

Whitney Snags a Big One to Provide His Own Advertising

Whose Got the Button -- City or Plan Commission?

Birmingham residents will be given the opportunity to discuss the recently released \$825,500 off-street parking program before an election on the matter is held—but just when these hearings will take place and who will hold them still remains undecided.

At last Thursday's meeting of the city plan commission, it was decided that the city commission should hand out a few directions. But at Monday night's commission meeting none were given. It appeared that city commissioners had no knowledge of what had transpired at the plan commission meeting regarding the discussion on "directions."

James J. Hogan, chairman of the off-street parking committee which devoted 11 months to preparing the report, stated at the Thursday meeting: "As far as the plan commission was concerned, that report was the final plan. I think it is the responsibility of the city commission to accept that report. It got behind it and get the public to render a decision on it."

This commission's report, which was presented to the plan commission, was approved by the plan commission, asked for an early election date, possibly in October.

However, other plan commissioners hesitated in asking for such an early date. They pointed out that the school building program was also being prepared and that an election on the school bonds on the issuance of school bonds, possibly in October.

Ernest W. Seaborn, plan commissioner who is also the president of the board of education, was asked about the progress of the plan commission.

"We are now completing the program, readying it for presentation to the school board. The plan will be ready about the opening of school this fall. The board will then explain the questions involved, and has tentatively suggested late October or early November for an election."

Seaborn expressed the opinion that the school building program and the off-street parking issues should not be presented at the same time.

"I believe they should be kept separate, for you tend to confuse people by presenting two such programs at the same time. It is too hard to keep them separate if they are presented together. I don't think there will be any confusion," Hogan said.

Wait for Election Date

Plan commissioners agreed that their program was concerned, now awaited a definite election date from the city commission before public hearings could be set and a final decision discussed in considerable detail.

But Monday night's city commission meeting, without any specific action on the part of the city commissioners regarding the parking plan. An unexpected crowd filled the meeting room, apparently through misinformation that the plan commission was going to be rushed through early this fall and with little or no public discussion.

City Commissioner Milton F. Mallerer soothed the ruffled opinions of the public with the statement that most certainly there would be public hearings.

Is Everyone's Problem

"This is the problem of every citizen in town," Mallerer pointed out. "Considerable discussion will have to be given to this. We can decide on exactly what proposition shall appear on the ballot. We don't know yet who will hold the hearing—the plan commission or the city commission, but they will be held," Mallerer stated.

Mayor Donald S. Bell told the assembled residents there are many legal steps necessary before we can proceed. It is not up to us to hold the public hearings, for it is our hope the plan commission will hold them."

However, the plan commission still has received no official communication from the city commission that the group will hold the hearings or when the date of the city election will be in order to determine the schedule of public hearings.

Car Sideswiped by Hit and Ran Driver

The car of LeRoy Hammons, 1148 Webster, was sideswiped on Middlebelt road in West Bloomfield Township last Saturday by a hit and run driver.

The driver, on the right side of his car was damaged, Hammons reported. The force of the impact forced him into the back room and which had two witnesses, Herman Stone, 1172 Webster, who was with Hammons at the time, and C. E. Middlebelt, reported the hit and run car crashed Hammons' car into a brick wall.

The driver was partially dazed. He was by the time the firemen arrived. They extinguished the blaze and prevented further damage.

\$500 Theft From Dress Shop Here

Merchandise valued at \$500 was stolen Monday noon from the rear of the Royal Oak Store, which was stolen Monday night. Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley has reported.

The stolen goods were a shipment of 20 dresses and 122 sweaters.

'Piety Hill' vs. as Name of Exchange, and So Is 'Pinehurst'

Shakespeare might have implied that one name is as good as another but not so with the Michigan Bell Telephone Company.

Michigan Bell currently is struggling with the problem of picking out the proper prefix for Birmingham telephone numbers when the company's operations here change to dial service next year.

The city commission here last week adopted a resolution asking the company to abandon the previously announced prefix of "18" in favor of "15" Hill. What the commission did not know—through no fault of its own—was that the company already had abandoned the Pinehurst designation for technical reasons.

Some Technical Reasons

Incidentally, points out Walter B. Fauser, manager here for the company, the same technical reasons that weigh against Pinehurst likewise apply to Piety Hill. It's all in the simple telephone people call the "dial pull."

"Piety—the first two letters of Pinehurst of Piety Hill translate to the number 18 on the dial," explained Fauser. "Because of technical reasons related to the community itself, because of the numbering system throughout the Pontiac District Exchange and because of extended-area points, we find that the '6-4' pull is the only practical one for Birmingham."

Further, he has pointed out that the prefix should be one starting with the letters, "M."

The problem of picking exchange prefixes, says Fauser, is not a simple one. It is a for-a-name proposition. In the words again of Mr. Fauser:

"The designation of a telephone prefix for Birmingham is of primary importance outside the community itself. Because Birmingham's telephone system is part of a nationwide system, it is essential that a prefix for this exchange be readily understandable and legible to operators as well as to the general user of the Bell System."

"It must not be confusing or be in conflict with other prefixes. A state name is seldom now in use in the telephone system, and it is not desirable to have an operator in New York confused with a prefix for Birmingham, Michigan, Indiana 1-2848."

In view of all this, Michigan Bell constantly keeps itself informed as to existing prefixes throughout the country.

List Is Checked

"Michigan Bell engineers, meanwhile, have determined what dial pulls to be used for a particular exchange, based upon a number of technical factors. Other people in the company then go through the list of existing prefixes throughout the country and prepare a list of prospective names to apply to the particular dial pull that has been determined."

"The list of prospective names is then submitted to exhaustive check by the engineering observers on the telephone to determine which permits the lowest percentage of error in actual usage."

"The ideal selection, from a standpoint of the service and one in which the first two letters of the prefixes are readily understood by customers and operators alike."

Better for Service

When the name of Pinehurst was first selected, the company's dialing system and all related extended-area points, Fauser explained.

Later, the company determined it would be better for the service and more economical to abandon the use of a code in favor of a plan to permit direct dialing of the various prefixes in the state exchanges. So, the company had to adopt a different "dial pull" for Birmingham than originally planned.

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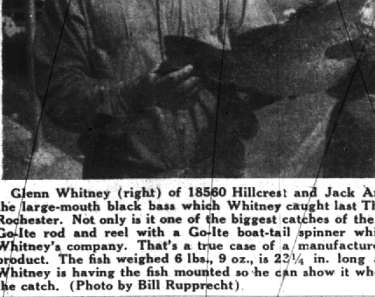
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M. D. Douglas Heads Community Fund

Morgan D. Douglas of Lone Pine road, Bloomfield Township, has been appointed chairman of the new 1949 Community Chest campaign for Pontiac.

Douglas, who is general manager of the M.D. and Co. and division there, also has been named a member of the Chest's board of directors, along with Harold A. Fitzgerald.

Photographs for publication in The Eclectic must be submitted by Friday noon of the week before publication.



Glenn Whitney (right) of 18560 Hillcrest and Jack Andrews of 327 Pleasant hold the large-mouth black bass which Whitney caught last Thursday at a private lake near Rochester. Not only is it one of the biggest catches of the year, but it was caught on a Goilte rod and reel with a Goilte boat-tail spinner which was all manufactured by Whitney's company. That's a true case of a manufacturer proving the worth of his product. The fish weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz., is 22 1/2 in. long and has a girth of 16 1/2 in. Whitney is having the fish mounted so he can show it whenever he repeats his story of the catch. (Photo by Bill Rupprecht)

Smith Street Players Hold Their Premier Performance In Neighbor's Backyard

By Alice E. Morgan

The newest little theatre group in Birmingham held its premier performance Saturday evening in the backyard of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Murdoch, 1414 Smith Street.

This dramatic gathering had its foundation about two weeks ago when the youngsters on the block became bored with the usual summer pastimes and pretty well fed up with the weather. Out of sheer desperation for want of a fresh idea, Mrs. Murdoch suggested they put on a play—and the ball began to roll. It was a case of no sooner said than it was done.

The members of the group all live on that one particular block of Smith street, and while they all play together, the difference in their ages creates a difficulty for them. Dramatics, however, took them all in, from five-year-olds to the twelves.

Variety Program

Their program Saturday evening consisted of six numbers, in which Robert Hunter, as the narrator, gave his impression of an after-dinner speech as the opening number. This was followed by a song by Ronnie Hunter, Rosemary Jafano and Dorothy Hunter. Dennis Murdoch and Ronnie presented a skit, with gestures, entitled "Jack and Jill." A "handmade" song, "Gotta," built around the tune of "This Is My Wedding Day" was sung by Dorothy Hunter and Rosemary Jafano.

The main event of the program was "The Little Red Hen," in which the only costume worn was a beak. The cast included Dorothy Hunter in the title role; Douglas Washburn as the goose; Dick Hunter as the miller; Ronnie Hunter; Rosemary Jafano; and Robert Foote as the pig.

Since four-year-old Robert refused to talk on stage, a role has been altered slightly so that the play might feature a bashful pig rather than a garrulous one.

The closing number and Grand Finale, will include the group singing eight variations of "Gotta."

All members of the cast, plus their parents, have doubled as makeup experts, stage hands, musical directors, publicity agents, promoters, critics and directors. Like all true First-Nighters, they will remain at the Murdoch home following the show for refreshments.

Admission was by invitation only.

Gas Heating Ban Not Lifted Here, States Consumers

Restrictions on the connecting of additional gas heating customers remain in effect here, Birmingham and other communities served by Consumers Power Company.

Police discovered David L. Brown said yesterday.

"Some confusion has resulted because of recent press and radio announcements that all restrictions have been lifted in territories served by the Michigan Consolidated Gas Company."

"Michigan Consolidated, of course, served an entirely different territory, and its natural gas supply situation is not the same as ours," Brown explained.

"Consumers Power Company was authorized by the Michigan Public Service Commission two weeks ago to connect 12,000 additional house heating customers in the back room and which had been reported using the street for gas heating service, and the successful applicants had to be served by the end of the month."

"There is no present likelihood that the Royal Oak Service Area will be able to take any additional house heating customers beyond this 1,993 within the foreseeable future," Brown concluded.

E. Roosevelt to Appear Here at V-J Service

Gov. Williams Also Here for Ceremony at White Chapel

Victory Day services, sponsored by the Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Wives of Michigan, will be held on V-J Day, Sunday, Aug. 14, at the impressive "Four Freedoms Memorial" and Veterans' plot at White Chapel Cemetery, E. Long Lake road in Troy township.

Among the celebrities who will attend the observances will be Governor G. Mennen Williams, Elliott Roosevelt and Maj. Gen. Lester J. Whitlock of Ft. Riley, Kan.

The services will begin promptly at 2:30 p.m. with the "Parade of the Colors" from various American Legion posts and their auxiliaries who will assist with the program.

Dedicate Honor Roll

One of the outstanding features of the service will be the dedication of a bronze honor roll plaque bearing the names of 450 Michigan war heroes, most of whom now lie buried in the veteran plot in the shadow of the memorial.

Speaker of the day will be General Whitlock, former assistant chief of staff of the Southwest Pacific throughout the war. He also served as deputy chief of staff, general headquarters for the allied powers in Tokyo. He has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit, and holds two foreign decorations—Honorary Commander of the British Empire and the Distinguished Service Star of the Philippine Commonwealth.

Both Gov. Williams and Roosevelt will speak briefly. Roosevelt will bring a personal message from his mother, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, honorary member of the Gold Star Wives who is unable to be present for the services.

The Jester's Joke

At the expense of the American taxpayers, President Truman maintains his court jester and General Nuisance in the person of Harry Vaughan, his World War I buddy and now military aide to the White House. Gen. Vaughan has been in the newspapers quite often, lately revealed as one whose influence may be felt in the corridors of government business. But what Harry does doesn't seem to bother the other members of the staff. They are so busy dodging that, Ziegler, they can't see either can do wrong. What a joke!

Lying in Their Gutters

Guaranteeing to arm Western Europe, following the attack on the Atlantic Pact by the U. S. Senate last week, is giving Russia a warning that his World War means business! It also means, to Russia, that we are preparing for a war regardless of how much we may about that "we're only trying to maintain the peace!"

Suppose we give the other Western nations plenty of arms. Once they get them, we can't tell them against whom they shall be used. Or if Russia should use these weapons against us themselves. Or if Russia should use a fast move and invade certain European countries, and get the war imperialist philosophy they used against us.

If the U.S.A. continues to pressure that it now has the job of guaranteeing peace, a security, health, etc., to the rest of the earth's peoples, and not too far distant), we shall become an impoverished nation, dragged by our imperialist philosophy to the levels of something much less than we deserve.

We do not, by any moral decree ever uttered, have to lie down the gutters with backward nations who do not work and learn and fight to raise their own standards.

Local Police Win First Pistol Match

The Birmingham Police Department defeated the Sheriff's Office in a slow-fire pistol match at the Birmingham police range last Thursday by a score of 770 to 645.

This was the first match for the local police, Chief Ralph W. Moxley led the field as he captured first place honors.

The next match will be August 7 when they meet the police of Berkley. This match will consist of both slow and time fire events.

Freedom Memorial

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Fauser had much more to say at the time of the hearing. Birmingham had to take the "6-4" slot but he spoke of "step-by-step" and "cross bar" systems in a manner of such chit-chat. We decided to take his word for it.

It was not by any other name does not necessarily smell as sweet. Bill Shakespeare never could have been a telephone man.

Auto Overtakes; Occupants Unhurt

The southbound car of James W. Nicholas of Flint overturned last Saturday at the intersection of Woodward and 11th streets and ended up with its wheels in the air.

I'm a Banks. Bloomfield Hills chief of police, fully brakes caused the car to lose control and crash into the island as it came down the hill. The impact caused the car to flip completely over and come to rest upside down.

The three people riding in the car were not injured. However, Nicholas' 16-year-old son, six-year-old niece, Penny Hobson of Mt. Morris, was treated at St. Joseph's Hospital for a minor cut on her finger.

Golf Clubs Stolen

The clubhouse at Springdale Park was broken into last week and two sets of golf clubs were taken. Police have discovered no leads to work on, according to Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley.

Lights, Floods, Trucks, Speeders Irk Cole Residents

Cole street residents living between Adams and Eton certainly have their problems, what with speeding motorists, inadequate street lighting, a heavy volume of truck traffic, and basement flooding.

These four matters were pointed out to city commissioners at their meeting Monday night, and the commission attempted to clarify the matters.

It was suggested by one Cole street resident that perhaps the speed limit should be lowered from the present 25 mile limit because of the children and parked cars along the street.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley hastened to point out that the 25 mile limit was as low as the city could go.

State Law Sets Speed

"The state law sets up a 25 mile speed limit in residential areas, so there is nothing we could do here to lower it," Moxley explained. "The only thing we can do is try to patrol the street as much as our facilities will permit in an attempt to catch a few of these speeders."

He asked neighbors for some cooperation in apprehending drivers going at an excessive speed. "I wish you would get some license numbers and the time of the violation and that would help the department immensely," he advised.

It was brought out that many commercial trucks seemed to use Cole street as a short cut to the industrial area. City trucks, too, were reported using the street more than necessary. The street is a dead end, and it would help to close it to street deliveries.

Want Two More Lights

"As for street lights, the first block east of Adams is apparently taken care of, but the second block east, between Torry and Adams, is not even seen. When the block was lighted, another block would be lighted, another at Eton."

City Manager Donald C. Eberhart said the city is presently conducting a street light survey, and a note would be made of this block.

Some water has been backing up from sewers into basements, the chief was not even seen. When the block was lighted, another block would be lighted, another at Eton.

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Police Seek Halt to Future Cases of 'Doll-napping' Here

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