

FOUNDER'S DAY ISSUE



The Village Almanac

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGDALE

March 1976, Vol. 1 No. 3

Home Rule Vote This Spring

by William Hicks

Residents of Bloomingdale will once again be given the responsibility to consider the merits of becoming a home rule municipality. The second home rule referendum in approximately two years is tentatively scheduled for late spring or early summer of this year. The first referendum was held April 27, 1974, and was defeated by a vote of 418 to 311.

In 1974, over 70 percent of the people in Illinois were living within home rule governing bodies. By spring of 1975, there were officially 87 home rule units in the state - 86 municipalities and Cook County.

What Is Home Rule?

The Institute of Government and Public Affairs of the University of

Illinois describes home rule in the following manner:

"Generally home rule municipalities and counties have more freedom to run their own affairs and solve their own problems with fewer restrictions by the state government...

"Without home rule, cities operate under 'Dillon's Rule', which means that local governments have only those powers explicitly granted in statutes enacted by the state legislature, along with the powers necessarily implied from those specifically granted. If the statutes are silent on a certain power, local governments cannot exercise that power.

"Illinois home rule is intended to substantially modify or limit the restrictions of Dillon's Rule by

What's Ahead For Bloomingdale?

by Dean Dranias

Using available statistics and educated guesswork, the Bloomingdale Plan Commission made some interesting projections for the village by the year 2000. Its comprehensive plan prepared by Allen L. Kracower & Associates, Inc., Des Plaines, contains the findings of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and other relevant data pertaining to the village and surrounding communities.

Population

By century's end, Bloomingdale's population will be approximately 38,000. Presently the village has 9000 residents. An additional 21,000 per-

sons are expected when major housing developments are completed and occupied. Another 9000 persons could live in future residential areas which the village may annex.

Housing

Current housing trends indicate that townhomes and condominiums rather than detached single-family dwellings will be preferred by prospective homebuyers. However, the trend is definitely toward owner-occupied dwellings as opposed to rented apartments.

Continued on page 4

permitting the exercise of a power unless denied by the constitution or by law. In addition, in Illinois, home rule units may exercise powers in different ways from those spelled out by statute, unless the legislature has specifically limited or denied such powers - so-called preemption.

What Powers Do Home Rule Units Have?

I. Perhaps the most significant aspect of home rule is the granting of a broad range of general powers. As indicated above, towns which are not home rule units may exercise only those powers specifically authorized by the state; consequently, even minor changes in municipal procedures may not be possible without seeking new state legislation or amendments to existing statutes. In home rule units, such authorization is not necessary.

II. A second type of broadened power comes in the area of purchasing property on installment. Federal and state regulations are quite restrictive, limiting the length of leases and long term contracts. Under home rule, municipalities are able to extend such leases and contracts with the additional benefit of qualifying for certain types of federal matching grants on long term purchases.

III. Another important area of concern to local governments is the expanded power of the home rule unit to license and regulate businesses and professions to protect the public health, safety, and morals. Recent preemptions by the state legislature have re-asserted the right of the state to license and regulate over thirty professions including real estate, insurance, medicine, and numerous others. However, the powers remaining are still significant. Two exam-

Continued on page 6

NEW VILLAGE

HALL FOR

BLOOMINGDALE

Picture And Stories

On Pages 4 & 5

Founders Day - March 11

In keeping with our Founder's Day theme, the following article has been reprinted from the History of DuPage County, written by Rufus Blanchard, and published in 1882.

BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP

This is the central northern township of DuPage County, situated in Township 40, Range 1. Its average elevation above Lake Michigan is above that of any other town in the county, as is shown by its being the sources of both the forks of the DuPage River and also the source of a western tributary of Salt Creek.

Its general elevation above Lake Michigan is estimated to be about 180 feet, except in its lower portions. A beautiful grove occupies the southern parts of Sections 10, 11 and 12 and the northern portions of Sections 13, 14 and a corner of 15. This grove attracted the attention of the aboriginal inhabitants of the country as a refuge to fly to during the nipping frosts of winter, and also the heat of summer, and here they made offerings to appease the supposed wrath of the Great Spirit, and here their rights of sepulture were devoutly performed in their own barbaric way, evidences of which are still extant and afford speculations for the archaeologist. Their name for the grove was Penneck, which in their tongue was the name of an esculent root which they used for food and which grew there. What the root was the writer does not know. It might have been ginseng. The Indians in their straits

have often lived on worse fare than this. Whatever the root was, the Indians made annual autumn harvests of it for two or three years after white settlements had begun at the place which was on the 11th day of March, 1833, when Silas, Henry and Lyman Meacham, three brothers from Rutland County, Vt., built a log cabin there. They had intervened between this spot and their home with their own teams.

The ground was covered with snow, and everything on the broad face of nature around, except the grove, looked desolate and forbidding, but here was a glad retreat and here their stakes were set.

The Meachams were men of broad-gauge charity-could fellowship their red neighbors and lived on good term with them for the few years that they remained at the place previous to their removal, and the trust and confidence extended to them was never dishonored. Their nearest neighbors were the settlements of Jude Gary, Lyman Butterfield and H.T. Wilson, near the present corners of Milton, Winfield and Lisle Townships-a distance of about ten miles. The following autumn after their first settlement, Mrs. Lyman Meacham died. There was no material at hand wherewith to make her coffin, except the wagon box. This was taken apart, and the boards of which it was made reconstructed into a coffin to receive the remains of her who had come to the place in the vehicle, so soon to serve her for this last purpose.

Give Blood On May 8th

The Bloomingdale Blood Association is gratified by the tremendous response it received to its first of two blood drives for the current year. In January, from the 244 appointments made, 172 pints were donated. The discrepancy in numbers is mainly due to last-minute ineligibility brought on by illnesses and-or the ingestion of medication(s) which are forbidden for 24 hours prior to giving blood.

Bloomingdale's quota for the year is 352 pints, which represents 4 percent of our population. The Association feels confident that 180 more pints will be donated at the next drive, which will be held on May 8, at a location yet to be announced.

Grace Guis, an Association spokesperson, has pointed out that many other suburbs have had difficulty in maintaining their quotas, and have subsequently had to drop their blood programs. She reminds us that if our quota is met, all Bloomingdale residents are covered by the plan, and that all healthy adults between the ages of 17 and 65 are eligible donors.

The numbers to call for more information, or to make appointments, are 894-8906, 893-3693, or 893-1221.

Register To Vote

If you are not now registered to vote, please do so. You can register to vote at Village Hall after March 16th, up til the day of the Home Rule Referendum, from 8:30 to 4:30 daily, and from 8:00 to 12:00 on Saturday. **BE COUNTED!**

Free Glaucoma Tests

Glaucoma is a serious eye disease that can cause partial or complete vision loss. Symptoms may appear gradually or quite suddenly. With early detection, blindness can be prevented.

Free glaucoma screening tests are offered to the public at the out-patient department of the Hinsdale Sanitarium and Hospital, 120 N. Oak, Hinsdale. For information about tests and scheduling call 887-2400.

The Village Almanac is published quarterly by the Public Relations Committee of the Village of Bloomingdale.

Editor
William Hicks

Staff
Dean Dranias
Valerie Dranias
Judy Kuhel
John McGeever
Lorraine Reed
Marilyn Corbett
Pat Elmore

Advisor
Frank Johnson

Address all correspondence to:
Village of Bloomingdale, Public
Relations Committee, 108 W.
Lake St., Bloomingdale, Ill. 60108.

Helping The Alcoholic

The Outreach Center of DuPage County is offering classes focusing on the misuse and abuse of alcohol in our society. They have been designed for both the professional person who is dealing with alcohol problemed persons, and the interested person who feels he or she would like more information in this subject area.

The fee for the classes is \$20 for the series. For details on when and where the next session begins, please call: 834-8900, OUTREACH CENTER OF DUPAGE COUNTY, Suite 210, 207 S. Villa Ave., Villa Park, Ill. 60181.

Park District Plans

Big Summer Season

The Bloomingdale Park District is having a most successful winter season, including a Friday Night Jr. High Club, skiing and tiny tot program. The macrame, slimnastics and belly dancing classes are very active, and the advanced art program is rapidly becoming a favorite. Basketball has also been very well received.

Our Park District, as is its policy, will be offering more and different activities for our summer fun and education. This season, in addition to the youth park activities, tiny tots, and art courses, Bloomingdale will offer tennis lessons for all ages.

With high hopes for an early summer, the pool is scheduled to open June 5th, and the Park District will continue to offer swimming lessons for all ages, and this year, plans to add a swim team, and possibly diving instruction.

Any resident who has an idea for an activity that is not currently sponsored is welcome to call to discuss it, according to Tom Lovern, Park District Director. The phone number is 529-3650.

Mortgage Escrow Law Changes

Illinois has joined several other states which have enacted specific legislation to regulate mortgage lenders in the administration of escrow accounts. This act became effective on January 1, 1976, and applies to escrow accounts for payment of real estate taxes established after this date. The new law pertains only to mortgages for single family, owner occupied residential property.

When the mortgage indebtedness is reduced to 65 percent of its original amount and the mortgage is free of default the mortgage lender must notify the borrower that he may terminate the escrow account or elect to continue it until further notice from the borrower. In addition, the borrower is given the right to establish, by pledge, an escrow account consisting of an interest-bearing savings account.

The act does not apply to escrow accounts which are required by state or federal law.

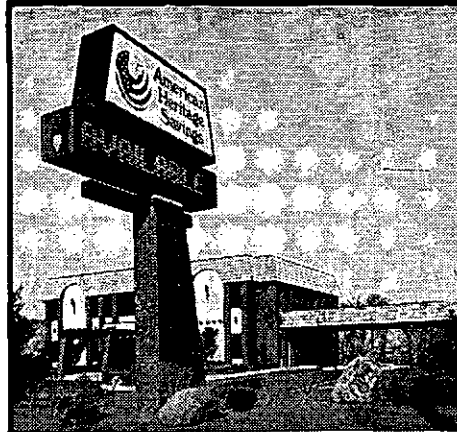
Spring To The Library

Visiting the Bloomingdale Library is a sure way to drive away the doldrums. The staff is friendly and helpful, and the selection of books increases daily.

For children six to twelve, a storyhour will be held on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on April 3, 10, 17, 24, and May 1, and 8. Say Mom and Dad, wouldn't that be a

good time to come in and browse around?

Having difficulty locating a babysitter? The third Red Cross Babysitting Class was completed in February and approximately 35 boys and girls, ages 10 to 14, have been granted a Red Cross Babysitting Certificate. Names of available sitters are on file at the library.




**American
Heritage
Savings**
of Bloomingdale
261 E. Lake St.
894-5400

**Celebrate Bloomingdale's Founders Day
The American Heritage Savings Way
76 FREE GIFTS FOR SAVINGS**

\$500 or more

Your
Choice



plus 41
other gifts

\$2000 or more

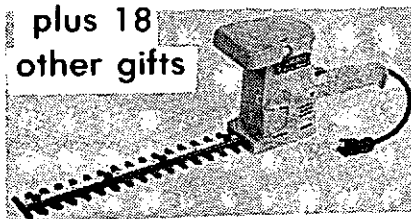
Your
Choice



plus 14
other gifts

\$5000 or more

Your
Choice



plus 18
other gifts

New Hours At All Locations

Starting March 15

Mon. & Tues. 9 AM-5 PM

Wed. Closed

Thurs. 9 AM- 5PM

Fri. 9 AM-8 PM

SAT. 9 AM-1 PM.



American Heritage Savings

ADDISON
625 West Army Trail Road
543-5800

BLOOMINGDALE
261 East Lake Street
894-5400

SCHAUMBURG
15 West Weathersfield Way
893-4340

JOHN C. BEST
President

ESLIC



ANDREW J. PUPLIS
Secretary

New Village Hall To Be Completed In November

For the first time in its history, Bloomingdale will construct a building specifically designed as a village hall. Located on Bloomingdale Road just north of the library, the new structure will house all village departments including administration, police, and public works.

The new village hall and the existing Bloomingdale Public Library will share a seven acre parcel which was donated by Campanelli Brothers Construction in 1973. An additional cash contribution of \$168,000 was received from Hoffman-Rosner, Inc. in 1975, and the decision was made in late fall to proceed with plans for the new structure. Total cost of the building will be just under \$400,000, approximately half of which will be financed.

According to architect George W. Lindstrom, an attempt was made to blend the architectural style of the new hall with the surrounding residences. Village officials were clearly interested in a functional but attractive design.



Bloomingdale's new vill

Work Schedule For Village Hall

(Tentative)

Completion of working drawings, specifications and bid documentations.....	March 10, 1976
Letting of Bids.....	March 12, 1976
Opening of Bids.....	March 29, 1976
Start of Work.....	April 1, 1976
Earliest Completion.....	September 20, 1976
Latest Completion.....	November 20, 1976

Village Motto Contest

With an attractive new village hall opening this year, Bloomingdale's residents may feel an increased sense of pride in their community. The new structure seems to be representative of the growth and progress of the village.

To provide a meaningful symbol of this vitality, Mayor Robert Homola has announced a contest for a Village Motto. A motto might be defined as a word or phrase which symbolizes the spirit and aspirations of a community. The subject of the motto might concentrate on the historical aspects of the village, its physical characteristics, or perhaps its objectives.

The top ten entries will be selected by the Public Relations Committee, and final judging will be done by the Village Board.

Watch for results of the contest in the June issue of the Almanac.

Contest Rules

1. All contestants must be age 12 or older.
2. Upon receipt, all entries become the property of the Village of Bloomingdale. The entry which is chosen will be final.
3. The original entry may be subject to minor editing by the judges.
4. All entries must be submitted to the Village of Bloomingdale, MOTTO CONTEST, 108 W. Lake Street, Bloomingdale, IL 60108, and must be postmarked no later than April 1, 1976.
5. Prize for the winning entry will be a \$50 Savings Bond.
6. The name and address of the entrant should be clearly indicated on each entry. The contest winner will be notified by mail.

What's Ahead...

Continued from page 1

Households

The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission projects that the average household in DuPage County will decrease from 3.50 persons per family unit in 1950 to about 3.00 persons by year 2000. The trend to smaller families can be translated into fewer demands for school facilities, higher demands for day care programs, and increased spending on leisure and recreational activities.

Family Incomes

Families in Bloomingdale, as in other DuPage County communities, fall in the upper middle income bracket. Median family income in Bloomingdale in 1970 was approximately \$13,500. It is expected that the number of families in Bloomingdale earning more than \$15,000 will continue to increase.

Employment

Continued growth and development of industrial park sites and commercial shopping centers in nearby communities and Bloomingdale indicate a major increase in employment opportunities within the area. Total employment in DuPage County by the year 2000 is expected to be over 340,000, an approximate 133 percent increase over the 146,000 estimated jobs available in 1970.



age hall, 201 South Bloomingdale, will contain two levels with a total of 14,000 square feet.

Contributions Are Welcome

Several organizations in Bloomingdale have already expressed an interest in making contributions to the new Village Hall. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact Mr. Robert Reeves, Village Manager, at 529-2874, for further details.

Listed below are some of the items which may be provided by individuals or groups.

Flagpole

Bulletin Boards (4)

Exterior Sign

Dedication Plaque

Councilroom Seating

Security Screens (Front Desk)

Range, Oven, Refrigerator

Paper Towel Dispension

Blackboard, Corkboard (Conference Room)

Movie Screens (2)

Music System

Signing Door Plate Names

Mirrors

Paneling (Wood)

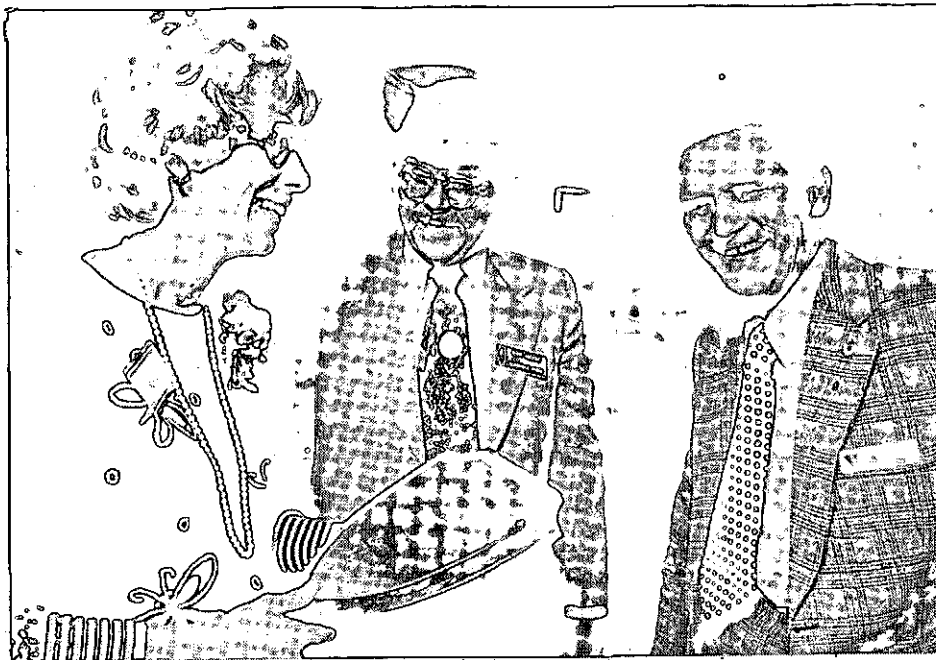
Bathroom Hardware

Vanities (7)

Special Lighting Fixtures

Communications System

Landscaping



Mrs. Carolyn Somerville received the first Citizen of the Year Award from the Bloomingdale Jaycees on January 20. Jaycees President Mark Ansevic, and Mayor Robert Homola offer congratulations. Mrs. Somerville has been very active in many community groups including the Library Board and the Bloomingdale Women's Club.

Village Notes

Hats Off To Mother Nature

How come each Spring we hear and read about the neighboring villages and communities fighting floods and high water, while we, comparatively, sit "high and dry"?

According to the DuPage Citizen's Organization, Bloomingdale, although in a "wet" area, is not in the "flood plain". What a stroke of good fortune for those of us who didn't know the difference between "terrain" and "flood plain" before we moved here!

Cherish The Memories



Local residents will long cherish their memories of George Bender (left), both as a friend and as proprietor of "Bender's" Hardware. George passed away on February 8th at the age of 60. Here in a familiar pose, he chats with John Budd (right) and a group of children from the village. George was a lifelong resident of the Bloomingdale-Cloverdale area.

Home Rule...

Continued from page 1

ples might be mentioned: Arlington Heights has adopted a solicitor's licensing ordinance; and Des Plaines has passed an ordinance licensing food delivery vehicles to insure sanitary conditions.

IV. There is also the power to tax, an area of authority that has perhaps raised the greatest concern and controversy. Again, both state and federal laws restrict non-home rule municipalities as to the type of taxes that they may utilize and the maximum rates. For communities in which property taxes have reached undesirable levels, the opportunity to obtain revenue from other sources is an attractive possibility. Some home rule units have imposed luxury taxes on cigarettes, liquor, and amusements, while others have opted for employee head taxes (Cook County), gasoline taxes, and parking taxes. The list goes on - some are intended to relieve a portion of the tax burden from residents (such as a tax on hotel rooms), and others are clearly designed to shift the burden of taxes to a different segment of the community.

V. Finally, home rule units have the power to modify their own govern-

mental structure and organization. Springfield, for example, abolished the office of city attorney (which is mandated by state law) and created a municipal law department.

Both large and small communities have accepted home rule. The largest in Illinois is Cook County, and a number of villages numbering less than a thousand residents have approved the measure. When a town reaches a population of 25,000, it automatically qualifies for home rule status. The alternative is a referendum.

The laws affecting home rule have been modified considerably since Bloomingdale last voted on the issue. The modifications have occurred as a result of law suits by municipalities, and preemptions of the law by the general assembly.

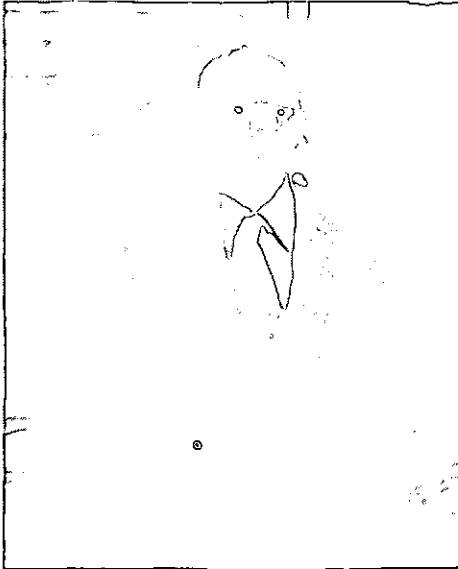
Home rule referendums have had a tendency to arouse strong emotions among residents. Proponents of the measure emphasize the increased flexibility available to local governments as a result of the law. Often it is argued that home rule units are better able to attract new business and industry because of the increased power to deal with local problems.

The concerns of opponents to home rule generally center on the following: increased tax rates or creation of new taxes; placing too much power in the hands of inexperienced officials; and the potential for unreasonable licensing procedures.

To fully understand the home rule laws would take considerable study, more than most people are willing to donate. What is contained here must be regarded as a brief overview.

Gus Fessler Remembers...

by Judy Kuhel



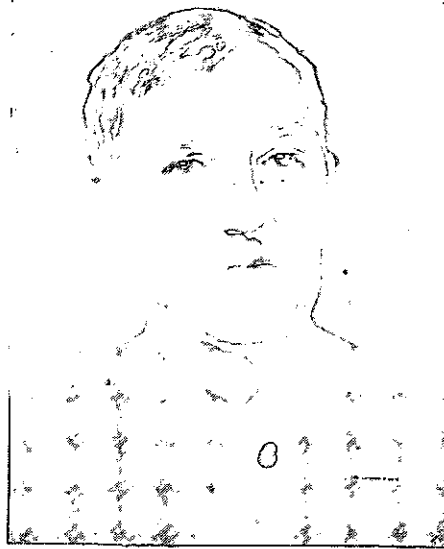
Gus Fessler in front of his home on Lake street....

In an old house on Lake Street, in the part of town that was the original Bloomingdale, there lives a man who is something of a phenomenon. August "Gus" Fessler, 78, has, at one time or another, held every public office in the Village.

Since 1933, Mr. Fessler has served as fireman, Marshall, Trustee, President Pro Tem, Building Commissioner, Senior Building Inspector, and today is an advisor to the Planning Commission. If all this makes you feel the need to stop and catch your breath, go ahead, but don't expect Gus to join you, because he's too busy looking forward to what happens next.

There is probably no one alive in Bloomingdale today who has as many memories, or as much knowledge of the Village. In speaking of events over the past several years, Mr. Fessler recalls the annexation of properties such as Westlake, Suncrest, Lakewoods, and Indian Lakes, as being some of the most important. The "Secession" of Roselle from Bloomingdale in 1921 was another major change for the Village, and occurred after a dispute over the alternating governments.

In the 1930's a small portion of Lake Street was blacktopped for the first time, and the mayor objected because he didn't want the road in front of his house opened to automobiles. With the improvement on Lake St. came more traffic, and as a result, more gasoline taxes to finance the building of roads. Mr. Fessler recalls that the residents



As Village Constable in 1941...

of the Village pitched in and built the roads themselves.

Definitely a man of the present and future, Gus Fessler says that the only thing he regrets is that the spirit of cooperation seems to have disappeared from Village life. He feels that the lack of this spirit is a natural but unfortunate result of people from so many varying backgrounds and expectations joining together to try to operate Bloomingdale government.

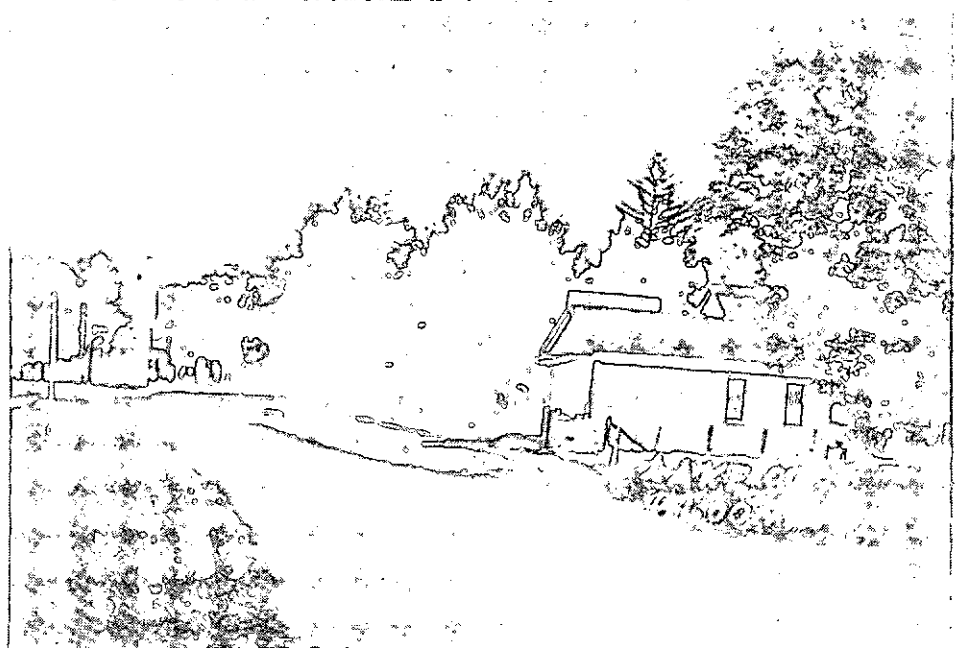
Gus Fessler isn't the only public-minded member of his family. His wife, Laura, 75, is an active member of the Transportation Committee, and works closely with the Historical Society. At the present time, Mrs. Fessler is lobbying for public trans-



On his wedding day in 1921.

portation for senior citizens, and is an outspoken advocate for the rights of the elderly members of our community, and is a member of the Citizens Advisory Council of the DuPage County Community Development Commission.

The Village of Bloomingdale has a rich and fascinating history, and many believe that people like Gus and Laura Fessler have helped to make it so. However, the importance of the Fesslers and their peers doesn't end there, because they are interested in the future, and are taking an active part in its development.



Looking west on Lake Street circa 1915. On the right is the old harness shop which stands today as a barber shop. Beyond the shop is the Fessler's home.



**Village Of
Bloomingdale**

108 W. LAKE STREET
BLOOMINGDALE, ILLINOIS 60108

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
Bloomingdale, Ill.
60108
Permit No. 16

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

POSTAL PATRON, LOCAL
BLOOMINGDALE, ILLINOIS 60108

Are You A Safe Cyclist?

As warm weather approaches, both children and adults will once again invade the streets on bicycles. Motorists should be especially cautious in the coming months, and parents are encouraged to review the rules of the road for all of the bike riders in their family.

If bicycles are to be ridden after dark, they **MUST** be equipped with an adequate headlamp and reflectors. Cyclists should always ride in the same direction as existing traffic, and stay close to the curb. Hand signals are to be used when turning or changing lanes, and all traffic signs must be obeyed. In general, the bike

rider is expected to observe the same traffic laws that apply to motorists.

Copies of *Bicycle Rules of the Road* are available from the Secretary of State's Office.

Vector Control

During the spring, rodents often become more active, and their presence may be discovered by spring cleaners and gardeners.

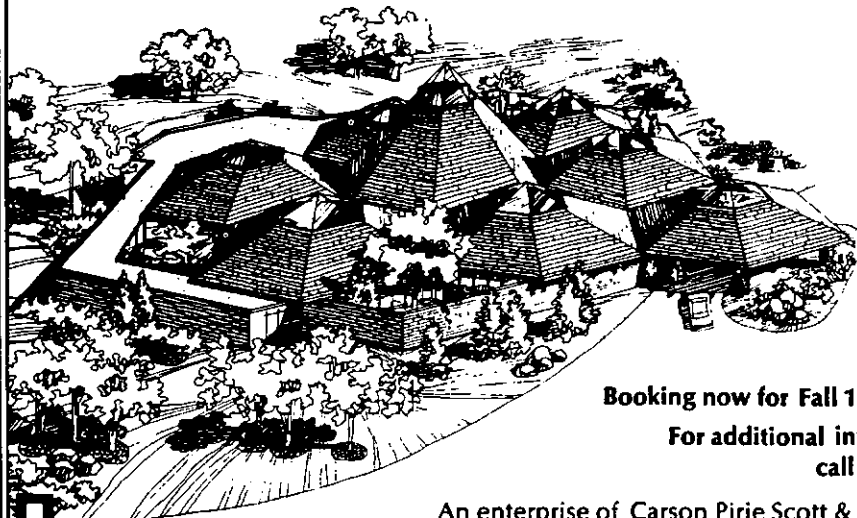
If you have a problem with rodents, call the Village Hall. An exterminator will be sent at Village expense to solve the problem.

Bicentennial Project Needs A Boost

The Bicentennial Commission is encouraging all residents to make contributions toward the completion of Bloomingdale's Bicentennial Project. The planned renovation of the old Park District building, which dates back to the 1850's, will require approximately \$12,000. At the present time, only about \$5,000 has been raised.

Contributors may contact any member of the Bicentennial Commission for further information. Donations will also be accepted at the Village Hall.

INDIAN LAKES COUNTRY CLUB HAS EXPANDED ITS HORIZONS...



A beautiful new banquet/convention facility will soon become a part of Indian Lakes Country Club.

It's the perfect setting for a wedding reception, golf outing, company banquet, sales meeting... whatever the occasion, business or social.

Booking now for Fall 1976 dates.
For additional information
call 529-0200.

An enterprise of Carson Pirie Scott & Company



232 WEST SCHICK ROAD
BLOOMINGDALE, ILLINOIS