned, modern police and fire forces capable of stopping trouble before it gets out of hand.



OFFICIALS INSPECTED NEW TANKER IN 1953
Township fire department numbered three trucks.



NORM DEHNKE
Twp. police chief.