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EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGED

Joseph Roberts, a former insurance claims adjuster and Southfield resident, has been charged with two counts of embezzling funds from the insurance company in 1977.

One of the counts involved the same insurance policy as the one used by Roberts' son, Joseph Roberts Jr., that killed his 30-year-old girlfriend in 1973. The younger Roberts was found innocent of the slaying by reason of insanity.

Earlier this year Roberts Sr. sued the City of Southfield for the return of the murder weapon. His suit was dismissed when it was discovered the gun was the missing property of Roberts' insurance firm employer.

WHO'S MAYOR?

Even Willard "Steve" Stephen admitted he didn't know if he had been named mayor was official as he met with two other recently elected Orchard Lake city council members and veteran Everett Casey outside city hall Monday, after being denied entrance to the city meeting room.

Acting Interim Mayor Robert Carter, appointed by Gov. William Milliken following the May 18 recall of four council members, stood on the board of a car parked outside city hall and said, "I am still mayor and any meeting tonight will be illegal."

A group of residents, led by Casey, looked on as the new council, yet to have their election results certified by the county, named Stephen mayor, named a mayor pro tem and chose a new city attorney.

The other faction of the city, divided by recall and a controversial zoning ordinance, watched and asked, "What are they doing—setting up a rebel government?"

CHANCES ARE

"Miracles do happen," was West Bloomfield teachers' union president Ray Lams' answer to "Will you reach an agreement with the school board before school starts?"

Meetings between both sides are being stepped up as the Sept. 1 school opening date draws near.

SPANNING PAINT CREEK

Residents of Paint Creek Court in Oakland Township are a few steps closer to their proposed footbridge after a public hearing on the topic Tuesday night. The two halves of the subdivision have been divided for more than six years, since a bridge crossing Paint Creek on the north end of Elliman Drive deteriorated.

Eleven families were represented at the hearing and voted by simple majority in favor of a prefabricated footbridge, to be erected by the residents. A representative of the Continental Wood Preservations Inc. of Detroit said the 24-foot long, four-foot wide span would cost \$2,550.

Twp. Supervisor Alfred Taylor warned the residents that the figure would be closer to \$5,000 when costs for banking improvements, delivery costs and engineering reviews were included. The residents indicated they would prefer the township to pick up the tab for the project, since the road in question is dedicated.

No action was taken by the township board, although Taylor said board members will discuss the proposal and costs and will have a report ready at the next township meeting in September.

GRANT SAVES SCHOOL

The Kresge Foundation has donated \$15,000 to purchase and preserve a 18-year-old schoolhouse in Troy Without the grant, Troy's bicentennial committee feared it would fall short in its fundraising efforts to preserve the school. With the total \$50,000 collected, Troy hopes to purchase the one-third acre on Big Beaver where the school currently stands and begin restoration. Local historical groups are expected to help in restoring the old building.

ZONING MAY CHANGE

Birmingham city commissioners began pulling in the reins on high-rise zoning in the city this week.

Only one piece of land is now zoned for high-rise in Birmingham and that is the property wedged between Woodward and Hunter north of I-65 and 565 S. Woodward. The former bus station is on part of the property.

City commissioners Monday directed the city's planning board to hold a public hearing to consider rezoning the land to B-4, a zoning classification that will not allow developers to build more than 10 feet or eight stories high.

B-3 or high-rise zoning in Birmingham allows 144 feet in height or a maximum of about 15 stories.

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