

This Is Site Suggested for City Parking Lot



TREES, GRASS, SHRUBS TO BE REPLACED WITH PAVING, PARKING METERS?
Counter-petition being circulated to save beauty spot (Dick Shirk Photo)

Just how far to go in helping another often presents a real problem. You can hurt another by playing for too long the part of a crusader—but when you see that the crutch is often more difficult than being it.

73RD YEAR—NO. 20

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Do Some Praying

One of the phrases that came out of World War II was: "Pray for the Lord and pass the ammunition." We offer this one for the Korean: "Pray for Harry Truman and Congress to quit politics long enough to produce and pass on to our fighting forces in Korea sufficient ammunition to at least give our boys an even chance!"

Politics With Your Money

If somebody gave you a million dollars to pass out to others of your own choosing, you know that you'd make a lot of friends (7) by doing it. At least you would buy their temporary support. Well, another way of doing it is to be part of a political organization that taxes its people to the tune of billions of dollars, then handing it out as per your own political formula. By so doing these politicians win votes. That is what has been going on in a huge scale in the United States ever since FDR launched this modernized, un-American formula. Most of our high public figures did not get their offices through merit, rather they got 'em through money... your tax money!

Is This Democracy?

Both the University of Michigan and Michigan State College, publicly-supported, are supposed to teach the virtues and values of democracy. To a large extent, of course, they do. Yet the governing boards of each for years have opposed the presence of newspaper reporters at their official meetings, and gotten away with it. Is this democracy in action... or some form of authoritarianism?

Remove Acheson

The weak military position of the United States in the Korean war, proves that President Truman, his State Dept., and our military are almost wholly unprepared. We understand the chief reason is that Secretary of State Acheson refused to keep military strength available in the Far East, believing that the Korean situation was antagonistic to Russia.

Gen. "Deep Freeze"

Here's one thing that which the American people may be very grateful: President Truman's military aide, Maj. Gen. H. A. Ryan, isn't taking over Gen. MacArthur's place in handling the Korean situation. (Though Heaven only knows how much Vaughan's influence thus far has impacted negatively upon affairs of state!)

A Georgia thief broke into a music store and made off with 350 phonograph records. Perhaps he was moved by the intermission to bring some harmony into his confined world.

A New York medical expert declares that human beings should have a fear of losing their supply. If necessary, man can eat acorns and weeds, as did his ancestors, he argues, adding that "muskats, turtles, tortoises and wild birds, green reptiles, make good food." Don't let the Secretary of Agriculture Brannan about this, or he'll offer subsidies for it so he can wipe out the surplus.

City Awards Tank Contract

A \$76,800 contract for the fabrication and construction of a 500,000-gallon tank at the elevated steel water tank was awarded to the Chicago Bridge and Iron company by the City Commission Monday night.

This is the company that erected a 500,000-gallon tank at Hunter and Maple.

The new tank will be located on Derby road just east of the Grand Trunk right-of-way.

A "JOHN DOE" warrant was issued for Bethke's arrest after Robinson signed a complaint charging him with over driving.

Bethke was arraigned in Bloomfield Hills municipal court Saturday morning and pleaded not guilty. His trial was set for Monday, Aug. 7.

Thieves Take Cash In Weekend Robbery

Police are investigating the weekend theft of \$7 from the Sahin Engineering company, 267 Ferndale avenue.

The thief was reported Monday by Mrs. John Munger, secretary of the firm, as she went to balance the cash account and found the funds missing.

Central City classified advertisement using EC-CENTRIC classified advertisement.

PHONE MI 4-1100

Ask for the Want Ad desk

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS CO. INC. Phone: Dial 9-3441 or Enterprise 4-3119.

Parking Meters Will Operate to 9 p.m. on Fridays

Birmingham parking meters will operate until 9 o'clock on Friday evenings starting on Aug. 18. The city commission approved this Monday night and added four new parking meter areas to the city's total.

New areas are: Hazelton street from Martin to Merrill, both sides; Forest avenue from Woodward to Hunter, both sides; Brownell street from East Maple to Forest, both sides.

The new parking meter area will be subject to the one-hour operation all over the city on August 15, but will not have any new effect until the following Friday (Aug. 18).

Police Chief Ralph Moxley said his officers have been instructed to place courtesy notices on car windshields that first Friday night advising violators of the new one-hour restriction will then last until 9 p.m. on Fridays.

The new policy will actually go into operation all over the city on August 15, but will not have any new effect until the following Friday (Aug. 18).

The commission also coordinated all city ordinances concerning parking meters into one ordinance at Monday's meeting.

Bus Driver's Quick Thinking Avoids Serious Accident

Alertness on the part of a Greyhound express bus driver avoided a major accident at Woodward and Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills last Thursday.

The driver, J. A. Robinson, swerved his southbound Detroit-Bay City bus off Woodward to avoid hitting a car driven by Edward J. Bethke, 1339 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

Robinson told police he lost control of his crowded bus to high speed and it nearly turned over, but he brought it back to the highway and secured the license number of the Bethke car.

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Records Indicate Park Can Be Converted Into Municipal Parking Lot

When Birmingham's city commissioners assembled for their weekly meeting on June 12, they never suspected that one of the hottest issues the city has been faced with for many years would be dumped into their laps before the end of the evening.

It came in the form of petitions bearing over 480 names of Birmingham property owners.

The petitions asked the Commission to "seriously consider" converting the municipal park into a public off-street parking area.

Mrs. A. Leslie Schaefer, 2511 Brown, presented the petitions and said the signers asked the Commission to consider the municipal park as "the most centrally located parking lot."

"This parking lot would deprive no one of his home," declared Mrs. Schaefer, who lives on one of the three sections proposed as possible sites for off-street parking lots in plans for 1947.

Since June 12, letters have been trickling slowly into the city hall condensing such a plan. But the number of letters came nowhere near 480. Or over 80.

This week another petition is being circulated in Birmingham.

"ONE OF ITS originators, who asked that her name be withheld, said it doesn't try to solve the city's acute parking problem, but is simply a protest against "destruction of that nice little park."

John J. Hamel, Jr., chairman of civilian defense activities for the City of Birmingham, has called a committee meeting for tonight.

Further formation of defense plans for the city will be discussed.

Other committee members are: City Manager Donald E. Zehert, Danney as vice-chairman. Both were reelected last Thursday at the commission's annual meeting.

At the annual meeting, the report of J. J. Hogan, treasurer, showed that for the year to date, the city has received \$5,755.71. Of this amount, approximately \$5,200 went for engineers' salaries. The commission has been allocated \$6,000 for the current fiscal year.

First payment of \$750 will be made from the 1949-50 balance to Charles Barr, plan commission consultant.

Local Defense Group Will Meet Tonight

John J. Hamel, Jr., chairman of civilian defense activities for the City of Birmingham, has called a committee meeting for tonight.

City Considers Limiting Aid to Annexed Areas

A city charter amendment should be passed to require newly annexed city territory to pay 100 per cent of the cost of constructing initial sewers, sidewalks and roads, the city commission agreed Monday evening.

But just how to accomplish this is still in doubt.

City Manager Donald C. Egbert suggested the elimination from the charter of the 15 per cent city share requirement in all special assessments in new annexations, leaving it up to commission policy to continue to provide this 15 per cent city aid for the old city areas.

Commissioner Ralph A. Main would go farther than this.

"I CAN'T SEE WHY totally unimproved areas, whether now in the city or which would become part of the city, should not pay 100 per cent of the improvement costs. In fact, I am in favor of dropping all future 15 per cent participation except for trunkline benefits," Main declared.

Commissioners Dean Beier and John O'Gorman said they believed Main's suggestion would be unfair to older city areas.

These areas have helped to pay 15 per cent of the cost in other assessment districts, and your suggestion would deprive them of city aid when their areas were improved," they explained.

Commissioners all agreed, however, that this situation regarding annexations was a serious problem that should be solved as soon as possible.

THEY ASKED EGBERT to obtain a copy of Great Pointe's proposed charter which Commissioner Milton M. Mullender said being drafted to work out this very problem.

"MANY OF THE persons approached for signatures are uncooperative," Shain grumbled. "They tell me they have heard that the original deed for the land reverts to its use as a municipal park."

Shain stated this was false and this reporter's check of city records seems to prove it.

On July 29, 1926, villagers voted to purchase the site for \$40,000. The first was for a village library, bond issue \$175,000.

The second bond issue for \$40,000 was to go to a village fire hall. (See PARK, Page 2)

Shepherd Lutheran Church Asks for Bids on New Edifice

Bids for construction of Our Shepherd Lutheran church were asked for Tuesday, the Rev. H. C. Alward announced this week.

Ask Expediter To Defer Rent Decontrol

Commission Did Not Fulfill Intent of Law, It Is Charged

Two Birmingham residents this week charged that the city commission did not live up to "the letter and spirit of the law" when it approved a resolution last week which will decontrol rental units here.

The two men, Glenn M. Emery, 311 E. Southlawn, and L. D. Gilliam, 340 E. Frank, have written Federal Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods asking that government approval of decontrol here be pending an "on the spot" investigation by Tighe's department.

Stated Emery, "There may be overwhelming evidence in favor of removing local rent controls, but the fact that there is no official report or finding by the commission regarding rentals here is up to neither the spirit nor the letter of the law."

"THEREFORE, WE believe the city commission is in non-compliance with provisions of the National Housing Act."

Both Emery and Gilliam attended the public hearing before the commission July 24 at which the resolution decontrolling local rents was approved by commissioners.

But neither whether or not we didn't believe the commission should even think of decontrolling rents in the face of the present national emergency.

Emery established the fact that the commission had not taken a "comprehensive investigation" of local rent conditions, as stated in the final resolution.

"WE BELIEVE the citizens of Birmingham will be interested, as we are, not primarily whether rental housing controls are continued in Birmingham, but rather whether or not we can have confidence in the city's governing body to consider city problems without prejudice and from an unbiased standpoint," Emery declared.

"We would like to feel that all parties concerned can share an inner assurance that their best interests are protected within the framework of existing laws and regulations being considered, whether present or absent from the particular meeting when consideration is taken up."

"Also whether or not all sides of the question being considered are represented by one, a few or by great numbers."

Birmingham Woman Dies In Collision

Mrs. Edgar T. Coombs, 59, of 738 Colonial Court died instantly last Thursday evening in a collision at Morrilton, Tenn.

Also resulted in serious injuries to her husband.

The Florida was returning home from Florida where they had attended the wedding of Coombs' daughter.

MRS. COOMBS IS survived by her husband and one son, Richard H. Coombs, both of Birmingham; two sisters, Mrs. William Norris of Muskegon and Mrs. Chester Filcher of Geneva, Ill., and one brother, Paul Harvey of Park Ridge, Ill.

The body was taken to Chicago. Funeral arrangements have not yet been completed.

Higher Standards Needed to Prevent Crowded Dwellings

A proposal to raise the area requirements on lots containing larger than single-family units is expected to be presented to the City commission next Monday night by the Birmingham Plan commission after a summary of the proposed zoning amendment to the city charter has been made by the plan group's public relations committee.

The plan commission passed the recommendation last Thursday. The suggested change would boost present requirements in the following manner:

Income bungalows—2,400 to 3,000 square feet per family. Terrace units—2,000 to 3,000 square feet per family. Multiple dwellings—500 to 3,000 square feet per family.

Single-family units would not be affected by the amendment.

THE PROPOSAL grew out of a land use study now being conducted by plan commission consultant Charles Barr.

The present density standards here are not adequate for the type of community we believe our people want to maintain," commented Plan Commissioner Harry Denney.

"It is insufficient to prevent overcrowding in multiple units which will have its effect in property devaluation, health conditions and fire-fighting facilities," Denney revealed that more families per acre are permitted under Birmingham than the new minimum clearance of New York City.

"Comparison of city standards with those advocated by the National Public Health Association indicate an average of 14 1/2 families per acre should be the goal of the proposed change."

Barr claims the Graefield development comes closest to what is regarded as desirable.

End Examinations Of State Drivers Renewing Licenses

Licensed drivers in Michigan will no longer be required to submit to written and oral examinations when renewing their operator or chauffeur permits under a change in procedure authorized by State Police Commissioner Donald S. Leonard.

The change will enable driver license examiners to devote more time to beginner drivers as well as eliminate the provision under which licensed drivers repeated tests which they had once passed successfully. Drivers renewing licenses, however, will still have to pass vision, color and hearing tests.

Persons seeking their first license will, of course, have to pass all of the tests as in the past.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said the local department began this system last week and that according to the men working at the traffic bureau desk, it was going along very well.

"THE TIME SPENT in checking questionnaires," Moxley said, "can be turned to other channels. It will also give these examining officers more time to spend on new drivers."

When initiated the purpose of the present system was to make certain that no driver was licensed who did not have the necessary knowledge and skill to drive properly.

"We feel now that the benefits from that procedure have been accomplished to the point where we can safely renew," Leonard said. "This will also permit giving more time to beginners to see that they get off to a good start as safe drivers."

Birmingham Gets Kelly Chairman

Charles A. Dean, 247 Brown street, director of the Birmingham club of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills.

"We hope to have Harry Kelly in Birmingham sometime soon to talk to members of this organization," Dean said this week.

Dean is a lawyer with the firm of Joslyn, Joslyn and Joslyn of Detroit.

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