

We Still Must Plan For the Future

On first reaction, it would be much easier to back the city commission in its squabble with the city plan commission over the benefits of the new plan ordinance, or vice versa.

City planning, as it is being practiced today, is a comparatively new venture. It has fewer supporters than agriculture. Most people believe in letting "natural" circumstances control the growth of communities, trusting that these circumstances will for the most part turn out to be constructive.

However, most progressive enterprises get to be progressive because, by planning, they attempt to control the future rather than see the future control them.

SO IT IS WITH municipal politics—perhaps more so. Most of today's problems

—whether in Birmingham or Santa Fe—result from lack of foresight into what the community might be (or should be) some years ahead, and then by planning to try to channel the growth along these plans.

Mayor Peter B. Loomis, former plan commission chairman, and several former plan commissioners believe the new plan ordinance, enacted two weeks ago, is a weak one and therefore might result in a drying up of real future planning for the city.

That remains to be seen.

IF THE NEW plan board, as it is to be called, continues to plan for the future and makes what it believes to be sound recommendations to the city commission, it will be well and good.

We would not like to see the new board become a stooge or "ghost writer" for the city commission. That would be a perversion of the real functions and duties of a planning board.

It is our feeling that the city commission, in the new ordinance, took a first step by calling for quarterly meetings between the two groups in order to discuss policy, ideas, and in general keep in touch with what the other group is doing or plans to do.

THE NEXT STEP along this line, we believe, would be to find some better or additional method for passing information back and forth oftener than just four times a year.

Only thing that gives us some concern is the possible refusal by the surrounding townships to prevent them from having a member on the plan board to act as liaison between the city and the outlying areas.

Socially, culturally and economically they have strong ties to Birmingham. They might like to know what is being proposed for the city, because indirectly it may affect them. Now all they will know is what the city commission and its members desire to be released to the newspapers, or what the newspapers succeed in prying loose from the commission and its board.

IT REMAINS to be seen what effect this will have on the city commission's public relations, about which the recent commission has showed concern in certain recent matters.

In any event, we wish the new plan board will continue to continue to do as constructive future planning as possible for the city—with courage, foresight, co-operation and intelligence, it should result in much good for this community.

Candidate For Governor

Fred M. Alger, Jr., Michigan's Secretary of State since 1947, has just announced his candidacy as a Republican for Governor in next year's election. Twice he has led his party in total votes obtained, which traditionally places him in the forefront as an aspirant to higher public office.

To date, no other Republican has announced for Governor, and perhaps none will. With his background of intimate knowledge of State affairs, Alger ought to pull up an interesting and educational campaign. No doubt his 1952 Democratic opponent will be Gov. Williams.

To the editor of this newspaper, it is interesting to recall that Mr. Alger, in 1947, was the very man who proposed to former Governor Kim Sigler the name and person of G. Bennett Williams as the Democratic nominee at the state level to party an League Control Commission.

Had Alger not come up with Williams' name, the latter presumably would not have become Governor.

Upon such gossamer circumstances of long-hangs, the contemporary fate of a State or even a nation.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

One would like to think that the lake water is clean and clear. It is not. It is a mess. It is a mess of dead fish, dead ducks, and dead geese. It is a mess of dead birds and dead animals. It is a mess of dead life.

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What's Behind It?



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Chronicle—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO

July 5, 1901

Some one left a pair of shoes at the bank... There is a lot of good natured rivalry among our local politicians...

On Saturday Dr. Campbell was called to attend to a patient at Highland Park... Village officers have adopted the plan of planting trees...

W. M. Barnes, the Pontiac politician, has a change of address... During the moving of the old parsonage from Maple Avenue...

The recently quieted of our local politicians... During the moving of the old parsonage from Maple Avenue...

20 YEARS AGO

July 9, 1901

Clarence Vliet, superintendent of schools and E. S. Randall, head of the city police...

Police arrested Harold Sambath... Charles S. Rust, a member of the city commission...

For the second successive year... Mrs. James O'Rourke has posted a record of 100... The first of the...

5 YEARS AGO

Mayor Milton McEnder will... Police believe gas station at...

Police believe gas station at... The first of the...

OUR LIBRARY... The Michigan Bell Telephone Company has a wonderful public relations program...

However, there is one thing I might suggest to PR chief Sam McCool... REPLACE THAT FOUL TASTING GLUE THE COMPANY USES ON US RETURN ENVELOPES!

People's Column

The Chronicle welcomes letters for the column. All letters must be signed and no correspondence should be published in the name.

To the Editor:

In these days of constant bickering, brooding and fault-finding, I should like to suggest a cheerier thought.

I should like as a matter of two boys to extend my thanks to the recreation board and especially to Frank Whitney for the excellent program that is being offered our children this summer.

I feel that even the first day, when an unknown quantity of unknown children of unknown age descended upon the various playgrounds with their mothers, often critically parents, they were handled so expertly and so tactfully in a spirit of cooperation with the parents that I was amazed to find that the boys were so well behaved and so well behaved for youngsters.

I WAS AMAZED to find in these days of constant bickering, brooding and fault-finding, I should like to suggest a cheerier thought.

By the way, if you have any suggestions for the program, please let me know. I will be glad to hear from you.

WITH SUCH a program as this, with such parents as have been and are participating in it, and with such cooperative and constructive help from the city, I am sure we have a very good thing going on.

Mr. Thomas J. Whitcomb, 2109 Hoover Blvd., Birmingham, Ala.

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Ito's SWIMtime!

And Here Are Colorful, Styleful Suits A colorful array of trunks and boxer shorts (also ensembles) all ready for your selection and carefree wear on the beach or for sunning in your own backyard.

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HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

KID STORY

Reading program for children...

When you are reading to your child...

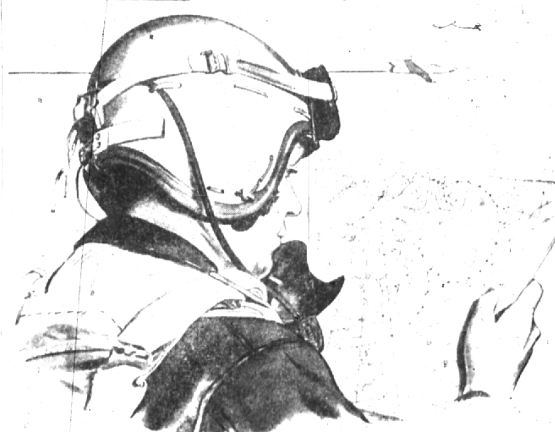
It is not the number of words...

It is not the number of words...

It is not the number of words...

It is not the number of words...

It is not the number of words...



He gets a picture of the weather by Long Distance

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