

Beverly - A Residential Haven

By KAT SMITH
Special Writer

The hills of this little village, nestled among the cities of South-eastern Oakland County may not exactly be perceptible to the naked eye, but don't be fooled. Beverly Hills has its ups and downs.

Ask any resident. He or she will look you in the eye and recite the Village Creed: "We're for home and home rule and single homes, and we're agin' sidewalks and

paved roads and apartments and any other municipality telling us what to do."

This is the surface of Beverly Hills, Michigan. Underneath are some of the nicest people in Michigan who want only to spend those hours of the day at their own disposal in an atmosphere as far from that of the city as is practical.

THE FOUR and a half square miles of the village lie between Greenfield and Evergreen from 13

to 14 Mile and from Evergreen half way to Telegraph from 12 1/2 to 14 Mile roads.

The village as such is not very old, having incorporated only on April 23, 1958, after slipping out of the net of the City of Southfield, which had it all neatly sewed in until the proposed city charter failed.

After two more failures, the village saw its chance to incorporate, quickly filed a petition, voted on it February 17, 1958, and became a

village of and unto itself April 23 of that year.

This is the recent history. The "ancient" history dates only to 1818, when there were fewer than 2 people per square mile in the area. After the horse-drawn railway to the Birmingham area was built, this area began to develop, and early settlers of the Hunter, Hamilton, Fish, Willits, Ball and Park families settled here.

IN 1829 Joshua Davis and Michael Beach built a saw-mill on the Rouge River south of 14 Mile on Evergreen, one of the first installations of the entire township. In 1842 Chester Reynolds put a carding and fulling mill in a small building, and this was later enlarged, machinery was added and cloth was turned out for a year or two.

Later, as "Erity Mill" the saw mill was in operation and the factory was used for making cider and vinegar.

Beverly Hills wasn't always Beverly Hills. This was the name given to a major subdivision built in the 1920's and 30's by Knight Menard Realtors, but the name was thought to be too local to one section of the village, so at the time of incorporation the name of the village was "Westwood" for "West of Woodward".

Within a year there was a petition to change the name to Beverly Hills. "Just too many subdivisions around here named Westwood" was the reason. The people who lived in subdivisions other than "Beverly Hills" within the village were merely surprised that anyone could have thought they would object.

Members of the original charter commission for the village have served ever since on the council and were re-elected this spring. Marvin E. Cline, Edward M. ("Ted") Shurtleff, Chester F. Guilmet and Hugh G. Allerton, Jr., have had a major voice in running the village.

THE FORM of government is up-to-date; of the seven council members, four are elected each year for two years, the first three receiving two-year terms, and the one with the least number of winning votes a one-year term.

In the original charter, the village clerk was also elected, but a charter amendment passed by the voters in 1963 changed that to an appointive clerk, "elected by the council".

In addition to the four council members mentioned, the present council has on it Claude A. Shephard, Edward F. Dolan and John Magee.

Robert E. Murphy is village manager and on duty full-time as the council members work only on a part-time basis. Charles E. Ferguson is clerk at present.

While the 1960 census listed the population of the village as 3,533, it is now actually closer to 10,000. The year 1963 saw a large number of building permits issued, mostly to developers, and the big tracts of land will soon be gone.

THE CONFINES show seven churches, six schools, and the new business buildings—mainly banks and medical offices, plus one block of shops.

The character of the village: Residential with a capital "R". Wit-

'Made to Last' Is Their Motto

Buy a good suit of clothes and it will last. Bert D. Wood of Franklin brought a firm wool worsted suit to the alteration department of Peck's in March, because the collar had worn.

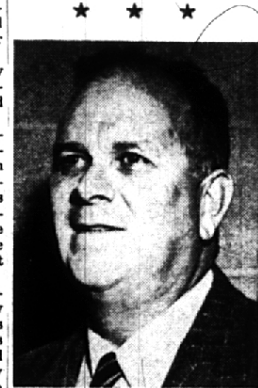
He told Victor Peck, "Your father made me this suit." Sure enough, in the pocket was the label: "Charles Peck, Tailor, 1927."

The 37-year-old suit was repaired, and Wood wore it home. The Pecks have been Birmingham tailors since August, 1908.

ness no industry, no apartments (although this may soon change) and very little commercial property.

Out of its 10,000 population, the village has one native resident, one-and-a-half-year-old Mary Ann Angell. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Angell, Jr., 16174 Lauderdale, in the village, and having arrived unexpectedly one September night in 1962, she boasts this distinction.

This is Beverly Hills, a village quite fiercely and voiferously protected by its residents against any citified airs, and loved by them for just what it is—a village of character—residential character.



ROBERT MURPHY
Public Safety Director

Beverly Fire, Police Serve In Dual Role

By DOTTY BREIDENBACH
Special Writer

The government of Beverly Hills and its fire and police departments operate out of a new wing in the Southfield township office at 18500 W. 13 Mile Road.

The Southfield Township offices reside in one portion and, renting from the township but separated from them only by the fire trucks, is the Beverly Hills government seat.

With the new government came the problems of personnel to run it and a month following the 1968 incorporating, Robert E. Murphy took the post of director of public safety.

IN SEPTEMBER, 1959, he was appointed village manager by the council also keeping the title of public safety director. Charles Ferguson serves as office manager, an appointment by the village manager, and as clerk, an appointment made by the council.

Lt. William Reed is the officer in charge of public safety and he is assisted by two sergeants, Frederick J. Bielman and Thomas A. Good. Ten other men serve the community as policemen and firemen but wear police uniforms.

THEY ARE Peter G. Lutz, Robert R. Olsen, Gerald M. Hunter, Jerry L. Burden, James A. Davis, James J. Farrell, Gregory J. Putnam, James H. Morgan and John R. Knotts.

Stationed at the site of government is an American LaFrance pumper, 1953 model, that is capable of pumping 750 gallons per minute. It carries 1,200 feet of 2 1/2-inch line and 450 feet of 1 1/2-inch line on the truck. Two Scott air packs and a portable pumper and portable generator round out the equipment.

Two public safety vehicles are garaged at the station and scout cars carry a resuscitator, first aid kit, CO2 and annual extinguishers and water.



ALONG RIVERSIDE DRIVE IN BEVERLY HILLS
Quiet, picturesque street typifies atmosphere of village.

EACH COVERS SQUARE MILE

Bingham, Wood Creek Share Franklin History

BY NITA HARD
Special Writer

Kissin' cousins of Franklin Village are and always have been Bingham Farms and Wood Creek Farms villages.

Each about a mile square but in separate townships, Southfield and Farmington, respectively, the two communities share a similar history of development and have a common heritage to the village of Franklin which lies between them.

Independently and separately homesteaded in the early 1830's, it is freely admitted in records and memories that Franklin was the hub of social, economic and cultural interchange, and there is strong evidence that blood lines crossed Franklin Road time and again.

BINGHAM FARMS

Shortly after the territory was opened, Peter DeNoyer homesteaded the section east of Telegraph, in 1833.

It was later divided up between two families, the Adamses and the Bingham.

Dissected by a clear stream that is a tributary of the Rouge River Valley, Bingham Farms was just far enough east from the traditional flow of north-south trade traffic to escape exploitation.

The only commercial development in the early days was a grist mill located on the stream north of 13 Mile Road operated by Daniel McDaniels.

For a long time there were only three farm houses in the entire village.

A FIELD stone school house, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Carson Bingham, was built about 118 years ago to serve the children of the families between 12 Mile Road and 14 Mile. It was called Fractional No. 1 and Telegraph appears to be the western school district boundary.

Descendants of the Adams and Bingham families still live on Bingham Road, which was the only

road in the area for many years. Bingham Farms children started to attend the Franklin School after the brick building atop a hill on Franklin Road was built in the 1920's.

Bingham Farms children continued to attend Franklin School until 1960 when residents made the choice between crossing a treacherous Telegraph Road corner and transporting them to Valley Woods School in comparative safety.

THE WEANING from Franklin began a few years earlier. Not ready to join Franklin's invitation to incorporate as a single large village in 1953, Bingham Farms families thwarted a plan to include them in the new City of Southfield by incorporating themselves as a home rule village in Sept., 1955.

Though some ties still bind Bingham Farms to Franklin, such as the services of the Franklin Volunteer Fire Dept., the Franklin Library and the Franklin Community Church, residents have turned eastward to Birmingham for most of the social and practical needs.

From a strictly rural community with broad fertile farmlands, Bingham Farms has become a select residential neighborhood with only two commercial ventures allowed: the Adams greenhouse on Bingham Road and Outland's Riding Stables on 14 Mile Road.

It has no church, school or community building to create a nucleus.

WOOD CREEK FARMS

As a fringe area of Farmington Township, Wood Creek Farms is Franklin's country cousin. Lying to the south and west, it consisted of farms only until the 1940's. As commerce pushed up Middlebelt to Farmington, only a few hardy farmers settled here.

Its stream supported one mill, owned by the Tebbitts family. The names of Wilcox, Gravelin, Davis, Bush, Brownell and Garfield appear in the earliest records. Although a grave dated 1823 distinguishes the small nearly-abandoned burial ground on 12 Mile

Road, it is not certain if the interior was really a Wood Creek Farms resident.

Wood Creek Farms as a community began in the 1930's when Northwestern Highway came to provide better access to the lake-lands of Oakland County.

EARLY SETTLERS sent their children to the German school on Middlebelt and the township stretched its protective arm to 14 Mile. Gradually Wood Creek was absorbed into the Farmington school system.

Despite the fact that Northwestern practically dissects Wood Creek, its development was carefully controlled and coordinated by realtor George Wellington Smith.

Although most of the mail came through Farmington, many families did their business, mailing and socializing with Franklin. Thirteen Mile Road was a well-worn path and interests were anonymous.

Although Middlebelt was a prominent north-south route, the big mills and taverns were in Franklin and it was closer than Farmington.

SO WOOD Creekers supported the Franklin Church, its stores and community affairs.

Even now, though Wood Creek has incorporated as a village since Oct., 1956, it subscribes to Franklin Volunteer Fire Dept., supports the library and enjoys a simple social co-existence.

In 1931 a large portion of Wood Creek Farms was selected as the site for a children's retreat. The 20 acres between 12 Mile and Northwestern on Inkster were developed as the St. Vincent-Sarah Fisher Home. Another large tract, 80 acres, comprised the Dean Farm for 25 years. The remainder, for the most part, was subdivided and rigidly rejected any commercial inroads.

Wood Creek has formed its own unique character in the past 20 years, resolving most of its problems through meetings of a civic association and its female counterpart, the women's group.