

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Lay High School Cornerstone

Monsignor Eugene E. Paddock (right) and Brother Arthur A. Loftus (left), proponent of the Christian Brothers of Ireland, spread cement during the cornerstone laying at the Rice high school for boys, Lahser and Lincoln, Sunday afternoon. Looking on (center) is the Rev. Lucien He-

bert, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs. The building, which will cost an estimated \$1,060,000 was designed by Charles M. Valentine Associates architects. It will accommodate 1,000 boys and include a 30 bed monastery.

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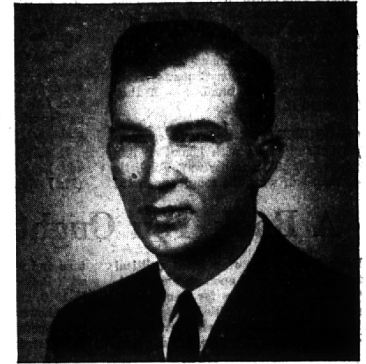
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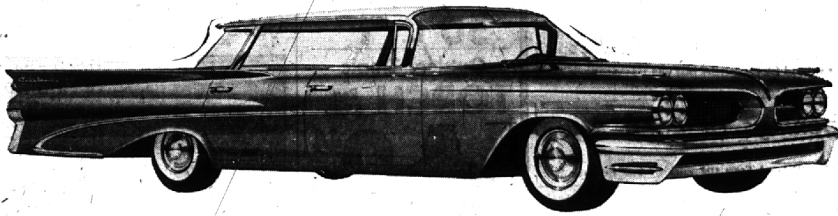
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People's Column

Prefers Colonial Architecture For B'ham Stores

To the Editor: The Birmingham Eccentric sometime back published an article and picture of the "new glass-walled and -wooden-roofed 'Sportsman' store" to be built at the northwest corner of Pierce and Martin. This store is to be a "Better Birmingham Effort" in developing Birmingham into the state's most exclusive shopping center. This effort is highly commendable and desirable. It was stated that the new structure will bring "a contemporary contrast to the Colonial architecture on the east side of Pierce."

The feasibility of this type of architecture on the east side of Pierce and Martin is being discussed in and around Birmingham and the Bloomfield area.

IN EVERY instance where the writer has been present the comment was not favorable. The feeling it is most illogical and regrettable to introduce contemporary architecture on Pierce.

People are not averse to contemporary architecture and feel it has a definite place in the "Better Birmingham Effort", but this particular location is not that place. Much of the charm and appeal of the Pierce area is in its Colonial style.

Visitors to Birmingham always remark about this and are drawn to these shops. Newcomers moving in find it different and pleasurable shopping.

RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY owners of many years feel it is appropriately in keeping with the new England atmosphere and character of much of the downtown Birmingham area.

All have expressed aversion to a contemporary structure in this location. Favorable comment has been made as to even the rear entrances of two Woodward shops seen thru the delivery alley on Pierce next to the bank building. An eye-catching glimpse of neat grey and white Colonial decor carries the shopper on to the Colonial shops fronting on Pierce that follow.

OUR MUNICIPAL Building, The Detroit Edison building, Baldwin Library, The Community House, have about them the simple traditional architectural beauty which is Birmingham to many people.

Colonial architecture is found on Brown Street in the shops and business buildings. A recently remodeled shoe store on West Maple retained the Colonial type of styling in both interior and exterior.

A new chain supermarket being built in the community is Colonial in style. The "Better Birmingham Effort" is necessary and welcome and the men leading it highly respected and deserving of appreciation from the community.

IT IS FELT they would want to be informed as to public opinion as the residents of the community are also interested and vitally concerned in this effort. Many have a definite feeling as to this proposed new structure in this particular location.

Is it a welcome contrast to the charm and Colonial dignity that now dominates Pierce? Eccentric readers and interested residents are invited to comment.

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