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Street names reveal history

CITY STREET NAMES can come from many sources: history, memory, emulation, even whimsy.

Southfield street names seem to include all of those sources, and more.

History — especially in regard to well-known persons — plays a big part. For instance, many of the city's streets were named for early farming families. They include Bell Road, Brooks Lane, and Case, Duffy, Evans, Larkins, Larkins, McClung, Code, Hooper, Simmons, Churches and Dunker streets.

Descendants of those families were likewise honored. Lois Lane has nothing to do with Superman; it was named for Lois McClinton, whose parents owned a farm in the Lahser-10 Mile area. Carleton and Nancy streets were named for a son and granddaughter of the Klett fam-

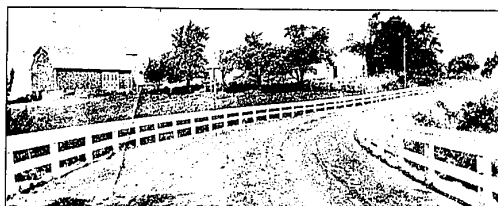
ily, who owned a farm near Beech and Nine Mile.

Prominent members of the community also have had streets named after them. Among those are Donald Swanson, Southfield's first mayor; S. James Clark, son, former mayor and 46th District Court judge; Jenn McDowell, former city councilwoman; and Clara Lane, former township treasurer.

Nonresident personalities enshrined with streets named after them include Paul Revere, founder, Sir Walter Raleigh and former U.S. Presidents George Washington, Martin VanBuren and John Tyler.

Subdivision developers named some streets after family members or friends such as Albert, Alvin, Aubrey, Anna, even Dora (Naudora Court).

GOOD NATURED ribbing has even



Ten and One-Half Mile Road (now Civic Center Drive) as it appeared in vintage Southfield. This is a view looking west near the area where Telegraph Road is now.

played a part. According to a 1976 Ec-centric story by staff writer Jackie Klein, 80-year-old Florence Murphy recounted the story of how a street was renamed because of her husband's co-workers.

"We lived on a street called Isaac," Mrs. Murphy said. "And my husband was an Irish pipefitter. The fellows at work kidded him about living on a street with a Jewish name, so he had it changed to Elmin."

Some names are references to Indian tribes of bygone days, like Sunnyside, Seminole, Sherandoak, Shinarump and Tamarack.

Southfield streets have also been named for other places. Easily recognizable are Mt. Vernon, Valley Forge, Romsick, Nantucket and Providence.

There are state names such as New

Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Virginia. Even English locations are on Southfield street signs: Canterbury, Nottingham, Devonshire, Stratford and Grosvenor.

Locally, the Rouge River can claim inspiration for several streets, including Rouge Court, Rougecrest, Rougemont, River Heights, Riverside Drive and Riverview Drive.

Points of the compass supply prefixes to Southfield streets.

There is Northgate Lane, Northbrook Court and Northland Park Court; Southgate, Southwood and Southome; East Street; and Westhampton, Westhaven and Westpointe.

Then there are the woods: Woodcrest, Woodhaven, Woodland, Woodstock and Woodville.

The names may change, but the places remain.

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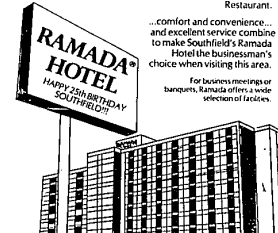
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