

grow, prosper

Born in Southfield Township in 1912, Drummond recalls a time when the local landscape didn't include a lot of highways. There were no highways, in fact.

It amuses her to hear complaints about the lack of a downtown Southfield, about how residents have to drive to get anywhere.

"You used to have to go to Redford to buy groceries. Everybody went to Redford on Saturday to buy groceries."

But some things never change. "You'd have to go early to get a good parking space. Then you'd meet everybody else there and shop."

"Shopping centers have been a boon to Southfield."

FORGET EXPRESSWAYS for a moment; Main thoroughfares in the 1920s weren't so hot, Drummond said. "People nowadays say, 'Wasn't Telegraph Road always here?' I used to have to go to Pontiac by taking Franklin Road to Woodward."

Another case in point: Drummond remembers when roadbuilders were experimenting with cement as a surface material for Woodward.

"Coming from Telegraph Road, you can't imagine what 10 Mile Road was like. I remember when it wasn't a road. From Berg to Lahser, it was two tracks. Ten Mile — I just can't get used to that."

LEO WALTON

As one of the Southfield Historical So-

ciety's founding members and former president, Leo Walton has made it his business to know the city's history.

But it's a tough job.

"It's very hard to collect information. In the earliest years, there was no newspaper. Many township records were kept in individual's homes and were lost."

Compilation of Southfield's history began almost as a social project, Walton said. "The society was started in 1965 by people who had been here since the township days."

"It was like old neighbors who got together to talk about things." Since then, the society has evolved from a social club to much more than that.

As a historian, Walton has carefully evaluated the city's growth and the reasons for that growth. His list of noteworthy events that contributed to the city's development are not often mentioned by other long-standing residents.

Walton is a former educator, and he points out that resolving educational needs were the first of many steps that ultimately led to a city charter in 1958.

"ONE OF THE GREATEST things to happen to Southfield was consolidation of the schools. Eighth-grade classes were begging for places to go to for high school. Consolidation gave us that high school, and it was the first thing that gave people in the township a sense of unity."

Happy Birthday

to all of our
Citizens
on
Southfield's
25th
Anniversary!
from
VICKI GOLDBAUM
Southfield Councilwoman

Learn more about the
City of Southfield,
"Southfield: Yesterday and
Today" by Vicki Goldbaum.

Third publication of documented
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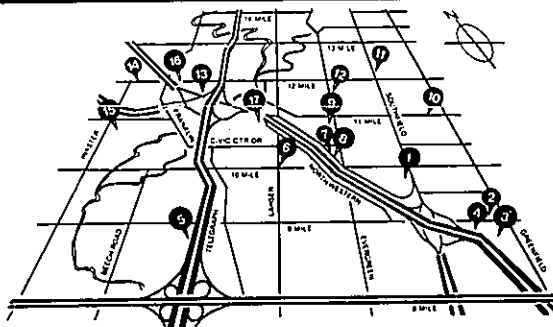
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