

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1954

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How interesting and refreshing it is to listen to the views of someone who seldom or never resorts to gossip and rumors in telling you something. This is why we print so many wonderful subjects (not necessarily world-shaking) that are worthy of conversation.

77TH YEAR—NO. 15

Editorial Statements Take Cooper

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

SO MUCH GOOD IN MOST OF US

The Nebraska locomotive was coming to a stop as fast as it could, for on the tracks ahead of it stood a 2-year-old boy. Both engineer and fireman quickly realized the locomotive couldn't be stopped completely before it would strike the child.

The fireman hastened from the cab to the footboard fastened to the engine's front end, and when within the right distance from the child, threw himself against the youngsters' arm catching him at the same time their line of flight directed at angles away from the engine. Both rolled on the ground, clear of the wheels.

Was it a mere incident in human affairs? The projections that that is best in human nature; without a moment's hesitation his divine self responded to the necessity of endangering the human self with the divine the victor. What really wondrous works are stored up in average good human beings!

DISCORDANT HARMONY

EX-President Harry S. Truman played the piano, and James C. Pettilio, dictator-head of the American Federation of Musicians, respectively (if not respectfully) played the piano and the trumpet at the Musicians' recent annual convention in 30th avenue.

They later appeared briefly on a news telecast; Truman did o.k., but Pettilio was terrible. When reminded of a remark once told me by Al Melgard, organizer in Chicago's big indoor stadium, he said: "I didn't know how long very long... he couldn't keep up with the rest of us."

With these two, apparently, Jimmy hasn't improved any. Crowning his long public service in St. Winston Spencer Churchill has been made a knight of the Garter by his country, a 10-month-old baby girl, in Little Rock, Ark., fell into a lake and providentially, was discovered by a swimmer later... discovered because some ducks, swimming nearby, set up a loud, throaty quacking.

A mere co-incidence? Not to that mother, and to many who will ponder the reason why those ducks came to the baby's rescue.

Detroit Dies After Crash Here

A Detroit man died Sunday afternoon in St. Joseph's Hospital, Pontiac, from injuries suffered in an automobile accident here on Sunday morning.

Earl H. Chapman, 361 Gladwin, died of cerebral contusions and hemorrhage, according to hospital authorities.

This was the first traffic fatality in the city for nearly a year. The last death in the city was that of Mrs. Ruth Vetter, 823 Bates, who died July 28, 1953, from injuries suffered in a crash July 22.

BIRMINGHAM police found a Chapman lying near his car in a field near Maple and Edgewood. Skid marks revealed the car went off the pavement where the roadway narrows east of the Grand Trunk railroad viaduct, cut sharply across a Maple and rolled over several times in the field.

No cause for the accident was apparent, according to the officers.

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Hearing Set on Bloomfield Hills Zoning Ordinance

It will be the citizens' turn to discuss a new zoning ordinance proposed for the city of Bloomfield Hills when a public meeting on the ordinance will be held Tuesday, June 29, at the Vaughn school library, Vaughn road.

Bloomfield Hills' planning commission has been working on the proposal for the past year.

John Graham, planning chairman, said the major change that would be effected by adoption of the new ordinance is an increase in lot size requirements.

This would cause little change in the city since it would merely bring the ordinance up to the standards already set by developers and property owners, said Graham.

"THIS ORDINANCE is not controversial issue. It has been unanimously approved by the planning commission, the city commission and city officials," Graham stated.

Lot requirements under the city's present ordinance are set at a minimum of about 7,100 of an acre for two acres, district A-2 a minimum requirement of 1 1/2 acres, district A-3, one acre; and district A-4, three-quarters of an acre.

"No change in the minimum size of a house that can be built in any of the areas is being planned," Graham stressed.

There would be some reduction in the area in which multiple dwelling units are scheduled under the old ordinance, Graham said.

HE STRESSED that reduction in the multiple dwelling area is not significant because of the fact that the old ordinance called for multiple dwellings on property where the owner has six or more units in force against multiple dwellings.

The city's board of appeals will be the most powerful in the ordinance is adopted, Graham said.

The board would be increased from five members to six under the new ordinance. A vote of 4 to 2 would be sufficient for action under the new ordinance compared to the present 5 to 1 requirement.

"This will have the effect of giving the board more authority to determine hardship or borderline cases in zoning," Graham said.

He said that an increase in the commercially zoned area of the city is planned.

In addition to his post as recreation director, Whitney is athletic director of Birmingham schools.

To Study Expansion Of Recreation Program

First steps toward developing a broader and more complete recreation program for the city of Birmingham were taken Thursday night when the recreation board instructed Recreation Director Frank Whitney to prepare a report on what he thinks an adequate recreation set up should include.

Board members generally agreed that the time has come to ask the city to supply capital improvements to increase present facilities.

Whitney's report will outline what he thinks those capital improvements should be. The board should be done first, and where it should be done.

IMPROVEMENTS may include swimming pool, skating rink, lighted baseball field and more tennis courts, it was indicated in the board's discussion Thursday night.

Board Member C. A. Lee described the present joint city-school board recreation program as inadequate.

"We've been operating the program within \$3,000 of the amount we started out with in 1947. I think we've been doing very well, but I feel we are at a crossroads; we should be expanding," Alee declared.

Board Member Lollie Reese proposed that a professional survey might be in order. Other board members said Whitney should be the one to analyze recreation needs in the area.

It was agreed that nothing in the way of capital improvements should be undertaken until the next year. Indications were that the board may launch an expansion program next year that will take several years to complete.

WHITNEY told the board that the present athletic program has expanded to such a degree that a full time director may be in order.

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Westside Station Bid \$25,000 Under City's Estimate

Birmingham's west side fire station should be completed about the end of September, according to a low construction bid accepted Monday night by the city commission.

The bid, for \$25,000, was \$25,000 below the city's late winter estimates.

The second station, at Adams and Bowers, is to be built. Both fire halls are being paid for from a \$225,000 bond issue approved in April.

Ambulance Firm Seeks Site Here

Plans for a private ambulance service within Birmingham were revealed to city commissioners Monday night.

Commissioners, after hearing a report on the proposed Birmingham Ambulance Service, agreed that a local firm would be an advantage to the city and tentatively gave the city's support to the firm.

The service, to be operated by Carl Rosenberger and Michael O'Hara, both of Royal Oak, is expected to be in operation after August. The firm is now negotiating for a centrally-located site for their operations.

O'HARA ALSO has been with the Royal Oak firm nearly two years.

O'Hara told commissioners the firm would station two emergency ambulances in the city on a 24-hour basis and give priority, in all cases, to police and fire department calls.

The firm also agreed to transport school children from schools to private doctors in the city at no cost.

O'Hara asked support of the city in this venture and while commissioners could not agree on a contract before the service is in operation, commissioners gave their verbal support.

Commissioner William E. Roberts said, "I think this would be a welcomed service to the city. I think you have our encouragement and best wishes in this venture."

O'HARA EXPLAINED that the ambulances would be smaller, more maneuverable vehicles than the large ambulances that add that they would be fully equipped with two-way radio and oxygen equipment and would be manned by a driver and attendant.

Service charges to hospitals in all cases, explaining that the average Highland Park and Pontiac will range from \$10 to \$16.

Police and fire heads have defended the service of the Dietrich company, explaining that the average length of time elapsing between calls and response by the firm has been satisfactory.

Southfield Settles A Grave Problem

Grave opening fees in Southfield cemeteries were increased from \$25 to \$35 to defray an extra expense on the township, board members decided Thursday night.

At present the township trustees have \$25 to grave diggers.

The system had proved satisfactory until last Saturday when a grave undertaker ordered the wrong grave opened and a second grave had to be dug shortly before the burial.

Board members fear the township may have to foot the added expense of a grave to be dug against such contingencies.

The Eccentric Gets the Bird

A novel function being performed by The Birmingham Eccentric in the past few weeks is that of being the means of returning lost parakeets with their owners.

The Eccentric has acted in this role on three occasions since May 27. Two of the feathered pets were listed as lost in the want-ad section of the paper.

A checkup on the result of the notices disclosed that both birds had been restored to their cages.

Jingles, a chartreuse moul, flew from the home of his owners, Mrs. Donald MacCueh, 489 Brown, on May 20. Four days later and two miles away, Mrs. F. Michelson, 224 Windemere, found Jingles fluttering about her back yard.

When he saw the MacCueh's and managed to catch the bird, she and her next door neighbor, Mrs. Gerald S. Noyes, just happens to raise parakeets, she turned Jingles over for safekeeping.

JINGLES HAD cold and was half starved, but Mrs. Noyes rehoused him. By administering the most modern drugs and a meal of maple and chestnut.

City officials also were pleased to note that the bird had cost \$225,000 below the city's late winter estimates.

4 National Excellence Awards Won by Eccentric

The Birmingham Eccentric this week was awarded four of the six honors won by Michigan newspapers in the National Editorial Association's 1954 Better Newspaper Contest.

At the NEA's 69th convention in Baltimore Friday night, it was officially revealed that The Eccentric had been awarded second place in the over 2,000 circulation divisions for special issue and for best column, one subject.

The special issue award was for The Eccentric's 75th Anniversary Edition published a year ago May.

THE BEST COLUMN, one subject, honor came for Helen Brunson's weekly feature, "The Commuter's Wife."

Two honorable mentions also were given The Eccentric, both in the suburban weekly division. One was for general excellence, the other for excellence in typography.

The Highland Parker topped the list for typographical excellence in suburban weeklies, and the Royal Oak Tribune was third in the classified advertising promotion contest.

THESE AWARDS MAKE five top honors which have come to The Eccentric during 1954. In January, The Eccentric placed first among Michigan newspapers for general excellence in the annual state association's contest.

In the past five years, The Eccentric has won 14 national and state excellence awards.

Three Appointed To City Boards

Birmingham commissioners made appointments to the city's building code board of appeals and the plan board Monday night.

Appointed to the Plan board was Bennett Root, 1931 Webster, for three years.

Root, 37, is serving his first term membership on a city board. A life resident of Birmingham, he is a chemical engineer for the U. S. Rubber company, Detroit.

Also named to the board of appeals for a term of five years, Reid has served on the board since its inception in 1951. He is a builder.

Board to Govern Taxi Operations

A three-member board will be charged with the administration of the revised taxicab ordinance adopted Monday night by Birmingham city commissioners.

This is the principal addition to the revised rules, while changes primarily concern putting in more details in order to clarify certain provisions of the former regulations.

Comprising the board will be the city manager, the city director of public safety and a third member from either the city commission or the public-at-large.

According to the ordinance, the board is ordered to decide all matters in dispute concerning taxicab operations within the city.

Limb Damages Car

A rotten tree limb caused damage to the roof of a car owned by Mrs. Helen Shaver, 3845 Oakland when it fell on the car parked on Brown between Woodward and Ann Monday noon.

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Blodgett made about three attempts to get Joe into the home before he was successful.

The Blodgetts ran a classified ad in The Eccentric's June 3 issue. The Williams read it and the runaway Joe was back home by nightfall.

"Joe's been a little shy since his escape, I think he blames us for escaping from his home at 581 N. Eton last week and a stray blue parakeet has taken up lodging at Mrs. Gerald Noyes, 2261 Windemere.

The last bird is the pet of Mrs. Janice Gage. Mrs. Gage is vacationing this summer in South Dakota and is not aware that the bird escaped when the apartment was being cleaned.

The unclaimed bird is banded with the code number 71-2.

Another Session Friday

With its first session last night, and the second scheduled for Friday night, the three-man board of inquiry this week moved formally into its investigation of the circumstances surrounding the efforts of Birmingham firemen at the June 13 tragedy which claimed three lives.

Last night the board expected to question five witnesses from the neighborhood where the fire occurred—1189 Brookwood.

Conducting the inquiry are Birmingham Plan Board Chairman James Spencer, C of C President Jack Hall, and Council of Community Agencies President Charles Kask.

THESE THREE will be Friday evening with city commissioners who

How to Contact Committee:

To volunteer for an appearance before the board of inquiry, write or telephone relating to the fatal June 14 fire, just write or telephone any one of these board members:

James Spencer, Jack Hall, 281 Shirley, Midwest 4-1511, Midwest 4-4330, WO 3-6040, Midwest 4-1333

Charles Kask, 1028 Chestnut, Midwest 4-2179, Lincoln 2-6940

outlined what the board was to do: (1) Determine whether or not any Birmingham fireman or police officer was guilty of improper or negligent conduct, or exercised poor judgment, while on duty at the fire which claimed the lives of Mrs. Thomas Couper and her two sons, Larry, 13, and Danny, 12.

And making recommendations to the city commission which the 3-man committee feels is desirable to the Birmingham fire department.

CHAIRMAN Spencer said his committee will meet as often as necessary to hear all interested parties.

"We have enough to schedule these first two sessions, and starting next week we probably will have to adjust our meetings depending on how many additional witnesses we discover," Spencer explained.

He called upon anyone who believes he or she has pertinent information, to contact any one of the committee.

"Our report will be presented to the city commission, which then will determine what should be done," he added.

Hills Seeks New Police Chief

Bloomfield Hills city commissioners may name a new police chief at the commission's July 13 meeting.

The commission is seeking a replacement for former chief C. Hanks who resigned suddenly last Thursday after serving with the city for 25 years and as chief since 1948.

Banks, who started with the city in 1929 and became a lieutenant in 1945, walked off the job "because of too much interference from the city manager," he is quoted as saying.

Relatives stated that Hanks left for his farm near Hillman, Mich., immediately after submitting his resignation.

A new watch, being tested by the Bureau of Standards, is hermetically sealed. It is said to never need cleaning or oiling. But it is impervious to the curiosity of a dog boy with a hammer.

Austrians are to construct a dam across Lake Neusiedler, half of which is in Communist Hungary, to keep fish in Austria's end of the lake. They feel the Reds have too many fish tales as it is.

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City Accepts Bid On Tennis Courts

Four new tennis courts are scheduled to appear within the next 30 days at Eton park.

Birmingham commissioners this week awarded the contract for the asphalt courts to the Detroit Concrete Products Co. at an unusually low bid of \$3,150.

Backstops are not included in the contract, city officials pointed out.

Custom made rubber stamps, 26 R. Service, Ad-Prep Co., Birmingham, Mich. (16)

