

**Object to Removal  
Of Pierce Baseball  
Field Grandstands**

Don Groves, 659 West Lincoln, appeared at the city commission meeting Monday evening to voice objections of the residents in the vicinity of Pierce school, concerning removal of stands from the baseball field for use by the Little League baseball organization.

He also stated that he feels au-

vised recreation should be sponsored at Pierce field during the evening hours.

Groves said three boys have recently been severely hit by baseballs while there was no supervision, no water nor first aid.

Commissioners told Groves to take the matter up with the recreation board.

Recreation Director Frank Whitney said this week that the recreation baseball league plays each evening at Pierce field and has an adult supervisor.

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**RAMPS CAUSE NO ACCIDENTS IN KALAMAZOO**  
But B'ham will have them, says DPW

**Kalamazoo Says  
Ramps Are Safe**

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

It was back on Sept. 15, 1947, when Birmingham's city commissioners, meeting in regular session in the commission room of the municipal building, decided to try an experiment at Hamilton and Woodward avenues in response to a petition from 30 Birmingham mothers.

The commission that night instructed City Manager Donald C. Egbert to have the DPW install an experimental baby buggy ramp on the west side of Woodward, across from the National Bank.

You see, these 30 mothers (and undoubtedly many others who did not have the opportunity to sign the petition) felt it was extremely awkward—and dangerous, too—trying to negotiate the double curbs the city has in several parts of its downtown section.

Ray Palmer, who was a city commissioner at that time, said at this 1947 meeting: "We have had presented to us a petition signed by at least 30 mothers who want the ramps installed as an aid in getting about the shopping center without having to struggle up and down those two steep curbs.

"ONE CURB can be negotiated fairly easy but the second step is a bit too much."

Commissioners discussed the idea, finally agreeing that the DPW would put in an experimental ramp on Woodward. The idea worked out, then it would be expanded to other intersections, commissioners agreed.

Any such ramps would go at the edge of the regular crosswalk. It was decided.

Then, at the commission's Nov. 3, 1947, meeting, Egbert brought out a sketch of the ramp which the DPW thought should be installed.

THE SKETCH showed two parallel built-up strips from sidewalk to street level, with a step between them for the convenience of the person wheeling the conveyance.

Almost three and a half years passed before any commissioner thought to check into what had been done—or was going to be done.

At the March 5, 1951, commission meeting City Commissioners Ralph Main brought the subject up.

Egbert explained that former DPW Supt. Max Fall feared lawsuits against the city if an automobile happened to run into such a ramp.

THAT APPARENTLY satisfied everybody and, officially, that was that.

However, Ray Palmer, now among the city's ex-mayors and ex-commissioners, isn't satisfied with what was done.

"There are new mothers—and still some older ones—who are yet trying to negotiate these high curbs with baby buggies, strollers, etc. The ramps are needed," Palmer emphasizes.

The city of Kalamazoo for six years has had such ramps at its busiest intersections, primarily as an aid to the disabled veterans hospital in nearby Battle Creek.

**Mighty Big Addition**

Robert Craig Grodewald, a bouncing 11 pound 10 ounces at birth, is the new member of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Grodewald, 1838 Bates street. Mr. Grodewald is a motion picture producer for the Jam Handy organization. The baby, born St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, is the largest delivered by the attending physician, Dr. Donald Green, of Birmingham. The Grodewalds have two other children, Chris, Jr., 7, and Diane, 4.

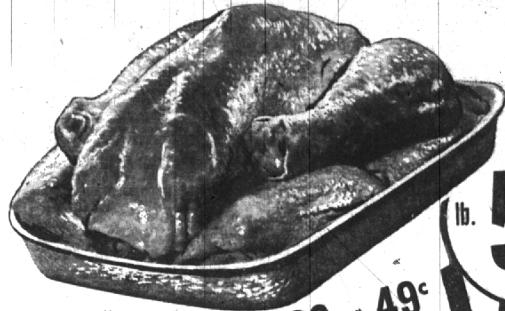
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