

# 12,000 Attend Youth Convention in Detroit

A Youth Convention with 12,000 registrants assembled in Cobo Hall, Detroit, Aug. 18 to 23, under the sponsorship of the Luther League of the American Lutheran Church, to declare the theme "Jesus is Love, an association of more than 50 church bodies from throughout the world.

Program planning called for the theme to be related on successive days to issues involving vocation, education, human relations and inter-gerational affairs.

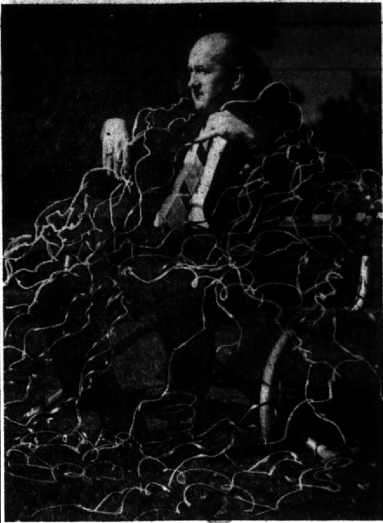
NINE-TENTHS of those attending were high school youths. By advance requirement, one of every 10 registrants was an adult, certified by his or her local pastor as qualified to serve as counselor.

All available rooms in 17 downtown Detroit hotels were reserved for the youth meeting. Don Luther, a student at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., who this year is serving as intern at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Detroit, is president of the A.L.C. Luther League. He presided at Convention sessions.

A long list of prominent churchmen addressed convention sessions, headed by the Rev. Dr. Fredrik A. Schlotz, ALC president, who also heads the Lutheran World Federation, an association of more than 50 church bodies from throughout the world.

ALSO ON THE program were Dr. Paul Empe, New York, executive director of the National Lutheran Council; the Rev. A. C. Rues, Robert Borgwardt, Madison, Wis.; Dr. William Hulme, of Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa; and Dr. Arnold H. Johnson, of Luther Seminary, St. Paul.

Each day opened with Holy Communion and a period of Bible study in small groups. While emphasis throughout the five-day meeting centered on worship and inspiration, personalities from the entertainment world and other secular fields, also appeared.



## State Studies Right-of-Way Hwy. Widths

The Michigan State Highway Department will make a comprehensive study of right-of-way widths along its nearly 10,000 miles of state highways, State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie said recently.

The study of right of way widths will start in the Upper Peninsula, Mackie said, and any decision regarding variable width rights of way will be made at some time in the future by the new four-man highway commission that will replace him when he leaves office.

Mackie announced that a review of highway rights of way was made in testimony presented at a hearing of the State Senate Special Interim Study Committee on Roadside Advertising. The testimony

was presented for Mackie by J. E. Wilbur, of the Engineering Development Committee of the State Highway Department.

MACKIE SAID highway right-of-way widths vary on highways in both the Upper and Lower Peninsula.

The State Highway Department's reason for purchasing wide rights-of-way in some areas was to increase the scenic value of the highway by providing a scenic forest buffer.

"It was conceived as an attraction to the motoring public and to the residents of the area and was part of a national program," he said.

"The variable width rights-of-way did not come about through the whimsical decision of previous highway commissioners. They represented what appeared initially—more than 25 years ago—to be a prudent policy that was inherited by the present highway administration.

## AN EDITORIAL

### Sorry, We Don't Want One

With the fiasco between hopefuls for the prosecutor's office over a sign on Big Beaver and Woodward, we wonder if maybe we ought to postpone the election for prosecutor for a couple of years.

Seems helpers of candidate Lang put up a sign in violation of Bloomfield Township ordinances, and candidate Templin's helpers are alleged to have painted over it and not treated it too kindly, ending up

before the local magistrate on the charge of malicious destruction of property.

To top it off, the Templin men sought to bring Lang before the Berkeley court on charges resulting from impolite words expressed against the first candidate.

If this is what we can expect of a prosecutor hopefuls, we don't want one.

## PEOPLE'S COLUMN Explains Task Of Township Citizens Group

To the Editor:

As you point out in your editorial in the Aug. 6 issue of The Eccentric, a citizens committee is at work in Bloomfield Township studying the problems we face in the future as we struggle to provide for a rapidly growing population and what is also significant—greater population density.

Our projected maximum population of 67,000 should be reached in about 20 years. Continued rapid growth in the next few years means approximately 40,000 people here in 1976, and to many, this estimate seems much too low.

How to provide adequate fire and police protection is just one of the problems we must face very soon. Adequate health protection, sanitary sewers, storm drainage, roads ... all are pressing problems.

THE PROBLEM is, however, that although the available alternatives are easily listed, the choice of the solution for Bloomfield Township is a complex and exceedingly difficult one. The range of factors arguing for one approach or the other is so wide and complex that it takes close and detailed analysis before we can be confident we can propose the best course.

The committee is working diligently to be sure we do a complete job—that we are fully informed and prepared to make recommendations based on all available facts, expert professional advice and weighing of all points of view.

The Eccentric's continued interest in our future course in Bloomfield Township is most welcome. Certainly citizen understanding of the true nature and immediacy of the problems we face and of the lines of solution is essential.

CITIZENS STUDY COMMITTEE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
Ann Sheldon, Secretary

## Lot

(Continued from 1-B)

erty and their tenants are seriously harmed by these multiple assessments.

It is true that land values are increasing in Birmingham but it is impossible for property owners to pay multiple assessments from increased land values. Assessments must be paid in cash.

I urgently request that the City Commissioners study other methods of financing parking facilities now and for the future—so that Birmingham can continue to grow and serve the people of our community through first class merchants and people rendering services.

EDWARD E. ROTHMAN  
3665 Lakecrest Drive  
Bloomfield Hills

## Aviation Mechanic On Active Duty

Robert E. Erickson, aviation structural mechanic airman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Erickson of 15924 Dunblaine, Birmingham, is serving two weeks active duty training with Air Station Squadron 731 at the Naval Air Station, Alameda, Calif.

While serving with active duty Navyman he will get on the job fastest, ugliest crack, crack, and all the other kinds of grass hated so much.

Suspecting one day that our lawn

## Green Thumb Failure Irks Weary Gardener

By RUTH VOGT  
Special Writer

My worst enemies are the surrounding neighbors.

They themselves aren't their lawns and gorgeous flowers are. As the summer progresses it becomes harder to talk over the back fences for any length of time. To keep the envy hidden isn't easy.

"Well, thank you. Yes, we're quite pleased with the way things look this year. We had to stake up the snap-dragons because their blossoms dragged them down with their weight."

AND AS the neighbor stoops over to pick huge mountain-sized sinusas for your dining room table, you try to forget that your snap-dragons are quite pitiful with their single stalks.

"No, I don't think my husband feeds them any special kind of food. Oh, sometimes he'll throw in a handful of bone-meal he might find in the garage when cleaning up, but outside of that, he just lets them grow in peace," is the explanation of this kind woman of hers as to why her flowers grow like they do.

Gazing at a group of geraniums sprouting three or four blossoms per plant, you recall how you sneaked down to the same gardener and asked for the exact kind that "Mrs. So 'n So" bought each year. So far they're still making up their minds whether to blossom or not.

WHEN YOU hear that "Albert isn't too pleased this year with his day-lily bed," you want to shake Albert for his blindness or lack of appreciation.

What other bed of lilies displays such long spikes of pure beauty? Each night when they close their petals, they seem to decide that on the next morning they'll unfold a dozen more of their kind.

(I know; I watch them. It's fantastic. My bed of day-lilies sometimes don't even unfold when the sun hits them.)

Maybe it was bordering on being a copycat, but I deliberately waited until I saw her Albert putting his petunia plants in one evening and then I jumped into the wagon, raced to their garden center and gasped: "I want two flats of those." I was sure I was getting the identical variety.

Some error was made? There are so thick with leaves and mammoth red and pink flowers that it hurts the eye to look at them.

MINE? They must hate one another.

They remain apart and never will they merge to make the profusion of color I dreamt of the night they were carefully and lovingly placed into the plowed up earth.

Albert doesn't break his back chopping up the soil; he doesn't even bother to snip off the dead flowers either each evening. He just lets everything grow. Also, weeds don't have a chance in his beds; so huge are his flowers. Is this fair?

"I will say we both are quite pleased with the condition of the lawn this year," Albert's wife admits after you remark about how it resembles a lush green carpet.

Behide you? Therein, within your own boundaries, grows the tallest, ugliest crack, crack, and all the other kinds of grass hated so much.

Suspecting one day that our lawn

## Trapped

Birmingham Det. Lt. Merlyn Holmquist demonstrates the effects of a new "Wire Gun" being tested by the police department. The weapon can be used against advancing crowds or in capturing a fleeing prisoner. An entangling device, the gun sprays 400 feet of coiled wire at the victim.

## "Thought for the Day"

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