

B'ham's New Zoning Ordinance

Within less than two months, Birmingham officially is expected to adopt a new zoning ordinance. It will be, in fact, an up-to-date improvement over the former ordinance, presumed to contain the best possible regulations for the most practical and protective use of various properties within the city.

For many months the city plan commission has held meetings for consideration of the zoning needs here. Most of the meetings have been with people, in and out of government, whose knowledge and interest in local zoning could contribute ideas of value to the subject.

Aided by city planner Herbert Herzberg, the plan commission has made considerable progress toward the development of the proposed zoning ordinance. Numerous ideas, originally introduced, have been either deleted or improved, as meeting followed meeting.

CITY COMMISSIONERS who, after all, must finally place their approval on the ordinance before it becomes effective, have also listened to a portion of the public.

They have accepted several fair and practical changes suggested by property owners. Both the plan commission and the city commission realize that the proposed zoning ordinance is second only to the City Charter in importance, insofar as Birmingham business and residential property values are concerned.

Further public meetings will be held before the final March 3 date arrives, when the ordinance will go to the city commission's weekly agenda for adoption. It is to be hoped that by that time all interested parties will have had their opportunities to be heard. This is the objective of our local officials, of course.

Federal Roads Program a Mess

Recent estimates indicate the national highway program, about which so many had high hopes a year or so ago, will be slow in reaching completion. Moreover, the government's share of the huge program—originally estimated at \$27,500,000,000—is to be almost \$40,000,000.

The net result is to stretch out the program and delay the completion date. It is now predicted that the United States will not have a complete federal highway system until 1973. The original goal was completion by 1970.

It turns out that many states underestimated the cost of acquiring rights-of-way in their own borders and they now wish to add about twice as many traffic interchanges, bridges and other complications to the roads in their states as had heretofore been expected. In addition, higher standards of construction have been decided upon in many instances.

THE WAY WE see the handwriting on the wall, in view of the latest developments, is that the states themselves are still faced with the responsibility and necessity of seeing to it that their road systems are kept modern, both in conjunction with the new program and otherwise.

After all, the problem is really one for the states, primarily, and the latest indications are that the states must continue to carry the ball and responsibility in the field. The federal program is not a cure-all by any means.

Indeed, for most states, including Michigan, the amount of taxes each will have to pay to the federal government will be much more than each will ever get back. To be sure, a certain tax must be levied against the wealthier states to help build highways in the less populous ones; primarily, however, road building, like the support for public education, ought to be kept within each state's own support and responsibility.

Please Write Letters to Editor

From time to time, this, and hundreds of other American newspapers, print "letters to the Editor," on a wide variety of subjects. These letters, of course, are published without charge. Every editor welcomes such communications. He generally publishes them, subject, naturally, to editing out any libelous or otherwise unwarranted statements.

Such communications, however, do not have to cover subjects on which the newspaper itself may agree. Indeed, we, along with others, gladly accept letters written partly or completely in disagreement with our own ideas.

WHY DO NEWSPAPERS like to get such letters?

The answer is simple. Because newspapers want to encourage the general public to voice their feelings and ideas, especially on subjects related to the nation's social and economic life.

In this manner you, the public, have access to what is a Constitutional guarantee,

"freedom of the press." This also includes, of course, "freedom of speech," and the other freedoms mentioned in the first Article of our Bill of Rights.

Please always remember that so-called "freedom of press" is not something belonging only to those who work on the various publications read by you people.

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER that your newspaper reporter, when searching out for news, is YOUR REPRESENTATIVE in getting such news. When a reporter is excluded, for example, from getting news from some source in public officialdom, it really is YOU, the taxpayers, who are being excluded.

Don't ever, ever forget that! Again, we remind you of the availability of the columns of a newspaper for your "letters to the Editor."

Write 'em often. Try to keep 'em reasonably short. Raise your voice on behalf of your ideas. Help to make democracy work!

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

James P. Mitchell, U.S. Secretary of Labor, has announced the Eisenhower administration's opposition to any laws that seek to place unions in the anti-monopoly class, (as business now is), or laws that would guarantee Americans the right to work without joining a union. Mitchell, very dominantly sympathetic to labor, has been

reported as having personal plans to seek elective office as Governor or U.S. Senator from his state. Thus, you see, he is carrying favor with labor leaders—even though Ike is presumed to be concerned with equities for both labor and management... and every American citizen.

The New Big Man On Campus



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Freese
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Woodman's Friend Is The Quill-Pig

If you frequent the woods of Michigan, you have probably met the porcine, a slow moving and independent mammal. He is a rodent, but is of a different family than any of our other gnawing mammals. He is easily distinguished because no other animal has the same kind of outer dress.

As many as 30,000 quills cover most of the body, varying in length from about an inch on the head to four inches or more on the back.

THE TAIL, too, is covered and it is this appendage which he uses to strike his enemies. Were to any one who comes in contact with these sharp quills. We use "concomitantly" as a fancy word, but there is no truth in the oft repeated story that a porcupine can kill a man.

They are loosely interwoven in the skin but here is no mechanism for ejecting them. On the tip are fine barbs which can cause pain and festering sores to humans.

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IN SIGHT OF THIS the porky or quill-pig is commonly referred to as the "woodman's friend." Reasonable excuse why the lumberjack and slow movement, he can be

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

How good is your town? Fair? Average? Pretty good? Outstanding?

Your estimate of its character and value will show pretty well your own personal characteristics and your value to the community.

For a town is but the reflection of the averaged-out interests of its citizens. Your community will be only as good as you and your neighbors make it. It can get as poor as you and your neighbors let it.

Harvey Help thinks it terrible not to vote in an election. He votes each time because he considers his one vote important.

IRWIN INDIFFERENT also thinks it terrible not to vote in an election. But he never seems to find time to get to the polls.

Willie Won't think elections don't accomplish much. It's all politics and politicians, he says, so why waste time voting?

Try this quiz and see whether you KNOW enough to do enough to make YOUR town a better town. Some of the questions may look tough, but they're all-important. Keep score in the righthand column.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Did you vote in the last local election? (20 points) | _____ |
| 2. Do you know how the major government offices, such as prosecutor, treasurer, police head, are filled? (10 points) | _____ |
| 3. Can you give the names of the members of your top local governing body? (10 points) | _____ |
| 4. Do you know what it costs, roughly, to run your town for a year? (5 points) | _____ |
| 5. Do you know whether your town is in debt, and if so, for how much? (5 points) | _____ |
| 6. Do you know approximately how much schoolteachers make in your community? (5 points) | _____ |
| 7. How does your local tax rate compare with that of similar towns in your state—higher, lower, or about the same? (5 points) | _____ |
| 8. Do you know whether you have adequate fire protection? The best measure is how high your fire insurance rates are. Do you | _____ |
| TOTAL | _____ |

NOW ADD YOUR POINTS. Perfect score is 120. If you got that you are a whiz—a real draft horse in your community. If you got from 60 to 90—well, you can still hold your head up, but really, your conscience should hurt a little. If you got below 60, shame on you.

(Quiz questions reprinted by permission of Changing Times, the Kiplinger Magazine).

Clarence Bloomer, Atty., Wabek Bldg., Birmingham, Mich.

Present: Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

All creditors or claimants against the above estate are further notified and ordered to prove their claims and hearing and prior to said hearing to file written claim therefor, with the Court and with the fiduciary of this estate under seal, containing sufficient detail reasonably to inform the fiduciary of the nature and amount of the claim.

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. Notice is hereby given and it is hereby ordered that the time and place for hearing on claims against the above estate shall be the 2nd day of March at the Probate Court in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, at nine o'clock in the forenoon in said County, on the 23rd day of December, A.D. 1957.

Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

Dickinson's

SEMI-ANNUAL

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Ticklers By George



"I can't understand Otis! He knows we don't allow dogs in our hangout!"

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

30 YEARS AGO

January 17, 1908

"What are we coming to? Just because a millionaire refuses to permit his wife to select his new pants, and expresses a desire to invest \$1,750,000 in good pine timber, is charged by a street lighting contractor with a street lighting contract from the thriving little town of Wolverine, in this state. He will build and operate the plant itself, and run it by water-power, for the Sturgeon river runs directly through the town."

"We now have a sufficient water supply, and there is now no reasonable excuse why the sewer question in Birmingham should be long delayed."

"B. F. Stiffler, of our village has just found and secured what he has been looking for, for some time. He has secured a ten year's franchise, and a street lighting contract from the thriving little town of Wolverine, in this state. He will build and operate the plant itself, and run it by water-power, for the Sturgeon river runs directly through the town."

30 YEARS AGO

January 19, 1928

"Birmingham's village commission, last week, openly denied the Birmingham Fraternity Fraternity of Detroit and suburbs, the second dinner meeting of the winter season will be Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the General Motors building, Detroit."

"Start of the new municipal building on the civic center is set for February following the purchase of the two pieces of property in the second block of the center and the award of contracts this week."

15 YEARS AGO

January 14, 1943

"A 24 year old bus driver, who married three women without..."

fit of divorce, was sentenced this week to serve a year in the county jail. He pleaded guilty to the charge."

"A ride-sharing service to accommodate irregular traveling was announced by the Birmingham Community House. Through its persons going to Detroit or Pontiac at any time of the day are invited to phone the Community House stating the room they have in their car, or stating the fact that they would like a ride."

"The staff at the Community House nearly swooned this week when a conscientious citizen paid off a building pledge of \$25 made in 1930. A 1932 statement accompanied the check, which needless to say, was gratefully accepted."

"What surprises and pleases many newcomers to Birmingham is that we have white snow that stays white. Those who left Pittsburgh's smog are especially enthusiastic."

Suburban Sentiment

MR. CHEESECAKE

The men who like Bermudas best Have knobs that are

—Mary Jane Palmer