

Our Community Is Changing

At last Birmingham is going to have a sky line.

It is hard for local residents to miss the new structure in the process of construction on the corner of Hunter Blvd. and Maple Ave.

When completed this new addition to the Birmingham House Motel will be the first real structure that can be seen above the tree tops.

The motel property is zoned B-3, or community business. Under the present zoning ordinance, adopted in 1958, a building could be constructed on B-3 zoned land with a maximum height of 70 feet.

Is this a sign of things to come? Will Birmingham become a city of skyscrapers? This is very doubtful because of both the limited amount of land available for improvement and the zoning ordinances of the city.

HOWEVER, THIS NEW building does give us time to pause and look around at our fair community.

In the past year we have seen many new buildings spring up in the shopping area, none of which will house retail selling establishments.

Our type of community apparently is attracting a new type of business which can be classed as service rather than retail.

It includes doctors, lawyers, manufacturers' representatives and the like which are in the professional class.

These businesses support a higher tax base for the city but add only a minimal

strain on our parking and in-city traffic problems.

THESE NEW BUILDINGS add to the overall stability of the community as long as they are architecturally in keeping with the other buildings.

We are fortunate that the buildings thus far complement our community.

To those citizens who are fighting the spread of commercial enterprises in the city, these service buildings act as a buffer and help define where the final downtown area will be since they are being constructed on the periphery.

This type of business coming to our town is also a tribute to the type of residents we have. Professional people select the areas where their services are most needed.

Dying communities lose their professional people; growing progressive communities attract them.

WE ARE PLEASED to see this development, and glad also that the Birmingham House is expanding. Our community has been suffering of late of available sleeping accommodations.

This lack, we are sure, has developed partly from the new type of business and, of course, from the great numbers of new residences in the area.

We can be nostalgic and say that Birmingham, as the small town we used to know, is disappearing. But we can be proud that the community that is replacing it will be second to none in the services all communities are seeking to attract.

THE ECENTRIC article came as a complete surprise to

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Opposed to Reduction Of Smoking-Liquor Age

To the Editor:

The Sealmoh PTA executive board takes definite affront to the article which appeared in The Birmingham Eccentric on Thursday, Oct. 31, regarding reported action at the Oct. 28th PTA Council board meeting relative to lowering the age for smoking and drinking in Michigan to 18 years of age.

Our representative at the council meeting reported to our board last night that no serious consideration or discussion took place the meeting regarding a change in Michigan laws, and that the resolutions approved recommended strict adherence to present Michigan statutes.

THE ECENTRIC article came as a complete surprise to

our representative and to the entire Sealmoh board.

The Sealmoh board is unanimous in their opinion that present state laws in this area are reasonable and should be fully enforced. We are confident that Sealmoh parents, teachers and students will assume the role of

good citizens in upholding these laws.

W. M. HOLDSWORTH

President
EDITOR'S NOTE: The Eccentric's article on Oct. 31 was accurate according to the facts presented to us.

★ ★ ★ "Concentrate on School Problems"

To the Editor:

I was appalled to read in your Oct. 31 issue that the PTA Council is working on plans to campaign to change the state laws governing the sale of tobacco and liquor, to reduce the minimum age from 21 to 18. In my opinion, this is utterly

ridiculous, and I think the PTA Council will be well advised to concentrate on school problems. Perhaps the fact that 18-year-olds are old enough to go to voting has some bearing on lowering the minimum age for voting, which has been discussed for

(See PROBLEMS, 8-B)

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Raise Age to Vote, Marching Off to War

To the Editor:

I was amazed with several others to read your headlines in the Oct. 31 issue: "Liquor-Tobacco Law Age Reduction Sought" and that it was referring to the PTA Council! The reason they give for keeping it is "If 18-year-olds can go to war and are expected to assume other adult responsibilities, the legal age when they become adults should be lowered."

I say if this is the fact then we should raise the age when they go to war and vote. An 18-year-old boy is mature enough to support and raise a family in our age; yet he is being pushed by adults to be an adult and the appalling thing is the PTA Council is joining in the big push.

Even adults sometimes cannot handle their actions when under the influence of alcohol and smoking is nothing but a bad habit which at least they could wait three more years to start.

SOME OF these teen-agers will not get their full growth physically until the age of 21. Even under these rules are not enforced at the

present time how lowering the age limit would affect them. You will always have the fringe regardless of the legal age when they can try it.

Does the PTA Council wish to keep lowering the age so that for those teen-agers they had begun smoking and drinking at such an early age that it is next to impossible to stop when they have a wish to rid of a bad habit?

WE HAVE organizations like AA to help people stop drinking at present. I can only imagine how many will be springing up in the future if parents give sanction to their children forming bad and dangerous habits.

Sanctions on drinking and smoking at 18 will not prevent some from obtaining it illegally or breaking laws to obtain it. You will only have lower age groups trying it.

WE WILL not support the PTA or join in the future if they support actions which will harm our teen-agers. In our society an adult is an adult when he can function as an adult. I think 21 is a more realistic age.

MRS. BERNICE MORGAN

Two Halloween Nights Too Much for Children

To the Editor:

Parents have done it again and now the Birmingham Schools have entered into the three-ring circus. We have taken a one-night trick or treat event and turned it into a two-night spectacle plus a half-day at school, making a total of two nights and a half school day in the Halloween.

With very little effort in a few short years we can stretch this into a whole week. Is it any wonder that parents become so excited that they are back to their old tricks of destruction again?

Perhaps I misunderstand the purpose of the Halloween night event sponsored yearly by the Birmingham merchants, not to mention all of the people who so kindly donate time and effort.

I understood this was to keep the children constructively occupied and it is a fun-packed memorable night for them all. These merchants are to be complimented for donating time, money, food, entertainment and prizes to make this event a success.

SO WHAT do the brains of the various associations in the subdivisions decide? Well, since the children attend this wonderful event on Halloween night in Birmingham, why not have a trick or treat the night before Halloween in order for the children to have their trick or treat.

The schools send home a note that the children should wear their costumes to school on Halloween day as they will parade in the school grounds and be given cider and doughnuts as a treat (personally, I could never see this greasy combination with sour apple juice).

My my, more tummy aches after all the candy they eat the night before.

The year we residents of West-chester Village had heard nothing in advance regarding trick or treat night and we all assumed that it would naturally be on Oct. 31st, Halloween night.

WE HAVE many children in this area that are far too young to attend the event in Birmingham

and parents like myself made their plans accordingly.

Suddenly, out of the blue, it was announced at Westchester Elementary School late in the afternoon of Oct. 30 that trick or treat night was that night.

So, now we have the children on the streets and in the schools for one night. It was one of the worst trick or treat nights in my five years in this area. A good many of the neighbors whose husbands either work late or were out of

(See NIGHTS, 8-B)

Who Decides Trick-Treat On 2 Nights?

To the Editor:

I am one of many upset parents in the Westchester area regarding this Halloween business.

Why and who determines that our children should go out for trick or treat on Oct. 30 and not the 31st?

My calendar still shows Halloween to be on Oct. 31.

I realize the Birmingham merchants have a parade and party for the children on that night, and hard and devote much of their time planning this event for our children, but have you ever seen the little toddlers confused and tripped on as in this affair? Isn't the ideal thing for our older children, but why can't Halloween be celebrated on Halloween and let the children choose between either

(See DECIDES, 7-B)

Says Council Not Pledged To Reduction

To the Editor:

Our sincere thanks for your excellent news coverage at your last PTA Council board meeting.

I must add at once that the Birmingham PTA Council is not committed to a program of reducing the tobacco and liquor age law from its present 21 years to 18 nor is it our goal; but rather to seek a complete community discussion of the complex problem.

GEORGE WHITEHEAD, President Birmingham Council of Parent-Teachers Associations
EDITOR'S NOTE: The Birmingham Eccentric was informed that the PTA Council had started making preliminary plans for a campaign to change the state law governing liquor and tobacco sales to minors from 21 to 18 years of age. The facts as related to us by a spokesman for the PTA Council, were reported accurately in our issue of Oct. 31.

(More People's Column Letters on 7, 8-B)

Yesteryear Happenings

60 YEARS AGO
Nov. 14, 1913

One of the most modern, recent and wonderful enterprises in Birmingham that ever took place is the Licensed Wireless Station of Mr. Arthur Payne of our village. Mr. Payne recently moved his office to this science but studies and investigates for his own improvement and interest. He has a fine complete office and to anyone interested in this branch of electricity he cordially invites them to call at the office foot of Bates street.

The Baptists' Young People's Union of the Detroit Association held a big rally at Pontiac last week. There were ten special car loads from Detroit and the church was crowded to overflow.

The B.Y.P.U. of Birmingham was well represented by about thirty girls in several recent sessions that attended had some sort of a "yell" and Birmingham was not behind the rest with the following: "Bill! Bang! Boom! Here we come. Give us room! Yip! Yip! Yum! Birmingham! R.Y.P.U."

The first snow of the season—the very first baby blizzard of this coming winter called on us Sunday last. It promises a fine Christmas season. Now get ready for Thanksgiving, and then—Christmas and taxes. How fast the years do pass and being taken from the "How old Tempus does fugit on."

30 YEARS AGO
Nov. 16, 1933

Planting of 1,000 young Moline elm trees on 23 different streets in several different sections of the city has begun under the supervision of Emil Olin, city forester. The trees, which are two-year olds, are being taken from the stock in the city nursery, and welfare labor is being used in the planting. The planting is part of a scheme of general reforestation (See HAPPENINGS, 4-B)

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

Fiscal reform, if it includes a state income tax, is dead. Fiscal reform without a state income tax cannot do the job needed to properly restructure our patchwork tax system.

Optimists feel that the patient can be saved if surgery is performed. This surgery would be a modification of the plan to attract Democratic votes. Unfortunately, surgery sometimes leads to other complications, killing the patient just as dead. Over and over the question is asked, why with a Republican governor and a Republican legislature, can't a compromise be worked out?

THE ANSWER IS that there are as many kinds of Republicanism as there are Republicans. The governor feels that an income tax is the only answer.

A group of Republican legislators, not the majority, have been fighting a state income tax for 10 years. They say they were elected on this premise and cannot go back on their word to their constituents. There are 13 members of the House of Representatives in this group and there are 58 Republicans in the House. The rub is that it takes 56 votes to pass a law. The outsider will say, why not get 11 Democrats to vote for the package?

THE DEMOCRATS see the governor struggling politically and say we will not vote for the package if you put in the changes we want. This is where the surgery comes in.

Unfortunately, the surgery they want converts the program from tax reform without tax increase to tax increase to enable more state spending. When this happens the majority of Republicans lose interest.

The House Republicans have said to the governor that they will put the package on the floor for a vote, but the voters aren't there to pass it.

MEANWHILE DOWN the great hall in the Senate chambers other problems face the governor. The young group of senators labeled "Moderates" who are supporting the governor's program have seen their numbers dwindle to 11, when 18 votes are needed to pass a bill.

The anti-income tax Republicans there are so entrenched that the tax bills can't even get out of committee. This is why tax reform is dead if it includes a state income tax; and because there would be insufficient revenue to do any kind of restructuring, it is dead if it doesn't include an income tax.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

Men in high places sometimes have unusual interests. Take Ernest A. Jones, for instance. He's a busy Bloomfield Hills executive. You would think his job as president of the MacMans, John & Adams' advertising agency would leave him little time for other activities.

But there he was right long with the band at the Michigan-Northwestern homecoming football game on Nov. 2. Of course, he was there for a special purpose this time.

During half-time ceremonies the band alumni organization honored Ernie for "continuous and meritorious service" to the world famous University of Michigan Marching Band.

From 1937 through 1939, Ernie was a cornetist and the business manager of the band.

"The band has been his passion for decades," commented a friend. "He was Dr. Revell's first manager and he never stopped managing."

The friend was referring to Dr. William D. Revell, leader of the 350-member band organization.

In presenting Ernie with a certificate of appreciation at that Nov. 2 game, Dr. Revell declared: "Words can never describe the wonderful help Ernie Jones has given this organization as a bandsman and as a loyal and dedicated supporter."

I for one should like to hear this advertising executive play the cornet sometime.

SOME OF my faithful readers (hurrah for them) have called to express agreement with my comments opposing the reduction of the legal age limit for the sale of liquor and tobacco to minors.

"Your column will give strength and hope to people you'll never know about," declared one kind lady. The news story reporting on the possibility of lowering the age restriction "alarmed me as to what the future of our country is going to be," she said.

"Children are not happy today. Our laws were made to bring us happiness, but we aren't obeying them."

ANOTHER WOMAN said that after the reorganization of the contents of The Eccentric more than a year ago she "missed my old Eccentric at first."

But articles like City Beat and Larry Eve's on "Wood-walking" and the "City Beat" column on smoking-drinking, she contended, "make people think." This, of course, is exactly what we wish to do. "Your article is beautifully written," said a generous mother of a 19-year-old college boy.

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