

IN THIS ISSUE
Wood Creek Roundup, 3-A
Santa Comes to BAC, 1-C
Cranb's Holiday Tradition, 1-D
Win First, 1-E

The Birmingham Eccentric

85th Year — NO. 42 48 PAGES BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, DECEMBER 20, 1962 SECTION A



10 CENTS

Birmingham Charged with Detroit Murder

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Behind Our Front Page

Amusements	4, 5E	Nature Now	8-D
Arts of Living Page	1-D	Obituaries	6-A
Bridge	2-D	Once Over Lightly	8-C
Business News	5	Putpourri	5-D
Church	6, 7-B	Real Estate	D
City Beat	1-B	Schools	2, 3-B
Classified Ads	6, 7-E	Society	C, CC
College News	3-C	Suburban Scene	1-C
Down to Earth	1-D	Sports	1-E
Eccentricities	1-B	Theaters	5-E
Editorials	1-B	This and That	3-A
Homemaking	4-D	Yesteryear Happenings	1-B



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Planners Say No to Zoning For Motel

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP A decision to refuse rezoning of Woodward Avenue frontage south of Big Beaver Road from office to general business classification has been made by the Bloomfield Township Planning Commission.

The ruling by the seven-member board, handed down at a special meeting Monday night, was unanimous.

The commission's decision, if upheld by the township board, precludes plans by the property owner, Marvin Danto, to develop the property as the site of a \$1,800,000 luxury restaurant and motor-hotel.

John Gilray, attorney for Danto, stated that he would file a petition to bring the matter before the township board.

"The planning commission decision is only a recommendation to the township board," he said.

TWO OTHER decisions were handed down at the planning commission meeting, which took place after the adjournment of two scheduled public hearings.

The commission denied a request to rezone Maple Avenue property east of Telegraph from office to general business. Rezoning was requested to allow erection of expanded business facilities for Damman's Hardware.

It refused reclassification and downgrading of 125 acres of Adams Road property south of Chapel Hills subdivision from Residential-2 to Residential-1. This rezoning request was the subject of one of the public hearings held earlier in the evening.

Accused in Death Of Mother-in-law

A Birmingham resident and business man is in the Wayne County Jail awaiting examination on a charge of first-degree murder in the death of his mother-in-law.

Robert M. Thorsom of 2352 1/2 Buckingham is charged with the Dec. 4 murder of Mrs. Dorothy M. Thorsom, Mrs. Thorsom was found strangled and strangled in her home at 9173 Appoline, Detroit.

Thorsom, 31, stood mute at his arraignment before Recorder's Court Judge W. McKay Skillman. A plea of innocent was entered on his behalf and the examination was set for Dec. 25.

AN EMPLOYEE of a Birmingham investment firm, Thorsom appeared at Detroit Police Headquarters Monday night at the request of detectives. Police said that since the murder teams of detectives had been prohibitive, Thorsom's background and his dealings with his mother-in-law.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Max Silverman, who is in charge of the case, made no statement and did not discuss the case with Thorsom's attorney, Walter Denison of Birmingham.

Silverman told The Eccentric Wednesday morning that he could not discuss the details of the case at the present time.

MRS. THOMAS, 62, was found dead on the floor of her dining room. Although part of the home had been ransacked, apparently nothing of value had been taken, even the money in her purse.

Her husband, David, died last July and had left an estate estimated at \$70,000. Silverman said that Thorsom had handled some financial dealings for Mrs. Thomas.

A lie detector test given to Thorsom had been inconclusive, police said, because of his nervous condition. A similar test given to his wife, Joan, showed no deception, according to police.

THORSON was involved in a minor traffic accident the morning after his mother-in-law's death. His car skidded into a tree on Woodward in Bloomfield Hills.

He was treated at St. Joseph Hospital and kept overnight, Silverman said. Police were not allowed to talk to Thorsom while he was hospitalized, according to Silverman, but other persons had entered the room.

Friends and business associates of Thorsom's were stunned by his Active in community affairs, he is a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and on the board of the Exchange Club.

Several weeks ago, he had taken part in the decorating of the downtown area from front along with other members of the Jaycees.

IT WAS learned that he was partly responsible for the installation of the service club signs at the Birmingham city limits.

Another Birmingham businessman said that he had had dinner with Thorsom last week and had discussed the death of Mrs. Thomas. He said that Thorsom had seemed deeply sorrowed at the death.

Inauguration Plans Told; Train Ready

George W. Romney, the Bloomfield Hills resident who unseated the Democrats after 16 years, will become Michigan's 44th governor in a two-minute ceremony in Lansing on New Year's Day.

At approximately 12:15 p.m., he will repeat the 40-word oath as prescribed by the Michigan Constitution. It will be administered by the chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

Romney will become the state's chief executive in a ceremony noted for its extreme simplicity and dignity on a day that traditionally is reserved for hours of old-fashioned gaiety.

INAUGURAL officials say the "simple, dignified moment" will highlight a day patterned after the old-fashioned inauguration, complete with military pomp, an official state luncheon and a grand ball.

Chief Justice Leland W. Carr, a Lansing resident, will officiate for the third time during his 17 1/2-year career on the high court.

He officiated at the inauguration of a Republican, G. Mennen Williams and at the last inauguration of a Republican, Kim Sigler, in 1947.

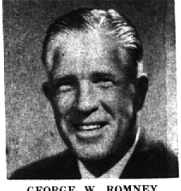
A GOVERNOR Romney Inaugural Special train will carry area residents to the inauguration. They don't wish to drive their own cars.

It will leave Detroit at 8:30 a.m. and will stop in Royal Oak, Birmingham and Pontiac before arriving at the Capitol for the ceremonies.

The seven-car special train was arranged for by Duke Hansen, former Detroit Lions player. It will have room for 300 and will remain at a siding six blocks from the capital.

The train will leave Lansing at 12:30 a.m. for the return trip and arrive in Detroit at 2:30 a.m.

PLANS CALL for the inauguration (See PLANS, 4-A)



GEORGE W. ROMNEY

Hit-Run Crash Fatal; Police Seek Driver

A 39-year-old Kingsley Inn employee was killed in a hit-and-run accident early Wednesday morning on Woodward near Trowbridge in Bloomfield Hills.

The dead man is Melvin Letrich of Madison Heights, who was employed as captain of waiters and waitresses at the restaurant, located at 1485 Woodward.

Although there were no witnesses to the accident, Bloomfield Hills police pieced together this chain of events:

Letrich left work at 1:30 a.m. He stopped at Woodward and attempted to check a flat tire on the front of his car. Another southbound vehicle struck the rear of Letrich's car, hit the victim, throwing him 69 feet from the point of impact. He was killed instantly.

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Now Here's a Gent With a Real Problem

This letter, postmarked "The North Pole," was sent to the Birmingham City Commission this week.

Gentlemen:

I appreciate the fact that you gentlemen are busy with the Christmas problems of municipal government. However, I would like you to give consideration to my personal problem.

For as long as I can remember, I have been conducting a very reasonable business on Dec. 24 and 27 in the City of Birmingham. I have been a municipal authority. No doubt due to the fact that my business has been conducted after regular City office hours.

This year, I began checking early in October with the various departments of the City. My call department was first referred to the Personal Department.

I talked with a Mr. Kenning, the personnel officer. I tried to explain that I was interested in seeing that no one was forgotten this year.

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