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The Birmingham Eccentric

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The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

TEN CENTS

B'h'am Approves Widening of E. Maple

By KENNETH R. WEAVER
Managing Editor

E. Maple Road will be widened, Birmingham city commissioners decided last night.
Following a public hearing, they declared necessity for a project that will see Maple improved from Adams Road east to Coolidge Highway.
When completed, this will make Maple (15 Mile Road) four lanes from Coolidge on the east to Telegraph on the west.

THE COMMISSION'S decision ended two years of

controversy. No necessity was declared at a hearing in 1960. Then last year Oakland County road commissioners proposed to widen the road to 48 feet.
City officials, mindful of strong objections from residents in the area, effected a compromise plan with county officials.
That plan calls for a width of 40 feet in the stretch from Adams to Columbia, 42 feet from Columbia to the viaduct and 44 feet from the viaduct to Coolidge.
AT THE CONCLUSION of Monday's hearing, commissioners lauded the manner in which Donald Deegan of 1602 E. Maple presented the case for the residents.

He used movies, a chart, a builders' handbook, traffic records and the Central Business District Development Plan in an effort to prove that widening was not needed.
His main points were:
• The City should "divert rather than accommodate traffic" to maintain the suburban residential character of the area.
• Improvement of 14 Mile and Quarton roads will help to lessen congestion.
• Maple is more of a domestic than a major through route like 14 and 16 Mile roads.
• Widening of Maple would increase congestion in the downtown area, thus increasing the accident rate.

• It would tend to increase motorists' speed, thus making a traffic hazard rather than a safety precaution.
• Property values would decrease.
IN A WRITTEN report to the commission, City Manager L. R. Gare recommended the improvement.
He quoted the 1960 president of the Birmingham Real Estate Board as saying that the widening "would certainly do nothing to enhance the value of fronting residences" but that prospective buyers would tend to discount the heavy traffic factor in the prices they would be willing to pay for any of the Maple properties.
(See WIDENING, 6-A)

Beverly Clerk Says Murphy Struck Her

BEVERLY HILLS—An allegation by Village Clerk Betty J. Chinn that Village Manager Robert E. Murphy struck her in the course of a discussion over Tuesday's special council meeting electrified the council after the close of the same meeting.
The altercation took place Tuesday according to a report given to the council by Mrs. Chinn. She stated that when she told Murphy that the meeting called for Tuesday on the DeQuindre Interceptor contract might not be legal because notice of it had gone out over his signature (the charter states that notice must be given by the village clerk), he grabbed her wrist and pounded her on the back in the presence of the office personnel.
"I run this office and you'll do as I say," Mrs. Chinn told Murphy as she was present at the council meeting, did not deny the charge.



ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Small-Fry Turkey Gazers

While visions of wishbones and drumsticks raced through their minds these in Northville. The children watched while the farmers fed and cared for the Thanksgiving Day birds.
Youngsters from Mrs. Lucille Zub's kindergarten class at Birmingham's Baldwin Elementary School enjoyed an interesting

morning last week visiting a turkey farm in Northville. The children watched while the farmers fed and cared for the Thanksgiving Day birds.

Case to Run For Top Post In Township

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Homer Case, Bloomfield Township treasurer, will seek the post of Bloomfield Township supervisor in the primary election, Feb. 18, 1963.
Case's official announcement today of his candidacy verifies rumors over the past few months that he would seek the position now held by Arno Hulet.
Case has been township treasurer for the past six-and-a-half years. He was appointed to the position when Supervisor Dave Anderson died and Hulet relinquished the treasurer's job to become supervisor.

Hulet, when asked by the Birmingham Eccentric whether he would be a candidate for reelection in the February primary, responded, "I don't think so."

CASE, a lifelong resident of Bloomfield Township, has long been active in public affairs.
At present he is president of the Bloomfield Republican Club and a past president of the Bloomfield Lions Club. He has also served as president of the Oakland County Treasurer's Association, an organization he was instrumental in founding.
During his terms as treasurer, Case was responsible for the development of the township sewer and water department. For the past two years he has also been public safety director.



Youth for Education

Birmingham this week is joining with schools throughout the nation in the 42nd annual observance of American Education Week. At Barnum Junior High these youngsters put up a bulletin board in honor of the observance. From left are student council members Barbara Allen, Diane Zube, Claudia Owen, Bill Collins and Jeff Deon on the floor scanning the Birmingham School District annual report published in last week's Birmingham Eccentric. Almost all of the schools are holding open house this week to provide some opportunity for visitation.

Men's Night Auto Display Plan Dropped

The proposed auto show in downtown Birmingham on Men's Night has been called off, according to Charles Patterson, vice president of Patterson Chevrolet.
Patterson indicated, however, that some type of display of new autos might still be set up.
Two weeks ago the city commission granted permission to close off three streets in the downtown area on Friday, Dec. 8, to make room for the auto display.
MEN'S NIGHT is the annual event when merchants open their stores only to men, so they may select gifts for the ladies free from their curious eyes.
Patterson said the show had been called off for several reasons. "We were afraid that there would be an adverse reaction to the blocking of so many parking spaces."
"It also would have interfered with the flow of traffic in the downtown area."
Commissioners had approved the closing of Maple from Woodward to Bates, Henrietta from Maple to Martin and Pierce from Maple to Martin.

PATTERSON ALSO noted that there would have been very little time in which to set up the displays and the cost of lighting the area would have been too high.
The possibility of inclement weather also played a major role in calling off the show.

Bingham to Maintain All-Residential Zone

By NITA HARD
Special Writer
BINGHAM FARMS — The residential zoning of Bingham Farms was upheld by Judge William J. Beer in Oakland County Circuit Court Friday.
Climaxing a three-year battle between four property owners with large lots fronting on Telegraph Road and the Village of Bingham Farms, the decision legally permits keeping "the village free from business and solely for residential purposes. The proper content of police power could include zoning for residential purposes which might well be enlarged to include aesthetic considerations."

JUDGE BEER ruled that Bingham Farms' zoning was not unreasonable, arbitrary and unconstitutional as the four property owners had claimed in attempting to get approximately 50 acres south of 13 Mile Road rezoned for commercial use.
Maintaining that the heavy traffic along Telegraph had made their property unsuitable for residential purposes, the plaintiffs argued that aesthetic considerations could not be a factor.
THE COURT found that Bingham Farms lot restrictions were of such depth and size that homes could be built far enough away from the highway to beyond the sound of traffic noises.
And, it was further ruled, depreciation of property values because of zoning restrictions or the fact that commercial or business use might enhance values does not make the zoning ordinance invalid, confiscatory or unconstitutional.

THE CASE has attracted the attention of many suburban commuters since it started in 1959 with attorney William Hartman defending the village's position. Judge Beer's opinion could be a significant precedent in favor of stringent zoning laws adopted by areas attempting to stave off encroachment of commercial ventures near viable residential districts.
(See ZONE, 7-A)

B'h'am Seeks Site; Masons Consider Move

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night authorized L. R. Gare, city manager, to contact Birmingham Masonic Lodge No. 44 on the possibility of purchasing the site of the present Masonic Temple at Woodward and Chestnutfield in Bloomfield Township.
The Birmingham Eccentric has learned that the Lodge is considering building a new temple on a 4.6-acre site at the southwest corner of Woodward and Chestnutfield in Bloomfield Township.
The Masons have reportedly taken out an option on the property.

THE LODGE had been considering building a new \$250,000 temple on the old site.
At the present time both Royal Arch and Eastern Star chapters as well as the Birmingham Blue Lodge are housed in the old Peabody home that has served as a temple for many years.
The growth of membership to over 600 has created the need for more facilities.



HOMER CASE

Back from Short Holiday, Romney Begins State Work

Gov.-elect George W. Romney, that he will further cut the ties back from a short post-election holiday with his wife, turns his attention to his duties as vice chairman of the Michigan Motor Corp.
It is expected that one of the topics will be severance of his post as vice chairman of the board of which he held (though on leave of absence) since his resignation as president of the firm last February.
It is believed the former AMC president will keep his shares of corporate stock, valued currently at about \$1,750,000, perhaps setting up a trust arrangement.
Whether he will remain as a director—and Romney would prefer to do so, it is thought—is not yet known.
Romney has already indicated

THE ROMNEYS WILL resume their vacation during the next week.
In the interval between his election last week and Sunday, when the couple left for a brief rest, Romney breakfasted with the Democratic state administrative board Friday, met with Republican members of the legislature shortly afterwards and then lunched with newly elected legislators of both parties.
Over the week end, he announced that he had asked to be released from his 19-year position as president of the Detroit Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The governor-elect said he expected that church officials in Salt Lake City would release him from the post.

ROMNEY SAID he believed it would be impractical for him to attempt to continue his church duties from Lansing. There is no conflict between the jobs of governor and stake presidency in Mormon law, he said.
He will continue his membership in Citizens for Michigan although he will take no leading role in the organization. He resigned his leadership in the citizens group when he became a candidate for the governorship.
Romney said he would support any non-partisan groups which aim to inform citizens and to help them understand their basic differences.

MEANWHILE, ROMNEY is devoting his free time to preparing for the leadership of the state as governor. Although he has made (See ROMNEY, 7-A)

Homemaker In Chicago for National Event

Birmingham's Suburban Homemaker of the Year, 1962, selected in a contest by The Eccentric, is in Chicago today.
She will compete in the national search for the Suburban Homemaker of the Year today and Friday.
The local winner, Mrs. Ray S. Jacobs of Beverly Hills, had her husband left for Chicago Wednesday morning with local judges F. Ward Ouradnik, Dorothy Montgomery and Mayor Florence H. Willett. Accompanying them was Mary Ellen Mead, women's editor and contest editor for The Eccentric.

MRS. JACOBS, winner of a trophy, certificate and \$250 in the local contest, will be eligible for a \$5,000 cash award in the national competition. It is sponsored by the Suburban Press Foundation, of which The Eccentric is a member.
Some 50 suburban community newspapers whose contestants to compete for the national title.

Falling Tree Kills Worker

A 34-year-old Mt. Clemens man was killed in Bloomfield Hills Tuesday afternoon when a tree fell on him.
Earl Molter, foreman of a tree-trimming crew, was rushed by ambulance to St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, but was pronounced dead on admission.
Sgt. James Fowler, of Bloomfield Hills police, said the workers were cutting a tree at Ayondale and Burnham under a power line, the tree fell, glanced off another and fell on Molter's head.
Molter is survived by his wife and four children.

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Early Deadlines In Effect For Our Next Issue

The Birmingham Eccentric will be closed Thanksgiving Day. Our issue for that week will be published on Wednesday, Nov. 21.
Therefore, all deadlines will be moved up one day. All news contributors and advertisers are asked to get their copy into our offices as early as possible.

Who Goofed on the Dequindre?

Hitch in Sewer Plan Brings Confusion

By KENNETH R. WEAVER
Managing Editor
Somebody goofed.
That's the reaction of at least a few Birmingham officials to a snafu in the plans for construction of the Dequindre Interceptor.

And "snafu"—situation normal all fouled up—is the word to describe the confusion in area communities today in regard to the proposed interceptor.
The 14 participating communities in the southern end of the county had all ratified an agreement that once signed by Detroit would make construction a reality.

BUT—AT THE 11th hour—came word from Detroit that it wanted a larger interceptor than called for in plans drawn up by the Oakland County drain office.
And the area municipalities are in the position of having to accept Detroit's proposition—or go to the expense of building their own in-

terceptor, without the benefit of a new Federal grant and at greater cost to themselves.
THE DEQUINDRE Interceptor would consist of a big barrel, ranging from four and one-half feet to eight feet in diameter, under Dequindre from 14 Mile Road to Conant in Detroit. It would carry sanitary waste from the Twelve Towns-Ed Run system to Detroit for treatment.
But Detroit is now calling for construction of a nine-foot barrel. It had not formally accepted the Oakland plan.

TIME IS A factor of prime importance in the proposal. In order to qualify for a new grant of \$14 million from the Federal Government, the county would have to get construction started by Jan. 1.
This could be done under the plan as now agreed to by all of the area communities. But it is doubtful that it can be done with

the new proposal, because of the problem involved in getting all of the necessary signatures plus meeting the requirements for publication of notices.
"I SUSPECT somebody has made a grave error somewhere," said Birmingham City Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham at Monday's commission meeting.
He felt that it must have been made, probably back in 1958, by Detroit or county personnel.
"If we can find out who did it, I would be in favor of making a public statement about it. Unfortunately, the election is over," Ingraham declared.

Commissioner William E. Roberts said, "I fail to understand how our great and friendly core city can turn us down" (on the original proposal).
THE CITY'S legal counsel, Dean (See HITCH, 6-A)

Christmas Is Sooner Than You Think!
Use the Gift Suggestion Column To Sell Those Unused Trains, toys, cameras, etc.
CALL MIDWEST 4-1100

(A friendly advisor of The Eccentric will help you word your classified ads.)