



# Police Probe Mystery of Grinnan Death

## COMMISSION TELLS GROUP

## No Hearing Needed Now On Proposed Parking Lot

By LARRY EVOE  
City Editor

Birmingham city commissioners reassured a group of citizens Monday night they were not "overlooking" any segment of the city.

The position of the commission came to light as a result of a letter from the Central Birmingham Residents Association, Inc. It requested a public hearing on the proposed parking lot in the southwest quadrant of the city.

The directors of the association said they had been notified by some of their members that they had been approached by the City for the purpose of "immediate acquisition of their properties."

said the property owners contacted were in "the first block south of Shain Park."

"We request public hearings and discussion on this subject so that the citizens of Birmingham can be informed of this proposed parking lot acquisition."

"We feel that action by your representative should be postponed until this procedure is followed," the letter concluded.

Representatives of the association Monday night told the commission that they had not been

officially notified that another municipal parking lot was going to be constructed in Birmingham.

THE CITY has been investigating the possibility of building a parking lot in the block bounded by Merrill, Bates, Townsend and Henrietta.

Studies over the past two years have indicated additional parking is needed in the southwest quadrant of the city.

Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham said it "had never been a secret that we need more parking and this block has been designated as a possible parking lot."

Ingraham said at the present time there was no need to hold a public hearing on the matter. The administration has been authorized to contact the property owners on the possibility of selling their land to the city.

A PUBLIC hearing would be held if condemnation proceedings were started in the area, Ingraham said.

Commissioner Charles Renfrew echoed Ingraham's feelings.

He said it was proper procedure for the city manager to contact property owners on selling land without holding a public hearing.

"This matter has been on the back of the stove for a good many years," Renfrew said.

Ingraham said he was "sorry to find an area of town that feels the commission is overlooking them."

He said he hoped that a meeting of the group attended by City Planner William Brownfield and plan board member Clark Stevens would be held.

(See HEARING, 2-A)

## Lower Taxes: Beverly Hills Budget Goal

Guilmet Pledges  
Continuation of  
Reduction Policy

By KAY SMITH  
Special Writer

BEVERLY HILLS—"As long as I'm chairman of the budget committee we're going to reduce taxes," this was Councilman Chester F. Guilmet's reply Monday to a suggestion by Councilman Edward F. Dolan that the 1963-64 tax rate for the village be left at \$3.80 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, rather than reduced to \$3.70 as Guilmet proposed. The proposed figure remains at \$3.70.

The discussion took place at the regular council meeting at which Guilmet, informally presented the budget and set May 21 as the date for the public hearing on it. The budget will be on file at the village offices two weeks before that date.

A total general budget of \$278,932 was proposed for the general fund and public safety and a road budget of \$123,551. The public safety portion will be \$123,484 and the general fund \$155,478.

THE DECREASE is possible because increased construction has added \$2,235,585 to the total valuation of the village, thus broadening the tax base. Total valuation for the village now stands at \$23,000,000.

Guilmet explained that the budget includes \$8,000 for the ultimate purchase of fire equipment, a fund which will now have \$24,000 in it. He also said a new village services fund of \$12,000 per year for four years has been created, for use as an emergency fund.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, a change order was authorized for placing a water meter at 13 Mile Road and Southfield, Johnson and Anderson, the village engineers, recommended that Coolidge Excavating Co. be given the job for \$400.

Tap-in charges on the Evergreen water line for Westwood subdivision.

(See GOAL, 2-A)

## Bicycle Safety Program Set For May 18

The annual bicycle safety inspection program of the Kiwanis Club of Birmingham, in conjunction with the police department, will be held at the playgrounds of five schools May 18.

Schools participating in the program, which will begin at 9 a.m., are Midvale, Quanton, Pembroke, Torrey and Pierce. Bicycles will be asked to go to the school nearest their home.

Bicycles will be safety-inspected and a Scotch glow safety inspection emblem applied.

A safety course will be set up for riders to qualify for prizes. A safety slogan contest will also be conducted for school children, and prizes will be awarded.

In case of rain May 18, the safety inspection program will be postponed to June 1.

ACCORDING to Lt. Robert Schaul of the Birmingham Police Dept., "There are more than 11 million bicycles in use in the United States. All ages of bicycles today, even Mother and Dad. But by far, the greatest number are the girls and boys who will be tomorrow's automobile drivers."

"Therefore, it is very important that the bicycle riders of today learn to obey all traffic laws, the same as cars, trucks, buses and other vehicles. All traffic laws are safety rules."

Lt. Schaul listed the following (See PROGRAM, 2-A)

## Comments from...

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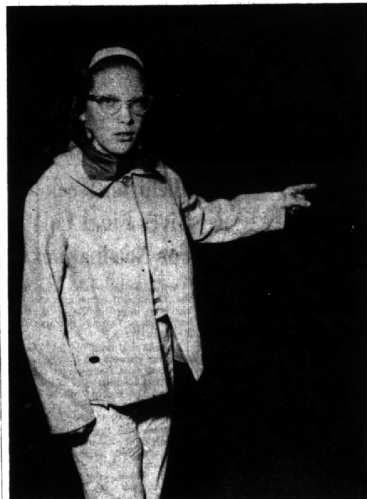
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Margaret Guest, 12, 5624 Sutters Lane, points to the spot in the lake where she and a friend discovered the body of Bobby Grinnan.

## Hills Board OK's Tentative Budget

By SAVILLA SLOAN  
Special Writer

A tentative budget of \$2,683,211 for the 1963-64 school year was adopted at a special meeting of the Bloomfield Hills School Board last week.

The budget total is \$190,000 over last year.

Provided in the increase is \$20,000 for establishment of psychological services for the school district through use of Wayne University's psychology department.

The plan, approved by the board, was presented at the meeting by Dr. Walter J. Ambinder, assistant professor of education and clinical psychology at Wayne.

AS OUTLINED by Dr. Ambinder, he would serve part-time as a psychologist working in the school district.

The university would provide consulting service to set up a psychological screening service for all grades from kindergarten through the 12th.

A parent-counseling program for parents of kindergarten children would be established. A diagnostic study and psychological counseling would be provided for emotionally disturbed children referred by teachers in the school system.

Appropriate referral of disturbed children to community agencies, where services are available, would be made.

Twenty telephones have been set up in The Community House for this purpose, according to William B. Bachman, Jr., general fund drive chairman.

On each of the two nights, from 7 to 9 p.m., members of The Community House Board of Directors and members of the Senior Men's Club will telephone residents who have not yet made their contributions.

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SORRY services to teachers would be made available. Seminars, both for college credit and noncredit, would be set up for the Bloomfield Hills teaching staff. A continuing evaluation program by both the school system and the Wayne University psychology department would be maintained.

The university would provide personnel to interpret the program to the community.

The program would initially be (See BOARD, 4-A)

## B'ham, E. Lansing To Trade Mayors On Exchange Day

Birmingham and East Lansing will exchange chief executives for a day as part of the Michigan Week celebration.

William H. Burgum, Birmingham mayor, will change places May 20 with the East Lansing mayor.

The East Lansing chief executive will be honored at a luncheon at The Community House and will be taken on a tour of Birmingham during his visit here.

Gov. George Romney, who made the pairings in Lansing, originally drew Birmingham and Southfield for Mayors Exchange Day but threw the names back into the hat because the two communities were so close together.

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## Boy's Parents Wonder How It Happened

By DAVE PHILPO  
Staff Writer

The long days and nights of worrying, wondering... waiting were over for Joseph and Estelle Grinnan.

Now they sat in their home at 5515 Publishing, reviewing the 26-day search that ended at 11 a.m. Tuesday with the discovery of their son's body near the edge of a windswept lake within one-half mile of the house.

Mrs. Grinnan could not understand how 12-year-old Bobby had wandered to the lake.

"He never went more than a block away from home," she said. "Bobby was a very obedient child. When I trained him to do something, he did it."

SHE EXPLAINED that Bobby, although mentally retarded, was a very happy boy and had learned to do many things for himself.

Mrs. Grinnan was at a loss to explain why Bobby's boots were found on the wridge feet.

"We bought his boots about two sizes larger so that he could put them on himself. On the day he disappeared I just can't remember if I dressed him or he dressed himself."

MR. GRINNAN, his forehead creased with fatigue and a d worry, said he thought the child might be discovered near the home.

"What I can't comprehend is how he got into the lake," he said. "I walked it foot-by-foot and could find no break in the ice or footprints in the snow that led up to the lake."

At the time of Bobby's disappearance, Bloomfield Township Police said the lake was covered by eight feet of ice. Skin divers searched the bottom after the ice had broken up—with no success.

MR. GRINNAN had just returned to the house from one of many trips to suburban newspapers with pictures of Bobby in an effort to locate the boy, when he was informed that the body had been found.

He identified his son's body at the lake's edge.

The Grinnans moved to Bloomfield Township last summer from the Philadelphia area. They have three other children: Joseph, 19, a cadet at Pennsylvania Military College; Mary Lou, 17, a senior at Marian High School, Beverly Hills; and Edward, 8.

Bobby had been attending special classes each afternoon at the Poppleton School in Troy.

Warnica Resigns From Committee

The resignation of E. A. Warnica, 388 N. Glenhurst, from the Insurance Advisory Committee was accepted with regret by Birmingham city commissioners Monday night.

Warnica, senior vice president of the committee, said he was retiring shortly from business and felt it would be difficult to handle the problems of the committee without active business connections.

The Insurance Advisory Committee advises the mayor and commissioners on insurance problems involving the city.

Mayor William H. Burgum directed the city clerk's office to prepare a certificate of appreciation and recognition to present to Warnica.

Restaurant Fire Costs \$10-\$15,000

SOUTHFIELD—A fire Sunday at the Demas Brothers Restaurant, 2805 Northwestern, is estimated by firemen to have caused about \$10,000-\$15,000 damage.

Firemen believe the blaze broke out near the dining area where it was confined. Cause of the fire has not been determined.

## 2 Girls Find Boy's Body in Township Lake

By DAVE PHILPO  
Staff Writer

What happened to Bobby Grinnan? The case is not closed as far as Bloomfield Township police are concerned. Two questions remain unanswered: How did the 12-year-old boy get into a lake solidly frozen over with ice?

Was there a "mystery man" who gave the mentally retarded boy a ride in his car on the day he was reported missing?

An extensive 26-day search for Bobby came to a heart-breaking end at noon Tuesday with the discovery of the boy's body in a man-made lake within a half-mile of his Bloomfield Township home.

Discovery of the body by two 12-year-old girls hiking around the lake culminated a nationwide hunt that started shortly after Bobby was reported missing on March 22.

PATHOLOGIST Dr. Richard Olson, following a preliminary autopsy at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, attributed the boy's death to drowning. He said that it would take four or five days to determine how long the body had been in the water.

Meanwhile, Bloomfield Township Police Chief Norman Dehnke said he would continue to press his investigation to see if foul play is indicated.

"I want to know how the boy got into the water," said Dehnke. "So far, this question has not been answered."

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

State Police skindivers (in "dry suits") searched the lake when the ice started breaking up a week later and found nothing.

THE TWO girls—Margaret Guest, 5624 Sutters Lane, Bloomfield Township, and Martha Petrie, 1133 Hickory, Royal Oak—saw the body floating in the water near the edge of the lake, south of Quanton Road and east of Inkster.

Margaret ran to her house, two blocks away, and told her mother. Mrs. Guest walked to the lake to confirm the fact that it "was not just a log" and returned to the house and called township police.

BOBBY'S PARENTS, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Grinnan, 5515 Publishing, were notified and the father identified his son's body at the lake.

The mentally retarded boy was reported missing by his mother at noon on March 22 when she failed to find him near an old earth-digging machine where he often played.

The boy's disappearance set off a wide-spread search by more than 100 volunteers who combed the hill country in the vicinity of his home. A description was broadcast to every major U. S. city.

CHIEF DEHNKE said he would continue to pursue the one tangible clue he has received—a mysterious stranger seen in the neighborhood before and on the day Bobby disappeared.

A neighbor of the Grinnans reported that she saw the boy riding in the front seat of a black compact car with a man about 25 or 30 years old, neatly dressed, with reddish-brown hair and a full "reddish" mustache on March 22.

According to the neighbor, the same man had asked directions of her a week before the child disappeared.

ANOTHER THING that puzzles police was the fact (See MYSTERY, 4-A)

## IN THIS ISSUE

Committee named by Citizens League to study county home rule for Oakland County under new constitution. See story on page 3-A.

Oakland University to graduate its first class with U. S. Commissioner of Education Francis Keppel delivering the commencement address. See story on page 1-D.

Sixteen-year-old Bloomfield Hills High School sophomore is youngest professional baseball umpire in country. See "Speaking of Sports," page 1-E.

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