

The Birmingham Eccentric

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1957
30 PAGES

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

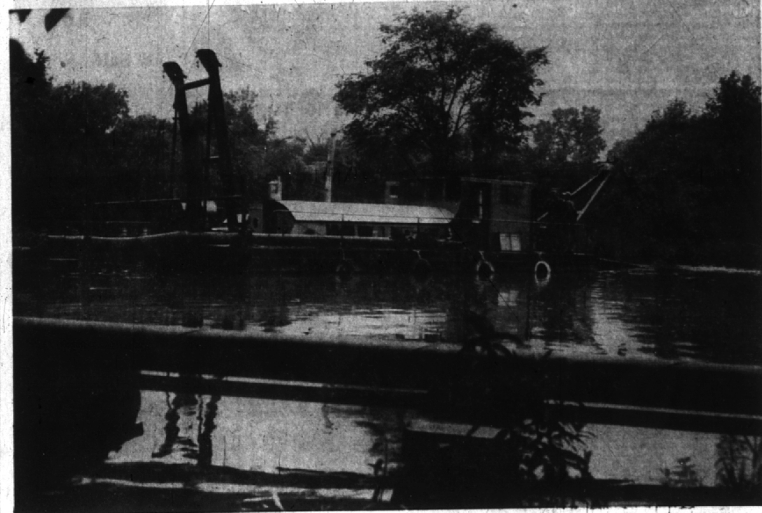
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The Nation's Top
Suburban Weekly
TEN CENTS

Many a current high school and college graduate has been able to attend classes because of the loving sacrifices of one or both parents. No reward for these parents can be richer and greater than to know that the children thus helped really feel grateful . . . and show it in loving filial devotion.

80TH YEAR—NO. 17



Slinging a Lot of Mud

This mud-sucking dredge operating in Nixon pond pumps mud from the bottom of the pond at the rate of 150 cubic feet per hour. Workmen at right maintain the Diesel engine which powers the huge dredge operating off Riverside drive near Cranbrook road and 14 Mile in Southfield township. The city of Birmingham is cooperating with residents in the area in cleaning up the pond after complaints that decayed vegetation, odor and unsightliness marred the former mill pond objectionable. Dredging four feet below the surface or until it

hits hard clay bottom, the dredge sucks up mud and weeds, then transmits them through pipes such as that shown in foreground. The mud is pumped to four different nearby areas, where it is used as fill material. Dredging began in April, will cost \$58,250 by the time it is completed this summer. J. T. Poupore company of Detroit contracted to pump approximately 49,000 cubic yards of mud from the north and south ponds which extend over 7.64 acres.

This and That

by George R. Averill

3426 graduates received degrees when the University of Michigan held 1957 commencement exercises at Ann Arbor. It is to be hoped that the degree will have a connotation other than mere heat upon society . . . It is to be hoped many of them will bring practical light to many human problems. Dr. J. Roscoe Miller, proxy of famed Northwestern University, told the grads that "It is the liberally educated, thoughtful citizen, intent on perfecting himself and the world he lives in, who is the hope of this country and, for that matter, the hope of mankind." The educator was assuring them that the technically trained graduate is not to be depended upon, as a distinct group, to "cure the ills of society, or prevent future ills." How true!

"Democracy is threatened by the inertia of good people, by the selfishness of most people, and by the evil designs of a few people."—Forbes Magazine.

Detroit newspapers have been running stories showing how lower taxes on businesses in several other industrial states have attracted more factories than high-tax-rate Michigan can acquire. Gov. Williams disagrees with this contention. Maybe, but he ever made and met his own payroll in a business venture, he would know more about the subject.

Plenty of Republicans do not approve of President Eisenhower's pro-New Deal policies. Most of the professional Republican politicians, however, do not publicly criticize Ike. They may be dubious about Ike's political strength in 1960, but they will want to cash in on any help he may be able to give them as they run for re-election. For the retention of power they now hold as civilians. There is always too little honest conviction expressed by politicians.

There are 40,000,000 fishermen, and women, in the United States it is believed. With that many perfectly honest and truthful citizens and youngsters in this fair pleasurable paradise, I cannot understand why we aren't a more perfect democracy.

Hundreds of scientists, on 75 different ships, will this year attempt to learn more about the ocean's depths, what lives are like within its tremendous expanses of waters, and a lot of other data concerning the vast volumes that covers 70 per cent of our earth. Concentration of much scientific thought long has been on the moon, Mars, and other celestial bodies. Some day, it is to be hoped, scientists will do a better job on fathoming the nature of mankind, to the end that human beings may lead more ordered and harmonious lives.

BOATS, MOTORS, SUPPLIES
1245 S. Woodward, MI 7-1133
(1347)

If You Are 1 to 100 Be Careful Over 4th

If you are a man between 25 and 44 years old, and you drive a car, be extra careful in traffic over the Fourth of July weekend. That is the advice of the National Safety Council, which says the typical holiday traffic victim is in your category.

If you are a boy or girl between the ages of five and 21, you fall in another danger category. You might be injured shooting illegal fireworks. So have a bang-up time watching a public fireworks display, but don't risk being banged up yourself.

IF YOU ARE A HUMAN being between one and 100, take it easy—when you're swimming, suntanning, crossing the street, or driving.

To hold down traffic accidents in Michigan, more than 1000 state troopers and 250 National Guardsmen will patrol streets and highways.

State Police Commissioner Joseph Childs says about 35 Michigan traffic fatalities are expected over the long weekend, unless motorists observe laws and drive according to weather and traffic conditions.

No matter what your age, if you are driving this weekend, help them keep the accident toll down.



Revoltin' Development

Answering a call on an accident in which two parked cars were hit, Birmingham Patrolman Keith Pennington, of Berkley, was all shook up when he discovered one of the parked cars was his. Here he surveys the damage, estimated at \$700. Accident occurred at the intersection of Merrill and Bates streets near the Community House. Police said a car driven by Nancy M. Rylander, 21, of Pleasant Ridge, struck a car driven by Frances A. Ross, 46, of Orchard Lake. The Ross vehicle spun out of control on wet pavement, striking the officer's car and a second parked car belonging to William W. Rose, of 1492 Birmingham boulevard, Birmingham. Nancy Rylander was ticketed for failure to yield the right of way to oncoming traffic.

To Seek Opinion Of Atty.-General

John C. Mackie, Michigan's new highway commissioner, has asked the state attorney general for an opinion as to whether the incorporation of Westchester—or any similar move—will halt construction of a freeway through any community.

This was revealed Monday by Otis Harvy, new public information officer for the highway department. Westchester approved incorporation by a landslide vote June 24 although Mackie had made a statement prior to the special election that the move would not halt any proposed freeway through the village.

VERNON M. FITCH, president of the Westchester Village No. 1 association, said the road chief was in error. Fitch claimed state law provides the consent of an incorporated village has to be obtained before the state highway department can build a highway across the streets of the village.

Tree House Burns; Kids Fire House Under Construction

A tree house on a vacant lot at 1881 Hazel was destroyed by fire last Thursday afternoon, Birmingham Fire Chief Park H. Smith reported.

In addition, firemen answered a call at 800 Arlington where fire caused an estimated \$25 damage to a house under construction.

Chief Smith said youngsters apparently set fire to insulation.

Good Humor Men Fined in Court

For ringing their Good Humor truck bells on Birmingham streets, three Detroit men were fined \$5 and ordered to pay \$5 court costs when they appeared before Judge John J. Ganfil in municipal court last Wednesday.

All pleaded guilty to charges of violating the ordinance which prohibits "any bell-ringing in the city. The three are Walter Gross, 24; Don William Moore, 25; and Kenneth Phillips, 26.

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Officials Favorably View New Zone Law

Formal Hearings Expected in Fall

With only one serious exception, Birmingham city commissioners gave the nod to new zoning principles established in the draft of a new zoning ordinance for the city. The city commission is expected to begin formal hearings by Fall on the new, more up-to-date ordinance.

Meeting last week with planning board members, the commissioners expressed their disapproval of a tentative off-street parking requirement which would set required parking area on the basis of a building's total floor area. In earlier sessions with merchants and business representatives, commissioners said, floor area used by the public had previously been established as the preferred basis on which to determine required off-street parking.

FOUR MISSIONS suggested further study of smoke, dust, noise and odor regulations now incorporated in the proposed new ordinance, suggesting it might be advisable to have such regulations as a separate ordinance, only referred to in the zone ordinance.

Also to be reviewed in the light is a sign ordinance now incorporated in the old zoning ordinance. Planners recommend eliminating the sign regulations from the zoning law. Devel. Geer Associates, plan consultants to the city, told commissioners the present ordinance is "outdated, antiquated and thick with amendments."

THE NEW ORDINANCE, Geer said, would take the provisions which worked well in the old law, place them on a simple, sturdy frame which would be clear and understandable to a citizen.

City Planner Herbert Herzberg, who authored the original draft of the new law first drawn up in December, 1947, was quoted as saying the new ordinance would allow the city to "protect areas in keeping with public development."

The new law sets up three single family residence districts in place of the present zoning classification. The present minimum of 700 square feet of floor area per dwelling is upgraded to 1000 square feet.

MULTIPLE FAMILY dwelling restrictions would be lowered to permit building of smaller apartment units through establishing a new family classing, which would be in the city. In this category minimum required lot area per one-bedroom dwelling unit would be 1800 square feet. The present ordinance requires 2500 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit.

The new ordinance would also permit additional uses for the business and professional office zoning. Important to the new ordinance is its stated purpose of eliminating non-conforming uses (not in conformity with ordinance provisions) without invasions of private property rights.

To this end the ordinance states structures not easily altered for other uses may be continued as non-conforming. Others may be continued for three years from date of enactment of the ordinance. Building Inspector Andrew Butt said only about three to four per cent of property uses now existing would be non-conforming.

THE NEW ORDINANCE, which embodies a map and a charted schedule of regulations, can be seen in the municipal building at 1000 City Plaza. Herzberg is Birmingham city clerk Irene Henley.

The law is the result of two and a half years of study on the part of Herzberg, during which he personally went over every zoning regulation in the city. Planning board members also spent hundreds of hours in study and discussion of the measure.

Hi Life by Tom Manhard

When it gets dark on the Fourth of July, the sky over the Birmingham high school will explode with a dazzling display of fireworks, the largest 4th of July spectacle in this area for many a year. More than 15,000 persons turned out last year to witness aerial bombardments of "silver stars," "ribbons of gold," and "blue heavens," as they etched their colorful patterns against the dark night sky.

Attend the GIANT AERIAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY

AT BIRMINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD
9:30 P.M., JULY 4th, 1957
Sponsored by Birmingham Business and professional men

Because of the success of last year's celebration, adequate parking facilities and free admission, an even larger crowd is expected this year.

THE PROGRAM HAS been doubled, providing for more than 60 aerial pieces as well as a half-dozen ground set pieces, including a Niagara Falls display and an American Flag finale.

Sponsoring the event, to be held on the high school football field, are the cooperating merchant family organizations of Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. Free admission tickets are available from any of the fireworks stores.

Paul Kurth, committee chairman, suggests that everyone make the evening an old-fashioned family outing. Through the cooperation of the Birmingham board of education, the fireworks will be set off at the high school football field at Cranbrook and Midvale streets. Excellent seating in the stands and parking in the lot will be available.

SOFT DRINKS, ice cream and potato chips will be sold during the celebration from booths in the area surrounding the stands and on the Midvale streets. Excellent seating in the stands and parking in the lot will be available.

To insure adequate safety during the celebration, the display will be completely under the control of, and fired by, an off-duty member of the Birmingham fire department.

Workers See Close Calls On Grand Trunk

"We have seen so many close calls that you would think we would get hardened to it, but it still scares us," said Grand Trunk railroad ticket agent Paul Wickman last week.

Wickman said that Birmingham police are being advised whenever children are observed playing on the Grand Trunk railroads. "All of us here on the Grand Trunk would really hate to bring some child home in a basket," Wickman said. "Because the number of children playing around the tracks has been alarming despite previous warnings, we just put our foot down. For the safety of the children, we now call police."

IN REPEATING the warning to parents to keep children away from the tracks, Wickman said the many new Diesel engines in the line can hardly be heard approaching. He added there was grave danger to any youngster near the stepping off place of the station platform if a flat car with a wide load of coal came through the station. Added to Wickman's warning was that of Det. Sgt. Robert Schaub, Birmingham police juvenile officer, who emphasized the grave danger around the tracks. E. J. Rodriguez, president of Michigan railroad police association, said last week that in the United States last year 102 juveniles were killed and 154 injured on railroad property.

STRICTLY FRESH

Smiles as elusive as a raspberry seen under your denture's plate.

Gal we know says she wouldn't want a milk stole. She'd rather have someone pay for it.

Isn't it strange how a resourceful little fellow is classed as a mischiefmaker when you're referring to someone else's child?

We can bank on it: the chef's special at a nearby blue-plate fondry is always the item that didn't sell on the previous day's menu.

All meals of those appetizing mattresses created. On any service. RYVAL MAT. RYVAL COM. Call 637-1133 and ask for ENTERTAINMENT 637-1133.

Pool Prices To Get Scrutiny

Rek Board Calls Special Meeting

Swimming fee increases will be gone over thoroughly by Birmingham recreation board members at a special meeting next Monday with parents who are protesting the increases.

Recreation Board Chairman Mrs. William H. Jackson called the meeting for 3 p.m. in the city commission room of Birmingham municipal building.

"Anyone interested in this situation is welcome to attend," Mrs. Jackson said.

SINCE THE recreation board's summer swimming program got under way in the Birmingham senior high and Derby junior high school pools, many parents have protested the fee this year—35 cents for a 40-minute swim.

Last year the charge was 15 cents. Parents claim they cannot afford to send their children to the pools more than once—or maybe twice—a week. Families with a large number of children are particularly sensitive to these increased costs, they emphasize.

MR. AND MRS. Gilbert Goode, Jr., 955 S. Bates, presented to the city commission a petition signed by 287 residents who protested the new, higher fee.

Goode said Detroit and Ferndale offer free summer swimming programs, and that several other communities, including Southfield, charge only 10 cents.

"I'm curious how Birmingham stacked up its cost to the user?" Goode asked Mayor William Roberts.

ROBERTS said he hesitated to get into this phase, because it really is the province of the recreation board.

Last week, Recreation Director Robert Girardin explained that the school board was charging the recreation board \$20 an hour for use of the pools. Another new cost this year is an \$85-a-week swimming instructor.

"We've had so many requests to teach swimming to children," Girardin explained.

THE MAYOR said the petition should go first to the recreation board.

"Then if the board recommends something to us or the school board, we can set on it," he said. He admitted both the school board and the city.

(See POOL, Page 2-A)



Competitors Make Deal

"Sold by cooperating Birmingham realtors," said the sign recently placed in front of the home of Elliott S. Kinney (left), president of Snyder, Kinney and Bennett, Birmingham real estate firm. Outside his former home at 1125 Chesterfield, Kinney shakes hands with J. F. Page of Mac Broock Inc., real estate salesman who found the buyer for the Kinney residence. Such friendly competitor members of the Birmingham real estate board have been foremost in the nation in efforts to promote cooperative sales efforts. Since 1949 signs purchased by the board have been placed in front of homes sold cooperatively. Kinney has built a new home in Bloomfield Hills. Page says the house is a couple moving to Birmingham from Bloomfield Hills.