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# The Birmingham Eccentric

85th YEAR—NO. 20 46 PAGES BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, JULY 19, 1962 SECTION A 10 CENTS

## City Planning Four Lanes for Chester Street

Birmingham city commissioners took a big step Monday night toward a major improvement of Chester St.

They authorized the engineering department to prepare construction drawings and the city manager to obtain approval for property acquisition for construction of a four-lane concrete pavement on Chester from Martin to Brown.

Most of the project, which would constitute part of a bypass of the downtown business district, is estimated at \$50,000, based on preliminary plans.

Of this, \$50,000 is estimated for construction; \$25,000 for land acquisition; and \$11,200 for construction of a sewer.

The proposed improvement resembles to some degree the peripheral route outlined in the Central Business District Development Plan, which has been approved in principle but not in specifics by the commission. No mention was made of the CBD Plan, however.

The improvement does not call for a median strip, as the CBD Plan does.



F. DOUGLAS CAMPBELL

## B'ham-B'field Bank Elects New Officers

The Board of Directors of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Bank today announced a profitable six months of operations, increased assets and a realignment of its officers.

F. Douglas Campbell, 6200 Eastmore, Birmingham, formerly vice president and cashier has been promoted to the position of president of the bank.

S. Tenney McGraw, 6200 Kimberly, Birmingham, has been promoted to vice president and cashier succeeding Campbell, and Donald H. Parsons, 1335 Willow Lane, Birmingham, has been elected chairman of the board of directors.

The officer realignment was a result of the retirement of Charles D. White, one of the incorporators and first president of the bank.

Before taking a position with the local bank, Campbell served for 10 years in the state banking department, the last three years as chief examiner. Prior to that he was associated with an Ann Arbor bank.

McGraw has spent the last eight years in various management capacities with the old Birmingham National Bank, the Detroit Bank and Trust Co., and Community National Bank. He is also on the board of the Birmingham Community House and several local banking associations.

## B'ham B of E Okays Plans For Jr. High

Action on all projects of the current building program came a step closer to reality at Tuesday's Birmingham Board of Education meeting, when the board approved final plans for a new junior high school.

Approval followed a final extensive study session with architect Peter Taragata. The action will permit bids to be approved at the August board meeting.

The school, designed to accommodate 1,000 pupils, will be located at 14 Mile Road and Bellevue Trail. The compact design of the school features a combination single and two-story construction—particularly appropriate for its site and for multiple use of space, especially in the library area—according to Norman Wolfe, assistant superintendent.

A TOTAL of \$2,425,000 of the \$4,915,000 of bonding authority approved by the voters in the November election has been budgeted for this building.

Bids remain to be taken on the addition to Barium Junior High school, that major project of the building program.

Also approved were the appointment of 20 persons to fill vacancies in the professional staff. Included (See PLANS, 6-A)

## Won't Budge On Widening Of E. Maple

When it comes to the proposed widening of E. Maple in Birmingham, the county road commission is adamant.

That is the essence of a verbal report to the city commission Monday night by the mayor following a meeting with three members of the road commission.

Mayor Florence H. Willett said she, City Manager L. R. Gare and Commissioner Ralph A. Main met recently with the road officials to discuss the project.

"They apparently are not the least bit interested in any further widening of E. Maple," the mayor declared, "compromise," he mayor declared.

THE ROAD commission previously had agreed to widening to a minimum of 44 feet instead of 48 at various points in the stretch from Adams to Coolidge.

City commissioners sought still further compromise to widths of 42 and 44 feet.

Following the mayor's report Monday night, commissioners instructed their two representatives on the county board of supervisors—Carl F. Ingraham and William E. Roberts—to confer with the city's other two supervisors, David Levinson and Luther Hancock, to carry the city's case to the board of supervisors.

THIS MOVE was suggested by Commissioner Charles Renfrew.

He suggested that the local representatives tell the board "we are dissatisfied" and to ask the board to "aid us in influencing the road commission to reconsider its decision."

Ingraham and Roberts are to report back to the commission on their efforts.

## Get the Message? Through Only; Right Turn Only

Neither motorists nor police like the intersection south of Birmingham's business district where Hunter and Woodward merge (at Lincoln and 14th).

Motorists dislike the intersection because its six lanes narrow to four and drivers are suddenly swept into a moving wedge that drives to hammer some fenders. Besides that, they're collecting a growing number of tickets for failure to turn right.

Police dislike the intersection because it causes accidents, something they're out to prevent.

Ralph W. Moxley, Birmingham chief of police, decided to do something about this intersection, so he contacted the state highway department.

THEY RECOMMENDED he install two signs along the right-hand side of the road, one in the right-hand lane to turn right at Lincoln.

This would reduce from six to five the number of lanes of traffic trying to merge into four lanes of pavement ahead. It was felt this would mean safer driving for all.

SO MOXLEY SET up two more signs and then all four signs were within 400-feet of each other. The signs contained a similar message: Right Turn Only.

But it wasn't enough for motorists. They still drove straight ahead, smack into the congested area.

Annual Tennis Tournay Planned; See Story on 1-E

## Racing Home to B'ham — by Motorcycle from Alaska

reved up the motor once more — there was punch left—and jumped into the winner's circle.

No trophy was waiting but there was something bigger. After two years in Alaska he was again with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Van Geison, and brother Bruce. (Another brother, Gary, is with the Army on Okinawa.)

It was home.

Now that the trip is history and he had 18 days to review his ride since that July 2 afternoon when he pulled into Birmingham, what does Duane have to say about the whole affair?

"ANYBODY could have done it," he said. "There's nothing to it."

A staunch member of the Last Frontier Motorcycle Club in Anchorage, Duane, whose favorite off-duty hobby was whizzing around a competition Alaskan race course, isn't claiming any records on his trip home.

"I set no speed records," he said. "I got laid up in a lodge for six days when I blew a tire on a mountain road."

"They call it the Alaska Highway," he continued, "but all it is a gravel road. The stones ruined my new tire."

ACTUALLY, Duane's trip was 844 miles longer than the gauge of his cycle race because when he blew that tire near a lodge there wasn't a place within 422 miles that could replace it.

He finally had to hitchhike to Dawson Creek and, after spending three days there searching for a

tire, then had to thumb back to the lodge.

Once on the road again, Duane hit the Trans-Canadian Highway and his speedometer leaped up to 76. Soon it was tapering down to 25 and falling fast. He had picked up a police car on his tail.

"THE OFFICER stopped me and gave me a warning ticket," Duane said. "But then he was like the rest. He asked where I was from. Where I was going. And then 'no kidding'?"

With helmet, jacket, pants and blue-ball black, Duane shook the first drops of a two-day rain from his helmet, skidded across the Minnesota border, added gears, and sped through Wisconsin toward St. Ignace, Michigan.

Once there, he crossed the Mackinac Bridge, raced along Interstate 75 to Flint, and then slipped into the home stretch on US-10.

"WHEN I reached Pontiac I could hardly believe it," he said. "It was really almost home."

If he had it all to do over again would he do anything differently?

"Sure," Duane said. "I'd buy a pair of waterproof boots. My feet got soaked."

All makes of laser spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATRESS COMPANY, Dial 907 and ask for Enterprise 6310.

### BIRMINGHAM BONUS DAYS

Coming July 26, 27, 28  
Details Next Week

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## Hills Board Decides Against Change in Policy on Prayers

By SAVILLA SLOAN  
Special Writer

Bloomfield Hills School Board made no change in its prayer policy, when the matter came up for discussion at its board meeting Tuesday night.

However, an opinion on its legality is being sought.

The policy, adopted last January, permits teachers to offer non-sectarian prayers in school classrooms.

It also sanctions the use of appropriate sacred music at Easter and Christmas, but provides that any child can be excused from participation if a parent so desires.

The policy endorses an understanding of all religions through knowledge, rather than restricted, kneeling.

## Eder's Lawyer Is Optimistic On Graft Case

By IRMA N. DAVIS  
Township Editor

"I honestly believe my client will be exonerated," Sidney T. Eder's lawyer, Ivan E. Baris, told The Birmingham Eccentric Wednesday morning.

Baris said he did not anticipate "any protracted taking of testimony" at Eder's examination, set for 2 p.m. Friday.

Eder and four other trucking contractors have been charged with criminal conspiracy in an alleged Detroit DPW graft racket.

A resident of 444 Bryn Mawr, Birmingham, Eder was arraigned on July 11 before Detroit Recorder's Judge Joseph A. Gillis.

Thirty DPW employees, past and present, were also named in the conspiracy.

THE BIRMINGHAM man is the owner of the Variety Trucking Co., 18450 Livernois, Detroit. Eder said he branched out into the collection of industrial waste about two years ago and that the business operates three trucks. Most of the waste is non-combustible and is disposed of at private dumps, the combustibles, which comprise a minor part of his business, are dumped at the Detroit incinerator, he said.

"As far as short-weighted, it's something if we have a truckload weighing 2,000 pounds."

DETROIT POLICE say the graft (See GRAFT, 4-A)

examined by the school district's attorneys, Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone, for study in relation to the recent United States Supreme Court decision in the New York Regent's Prayer case.

"In my opinion, I can see nothing in our policy which conflicts with the Supreme Court decision," said in leading off the brief discussion by the board.

School Board President Charles Bowers concurred.

"I think we should keep the policy we have," he said.

"It's strictly a legal matter. Let it sit here," added member William Buchanan.

Merrill Bates said that he could see no need to take any action.

With no objections from members David Lee and Earl Givens, the board was in agreement. A seventh member, Max Miller was absent, due to an illness in his family.

## A Park Is a Park Is a Park—Now!

By KEN WEAVER  
Managing Editor

It's settled now: the parks are designated as parks.

Birmingham city commissioners voted Monday night 6 to 1 for designation of Spruadale, Eton, Poppleton and Pembroke parks.

Their action came after several weeks of wrestling with the problem.

Dedication was sought by the Sheffield Estates Civic Association to make sure that the parks would be permanently used for that purpose and would not be sold by the City to meet some other need.

COMMISSIONERS pretty well decided against dedication last week and asked for a ruling from the city attorney on whether designation should be by ordinance or resolution.

In his opinion, attorney James L. Howlett said the permanency of use would be no different under either procedure.

Whether by resolution or ordinance, designation would not assure that the properties would be used as parks indefinitely.

BUT, SAID City Manager L. R. Gare, "such designation might tend to invoke the applicability of the Charter limitation on the sale of park property under certain conditions."

In other words, the City might have to go to the voters for approval of the sale of park property.

COMMISSIONER Carl F. Ingraham cast the only negative vote on the motion for designation. He said he felt that it "accomplishes nothing" inasmuch as it does not provide the safeguards sought by the proponents of dedication.

Ingraham called it "a placating move to designate something that it already is. What the people want is (See PARK, 5-A)

SOME 40 patrons of the school district attended the board meeting, a large number of whom were there to hear what action the board would take in the prayer policy.

When the policy was adopted last winter, hundreds of Bloomfield Hills School District residents attended the board meeting to advocate its adoption. The board, which had indicated that it would ban prayers in the classrooms, reversed its decision at that time.

THE PRAYER issue actually turned out to be the least controversial of several policy matters discussed by the board Tuesday.

A motion by Earl Givens, seconded by William Buchanan to form a citizens' committee to scrutinize several phases of school curriculum was defeated by a vote of three to two.

A decision to limit school library facilities to the use of children enrolled at the school was also a split decision, with Mrs. Martz voting against it.

An attempt to adopt a budget for the coming year failed, and a special meeting will be set later to iron out differences among board members.

GIVENS' MOTION to form a citizens' committee came after a report from Superintendent Eugene Johnson of a B— rating given to the high school by U.S.-M officials making a state survey.

The survey criticized library facilities, the English department curriculum and "complacency" in other departments.

Johnson told the board that he (See POLICY, 5-A)

## Jet Airport Plans Termed A 'Fiasco'

The almost forgotten county jet airport proposed for north of Pontiac was revived again Monday night.

Birmingham City Commissioner William H. Burgum read a Chicago newspaper clipping on the demise of that city's Midway Airport and referred to the Oakland project as a "fiasco."

Burgum read portions of an article by Wayne Thoms in the July 19 issue of the Chicago Daily Tribune.

"MIDWAY AIRPORT, for years the 'world's busiest, hit bottom yesterday as a trunk line terminal," Burgum read.

"The last scheduled inter-city flight operations ended, and no more are likely for Midway in the foreseeable future. It is a ghost field."

"In City Hall, Mayor Daley, who has initiated a program to restore air line operations to Midway and to interest other operators in using its 100 million dollar facilities, was gloom."

"He told interviewers that a conference with air line representatives scheduled for today has been postponed indefinitely."

"The air lines, he explained, have hired a... aviation consultant... to study Midway's capabilities for air service. This study will take four months."

## B'field Hills Arrests Seven More Speeders

By WALLY FROMHART  
Staff Writer

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—"They're still coming in, and the thing being hurt most is their pocketbook," said Capt. Walter Sluiter of the Bloomfield Hills police department.

Sluiter was referring to seven more drivers arrested and convicted on charges of reckless driving this week. The arrests are part of a crackdown on Woodward Avenue speeders, ordered two weeks ago by Bloomfield Director of Public Safety David Studler.

The drivers arrested last week had fines ranging from \$50 to \$100.

SLUITER said the arrests were made between 8:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

(Three arrests this week see (See SPEEDERS, 4-A)

## B'field Zoning Law Published

The complete Bloomfield Township zoning ordinance, which was published in a six-page section with this week's Birmingham Eccentric, included in it a new proposal: a full-page zoning district map, showing the various classifications of zoning in the township.

But announcement was made Tuesday that the county board of supervisors' aviation committee has agreed to consult with James D. Ramsey, director of the Michigan Department of Aeronautics on the possibility of resubmitting the plans.

COMMITTEEMEN said they hope that talks with Ramsey will help overcome FAA objections. They said if a new proposal is made to the FAA, they will request a visual inspection be made of the site.

The site covers 3,000 acres—including the Allen Airport—in Orion and Pontiac townships. The county has purchased a small portion of the land.



Duane Van Geison and His Racing Machine