



President's Honor Guard Is Head Elementary School Study Completed

PTA Council Gets Report On Findings

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

After nearly a year of research, Birmingham's Elementary Curriculum Study has been completed and is ready for presentation to the board of education.

The curriculum study committee, under the direction of William Lyman, presented its findings Monday night to the PTA Council. The report is scheduled to be passed on to the school board on Dec. 17. The 128-page report includes 10 general recommendations for improving curriculum and some 120 specific recommendations.

The purpose of the study was to evaluate the elementary curriculum and to develop recommendations for strengthening and enriching the school program.

ELEVEN separate committees were formed to report as to how well the Birmingham schools were providing instruction in such curriculum areas as foreign languages, physical education, science and music. A 12th committee studied developments and trends in elementary education.

The general recommendations are:

- (1) Immediate steps in the direction of reducing the pupil-teacher ratio in each class to an average of 25 to 1 in grades 1 through 6 and 20 to 1 in kindergarten.
- (2) More emphasis be placed on the depth of subject matter training, as opposed to education course or methodology in both the hiring of teachers and preparation of professional growth programs.
- (3) A regular plan of release time for teachers to permit adequate planning and exchange of ideas.
- (4) Classroom teachers be relieved of lunchroom and lunch-hour playground supervision.
- (5) Lengthening the school day by one-half hour.
- (6) An evaluation of the pros and cons by the school board and administration of the possibility of adopting a nongrade level program in the primary grades.
- (7) A careful evaluation of the need for permanent coordinators in all subject matter areas.
- (8) Endorsement of the present program of school-sponsored in-service training and with a continuation and expansion of the program where necessary.
- (9) Continued improvement of communications between the schools and the community and, in particular, within the school system itself.
- (10) Establishment of a small professional library in each elementary school.

LYMAN SAID although he was sure there would be questions (See FINDINGS, 7-A)



BIRMINGHAM FIREMAN Chuck Johnson (without hat) gets a face full of steam as he fights the fire Sunday at the Birmingham Psychiatric Clinic. The other fireman is Stanley Hopkins.

Clinic Fire Damage Set At \$20,000

Over-Heated Furnace Blamed

An over-heated furnace is suspected to have been the cause of a fire at the Birmingham Psychiatric and Medical Association, Inc., early Sunday afternoon.

The building, at 625 Purdy, was empty when the fire was discovered at 1:15 p.m. Fire Chief George Scott said a workman on the roof of a nearby building saw smoke coming out of the clinic and summoned the fire department.

Scott said the fire started in a basement furnace room apparently from an over-heated furnace. He estimated damage to the two-story building at \$20,000.

THE 30-MINUTE blaze completely gutted four rooms in the 14-room clinic. Scott said the fire ate its way through the wooden ceiling in the basement and spread through several offices on the first floor.

The chief credited the heavy duty rescue masks recently purchased by the City for allowing firemen to keep the fire from spreading.

"Without the masks the fire damage could have been doubled," Scott said. Firemen were forced to break in the front door of the clinic to get to the fire because the building has no windows.

SCOTT SAID there was no way of telling how long the fire had been burning before it was discovered but indications were it could have been going for some time.

The clinic had undergone an extensive remodeling program early this year. The City of Birmingham had issued a building permit for \$45,000 in February.

Heat from the fire was very intense, Scott said, and firemen were forced to spray the building before they could get inside it.

Although there was no way to tell the exact temperature in the clinic, Scott said the sprinkler system in the basement went off at 2:12 degrees.



10-Year-Old and Friend

Richard Park Carmon, 244 W. Brown, Birmingham, was having a difficult time getting his bass violin to his music lessons twice a week at Baldwin School. The energetic 10-year-old and his father, Richard, converted a golf cart into this "bass bus." When Richard is busy performing his safety patrol boy chores, the cart dutifully waits on the corner.

Lathrup Considers Water Rate Increase

By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

LATHRUP—Water rates will go up here if the city council acts on recommendations of a study presented Monday night.

The study, a product of two months preparation by the Budget, Audit and Business Procedures Committee, calls for a four-point revamping of Lathrup's water structure.

• THAT WATER rates be increased by 10 cents or from \$2.20 to \$2.30 per 1,000 cubic feet.

• That meter service charges be hiked by one-third. The fee for such charges is based on the size of meter.

• The elimination of any sewage service charge for consumers who use more than 10,000 cubic feet of water per quarter.

• That the city attempt to have any further purchase of additional capacity delayed until it is needed.

Mayor Richard N. Cogger pointed out that Lathrup's land development has not kept pace with the water capacity purchased by the city.

THE COUNCIL authorized City Administrator Gerald D. Stone to discuss with the Southeastern Oakland County Water Board the possibility of a delay in the purchase of additional water capacity.

It was agreed that no action would be taken until councilman had a chance "to digest" the water study report.

Any changes in water rates will have to be implemented by an amendment of the ordinance.

Fountain Proposed In Kennedy's Honor

(See Editorial, Page 1-B)

Former Birmingham Mayor Florence H. Willett has suggested to city commissioners that a proposed reflecting pool and statue in Shain Park be dedicated in memory of President John F. Kennedy.

Mrs. Willett, now on the sales staff of Birmingham realtors Snyder, Kinney & Bennett, told commissioners Monday night she would like to see the fountain and pool dedicated to all U.S. presidents and built in the memory of Mr. Kennedy.

Commissioners have authorized Mayor William H. Burgum to appoint a committee to consider tributes to the late president. There has been some talk about naming all or part of the new recreation center at Lincoln and Cranbrook in honor of Mr. Kennedy.

FOR SEVERAL years interested groups in Birmingham have been talking about building a pool and statue of geese designed by local sculptor Marshall Fredericks in the park.

The cost of the project has been estimated at about \$50,000. Fredericks' work on the project would be a gift to the city.

Mrs. Willett has asked the City to take the initiative in the building of the "Presidents' Memorial," as she called it.

"The City has never built one thing for culture," she said. "Here would be a spot of beauty in the center of the community, developed by the community itself."

ADDITIONAL funds might be solicited from private organizations, individuals and school children, Mrs. Willett said.

The statue would depict an Indian on the back of a wild geese (See FOUNTAIN, 2-A)

No Matter What You Call It, There Is a Youth Problem

To what extent is there a youth problem in the Birmingham area? Following is the first in a series of articles resulting from The Birmingham Eccentric's area-wide study of this problem, its ramifications and the efforts to solve it.

By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

One writer has described them as the teenage generation.

Another says "our rascals' teens." Many like to lump them together and call them juvenile delinquents.

Although millions of words have been written and spoken about these youngsters between the ages of 12 and 20, the problem still remains with us—how to cope with, how to understand, how to reach our youth.

Teen-agers themselves claim that not one of them are involved in the open revolt against law, order and conformity, thus contaminating the whole generation.

Police records deny this contention.

IN BIRMINGHAM, malicious destruction of property—a way in which teens generally manifest their hostility—ranks second only to larceny as the major crime.



CAPT. MICHAEL GROVES

Local Man Was 'Father' Of Kennedy

By MARY BAHN
Staff Writer

The "father" of the late President John F. Kennedy now lives in Birmingham.

He is Edward Franklin Hitch, 646 Kimberly, Birmingham, whose "parental" assignment was given to him by the headmaster of The Choate School in 1931.

Mr. Kennedy was enrolled in the exclusive Wallingford, Conn., school as an eighth-year student and like all new boys, was assigned a "father" to guide him during his first year.

Hitch felt he was assigned to young Jack because he lived in Bronxville, N. Y., the same town in which the Kennedy family resided.

Hitch, a senior, was also a good friend of the late Joseph P. Kennedy, the eldest son then in his junior year at Choate.

Hitch took his early friendship with Mr. Kennedy quite casually, making it clear that he knew the former President only by a short time, and over 20 years ago. His memories are rather dimmed by time; and as Hitch said, "Jack was only about 12, and I was 18 and pre- (See MAN, 5-A)

Section Reports Christmas, Men's Night Activities

Monday is Men's Night and big plans are in the offering for this annual shopping spree for men.

New lines of toys have been created for this Christmas season. The annual Christmas Carol Sing is scheduled for Dec. 24.

Santa Claus will have headquarters in a candy-striped tent. For information on these and other Christmas activities, for suggestions for Christmas gifts that are available in local stores—see the special Christmas Section appearing with this week's Birmingham Eccentric.

THIS TWO-PART, 32-page tabloid is jammed full with stories, pictures, advertisements that will help you in making gift selections for this Christmas.

Turn now to the special Christmas Section.

WILLIAM H. BURGUM

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- Memorial tribute to President Kennedy. See story on 3-A.
- Local high schools represented at opening dance of season sponsored by Cotillion Club. See story, pictures on 1-C.
- Children's books are choice for Christmas giving. See story on 1-D.
- Seaholm cagers upset defending state champ Ferrdale, 72-51, in opening EML game. See story, pictures on 1-E.
- Amusements 5-E
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'Just Phone the Mayor'

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

The telephone plays an important part in the life of Bill Burgum.

In his role as mayor of Birmingham's 25,500 residents, William H. Burgum has found much of his time must be spent on the telephone arguing with, explaining, and cajoling unhappy citizens.

Burgum doesn't mind taking time from his busy schedule as mayor and vice president of the Bass Construction Co. to talk to people.

"My term of office came after three years of service by a wonderful, charming woman who was concerned about the people of Birmingham.

"She (Mrs. G. Howard 'Twink' Willett) talked to a lot of people," Burgum said.

"The idea has been built up if you don't get what you want from the city administration, call the mayor," he said.

"This, I think, is good for the town."

BURGUM SAID most of his callers were not personally abusive toward him, but were merely residents who were ill-informed or not informed at all about projects that might affect their property.

The heaviest deluge of calls came last spring when the commission was considering building the parking lot in the block south of Shain Park and the new municipal golf course at Lincoln and Cranbrook roads.

"A majority of the calls came from women," Burgum said. "They usually start out with 'I'm coming to the commission meeting. What do you need when I get there? I listen to their problem and explain the situation most of them never come to the meeting.'" (See MAYOR, 6-A)