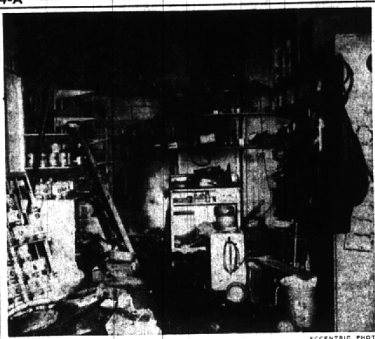


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Two Questions to Answer

Birmingham police are still investigating the cause and effects of a fire that did about \$1,000 damage to the FEK Marathon Service station, 1775 S. Woodward, Monday night. Owner Frank Karash, of Mt. Clemens, was on his way home when the fire, which burned a six-foot section of the shelves in a store room, was reported. Danger of an extensive fire was non-existent in the fire-proof building. Fire Marshall George Scott said. The fire started in a corner where two shelves met; it's cause is still undetermined. Scott said. Police are investigating Karash's claim that he has cashed \$760 in bills in the corner where the fire started.

Planners, Neighbors Reject New Apartments

Neighbors interested in esthetics and the Birmingham Plan Board, interested in protecting the single family residential nature of the city and upholding its own zone regulations, turned down a zone change request and stopped the building of four luxury apartment buildings.

Wallace J. Newton and company had requested a zone change from present R-5 multiple zoning to allow the construction of three-story apartment building on a plot on the west side of Woodward between Colonial court and Bloomfield court.

NEIGHBORS FELT they said, that present two-story buildings to the north of the proposed develop-

ment were bad enough, they wanted no further raising of the roof-line in an area that should be residential. Developers, however, assured residents that the roof-line would be no higher than that of neighboring two-story apartments. Developers told the Plan Board at last week's meeting that Birmingham had an abundance of two-bedroom terrace and garden type apartments.

The only real market, they said, would be for \$300 to \$400-per-month apartments designed for older couples.

THE AGE bracket of their proposed clientele and the amount of money allowed forced the move upwards, they said.

Other people refuse to walk step they said and the cost of installing an elevator in a two-story building was disproportionately high.

Restrictions permit the construction of 85 units in the parcel. Containing these units in two-story buildings presented an undesirable consumption of land space and an unsightly silhouette to neighbors to the west, across the Rouge river.

NEIGHBORS at the public hearing complained that it would be "like putting the Empire State building there," that 85 new families would be crowded into the area, and that "this is a symbol of people trying to change the nature of a neighborhood," said a Lakeside resident.

"This is a borderline case," said City Planner Herbert Herzberg. "It hadn't been decided up to now," he added.

He decided at the meeting. "Since the developers knew the zoning, and since a change would lift the 85-unit limit on the property," Herzberg said, he would recommend the denial of the request.

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