Each of us is an individual part of the whole of our country's people. What we do and what we think has its impact upon our social, economic and political lives. Disinterest in the problems of your community, your state, or your nation is as though a sentry, whose job is to guard his area of the fort or camp, abandoned his post. Liberty, and freedom demand alertly standing guard.

The Birmingham Eccentric

84th YEAR—NO. 40

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DECEMBER 7, 1961

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly
TEN CENTS

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

This and That

by George R. Averill

To allow college women to visit male students in the latters' dormitory rooms would be an invasion of the male's academic freedom, in the opinion of a recent census taken by representatives of Bachelors, Ltd., non-international, non-national, but wholly provincial in nature. "The male ordinarily has a difficult time understanding his profesors and the textbooks he must study, without being shunted away from these projects by the wiles of femininity," stated the chief census-taker. "On the other hand, the girls, too, should be protected from all distractions from studies. After all, their mental I.Q. is their best protection against the vicissitudes of post-college days. Besides, too much traffic in dormitory rooms wears out the carpets, rugs, and similar furnishings — and self-sacrifice now is necessary in order to keep the costs down." No word has yet been received from the Organization of Anti-Spinsterhood, whose activities are world-wide, universal, and wholly beyond the ken and understanding of most college boys.

Two divas backstage at the opera were chatting. "I insured my voice for $500,000," the first one said. "And what did you do with the money?" the second one sweetly asked.

From part of The New Frontier comes a thought that was one of the foundation stones of The Old Frontier. Declares Abraham Ribicoff, secretary of Health, Education and Welfare: "I would like to see the federal law changed to permit the hiring of young people so they can get a valuable taste of useful, gainful employment. It is better for a boy to take a job delivering drugs for a store than to stand around the drugstore corner. I believe present laws, enacted years ago to protect children from abuse, are now behind times and the outcome now is to 'coddle the children tob much.'"

Teacher: "Give me a sentence with the word 'diadem' in it". Johnny: "Motorists who drive 75 miles an hour diadem sight quicker than those who drive 40."

Note on Twentieth Century Civilization: The United States has just placed in service its newest and largest nuclear-powered warship, the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise. It cost the taxpayers 444 millions of dollars. (Addendum to above Note: Several African tribes, engaged in warfare with uncivilized neighbors, have levied a tax of two water buffalo hides, eight cobra snake skins, and five pounds of dry prunes, on each family, which to buy more spears, darts, and war clubs.) . . . end of both Notes—but what of "civilization"?)

Schools Give Construction Top Priority

A special seven-hour planning session by Birmingham school officials Saturday raised the district's top priority project off the ground.

Superintendent of Schools Otis M. Dickey and administrative staff members took a microscopic look at implementing the school system's five year building program made possible by voter approval of a $4,915,000 bonding authority in the recent school election.

"We are hoping," said Dickey, "to complete as much of the planning phase of the building program as possible in order to have most of the elementary projects completed by the fall of 1962.

ELEMENTARY projects include a $675,000 Meadow Lake School at Inkster and Hill and classroom additions to Harlan, Pembroke, Franklin and Bloomfield Village Schools.

Expedition of the building phase of the schools' development program will enable the board of education to focus primary attention on the operating program which will be reflected in the formulation of the 1962-63 operating budget.

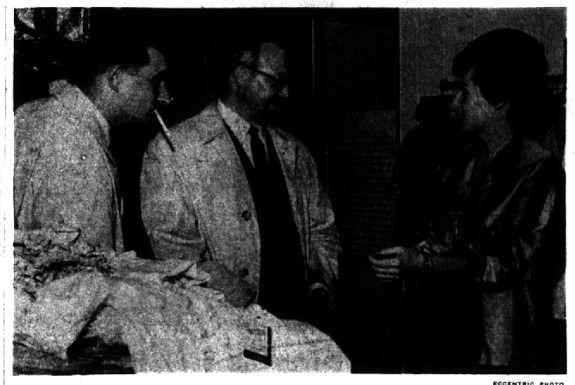
The planning session devoted its study to construction standards and educational specifications, covering some 45 items.

A BOOKLET of construction standards prepared and presented by Asst. Supt. Norman Wolfe outlined architectural, mechanical and electrical specifications for architects and contractors in order to provide quality buildings at reasonable costs.

Preliminary sketches of the Meadow Lake Elementary School by Birmingham architect Linn Smith were reviewed.

Architectural plans reflect trends toward more audio-visual and electronic teaching as well as increased flexibility in classroom grouping in the future. Drawings provide for increased wall space, more compact grouping of classrooms and large and small group

(See SCHOOLS, 3-A)



ECCENTRIC PHOTO

These two Men's Night shoppers seem entranced with model Joyce Flannery as she shows them something the "little lady" is sure to want for Christmas. The downtown Birmingham "open house" afforded men an opportunity for Christmas buying and also a chance to see where the Mrs. does her shopping.

Stores Add Own 'Twists' In Profitable Men's Night

By JOE CADARIU
Staff Writer

An all-day rain didn't dampen the spirits of hundreds of area residents who attended Monday's downtown Birmingham Men's Night.

Overall report: very, very good, according to Charles Mortensen, manager of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce which has sponsored the event for the past 10 years.

A similar men's night will be held Monday night from 7-10 at the Bloomfield Shopping Plaza, W. Maple and Telegraph.

The promotional innovation started as a means to give the male population an opportunity to shop without the furtive glances from the women. Merchants wanted men to do their holiday shopping and not be embarrassed while examining lingerie and other "unmentionables."

HOPING TO ATTRACT both fathers and sons, the businessmen began adding features to make the "night" more interesting.

This year one store presented a demonstration of the latest dance craze, "The Twist." Another had a choir which sang appropriate dance tunes in front of the building and also inside.

A women's fine fashion store featured an organist who played almost anything from Christmas carols to the finest in roller skating music.

Many of the women's shops featured models who gracefully showed the latest in fashions from casual ski wear to floor-length evening gowns.

THERE MAY BE some changes next year to promote father-son shopping. One Birmingham businessman said he noticed that this year it seemed that the teen-agers had separated from their fathers.

A number of teenage "packs" were seen roaming from store to store hoping for "free cigarettes" from one store and "free eats" from another.

"The general format of Men's Night has been the same since it started," commented Mortensen. "It's been very successful and we'll undoubtedly stick with it.

"From what I've been able to find out, Men's Night at least equalled last year. Business was, in most cases, up from 1960, which was a good year. All the merchants and residents seem very well satisfied with the event.

"AS FAR AS the overall program was concerned, there were no innovations. Individual businessmen, though, sponsored special events.

"One surprising aspect of the night was that more men came earlier and stayed later than ever before.

"The stores on North Woodward reported their best Men's Night. The impact of Demery's had a lot to do with bringing a greater flow of traffic into that area.

"In addition to men who were shopping, there were a lot who were just window shopping, pricing and sizing for future buying.

"I was walking down Maple," Mortensen went on to say, "and two men in front of me evidently salesmen who travel a lot, were saying that nowhere had they seen a city with more attractive shop windows than those in Birmingham".

THE MEN'S NIGHT, which must now be considered a tradition, besides being a sort of open house, kicked off the holiday season for local businessmen. For many of the stores, the event introduced evening shopping hours which will continue until after the holidays.

The streets were decorated with seasonal evergreen and the loudspeakers were filled with Christmas melodies.

Men's Night was sponsored by the chamber of commerce and conducted by the Retail Merchants Division of the chamber. There were about 125 participating stores.

WILBUR MASON, of Jacobson's, headed the committee on arrangements. Others on the committee were Martin Frank of Higgins & Frank, Frank Mulholland of F. J. Mulholland Co., Paul Kurth of Huston Hardware, Aaron Ker-

(See STORES, 3-A)

MRS. HELEN BURGUM

Mrs. Burgum Dies; Rites Set for Today

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. today in First Presbyterian Church for Mrs. Helen L. Burgum, wife of Birmingham City Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem William H. Burgum. Cremation will be in White Chapel Memorial Cemetery.

Mrs. Burgum died Monday morning in William Beaumont Hospital. She was 48.

Mrs. Burgum, of 1875 Winthrop Drive, Birmingham, was born in Glenwood, Minn., and came to the city in 1940 from Minneapolis.

She was a 1938 cum laude graduate of University of Minnesota. Mrs. Burgum was a member of Pi Phi Sorority at the university and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, national honor society.

MRS. BURGUM was active in the League of Women Voters and a member of First Presbyterian Church, Stonycroft Golf Club and Pontiac Yacht Club.

She is survived by her husband; her mother, Mrs. Harry P. Burgum of Salinas, Calif.; a son, Thomas L., and a daughter, Katherine, both at home; and a brother, Murray Hoff of Salinas, Calif.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to Michigan Cancer Foundation, Inc., Detroit.

Auto Club Elects Local Residents

A Birmingham man has been elected first vice president of Automobile Club of Michigan, and a Bloomfield Hills resident was re-elected to a three-year term on the board of directors.

William G. Walters, 1140 Hillside Drive, Birmingham, was named the new first vice president. Clarence E. Otter, 2201 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, and Walters were two of the five directors re-elected to three-year terms on the board.

Other area residents who are members of the board of directors are Roy M. Hood, 1889 Riverside Drive, Beverly Hills, and Frank J. Howlett, 1160 Hillside Drive, Birmingham.

B'field School Board Faces Prayer Issue

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—The issue of whether or not Bloomfield Hills School District children can say a prayer in the classroom will be on the Board of Education agenda Dec. 19.

Supt. Eugene Johnson said Wednesday morning, "It is possible the board will delay any decision on the matter until the U. S. Supreme Court reviews controversy."

The U. S. Supreme Court agreed this week to determine if prayer saying in public schools is constitutional.

"IF IT IS unconstitutional," Johnson said, "the board will have no decision to make. If it is," he continued, "then it will probably be up to each school district to decide."

The question came up in the Bloomfield area this week after a parent complained that three teachers made a practice of having their students say a prayer at the beginning of class each morning.

Johnson said the practice has been discontinued until a decision is reached.

"WE HAVE always had an unwritten rule against this because the board feels this should be handled in the home, not in the classroom," Johnson said.

"I know the feeling on the use of prayer is divided. I can appreciate both viewpoints," he added. Johnson stressed that songs and programs with religious content would still be a part of school events. "These traditional things are part of our heritage," Johnson said, "and I'm sure they will not be curtailed."

According to a Birmingham School District representative, there is no written policy against saying prayers in the Birmingham system.

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Caution, Opposition Mark CBDD Review

By LES LANGLOIS
City Editor

Caution and opposition marked discussion of Birmingham's Central Business District Development Plan at Tuesday night's quarterly meeting of the city commission and planning board.

Caution — in considering the width and traffic direction of the right-of-way needed for the peripheral route which would close off the business district from vehicular traffic and reserve the core area for pedestrian movement.

Opposition—to the contemplation of constructing high rise apartment buildings within the core area of the district.

CITY PLANNER William Brownfield's presentation of the plan represented the city's commission's formal introduction to it.

Brownfield suggested that the city make a move in acquiring 13 parcels of land for the peripheral route before structures are built on the vacant lots, thereby making the property needed more expensive to obtain.

Property recommended for acquisition is two lots east of Brown and Chester, one lot on northeast corner of Forest and Woodward, one lot behind Birmingham Theater, five lots on Brownell south from Maple, two lots on southeast corner of Oakland and Woodward, one lot on southeast corner of Willits and Chester and one lot on northeast corner of Maple and Chester.

ACQUISITION OF the land triggered an unresolved conflict over the width of the peripheral route.

As planned, the five-lane route calls for an 80-foot right-of-way. However, most of the streets on which the route would pass have 50-foot right-of-ways with a few measuring 60 feet, thereby requiring acquisition of additional land and street widening.

Commissioner Charles Renfrew questioned the standards upon which the size of the right-of-way footage was based, suggesting that present traffic volume does not warrant a five-lane route.

"THE KEY factor is the width of this right-of-way," said Renfrew. "We are talking about dollars and cents."

According to Brownfield, studies indicate that future traffic circulation will require an 80-foot route.

Recognizing that the proper width of the right-of-way must be determined. Commissioner Carl Ingraham agreed with Brownfield in that all of the property needed should be acquired at the outset while it's available.

But City Manager L. R. Gare insisted that the important thing is to determine the proper width and then acquire the right-of-way.

WHILE THE questions of the size of the route and acquisition of land were left deadlocked pending further investigation, direction of traffic as it relates to the size of the route drew further reactions.

However Brownfield explained that direction of traffic (whether one-way or two-way) will not affect the width of the route.

"I think we better get working on just what we do need," said Ingraham.

Gare expressed his preference for a one-way traffic astem which he feels offers a stronger safety factor. Mayor Florence H. Willett, as well as other commissioners and planners, appeared undecided.

Both bodies agreed that the size of right-of-way and direction of traffic be studied by the administration and recommendations be made to the commission.

A HALF DOZEN residents attending the meeting questioned why the city doesn't prohibit parking in the congested traffic areas instead of pursuing the CBDD plan.

But Ingraham explained that one problem involved is merchants' refusal to agree that less traffic congestion in front of their stores is to their advantage.

And Plan Board Chairman Eliot Robinson reminded the residents that the CBDD plan is not only designed to correct traffic and parking problems but also to maintain the business section within its present location and preserve the unique character of the community.

COMMISSIONER Ralph Main said he has made an extensive study of the community's problems and would like the city to consider an alternate plan to the proposed CBDD. Main claims his plan calls for a peripheral route but is inex-

(See REVIEW, 3-A)

Disputes CD Director Job Specifications

By KEN WEAVER
Managing Editor

Birmingham City Manager L. R. Gare presented job specifications for a civil defense director to the city commission Monday night.

And immediately ran into opposition.

Gare's job description did not coincide with the duties as listed in the civil defense ordimance, contended Commissioner Robert Page.

He felt that the director should have supervision over all department heads, including the chiefs of police and fire.

And he felt that the assistant city manager should also be the civil defense director but with an assistant to perform some of the regular administrative duties.

AT THE NOV. 6 commission meeting, Gare was authorized to seek a full-time CD director either on a voluntary or a paid basis.

Gare said Monday that investigation has all but eliminated the possibility of securing a volunteer and that efforts are proceeding to hire a paid employe.

"We would still consider a competent and qualified person on a volunteer basis," he said, "if such person should present himself."

The job description calls for a salary range of $6,500 to $7,200.

Page felt that the present CD director, Assistant City Manager R. S. Kenning, should be placed on a full-time basis as a director and be given "some assistance" with his other duties.

BUT, SAID Mayor Florence H. Willett, Kenning "has responsibilities he cannot afford to put aside to devote full-time" to civil defense.

Page argued that the city's civil defense ordinance places the director of the Office of Civil Defense in direct control over other department heads.

Under the present administrative set-up, only the manager and assistant manager have authority over them.

However, Kenning contended that the job description was taken from the ordimance.

Page insisted that as outlined by Gare and Kenning, the director's job was one of planning and co-

(See DIRECTOR, 3-A)

Professional Advice Sought On Shelter

City commissioners Monday night authorized the city manager to contact "competent and qualified technical personnel" in a preliminary study and cost estimate of a fallout shelter operational center for Birmingham.

This step would precede an application to the Federal Government for matching funds.

Commissioners agreed that before a decision could be made whether to construct such a center the City would have to determine the needs, the amount to be spent and its use.

AT ITS NOV. 20 meeting, the commission directed City Manager L. R. Gare to investigate availability of federal money after receiving his estimate of $50,000 for construction of a city hall shelter.

"It appears to me," said Gare Monday night, "that the type of shelter which would qualify for federal matching funds might possibly have to be more extensive than the one on which we based our estimate . . ."

The City's plans for a shelter to meet minimum conditions did not include provisions for such things as an infirmary area for care and treatment of ill or injured employes, or accomodations for the entire legislative body, for the judiciary and for other persons, the manager stated.

Gare proposed to re-evaluate the tentative cost of an emergency operative center to meet federal requirements, then to determine the City's portion of the cost.

Centers built in Livonia and Roseville cost from $300,000 to $400,000.

"I THINK the commission should be prepared to spend a definite amount of money," said Gare, "before we actually go into detailed construction drawings and cost estimates."

The next step, he said, would be to seek professional advice.

Mayor Florence H. Willett proposed that he first seek advice on a voluntary basis; and Commissioner Ralph A. Main suggested that a study committee be named to work with the city manager after preliminary information is obtained.

The commission's major concern, said Commissioner Robert Page, should be to assure continued operation of the government during and after a disaster.

BUT COMMISSIONER Carl

(See SHELTER, 3-A)

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

George Romney of Bloomfield Hills, a Con-Con vice president and possible gubernatorial candidate, addresses a capacity audience Friday night in the first of a new Birmingham Community House series entitled "Meet Your Celebrity Neighbor." Romney, president of American Motors Corp., joined Oakland County's six other Constitutional Convention delegates in reviewing the progress of Con-Con.

George Romney for Governor? Decision Coming by Feb. 10

Local Con-Con Forum Story on Page 4-A

George Romney made all kinds of news in the past week.

Tuesday, he announced that former Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry S. Truman will address the Constitutional Convention in Lansing.

Saturday, he anounced that he is considering running for governor, that he will make his decision by Feb. 10.

Friday night, he appeared at a Con-Con forum with other area delegates at the Birmingham Community House.

AT THAT meeting, which drew a capacity audience, Romney said he has not made a final decision on his candidacy "for many reasons, including my responsibilities to American Motors, the Constitutional Convention and Citizens for Michigan."

Romney, 54, is president of American Motors, a vice president of the convention and chairman of the

A resident of Bloomfield Hills, he was elected on the Republican ticket as the county's delegate-at-large to the convention.

CLOSE ADVISERS to Romney are Arthur G. Elliott Jr., former county Republican chairman and a delegate to the convention, and Richard Van Dusen, Republican from Bingham Farms and also a delegate.

At Friday's Con-Con forum, a citizen posed this question:

"In light of the speculation about Mr. Romney's political ambitions, are the people, who were suspicious in the first place that Mr. Romney formed Citizens for Michigan as a vehicle for merchandising himself, to assume now that they were correct?"

Romney had already left to fulfill another commitment, but Van Dusen answered that he considered Romney as "completely dedicated to the success" of the convention.

IN HIS announcement statement Saturday, the auto executive said he hopes and expects "the bipartisan spirit that has basically characterized" Con-Con to continue.

Romney clarified his position in regard to American Motors in a

(See ROMNEY, 3-A)

Woolfenden Plans Con-Con Breakfast

Delegate Henry L. Woolfenden (R., Bloomfield Hills) will have his first "Dutch treat" breakfast for persons interested in the Constitutional Convention at 9 a.m. Saturday at Ted's restaurant, Woodward and Square Lake roads.

Anyone wishing to ask questions about the convention may attend the breakfast, Woolfenden said.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. Dial "Q" and ask for Enterprise 8310.

Smith Rezoning Hearing Date Set

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night set a public hearing for Feb. 19 on a petition to rezone property at Hazel and Adams from single family to multiple family classification.

The rezoning was recommended by the city plan board.

Commissioners previously denied a petition from owner Hubert G. Smith to rezone the property to business.

The plan board now recommends that it be rezoned to R-5, which it said would be compatible to the surrounding area. Maximum height under this zoning is two stories.