



The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

Godfrey Boy Admits Killing His Mother

Death Claims Community House President

Confesses Two Other Snipings In Bloomfield

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Fifteen-year-old Douglas Godfrey, who disliked his mother because she criticized him for going out so much, admitted Tuesday that he was her slayer.

The youth, who has a "near genius" IQ of 140, told Oakland County Prosecutor George F. Taylor that he was the one who shot Mrs. Mary Godfrey, Jan. 25 in the kitchen of their Bloomfield Township home.

He also confessed to two other snipings in the same neighborhood, at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hans, 951 Rockaway, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pittsley, 1232 Lenox, because he wanted to "create a phantom sniper." He also admitted shooting at an auto on Long Lake Road.

The boy, a 10th grader at Bloomfield Hills High School, was taken to the County Children's Center late Tuesday afternoon after making a full confession to the police at the Postle State Police post.



DOUGLAS C. GODFREY

ASSISTANT Prosecutor Robert Templin, Jr. said a petition was being prepared Wednesday morning asking that jurisdiction be waived from the juvenile to the circuit court.

The hearing was set for 2 p.m. Wednesday before Probate Judge Donald Adams.

Templin said that in crimes of such a serious nature, jurisdiction is often waived, although "it is up to the judge, of course."

If it is waived, Templin said, the judge would probably appoint a sanity commission.

Relief, Regret Expressed by Neighbors

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Township Editor

Friends and neighbors of the Douglas Godfrey family shared mingled feelings as an aftermath of the news that 15-year-old Douglas Godfrey had confessed to killing his own mother.

They were overwhelmed with surprise and relieved that "it was all over." Most of all, they were filled with sorrow for the family suffering the double tragedy.

And there were those who passed to wonder, as one mother said, "What kind of a job are we doing as parents? What causes a child to do this sort of thing?"

There was no element of criticism in this type of reaction to the upbringing of Godfrey to children.

MRS. G. A. EEN, 1027 Westview, whose acquaintance with the family was slight, said, "The little I saw of them they seemed like fine children. The Godfreys seemed to have been doing their best. Mrs. Godfrey struck me as a very fine and very quiet woman."

"Douglas seemed, from the little I saw of him, to do his share, working in the yard and shoveling snow."

As were her neighbors, she "was sick" when she heard that the boy was the slayer. She had "hoped it was someone far off" and felt that "the sooner the whole thing quiets down the better, for the sake of the family and the neighborhood."

MRS. WALTER HANS, 951 Rockaway, at whose home the earliest sniping incident took place, experienced the same feelings. Her first reaction, she said, was one of being "extremely sick" and feeling very sorry for the family. It's a terrible thing for them."

Neither the Hans nor the Robert Pittsley families were well-acquainted with the Godfreys, though the Pittsleys' daughter Nancy knew Deborah Godfrey, both girls (See REGRET, 6-A)

Appointments Made To Review Board

Percy G. Burnett and Barrett Mason were re-appointed to the Assessors Board of Review by the Birmingham City Commission Monday night.

They will sit on the board along with Clark Hagstrom, city assessor, to hear assessment appeals.

The first meeting for the board in 1963 will be on March 5. The next meetings will be held on March 11 and 12 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.



OAKLAND COUNTY Prosecutor George F. Taylor (left) tells reporters and TV Chief Norman Dehnke, Other state police, township and sheriff's detectives are shown behind Taylor. The conference was held in the recreation room of the Oakland County Jail.

Retiring Fire Chief: 'City's Changed a Lot'

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Highland Park and built the ladder ourselves," he said.

Although construction on the vehicle started in 1939, it wasn't completed until 1944 because of the shortage of material during World War II.

SMITH WAS named, Birmingham's first assistant chief in 1951 under Vernon W. Griffith. He was promoted to chief in July, 1955, when Griffith retired.

In addition to his duties as fire chief, Smith is also the superintendent of the city's water production. During his tenure as chief he has held several positions with state and national fire-fighting organizations including a term as president of the Southeast Michigan Fire Chiefs Association.

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SMITH'S FAMILY were also long-time Birmingham residents. His father, William E., ran a store and grist mill on the site now occupied by Peabody's market.

William Smith took an active part in Birmingham's early government, serving on the city commission from 1912 to 1914. The Smith family lived only a half block from the first fire station at Woodward and Maple.

Park Smith went on in the horse business to Daines and Bell Funeral Directors and which were used to pull the fire equipment at parades and on special occasions.

"I DON'T think they were ever used for a fire," he said. "The horse cart was usually pulled by hand."

After graduation from the second class at the old Baldwin High School, Smith began a 14-year career in the automotive repair field.

On June 4, 1924, he married Mildred Kemp and they settled in the house on Chesterfield.

"We moved in that night," Smith said, "and have never left."

Both of the Smith children, Wallace F. and Mrs. Barbara Shallege, are graduates of Baldwin and still live in Birmingham.

IN 1928 Smith joined the volunteer department and served with it until he joined the regular force in 1936 as a master mechanic.

Promoted to the rank of mechanic captain in 1936, Smith played a major role in the construction of Birmingham's first ladder truck.

"We got the turntable from



Park Smith—ends 20-year career

Leaders Laud Toby Wiant For Service

Thoburn H. (Toby) Wiant, president of the Birmingham Community House, died early Wednesday in Harper Hospital, Detroit, after a lengthy illness. He was 51.

Wiant was vice president, administrative manager and account supervisor for Young & Rubicam, Inc. He was serving his second term as president of the Community House. He resided at 4331 Karen Lane, Bloomfield Hills.

Civic leaders, including members of the board of directors, said the entire community will feel the loss of Wiant and his "unselfish service" to the Community House.

"WHEN Mr. Wiant came on our board of directors, he brought with him an enthusiasm and dedication that can hardly be matched," said F. Ward Ouradnik, executive director of the Community House.

"He came to us as public relations director and was re-elected because of the outstanding job he was doing. He was the one who carried the ball— who spearheaded our plans for retooling programs and for our expansion."

"The George Pierot series is an example of Mr. Wiant's accepting major responsibility for setting up and following through a new program."

Through Wiant's leadership, the Community House pioneered the Pierot series in suburban communities.

Wiant was a ruling elder in the Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills and was active in its fund drive for a new educational wing. He was active in the United Foundation, serving on its budget committees.

He joined Young & Rubicam in 1945 as Detroit office public relations director. In 1955, he assumed advertising responsibilities and in 1958 became vice president, administrative manager and account supervisor.

PRIOR to joining Young & Rubicam, Wiant was with the Associated Press for 11 years, first as a reporter in Indianapolis and later as an editor in AP's New York headquarters.

During World War II, he served as AP's war correspondent, covering Mid and Far East, England and Europe. He covered General Stilwell's march on the China-Burma-India frontier, rode in the first B-29 bomber raid on Tokyo; and (See WIANT, 4-A)

THOBURN H. WIANT

Community House To Reveal Plans For Expansion

Future plans and objectives "to maintain the Community House as the activities center" of the Birmingham-Bloomfield area will be revealed at a meeting next Thursday.

Robert A. Thom, vice president, and Sheldon Moyer, chairman of the Community House long-range planning committee, acknowledged that proposed expansion plans will be outlined at the meeting of 15 civic and governmental organizations.

That meeting will be at 8 p.m. in the commission room at city hall.

Thom and Moyer said they preferred to withhold details until after that meeting.

"IT IS OUR belief that details of any proposed plans should first be presented to groups and organizations that might be affected," Moyer said. "Any further comment at this time would be premature."

The Community House has been the activities center for area residents since 1927 when the population totaled 6,500. The present structure was built in 1930. It serves approximately 60,000 residents in a 40-square-mile area and was used by more than 160,000 persons last year. (See HOUSE, 6-A)

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Smoking Law? Who Needs One?

Birmingham city commissioners took a look at the city's laws to see if there was one governing smoking by youngsters, found none, and did nothing about it.

The topic was brought before the commission Monday night in a letter from the city of Hazel Park.

Hazel Park has adopted an ordinance prohibiting the selling, giving or furnishing of tobacco in any form to persons under the age of 18.

The letter urged that Birmingham "seriously consider adopting a similar ordinance." The Hazel Park council feels the youth smoking problem is on a nationwide basis.

COMMISSIONER Charles Renfrew asked if Birmingham had any ordinance governing smoking and was told by City Attorney Dean Beier that there was none.

Police Chief Ralph W. Mosley said the state law, which is about 70 years old, sets the age at 21.

No further discussion was held on the matter and commissioners passed on to other items on the agenda.

UNDER THE Hazel Park ordinance it is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation, to sell, give, or in any way furnish any cigarettes, cigars, smoking or chewing tobacco in any form to any persons under the age of 18.

The ordinance also governs the using of cigaret vending machines by persons under 18. It holds the person in the immediate control of the premises on which the vending machine is located responsible for the use of the machine.

IT IS ALSO unlawful for anyone under 18 to use or have in his possession tobacco in any form while he is on any street, alley, park or any public place of business or amusement.

The ordinance does not, however, interfere with the "right of parents or lawful guardians in the rearing or management of their minor children or wards within the bounds of their private premises."

Anyone found guilty of violating any provision of the ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor that is punishable by a fine of not more than \$100 or a jail term of not more than 90 days or both.

THE FINE and jail term not only apply to the person using the tobacco but also to the person by whom it was sold.

Hazel Park councilmen termed the measure "an emergency ordinance" and put it into effect immediately.

Committee Appointed For Youth Program

Birmingham took another step toward establishment of a Youth Assistance Program Monday night.

Commissioners accepted a police department list of residents qualified to serve on a citizens coordinating committee. The list will now be passed on to the Oakland County Probate Court.

The names to be submitted are: William H. Beck, executive director, Birmingham YMCA; W. Donald Martin, Birmingham recreation director; Daniel Moore, deputy superintendent of Birmingham schools; F. Ward Ouradnik, executive director, Community House.

Lt. Robert Schaule, Birmingham police; Rev. David B. Van Dusen, St. James Episcopal Church; Eugene Moore, Birmingham city attorney.

John Saeffe, Birmingham administrative aide; Mrs. George P. Sheridan, 898 Pilgrim; Forrest N.

THESE PERSONS will make up a general citizens committee, a caseworker committee will be appointed at a later date.

The youth program, to be set up in cooperation with the probate court, will be tried in Birmingham for a year.

Adoption of the program will mean that a caseworker of the Birmingham Court will be assigned to Birmingham two days a week.

Similar programs have already been set up by 15 other communities in the county and statistics indicate a decrease in the number of court cases.

FORMER PROBATE Judge Arthur E. Moore had proposed two years ago that Birmingham establish a youth protective program under the guidance of his court.

At that time, Birmingham's youth offenders were placed on probation to the juvenile officer; but Judge Moore stopped the practice, terming it "unauthorized."

D. C. Middlewood Parks, Forestry Superintendent

Twenty-six-year-old Darrel C. Middlewood has been appointed superintendent of the Birmingham Parks and Forestry Department.

City commissioners made the appointment Monday night upon the recommendation of City Manager L. E. Gare. Middlewood has been acting superintendent since Oct. 26 when Charles Gale resigned.

Middlewood had held the post of Birmingham city forester since August, 1962.

A GRADUATE of Michigan State University's School of Park Management and Municipal Forestry, he also has served as an assistant superintendent of forestry in Toledo.

Middlewood was chosen from a field of 13 candidates who applied for the job, according to Gare.

Married, he lives at 537 Roth Blvd., Clawson, and has one child.

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