

# Community Problems Bring Comment from Candidates

(Continued from Page 1, Sec. 1)

vent a large population density whereby we could have many more families squeezed onto a limited land area.

**3) PARKS INSURE** green spots which make for more stable neighborhoods and lend beauty and quiet to a city. Playgrounds go hand in hand in a residential community of families and children. We are fairly well endowed with public land which could add to the enjoyment and beauty of our city. Certain areas are totally lacking in these facilities.

**4) Since** we have no direct control of the zoning and development of our lands immediately adjacent to our boundaries, it is essential that we establish and continue to maintain, an active spirit of cooperation with our neighboring governmental bodies. Through such action we can achieve an orderly growth of this area and a land use pattern which is consistent with ours.

## Donald K. Fill

During the forthcoming month the commission will be called upon to make several important decisions affecting the welfare of the City of Birmingham.

First, I believe is the relocation of Shain Park. I cannot honestly express my opinion on this proposal as no one yet knows the wishes of the people in general.

This important decision will be made April 4 in a year or no vote on Proposal No. 1. However, I feel the commission should be influenced by the popular vote of the people.

Secondly, and equally as important, is the Evergreen Interceptor Sewer Project. The present facilities certainly are not capable of performing efficient service due to the rapid growth of our community. The installation of the interceptor, I must agree with the present commission, is most essential.

**IN ADDITION**, the aforementioned proposals, I believe special attention will have to be given to the increase of fire and police protection, recreational facilities and improved traffic conditions.

In order to approach these problems realistically, and effectively, the commission must be staffed with as many representatives from all sections of our residential areas as possible.

The only way decisions can be made intelligently is to get the views of all citizens in each district in relationship to the entire community.

## Omar Hansen

I feel that there are three predominant problems presently in Birmingham.

The most acute is the parking problem, and that can best be solved by the answer to the question, "Is Birmingham going to permit itself to become a shopping center for the surrounding communities and real estate developments?"

If the answer is "yes", then Birmingham must provide additional parking areas and do so immediately; the result of the Shain proposal on the ballot should furnish some clue to the answer. I am a resident of Birmingham by choice and prefer Birmingham remain residential, but will abide by the vote of the majority.

**THE SEWAGE** disposal problem is one that must be met in the very near future and it appears a long-term bonding program will be necessary to carry this through.

The third is that of our water supply. Our present supply has proved inadequate during the summer months, and joining in with other communities in Oakland, Macomb and other touching counties, we should begin to preparing now to develop a source of supply from Lake Huron by the establishment of a so-called "Water Authority."

## Watts Wacker

One big responsibility of the commission is the problem of slower traffic. The commission must see that we have more patrolling and radar on residential streets and, if necessary, dead end streets or man-made bumps to slow traffic.

As a Birmingham resident for 20 years, I am appalled at the lack of consideration on both our residential and business streets.

The commission must watch closely that zoning of multiple dwelling units and commercial property does not depreciate the value of established homes.

Civilian defense needs reactivation. If we are bombed, we should have some idea as to what to do and plenty of leadership to help direct us.

**SHAIN PARK** should be kept in its present location. We can't afford to destroy the beauty and charm of our lovely city center.

One of the people moved to Birmingham in the last 15 years to get away from the fast streets, crowded schools, crowded business conditions. They came for fresh air, good schools, slower traffic. They were willing to pay higher taxes.

The men were willing to drive 18 traffic-filled miles to work. I wonder how much of what we came for we are not getting or are starting to lose.

When are the leaders of Birmingham going to start thinking about the people who live in Birmingham rather than the business people who have moved in and have made Birmingham "the Northland of the north?"

## Vincent B. Watkins

I believe in improved city services on an economic and efficient basis. These include snow removal, garbage collection, etc.

Also, I favor operating the city government in a business-like manner.

I believe in cooperation with the Board of Education and:

1) Adequate parking  
2) An aggressive approach toward suitable recreational facilities.

3) An enlightened, long-range view to future water and sewer improvements.

4) Suitable street and sidewalk improvements.

5) An improved flow of traffic through congested areas.

AS A home-owner, I want to see Birmingham maintain real estate values and increase its advantages over other suburban areas in greater Detroit.

During my last three-year term, I acted to what I considered to be the best interests of the home-owners and business owners. I am not a politician. My votes are dictated by my beliefs.

I strongly believe that a city commission should attempt to attend all of the meetings in order to know the people want them solved. I have attended 97.9 percent of all the commission's sessions in the last three years.

Since I am the only member of the present commission seeking re-election, I feel my experience and background of information will benefit the commission—and, in turn, the residents of Birmingham.

## Fritz Fieselmann

From the following six candidates, voters will choose ONE who will serve for the TWO-YEAR VACANCY:

Considering the operation of the city of Birmingham and the city commission's present operations seem both adequate and efficient.

The most pressing problem seems to concern themselves with immediate and long-term future needs of the city.

It is my opinion that these long-term problems should be worked out by the commission and reported before the actual need arises. Into this category fall several major problems indicative of this need.

1) Divergent anticipated truck traffic. With the expansion of the industrial properties on Mound, Stephenson and Van Dyke roads, there will be an increase in the development of the Toledo to Saginaw Turnpike, future planning should begin to consider truck traffic before the problem is upon us.

2) Considering Birmingham's geographic location, Maple is destined to receive much of this traffic. No parking district during periods on Maple is only a temporary solution.

3) Shain Park as presently located. Careful examination of the parking situation in Birmingham and the carefully engineered Northland Center shows one block variation in the proposed parking location will not be an adequate effect on travel to Birmingham shops.

4) Downtown Detroit is proposing new parks, Northland was designed with parks, should Birmingham have less? Financially there is no guarantee that city bonds will not have to be met by higher taxes.

5) Long-term planning to ring the business area with a partial green belt and parking lot system would protect the immediate private home owners and the business owners. Birmingham is still a city of private homes.

6) Play-a-go-city swimming pools. This is a self-serving project which will serve two purposes—providing a family activity and serving as a summer youth activity when most supervised youth activities and school programs are at a low period.

7) Integrated metropolitan city services. Continuation of the present program with regard to public utility, sewage, and fire protection services to include police and public works activities. Through this method, city services would be increased with a reduction in present operating expenses.

## Carl F. Ingraham

In making my bid for a seat on the city commission, I have been activated by certain experiences in my private and public life.

Through my work with the PTA and in connection with the Board of Education, I have become convinced of the need for closer planning and coordination between the city government, through its city commission, and the Birmingham school district through the board of education, for common planning upon mutual problems.

In my twelve year residence in Birmingham, I have seen the population double, and am of the opinion that one of the greatest needs of the city is for proper planning to provide for this growth of population and business interests.

MANY DECRY the loss of the "village atmosphere." As mature people we ought rather to recognize the fact that we have a place with enthusiasm and make sound provision for the tremendous progress due our community.

As the communities surrounding us have grown along with us, Birmingham has become a closer physical integration, which leads naturally to a coordination of efforts between the communities of the South.

Perhaps one of the most tragic courses for some to follow is the deep and dark road known as Bourgeoisie Delusion. It is an evil detour, with many dead-end streets and alleys. To avoid it one is wise to spend less than one car.

# The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 4

Thursday, March 31, 1955

## Six Candidates Seek a Full Three-Year Term



## While These Six Would Like to Fill The 2-Year Vacancy

Oakland county area, to meet the ever-present problems of water supply, sewage disposal and other problems.

The most efficient and economical way to meet these problems is through coordinated efforts. Birmingham should continue its leadership in marshalling the forces of Southern Oakland county in solving these problems.

AS A member of the Youth Study Group, I have spent the last year studying the problems of the youth of our community, and am aware of the great need for coordination among the various public and private agencies to provide recreational and guidance services for this segment of our population.

**Bernard A. O'Dell**  
The high residential character of Birmingham can be retained through progressive planning. Rapid population increases of recent years has strained many of the municipal facilities, and added many new problems throughout the city. A few years ago, Much has already been done to provide fire protection and other services, however many other problems require immediate action.

A positive progressive program must be enacted to provide the present central shopping area with additional diversified shopping facilities. This will assist both merchants and shoppers. Additional diversified shopping centers are both unnecessary and hazardous to the residential areas of the city.

Through proper planning and zoning much can be done to provide ample service to the community without sacrificing residential character.

A COMPETENT civil defense program should be activated. Birmingham citizens, and set a pattern for other metropolitan areas. This program could effectively be established through coordinated women's activities.

Training women and children in civil defense is very vital, especially in our area where so many of the men work elsewhere.

Long-range traffic control programs must be supported and coordinated with the surrounding communities. Street improvements and repairs must be made to handle the increasing traffic volume.

Recreational facilities should be increased rapidly to accommodate the needs of our children. All sections should be provided with tot-lets where the younger children can learn to play in safety.

The city commission should encourage civic groups, churches and schools in better coordinating their

activities of raising community standards, and combating juvenile delinquency.

**John M. Rady**  
The recent and continuing influx of families into Birmingham and its environs has created a host of problems which increases the burden of our city commission, which is charged with the responsibility for their solution.

Simple fairness dictates that from us newcomers who are causing many of these problems, those qualified should come forward to provide a share of the load. My candidacy was announced in that spirit.

We all know the problems: adequate parking, sufficient water supply, fire and police protection, traffic control, recreational facilities, and appropriate zoning are momentarily in the news.

I am satisfied that our prior commissions have addressed these issues, however, conscientiously to these challenges.

However, I am not convinced that they have been as frugal with our tax dollars as they might have been.

My chief concern as a commissioner would be to insure that our taxes are spent as carefully as possible.

Our current city budget calls for an expenditure of \$1,335,885. Without doubt, a commission composed of dollar-conscious, economy-minded members could pare that budget without reducing essential services.

A searching analysis of both capital and maintenance items would unquestionably produce savings resulting ultimately in a reduction in our tax load.

Further, in its efforts to solve the challenges posed by the city's rapid expansion, the commission must be guided, in my opinion, by a desire to maintain the essentially residential character of Birmingham.

In short, its goal should be a vigorous policy of progressive stability, tempered always by considerations of thrift.

**Atwell J. Smith**  
If elected to the city commission, I shall give special attention to the improvement of our recreational facilities, to traffic control and safety and to rodent control.

The first two are matters which I always held my particular interest. The last I'd rather not have to be concerned with.

Our increasing congestion makes it a certainty that the government officers concerned will need at least one champion on the commission.

There is another matter, one of national as well as local interest. I can not agree with those who say

that civil defense is the concern of federal government alone.

**ON THE CONTRARY**, an atomic catastrophe will produce temporary geographic isolation and the consequent need to rely on our own resources.

For all that we hope, work and pray for the averting of this terrible possibility, we must be prepared to face it alone or in mutual action with a few neighboring communities.

The preparation can best be organized at a local level. I am sure that organizational efforts we make will not be lost if the world goes on in peace forever. From

such organization there always comes by-product benefits which sooner or later are reflected in the betterment of the community.

**Florence Willett**  
I am not asking to be on the commission. Rather, I am willing to serve on it.

Our family shares a great affection for Birmingham with its fine schools, churches, and physical beauty. But most of all, the keen sense of community responsibility is a part of living in Birmingham.

We are very much a "family town"—the size of our family units continues to grow. So do our responsibilities to the community.

To me the major responsibility is to be fully aware of Birmingham's rapid growth and its effect upon the character and needs of the town. Having lived in suburban Detroit areas since 1926, I have seen changes wrought by unbridled growth without vision as to the consequences. Being a homemaker allows me the daytime privilege of seeing more people and viewing more needs than is possible for most businessmen whose work takes them to Detroit each day.

If there are any facets of my experience that could serve the community well, I will serve with utmost sincerity and duty.

I believe our biggest job is to maintain Birmingham, not change it. Maintain means (as in house-keeping) to keep in order and condition, to retain the beauty, to spend wisely. Maintain means to keep the structural foundation before adding unnecessary costs and embellishments.

WE DO NOT need to make each residential street an artery. Enough streets are designed for such purposes, and residential streets should be service drives, with trucks limited to surfaces

designed for their use.

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