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The Birmingham Eccentric

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The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

Area Supports President in Cuban Crisis

Realtors, Merchants Ask for Downtown Improvements

Seek to Preserve B'ham's Prestige

See PHOTO on Page 2-A

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Birmingham realty and business leaders were warned last Thursday that unless immediate action was taken the city would no longer remain a prestige community.

Chamber of Commerce President Harris Machus issued the warning as he spoke before a joint meeting of the Chamber and the Realty Board.

"An immediate plan to improve the downtown area must be adopted immediately if Birmingham is to remain an oasis of prestige," he said.

"IT IS important that a degree of consistency be established in the downtown area. The action should be taken now," Machus emphasized.

Machus was the principal speaker of a group of chamber members to report on the C of C's part in the Central Business District Development (CBDD) plan.

He said the chamber needs the help and support of the realty people to maintain and improve the downtown area.

Machus praised the realty people for their efforts to preserve the downtown area.

He pointed out, however, that the "true tone of Birmingham is not clear" and that every effort must be made to make the most of "what we have."

"ASSUMING THE rebuilding of the center of Birmingham is out of the question," he said, "officials must make an examination of what advantages we have over shopping centers.

"We can't compete with a shopping center that has been designed by one person, but we can make the most of what we have that they don't.

Donald Cummings, chairman of the chamber's parking committee noted that the C of C has been working hand-in-hand with city officials to improve the parking conditions and eliminate problems in the downtown area.

HE SAID that studies showed showed that more municipal lots were needed and that a reduction in the $1 over-time parking ticket is being sought.

Harold Kalbfleisch, chairman of the chamber's CBDD committee, said that through the efforts of the chamber some of the plans in the proposed CBDD plan are being put into effect.

He pointed out, however, that the future of the business community is now in jeopardy, but the challenge can be met by the businessmen of Birmingham."

Virgil LaMarre, head of the merchants' litter committee, said that previoosly there had been general indifference in the part of many citizens on keeping the city clean.

Working together with city authorities and the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the C of C has distributed posters and literature urging the importance of keeping the streets and alleys clean, especially in the downtown area.

At the present time the chamber is conducting a contest in city schools to design a poster for the litter containers in the downtown area.

SPEAKING FOR the real estate people, Andy Anderson, chairman of the real estate board, said that his group is making "every effort to make Birmingham the shopping center of Oakland County."

He concluded that the Birmingham business district "must not be reduced."

10 Finalists In Homemaker Contest Named

Ten finalists in The Birmingham Eccentric's Suburban Homemaker of the Year contest were announced today. Of the many entries received, over 30 qualified for judging.

They will compete for a two-day vacation in Chicago and a $250 local prize.

The winner of the contest will be announced in next week's Eccentric.

She will then be entered in the National Search for the 1962 Suburban Homemaker of the Year and will be eligible for a $5000-in-cash national prize.

The contest is sponsored by The Eccentric, the Suburban Press Foundation and its other member papers.

MARY ELLEN Mead, women's editor of The Eccentric and Homemaker Contest editor, and Arthur Shafer, the paper's advertising manager and contest coordinator, today announced the following 10 women as finalists in The Eccentric's local contest:

Mrs. Clyde C. (Betty) Bennett, Jr., 1274 Westwood, Birmingham.

Mrs. Francis M. (Eleanor) Fisher, 2122 E. Derby, Birmingham.

Mrs. Charles (Shirley) Guess, 2797 Dorchester, Birmingham.

Mrs. Alfred M. (Helen) Gurley, 825 Norwich, Birmingham.

Mrs. Ray S. (Miriam W.) Jacobs, 32071 Auburn, Beverly Hills.

Mrs. Henry (Claire) McQueen, 621 Henley, Birmingham.

Mrs. James D. (Mary) Schmidt, 201 S. Glenhurst, Birmingham.

Mrs. Arthur J. (Barbara D.) Underwood, Jr., 898 Mohegan, Birmingham.

Mrs. John (Betty) VanderRoest, 2250 Buckingham, Birmingham.

Mrs. Maurice (Dorothy) Weiner, 30600 Lahser, Beverly Hills.

Former Resident Lost Off Cuba

Commander Robert Hughes, formerly a Birmingham resident, son of Mrs. Grace Hemstreet Hughes, for several years a switchboard operator at Birmingham City Hall, was reported lost off Cuba last Thursday.

Prior to his entrance into the Navy, Hughes had lived his entire life in Birmingham. His wife, children and mother are currently living in Gulf Breeze, Fla.

No further information was available at the present time.

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

COMMISSIONER CHARLES W. Renfrew presents service stripes for more than 1,500 hours of duty time to auxiliary policeman James V. Oxtoby. Sgt. John M. Strauss, right, also was awarded three service stripes for 1,500 hours of service. Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley complimented the men for their "real contribution to the community." Eighteen other members of the volunteer force were also honored by commissioners at Monday's meeting.

20 Auxiliary Policemen Get City's Thanks

Birmingham city commissioners took time out from their busy agenda Monday night to honor 20 of the communities' auxiliary policemen.

Since it was first organized in 1954, the auxiliary force has spent more and more time on the job. Currently, members are required to spend 10 hours per month on duty, not including training time or work on the pistol range.

Official records show that most of the men have spent many more hours on the job than the minimum required.

AS A TOKEN of appreciation to the men, the commission presented service stripes for each 500 hours of service.

The top men were James V. Oxtoby and Sgt. John M. Strauss each of whom has spent more than 1,500 hours on the job.

Two service stripes for 1,000 hours of duty time went to Eugene C. Beers, Sgt. James Couzens, Eugene Kreissig, Roy McCormick, Harold J. Reuter, Arthur Wilkie and auxiliary chief Walter S. Wallace.

Those officers with 500 hours included William R. Allen, Jack Colenso, Sgt. George L. Couzens, Sgt. Lyman Craig, Jr., John C. Mest, Charles W. Pratt, Sgt. Leo Renault, Jr., James Roach, Ray-

(See POLICEMEN, 2-A)

Ladies of the Press Trail Lenore Romney

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Township Editor

If anyone ever believed in "letting George do it," that person is Lenore Romney, wife of the Republican candidate for governor of Michigan.

But when it comes to campaigning, she isn't letting George do it alone.

Along with some two dozen ladies of the press and a number of feminine party workers, I watched Mrs. Romney in action Tuesday in an all-day game of "follow the leader" that led us all over metropolitan Detroit.

It was a little like interviewing a track star who was nearing the finish line—and putting on speed all the time.

WE VISITED the Falcon Hall in Hamtramck where the ladies of the Polish-American Romney Volunteers sponsored a luncheon. Copies of a sample ballot lay on the tables, urging voters to split their ticket in favor of Romney, Alvin M. Bentley and 14 Democrats.

From the hall in a cavalcade of cars, we trailed the candidate's favorite voter to West Boston Blvd. and the home of Mrs. Joseph B. Thompson. Here Mrs. Romney spoke to a group of Negro women, gathered together by the Women's Joint Committee.

A pause for tea and a longer one for dinner at Romney's Detroit headquarters and we were off again for Huntington Woods and an integrated evening meeting at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Richard M. Kommel.

AT THAT POINT, Mrs. Romney still looked as fresh and rested as she had at the 11 a.m. brunch in her Bloomfield Township home.

During the day, we had eaten our way through everything from French rolled pancakes and Polish sausages to Boston baked beans.

Press day with Mrs. Romney came about through the efforts of Mrs. Roderick H. Spann, a relative newcomer to Birmingham, Mrs. Burt Treiber and Mrs. Richard Anslow.

Taking part in the planning and in the culmination of the day were Mrs John Finegan, Mrs. Al Strom and Mrs. Arthur Greenwald, all of Birmingham and all active in their party.

Area chairmen and volunteers made campaign contributions of time and effort to the hours-long event.

Impromptu assistance was supplied by Romney's granddaughter Jody, 3 years old, who made two daytime, surprise appearance with her mother, Mrs. Loren G. Keenan.

THE COMMITTEE'S chores included meeting out-state news-hens at the airport and counting and collecting noses at our five stopping points.

Their goal: better communica-

(See PRESS, 7-A)

Parade, Party Plans Ready For Halloween

Birmingham's 26th annual Halloween parade and party, "bigger and better than ever," will get under way promptly at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

More than 7,000 "little monsters"—or goblins or clowns—are expected to take part in the huge event sponsored by the Birmingham schools and area service clubs and service groups. The whole affair is coordinated by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

Basic purpose of this event, according to Charles Mortensen, manager of the C. of C., is to "keep children constructively occupied on Halloween and to keep down mischief."

ENTERTAINMENT HAS been scheduled for youngsters in every age group from toddlers to teenagers. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

For the small-fry, along with the parade, there'll be food, prizes and a movie at Baldwin Elementary School.

Teen-agers will be entertained at dances at Barnum and Derby junior highs and at Seaholm senior high.

Parade Marshal Don Martin will assemble his marchers in Municipal Parking Lot No. 5, alongside and behind the First Baptist Church at 7 p.m.

Led by the Groves High School band, the youngsters will march south on Bates to Merrill, east on Merrill to Woodward and north on Woodward back to the parking lot where the food lines will be set up.

AMONG THOSE schools expected to take part are Adams, Baldwin, Beverly, Greenfield, Harlan, Midvale, Torry, Pierce, Quarton, Our Shepherd Lutheran, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, St. Columban and Holy Name elementary schools.

The dances at Barnum and Derby are scheduled from 7:30-10 p.m., while Seaholm's will run from 8 to 11 p.m. Refreshments will be served at all the schools.

The six giant food lines that will be set up after the parade will be manned by members of the local service clubs and PTA's.

WILLIAM E. Roberts, vice president of the chamber of commerce and general chairman of the affair, said that all the prizes had been

(See PARADE, 2-A)

Residents Await New Developments

By KENNETH R. WEAVER
Managing Editor

A tense anxiety gripped Birmingham and the area this week, following President Kennedy's address to the nation on the Cuban crisis Monday night.

Generally, public reaction was one of support for the President's action in establishing a naval blockade—along with other measures—of Cuba.

Frequently uttered comments were:

"It's about time." "The action was a long time in coming." "It was needed for a long time." "It should have come at the time of the Bay of Pigs landing." "It was long overdue."

Probably the one question in the minds of most people, whether given utterance or not, was:

Will this lead to nuclear war?

Throughout the area, residents were glued to their radios and TV sets, awaiting word of the latest developments. Many people carried transistor radios to work with them.

Wives and mothers of reservists were wondering if their husbands and sons would be called into active service.

Some people talked anew about civil defense and bomb shelters.

GOVERNMENT officials advised everyone to remain calm, to not give way to "war hysteria."

Birmingham Mayor Florence H. Willett, asked by The Eccentric for a statement, called for positive thinking.

"We all must make haste slowly," she declared. "We mustn't make assumptions that the worst is to come. We mustn't be negative. We must think with confidence that we are taking a positive position without endangering any of our citizens."

Oakland County Republican and Democratic party officials, as well as candidates for office, endorsed the President's action and urged public support.

Yet, there were some partisan political comments made on both sides.

(See LOCAL REACTION, 5-A)

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How They View Crisis

The Eccentric asked for statements from William S. Broomfield, George J. Fulkerson, Charles Lyle and Sander M. Levin as to what effect, if any, the Cuban crisis will have on the local political situation. The complete texts of their statements appear below:

George J. Fulkerson

CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS FROM 18th DISTRICT

"I think Republicans and Democrats are closing ranks behind the President in his move to rid us of a menace to our security, and to the security of other nations in

(See FULKERSON, 5-A)

William S. Broomfield

CONGRESSMAN, 18th DIS.

"Every American should give the President unqualified support in this time of national crisis.

"The seriousness of our present situation cannot be over-emphasized. The action we're taking to

(See BROOMFIELD, 5-A)

Candidates Give Views; Ballot Issues Explained; See Section B

Activities for All Ages

Recreation Dept. Offers Extensive Program

EDITOR'S NOTE — This is another in a series of articles The Eccentric is presenting on the various departments in the city of Birmingham. It deals with the programs offered by the Recreation Department.

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

The Birmingham recreation department is geared to fill the spare-time hours of persons from eight to eighty.

Activities range from the annual carp carnival to the senior men's club.

Recreation department figures indicate that Birmingham residents are taking full advantage of their program.

Supervised recreational activities in the city drew 102,317 persons last year. Add to this, the number of people taking informal participation on tennis courts, sled and ski slopes, natural ice rinks, baseball and softball and the unsupervised playground areas in which attendance records were not kept.

ALSO, NO records were kept on the number of persons using the passive recreation areas such as Manor Park, Quarton Lake or the property along the Rouge River.

Ice skating and swimming are the most popular sports for both adults and children.

The artificial ice rink in Eton Park attracted more than 34,000 persons in a three-month period. Countless others took advantage of the city's several natural ice rinks.

Swimming drew more than 40,000 to the three city pools. Saturday instruction classes last fall and winter were attended by 13,751 persons.

Springdale, the City-owned nine hole golf course, had upwards of 33,000 rounds played on it.

BIRMINGHAM'S recreation department came into its own in 1956 when the first full-time program was adopted. Prior to that, most of the city-sponsored activities took part only during the summer time.

Today, Recreation Director Don Martin has a staff of 75 part-time recreation workers ready to give instruction in all types of recreational activities.

Instruction is provided in such

(See PROGRAM, 4-A)

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. LI 2-4000.

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

It's Pumpkin Buying Time

Paul Krawchuck, manager of the W. Maple and Cranbrook branch of First Federal Savings and Loan, buys his Halloween pumpkin from K. M. Faber of the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce. The Jaycees will continue their annual sale this week end. Pumpkins will be sold door-to-door in Birmingham, Bloomfield and Troy. Stands will be set up at the Franklin cider mill, Bob's Shell Service and First Federal. Proceeds will be used for a scholarship fund. Mrs. Krawchuck and daughters Lynn, 10, and Donna, 15, were also on hand for the purchase.

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