

Ex-Mayor Comments on Plan Dispute

Although he has not been a resident of Birmingham for more than a year, former city commissioner C. Theron Van Dusen still follows "the Birmingham news with the greatest of interest."

This may account for the letter which he sent to the city commission this week commenting on the new city plan board.

Van Dusen, now of Metamora, said he was "quite disturbed by the recent upset" between the city commission and the plan commission.

"During my term on your commission the personnel of the reorganized plan commission was selected with the greatest of care and their functions prescribed," said Van Dusen, who served on the city commission from 1947 to 1950 and was mayor during 1949.

"Those capable and hardworking people have given unflinchingly of their time and talents in the pursuit of their assignment and I think they have come in for little thanks for their efforts."

HE SAID this is generally true of persons in public office, and added, "But I think it little short of tragic that a situation has been allowed to develop which tends to discourage these public spirited citizens or their successors from continuing the work which is of such importance to the community."

"When you appoint a capable person or committee and give them a job to do, and especially when you expect them to labor long and conscientiously with no compensation, except the satisfaction they derive from their efforts, it think it only wise and considerate to let them do their job and show proper

respect for their collective judgment.

"OTHERWISE how can you expect such people to continue to give of their time?"

He said the commission of which he was a member "probably erred" by not taking more positive action on the so-called Hogan Off-Street Parking Plan.

He said it seemed at the time "a pretty big bite to take all at once" and the commission believed some partial solution might be more appropriate.

"As I now view the traffic problem from a more objective point, I probably vacillated too much with the problem. Certainly you now have a growing traffic and parking problem on your hands."

VAN DUSEN also touched on one of the most controversial points in the new plan ordinance, that of restricting membership to Birmingham voters and taxpayers.

"Community planning as I view it cannot limit itself to the city boundaries," he emphasized.

"The contiguous areas have a definite part in the picture. I think it is a mistake not to have representation from these adjoining areas on your planning board and

I feel it unfortunate that you have lost the services of two such interested and capable members from these areas.

"I hope you can find a way to restore the morale of your planning board and to engage a greater public interest in your common problems."

"PRESSURE groups are forever at 30980 Franklin road after a brief illness.

She was born in Gilboa, N. Y., on Sept. 12, 1868 and came to this vicinity about 80 years ago.

Survivors include three children, Mrs. Henry Robt. Jr., of Franklin; Edward Stryker of Detroit and George Stryker of Schenectady, N. Y. A brother and sister, William Miller of Schenectady and Mrs. Jennie Carpenter of Danbury, Conn., also survive.

Services were from the Bell chapel July 7 with burial in Aecia Park cemetery.

Obituary Notices

JAMES ADAMS HENDERSON, 61, of 2300 West Long Lake road, died July 3 at his residence after a long illness. Mr. Henderson was prominent in Detroit advertising and publishing fields and had been sales representative for the Crowell-Collier publishing company.

He was born on July 31, 1889 in Toulon, Ill., and received an engineering degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology. A veteran of World War I he was a member of the Oakland Hills country club, and the Recces and Adcraft clubs of Detroit.

He is survived by his widow, the former Anna Jean Kreg; two sons, James B. of Chicago and Charles T. of Baltimore, Md.; a daughter, Susan Jane, at home; three sisters, Mrs. John Hergen of Toulon, Mrs. Hugh Rodman of Mill Valley, Calif., and Mrs. Charles Higgins of Oak Park, Ill.

Services were from the Bell chapel Saturday afternoon with burial in Pine Lake cemetery.

MRS. CARRIE BELLE STRYKER, 83, died July 4 at her home

New Siren Installed On Baldwin Well Tower

A siren has been installed on the tower of the Baldwin well at Baldwin and West Maple, according to Fire Chief Vernon Griffith.

It was put in as part of the city's civil defense program. However, as yet air raid signals haven't been established locally.

Until that time, the siren will be synchronized with the municipal building siren, the chief pointed out. He said that starting Monday, it will sound off the same time as the regular siren for the weekly noon check and any other emergency alarms.

An air raid signal system will be established here by Civil Defense Director John Hamill.



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