

Plymouth School Board Learns It Must Accept 50 Students From Washtenaw County District

The Plymouth Community School District Board of Education was told to prepare to receive students from Lapham District, in Washtenaw County, if voters there approve annexation in the special election



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on Monday, Sept. 14.

That, in effect, was the opinion handed down by the Board's legal counsel, Attorney William Sempler, of Plymouth, who indicated Plymouth will have acquired a part of the Lapham district and there is nothing that can be done about it.

The Plymouth Board had asked Sempler for an opinion on the annexation and if there is any legal method of an appeal.

"It isn't that we don't want to accept the students," said Board President Gerald Pischke. "That is far from the truth, but we do feel in fairness to taxpayers in the Plymouth School District that we should have a legal opinion on the annexation and if there is any way of appealing."

"The annexation will add about 30 youngsters to our school rolls in the kindergarten through grade six level and remove 22 students in the seventh through grade 12 from tuition that Lapham has paid to us for several years."

"Actually it won't involve much in the way of additional costs since the Plymouth system already has bus lines picking up the tuition students and it will be just a case of extending the routes a bit to take care of the youngsters in the lower grades."

By unanimous action, the Plymouth Board voted to approve acceptance of the additional students once the annexation has been approved. There doesn't seem to be any doubt but that Lapham voters will approve since the proposition requires only a bare majority of those going to the polls.

Supt. Russell Ishbister indicated he will make a survey of the situation at once and prepare to accept the 52 pupils on Sept. 15 after receiving official word of the Sept. 14 vote.

Ishbister also told the Board that he had received a verbal agreement from the Washtenaw County Superintendent of Schools that the tax rate of Lapham would be identical to the 23.71 mills adopted by Plymouth in its special meeting last Thursday.

The Plymouth Board was told of Lapham's plans in the July meeting by Trustee Ernest Henry who had met with a group of Lapham officials and voters a few days before.

The Plymouth Board decided to ask for an opinion from Sempler and learned that Lapham was correct in its plans.

Sempler's opinion: "You have asked me to advise you on the somewhat arbitrary action of the Washtenaw County Board of Education in dividing the Lapham School district between the Ann Arbor and Plymouth districts. I do not have details of the transaction and can advise you only generally."

"By Act 119 of the Public Acts of 1962, the State added four sections to Chapter 4 of the School Code of 1955. Chapter 4 is the chapter pertaining to the annexation of one district to another."

"The 1962 Act provides for the addition of Sections 446 to 449 inclusive and is a new procedure."

"It provides that the County Board of Education may divide a district which has no board of education and attach the parts thereof to two or more operating districts when requested to do so by a resolution of the Board of the

district to be divided, or when petitioned by not less than five percent of the voters in the affected district, subject to the approval of the voters of the affected district and also subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction."

"The County Board of Education must, before the election, clearly define the boundaries of

the division. If the voters of the affected district approve, the County Board of Education shall, within 30 days, declare the district divided, declare the territory attached to operating districts, and make an equitable distribution of the assets of the district among the districts to which the territory is attached. The County Board of Education shall thereafter notify

the secretaries of the districts whose boundaries are changed, the affected assessment officers and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The notification shall contain a map showing the new boundaries of the affected districts."

"This statute has been amended by Act 139 of the Public Acts of 1964 which will not become effective, however, until August 28. The amendment does not change the procedure above outlined except that it provides for the change of County Boards of Education to Intermediate

School Districts created under Act 190 of 1963.

"Nowhere in the Act is any provision made for the consent of the acquiring district, and it seems that the whole procedure can be done without the consent or even knowledge of the district which thus acquires part of another district."

"The only voice the acquiring district might have is to appeal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction within 10 days of the time of the action by the County Board of Education in setting up the election. This procedure is perfectly valid and legal."

"School districts are agencies and creatures of the State and the State, acting through its legislative function, has the power to impose whatever conditions of existence or operation that it desires."

"Assuming that the proceedings in connection with the Lapham District are regular, the Plymouth Schools have acquired a part of that district and there is nothing that can be done about it."



FIRST CUSTOMERS of the new Sears Livonia Mall store are guests of Mayor Harvey Moelke (left) and Store Manager Arthur Cone at a coffee klatch prior to the official ribbon cutting ceremonies. Mrs. Emma Greshover, 19704 Middlebelt, and Mrs. Lillian Hocking (right), 19710 Middlebelt, were the first in line and the first to make purchases at the pre-opening on Monday, Sept. 9. They waited for two hours for the doors to open.

Elderly Livonia Neighbors First Sears Customers

After waiting more than a year for the completion and grand opening of Sears Livonia Mall store and another two hours a week ago Monday for the opening of the gates for the pre-opening tours and sale, Mrs. Emma Greshover, 19704 Middlebelt Road, and Mrs. Lillian Hocking, 19710 Middlebelt Road, became the first official customers of the largest link in the giant Sears chain.

The pair, neighbors across the street from the Mall, made up the first customers from the moment the first shovel of dirt was dug.

"We watched every step of the construction," said Mrs. Greshover, serving as spokesman. "We received an invitation to the pre-opening sale and tours and were in line at 7 a.m. to make sure none was ahead of us."

The two-hour wait for the gates to open paid off for Store Manager Arthur Cone as he advised the two elderly women, who had been waiting patiently to become the first customers, and invited them into the Coffee Shop for doughnuts and coffee.

Thus they became the first official customers of the Coffee Shop and Cone made certain that they were the first to enter the store.

Mrs. Greshover purchased a housecoat, all-weather coat and two dresses.

Mrs. Hocking, who has been a customer of Sears since 1962 when she ordered a bedroom set by mail while residing in Calumet, bought a robe and blanket.

Both were invited back for

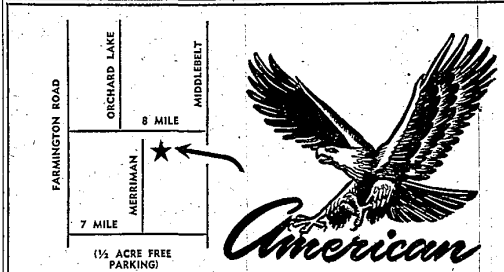
the official opening last Thursday when they participated in a coffee snack with Livonia City officials prior to the ribbon cutting ceremonies at 8:55 a.m.

Mrs. Hocking amazed Sears officials by displaying a picture of her son in a baby buggy purchased from the chain in 1908 through the catalog. The buggy has long since disappeared—her son, Fred is now 55 and resides on Beech Road in Detroit—but the picture showed a buggy that must have been the talk of the neighborhood at that time.

Mrs. Hocking has been a Livonia resident at the Middlebelt address for 24 years and Mrs. Greshover has resided there for 13.

Both remember when the site at Middlebelt and Seven Mile road was known as the Cuzzillo farm. Matter of fact, both knew the Cuzzillos well and probably were aware of the fact that a shopping center was in the wind well in advance of the official announcement.

One of the Cuzzillos told them of the possibilities shortly after the sale of the property. That was five years ago when Sears first studied the possibility of constructing a store at the Livonia site.



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Clarenceville Plans School Registrations

Clarenceville School district will accept registrations of kindergarten pupils Wednesday, Sept. 9 at the respective elementary schools and new high school students during the weeks beginning Aug. 24 and Aug. 31, according to school officials.

High school newcomers may make appointments with Counsellors Miss McCallahan or Mr. Marra by calling 476-2270. Those entering the senior high from Clarenceville Junior High are not required to pre-register.

Kindergarten youngsters, who have reached the age of five before Dec. 1, 1964 and have not previously registered must do so on the Sept. 9 date.

All other pupils are expected to report to their respective schools on Wednesday, Sept. 9. Special letters are being sent to parents of first grade children in Grandview Elementary School.

School officials announced hours for the book store located in the senior high school building. The dates and time schedule: Aug. 18-20 and Aug. 23-27.

9 a.m.-11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Sept. 13 and Sept. 21, 9 a.m. to noon and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Work Progressing On 8-Room Addition To Edgewood School

Work on the eight-room addition to Edgewood School in the Clarenceville School District is progressing satisfactorily and officials hope to have the rooms available for use by the time classes begin.

Bids have been submitted for the additions to the senior high school and contracts will be let in the near future. It is hoped to get the project under way early in September.

Field Training

Army Specialist Four Dennis B. Sacka, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter T. Sacka, 11269 Karen avenue, Livonia, and other members of the 4th Armored Division are participating in three weeks of field training at Grafenwohr, Germany, ending Aug. 21.

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