

New Concept In Local Parks Pioneered In Township

Farmington Township is pioneering a new concept in local parks. Two such developments are Canterbury Commons and the new Independence Commons.

Both are being developed by Thompson and Brown, with the help of a professional landscape architect, Robert W. Bills, of Orchard Lake, Michigan.

And to Bills, it's the greatest thing to come along in the field of recreation in a long time. Bills, who before he began a private practice worked as a park planner for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Park Authority, says it represents a new level of responsibility.

Under the commons concept, park land is set aside when the

new land is being platted for a subdivision. The developer agrees to create a park, and the civic association must maintain it.

"Many people say we don't have to preserve open space," Bills explains. "They say, let the people down the road do it. But it is not a county and state function alone."

According to Bills, who helped plan such things as Metropolitan Park of St. Clair Shores, there are four kinds of recreation areas. The first, the school playground, is usually flat, and used in relationship to school programs.

The second is the park that receives one-day use, from dawn to dusk, (Metropolitan, for instance). The third is the state and national parks which are used for long trips, two week camp-outs and overnight stays.

It's the fourth kind that is being ignored—the local level. A COMMONS serves that need, without the local government bearing the cost.

"I'm elated with the Township ordinance in Farmington that permits a developer to reduce the size of his lot so he will set up a commons or park area," Bills said.

"Canterbury Commons adds strength to the argument that we need open space preserved at the local level."

In Canterbury many houses adjoin the commons; the others are accessible by foot on walks.

The idea is old, coming from Medieval England, where residents of area had a 'commons' owned by all used as pasture, or to gather firewood. The idea transferred to America, became the town square.

How well the plan has worked can be shown in the fact that Canterbury developers Thompson and Brown plan similar things for Independence Commons on Drake Rd.

And how well the park will hold up and be maintained depends on two things—Bills' ingenuity when it was designed, and the strength of the local civic association, who must maintain it.

NEIGHBORHOOD associations owning and operating a park is no small job," Bills said. "But problems of vandalism should be cut because the idea will have a better attitude toward property. The parents will have brought it home, because they must pay to maintain the park."

What does Bills do to help

the association with its maintenance job? That's his real love — designing parks. "We found the best thing was a well-drained grass area, with woods, and a walk, a lot of flowers and as few gimmicks as possible," Bills said. Architect Bills said too often good ideas are used that look good, but prospective lot and home buyers, but won't stand the test of time.

"WE DON'T want it to become a no-man's-land," Bill com-

mented. A lot is done with natural land features. Flood plains are retained and a vigorous reforestation program is mapped out, with every effort made to keep natural cover.

"The creek at Canterbury Commons is typical of the natural resources or land features that we like to preserve," Bills noted.

Aside from the "quiet areas" such as woods and walks, high activity areas are planned, but

kept to a minimum. For instance in Independence Commons, a large covered shelter with a circular fireplace, and tennis courts are planned. And at Canterbury a lot lot (with a terrace overlooking it) was constructed. Things available on school playgrounds like a ball diamond are not planned for commons.

THUS AN OLD idea of common land for all is finding a new application in Farmington.

It can be done in an amateurish way, with little concern for longevity and more for the short term gain. Parks that look nice when the subdivision is sold are no good if they can't be maintained at a reasonable cost, Bills contends.

"The cost of the commons is built into the cost of the home. With careful planning on the part of the builder, it can be well worth it."

And if Bills has anything to do with it, it will be.



ROBERT W. BILLS studies the plans for a new local park in his traveling office-truck. Bills, an independent landscaper, has designed the commons in Canterbury Commons and is designing the recreation area for the new development, Independence Commons.

"I'm elated with the Township ordinance in Farmington that permits a developer to reduce the size of his lot so he will set up a commons or park area," Bills said.

"Canterbury Commons adds strength to the argument that we need open space preserved at the local level."

In Canterbury many houses adjoin the commons; the others are accessible by foot on walks.

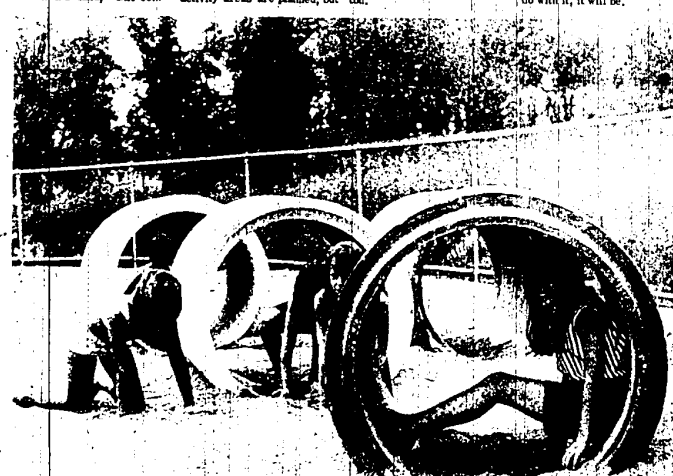
The idea is old, coming from Medieval England, where residents of area had a 'commons' owned by all used as pasture, or to gather firewood. The idea transferred to America, became the town square.

How well the plan has worked can be shown in the fact that Canterbury developers Thompson and Brown plan similar things for Independence Commons on Drake Rd.

And how well the park will hold up and be maintained depends on two things—Bills' ingenuity when it was designed, and the strength of the local civic association, who must maintain it.

NEIGHBORHOOD associations owning and operating a park is no small job," Bills said. "But problems of vandalism should be cut because the idea will have a better attitude toward property. The parents will have brought it home, because they must pay to maintain the park."

What does Bills do to help



ROUND CROCKS are a popular item in the Canterbury Commons recreation area. Cynthia Height and her friends spend much time in them. Robert W. Bills, architect of the Commons.

says that easy to maintain items are best in the subdivision parks. At Canterbury no attempt was made to duplicate ball diamonds or other facilities usually found on school playgrounds.

local news happenings

Mr. and Mrs. Frank William Oakes, formerly of Detroit, now of Clemson, S.C., announce the engagement of their daughter, Joann, to Daniel Lee Burnett, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Burnett of Farmington. Miss Oakes is a graduate of Liggett School and Wayne State University. Burnett is a 1966 graduate of Farmington High School, also a graduate of the University of Michigan. An October wedding is planned.

VIOLA CAIRNS and Sylvester Isner, both of Farmington, were united in marriage June 3 at

the home of Isner's daughter, and son-in-law, the David Hopkins, of Lakeway, by the Rev. Robert Shallow (nephew of the bride). Fifty friends and relatives attended the reception at the Hopkins residence.

The newlyweds' honeymoon trip took them through the Eastern states, Canada and Niagara Falls. They are making their home on Lakeway Dr., Farmington.

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Miller, of Hillcrest Dr., left Metropolitan Airport by jet June 20. It was a first—the maiden

voyage of the Big Jumbo Jet which carried 220 passengers and a 13-man crew, the largest group of people to ever cross the Atlantic by plane.

THE MILLERS landed at Prestwick, Scotland airport and continued on a five-day tour to London where they visited Miller's three sisters and their families. They enjoyed many beautiful side trips and had a delightful time, arriving home July 18.

Miss Grace Sweet, of Washington, D.C., is spending a few days with her cousin, Mrs. Dan Love, of Farmington Rd. Miss Sweet is also visiting a brother who recently underwent major surgery at the V.A. hospital in Ann Arbor.

MRS. W. J. Bridger Morissette, of Scottsdale, Ariz., flew home Sunday by jet, after a 2 1/2 week visit in Farmington and Detroit with relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Campbell, of Wildwood, recently enjoyed a trip to Nova Scotia, Maine, and Cape Cod.

Mr. and Mrs. George Clifford, of Farmington, recently vacationed in Northern Michigan and Wisconsin.

Mrs. Nell H. Fankell, of Longacre, enjoyed a pleasant vacation recently with friends in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Mrs. Fankell was formerly a resident of the River Glen Apartments.

MR. AND MRS. Herb C. Long Jr. and family, of Wildwood, are spending a week in northern Michigan. Mrs. Long and daughter, Ann, will spend a week at the Jerry Websters' cottage near Traverse City, while Herb and son Chuck will continue on to Upper Michigan where they will camp out on Porcupine Mountains with the Explorers.

Doctor Joins Staff At Medical Center

Dr. P.M. Gretkiewicz, of Taylor Center, has recently joined the staff of osteopathic physicians and surgeons at the Farmington Medical Center, 2538 Orchard Lake Rd., in the practice of general medicine. Dr. Gretkiewicz is associated with Dr. A.J. Scarhill and Dr. P.A. Farnie at the medical center.

Dr. Gretkiewicz, a native Detroit, graduated from U. of D. High School and the University of Detroit before entering military service. He served with the U.S. Army for two years, spending much of this time in Korea during the Korean crisis.

Upon resuming civilian life, Dr. Gretkiewicz attended Wayne State University and majored in chemistry. He received his bachelor of science degree from Wayne State, making the dean's list, and pursued his career in medicine at the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery for four years. Dr. Gretkiewicz served his internship at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital, Pontiac.

Supercold Steel

Although at extremely low temperatures most metals will become very brittle, a special 9 percent nickel steel has been developed to remain unaffected by temperatures as low as

-320°F. Invented in the research laboratories of International Nickel, the steel is used primarily for containers to handle, store and transport supercold liquid gases.

MR. AND MRS. Herb C. Long Jr. and family, of Wildwood, are spending a week in northern Michigan. Mrs. Long and daughter, Ann, will spend a week at the Jerry Websters' cottage near Traverse City, while Herb and son Chuck will continue on to Upper Michigan where they will camp out on Porcupine Mountains with the Explorers.

THE MILLERS landed at Prestwick, Scotland airport and continued on a five-day tour to London where they visited Miller's three sisters and their families. They enjoyed many beautiful side trips and had a delightful time, arriving home July 18.

Miss Grace Sweet, of Washington, D.C., is spending a few days with her cousin, Mrs. Dan Love, of Farmington Rd. Miss Sweet is also visiting a brother who recently underwent major surgery at the V.A. hospital in Ann Arbor.

MRS. W. J. Bridger Morissette, of Scottsdale, Ariz., flew home Sunday by jet, after a 2 1/2 week visit in Farmington and Detroit with relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Campbell, of Wildwood, recently enjoyed a trip to Nova Scotia, Maine, and Cape Cod.

Mr. and Mrs. George Clifford, of Farmington, recently vacationed in Northern Michigan and Wisconsin.

Mrs. Nell H. Fankell, of Longacre, enjoyed a pleasant vacation recently with friends in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Mrs. Fankell was formerly a resident of the River Glen Apartments.

MR. AND MRS. Herb C. Long Jr. and family, of Wildwood, are spending a week in northern Michigan. Mrs. Long and daughter, Ann, will spend a week at the Jerry Websters' cottage near Traverse City, while Herb and son Chuck will continue on to Upper Michigan where they will camp out on Porcupine Mountains with the Explorers.

THE MILLERS landed at Prestwick, Scotland airport and continued on a five-day tour to London where they visited Miller's three sisters and their families. They enjoyed many beautiful side trips and had a delightful time, arriving home July 18.

Miss Grace Sweet, of Washington, D.C., is spending a few days with her cousin, Mrs. Dan Love, of Farmington Rd. Miss Sweet is also visiting a brother who recently underwent major surgery at the V.A. hospital in Ann Arbor.

South Farmington Tournament Ends

South Farmington's baseball team have not fared well in tournament play. They have been the victims of either accidents or brilliant baseball. The team was eliminated by losing two straight games to North Farmington and Southfield 5-1 and 4-1.

An accident in the first game with North Farmington occurred when Frank Barber and Tony Himmelsbach collided. Both were taken to St. Mary's Hospital, Livonia; Barber with a slight concussion and Himmelsbach with a broken nose.

In the second game with Southfield, the team was without the services of the injured players and some others suffered minor injuries. In one well-executed play, with runners on third base, Southfield twice perfectly worked outside square plays that accounted for two of the four runs.

The major tournament team beat Milford 8-1 with Tim

Grimes pitching and only allowing one run, which was a homer.

GARY PEELING pitched the second game and scattered four hits over the first five innings without allowing a score.

In city playoff contests, the Cougars are the Tee Ball champions, beating the Runner-up Bears 19-13.

The Pony League champs are still uncrowned because the league was snarled several times in the past week. The games between the Giants, Pirates and Red Sox caused the confusion.

The Giants won two games, beating the Red Sox 7-3 and the Pirates 4-3 to win the second half playoff spot. They will oppose the Dodgers for the Pony championship.

National League Minor All Stars will play American League All Stars in City Park Saturday at the Jaycee chicken barbecue at 3 p.m. In the evening at 7 p.m., two major Little League teams selected by the managers will oppose each other on the lighted diamond.

SEASONS PONY LEAGUE STANDINGS

Games Won	Lost	Played
Giants 10	7	17
Dodgers 9	7	16
Pirates 9	7	16
Red Sox 9	7	16
Senators 8	10	18

FLASHY TOGS

Electroluminescent dyes, coats, and slacks which glow in the dark and flash on and off at variable speeds are being marketed in New York. The lights are powered by tiny rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries carried in a belt.

The parasite is a wasp, about one-fourth to one-half inch long, which appears to be "very active" in searching out the European bark beetle which spreads the disease.

Michigan State University entomologists Dr. Dan L. Haynes, Dr. James W. Butcher and Douglas Valik say the parasitic wasp has all the characteristics of a good parasite: It reproduces rapidly and in large numbers, readily seeks out bark beetle larvae, and is host specific (will not harm other organisms).

About a million European wasps are being released to see if they are able to over-winter in Michigan and then provide a perennial biological control for the European elm bark beetle and prevent the spread of Dutch elm disease.

Cigarettes

The typical smoker used to buy only single packs at small retail stores or newsstands. Now, because of convenience and economy, he buys more by the carton at the supermarket. Supermarkets are the greatest single outlet for cigarettes—50 to 40% of the nation's sales.

Saratoga Farms
LUNCHES and DINNERS
DINING ROOM - COFFEE SHOP - COCKTAIL LOUNGE
Specializing in
Chicken Dinners - Steaks - Chops - Sea Food
42050 Grand River
Fieldbrook 8-9760
11 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Novi, Michigan
Closed Mondays

LAKELAND NURSERY
30720 W. 12 MILE
Just East of Orchard Lake Road

The Finest Display in the Northwest Area!
Evergreens, Shade Trees, Etc.

COMPLETE LANDSCAPING AND DESIGNING
• TERRACING
• PATIOS
• WATERFALLS
• ROCK GARDENS

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE

626-7223

THAYER FUNERAL HOME
(NEW CHAPEL)
Grand River at Liberty Street - Farmington - GR. 4-4131

Ten To Study At Western

Ten Farmington residents recently spent three days on the Western Michigan University campus taking part in orientation, testing, and registration for classes beginning August 28.

They are Richard Barnabo, general curriculum; Thomas

Girardot, Jr., general; Michael Gay, general; Carol Hoelscher, remedial education; Kathleen Jowell, general; Cheryl Letcher, speech pathology and audiology; Brian Walworth, general; Paul Tooley, business administration; Dan Roof, liberal arts; and Susan Bendis, general.

OUR DEEDS follow us, and what we have been makes us what we are.

Keep us in mind - We're easy to find.

We will have completed our 100th year January, 1968.

JOHN CLAPPISON
CLAPPISON and CONROY
FARMINGTON INSURANCE AGENCY
33215 Grand River GR 4-3511

WARD'S CATALOG STORE
FARMINGTON CENTER
Grand River at Farmington Rd.
SHOP BY PHONE
476-6350

Complete APPLIANCE and TELEVISION Department At This Store
USE WARDS "CHARGE ALL" PLAN

TRUCK ON OUT TO NORTHVILLE

'62 International C.O.F. 195. 145" W.B., 509 Engine, Live Tandem Axle, New Paint Job, 100% Air, Power Steering, \$3195.00. Bank Terms to Suit.

'64 DODGE PICKUP. Big 6 - 51cd. One Owner. We sold it new and serviced it since, so we know the truck.
Easy Bank Terms \$995.00

WE JUST ASK A WEET POINT IN NORTHVILLE

G. E. MILLER SALES NORTHVILLE DODGE
127 Hutton St. FI 9-0660