

The Birmingham Eccentric

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SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



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Suburban Newspapers
SEVEN CENTS

Perhaps too many of us wrap ourselves up in the fluff garments of vanity, foolish pride, smugness, self-complacency... all of which stem from a weak character and ego to want itself. Such garments are never warm enough to protect one from the cold winds that blow off the bare shores of arrogance and conceit.

80TH YEAR—NO. 2

A QUEEN FROM LUXEMBOURG is Helene Heldenstein (center) voted "Miss 1957 Military Ball" and crowned Saturday night at the Birmingham Civil Air Patrol cadet-sponsored event at the Community House. With her are three of the members of her royal American court and her official escort. From left are Karen Graham, CAP Cadet Sgt. Martin Weinrich, Helene, Sue Polhemus and Beverly Ford, "Help," a resident of the European duchy, is an American Field Service exchange student, attending Birmingham high school for the year. She lives with the Charles N. Blunts, 2580 Bradway boulevard.

(Photo by Ralph Beseg)

This and That

by George R. Averill

Record Number Of Tourists Seeing Florida

RIVIERA BEACH, FLORIDA—According to local residents, this has been one of the warmest and sunniest winters that Florida has enjoyed in many years. This fact, coupled with another fact, that this season has brought the greatest influx of tourists in the State's history, appears to be coincidental with another fact, i.e., that the United States is enjoying a sustained period of economic prosperity and an ever-growing annual list of retired people. . . well, why shouldn't Florida's wonderful sunshine and plentiful beaches attract human beings?

Indeed, as I have wandered up and down a hundred miles of Florida's so-called "Gold Coast," extending from Miami to Stuart, I am not overwhelmed by the unprejudiced building boom that is going on for a number of years.

HOWEVER, the current interesting angle of this boom lies in the transformation of thousands of acres of lands considerably removed from the ocean, lakes and rivers, into mushrooming subdivisions.

We who live in the metropolitan area of Detroit long have been aware of the modern exodus to suburbia. We are oriented to the rapid development of much vacant acreage into bustling subdivision developments.

Where only yesterday, it seems, lands lay idle and unused, today villages, even cities, are being born as families follow the call of the good earth, and traipse into the wider and more open spaces of suburban environments.

Equally, this is happening in the southern half of Florida.

NOT ONLY are scrubby pine-covered back lands being transformed into increased population centers, but swamps are being drained and river and intra-coastal waterways are being deepened and sand-suckers pump new earth onto contiguous low-lying acreage.

As a result, that was practically worthless a few years ago, so to speak, may bring from a thousand to \$25,000, depending upon where it lies. If adjacent to a river or canal, it brings the higher price—especially if close to the Florida coast between Miami and North Palm Beach. Recently 300 feet of frontage on nearby Singer Island sold for \$80,000.

Do people speculate in land values down here? Of course they do.

Restudying Zoning for Block in NE

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

On second thought, Birmingham city planners may want to recommend a zoning classification other than professional office for the northeast corner of Oakland and Hunter boulevard.

That seemed the consensus after a lengthy meeting between city planners and city commissioners last week. Wednesday night on exactly what zoning should be selected for that corner.

Plan Chairman Bennett Root said his group would go into an hearing, probably April 10, to see if multiple family might be more reasonable use for the five lots bounded by Hunter, Oakland, Lawlaurie and Madison.

OWNERS Earl G. Barton and Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Cumminskey for more than two years have sought to have it rezoned to commercial use.

Their attorney, George Cram, sat quietly in the audience last week as the two city groups discussed what other steps should be taken to resolve the situation.

Monday night, the city commission adjourned until April 15 a hearing on the rezoning of the plan Adams and City Attorney Richard Adams admitted that one plan board with enough reason to reconsider its previous recommendation that the presently zoned single-family lots be downgraded to business C use.

MRS. WILLETT pointed this question in the afternoon city council don't believe I've heard enough reasons why multiple family zoning is not a possible use. Can I hear that?

She didn't get an immediate answer.

A few minutes later, Adams told the plan board that in his opinion, a business C zone zoning would be the most desirable of all to defend in any court case.

(At the commission's Feb. 18 hearing, Cram indicated a lawsuit would be filed if zoning were not changed to business A or B.)

"It's the most restrictive zoning that could be applied because of its setbacks, sideyards, screening, and the lot coverage," Adams explained.

ROOT then responded, "I'll be glad to hear that we may have given too little thought to a multiple family use of this property."

He explained that the plan board had put little consideration into multiple family use because it had been something that was simply property along a major highway was "reasonable zone" only in commercial classification.

City Planner Herbert Hertzberg said there seems to be a new court case in the afternoon that zoning alone is not enough basis for rezoning to commercial use along arterial highways.

Nearly 300 residents north of Ridge and east of Hunter have petitioned to have the zone whatever at Hunter and Oakland.

Papers to Tell Story Of George Miller Day

Whereas, (as Mayor James Allen stated in his official proclamation making Saturday George Miller Day) the Community of Birmingham is dedicated to its project to educate the young teacher, citizens were to see 35 newspaper vendors, around the area on that day.

From 9:30 a. m. to mid-afternoon, parents of George Miller's former students and some of Miller's teacher associates at Birmingham high school will man the 35 stations, selling miniature newspapers telling "The George Miller story."

The paper will tell how the well-liked high school civics and inter-personal relations teacher was seriously injured returning by car from an educational association meeting in Battle Creek.

IT WILL TELL OF Miller's 13 months of pain as doctors attempted to save his badly crushed leg and how the fight ended last December when surgeons had to amputate.

The staggering debt which Miller owed to the hospital for his hospitalization at \$30 a day has become the concern of the entire community. Miller, of Royal Oak is the father of two young children.

Led by a group of interested citizens, the community now wishes to help Miller, in appreciation for his contribution to the minds and personalities of the city's youth.

THAT'S WHY 35 vendors will be selling the newspapers through out the Birmingham school district, including Walnut Lake and Franklin. They will be assisted by Birmingham high school students. Lettered in red on their white aprons will be the words, "For George Miller."

Mrs. Charles Kass, co-chairman of the drive will be assisting. "We hope everyone will contribute generously when he purchases his paper," she said.

Contributions may be mailed directly to a special George Miller fund, care of the Woodward-Hamilton branch, Detroit Bank and Trust company.

Boys Pock Cars In Church Lot; Egg Drivers, Too

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—Juveniles pocking parked cars with BB's, and driving egg cars, and stealing wheelies received warnings from Hills Chief Stanley Keven. He said that such "maniculous destruction must cease."

He pointed out that BB guns are permitted in the area and expressed concern over potential dangers to other playmates' eyes. He asks all parents whose children possess BB guns to check to see they are being used. Any child caught with one will be open to suspicion, he warns.

Last Saturday three automobiles in a church parking lot were badly marked with BB's and windows were broken.

THREE BOYS, ranging in age from 13 to 14 (with their fathers) appeared before Keven Monday morning at the church. They were charged with passing motorists on Long Lake road near Vaughan during the week end.

Myron Jean Molody, 14, of 888 Bloomer drive, Birmingham, is free on \$50 bond after pleading guilty to simple larceny, having stolen three sets of hubcaps from cars parked at Bloomfield Bowl.

It was turned over to Hills police chief, Birmingham police caught him. Birmingham police on probation to Judge George Taylor to repair a car's engine, of no record, he is to appear before Judge Taylor April 8. The judge now is in Florida.

JoAnn Middleton Home, Recovering From Heart Surgery

Doing well after her recent heart surgery, eight-year-old JoAnn Middleton is out of bed daily since her return home.

The daughter of the Arthur Middletons, of 1910 Holland, Birmingham, the youngster underwent surgery to repair a break in the wall of her heart March 5 at Henry Ford hospital.

Though she was happy to return home, the event was difficult for the youngster. It was the first time she had been home since the death of her 15-month-old brother, Derek, who died March 7 after surgery to repair a more serious break in his heart wall.

Youth Breaks Neck In Derby Gym, Reported Critical

After suffering a broken neck in a gymnasium class at Derby junior high school Monday, Douglas Witters, of 18181 Kirkshire, Birmingham, was taken to Harper hospital in Detroit by his father.

A hospital spokesman said Wednesday morning the 15-year-old boy's condition is critical.

Derby Principal Daniel C. Nesbit said the accident occurred as the class undertook a unit on wrestling under the supervision of the physical education staff. He said Douglas had lodged his head against the stomach of a youth with whom he was wrestling, when the two fell on a mat, apparently twisting the boy's neck.

A school nurse attended the boy until he was turned over to his parents.

Assessor Reports Official Valuation

Birmingham's official 1957 property valuation is \$41,430,380, city Assessor Paul Hagstrom reported this week.

This is a 4.51 per cent increase over \$2,720,440, over last year's total, \$38,709,940.

Most of the increase, Hagstrom said, resulted from valuation of new residential and commercial buildings or additions to them constructed during 1956.

HERE IS HOW he reported the new valuation of real property:

RESIDENTIAL \$41,350,290
Improved 1,442,240
VACANT 656,480
INDUSTRIAL 175,220
Improved 656,480
VACANT 43,260
MULTIPLE FAMILY 2,981,240
UTILITY 1,752,220
FURNITURE 10,930
PERSONAL PROPERTY 6,069,500

TOTAL VALUATION \$41,969,380

Rezoning Seen As Weakening Owners' Lawsuit

Twenty-three lots were rezoned this week by Birmingham city commission.

19 of the lots were along E. Maple, between Edenhorough and Colville. They were rezoned from single family to multiple family.

OWNERS of most of the Maple frontage in the St. Andrews-Colville block are suing the city to have the property changed to commercial use.

It is believed by some observers that the rezoning to multiple family use will weaken the plaintiffs' case.

The other four parcels, owned by Floyd Mutersbaugh, and located on Glover street between Lincoln and St. James park, were changed to business A. They were income bonded, and had business zoning to the north and east.

Deny New Trial On Condemnation Of School Site

A motion by Mrs. Mary B. Jenkins for a new condemnation trial was denied Tuesday by Circuit Court Judge J. B. Blinn.

Blinn's decision, based on an attorney's motion to have a temporary restraining order dissolved.

The motion was set on the board March 4. It was obtained by James W. Jenkins and two sons, James Jr. and Edward D., as copartners of Mrs. Jenkins.

Pierrot to Speak

Principal speaker for the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce's "Big Dinner" meeting April 23 will be George F. Pierrot, managing director of the World-Adventurer service according to an announcement from James Couzens, chairman of the local group's program committee. The event will be held at Devon Gables.

School Electors Asked to OK 4th 5-Year Program

For the fourth time since 1942, Birmingham school district electors Monday will be asked to approve a special tax levy that now produces a substantial portion of the schools' operating funds.

Polls will be open from 7 a. m. to 8 p. m. at the special March 25 election at which a special 6-mill operating levy is being sought.

It is anticipated that the voters will approve the levy, which would run for the next five years.

First of these special levies was passed in 1942 for 2 1/2 mills. In 1947, a 5-mill levy was endorsed. In 1952, a 3 1/2-mill levy received approval.

THE 6-MILL levy on next Monday's ballot includes the extension of the most recent 3 1/2 mills. It also contains a 2 1/2-mill increase which primarily would provide for nearly \$300,000 which would be used to better teaching salaries.

While not the lowest in the competitive Detroit metropolitan educational market, Birmingham's salary scale is not the highest either. Local school officials for some years have felt the importance of finance as they annually attempted to negotiate contracts with new and present teachers.

After studying the board's permit the hiring of a needed assistant superintendent of schools, to take charge of personnel, and five assistant principals at the larger schools.

IT ALSO would provide several other recommended benefits, such as creation and expansion of professional and policy manuals, substantial leaves for two or three teachers to conduct special school district projects, and a personnel evaluation program.

The additional 2 1/2 mills has been recommended by the citizens committee report, the League of Women Voters' Board voted to support the larger schools.

District Spreads From Walnut Lake Eastward to Troy

Many school parents and citizens generally are not fully familiar with the Birmingham school district, questions to the citizens committee on education indicate.

This is particularly true with regard to the district's relation to the seven cities, villages and townships lying wholly or in part within the borders of the district and (See DISTRICT, Page 2-A)

What Will It Cost?

How much more each year will it cost you if the Birmingham district's special operating millage is boosted another 2 1/2 mills?

If you have a house which would sell for \$20,000 today, you would pay \$22,500 a year for five years so your teachers' salaries can keep pace competitively with those in the Detroit metropolitan area.

First you'll see how this \$22,500 example is arrived at.

HOWEVER, IF YOUR HOUSE would sell for more than, or less than, \$20,000, we'll also explain the formula so you can figure exactly what your property would contribute.

(Note on the following table how the state equalizing factors bring property of similar cash market value, but different assessed valuation, to a common valuation throughout the school district for school tax purposes.)

Proposed Annual Equalized per \$2.50 Increase

Location	Local Valuation	State Equalizing Factor	State Equalized Value	\$2.50 Increase
Birmingham	\$617.33	1.159302	\$715.90	\$22.50
Southfield Twp.	\$541.85	1.661482	\$900.00	\$22.50
Troy	\$673.11	2.928729	\$900.00	\$22.50
West Bloomfield Twp.	\$408.94	1.772023	\$900.00	\$22.50
Bloomfield Hills	\$427.57	2.103103	\$900.00	\$22.50
Bloomfield Twp.	\$465.92	1.915739	\$900.00	\$22.50

DO-IT-YOURSELF FORMULA

1. Multiply your local property valuation (obtainable from the assessor of your community if you do not know it) by the equalizing factor from chart above. Product is "state equalized valuation."

2. Multiply that product by \$2.50-per-\$1,000 of "state equalized valuation." Product is your additional cost of maintaining or improving quality of our schools.

To find what the entire 6 mills will cost, simply use "6" in place of "2.50" in step No. 2.

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MOREY'S ARE OPEN

(3)

America's answer to Aesop and his fairy tales could certainly be found in any one of our traffic courts.

All night binge has a tinge of the lumatic fringe.

Blue Monday? So called because of the sky's beautiful color after two days of rain, snow or smog.

Automobile: Has cushioned seats so you can be comfortable while trying to figure out why the thing won't run.