

Planners, City Discuss Planning Staff Worker

The city planning board and city commission considered the hiring of Robert S. Boatman and

providing him with the consultant services of Scott Bagby to perform the staff work for the planning board at the joint meeting Wednesday night.

Also on the agenda was a report from the traffic engineers reviewing the city parking problem.

Professor Cites Church Influence Over All People

Speaking before members of the Birmingham Unitarian Fellowship Tuesday night, Prof. Preston Slosson of the University of Michigan said the relative place of the church in modern living is not as it was years ago.

"In the middle ages," he said, "the church did the work of charity and education and was the sole inspiration for art and learning. As late as a hundred years ago, in the United States the minister was usually the one educated person in every village and the church the only social center."

"Today the church has to face not only so much hostility as in Europe, but must compete with secular life which is full of so many interesting things that the church is often crowded out."

SLOSSON SAID that no matter to what degree the state may take over the work of education and charity, no matter how much recreation may be offered by secular agencies, there is one function in which the church is unique.

"It is the only independent body which can criticize the state and inspire people to better it. The church alone appeals for an absolute truth, not relative to political expediency," he concluded.

The affair was in charge of Mrs. Eugene Heaz, Miss Helen Holmes, Mrs. Peter B. Loomis and Mrs. F. M. Oliver.

Robert Dearth, Unitarian president, and other officers were introduced.

City Ruled By Students For A Day

High school seniors had a busy day Monday when they took over the city in the annual Civic control day.

Students were elected by the senior class to fill the various city offices.

Mayor for the day was Marc Joykin, and the other six commissioners elected were Sandra Puls, Jim Newman, Woody Dare, Sara Dunn, Claire Anderson and Gary Osterbeck.

City manager and assistant city manager were Dick Emery and Ned Sharples. Jim Fremont took over the duties of treasurer, and George Moody was assessed.

Mary Van Pletersen and Bonnie Dayton were put to work as clerk and deputy clerk, while Martha Brown was kept busy at the switchboard as receptionist.

JUSTICE OF PEACE, Don Nolita and Constable Bill Leckie preserved order in the streets along with Chief of Police Bob Smith, fire chief Brant Cramer and captain of the fire department Bradford Barr.

The office of city nurse was held by Anne Macdonald and her assistant was Gail Greig. City engineer for the day was Jim Hague; building department was Jerry Fletcher and director of public works Don Metz.

Harvey Peters, Al Krause and Elwin Harris were appointed sanitation officers and Larry McCracken dog-catcher. Bill Nicholas served as chief forester, Hank Morris was electrical inspector; the job of city engineer was held by Dave Morgan, and that of sewage disposal operator by Lee Bertling.

Two Boys Confess Setting Fire Here Friday Afternoon

Boys from Berkley and Birmingham who skipped school last Friday afternoon according to Fire Chief V. W. Griffith, admitted starting the fire at the small garage on North Woodward avenue building to escape the explosion and fire which destroyed the Mother and Son Antique shop in December, 1949.

The two boys, both 11 years old, were picked up late Friday night in the area of 16 Mile and Moond roads by men from the Macomb county sheriff's office, after their families had reported them missing.

Griffith said they told officials they had skipped school and hiked up the Rouge Valley, setting a number of fires as they went. In Birmingham they noticed the small building, reportedly filled with scrap material from the earlier fire, and started a blaze there.

THE YOUNGSTERS said they became frightened and crossed the river at a nearby point, hitching a ride to the vicinity in which they were found late that night. Griffith said both were turned over to their families by authorities.

Griffith said the small building, metal roofed and with imitation brick sides, was of little value and the contents seemed to be wholly made up of material scattered around after the fire two years ago.

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REV. W. GLEN HARRIS MRS. CHARLES SHAIN MAYOR DEAN BEIER
 Principals in dedication of Charles Shain Memorial Park

Shain Memorial Park Dedicated

Under the sponsorship of the Birmingham Rotary club, the Charles J. Shain Memorial Park (formerly known as Civic Park) was dedicated Monday.

Clarence Vliet, a friend of Mr. Shain's for more than 50 years, spoke of the man, as he had known him.

Mr. Shain, Vliet recounted, was born in Birmingham in 1882 and was graduated from Birmingham high school in 1899, and later studied pharmacy at Ferris Institute.

In 1906 he purchased the store at Pierce and Maple which became a gathering place for many of Birmingham's young people.

In Mr. Shain they found a loyal and sympathetic friend, interested in their affairs and problems," Vliet stated.

In 1907 Mr. Shain became a member of the Birmingham board of education, serving there for nine years. From 1924 to 1928 he served as president of the board during 1933-34 on the Oakland county board of supervisors.

Mr. Shain had taken active part in the promotion of the board of education's first bond issue of \$179,000, for the Baldwin high school. He also was active in the plans of the civic center, which includes the municipal building, library site and the park which now bears his name.

AMONG THE other activities, listed by Vliet, were Mr. Shain's deep interest in the YMCA, the Community House, of which he was a past president, several organizations in the community and the annual Halloween party, which helped establish the character of Birmingham's civic development.

Mr. Shain also was a charter member of the Rotary club, and served as president of the organization in 1927-28.

The ceremony in the park was centered around the memorial to Mr. Shain which reads: "Charles Shain Memorial Park, dedicated to the memory of Charles J. Shain, 1882-1951. His wise foresight and devotion to his hometown established the character of Birmingham's civic development."

MAYOR DEAN BEIER, in presenting the memorial, said, "With great humility I stand here, I

recall when I was a boy, the Shains took me up to the Y camp for its first year.

"This is the first ceremony of this sort I've taken part in. It would be better if we could tell Mr. Shain personally and give him our thanks, but we cannot. In this park, however, people will know now and forever what Mr. Shain gave us. He devoted time, effort, skill and ability that we here and those to come would have a better life."

"This park is dedicated, not because of any financial contributions or political connections, but because of what he did to make Birmingham a better city."

IN HER BRIEF remarks, Mrs. Shain said, "Time has moved on. We have come now to almost a year since he left us. We cannot turn time back or relive any previous experience. The physical pass-

ed, but the good we do lives after us. "When a boy, Charles Shain lived within a stone's throw of this park. He walked and rode around our wooded streets. He was well acquainted with the streets and lanes of this city, he perhaps knew more about them than anyone else, and he did live the outdoors."

"While on the city commission he had to fight for some issues, including the acquisition of this civic center, but he had to stand up to fight for what he believed right."

"I'm glad the city commission did this thing. History cannot sustain the deeds and actions, but this can complete the record of what those who were once here have done for those people and those things that they loved."

THE COMMITTEE planning the dedication service was Clarence Vliet, Ray Cook, Phil Williams, and Foster Toothacker.

Others taking part in the programs were Victor Peck, Victor Ulrich and the Rev. Robert S. Graham, assistant pastor of the First Presbyterian church.

Among the special guests attending were City Manager Donald C. Egbert, Commissioners V. B. Watkins and Ralph Main, former Mayor Chad Richie and Lloyd McGee, governor of the Rotary district.

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Foreign Students To Take Part In Discussion Group

Several foreign exchange students from Michigan State College will be honor guests at the May 1 Community House family night dinner.

After the dinner, they will participate in an informal discussion group which will be held at 8 o'clock, sponsored by the Birmingham Community Council.

The students will be weekend guests in the homes of Birmingham residents.

"We are bringing these foreign students to Birmingham because we want them to know the American people and see the home life as well by the institution of the American way of living," explained Rev. Reginald Becker, vice-president of the Community Council.

While in Birmingham the young people will stay with Mrs. Fred J. Finkenauer of Glenhurst; Mrs. Kenneth Swartwood, Linden; Mrs. Carl Pfeiffer, Westwood; Mrs. Lawton C. Tabor, Devonshire; Mrs. Jesse Weakens, Half Moon road; Mrs. Fressie E. Pomroy, Dorchester and Mrs. D. T. Stanton, Moberg.

The program arranged for them includes a visit to the new high school where they will have lunch with students on Friday, a tea that afternoon at the library and attendance at local entertainments during the evening.

On Saturday the group will be taken to Cranbrook. Church services are to be held at the home of Mrs. Anne Garrison of Franklin, Community Council president, are the highlights for Sunday.

The young people will be given an opportunity to observe life as it is lived in Birmingham as fully as time permits.

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