

## Suggest Alternate Site For City Parking Lot

planning "down to the last flower pot" be reversed in its emphasis.

"BUILDING UP from the first flower pot" is not an unreasonable starting point in planning. In other words, if the objectives of the various committees and the commission is directed toward the beautification of Birmingham and if this objective is tempered by a practical application of traffic flow, zoning and parking, a far superior result will be achieved and it should not be necessary to hide undesirable vistas created by poor planning with flower pots or potted trees.

Some effort has already been made in this direction with the development of Shain Park and we feel certain that under its influence further upgrading of the older part of town to the south of Shain Park will naturally follow.

MUCH of this has been done, as you may have already observed, by the renovation, remodeling or removal of the older houses from this area. As you may know, this area is presently zoned for multiple dwelling. We believe that its development in this direction will not only go a long way toward satisfying that particular need for housing in the community, but also will further enhance its esthetic improvement.

All of this will be accomplished by private capital, not tax money, and will unquestionably improve tax revenues to the community, which is, of course, extremely important in the overall picture.

WE FEEL that the use of the block south of Shain Park for a parking lot is not only ill-advised but unnecessary. To devote this entire block of all of its trees would certainly depreciate the beauty and charm of the Community House. It would reduce it to the status of a building with bay windows, situated across the street from a king-sized used car lot.

Further, it will not enhance the appearance of Baldwin Library or the City Hall or Shain Park.

All of these entities, in addition to the Community House, have been designed and constructed with considerable thought and expense being devoted to their appearance. To determine whether their appearance would be enhanced by making this block south of Shain Park into a parking lot, you have only to examine the most recent lot built on Pierce Street. It serves a purely utilitarian purpose, and nothing could be done with its design to further improve the general appearance of the area.

AS PROPERTY owners, we can testify to the fact that there is no real parking problem in the area of our concern other than on specific occasions and that these occasions are infrequent enough so as not to be objectionable to the residents. We suspect that from a purely practical standpoint, investment of community funds in this property would be unprofitable.

We are in entire sympathy with the objectives of the Community House in construction of an auditorium which we are sure will be a splendid addition, both from the standpoint of facility and appearance to the community.

We recognize that such a facility, under our existing regulations,

must provide adequate off-street parking. We feel that this can best be solved by providing this facility in a place where it will be convenient and yet not impose an insulating appearance on the area under discussion.

WE REFER to the Hill School area which is conveniently located to the Community House, Library, Post Office and a substantial section of the commercial district (no further, incidentally, than some of the parking facilities at Northland, Eastland, etc., is from the stores at those locations).

And we further suspect that this area might be more economically obtained by the city than the area presently suggested.

It was indicated at the recent meeting, by the Board of Education spokesman, that the facility located on this property is inadequate for their needs and that the use of Baldwin as an elementary school, while it is presently required to serve the children of this central area, leaves a great deal to be desired.

Planning ahead, then, it would seem that the ultimate use of the grade school property would be for Board of Education administration purposes and that the present Hill School building would fall into disuse.

In fact, if this Hill School building were not the property of the Board of Education, we suspect that it would have been condemned as a fire hazard long ago.

AS WE have to this date received no formal notification of the City's intention regarding our property, perhaps all of the foregoing might be considered an intrusion on our part. The facts are, however, that our homes and our fortunes are considerably involved in planning that has to date been done without any consideration for our thoughts or feelings on the matter. We do not wish to be identified as obstructionists to community interests, but we do feel that our personal rights and interests have been ignored to this date.

We, therefore, respectfully request that we be included in any further discussion or action involving our personal welfare. We are curious as to the motives of some of the sponsors of this overall project as some of us have in recent months been beleaguered with substantial offers to sell our properties.

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. N. Albee,  
Mr. & Mrs. L. F. Hazan,  
Mr. D. H. DeWolfe,  
Mrs. Dora DeWolfe

## Space on Harlan Issue Praised

To the Editor:  
I would like to thank you and your paper on behalf of the Harlan School Area Citizens Committee for the space you devoted to the school boundaries issue.

The space devoted and the manner of presentation indicates the management of The Eccentric to be a responsible group.

A full expression of both sides of an issue, that is as vital as the education of our children, is indicative of a free press.

RICHARD R. GOLZE

## Lauds Eccentric For Membership In U.S. Chamber

To the Editor:  
As a newspaperman who happens to be a director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, let me congratulate and thank you for your business membership in the national Chamber.

It is important for American publishers to bring their contribution to the collective voice of American business. I am confident you will receive great value from this affiliation.

ERWIN D. CANHAM  
Editor  
The Christian Science Monitor  
Boston, Mass.

## Movie Guide Aids Parents

To the Editor:  
The Midvale PTA Board of Governors wishes to thank you personally for publishing the weekly movie guide in The Eccentric.

We, as parents of young impressionable children, appreciate an intelligent guide to aid us in the selection of proper movies for our youngsters.

In our opinion, this is an important step forward in developing better community relations.

PHYLLIS A. WALTHUIS  
Secretary  
Midvale PTA

## Tax Appeal Is to STC, Not to Courts

To the Editor:

I believe there is an error in your editorial of Feb. 28. I think the recourse from a Board of Review's decision is to the State Tax Commission. I think you are barred from appealing to the courts unless you can show fraud. The STC is not subject to what I think is called judicial review.

Our representative (Roy Spencer) has a bill in the hopper which would make STC decisions subject to review by or appeal to the courts.

I THINK it's a good idea. Here's an example of what can happen:

There was a store building in Lapeer, the owner of which died. The administrator of the estate tried for three years to sell it. During most of that time the building stood empty. It was advertised.

There was certainly no conspiracy to beat the price down. It finally sold for \$14,000, and that was obviously its full and true value.

The assessment gave it a true value of \$27,000. The Board of Review refused to reduce it. The STC reduced it \$4,000 on appeal.

The owner could go no further. It seemed to me he had a darned good case for a \$14,000 true value.

## Takes Hogan to Task On the Constitution

To the Editor:

Mr. Hank Hogan's "Eccentricities" column of Feb. 22 dealing with apportionment and the proposed constitution was replete with errors and misinformation.

First, regarding the Senate, Mr. Hogan claims that rejection of the proposed constitution would mean a return to the 1952 federal district plan. This is wrong, since the Michigan Supreme Court has declared the 1952 amendment unconstitutional.

It is true that this ruling is now on appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court, but practically everyone agrees that either the appeal will be dismissed or the U.S. Supreme Court will concur in the Michigan Court's ruling and, then, the Senate will be apportioned according to population as it was from the time of the Northwest Ordinance up to 1952.

In any case, Mr. Hogan's claim that the 1952 apportionment formula will be in effect if the proposed constitution is rejected is just not true.

But the courts were forbidden by law to help him.

I think the old set of laws surrounding property taxes are badly misunderstood and badly in need of overhauling.

ROB MYERS  
The Lapeer County Press

constitution is rejected is just not true.

WHAT IS even more important is that the proposed constitution's apportionment plan for the state Senate is repugnant to all who believe in representative government since, for the first time in Michigan's history, it equates population with minority rule and majority versus minority rule and equality of representation in a democratic society.

As for the House, Mr. Hogan again mis-states the question. Under the present constitution the bonus seats that the rural areas gain because of the 5 per cent moiety clause are almost offset—in practical application—by the multiple seat districts in the urban areas.

UNDER THE new proposal, Con-Con very selfrighteously eliminated multiple seat districts but retained a 7 per cent moiety clause, which merely decreased the size of the bonus to rural areas but which eliminated any bonus to the urban areas.

Even the Citizens Research Council admits that a much closer adherence to the principle of equal representation would have been attained by using a .9 per cent moiety factor.

Thus, the House apportionment also would be rigged against the urban areas, and is not directly

proportional to the population, as is claimed.

THE BASIC question of the apportionment proposals of the proposed constitution is not, as Mr. Hogan would have us believe, "this purely political problem in Wayne County," but involves the more basic and moral questions of majority versus minority rule and equality of representation in a democratic society.

SUSAN BRODY  
Oak Park

## Paper Renders Public Service In Scout News

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Clinton Valley Council—Boy Scouts of America, its executive board, its 3,300 adult-volunteer leaders and its 9,500 member Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorer Scouts in the area of Oakland and Macomb counties served by our organization, may I express our genuine appreciation for the attention and space you devoted to Scout Week.

We feel that by effectively focusing attention on the 52nd anniversary of the Scouting movement in the United States and adjoining areas, The Birmingham Eccentric has performed a valuable public service.

You have thus contributed importantly, I believe, toward (1) developing and fostering a better understanding and broader appreciation of Scouting; and (2) helping "build, serve, achieve," Scoutism's principal goal.

JOHN W. HUNT  
President

See Valiant in action on "Empire"—NBC-TV

## 74.5% preferred Valiant over the other leading compacts in a nationwide test-drive survey



A total of 3600 typical drivers tested the compacts in 18 different cities.

Nationwide Consumer Testing Institute supervised the entire program at Valiant's request. They purchased the cars—comparable models, each with exactly the same equipment. They set up the test courses. They asked the questions. They impartially supervised every test drive. And they certified the results.

People were asked to test-drive two compacts. Some drove Corvair and Valiant. Some drove Falcon and Valiant. Some wanted to try Rambler or Chevy II. The course included all kinds of normal driving—everything from city traffic to highway cruising to bumpy roads. Drivers circled the course twice (one in each car) with trained interviewers firing questions all the way. Which of these cars do you prefer for acceleration? Ride? Steering? Styling? Finally: based on your driving test, which car would you select as the best all-around value?

### The drivers' findings:

Compact preference	Rambler	Valiant	Chevy II	Valiant	Corvair	Valiant	Falcon	Valiant	Average
									Four compacts
Interior styling	26%	75%	30%	70%	27%	73%	44%	56%	33%
Exterior styling	24	76	48	52	39	61	41	59	38
Quality of workmanship	38	62	40	60	36	64	44	56	40
Acceleration	17	83	48	52	21	79	25	75	28
Passing power	17	83	45	55	21	79	24	76	27
Roominess	35	65	56	44	30	70	44	56	41
Steering	26	74	31	69	37	63	29	71	31
Ride	27	73	33	67	29	71	26	74	29
BEST ALL-AROUND VALUE	17	83	34	66	24	76	27	73	25.5

Two things were left for you to evaluate—price and warranty. Had they been discussed, perhaps the drivers would have favored Valiant even more. Valiant is one of America's lowest-priced cars, with prices starting below 3 of the 4 other compacts tested.\* Valiant carries America's best and longest new-car warranty\*\*—5 years or 50,000 miles. Your Plymouth-Valiant Dealer can tell you much more... see him now.

Pick up your free copy of this fact-filled, 12-page booklet containing complete information on this comprehensive consumer test of five leading compact cars. It is available to you now, at any Plymouth-Valiant Dealer's showroom. Get your copy this week.

\*Based on comparison of Manufacturers' Suggested Retail Prices for lowest-priced currently available 2-door sedans. \*\*Your Authorized Plymouth-Valiant Dealer's Warranty against defects in material and workmanship on 1963 cars has been expanded to include parts replacement or repair, without charge for required parts or labor, for 5 years or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, on the engine block, head and internal parts, transmission case and internal parts (excluding manual clutch), torque converter, drive shaft, universal joints (excluding dust covers), rear axle and differential, and rear wheel bearings, provided the vehicle has been serviced at reasonable intervals according to the Plymouth-Valiant Certified Car Care schedule.

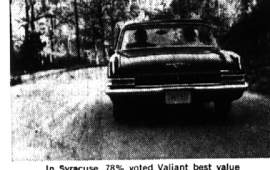
Best all-around compact anybody has come up with yet...VALIANT! and...Valiant prices start lower than 3 of the 4 other compacts



In Dallas, 74% voted Valiant best value



In Memphis, 77% voted Valiant best value



In Syracuse, 78% voted Valiant best value



In Pittsburgh, 80% voted Valiant best value



In Los Angeles, 77% voted Valiant best value



In San Francisco, 78% voted Valiant best value

## MANUFACTURERS NATIONAL BANK

4057 West Maple Road near Telegraph, Bloomfield  
1012 N. Hunter Boulevard, Bloomfield Twp.  
Woodward N. at Wellesley, Pleasant Ridge  
Telegraph near Ten Mile Road W., Southfield

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