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The Birmingham Eccentric

TEN CENTS

85th YEAR—NO. 9

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BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, MAY 3, 1962

SECTION A

The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

New B'field Budget Called Conservative

Based to Penny On Last Year's Actual Income

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—The township's proposed 1962-63 budget is based to the penny on the total amount of income received in the 1961-62 fiscal year. This keeps the township budget on the conservative side, township officials say. As long as the tax rate remains constant, they report, actual income will be above budget figures because the property valuation in the township has a history of increasing each year.

LAST YEAR'S income, exclusive of a special half-mill voted for a fire building and equipment fund and another half-mill voted for a road fund, was \$524,341.

The budget for the coming year matches this figure, exclusive of the fire building and equipment costs and road expenses. Compared with last year's budget, it shows an increase of \$29,191.

Two budget increases occur in the police and fire departments. Operational cost of each has gone from \$132,000 to \$150,000. This includes salaries for additional three men in both departments.

THE LARGEST increase is under the heading of supervisor and general fund. Its budget figure of \$150,000 is \$48,000 higher than last year and includes a zoning cost of \$10,000. Legal fees, due to a rash of zoning suits, have been budgeted at \$5,000 higher figure than last year.

Also bringing up the total is \$5,000 for engineering and \$3,000 back pensions for an employee pension plan, inaugurated last year.

Other officers are Dorman Bell, Royal Oak, and Mrs. Benjamin Jaffe, Southfield. Vice-presidents are Mrs. William H. Jackson, Birmingham, secretary, and Robert Charlton, Ferndale, executive committee member.

The divisional offices of the Birmingham and Royal Oak groups now occupy the same office in Royal Oak, until a more central county location can be found.

Mrs. Greene, in accepting the chairmanship, commented that the merger will bring about a more unified approach to studying the health and welfare problems and needs within the County, whether tax or voluntarily financed.

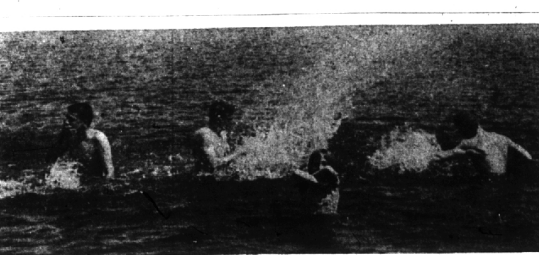
Rowston Coming To Next Meeting

Phillip Rowston, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors' Aviation Committee, will explain the county's proposed jet airport plans to the Birmingham city commissioners next Monday.

The Eccentric erroneously reported in its April 26 issue that Rowston would appear at this week's meeting.

Commissioners invited Rowston to the meeting in an effort to gain more information on the airport than they have been able to ascertain to date.

Juvenile Held in Death of Two Children



ECCESTRIC PHOTO

A juvenile is being held by authorities in West Palm Beach, Florida in the tragic death of two former Bloomfield Township children.

The Eccentric learned in a phone interview with police in Boca Raton, Fla., that a young neighbor of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Drummond has been charged with poisoning two of the Drummond children. The Drummonds lived on Amberly Road, Bloomfield Township.

Debra Ann, 9, and James Randolph, 3, both died April 21 from a dose of sodium arsenite that had been put in their milk.

POLICE CHIEF W. H. Brown of Boca Raton said that Florida law forbids giving the names of youths involved in crimes but the boy was "under 14."

Brown said the boy held no grudge against the children or the Drummond family but was "tempted to find out if the chemical mixture would make someone ill."

A maid and another Drummond child who also drank some of the poison are reported to have recovered.

THE YOUNGSTER told police this story: He took a quart of milk from his own home and added the poison to the bottle.

The youth then slipped into the Drummond kitchen and switched the deadly mixture with a bottle in the refrigerator. The boy was taken to West Palm Beach for psychiatric observation.

Authorities were to decide late Wednesday the fate of the youth. Under Florida law several courses of action may be taken.

The boy could be treated as an adult if juvenile officials waive their right to hold the youth. If, however, he is treated as a juvenile, he could be placed in an industrial school until he reaches the age of 21.

THE DRUMMOND family has made their permanent home in Boca Raton for about five years. Mr. Drummond, however, still makes nearly trips to his home in Bloomfield.

A memorial fund has been set up for the family for the construction of the Debbie-Rand Memorial Hospital. Boca Raton currently does not have a hospital.

People plagued by purple spots on their homes can blame on seed husks from trees, according to Charles Gale, superintendent of parks and forestry, Birmingham.

A number of Bloomfield Township residents have called police recently to report the spots which appear on white frame houses or on the white trim of brick homes.

One resident told police she believed the spots were caused by atomic fallout because they appeared immediately after a heavy rainfall.

AS FAR AS the spots being caused by fallout, it is "extremely unlikely that radioactivity from any atomic explosion has had anything to do with the discoloring noted on houses in the area," says John Saeffe, Birmingham Civil Defense director.

Quered early this week by an Eccentric reporter, Saeffe said there has never been an abnormal reading of fallout taken in this area. Saeffe said he has checked with the Birmingham radiological monitoring officer, George Scott, and also with the U.S. Weather Bureau at Metropolitan Airport.

BIRMINGHAM HAS taken daily readings since last fall and the weather bureau has taken weekly readings for much longer than that, Saeffe said.

"We would let local residents know immediately if there had been any abnormal radioactivity in the area," the CD director said.

Gale said the purple spotting has been observed here for several years and seems to occur every two or three years.

It is usually caused under particular climatic conditions. Primary causes are the silver maple and elm whose seed husks leave the purple stains.

all kinds of insect sprays, pesticides, herbicides, etc. are available. One-day spray, 80% DDT, MAT, etc. are available. "Dial" and ask for ENTERPRISE 6310.

Deny Rezoning For 4-Story Apt. Building

\$2 Million High Rise Structure Draws Protests

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night rejected a rezoning request that would have made possible construction of a \$2,000,000, four-story apartment building.

Involved were plans for an 85-unit, T-shaped building on a six-acre tract known as the Newton property fronting on Woodward and lying south of Colonial Court.

The apartments were to be the so-called "luxury" type.

MANY RESIDENTS from the neighborhood attended Monday's public hearing to object to the rezoning, which had been recommended by the plan board.

One resident called the proposed high rise apartment building "a piece of brick and mortar."

Chief objection was the height (52 feet) of the building, which would have been located on a hill and in the center of the property.

Main objectors were residents living below the hill, on the west side of the River Rouge and behind the proposed structure.

THEY PREFERRED a two-story building, which is possible under the present R-5 zoning. The petitioner, the Garmon Co., Detroit, sought a rezoning to R-7, which allows a three- or four-story structure.

The property is now zoned by a 1955 court decree, limiting construction to 85 units.

One complaint was that the design of the building would make it appear more like a five- or six-story structure.

Objection also was raised to a retaining wall that would reach a height of 12 feet at one point and to the proposed garage because it would not be entirely enclosed.

POINTING OUT that the property has had several different owners, Commissioner William E. Roberts, who presided, said he believed it was important to acquaint the residents of the area with the excellent facilities available in the new BAA building.

He referred to the Birmingham Arts Center at 1516 S. Cranbrook.

According to Commissioner William E. Roberts, the city would "benefit much more if you continued to hold the festival in the center of town."

The Chamber of Commerce, he said, wanted it to continue at the downtown location.

MAYOR FLORENCE H. Willett and Commissioner Carl F. Ingram questioned whether the expenditure of City money could be justified if the event were not held downtown—there were not "over all city benefit."

In that case, neither could the money be justified that the City invested in the waste disposal plant to make it possible for BAA to convert it into an arts center, contended Commissioner William H. Burgum.

AND COMMISSIONER Charles Renfrew argued that staging the festival at the BAA would "enhance the utilization of the arts center there" and would assure greater success.

The business community would excise tax on alcohol.

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Admits Putting Poison in Milk

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

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THE BIRMINGHAM and Bloomfield Hills will be visited next week by film star Jane Wyman.

The Academy Award winner will be honored guest at events being planned for members of the committee for Camp Oakland's benefit premiere Thursday. She also will visit Camp Oakland and stay for dinner with the 36 young residents of Girls' Ranch and Boys' Ranch Wednesday night.

MISS WYMAN is flying in from Hollywood to attend the premiere of "Bon Voyage," the Walt Disney film in which she co-stars with Fred MacMurray. She will present two round trip plane tickets to Mexico City to their winner at the 8:30 p.m. premiere at Ford Auditorium.

Parties being planned here in Miss Wyman's honor include a supper party at the Ben D. Mills residence after the premiere, and a dinner party Friday at the Robert W. Chambers home. Both families live on Vaughan Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Chambers is a member of the premiere committee, which is headed by Mrs. Mills. Proceeds from the premiere will benefit Camp Oakland's building fund.

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