

### It Is Compatible!

Now that the election is over, it is time to re-examine the question of whether the Central Business District Development Plan is compatible to the goal of "keeping Birmingham residential."

First of all, let us remember that this slogan is not new. This idea has been the goal, the purpose of our city planners and commissioners the past several years.

Not one person, but many deserve credit for actively supporting and giving impetus to this policy.

### Leaves Its Mark

Michigan's last biennial spring election for state offices is over, but its mark will be seen for many years to come.

The new constitution, which carried locally by a margin of slightly under 10 to 1, barely squeaked by throughout the state. Its majority statewide was only approximately 10,000 votes. The majority in our area was close to 18,000 votes, a majority that contributed much in the total count.

The passage of the new document meant the end of state spring elections and the introduction of many governmental reforms which we shall see transpire over the next several years.

SINCE THE vote on the ratification of the constitution did not entirely follow party lines, much credit should be given to those nonpartisan groups who urged the calling of the Constitutional Convention and finally worked for its passage.

Certainly, the League of Women Voters is due for a bow, particularly since its state president, Mrs. Thomas Snelham, is a local resident.

Locally, the electorate exhibited a tremendous amount of independent thinking.

BIRMINGHAM WAS involved in a race for city commission that was heretofore unknown in these parts. Of the 11 candidates running for three positions, the citizens returned two incumbents and a "newcomer" (he was previously a candidate for associate municipal judge), to replace retiring Mayor Florence H. Willett. Bloomfield Hills was the scene of an intense battle that saw two incumbents bite the dust and the third trailing two newcomers.

Mayor John Bugas apparently was retired for his stand on liberalizing zoning while incumbent Robert Frye just wasn't as well known as board of education member David Lee and long-time resident Louie Colombo, Jr.

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP saw few changes since the township board members were unopposed. The library millage carried handily and now the township board must appoint a library board and get to work on how best to serve the township's residents.

With all the ups and downs, the citizenry can raise their heads high since more people took the time to get out and vote than they have at a spring election for a long time.

### From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

There is now on the market a portable radio-phonograph that will play records while being carried, or even when held upside down. This is glad tidings indeed, or one more tinkle in the knell of doom for pleasant old ways, depending on one's point of view. This portable record player handles only 45-rpm's — that is, mainly numbers featuring the bounce and wail of "pop" tunes. Its availability is thus good news to some of the young who fancy such music and insist on having it wherever they go. Heretofore they have had to depend on radio in such remote places as picnic grounds and the beach. Now they are no longer slaves of the disc jockey's whim; they can play their favorites over and over. Anyone who thinks they won't do exactly that is a victim of galloping optimism. The chances of listening to the voices of nature, or even of relishing an occasional interlude of silence, will be poorer than ever next summer.

When labor leaders decry the existence of the profit motive in business and industry, this question should be asked of them: "Where do you expect to get the money to create the stores, fac-

LET US TAKE note, too, that no one in an official capacity has advocated an expansion of the central business district. No one has sought to increase the amount of commercially zoned land in our city.

Rather, the intent has been to IMPROVE, to modernize the business area — to make sure that it adheres to the high standards, the top quality of our residential area.

The CBDD Plan seeks to provide an orderly, attractive development of our business district while limiting it to that area already zoned commercial.

THE PLANNERS have sought to prevent an evacuation of business from the downtown area, a factor that has characterized the deterioration of many another community.

We believe that preventing a degeneration of our business community will also prevent deterioration in the rest of our city. Furthermore, a modernization of downtown Birmingham should mean an improvement in the over-all tax structure — higher assessed valuations will mean a larger contribution of tax dollars.

AND RIGHT here, it is well to point out that business and industry today pay more than 29 per cent of the total tax burden in our city.

Yet, only 3.6 per cent of the total land area in Birmingham is zoned for commercial use; and only 2.3 per cent is zoned for industry.

The property on that total 5.9 per cent of land pays more than 29 per cent of the city's taxes!

When it comes to school taxes, business and industrial establishments pay their share — but do not create any more costs than do residents, yet receive no direct benefits from their contributions!

And, as stated earlier, the CBDD Plan does not provide for any increase in that type of land usage.

It must be recognized, then, that business and industry make a very substantial contribution to the entire community.

IN THE FINAL analysis, we must conclude that the question of modernization of the downtown business area is compatible to the goal of keeping Birmingham residential.

Attention must be given to both, because they are part and parcel of the over-all community concern, for these reasons:

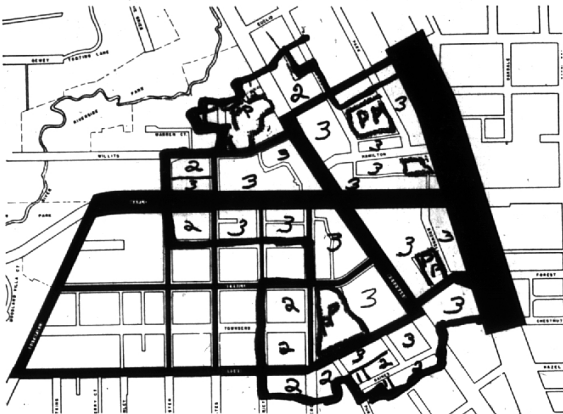
1. Every community must have a business section.
2. A healthy, planned business area protects the residential area from invasion by undesirable elements; it protects the residential area from a haphazard business development that can only create crime.
3. A vital, attractive business area provides greater support to the total tax burden.

WE MUST remember, then, that the CBDD Plan does not in fact entail less residential and more commercial land usage than presently is allowed; rather, it simply protects and upgrades the development of land ALREADY zoned commercial.

stories, etc., to employ people?" The right to earn a return on one's investments is just as justifiable, and just as necessary, as the payment of wages to those who work. Where do unions place their reserve funds? Where can they obtain interest on their money, of course!

A newspaper story out of Moscow suggests that Nina Krushcheva, spouse of one Nikita, often persuades her husband to change his mind on lesser state matters. If this be so, then it is enough Russian wives follow Nina's example, where will this lead the Soviet rulers? Rise up, ladies of the Kremlin, and get your menfolk to engage in less bestial enterprises!

New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller gives every political evidence that he seeks to be the Republican's presidential candidate in 1964. Naturally, though, he denies such aspirations — too already revealing some of the traditional hypocrisies so abundant in the arena of politics. Come to think of it, though what else can a secretly avowed candidate do?



The Central Business District Development Plan requires no increase in business zoning. This map, prepared by the city planning department, shows the present zoning in the central business district: B-1 is nonretail business (doctors, dentists, etc.); B-2, neighborhood business (drug stores, cleaners, gas stations, etc.); B-3, community business (any other type of store); P-P, public property (municipal parking lots, parks, schools).

### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## How Far Do We Go In Providing School Bus Transportation?

To the Editor:

There is in this country a system of public education, administered locally by elected boards of education. The public schools are open and available to every resident of school age living within each school district.

In districts which are suburban in nature, school buses pick up public school students and transport them to the public schools. The State of Michigan requires that children of school age attend school. However, this need not be the state and locally supported public schools.

PARENTS HAVE the right to send their children to nonpublic schools if they so desire. These nonpublic schools do not have state or local tax monies behind them; therefore, their costs are great. The parochial segment of the nonpublic schools, being church supported, charges less tuition generally than does the strictly private segment of the nonpublic schools. However, contributions to the church are income tax deductible, so these people do get some tax relief in the chosen education of their children.

NOW THERE is a bill in the State Legislature which would compel local boards of education to transport all residents of their district of school age to whatever school, public or non-public, within their district to which they happen to go, excepting of course those who live within 1 1/2 miles of said school.

Parents of some parochial school children in the Bloomfield Hills district are currently condemning their board of education for the public schools for their action of disseminating information concerning Senate Bill 1144 to all taxpayers of the district.

MR. MOHRHOFF stated in his letter (published in Eccentric's People's Column March 28) to Dr. Bowers, "The need of all children for safe transportation to and from schools should not be jeopardized by the recent board action and most certainly seems to be fostered by religious prejudice."

He begins his plea with an appeal for "all children" and ends by making an accusation of religious prejudice. "Every taxpayer is required to pay part of the cost and operating expense for school buses. Why shouldn't every taxpayer's children be allowed to ride these buses?"

The answer is they are allowed to ride these buses, if they go to the schools the buses go to, to the public schools.

Your children are welcome there anytime, Mr. Mohrhoff. If, however, you as parents elect to send them elsewhere, the costs concurrent should not be odious nor repugnant to you.

NONPUBLIC schools of all descriptions come under no elected board's administration as do the public schools. To accuse such an elected board of prejudice when at times to protect its domain is unreasonable.

It tempests burn too hotly to give full ear to what we have just said, let us draw a parallel: Your boy is 18. He has just been graduated from an accredited institution of

secondary education. (It matters not what particular kind.) Now he wants to pursue a course of study in say, marine engineering.

SEVERAL PATHS could be followed to arrive at this end.

1. He could seek an appointment to a National Service Academy, and if successful in meeting all requirements could receive an excellent education in his chosen field at no cost to his parents, and if he were frugal even arrive at his ultimate goal with money left over from that paid to him while in attendance out of federal tax monies by the U.S.A.

2. He could elect to go to a state-supported college or university where, being a resident of the state, he would pay less tuition than students from outside the state of Michigan. Also, because this "state school" is supported by tax monies, all of his costs of education would be lessened.

3. Thirdly, he could choose to go to a church supported college, where again because of a supporting group, his costs would not be enormous.

4. Next, he could go to an exclusive private school where his parents would pay dearly for his education.

5. Finally, he could decide to go abroad for an education, where his true education costs would be compounded by being somewhat of a tourist at the time same.

NOW, DOES this inequality in the cost of an education with similar and parallel end results mean that some adjustment should be made to reimburse somehow those who choose No. 3, No. 4, or No. 5?

Now this is a free country. We all have the right to make a free choice in a great many matters. But if a minority elects to go on free will, to spend an opportunity open to them, is it their right also to demand that the majority back them in their choice?

If this bill were to become law, what then should be done for taxpayers who have no children? What return do they get for their school tax dollar? How can we "Play Fair" with them?

MR. AND MRS. THOMAS G. KUZMA  
3810 Carriage Rd., Birmingham

### Library Approval A Step Forward

To the Editor:

The approval of the library proposal by Bloomfield Township voters Monday is a major forward step in the cultural and educational progress of the area.

It was made possible only by informing township residents in some depth as to both the overall need for library service and the specifics of the particular proposal on the ballot.

The "yes" process The Eccentric played a key role.

Your full and factual coverage of the question contributed much to community understanding of exactly what was involved in the library issue.

MRS. HORACE E. SHELDON  
Chairman, City Library  
Committee of Bloomfield Township.

(More People's Column Letters on Page 4-B)

### Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO  
April 11, 1913

L. E. Waite, a member of the firm of Waite Bros. & Co., and one of Pontiac's prominent merchants, had a narrow escape from serious injury and perhaps death at the hands of a masked man who called at his home, 82 Norton avenue Thursday night last week at midnight. Mr. Waite's head and flattening itself against the wall.

The "National" progressives allowed one to put over them this spring at the Town Meeting by not claiming their rights in position on the tickets. This happened in the towns of Bloomfield, Royal Oak and Southfield. In each of these townships they were entitled to first place on the ticket but were not wide awake enough to take the advantage.

Success for the republican ticket and defeat for the equal suffrage amendment marked the results of the balloting in Michigan on Monday. Grandly interested was centered in the fight made for votes for women, but with the impassable condition of country roads making for a light rural vote it early became evident that the battle was lost to the women.

30 YEARS AGO  
April 13, 1933

Definite plans for the organization of a new bank for Birmingham were consummated tonight when Fred W. Johnson, of Adams avenue, will gather together six or eight local men to form a permanent committee to direct the sale of stock. This information was released last yesterday afternoon, following a meeting earlier in the week with R. C. office in Detroit.

The sale of Birmingham school bonds, begun a month ago by a committee of volunteer citizens in an effort to keep the public schools operating until the end of the regular semester on June 1, was practically at a standstill today, pending definite developments in the organization of a new bank here.

Harry Allen was elected first mayor of Birmingham by his fellow commissioners at their initial meeting Friday night. Mr. Allen, who had been village president since 1930, was nominated by Commissioner Frank S. Packard and received five votes. Mr. Villet was nominated by Commissioner J. Henry McBride, and was given one vote.

15 YEARS AGO  
April 18, 1948

In Monday's annual city election, Birmingham voters returned Mayor Ralph A. Main to the city commission for his third term; elected Bruce G. Booth and Garland D. Tappan to the commission; approved a \$100,000 bond issue for sewer extensions, a \$50,000 bond issue for the W. Maple bridge; and turned down a proposed \$50,000 bond issue for development of city parks and recreational areas.

Bloomfield Hills voters in their annual city election Monday elected James A. Buresford, Lorne Pine road, to his first term on the city commission and reelected C. G. Eden, also of Lorne Pine road, to his third term. Only 64 voters cast their ballots, while more than 600 are registered.

### Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

The many letters and phone calls I have received concerning my school bus column two weeks ago forces me to go a little deeper into why I think the Bloomfield Hills School Board letter to all its residents was misleading.

The best way to do this, I think, is to reproduce the letter and add my comments (in bold print).

The portions of the letter are enclosed in quotation marks.

"Patrons: You as a taxpayer in the Bloomfield Hills School District are very soon apt to be taxed an additional 2 mills, an average of \$40 per home owner, for a State action you may know nothing about."

COMMENT: Two mills would raise approximately \$200,000 which is far in excess of what the school board would need if the school bus law were enacted, even using their figures. Also, the only way the residents could be taxed an additional two mills would be by their vote.

"On Feb. 15, Michigan State Senate Bill No. 1144 was quietly introduced. The bill proposes that the board of education of any school district now paying to transport any public school child (exception: special education children) must be responsible for the transportation of each nonpublic school child to his school no matter where the school is if it is not more than eight miles beyond the school district boundary, an area approximately ten times that of our own school district."

COMMENT: The bill was, in fact, introduced Feb. 13 and was the most publicized bill introduced in this session of the Legislature. It was so publicized that the original supply of bills which the Senate had printed were exhausted within a couple of days by public demand. I cannot quarrel with the eight-mile comment because that was in the original bill but has since been amended out by the Senate.

"An emergency meeting of the PTO Council and the school board was held on Saturday, March 9. Copies of the bill were distributed and considered. We were appalled! The amount of money involved would seriously curtail our ability to provide instruction and facilities in our public schools throughout the state. Whereas our present transportation costs are only 5 per cent of total operating budget, the increased transportation facilities would raise this figure to 14 per cent."

COMMENT: This 14 per cent has yet to be proven as you will see from the financial comments below.

"It has been stated by the supporters of this bill that the total cost to all 1,600 school districts in Michigan would be \$400,000. But the increased cost to our district alone would amount to \$216,000! The inaccuracy of these publicized figures and their misleading qualities are obvious."

COMMENT: From the school district's own statements they have estimated the costs at \$216,000 but admit \$42,000 of this figure would be reimbursed by the State of Michigan. Therefore, the statement that the increased costs to the school district alone would amount to \$216,000 cannot in any way be considered true.

"We are unanimously opposed to the passage of this bill! We ask that you read the accompanying material and immediately contact your senator, representative and members of the education committees of the State Legislature by letter, telegram or in person to urge that the import of this bill be carefully studied and understood before it is brought to a vote."

COMMENT: Their opposition is apparent, and I repeat their letter is downright misleading.

### By KEN WEAVER City Beat

Wake up, America! Take cognizance of what's happening to our newspapers.

This was the theme, more or less, of a conversation between some newspaper people the other day following solution to the New York newspaper strike.

Papers aren't run by their publishers anymore; they're run by the unions, was the contention of one individual.

Newspapers—especially the large daily operations—do not wield the kind of influence in their communities that once characterized our profession, she declared.

PART OF the blame for this, she insisted, lies with the labor movement. The only way to cope with the union monopoly is for newspapers to band together to seek legislation more favorable to the profession, she said.

Newspapers should coordinate their efforts to find solutions to their mutual problems, without trying to eliminate or circumvent the element of competition, the lady said.

TEN THE TALK centered around the profession, itself, and the people in it.

We lack the thinkers in our country today that we had 50 and 100 years ago, said one man. Life has become so complex; the problems are so complicated that we can't think our way out of them.

What we need, opined another, is a man with the brain of Lincoln and the force, vitality and vigor of Jackson. There is an absence of editors and publishers with the ability, the intellect, the courage to think their way through the world's problems and offer their readers sound advice, commented a newsmen.

THERE'S ALSO a dearth of dedicated newspaper people, he said. There are few reporters today ready and willing to go out on a big story regardless of time of day or the prospect of pay.

Too many news-gatherers, he insisted, expect to sit at a typewriter eight hours a day, taking their news over the telephone. They want time-and-a-half pay if they HAVE to work overtime—and too darned often they just don't want to work overtime.

Too many publishers don't want to pay for overtime, another individual interjected into the conversation. They take advantage of the reporter's dedication, his eagerness to go out on a story, even he has to do it on his own time.

AND, said the friend of a publisher, sometimes the See CITY BEAT, 8-B

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