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The Birmingham Eccentric

85th YEAR—NO. 48 48 PAGES BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, JANUARY 31, 1963 SECTION A 10 CENTS



Hunt Sniper Who Killed Twp. Woman



For the Birds

Even the birds had trouble keeping warm during our extended cold spell. This "blackbird" perched atop a chimney on Hazel Street in Birmingham when the cold got too much for him. Freelance photographer Joe Apperach spotted the bird and braved the elements to catch this unusual picture.

Smith, Scott To Be Honored

A reception honoring retiring Birmingham Fire Chief Park H. Smith will be held at the Chesterfield Station, Sunday, Feb. 10.

In addition to Smith, the department and city officials will honor Fire Marshall George S. Scott, who has been appointed to the chief's post.

Smith, who joined the fire department on a full-time basis in 1936, has been chief since 1955.

Fire Captains C. G. Nunnally and M. F. Fuller, who are making arrangements for the reception at the station at Chesterfield and W. Maple will hold an open house from 2 to 4 p.m.

Cummings Relief Sewer Proposed; Hearing Feb. 25

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Birmingham city commissioners will hold a public hearing on Feb. 25 to consider the necessity for construction of a relief sewer on Cummings.

The proposed sewer would serve an area generally bounded by Woodward, Chapin, Grant and 14 Mile Road.

Construction drawings for the sewer had first been presented to the commission in 1953, but construction was held up by the state health department because of the Twelve Town Drain.

City Manager L. R. Gare said it appears probable that the city can obtain a permit for the project in 1963.

"HOWEVER, BECAUSE the plans are nearly 10 years old, the engineering department was directed to review the design and make a postal card survey," Gare said.

Gare said that of the 229 cards returned approximately 40 per cent of the homes with basements reported some flooding as a result of the street sewer backing up.

"The engineering department feels the postal card survey substantiates their study which shows the area sewers to be generally inadequate," Gare said.

Gare said that although the administration did not have consent drawings for a revised sewer plan the preliminary estimate of the cost for the total project would be around \$100,000.

Based on these estimates, the cost per 1,000 square feet is approximately \$25.57, Gare said.

"The engineering department has studied the existing system as well as reviewing the plans which were prepared in 1953 and feels that the plans should be revised.

The original plans called for a relief sewer designed on the basis of a 10-year storm and part on the basis of a three-year storm.

GARE SAID the proposed relief sewer would consist of a sewer on Cummings from Chapin to 14 Mile Road, flowing east to Woodward along Smith.

He said lateral sewers would connect to the Cummings sewer from the west on all streets in the area. Sewers would be constructed on Davis and Bird from midway between Cummings and Woodward to Woodward.

Short sections of sewer would also be constructed on Emmons-

Davis and Smith immediately east of Grant Street. The sewers would range in size, Gare said, from 12 inches to 42 inches in diameter.

Along with the Cummings project, the engineering department also studied the Woodward Avenue sewer to determine its adequacy.

THERE ARE TWO sewers in Woodward Avenue south of Lincoln.

(See HEARING, 4-A)

Lathrup Acts On Charter Amendments

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Township Editor

The Lathrup council made haste slowly Monday night despite being pressured by the urgency of completing three charter amendments in time to place them on the April 1 ballot.

The amendments are all aimed at providing library service for Lathrup residents.

Lacking a final draft of the amendments, which were subjected to minor changes Monday, the council was reluctant to approve them then for submission to the state attorney general—a necessary procedural step before the issues go to the electors.

With a filing date staring them in the face, councilmen recessed the meeting, to be continued last night.

Approval at that time would conform with the 60-day filing period in advance of the election.

AS PROPOSED Monday, the first charter amendment would provide for addition of three-tenths of a mill to the city's millage limitation of seven-and-one-half mills per \$1,000, based on state equalized valuation of property.

The tax increase would cost an average \$5 per family per year, according to Mrs. William J. O'Brien, who heads a committee working on library services for the city. Over 300 signatures on petitions for the service have already been filed.

The second charter amendment would allow creation of a library board to provide the service. The third amendment would give the council more specific powers to provide such service.

IN OTHER ACTION, the council approved an increase of \$1,500 to pave short portions of Rackham.

(See CHARTER, 4-A)



The Donald Godfrey family (from left): Douglas, 15; Deborah, 16; Mr. Godfrey, Donald, Jr., 19; Mrs. Godfrey; Joel, 13; and Bruce, 12.

Library Authority Act Suggested by Expert

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Township Editor

"The joining together of Birmingham and surrounding municipalities into one library unit is imperative," according to Frederick Wezeman, associate professor of library science at the University of Minnesota.

Wezeman has just completed a survey of library service in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area. His main recommendation is the establishment of such a library system, operating under a proposed library authority act.

The act was developed by the legal committee of a local Citizen's Library Study Committee.

Wezeman points out that it "will be necessary to discuss this act with the state library officials and the Michigan Library Association Legislative Committee and to present this act for action at the next legislature."

ADVANTAGES IN such a system, in Wezeman's opinion, are many. It will provide for continuous use of the Baldwin Library by all residents of the area with a more equitable spread of costs than at present, he believes.

Wezeman also predicts such a system will bring better use of the tax dollar; a larger collection;

Twp. Police Issue Appeal To Parents

Spurred by the belief that such a crime could only have been committed by a "sick boy," Bloomfield Township Police Chief Norman Denke has appealed to parents for help in solving the mystery of who killed Mrs. Mary A. Godfrey Friday night.

Mrs. Godfrey was shot by a sniper as she prepared a snack for her husband and children in the kitchen of their home at 983 Dursley.

The appeal for aid was issued to parents who know or suspect that they may have a mentally disturbed child capable of firing the fatal shot.

DENKE SAID he is "almost convinced" that the crime was committed by a sick boy who needs "a doctor more than a policeman."

He said the appeal was aimed at parents who might feel that they have a child capable of committing the crime but are reluctant to talk to police.

"A youngster like that could only benefit from early detection and treatment," said Denke. "If he remains free, he could strike again, as usually happens in these cases."

(See LIBRARY, 4-A)

New Shootings, One in B'field, Investigated

See photos on pages 3-A, 5-A

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Township Editor

Bloomfield Township Police continued an intensive search Wednesday for clues in the death of a township woman felled by a sniper's bullet.

They followed up new leads as earlier ones proved fruitless. With help from the county sheriff's office and State Police, they canvassed the neighborhood of the shooting for guns.

Shot by a sniper at her home Friday evening was Mrs. Mary A. Godfrey, 38, of 983 Dursley.

The slug that caused her death has been identified by State Police ballistics experts as an uncommon .22 caliber cartridge.

TWO INCIDENTS Tuesday night in which windows were shattered by shots were investigated. One was in the township of Grand County Sheriff's patrol was dispatched Wednesday morning to investigate a down-river incident in which a 21-year-old youth was picked up after a Riverview drug store was shot up.

Prior to the Godfrey shooting, two other area homes were targets of the sniper. On Jan. 15, the first sniping occurred at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hans, 951 Rockaway. The second shooting took place the next night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pittsley, 1232 Lenox.

The latest township incident occurred when a front living room window at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Huton, 2065 Lakewood Lane, was apparently shattered by a BB shot Tuesday evening. The home is located about eight miles from the Godfrey home.

Police Report Crimes in '62 In Township

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Although the sniper case will alter the statistics this year, homicide was one crime not listed on the yearly Bloomfield Township police report for 1962.

The report was submitted to the township board Monday night.

It showed 16 suicides or attempted suicides. There was one drowning.

There were four traffic fatalities, 214 personal injury accidents and 182 accidents involving car damage. Police issued 1,196 tickets for traffic violations.

STATISTICS COMPLETED 364 cases of malicious destruction in the township. There were 70 breaking and entering cases and nine armed robberies. Twenty-nine cars were stolen. Simple larcenies totaled 405.

Family trouble accounted for 77 police calls, missing persons for 99. There were 26 sex offenses.

Eccentric Judged Michigan's Best Weekly Newspaper

See photos 2, 4-A

The Birmingham Eccentric today lays claim to the title of Michigan's most outstanding weekly newspaper.

The Eccentric was chosen the first place winner in general excellence in the Michigan Press Association's annual weekly newspaper contest.

It captured six other awards, including two other first places.

The awards were presented at the MPA's annual convention Friday and Saturday at East Lansing. Henry M. Hogan, Jr., associate publisher, accepted the Eccentric's prizes.

was his first entry in the contest.

Third place, editorials, written by Hogan and Kenneth R. Weaver, managing editor, in conjunction with Publisher Paul N. Averill.

Honorable mention, local features.

IN CLASS D competition (papers with more than 4,000 circulation), The Eccentric won:

First place (tie with

Lapeer County Press), news coverage.

First place, typography.

Second place, advertising.

The Lapeer County Press placed second in general excellence and The Wayne Eagle was third.

GILBERT O. Maienknecht, head of journalism at Central Michigan

University, judged the editorials. Those in The Eccentric, he said, were "concise and well written."

William P. Day, Toledo (Ohio) Blade news editor, was the judge for news coverage.

Of The Eccentric, he said:

"Birmingham's content is complete, its writing concise and lively. Coverage seems to touch every corner of the community.

"Maybe there is more going on in Birmingham than in most communities which gives The Eccentric more news to cover, to write about, and gives the editors more opportunity to be selective; but, whatever the reason, an excellent job is the result.

"It seems to strive to be truly a community newspaper, and if that is its aim, it has succeeded.

"The inside of The Ec-

entric does just as fine a job of providing quality news coverage of other activities and events in the community."

AS FOR features, judge Wesley H. Maurer, head of journalism at the University of Michigan, commented:

"Reporting in depth by conscientious reporters plus the imaginative

in Michigan's community press."

OTHER JUDGES were:

W. Sprague Holden, head of journalism at Wayne State University, original columns; Charles H. Hau, Detroit Free Press picture editor, use of pictures.

Edmund G. Arnold, associate professor of journalism at Syracuse University, typography; and Frank Senger, head of journalism at Michigan State University, advertising.

IN OPEN competition (among weekly newspapers of all sizes) The Eccentric won:

First place, general excellence.

Second place, original columns: "Eccentricities" by Hank Hogan. This

Behind Our Front Page

Amusements	5-E	Movie Guide	3-D
Arts of Living Page	1-D	8-D	8-D
Behind the Welcome Mat	3-D	Obituaries	6-A
Bridge	2-D	Once Over Lightly	1-B
Business News	E	Potpouri	2-D
Calendar of Cultural Events	1, 4-D	Real Estate	D
Church	6-B	Society	C, C
City Beat	1-B	Sports	1-E
Classified Ads	6, 7, 8-C	Theaters	8-A
College News	3-C	This and That	2-B
Down to Earth	8-D	Yesterday's Happenings	1-B
Eccentricities	1-B		
Editorials	1-D	All made of best spring mattress required. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, LI 2-4000.	

spark that produces the best newspaper writing make the local features in The Eccentric outstanding.

"Santa Went Thataway," by Irma N. Davis (township editor), proves that Yes, Virginia, there is a sharp, vivid writing

The MPA convention was held at the Kellogg Center on the MSU campus. Main speakers were Pierre Salinger, press secretary to President Kennedy; Gov. George W. Romney; Al Capp, cartoonist who created Li'l Abner; and Kenneth McFarland, guest lecturer for General Motors.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
LANSING
January 29, 1963

Mr. Paul R. Averill
Publisher
Birmingham Eccentric
1225 Beaver Street
Birmingham, Michigan

Dear Paul:

Congratulations to you, your staff and excellent newspaper. The Eccentric has demonstrated again that it is tops among weekly newspapers in Michigan for overall excellence in reporting the news and advertising the product.

I took extra particular pride upon my "Eccentric" paper receiving top news distinction in the 1963 Michigan Weekly Newspaper contest sponsored by the Michigan Press Association.

Newspapers like the Eccentric must continue their important responsibility in our society in keeping the public informed on all public issues. An informed citizenry is a concerned citizenry.

My best wishes for continued success to the Eccentric in serving the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

W. Sprague Holden
Commissioner