

Plan Commission Becomes Plan Board

Almost three years ago the city commission decided a restatement of the plan and procedures of the city plan commission was to be desired in order to bring into sharper focus the future plans of the city.

So, in September, 1948, a new plan commission of nine members was established, to operate under the state enabling act and to draw up a "master plan" for the city's future.

Two non-residents were appointed to act as liaison between the townships directly east, north and west of the city, and which might be involved or interested in the city's plans.

This newly created plan commission, then, started right in and concentrated practically all of its efforts on creation of a master plan, which was presented early this year.

An important phase of its work, and which was considered part of any master plan, was a proposed off-street parking program publicly presented two years ago.

Last week the planning ordinance was re-written because the present city commission, sharing to some degree the attitude of many citizens, believed the present arrangement of the plan commission was not working as it should or could.

Accordingly, today a new plan ordinance goes into effect. The new planning board, as it is to be called now, will consist of seven members who are residents of the city. The board will be merely advisory and have no possibility of recording any master plan with the county register of deeds, an act which would, many claim, place a "blight" on private property by freezing its current sale because of its more undesirable or restricted use at some uncertain future date.

The new ordinance also requires quarterly meetings between the planning board and the city commission, a measure the commissioners feel will keep the two groups more informed about what the one is doing or plans to do.

If this new ordinance does not hamper planning for the future, it could be termed a refinement of the previous ordinance. For many, many years Birmingham has enjoyed a reputation for making its future, not just letting it happen.

Planning is guidance — Birmingham needs it and wants it. We HOPE these latest changes will permit the city commission and the planning board to work much closer together with much greater harmony than has existed over the past three years.

For Birmingham's luster will grow or fade depending on the degree of cooperation and understanding between the two groups. It should not be overlooked, however, that the nine-member plan commission now supplanted by the new ordinance, did an honest and sincere job under the powers given it by the state enabling act. That its recommendations were not altogether acceptable to the city commission in no way, we believe, reflected negatively upon what the plan commission thought best for the future planning of Birmingham.

Expose Military Information. We see no reason to halt the current Congressional investigations into many phases of federal activity, such as deep freezes, five percenters, RFC loans, organized crime, federal job-selling in Mississippi, etc., etc.

However, we have a mixed reaction to the current hearings on the MacArthur firing. It seems to us that considerable material being exposed by testimony could be of value to the Soviet. If so, why is it being made public?

IF IT IS information which our military experts feel Russia already possesses, then what's happened to our military security measures? Maybe the public hasn't enough trust in its Washington, D.C. officials to permit them to hold private hearings for fear of a "whitewash."

The Birmingham Eccentric. Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone: MIdwest-4-1100.

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REMARKS AT RANDOM. I see where an 80-year-old E. Atkinson, Wis., woman bowled a 525 series with an Eastern Star ladies team. It isn't often you find a woman with energy "to spare."

Strange Eating Utensils



Happenings of Long Ago

Bite Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric — The Bits That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO. June 28, 1901. Twelve members of the Birmingham high school senior class received their diplomas Thursday evening before an audience of 500 relatives and friends in the auditorium of the M. E. Church.

Lost on Sunday evening last, between Troy and Birmingham, a dark green silk umbrella with a pearl knob on the handle. The finder will please leave at The Eccentric office.

5 YEARS AGO. July 4, 1946. A Birmingham aviator, Lt. James R. Starbuck, 212 James, was one of the pilots who directed his remote control plane through the smoky clouds after the test.

The village treasurer will receive taxes at his office each Friday and Saturday during July, beginning July 15, and until August 10. D. M. Johnson is the village treasurer.

20 YEARS AGO. July 2, 1931. Three business places yielded cash, cigarette and radio to thieves here Sunday and Monday.

Highway Commissioner Grover C. Dillon has been ordered by state officials to proceed with the construction of the new road as soon as possible. The work will extend from Royal Oak through Bloomfield Hills.

Miss Virginia Struble, Barnum school teacher, here, has resigned from the Birmingham school system. Miss Lydia Terrell is taking over her reassignment.

A Retail Merchants survey conducted here shows that 65 Birmingham stores will be closed each Wednesday afternoon during July and August. The plan will go into effect July 10.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE BY ALICE E. MORGAN

END OF AN ERA. Last Thursday's commencement program marked the end of an era in Birmingham. The seniors who received their diplomas are the last who will be graduated from Baldwin high school.

AS THEY STAND in front of the theater armed with cameras to register scenes of another year, their comments reveal that this particular part of commencement holds some pretty sharp memories for them.

Dean Yocum, Teacher of piano and voice, opens for private parties — entertainment. STUDIO GRINNELL'S - BIRMINGHAM. MI 4-5135. Res. MI 4-1056.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. All must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words.

To the Editor: "Hurrah! School is out and now I have three months to get out and earn a little money."

"First I will need a working permit, but that is easy. Dad and the school superintendent will help me get that. Now, who is most likely to give me a job for the summer?"

"The factories want men who can work all year around. I think the landscape man is my best bet. They always need extra help during the summer to mow lawns and that's not too hard work — operating a power lawn mower."

HERE IS where he gets his first real set back in his search for work. Armed with his working permit he sees the man and asks if he can use

some extra help during the summer. The man can — until he hears the boy's age is 17.

"I've kept up with the times and most of my equipment is power — mower, roller and garden tractor. No, Son, badly as I need help the law says I can't let you operate a power machine, so I need to hire you."

What is a strong, healthy boy of 17 is going to do? He can drive a car on the highways but he can't operate a gasoline-powered machine around someone's lawn or garden.

WHY NOT CHANGE this law, which was made years ago? I have talked to several people about it and most of them feel changing it is up to the state representatives and senators.

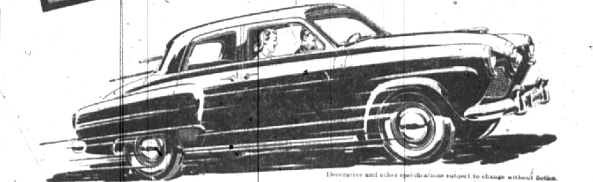
men know this condition exists? We all know they are busy with other things and do not have time to check these old laws to see if they are out of date.

Let's remedy this and give our 16-18 year old boys a chance at a job. Write or call Sen. George Higgins from Ferndale or Rep. Howard Estes from Birmingham.

ELLIS A. KOWINSKY, Birmingham, Route 2.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

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