

Plan Board Gets Rezoning Petition

Advisability of rezoning the northeast corner of Pines and 14 1/2 Mile to commercial use has been referred to the Birmingham plan board for study and recommendation.

Now zoned to residential, it is across the street from a commercial district.

Petitioner Richard W. Heinen of Dekalb proposes to erect a dental-medicine clinic in that corner.

PFC Participates In Parachute Drop

Pfc. Roger G. Linnard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Linnard, 1907 Hazel street recently participated in an annual-personnel and heavy-equipment parachute drop at The Artillery Center, Fort Sill, Okla.

The jump was followed by an artillery fire mission with paratroopers dropping 105 mm. howitzers, demonstrating the mobility and efficiency of an airborne field artillery battalion under combat conditions.

Linnard, who entered the Army in March 1954, is regularly stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky. He attended Birmingham high school.

Deep within mankind's nature is the undetected instinct that it is free. Though at times discipline may rule, and a form of slavery may exist among peoples, this instinct eventually overcomes the bondage.

Birmingham Background

Local History in Story and Picture

As Compiled and Written by RUTH ANNE SILBAR

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An Elegant Hearse!

In the old days there was no such thing as an undertaker in Birmingham. If there were a death in the family, all the neighbors lifted up their voices and said, "For heaven's sake, send for Partridge!"

When Alanson Partridge arrived and took charge of things, as he invariably did, no one gave another thought to the matter. Everybody went home and went to bed well assured that there was no necessity of further thought about the affair until the details of the funeral were announced.

Partridge relied upon his warm friend, Luther Stanley, in all matters of importance or emergency. These two sallied forth, clothed with the authority that the passing years had brought them, and invariably brought order out of chaos and made crooked things straight.

CORNELE W. JENKS, who was the proprietor of a woodworking shop on Troy street (East Maple), was the only recognized authority in the matter of coffins (not caskets, mind you) and to him the two invariably went with measurements as to width, length and style of architecture. In two days he could get out the best coffin that anyone could desire and it was said the occupants never kicked or said a word.

The first real undertaker in Birmingham was James Beattie who drifted into the business gradually and naturally since he was already in the livery business and therefore drained through an outlet into a pall, the pall had to be emptied at intervals and more ice added.

BEATTIE'S advertisements proclaimed that an elegant hearse "as fine as any in the county will be furnished with terms warranted to be as low as any in the state." The hearse was black, decorated with touches of gold paint, and was pulled by a fine matched team of black horses named Nig and Nell.

As Beattie prospered, he purchased an all-white hearse, pulled by a matched team of white horses. The new hearse was acquired in 1890, costing \$1,600.

Noted The Eccentric at the time, "We never knew Jim Beattie to inquire after anyone's health till he got a new hearse."

About 1890 Beattie took into partnership his relative, Ned Daines, who learned the embalming method of preserving the dead. After Beattie died, Daines and Wylie Bell continued as undertakers for the village.

THEIR establishment was located in the old Robert Mitchell building, now the site of Eggleston's store, which Daines had purchased in 1860 for \$1,500.

It was a combination furniture store and undertaking parlors and when their new business block was completed in 1911, Homer Leonard carried on his electrical business in the basement.

Can't Finance New Assessment Plan at Present

An easier and simpler method of assessing Birmingham street paving costs—particularly for side streets—has met up with a financial snag. The Birmingham city commission believes it may take quite a while to find the answer.

Explained Commissioner Florence Willett: "When the commission saw the idea applied to several typical examples, we learned it would cost the taxpayer a large amount on a formula which many property owners have considerable difficulty understanding, particularly when it comes to paying for side street benefits.

The city cannot afford at the present time to increase its annual budget in order to collect the additional city participation share of the proposed plan," Mrs. Willett added.

Maple Widening East of Viaduct Gets Endorsement

Widening of East Maple to four lanes, particularly from the railroad viaduct east to Coolidge road, has received endorsement of Birmingham city commissioners.

Ford Tractor Division, which would pay a major share of such widening, has indicated its willingness to have the job done, said City Manager D. C. Ebert.

The county also would be involved in the widening, which would ease traffic movement at that point.

Meter Request Is Turned Down

Sticking to its determination to reduce central district on-street parking, Birmingham city commission has refused to add five new parking meters along the south side of Willetta street.

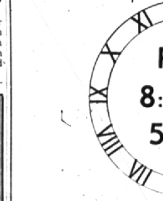
The commission agreed with the police department's recommendation that the meters not be installed because they would hamper traffic.

The request was made by William Bany, of Bany Flowers, 190 Willetta.

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Camp Oakland Trip

Birmingham's High Twelve club has scheduled a meeting at Camp Oakland for June 6. A 90-passenger bus will be chartered for the trip which will include dinner at the camp.

Earns Coveted GE Award at U. of M.

For his outstanding work as a University of Michigan student, Stuart Scheifele, son of Mr. and Mrs. Webster Scheifele, 176 Linden, has received one of the annual General Electric awards.

The university junior will leave for Schenectady, N.Y., shortly after the close of the college year for a summer spent in the GE camp there.

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LT. JOHN D. ZISSER

Awarded Letter Of Appreciation

LONG BEACH, CALIF.—Lt. (jw) John D. Zisser was recently awarded a letter of appreciation from his commanding officer for his services in the Tachen evacuation.

The letter was presented by Capt. Frank M. Adams, who said in part: "As the Commanding Officer, USS Helena (CA-75) I take pleasure in expressing my appreciation of your superior performance of duty during the evacuation of Chinese Nationalist Forces from the Tachen Islands off the coast of Communist China from 6 to 12, February 1955."

Aboard the Helena, which has recently completed a seven-month tour of duty in the Far East, Lieut. Zisser is the boiler officer. His duties consist of supervising the operation of the ship's boilers. He is also an Engineering Watch Officer.

Lieut. Zisser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton M. Zisser, of Kirkwood, Mo., entered the Naval service following his graduation from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He formerly lived with his family at 412 Mohagan and was a 1944 graduate of Baldwin high school.

New Sidewalks OK'd

Three sidewalk improvements have been ordered by the Birmingham city commission. Assess-

ment rolls were confirmed for walks on Northlawn, between Shilman and Maryland and from Washington to Bates, and on Cummings, between Benaville and 14 Mile road.

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