

To a sensible, rational person, the use of credit is better than cash as far from acceptable as the use of the methods of a bandit. We are willing to give the credit card to the club or the lab... but how often more words can be so true!

76TH YEAR—NO. 20

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1953

SECTION ONE

28 PAGES SEVEN CENTS

Street Parking Ordinance Expected

Further Talks Expected With Businessmen

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Birmingham's on-again-off-again off-street parking question, one of this city's most controversial subjects in years, was sidetracked Monday night by city commissioners after they had listened for two and a half hours to objections from about 80 business property owners who packed the commission room.

Commissioners indefinitely tabled this proposed amendment to the City's zoning ordinance, a measure which would have required all new or expanded businesses to provide one square foot of parking space for each square foot of store or office space devoted primarily to public use.

However, the seven commissioners did decide to see what the plan board thinks about modifying the proposal so it would apply to future commercial property rezonings.

This suggestion was handed to the plan board at its meeting Tuesday night with the request that the modification be considered, with a subsequent meeting to be held between city commissioners and plan board members to discuss the advisability or inadviseability of adopting the less stringent proposal.

COMMISSIONERS did add to the zoning ordinance a new section which will permit owners of residential property immediately adjacent to business property to have the adjoining lots re-zoned into residential districts which would be strictly regulated regarding surfacing, screening, lighting and use.

The vote on tabling the amendment affecting the central business section was 7-0.

Commissioner Lance Minor expressed himself against adoption of the amendment claiming sufficient expert testimony had not been accumulated to prove the city has a parking problem "except on Fridays, Saturdays and at Christmas."

ON THE OTHER HAND, Commissioner Dean Beier said he believed the amendment would not handicap any business development, that the proposal contained a variety of methods by which parking could be obtained, and therefore he saw no reason why the amendment should not be passed.

While there was open disagreement between most commissioners and businessmen regarding the legality and fairness of the special amendments, it was indicated that both groups recognized a need for off-street parking and that common ground between them could and should result in some good program to relieve traffic congestion.

THREE DISTINCT decisions appeared to have come out of the public hearing Monday evening.

- 1) The so-called Jacobson-Wabeek plan for a proposed 1,600-car off-street parking lot north of Willetts and west of Woodward will be encouraged to proceed with development.
- 2) The city will consider preventing subsequently rezoned commercial property from being re-zoned without off-street parking facilities.
- 3) Further meetings with central business district businessmen.

Earlier in the meeting, George E. Averill, editor and publisher of The Birmingham Eccentric, pleaded with the city commission to exercise some leadership in this matter.

"THE MAIN question we face seems to be how to finance any off-street parking program," Averill declared, "and the city has offered some aid by suggesting the use of parking meter revenues. The businessmen here tonight have indicated their willingness to accept some sort of equitable assessment plan."

You've listened to arguments that the proposal tonight is illegal and that the city has offered some aid by suggesting the use of parking meter revenues. We should attack the problem again in the light of these new financing suggestions.

FORMER BIRMINGHAM village president and lawyer Harry Allen asked the commission, "Do you have any opinion from competent counsel regarding the legality of this proposed amendment? Personally, I think it is confiscatory of business property to make it only for some time."

Mayor Ralph A. Main admitted that neither the plan board nor the commission has any legal authority regarding the commission's plan.

(See PARKING, Page 2)

STRICTLY FRESH

The best thing to cool a man off is water.

A gold fish doctor recently walked from California to New York to have a cataract removed from his right eye. There's a sight for sore eyes.

Someone's been breaking into the East St. Louis, Ill. dog pound.

Smoking has stunted many a man's growth, in height and purse.

All kinds of inner spring mattresses from \$10.00 to \$40.00. MATTRESS DEPOT, 1101 N. 11th St., Phone DIAL "O" and MATTRESS DEPOT 4515.

92 BRAND NEW FORDS READY SATURDAY MORNING FOR NEW OWNERS

Agency's service dept. worked 16-hour shifts to prepare them. (Eccentric Staff Photos)

92 Cars Sold in One Day Believed a World Record

By RAY DENNIS

Former Bham Eccentric Reporter, now Managing Editor of the Herald (Mich.) Evening Chronicle, who would not resist asking to write up a story "for old time's sake," even though he was on vacation.

Scuffling at "the impossible," 21 members of the Harold Turner Ford sales force here, established a mark believed never to have been surpassed anywhere, when 92 new cars were sold Tuesday, July 21.

There was no long planning nor advertising behind this one-day drive. The idea was formed the previous day, Monday, July 20, at a sales staff meeting.

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EDDIE STEELE OWNER HAROLD TURNER Sales manager collects his \$500 bonus

Man Hurt Saving Two from Blaze

A former member of the Birmingham fire department and one-time fire inspector here was injured about 7:45 Wednesday morning as he took two children from the roof of their burning home at 580 S. Woodward.

George Jones, 588 Purdy, on his way to work in Detroit saw the trapped children, Gerald, 8, and Robert, 6, sons of Mr. and Mrs. James Shafer. In getting them to safety he received burns on both arms. He was released from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, after first aid treatment.

The fire in which Jones was injured was the second serious blaze to strike the city in a matter of hours.

A general alarm was sounded at 1:30 a. m. when fire was discovered at the St. James Episcopal church, W. Maple and Bates.

Flames were breaking through the roof of the Birmingham landmark when firemen arrived at the scene only two blocks from the engine house.

FIRE CHIEF V. W. Griffith said a ventilating fan in the roof was blowing out the fire.

"The blaze was centered around the organ loft and sanctuary," he said. "We were hampered getting into the building because the roof is of extra heavy construction. Metal lath and plaster, usually heavy beams and the roofing itself held up lath in getting water on the blaze quickly."

"When we started to get at the seat of the fire from another angle, the screens of the organ itself blocked us."

FIREMEN WERE hampered, too, when the aerial ladder collapsed making it impossible to pour water directly onto the blaze where it was burning.

"The first, which nearly cost him his life, was a rupture appendix. The second 'close call' was when he slipped and fell 34 feet from the place where he was looking his place on the flight, in among the four missing members of the crew and into the street below."

While hospitalized, Greig's plane—a Martin P5M patrol plane—crashed into the sea and burned. A buddy of Greig's who took his place on the flight, is among the four missing members of the crew and into the street below.

Greig, son of Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Greig, 14 Mile road, received his training at San Diego, and was serving as station ordnance man at the time of his injury.

RICHARD GREIG

Woman Is City's First 1953 Traffic Fatality

Birmingham's first 1953 traffic fatality was recorded July 28 when Mrs. Guy Vetter died at St. Joseph Mercy hospital.

She received cuts and bruises and broken ribs in a traffic mishap at the Merrill-Bates intersection on July 23. A hospital report said death was due to pneumonia, caused primarily by bruised lungs resulting from the broken ribs.

Mrs. Vetter was riding with her husband when a car driven by Mrs. Eleanor Blauman, 18, of 2001 W. Maple, failed to stop at the intersection, striking the Vetter car.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said Wednesday that Mrs. Blauman at the time of the accident had been ticketed for failure to stop. He added that he did not know whether or not she would be required to make a statement to the prosecuting attorney.

MRS. VETTER was born in Shepherd, Mich., on Jan. 28, 1896. She was married to Guy Vetter in Spokane, Wash., on Oct. 29, 1929. The family came to Birmingham from Indianapolis two years ago.

Mrs. Vetter was a member of the First Methodist church and the Woman's Society for Christian Services.

Besides her husband, she is survived by one son, Kenneth G. Vetter, of Cleveland, and two grand-children.

Establishment of Ford Tractor Div. Is Due Saturday

Saturday morning the Ford Motor Co. officially will establish its newly created tractor division whose headquarters will be in the former Dearborn Motors Corp. offices on East Maple.

Manager of the new Ford division already had been chosen. The Birmingham Eccentric has learned, but his name is being kept under wraps along with other top division choices, until a general news release can be completed, due for publication some time this week-end.

PRESIDENT OF Dearborn Motors is Thomas F. Farrell. Vice President is Merritt Hill. Both are Birmingham residents, and both would be in line for the division's top positions.

Early in June the Ford Co. announced its intention to operate its own tractor distribution system, effective Aug. 1, thus ending a franchise held for six years by Dearborn Motors. The Dearborn Motors Credit Corp. will retain its identity and continue to finance wholesale and retail sales of tractors, farm equipment and farm products.

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

OUR CONGRESS SHOULD NEVER HOW TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

When the founders of the Constitution of the United States wrote and finally accepted that document, they were of the strong belief that mankind tends to become despotic, if not controlled. So they set up a government made of three branches, legislative, executive and judicial.

They separated these by granting them specific powers. They intended that they be kept that way, so that no single branch would ever gain complete control over the people.

Because the legislative branch, consisting of members of Congress, is closer to the people in each district and State, the Constitution gave them the power to enact laws, to levy and spend taxes.

The executive branch, headed by the President, was set up to administer the laws, to see that they are enforced, and to handle various duties of the day-to-day routine of operating government.

THE JUDICIAL branch was to interpret the laws enacted, to be sure that they fitted into the spirit and letter of the Constitution itself.

But to most informed people, the most important branch of the government is the legislative branch. This segment, elected by the people in each Congressional district, is the closest to the people of a State for membership in the House of Representatives, and each of the 96 Senators is elected by a large in each State, naturally is more responsible and responsive to the average voter.

All of which is merely support of the argument that under no circumstances should the legislative branch become completely controlled either, the executive or judicial branches of government.

DURING THE 20 years reign of the New and Fair Deals in the nation's Capital, the legislative branch did make its true status, and became on many occasions the mere rubber stamp of the White House.

Under such an environment citizens witnessed an ever-increasing tax rate, an ever-increasing exercise of bureaucratic control over their lives, a definite drift of government toward centralization, the theft by law and court decision, of fundamental State's rights.

Now the Eisenhower administration in power, a considerable reversal of this drift toward centralization of government is taking place. It is a good first step toward the restoration of American freedom.

It is to be hoped that the pattern of dictatorship would assume almost complete control of our political, economic, and social lives, that every member of our legislative branch of government, I would have to flag and say: "Retain your legislative independence and authority; cooperate with the Executive when you think that the rights of the citizen are at stake; fight, if necessary, for your own Constitutional right and responsibility to represent the people who sent you to Washington." Your public trust surpasses that of any other public Constitutional official.

Sailor Credits Fall With Saving His Life

FRANKLIN—Although confined to the U. S. Naval hospital at Portsmouth, Va., where he is recovering from multiple injuries received in a fall from a bomber wing, Richard Greig is feeling very lucky.

Since enlisting in the Naval Air Service in March, Greig has had his share of trouble.

His first, which nearly cost him his life, was a rupture appendix. The second "close call" was when he slipped and fell 34 feet from the place where he was looking his place on the flight, in among the four missing members of the crew and into the street below.

While hospitalized, Greig's plane—a Martin P5M patrol plane—crashed into the sea and burned. A buddy of Greig's who took his place on the flight, is among the four missing members of the crew and into the street below.

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RICHARD GREIG

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The ECCENTRIC WANT ADS

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