

City Commission Is Responsive If Resident Will Communicate

Two excellent examples of responsiveness of Birmingham city commissioners to definite desires of local residents, who in turn forcefully communicated with their elected representatives, were demonstrated last week.

It was in connection with two rezoning matters—one, in the court case brought against the city by the Industrial Land Co. and others; the second, rezoning of a petition by the city to Troy township seeking a rezoning of the old Walker gravel pit property on E. Maple, now being used by the Southeastern Oakland County Rubbish and Disposal Authority.

Representatives of the Birmingham Estates and Pembroke Manor subdivisions appeared before the commission Aug. 13 to ask the city to change its previously adopted position to these two matters.

AND WHEN THE ARGUMENTS of these residents were presented to the commission, its members unanimously reversed itself to conform with the expressed opinions.

The commission withdrew from negotiations on a compromise settlement of the court case. They also ordered the city manager to alter a petition to Troy and instead ask the gravel pit be changed from a residential industrial classification to a residential zoning.

The court case will continue, commissioners having decided that the city should attempt to justify its single family zoning of the disputed area, even to the extent of appealing an adverse decision to the state supreme court.

RESIDENTS IN THE northeast portion of the city pointed out that the city could be the first to establish an industrial zone on the north side of Maple in Troy township, even though commissioners thought a high-type industry with a greenbelt to the west appeared to be the best method to protect Birmingham's residences in that area.

We applaud these residents for analyzing these two problems in the light of maybe having to live next door to them, and for having enough initiative to vocally express their feelings to the commission.

And commissioners, too, showed themselves responsible to citizens' interpretations of these matters, and deciding that as elected officials, they had a definite responsibility to represent, regardless of their own personal feelings or convictions.

BOTH THESE REZONING situations, we believe now are in their proper perspective. If the city is right in believing single families are best for that 11-acre triangle just west of Eton road and north of Maple, then it is worth fighting for.

And we believe that to plunk in an industrial area on the north side of Maple would set a precedent which would be easy for Troy officials to follow with regard to the remaining frontage between Coolidge and Crooks.

This action last week should demonstrate once again to our townspeople: "If you have something to say to your commissioners, speak up and make yourself heard. They have the courage to listen to reason, and change their course for the better."



Happenings of Long Ago

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

50 YEARS AGO
August 7, 1903
It cannot be truthfully said of at least two of the Republican aspirants for governorship in Michigan that they do not "cut any cheese" since both are prominent dairymen and cheese makers.

James N. Zimmerman and his automobile have been enjoying a trip to Chequamegon for the past two or more weeks and had a jolly good time. He was accompanied by his family and his raft across country were most enjoyable.

The Sheriff of Lapeer county was in town one day last week looking up horse thieves. He is a very large bunch of humanity, and when Marshal Randall was walking with him there didn't seem to be enough of Will to make a shadow.

Pierre Buckley, of Pontiac, (elder brother of the 5th) bought the location at Cony Island recently. First he insured his life for \$300,000, then made his will, and "Swiss" was all over, none killed or injured.

Oh, say, have you seen Ed Schanber's new three motor? It's a beauty—a regular Jim Dandy—and while it may not gas along the highway as fast as his brother chauffeurs do with the auto, he certainly makes more money riding.

50 YEARS AGO
August 10, 1923
Work has begun on the tearing down of the Grand hotel, located at 135 West Maple avenue, to make room for the construction of the three-story building which is soon to be erected by the C. F. Smith Co., grocers.

Today at three o'clock the Village of Birmingham will join the location at Cony Island recently. First he insured his life for \$300,000, then made his will, and "Swiss" was all over, none killed or injured.

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HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

There's a lady in Birmingham who is doing a wonderful job in hospitals and mental institutions. The patients, children and adults, are very sensitive to catch and hold their interest, something to occupy their time; something to make them look forward to the arrival of another day and so, to boost along the hard road to recovery.

Alice Wessels Burlingame, quite naturally, is working with those people in her chosen field—horticulture.

The plants and flowers patients handle are clean, living things. Each has its own color and aroma entirely different from the often drab surroundings in which they spend their lives.

MRS. BURLINGAME says she is happy to see the change which comes over many of the persons as they shyly start working with plants and flowers or arranging cut flowers.

However, she faces a handicap of her own in carrying on the therapeutic work. She has no funds on which to draw for supplies.

Because of her knowledge of Birmingham residents, Mrs. Burlingame is asking, their help.

Most of us "over buy" when getting packets of seeds in the spring. These little envelopes will help her bring light and interest into dull, monotonous lives.

AT ONE PLACE she has a whole greenhouse available but nothing to put in it. Seeds would change the outlook of many children as they went about the planting and then awaited the thrill of the first tender green shooting out.

Everywhere she goes she is faced with the lack of flower containers of all sizes.

They should be fairly sturdy, she tells us, because the men and women, boys and girls, who will use them do not always have muscular coordination enough to fragile glass or chinaware.

One of the major problems with which Birmingham has had to wrestle in many years concerns off-street parking. So we need it, and if we do, how are we going to get it? We need it for the city. For over seven years now, various municipal, civic and business interests have been studying the ward the solution. The answer, which it may be just around the corner, is still being sought. The satisfaction of the majority of people most concerned with the project, still have not been reached.

Lots of communities, small or large, have off-street parking. They apparently have found their answer. One may fit Birmingham's needs.

On the other hand, Birmingham may have to tailor one to its own peculiar circumstances. If this latter is the case, it should be done.

There have been suggestions that Birmingham do what was done in City "X" or Village "Y". But these are yet mere suggestions. They haven't been applied to Birmingham. When applied, they may work. They may not.

If not, then should the signal to work out our own solution. There is one, and it may take some investigation and study to find it.

Of course, whether we actually solve our off-street parking problem depends on the answer we individually want: the wrong one, the right one, or none at all.

The reason a woman buys a corset is to try to keep herself smaller on the outside than she is on the inside.

The more informed and intelligent of Michigan's educators readily admit one of the main reasons for the state's school district financial dilemma is because of the vast number of small school districts.

Moody still hasn't said whether he will enter the daily newspaper field with a new publication. I wouldn't be surprised if he and the group backing him financially started printing the National Democratic Party's newly-born publication.

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Great Adventure Story

It goes without saying that man must thoroughly understand the cause of wars before he can eliminate them. In this connection, it is interesting to note that many of the revelations about the thoughts and actions of enemy leaders during and before World War II are now being released in book form.

It must always be remembered that the permanent reactions and appraisals of history are never made at the time of the world's great events. The lessons of appeasement in the 1930s are best learned by reading accounts of the Thirties from both sides.

Without mentioning the names of spe-

cific authors or books, it is suggested that those who are interested in the tragedy of World War II might profit by studying the life of Hitler, the diaries of several Germans and Italians in positions of power in the late Thirties and 1940s, and that the papers of several military leaders, on the other side, also be read.

We cannot agree with those who believe such reading dull. On the contrary, the events of the late 1930s and during World War II are the most dramatic and significant that have crossed the stage of history in recent decades. The struggle between the forces of democracy and those of tyranny in this era is the greatest adventure story of our age.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Of course, we all want the credit of the United States of America to be good. But to assume that, should its expenditures exceed the debt limit of \$275,000,000,000, which is its current legal top, Uncle Sam will go into bankruptcy is to be silly. In a way, we are glad that the Senate turned down Ike's request to limit it fifteen billion, only by "going into the red" (if that be done) will Congress cut federal expenses down to less than the pattern of the New and Fair Deals. This is especially true in an election year—which 1954 will be for many seats in Congress.

Reasonable contentment with one's environment requires that one periodically appraise its values. Like the farmer, having lived on one place all his life, who wanted a change. Having subjected everything there to his merciless criticism, he listed the farm with a realtor who prepared a flattering sales advertisement for a newspaper, but who first read it to the farmer before having it published. "Wait a minute," said the farmer. "read that again slowly. I changed my mind. I'm not gonna sell. All my life I've been looking for a place like that."

Definite figures on the number of American and Allied prisoners of war held and being released by the Chinese and North Korean Reds are not known; but most informed persons on either side of the military borders believe that the 3,313 POWs does not include the total. It is possible that the Reds, pending the signing of a peace instrument, are holding as hostages many more soldiers, to use them in playing their (the Reds') lying and deceitful strategy? In the meantime, the Allies are sending back 74,800 captured Reds.

Too often the aspirations of mankind are restricted to but three dimensions: length, breadth and depth. What really is needed is more height.

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So They Say . . .

Adlai E. Stevenson, former Governor of Illinois:
"Communism is the death of the soul."

Walter Sarrif, commentator:
"Age makes for prestige, youth for progress."

Imperial Magazine:
"You can't board money but you can't board fun."

John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State:
"We are not suppliants. We are ready for honorable peace."

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