

Gives Meaning to 'Festival'

Rescheduling the religious procession on behalf of civil rights for Feb. 9 gives the event an added significance and importance. Originally, it was set for Dec. 14.

Feb. 9 is race relations Sunday, the opening of Brotherhood Week.

Perhaps the original plans for a parade and speakers were more dramatic; but the current plans for an outdoor religious procession, beginning and ending with prayer, should produce longer-lasting results.

THE NEW decision by the Birmingham Council of Churches gives the "Freedom Festival" some meaning that should make it acceptable to the public as well as to a certain segment of the clergy who felt the earlier date was an act of witness.

Now it can be more significantly thought of in terms of brotherhood and racial equality.

The new date brings it closer to the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator, in whose image race relations Sunday undoubtedly was conceived.

WE LONG have had evidence of the acceptance of Negroes in our community, with Negro families living in Birmingham and Bloomfield Township. We have evi-

dence that they rank among the best citizens in their school district.

One Negro family has been living in Birmingham almost 40 years and has owned its home for 33 years. We are proud to say that there has been no fuss about them all of these years.

IN REVISING its format for the "Freedom Festival," the council of churches has removed some of the unfavorable aspects. Especially noteworthy is the elimination of the political taint that marred the original plan.

There will be no outside speakers now. Surely, much more can be accomplished in the long run through quiet, firm, constructive action than by a loud, gaudy demonstration with no other purpose than to call attention to a problem.

WE NOTE that the procession will start from a Protestant church and end at a Catholic church, an action that truly speaks of brotherhood.

The purpose of race relations Sunday is to focus our minds on brotherhood.

And the purpose of Brotherhood Week is to bridge the differences between all of us.

The "Freedom Festival" should help us negotiate that bridge.

More Parking Space Provided

With the peak of the shopping season upon us, it behooves us to take a look at the municipal parking facilities in Birmingham.

With the opening of the temporary parking lot at Merrill and Bates, additional parking spaces were made available to Christmas shoppers in downtown Birmingham this season.

By providing 82 spaces, this new, temporarily improved lot has provided at least a partial relief of the downtown parking problem.

Now that condemnation proceedings for the balance of the property in the block bounded by Merrill, Bates, Townsend and Henrietta have been completed, the City is in a position to proceed with permanent improvement of the facility.

IT WOULD be hopefully desirable that between now and next November additional parking can be provided by acquisition of more property—or, preferably, by utilization of present parking lots by structuring them to provide multilevel facilities.

It is essential that no more of the valuable and limited square footage in the hard core of our community be taken over for parking but be retained for other development.

If we need find a community in which to model our efforts, let us look to Ann Arbor

which has so adequately solved the community parking problem.

THIS CITY of some 70,000 people in the last few years constructed:

- A three-level garage with space for 236 vehicles.
- A six-level garage with space for 581.
- Eight off-street lots providing space for more than 500 vehicles.

The city now has off-street parking facilities containing space for more than a thousand vehicles.

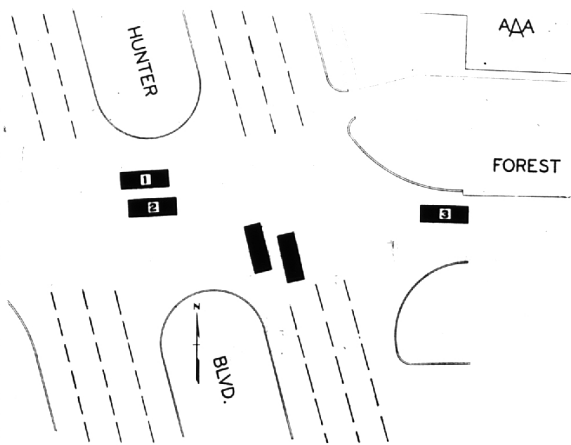
ALL OF this has been accomplished through revenue bonds and earnings from the system. The city has purchased some of its lots and expanded its facilities out of earnings from the system.

Employing similar methods, the City of Birmingham is accomplishing much of the same.

The system has proved successful and profitable here. It is our firm hope and conviction that it can be still further utilized to greatly improve what we already have.

The municipal parking system has proved popular to the citizenry and beneficial to the business life of the community.

Let us see it that the parking facilities are expanded to keep pace with the growing community needs.



PEOPLE'S COLUMN Community Swimming Pool Memorial Sought

To the Editor:
We of the Citizen's Council for Youth Physical Fitness have been following with great interest the many suggestions for a suitable memorial in our community for President Kennedy.

Perhaps no President since the days of Theodore Roosevelt has contributed as much, by both example and the written word, in the area of youth physical fitness as John Kennedy.

Our Citizen's Council for Youth Physical Fitness was formed as a direct result of the findings of a group called together by the late President to report on the health and fitness of the youth of our nation.

THE SIX-WEEK summer youth fitness program available to all the boys and girls in the Birmingham area is a direct outgrowth of the cooperative efforts of citizens and schools.

Geo. Mason Fathered The Bill of Rights

To the Editor:
One hundred and seventy-two years ago this Sunday, Dec. 15, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution became the law of the land. They constitute the American Bill of Rights.

This day is not celebrated with the flare of fireworks and parades, but it could well be. The Bill of Rights translated the political theory of the rights of man into political reality.

Without this document's intellectual freshness and clarity of thought, the Revolution might have been fought in vain.

Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO
Dec. 19, 1913

There is a grain of comfort in the increased taxation, as it will no doubt develop into a resultant cement road from Pontiac to Detroit, when in the light of cheaper automobiles, almost any one can live in Birmingham and drive back and forth every day except in inclement weather, when the 15 minutes car service is ready.

The holiday business is beginning to be felt at the Post Office. Everybody, the rural carriers, the clerks and the P. M. are all geared up to nine points and all ready for the rush. Miss Nelle Camp has been engaged as an extra through the holiday rush, and her speciality will be parcel post Xmas packages. The clerks are cleared, the officials are ready so now rush in your gifts that go through the mails. Remember all packages by parcel post must have the name of the sender on every piece of mail should be so marked anyway, for then if not delivered, it will come back to you.

Recently two women living in the same house got into an argument over their rights in the house and one hit the other on the head with a loaf of bread, while the offended one, proceeded to make a red print of her friend's face with her finger nails. No serious danger done.

30 YEARS AGO
Dec. 21, 1933

In the week and a half remaining before Jan. 1, the Birmingham postoffice must sell more than \$5,000 worth of stamps to retain

(See HAPPENINGS, 7-B)

Next Two Issues:
Dec. 27, Jan. 2

Eccentricities



By HANK HOGAN

One of the things that makes the Christmas season even busier is the selection and dissemination of Christmas cards.

While our local merchants display and even encourage the ordering of these items in the fall by giving reduced prices prior to the first of October or November, depending on the store, the majority of people procrastinate and starting thinking about the cards after the official season has started.

When the cards finally do arrive, and by the time you've added and subtracted to your Christmas card list, it's amazing the number of cards that are actually delivered before Christmas.

Some people would be better off ordering Easter cards instead of Christmas cards. This way if they were mailed when most Christmas cards were mailed, they would arrive on time and another frustration would be eliminated from Christmas.

AT LEAST, the late senders are better off today than back before the turn of the century.

The tradition of exchanging cards is really a fairly young one in terms of other Christmas traditions. The first Christmas card was supposedly sent out in 1842, only a little over 120 years ago.

Up to the 1900's it was the custom to hand-deliver them with a calling card.

Imagine what this would do to your December schedule if this practice still prevailed. However, it might be fun to deliver those California or Hawaii ones in person even today.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS card was designed and sent out by a 16-year-old English boy named William Maw Edley, Jr., on Dec. 9, 1842.

It wasn't really very Christmasy. It had four separate scenes on the front. On the upper right there was a picture of young people dancing and on the upper left there was a picture of a family sitting down to a holiday dinner.

On the lower right there was a picture of some poor people receiving gifts on a lady's doorstep, which was a custom of the time, and the lower left was a skating scene.

There was a border of other non-Christmas characters, but the message on the bottom said, "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you."

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS cards in this country were designed by Louis Prang in Boston in 1873.

Christmas cards were frowned upon by religious groups other than Catholics and Episcopalians until the 1900's. This is why most of the earlier cards did not have religious themes.

Now it is common practice to use the cards as an acknowledgment of the religious season.

Times and traditions have changed in the short life of Christmas cards, but the original message has changed little.

To our very fine readers may I repeat it from my heart, "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to You."

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

It's here at last. It was long in coming, but the Christmas spirit has finally hit me. I've really in the Mood for it now.

It began when I first saw the illuminated creche in front of an industrial building on the East side of Eton (north of Lincoln).

It gained in proportion as I viewed the houses ringed with vari-colored lights, with gaily decorated Christmas trees showing through the front windows.

THERE'S a house on Sheffield just east of Woodward all dressed up in blue that caught my eye. I Revealed at the sight.

The Yule lights in downtown Birmingham added spark to the flame that had started within me. So did the window displays in the stores. It created a blanket of white that could only be associated with Christmas.

"Jingle bells, jingle bells," "Oh Holy Night, The Stars are shining brightly..." "God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay; Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day..." "We Three kings of Orient are..."

OVER AND over again the tunes ran through my mind. It's Christmas; it's Christmas, they kept telling me and I wanted to let everyone else know.

And the faces of the children. Yes, the faces of the children. Here was the real story; here was where I could really see Christmas.

Their eyes grew wide with wonderment at the telling of the Story of Jesus.

Their faces beamed as they talked of what they wanted for Christmas.

"I want a Barbie doll and clothes for her and a washing machine."

"I want a choo-choo and a truck. And a siren car. And a doll on a chair. Santa Claus! Santa Claus!"

And they sat in rapt attention with the recitation of "Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house..."

YES, IT'S here now. I have the Christmas spirit. It makes me feel like going out and shouting: "Merry Christmas, everyone!"

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