

The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

'Phantom' Killing Top B'field Area News Story Of '63

By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

A shot rang out and Mrs. Mary A. Godfrey slumped to the kitchen floor of her home at 983 Dursley, Bloomfield Township. The "phantom sniper," who had terrorized an entire community for two weeks, had claimed his first victim.

On Feb. 5, Douglas Godfrey, 15-year-old son of the dead woman, confessed he had killed his mother because she had "criticized me for going out too much." He also admitted to two other slayings in the same neighborhood because he wanted to "create a phantom sniper."

He got the .22 caliber rifle that he had stolen earlier in Royal Oak and slipped out a side door and walked over to the kitchen window.

Tragedy continued into the month of April. An intense 26-day search for Bobby Grinnan, a 12-year-old mentally retarded boy, came to a heartbreaking end on April 16 when the child's body was discovered in a man-made lake within a half-mile of his Bloomfield Township home.

According to police, the lake was covered with eight inches of ice at the time of the Grinnan boy's disappearance. A thorough search of the lake by an Oakland County sheriff's posse on horses had yielded no clues to the missing boy.

STATE POLICE skivinders in dry suits searched the lake when the ice started breaking up a week later and found nothing. It was theorized that Bobby wandered away from his favorite play site—an old earth-digging machine—and somehow managed to make his way to the edge of the lake.

Maple and Telegraph branch of Manufacturers National Bank and ordered teller Lois Steele of Birmingham to hand over the money.

walked quickly out of the side door of the bank and escaped in a late model American Motors.

B'ham Chooses New Mayor, School Chiefs

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

The year 1963 was a year of change, accomplishment and controversy in the city of Birmingham.

Crainbrook roads, a new municipal parking lot in the block south of main Park and has awarded contracts for more than \$200,000 in sewer construction projects.

MAJOR EVENTS began taking place in Birmingham when Mrs. G. Howard (Twink) Willett announced she would seek another term on the city commission.

HOW BIRMINGHAM area residents can get on the new stretch of 1-75 freeway that opened Monday is pointed out by State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie.

of Livorno, during a press review of the new 17 1/2-mile portion of 1-75. Listening are Sam Levine (center), state traffic engineer, and Dave Philpo, township editor of The Birmingham Eccentric.

BY KEN WEAVER
Managing Editor
The Oakland Citizens League lacks citizen participation.

action to file. They felt that he should have accepted Lane's criticisms and suggestions in the light of what could be done to improve the OCL.

a sponsor of the study. McGaughy has made a job change and has moved to New York City. Formerly a vice president with American Motors, he now is vice president in charge of public relations for the National Association of Manufacturers.

City Restricts Parking on Adams Road

Birmingham city commissioners voted Monday night to place restrictive parking on Adams Road between Ruffner and Hayden.

During the past 12 months the city selected a new mayor, a new board of education president, and a new superintendent of schools.

Following Mrs. Willett's announcement, a record field of 11 candidates filed petitions to run for commission. The April election found 60.34 per cent of Birmingham's registered voters going to the polls.

Rest stops and service areas along the nonstop route to the Straits of Mackinac will be placed about 60-70 miles or an hour's driving time apart, the highway commissioner said.

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Kennedy's Assassination Top News Story in Area, Nation

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

As it was in the nation, the Nov. 22 tragic assassination of President John F. Kennedy was the top story in 1963 in Birmingham and the area.

gan to gather in front of their own TV sets to watch one of the most dramatic series of events in history unfold.

Late Friday and all day Saturday authorities pieced together meager clues and bits of evidence surrounding the shooting of Mr. Kennedy.

A MAN WAS arrested — Lee Harvey Oswald — and formally charged with "murder with malice toward John F. Kennedy."

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echo over the speaker system. In downtown Birmingham, residents running their pre-week-end errands reacted in stunned silence.

Ministers and priests in the area read worship plans and scheduled special services to accommodate the many people who turned to God in memory of the late President.

On Friday evening residents began to gather in front of their own TV sets to watch one of the most dramatic series of events in history unfold.

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Researcher Cites Absence of Citizen Action in League

BY KEN WEAVER
Managing Editor

The Oakland Citizens League lacks citizen participation.

SOME BOARD members were highly critical of the decision to write a rebuttal to the report, pointing out that the league was

McGaughy has made a job change and has moved to New York City. Formerly a vice president with American Motors, he now is vice president in charge of public relations for the National Association of Manufacturers.

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The Troubled 10 Per Cent Need Help, Understanding

Fourth in a Series
By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

"Why don't you write about the teenagers who never get into trouble?"

BUT, THIS remnant — this 10 per cent of our youth who lurk on the fringes of society — are desperately in need of understanding at a critical period of their lives.

very young toward her son. "This adolescent approach led the boy to draw away from his father and lean on his mother," said Lt. Robert Schaub.

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The Birmingham Eccentric asks that you read it with a happy, successful new year.