

It has often been said, and rightly, that no human lives ever surpasses that of the mother of her children. Yet there are evidences of great devotion, involving the giving of one's life and another, by poor mothers as well as mothers of the noblest who sets the example.

76TH YEAR—NO. 22

The Birmingham Centric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1953

SECTION ONE

32 PAGES SEVEN CENTS

City To Pay For Maple Paving Job

The widening and resurfacing of West Maple from Linden to So. Glenhurst will be financed by current city funds, city commissioners agreed Monday night. Only Commissioner James C. Allen dissented on the vote to authorize City Manager Donald C. Egebert to go ahead with the project with city funds and no assessment district.

Allen questioned the advisability of widening Maple and encouraging more traffic to be funnelled through the center of the city. Commissioners explained that the widening had been done to alleviate the condition brought about by construction of the new high school and further residential growth west of the city.

CITY ASSESSOR Elmer W. Haack presented a study of how previous improvements on Maple avenue had been financed and recommended that the city's share of the project be 50 percent of the cost, with the remainder of the costs divided between the county and special assessments against about 50 property owners.

Commissioner Lance Minor questioned how the city would assess property owners on this widening of Maple from Bates to the intersection of Linden.

Construction of this improvement has been tentatively scheduled for the summer of 1954 by the Oakland County Road Commission.

Fifth Annual V-Day Ceremony Set for Sunday

Gold Star Mothers and Wives of the State of Michigan will sponsor their fifth annual V-Day ceremony at the First Baptist church on Sunday, Aug. 15.

The ceremony at the Four Freedoms Memorial where more than 340 veterans of World War II and the Korean war, are buried will start with a band concert at 2:30 p.m. The program will be broadcast from 3 to 4 p.m. through the facilities of WJZY, Detroit.

Other honoree guests will be the Hon. George A. Dondero, U. S. Representative from the 17th District; the Hon. John Fisher and C. W. Hooper, representing the British and Canadian consulates, and the Hon. Louis F. Brown, U. S. Representative from the 16th District; the Hon. George A. Dondero, U. S. Representative from the 17th District; the Hon. John Fisher and C. W. Hooper, representing the British and Canadian consulates, and the Hon. Louis F. Brown, U. S. Representative from the 16th District.

The 16th Air Force Band from Selfridge Field and the Detroit Police Band will provide music. Members of the American Legion posts, VFW and their auxiliaries will be invited to give a parade through the city. Drill and ritual items from these groups will also participate.

Ordinance to Aid Elm Disease Fight

An ordinance to provide for closer control of Dutch elm disease has passed the Birmingham city commissioners Monday night and will become effective immediately upon publication.

The ordinance, in compliance with state rulings, calls for the immediate removal and burning of any elm tree within the city limits, found by laboratory analysis to be affected with *Dutch elm* or *Dutch elm* beetles.

Authority is given City Forester William Lebold or any person designated by him, to enter upon any property for the purpose of examining trees and obtaining samples for analysis.

LEBOLD WILL notify owners of trees which are found to be infested, requesting that the trees be cut down and burned within 10 days. Out-of-town owners will be notified by registered mail. Should these persons fail to comply with this request, the trees will be removed and destroyed by the city at their expense. The city will assume the cost of burning them, but the property owners, if they desire, are requested that the trees be removed by the city after assuming obligations of the ordinance.

Failure to comply with the ordinance subjects the owner to a fine of not more than \$100, or to a jail sentence not to exceed 90 days, or both, at the discretion of the court.

DURING RECENT weeks Lebold has reported increasing numbers of diseased trees within the city, and it was feared that the disease would spread here, and property owners were advised to have their trees sprayed immediately. Currently Lebold is asking owners to spray their elm trees, especially those living in the area south of Maple and West of Woodward, where several new cases have been reported.

"We are treating trees on public lands," Lebold said, "by spraying them with DDT. The trees being cut down and burned as soon as the laboratory positively confirms that they are affected."

"WHILE THIS does offer some (See ORDINANCE, Page 2)

Southfield Approves Bendix Lab

The Bendix Aviation Corporation Tuesday night was given the go-ahead sign by Southfield township board members to construct a two-story laboratory building in the township.

The action followed months of controversy, an amendment to the zoning ordinance creating a new land use, and some concessions.

Bendix purchased 46 acres of land from the Lawrence Institute of Technology on the site that was formerly the Larro experimental farm on Northwestern.

Bendix officials contended that the proposed construction of the Lawrence school made the site an ideal place for the firm's laboratory, in that Bendix may create a cooperative job-sharing program with Lawrence students while Lawrence instructors could help in some of the experimental work at Bendix.

TO CLEAR THE way for construction of the building, Southfield officials had to rezone the property at Northwestern and Southgate from residential to a new land classification—technical research.

Area residents protested the rezoning, claiming that the area was residential in nature and that such a rezoning would open the door to any number of industrial firms.

Both board members and Bendix officials assured opponents of the plan that the TR zone clearly limited the type of operations that could be undertaken by Bendix on the property.

Laboratory research of the firm would include work in electrical chemistry, hydraulics, electronics, physics and engineering.

TUESDAY NIGHT residents contended to question why the firm should ask that all 46 acres be rezoned now when initial plans call for the development of only a portion of the property, and a compromise was reached.

Under the approved proposal, the zoning was changed to technical research on all 46 feet of the property except the northern 400 feet of the parcel. In keeping with the 150-foot setback of the building line stipulated by Bendix, the laboratory will be 550 feet from the northern boundary.

Southfield board members agreed that when Bendix had a definite plan for further expansion, the board would review the firm's proposal to rezone the remainder of the parcel.

L. A. Hyland, vice-president of engineering for Bendix, agreed to the plan but added that further expansion was contemplated. "It will cost us a million dollars to move into this site," Hyland explained. "And we wouldn't want to spend a sum of this size if we felt we would be stopped from expanding."

Minor acted as Mayor while the motion was passed by the commission. Mayor Main is also Oakland County Drain Commissioner.

Annexation Answered
Answering a query on the city's stand on annexation of the Mercer farm property west of the city on Maple, city commissioners advised Herbert A. Fisher of Detroit that the city would consider such action when it could be shown that annexation was mutually advantageous to both the property owner and the city.

Still Checking Fire Loss
No estimate has yet been made of losses incurred in the July 29 fire at St. James Episcopal church, said Monday that inspection teams were still being made of the church's interior to determine the amount of damage from fire, smoke and water.

How is the residential growth in the Birmingham area affecting your schools? What is the Birmingham school district doing about classroom shortages?

Turn to page two, section two to learn how the school district is endeavoring to provide over 50 additional classrooms to meet the fast-growing school census as soon as possible.

City Tax Returns Compare Favorably With Other Years

City Treasurer Russell Berger said this week that 49.7 percent of the 1953 Birmingham tax levy had been collected by July 31.

The levy for 1953 was \$865,522.96, with returns now at \$424,601.15.

The 1952 levy of \$802,490.49 saw returns amounting to \$401,897.25, or 50.08 per cent by July 31.

Property owners, Berger said, may continue to pay taxes without penalty until Sept. 1, when a fee of three quarters of one per cent will be added each month.

"It is hard," he said, "to get a true picture of how tax returns really stand at this time. Companies holding several mortgages on Birmingham properties may pay the entire amount in one sum. Their payments are not always made in the same month, so no definite conclusion can be reached, now, as to whether returns are 'normal' or not."

Law enforcement officers said by the handwriting, they suspected it was the work of little boys. Now they are wondering what the little boys want with a safe purchased by the blacksmith for scrap iron.

There's a new "twist" in crime being discovered in Birmingham. Police are pondering the event which took place sometime Monday night at the Hunter's Cove neighborhood blacksmith shop of Fred Blesath.

The blacksmith reported to Birmingham police that a safe on his premises had been tampered with last night. The safe had been opened but tied up.

Securely wrapped in cloth, the 800 pound box had a note attached which read, "We'll get this yet, Bob!"

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Minor Was Mayor For Few Moments

Minor was mayor for a minute. The gavel was turned over to Commissioner Lance C. Minor by Mayor Ralph A. Main Monday night as Main moved to request the Oakland County Board of Supervisors to purchase rain gauges for strategic locations in the county.

City commissioners, failed to approve the city's purchase of a rain gauge at a cost of \$200, stating that if the gauge was to measure rainfall for sewer need studies within the county, the purchase should be made by the county.

Minor acted as Mayor while the motion was passed by the commission. Mayor Main is also Oakland County Drain Commissioner.

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City Asks To See Plans On Off-Street Parking

The Birmingham payroll for the month of October, 1952, which was used as the test month in the study, shows a payroll of \$53,600 for municipal employees exclusive of teachers and other school workers.

THIS REPRESENTED an outlay equal to \$5.58 for each resident of the city. It was higher than the per capita cost in Birmingham of meeting non-school payrolls, \$3.45 a month. It was also above cost in Birmingham of meeting non-school payrolls, \$3.45 a month. It was also above cost in Birmingham of meeting non-school payrolls, \$3.45 a month.

City governments had a record number of employees and bigger payrolls in October than ever before, states the Census Bureau. Of the total number, 1,141,000, or 85 per cent, were full-time personnel and the remaining 200,000 on a part-time basis. The latter were chiefly volunteer firemen and elected officials of small cities, who ordinarily receive only nominal pay.

(Editor's Note: The above statistics were computed on the 1950 U. S. Census population figures among the 10 largest cities. Several thousand new residents have come to Birmingham.)

THE PAY SCALE for these non-school employees in Birmingham averaged \$276 a month. Nationally, among the 1,233 cities surveyed, the rate was \$281 a month. In the 10,000 to 25,000 group it was \$220.

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Financing Still Gate To Hurdle

The city wants to take a look at concrete plans for merchant-sponsored off-street parking facilities before taking a stand on city participation in any off-street parking program, city commissioners decided Monday night.

In another session on the controversial subject which lasted 80 minutes, commissioners agreed that they could not obligate the city to participate in any program until they could study what the merchants expected of the city.

Commissioner Dean G. Beier moved that the city request a general plan for the development of the north-west quadrant currently locked by Jacobsons and Wabec Corporation be submitted within three weeks.

Commissioners would then determine what action could be taken in the north-west quadrant and then begin the work on off-street parking in the south-west quadrant.

STILL THE big question before commissioners apparently is whether the city should involve itself in the parking lot business, and if so, just how much of the financial burden the city can undertake.

The majority of the commission seemed favorable to improving and operating lots on vacant land acquired by merchants if the cost would not endanger the city's financial picture.

Some commissioners questioned why the merchants could not operate these lots themselves after they had purchased the land.

Commissioner Beier repeated that the merchants could not cope with the policing of the lots, nor could they forcibly bring any merchant into a plan who chose to stay out.

According to Commissioner V. B. Hester, the cost of financing off-street parking was through revenue bonds for the improvement of land already acquired by merchants.

A 500-car parking garage on the Shain Park was envisioned by Commissioner Lance C. Minor who threw the idea out to commissioners to study.

"Shain Park is an undedicated piece of park property right in the center of the city and it is sad to see the taxpayers' money," Minor explained.

He indicated that the park cost the city over \$200,000 in condemnation proceedings and was still a burden on the city.

"We could move the Shain memorial plaque to the park at the Rouge waterfall and lease the land to the merchants for a 99 year period," Minor continued.

"The idea of creating a corporation, could then easily raise the money to construct a garage and could earn five to six per cent interest annually on their original investment," he said.

MINOR SUGGESTED that this project would repay merchants their investment, provide ample parking for the city and earn surplus from the land use and earn surplus money that the city could turn over to the library or recreational facilities.

Other commissioners agreed that while the plan answered many of the problems that confronted them, still there was the opposition to be met from residents who wanted to protect the park area.

Minor accepted the thought of opposition but maintained that this was a way to get private individuals to act on the parking problem (See PARKING, Page 2)

Woman Calls Police To Catch Wayward Horse

In this highly mechanized age it is still recalled that there are horses but they are not as common as they once were. A woman called the police to catch a wayward horse.

The man to do some exploring of the island, especially studying the mineral deposits and semi-rare stones to be found in the island.

This is Hubbard's 13th trip to Isle Royale, many of which have seen his group striking into territory seldom visited.

SKIPPED BY Capt. Tramala, the boat will be home base for the two-week expedition. It is expected that the island, where the group will be made of the island, with the Hubbard group exploring bays and inlets, and some of their canoees for trips on some of the inland lakes.

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