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BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

36 PAGES
JULY 21, 1960

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

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Drowning Brings Demands for Skindiving Controls

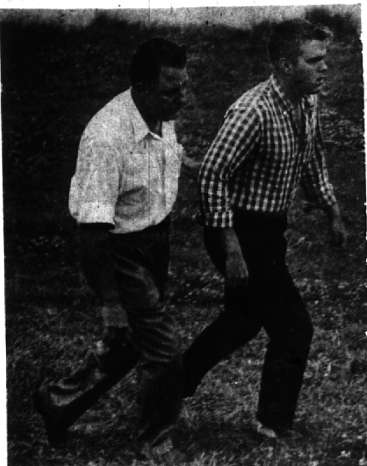
Underwater Gear 'Model Legislation' Sought from State

By CON ERICKSON
Staff Writer

An angry chorus of demands for effective state legislation to control the sale and rental of skindiving equipment arose from area lawmakers this week following the drowning of a young Bloomfield Township diver in Gilbert Lake.

"We've got to have some kind of legislation," Bloomfield Township Police Chief Norman Dehnke declared grimly.

He was echoed by Oakland County Prosecutor George F. Taylor and Sheriff Frank Irons. Taylor said his assistants are checking other states for "model legislation" in preparation for submitting a bill to the state legislature.



He Saw Scott Last . . .

Douglas Neumann, Scott's skindiving companion, is led back to the car by his father, Earl Neumann of Colby Lane, Bloomfield Township, after the 17-year-old youth pointed out the spot where he had last seen Scott.

This and That

By George R. Averill

Politics Is Like A Circus, Carnival

Only in the good, old United States of America can one witness the pendency of national elections by a cross-like human behavior as manifested by Ringling Bros. and the two major political parties in convention assembled.

Last week concluded the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. From it has come the youngest Presidential nominee ever chosen by a political party in the U.S.A., John F. Kennedy.

This energetic and ambitious Massachusetts U.S. Senator is the nominee; with him comes one U.S. Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, of Texas. You recall that LBJ had gone to Los Angeles in hope of winning the top nomination himself. He is 51, Kennedy 43.

Kennedy is the ultra-liberal, Johnson more conservative. LBJ's nomination brought forth much northern mistrust and outright opposition, including Michigan's Gov. Williams.

SOAPY HAD worked valiantly to put Kennedy over, and was entitled to believe that he might be a prior choice for the Vice Presidency over Johnson.

But the practicalities, leavened by the necessity of absolute cold-blooded political decisions, caused Kennedy to sidetrack his valiant defender . . . and what our Governor will get as a reward is as yet unknown.

However, such incidents do reveal how "barbarian" top-flight politics is your kind of today may be an almost unknown tomorrow.

WHY DID Senator Johnson take the second spot? He had declared himself opposed to this place, as he was trying to lead Kennedy for the White House tenancy. But Johnson, an old political warrior, still has his cap set to lead Kennedy into the 1960 Pennsylvania residence.

The young Kennedy can occupy the White House, if he's successful at the polls, in about eight years. At that time Johnson will only be 59, still young enough to again aspire to the Presidency.

So perhaps this is Johnson's strategy—he wants to keep himself on the hillboards in the public eye, so that his name will still be familiar to the public.

I JOIN MILLIONS who, watching convention chairman Lefly Williams call for Johnson's nomination by acclamation of delegates, believe that a tie, at least, existed (See THIS & THAT, Page 2-A)

The Birmingham Eccentric
"MIGHTY MIDGET"
CLASSIFIED

MI 4-1100
"Will Do the Job for You"

Say Diver Made Six Mistakes

Law enforcement officials probing the drowning of 17-year-old Robert Scott while skin diving Sunday night in the weed-tangled depths of Gilbert Lake said today they would probably never know precisely "what happened."

But they pointed to a long list of what they felt might have been contributing factors in the tragedy and issued a warning of the dangers of skindiving without proper training and equipment.

Oakland County Sheriff's Department Safety Director Donald Kratt pointed out five "errors" in Scott's use of his skindiving equipment:

- 1) His weight belt (a device used to overcome the natural buoyancy of the water) weighed 13 lbs., at least 5 lbs. more than necessary.
- 2) THE WEIGHT BELT was underneath the air tank harness, where it couldn't be shed easily.
- 3) There was no quick release strap to enable the diver to get out of his gear in an emergency.
- 4) Both the belt and air tanks were strapped on wrong.
- 5) The equipment did not include a life vest or other flotation device that the diver could inflate to carry him to the surface.

IN ADDITION, Kratt said, weed-choked Gilbert lake is not a safe place for skindiving, especially at night when special precautions should be taken.

(See DIVER, Page 8-A)

SCOTT EXPRESSED amazement that any youngster, regardless of training or experience, can walk into a store and buy or rent skindiving equipment.

Experts pointed out that young Scott and Neumann had violated almost every cardinal rule of the sport. (See related story on page five).

Lather, in speaking to the board of education Tuesday night, said he had no doubt that if Scott had had the proper training, he would be alive today.

The youth's father declared that skindivers should be licensed and required to obtain the proper training before getting a license "the same way we have driver training," Dehnke and Taylor agreed.

'Voters to Gain by Passing County's 1/2-Mill'—Levinson

By CON ERICKSON
Staff Writer

"What am I going to get, what is it going to cost me, and how long do I need it?"

These questions we ask ourselves every time we make a purchase, whether it's a new bike for the kids or a new home. And they're the questions thoughtful citizens are asking as they prepare to march to the polls Aug. 2 to vote "yes" or "no" on a tax increase proposition. The funds would construct administrative buildings in the new county service center at Pontiac.

To help its readers weigh the merits of the proposition placed on the ballot by the county board of supervisors, The Birmingham Eccentric put these questions to Judge Levinson, Birmingham realtor, one of Birmingham's representatives on the board of supervisors, chairman of its powerful ways and means committee.

LEVINSON, A ND FORMER City Commissioner Lard Hescock of Birmingham are in the forefront of the effort to get a ballot proposition approved. As chairman of the county board of supervisors' building and grounds committee, Hescock will have over-

Ed McKenzie Aids Friends in Italy

A Bloomfield township amateur radio operator "rescued" a Troy couple in Italy via the airwaves last week.

The "rescuer" was well-known former Detroit radio and television personality Ed McKenzie, who operates a ham radio station as a hobby. "Rescued" were Mr. and Mrs. Dean Burnett, 3156 Westervane Lane, Troy, friends of McKenzie.

The Burnetts are on a vacation tour of Greece, Italy, France and Spain. Mrs. Burnett is recovering from recent surgery.

Congo Doctor Is Evacuated

Dr. Robert White, a Birmingham church supported missionary, was evacuated Tuesday night from strife torn Congo bush country and taken to Southern Rhodesia where he will set up new headquarters.

This report was given to The Birmingham Eccentric by Dr. Earl Weston, 5655 Forman drive, Birmingham, a friend of Whites and an amateur radio operator.

Weston said he has been in contact with the Congo since the trouble began about two weeks ago. He said he learned earlier in the week that Mrs. White and the children were evacuated last weekend.

The doctor said he talked to the Methodist Mission board in the Congo Tuesday night. They reported that White had left the area a short time before.

White is supported by the First Methodist church in Birmingham and has spoken in the area several times on his work in Africa.

Weston said that White's greatest disappointment in leaving the Congo was leaving a brand new hospital behind.

All makes of inner spring mattresses available. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, "Dual 0" and ask for ENTERTAINER #10.

They Found Him Later

Bloomfield Township Police Chief Norman Dehnke rests on the fender of a police car on the morning before the body was found. He is talking to Captain Maurice Morely of the Bloomfield township fire department. Three members of the fire department and all the police officers, at one time or another, were on hand at the scene.

Bham Schools Get Their New Chief

Otis Dickey, 45, Is Board Choice; Starts Sept. 1

Birmingham's new superintendent of schools will be Dr. Otis M. Dickey, 45, of Grosse Pointe, Birmingham Board of Education President Mrs. Kathryn Loomis announced for the board today.

Dickey is assistant superintendent of schools in Grosse Pointe where he has been in the administrative staff since 1952. He succeeds Dr. Dwight B. Ireland who resigned as superintendent in March after 18 years here.

Ireland resigned his position last March claiming that a growing number of board of education members were usurping his administrative functions. The resignation becomes effective Aug. 1.

HE HAS SOLD his home in Birmingham and is presently out of town on vacation with his family.

For the past few weeks, Ireland's administrative assistant, Richard Featherstone has taken over the duties of superintendent, while the board searched for a replacement for Ireland.

"Dr. Dickey has held several administrative positions in Grosse Pointe," Mrs. Loomis said.

As assistant superintendent, he has had supervisory responsibility over the professional staff, including salary schedule administration, new teacher recruitment and inservice training.

He was also in charge of business and finance, including preparation of the annual budget.

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MCKENZIE PICKED UP Burnett's plan for help from an Italian station in Florence, Italy.

"He was frantic trying to find out about a pain-killing substance for his wife's post-operative pain," McKenzie said. "His doctor didn't speak English, they didn't speak Italian."

They did have a prescription bottle from a Birmingham drugist, and he relayed the information to Burnett.

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THE STATE WATER resources commission will meet July 28 to determine what they may tell the county about ceasing pollution of the Rouge.

Several cities, including Birmingham and Southfield, are under court orders to eliminate stream pollution. The Evergreen has evolved from the several communities' efforts to comply.

SOUTHFIELD CITY said earlier it would build the drain but ran into problems in assessing the costs. Southfield had proposed to assess property owners involved in the area and shirked away from financing the big county project on a "city-at-large" basis. The meeting Tuesday considered any means to finance the drain.

Oak park had agreed to pay its share of the South-Oak project on the city-at-large basis.

Ed McKenzie Aids Friends in Italy

BOTH THE EVERGREEN and Farmington interceptors are scheduled to begin servicing the Oakland county community next week if the South-Oak project is materialized.

R. J. Alexander, Oakland DPW commissioner, in charge of the county drain network system.

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Here's Your New Courthouse Tower

Oakland county's new service center will be built around this six-floor courthouse tower, the cornerstone for which was laid some days ago. If approved, the special 1/2-