

Building Our Shopping Center

Ranking twelfth in the entire State of Michigan in individual incomes, with the highest per family income in the State, the year of 1957 (latest for which we can secure statistics) the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area continues to present an attractive and profitable field for today's merchandising stores and various service establishments.

This premium economic setting, naturally, over the years has resulted in the development here of a variety of retail businesses, plus professional services, that far surpasses most other communities of our population.

It is no wonder, then, that Birmingham's business and professional men and women, those who own business properties and those who lease them, are currently interested in the preservation of the community's shopping center.

WHICH IS WHY, Tuesday evening of last week, a number of local business property owners, together with several city officials, met to discuss plans to make the existing shopping center more attractive and convenient to this area's expanding residential population.

As a result of that meeting, a special committee was appointed to select a chairman, and to outline the basic program that will continue to expand "the most distinctive suburban community shopping center in Michigan."

It is important, of course, that the city government be included in the program. Representing the residents-at-large, as

well as the business life, Birmingham has an economic stake in the preservation and expansion of its shopping center. Every tax dollar obtained from local business helps to pay the cost of local, as well as public school, governmental costs.

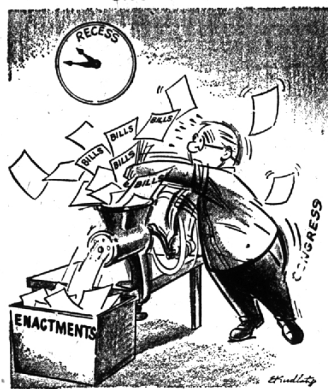
THE NEAR AVAILABILITY of a wide assortment of merchandising establishments and professional services is, obviously, not only a personal convenience to family needs, but it enhances residential real estate values as well.

During the past decade and a half the entire former rural areas contiguous to Detroit have witnessed an unprecedented increase in population. "Suburbia", or the exodus of city-dwellers to suburbs, has been evident everywhere in the United States.

To win and hold its share of this ever-expanding business potential, the local shopping environment will have to do everything possible to make itself alluring to the buying public. This includes not only merchandise, well displayed and presented by capable sales people, but also by convenience of access to stores and professional offices.

THAT THE NEWLY appointed local committee will come up with some practical and valuable ideas, we have no doubt. Some of them, it must not be overlooked, will cost money to apply. Finances, either from business property owners and/or the city-at-large, must be provided, if the basic objective is to be achieved.

Clock Watcher



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Flowering Dogwood Rare in Michigan

On late May excursions into the woods you may be fortunate enough to come upon a flowering dogwood.

In Michigan this small tree reaches a height of 15-30 feet. At a distance one envisions its flat-topped crown enveloped in misty whiteness. At close range there appears an array of large blossoms borne on long sprays along the level boughs. Together they turn their faces upward to the sky, suggesting a kind of Oriental flower arrangement.

If we bend a branch to eye level, what appears to be a flower with four white petals turns out to be a central cluster of small, greenish blossoms surrounded by four large white bracts, their tips notched with a spot of green or brownish-pink.

These have served as an envelope for the button-like winter bud. With a hand lens, each of the small central group of perfect flowers is seen as a pistol surrounded by four protruding stamens, the whole enclosed by four true petals.

THESE ripen into a cluster of bright red drupes which are eaten by an estimated 80 species of birds. This aids in the tree's natural dispersal. The fruits, together with the prominently veined, rose-red leaves, add a bright touch of color to our October woods.

The flowering dogwood (Cornus florida) is comparatively scarce in Michigan. This is not because it is demanding, but because its beauty attracts vandals who break off its branches. Others transplant it to their door yards and gardens. It now occurs most frequently in an understory tree in protected areas as far north as the Grand Saginaw valley. In its wider distribution it reaches along our eastern seaboard from Maine to Virginia and west to Oklahoma.

Man has prized the flowering dogwood as an ornamental since Colonial times. From a note in George Washington's diary dated 1785—"This day I transplanted some dogwoods from my woods to my Mt. Vernon shrubbery." Thomas Jefferson loved it, too, for he wrote, "I planted it in the open ground on the west lawn of Monticello." For the famous Japanese cherry trees of our Capital we set dogwoods in return. They are now well established in their adopted country.

AN ESPECIALLY attractive variety of Cornus florida has pink blossoms which are frequently used in gardens of our eastern and southern states. On trips to the Northwest you will see it has been much enamored of the Pacific Northwest. Cornus Nuttallii, which is named for the English naturalist Thomas Nuttall.

It resembles our eastern species but the flower, which is three to six inches in diameter, has six petal-like bracts. The tree is also larger and more symmetrical. It produces a magnificent effect of creamy whiteness among the darker forest trees of Washington and Oregon.

ALTHOUGH the dogwood seldom grows to measure more than a foot in diameter, its hard and resilient wood is prized for making such articles as golf shafts, mallet heads, pulleys, spindles and knitting needles. It is most valuable in making shuttles for mechanized weaving where a wood is demanded which will wear smooth and hold up under continuous strain. Fully 90 per cent of the dogwood cut in the last century has gone into shuttles made in small but numerous mills in the South.

In 1924 the wildflower preservation society instigated a protective campaign in behalf of flowering dogwood. Its continued beauty in our midst depends upon our constant vigilance.

They Served Long and Loyal

Recent announcement by Amos F. Gregory, 1216 Dorchester, that he will retire as treasurer of the Birmingham Board of Education next month, brings to those who have given long service to our educational system here, and recently retired.

The other two are Ernest W. Seaholm, 1587 Fairway, and the late Wylie E. Groves, 542 Westchesterway. All three

men served close to a score of years, Seaholm and Groves both as Board president when retiring.

These men have given countless hours, plus their best know-how, to the problems of our local public schools. For this splendid civic devotion they deserve the thanks and respect of our citizens... which, except for their own inner rewards, is about all they receive in the way of appreciation.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

A Battle Creek Republican State Representative, Harry A. DeMaso, has proposed that a State law be enacted to allow State and local governments to become financial partners with private business in the development of new industry. He would start with a State grant of \$5,000,000 to a State Industrial Development Authority. Apparently this Republican is in the wrong political party... for when the GOP come out for placing business in the hands of governmental bureaucracy?

gers was restored to manual labor a few days ago when his physicians approved piano playing for celebrity-virtuoso Van Cliburn, whose digit has recovered from an infection.

When asked by his teacher to name two documents that have contributed heavily to the U.S. government, Johnny replied: "Forms 1040 and 1040A."

Always keep an umbrella handy... it may be the only thing available for that rainy day.

One of this nation's most valuable fin-

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Norman Thomas, six-time Socialist party candidate for U.S. President, is a forceful speaker, although so sincere and enthusiastic about his opinions that he tends to over-state them.

He's got a sense of humor, though. In a recent talk to Detroit's professional chapter of Sigma Delta Chi (journalism fraternity), Thomas observed of himself: "I'm the only man to run for President who never predicted in advance that he'd be elected. Which shows some degree of sagacity on my part!"

The woman wanted to place an ad in The Birmingham Eccentric for the return of her husband's favorite pipe. She offered \$100 to the finder.

Our want ad clerk gasped: "That's an awful price to pay for a pipe!" "Not this one," the woman said. "I burned it up!"

Is a native of Michigan a "Michigander" or a "Michiganite"? If you go by the dictionary, it's "Michigander." But the U.S. government printing office

style manual says the proper term is "Michiganite".

Now comes Robert J. Furlong, executive secretary of the Michigan tourist council, who says neither term is correct.

AND WHEN'S A 'BETTER TIME than the middle of Michigan Week to state his case?

Here's Furlong's word: "Michiganian." "Residents of Michigan properly are referred to as Michiganians, a word derived from Michiganis, one of the 10 states originally designated to the Northwest territory by the Jefferson plan of 1784," Furlong said.

"My own preference, however, is based on less contentious reasons. I think the word simply sounds better. It has a role and a savor to it, while 'Michiganite' sounds harsh and ugly."

"And 'Michiganite' sounds like something you dig from the ground."

Thanks, Mr. Furlong—you've convinced me. I never saw us for 'ganders, and never cared for the term "ite." I'm a Michiganian now.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
May 21, 1909
"Rev. L. L. Houghton is to build this summer two elegant homes on his land on the west side. Birmingham is building a number of pleasant homes this summer."

15 YEARS AGO
May 18, 1914
"Two more large trees along the streets of Birmingham are reported passed to the great 'trees beyond' and their shells are to be removed to make way for living trees. A large soft maple on Brown street and a black walnut on Chester street are dead and City Manager Gordon, to whom the matter was referred with power to act, is expected to act immediately."

30 YEARS AGO
May 16, 1929
"The circulation range of The Eccentric was brought to the Wanderer's attention yesterday by Mrs. J. N. Hadjisky of Bates street, chairman of the Oakland County branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which is sponsoring the program of international songs and dances being staged May 25 at the Baldwin high school. Our only published...

Will Work From Top On Library Bonds
By setting the maximum obtainable library addition bond issue, Birmingham city commissioners are able to work out financing the city's next year budget.

They will ask the state finance details as they study the new commission to approve \$100,000—maximum that state law will allow—to cover a proposed Baldwin public library addition. Commissioners Saturday morning will hold the third budget committee session. At these meetings, they will determine how much of the proposed \$100,000 addition will be financed by general obligation bonds—all or part.

He announcement of the affair has been through The Eccentric and already we have had calls from Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Rochester, Pontiac and Royal Oak."

"How a rat has appeared on the J. F. Peter's farm. This rodent punches a hole in grain bags and extracts immense quantities of wheat, oats, etc."

STRICTLY FRESH

The difference between constructive criticism and a mere remark depends on whether or not it's aimed at you.

How to reduce is no problem. What puzzles us is: How can one afford to gain weight?

The fellow who yells loudest when the electric power fails is



apt to be an ardent admirer of the good, old-fashioned... Fellow across the desk from us says that he sees no reason to build a back yard barbecue. His wife burns things perfectly on the kitchen stove.

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