



The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly SEVEN CENTS

It is necessary that one be known to another for quite some years before real friendship can develop, such friendship is not dependent upon social position, but upon the struggle are born bonds that weld people in lasting affection.

78TH YEAR—NO. 26

HIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Bill Doyle Will 'Have His Day' With Governor Williams

Bill Doyle, former Michigan State Senator, long a Lansing lobbyist for chain stores, and perhaps as well informed on Michigan government as any other person, recently was not re-appointed to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission by Gov. Williams.

Bill is a Republican; Williams a Democrat. This Commission is bipartisan, which means that half its members are from each major political party.

Bill is a fighting fisherman, is no great admirer of "Stumpy," as all Lansing observers know. Actually, the Governor had a perfect right to let Bill go; and Bill, himself, knows this very well.

But, like an animal, Mister Doyle has a long memory. You may be sure that, in some way and at certain time, Bill will get his big or little "revenge" against "Stumpy."

THE STORY IS TOLD about Bill's long enmity against Moral Re-Armament. When this organization began its efforts to make Mackinac Island its world convention headquarters, Bill opposed the move. Yet the MRA boys kept on growing, finally acquiring a couple of island hotels.

During conventions the attendees would, naturally, wander about the historic Island, Right across from the nine summer home of Mr. Doyle's there was a small plot of ground, grass-covered, mothering a bed of lovely flowers, and with a couple of benches on it. It was a lovely spot to rest, to gaze out upon the panorama of the Straits of Mackinac, watching the boats go by.

BILL, SO THE YARN continues, did not admire the picture of these MRA boys enjoying themselves right in front of his own name. He determined to rid the landscape of the MRA-ers.

Now Mister Doyle is too smart to use a shotgun to cause undesirable characters to scamp from his presence. Indeed, he would not by open word or deed let them know his displeasure at their bench-warming in front of his summer home on the Island's east end.

What do you suppose this facetious old man did? He had an amateur, unpaid gardener on Mackinac Island!

SOMEHOW, THE STORY runs on, there was piped from Bill's own water system a line extending over to the plot of beloved MRA meditation ground. It was to make it possible for water to be sprinkled upon the lovely vegetation, so that Mackinac Island would continue to be the pride and joy of every Michigan citizen.

Especially the members of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, Wilfred F. Doyle, then chairman.

And thus it was one warm day when a group of MRA boys, in convention assembled, strolled (See THIS & THAT, Pg. 2, Sec. 1).

2nd Important Parking Step Coming Monday

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Shortly after eight o'clock next Monday night, roughly one-quarter of Birmingham's downtown property owners will be asked to approve their combined "contribution" of \$122,951.03 toward the city's municipal parking lot at Pierce and Merrill streets.

At this Sept. 12 meeting, commissioners will be taking their second basic step in solving Birmingham's parking problem. They expect to establish the method of future business property assessments for municipal parking lots by confirming the special assessment roll for this first 250-car facility for the southwest business quadrant.

The city's first essential step was taken exactly a year ago—Sept. 9, 1954—when it determined the necessity of the Pierce-Merrill lot, followed with a bond issue that has been financing the current construction of that lot.

ASSESSMENTS merchants will pay will return to the city about 40 per cent of the lot's originally estimated \$250,000. Incidentally, commissioners now feel the lot actually may cost in the neighborhood of \$320,000. The additional cost apparently will come from the city's parking meter revenue fund.

Only 10 per cent of the assessment owners meet next week with commissioners. They will find the city has not at all changed its assessment formula originally proposed better than a year ago by City Assessor Elmer W. Haack.

Benefits are being determined in this basic manner: land area times distance from the parking lot times the merchandising factor (the ability to do business from a particular location, and is closely related to land values).

WHAT REALLY has been holding up the confirmation of these initial assessments is the city's decision whether to build additional southwest quadrant parking facilities two blocks west of the first lot.

The decision, made only a few weeks ago, has enabled Haack to cross-check proposed Lot Number 10, followed with a bond issue for Lot Number 1 (Pierce-Merrill) to see if the formula works there, too.

Only 10 per cent of the assessment will be based on present use of buildings. The remaining 90 per cent will be split evenly on the basis of land area and land frontage.

EACH OF these three elements will be determined by application of factors which range from 1 to 10 for distance, 5 to 50 for merchandising, and 0 to 5 for building use.

The building use factor has been diminished to 10 per cent from its original share of one-third.

Commissioners want to recover this \$122,951.03 assessment fast as possible in order to continue financing of additional lots.

The city may only have a total of \$500,000 outstanding in parking bonds, and the commission believes the assessment spread should be limited to two years, three at the most.



FOR HIS NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS to education and the people of the state, Dr. Paul D. Carter (left) 385 Fernside, Birmingham, receives an award from Gov. Williams. The presentation was made at the Michigan State Fair. With a total of 23 years as elementary teacher, principal and curriculum director, Carter is assistant superintendent in charge of instruction for Birmingham public schools. Twenty other Michigan educators were similarly honored.

Former Governor Is Turnpike Aide

Former governor and state highway commissioner, Murray D. Van Wagoner, 175 Abbots, Birmingham, has been named consulting engineer for the Michigan Turnpike Authority, according to George H. Higgins, MTA chairman.

Higgins said he and Van Wagoner will tour the proposed route of the north-south turnpike between Bridgeport, near Saginaw, to Rockwood on the south.

The inspection, already made by Higgins, will start at Rockford. Special attention will be given to

No Grounds For Action

Birmingham police officers Joseph Backlund and Donald Moonen got a coffee call Tuesday morning, but to their disappointment all they found was an empty pot.

The two patrolmen were called to enter the home of Robert W. Straughn, 1909 Latham, after the Straughns who had left on a vacation trip called neighbor H. Neff, 1190 E. 14 Mile, to check on the electric coffee pot which they thought had been left plugged in.

Neff called the police to check the home, but all patrolmen Backlund and Moonen found was a cold, empty pot.

Real School Work Being Felt Today

Classes started yesterday and today for nearly 21,500 students in the school districts of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Southfield and Troy.

Wednesday was a day of registrations and half-day sessions for most schools except Birmingham where classes were already in their second day.

Birmingham pupils went through the preliminaries of home rooms and scheduling on Tuesday and completed their first full day sessions Wednesday.

AT SOUTHFIELD, Troy and Bloomfield Hills, most classes were started at noon yesterday, with full schedules in operation today. In Bloomfield Hills, where five new bus routes were added this year, many students were finding their biggest difficulties in following the bus schedules.

Several new routes were added as a result of the opening of the new Bloomfield Hills high school, which will have an enrollment of 1,000 from grades seven through 12.

(See SCHOOL, Page 2, Sec. 1)

1955 Building Rate Still Behind 1954

Slight rise in building totals for 1955 were reported by T. C. Brennan, Birmingham building inspector.

A total of 65 permits were issued totaling \$199,450 in valuation for 1955.

Forty new buildings accounted for \$127,920, and 23 alterations for \$71,530.

The 1955 total has reached \$3,927,800, compared to \$4,521,125 for the same period in 1954.

Undo Indoor Pool, Architects Asked

Birmingham high school students need not plan on swimming at their school this winter. Work has not been started and cannot begin until architectural engineers, confronted with structural problems in making the high school swimming pool an indoor-outdoor pool, come up with a workable solution, according to Richard Featherstone, assistant superintendent in charge of construction.

As originally planned, in 1949, the high school swimming pool was to be an indoor pool with seating space for 250 persons. At the time the school was constructed, just outside walls and piping for the pool were completed.

NOW, THROUGH the recommendations of the citizens committee which backed the school bond proposal in June and approval by the board of education, \$350,000 has been set aside for the completion of the pool with the suggestion that it be an indoor-outdoor pool, if possible, and with seating space for 1000.

Architectural engineers, whose advice has been sought by the board of education, have been working on the problem for some time, Featherstone explained. "The board probably won't know until October whether or not the originally planned indoor pool can be converted," he said.

No contract has been let for the work.

NEW CLASSROOMS facing Lincoln also are behind schedule.

"Ground conditions hindered construction and after this was taken care of, the steel strike came along," Featherstone said.

Planned for use in late fall, Ross Wagner, high school principal, now expects the new class rooms ready for occupancy for the second semester in Feb., 1956.



MURRAY D. VAN WAGONER, the Dearborn and Detroit areas, Higgins said.

IN SPEAKING of Van Wagoner's appointment, Higgins stated his being a resident of the area and familiar with many of the problems made him the ideal choice.

"Knowing the area as he does, Van Wagoner may quite possibly see faults and advantages I have missed. With his assistance I feel I will be more thoroughly prepared when the state supreme court makes its decision. I just want to be sure it is correct."

Van Wagoner Says 'No' to Race for Top Highway Job

Murray D. Van Wagoner is not considering becoming the Democratic candidate in 1957 for state highway commissioner, his wife told The Eccentric Tuesday.

A former highway commissioner who later became Michigan's governor, Van Wagoner reportedly is behind the scenes Democratic political circles is being boomed for the post he held from 1933 to 1940.

See Zoning Case Affecting Over 1,000 Lots Here

More than 1,000 residential lots in the southeast part of Birmingham may be rezoned as the result of court action brought against the city this week by Mrs. Alma B. Grimes, 227 W. Frank.

She is seeking to force the city to let her construct a two-family dwelling in accordance with the present zoning of the property, but which the city won't let her do because the lot area is less than that which the city requires per family, 3,000 square feet. Her lot contains only 5,120 square feet.

City Manager D. C. Egbert said City Attorney Forbes S. Hascall has obtained a two-weeks postponement from Sept. 13, the original date for hearing the mandatory action before Circuit Judge Frank Doty.

"Whereas there are so many lots involved, we want to be sure this is argued out in all aspects, which cannot be done in mandamus action," the manager explained.

HE SAID the city will try to have more liberal type of court action used which would require no admission of evidence.

The case is particularly involved because of about 25 blocks bounded roughly by Grant, 14 Mile, Terry, Highland, Adams and Lincoln.

The complaint charges that the city has levied taxes upon Mrs. Grimes' property on the basis of two-family, but won't let her use it as such because of the conflict of the zoning ordinance provisions.

DESIGNED by Elliott Robinson, architect, the new remodeling of the building calls for a new front window for a recessed window. The site is slightly west and across the street from the present location.

Interiors, including a "Cashmere room" where only cashmere garments, such as coats, sweaters and skirts are sold, are being done by Amos Parish Co. of New York.

"The new store will be one of the outstanding specialty shops in this area. Parish has done the stores throughout the country and is the best firm of its kind," says James J. Taylor, a partner in a partner-treasurer of the Kay Baum, Inc., Growth of Kay Baum, which began in 1937, has been through four previous expansions under operation of the five Kershenbaum brothers.

IN PORTIONS of operation are Meyer, president of the corporation who manages merchandising; Aaron, store manager, who deals with sales people and customers; Leonard, merchandising control director and buyer of small wares; Belmont, building supervisor, who has charge of erecting and marking; and Jack, who handles administration. All live in nearby communities.

The corporation has leased the Leonard building from Edward E. Robinson.

THEIR PRESENT site is being given to Lark Kershenbaum, although Walter Moreland, president of Birmingham Federal Savings and Loan Association, owner of the present building, which includes it, admits that official notice has not been received.

"We do have a waiting list for buildings," Moreland says, "so we're sure it won't stay unrented. However, their lease runs through next April."

Kay Baum plans call for 6,000 man floor square feet, with 4,000 on the lower level, both devoted to selling. Second floor rooms will contain office, employee and customer lounges, and employee locker space.

FRONT REMODELING calls for drama lighting both inside and outside of the recessed window. There will be no wiring to impede passersby and exterior paint will be in bright colors, not chosen yet.

After conditioning will be installed throughout the building, and a sprinkler system will be put in the basement. A dumb waiter, provided for easy moving of merchandise from floor to floor.

Construction is the Swiss Construction Co., Birmingham.

May Be October Before Parking Lot Is Ready

Birmingham's first large municipal parking lot, located at Pierce and Merrill streets—probably won't be ready for public use until about the first of October, City Engineer L. E. Garo said Tuesday afternoon.

No Hunting No Trespassing

SIGNS FOR SALE AT THE ECCENTRIC OFFICE (125-109)

Officers in Marshalltown, Iowa, had a spoke put in their wheels of enforcement by a watermelon who, about breaking up his bicycle, said it was his and that he could do as he pleased with it. It was his. Cop pedaled off about their business.

Mrs. Tom Collins has been appointed to the North Bergen, N. J., alcohol beverage control board. Possibly, she's a good mixer.

Sale of beat-the-beat items this recent buying season has netted the nation's department stores "real cool" profits.

All made in inner spring mattresses equipped with 100% wool filling. TRES COMPANY, Dial "00" and ask for EN1955-6319.

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