

The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

General Excellence
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1962
Among Michigan Weeklies

Look, Men: You Weigh Too Much!

(Special to the Eccentric)

NEW YORK—The gross tonnage of Birmingham's male population has gone up. It is considerably heavier than it once was.

Back in 1929, when working hours were longer, when people would think nothing of going on foot to the corner grocery store and when a farmer walked behind his plow instead of riding on a tractor, it was easier to stay slim.

NOW, IN this push-button age, even the little effort that once was used in driving a car has been eliminated. Power brakes, power steering, electric windows and automatic shifting have made that effort to the vanishing point.

As a result of little exercise and excessive eating, Birmingham's men are approximately five pounds heavier on the average, than were men of similar height and age in 1929.

The local male population as a whole is about 61,450 persons or 30.7 per cent heavier than it would have been at that time.

THE FINDINGS are based on national averages arrived at in studies conducted by the Society of Actuaries and the Department of Agriculture.

They show that the change in weight has taken place at different rates for different heights and ages.

At the 5-foot-8-inch level, the increase among men is listed as 4 pounds; at age 35, as 6 pounds; at age 45, as 5 pounds; and, for those who are 55 years old, 3 pounds.

AS TO THE women, in 1929 standards they are not over-weight. Actually, they are found to be slimmer than they were at that time. When fashions dictated the slender look for women, they proceeded to diet and to lose weight.

They may now tip the scales at several pounds less than in 1929.

If men were to return to their 1929 size, the medical experts still would not be satisfied. For a longer and healthier life, they say, the average man should be 20 pounds lighter.

THE CITY'S 18-mill tax rate for 1962 compares to 36.65 for schools; 7.35, county; and 70 for special education for a total rate of 63.

The city of Birmingham's tax rate has declined regularly since 1957-58, when it rose to 19.60. The biggest drop was when it went from 19.40 in 1960 to 18.40 in 1961.

Two city agencies which show an increase in the amount requested are the miscellaneous general

Budget Calls For Same Tax Rate in B'ham

**\$1,869,363 Total
Asked for '63-'64**

Birmingham's tax rate will remain the same in 1963-'64 if City Manager L. R. Gare's proposed budget is adopted by city commissioners.

Gare will recommend to the commission Monday night a \$1,869,363 budget for the next fiscal year, which is an increase of \$98,367 over the current budget.

The proposed budget will require the present 18-mill tax rate, Gare said. This will mean a rate of \$18 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Gare said he hoped the commission would be able to complete the review by May 18 to allow Finance Director James Purkiss time to make any revisions. A public hearing on the budget will probably be held on May 27.

DEPARTMENTAL budgets are up about \$48,000 from this year, Gare said. The proposed budget provides for \$27,000 for an adjustment in wages and the remaining \$21,000 represents an increase in departmental operation.

In the proposed budget, \$1,812,000 will be raised from taxes, and another \$573,363 is anticipated from non-tax revenue.

Non-tax revenue includes the city's share of state collected taxes such as sales taxes, weight and gas taxes and various permits and licenses and municipal copes, fines.

Birmingham's assessed valuation of \$72,891,980 compares to the 1962-'63 figure of \$70,990,740.

CAPITAL improvements and debt service amount to \$20,892 of the total budget. At the present time the capital improvement reserve has an uncommitted balance of approximately \$275,900, according to Gare.

With the recommended appropriation of \$18,000, the total amount available for capital improvement would be \$459,900.

It is expected that the proposed nine-hole golf course on the sewage plant property on Cranbrook will be completed when it went along with several other projects under capital improvements at the budget hearings.

The nine-hole course on the 66-acre site has been estimated at between \$100,000 and \$150,000. Preliminary plans studied by the commission have also included other winter and summer sports facilities.

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Residents Oppose Parking Lot



THE OFFICIAL opening of the new addition to Jacobson's Women's Apparel Shop at Maple and Bates this month will mark the climax of the firm's growth since coming to Birmingham 13 years ago.

13 Years of Faith in B'ham

Jacobson's Adds to Store Complex

First of Two Articles
By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Early this month Jacobson's will officially open the new second floor addition to its women's apparel shop at Maple and Bates.

The opening will climax an almost continuous 13-year expansion program in the Birmingham area by the company.

Wilber Mason, general manager of the Jacobson complex, said the firm's growth in Birmingham has been made possible because the town was a wonderful place to do business.

"Our expansion program is a public expression of our faith in Birmingham," Mason said.

"We are interested in taking care of the nice customers in Birmingham."

JACOBSON'S, which operates stores in eight other Michigan cities, first opened its doors in Birmingham on Nov. 18, 1950.

The \$250,000 one-story building at Maple and Bates housed both women, men's and children's wear.

At that time Jacobson's employed 63 persons in Birmingham. With its latest expansion program, its employees now number 235 full-time, with another 30 to 50 hired during the Christmas season.

With the new addition Jacobson's has about 134,500 square feet of merchandising space in Birmingham, making it one of the largest retailers in the area.

IN 1954, WITH the Maple-Bates store almost "breaking at its seams," according to Mason, Jacobson's opened a home decorative shop and beauty salon on N. Woodward.

The decorative shop, which features gifts and accessories for the home, was enlarged to almost double its original selling area during 1955.

A further expansion program to the home decorative shop was completed in July, 1962.

It was constructed next to the original decorative building and the wall separating them was torn down. The older structure was demolished.

The opening of the men's shop in late August, 1962, connected the home decorating, beauty salon and men's wear.

THE CHILDREN'S Shops at the corner of Woodward and Willis opened for business in November, 1956.

Occupying approximately 25,000 square feet of space, the store, on the site of the old Wilson Pontiac-Cadillac showroom, was planned to provide complete outfitting for boys and girls from babyhood through teenage years.

When Children's Shops were opened, the Maple-Bates store enlarged its fashion departments.

THE NEWEST complete store, a shop for men, opened on Aug. 23, 1962.

The one-story structure, on the northeast corner of Woodward and

League Seeks Challengers For Recount

Continue Support
Of Constitution

Birmingham League of Women Voters sent a special notice to its members this week asking as many as possible to volunteer to act as challengers in case a recount is called on the vote in favor of the new constitution.

The Democratic Party has announced its intention of filing for at least a partial recount on the vote which saw the new constitution adopted by a 7,829 margin April 1.

The League is also recruiting challengers from outside its own membership. Five members of the Birmingham LWV attended a legal briefing in the state office of the League of Women Voters last Friday for instruction on the mechanics and procedures of serving as challengers at a recount.

AS A nonpartisan group, the League as an organization is not normally involved in the challenging process at polling places. Adoption of the new constitution, however, was a ballot issue on which the League took a stand in 1958.

"We regret the necessity of asking for more volunteer time from our many members who have worked so long for constitutional revision in Michigan," said Mrs. Gerwin Hawden, Jr., recently elected president of the Birmingham LWV.

"But we are confident that these same women who have participated in the successful drive will not wish to be left out of this final effort to insure the new constitution voters approved last month."

ANYONE WILLING to act as a challenger should contact Mrs. Peter Keene or Mrs. James L. Cameron, Jr., she said. Challengers will need to be available for a full working day or one-half a day, most likely in mid-May. All will be asked to attend one brief training session.

League of Women Voters' training session will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 25.

THE women of Birmingham will play an important role in the local observance of Michigan Week, May 19-25.

Mrs. Edward Talbot, 3880 W. Lincoln, president of the Newsweekers Club and chairman of the Tuesday, May 21, Hospitality Day, said her group will be serving free refreshments in the downtown area that day.

About 50 members of the Newsweekers, dressed in pink and white, will operate a "Michigan Week" booth in the downtown area.

The mall will be decorated with pink and white bunting and the picnic tables will be covered in pink and white.

ANOTHER MAJOR highlight of the 10th anniversary celebration of Michigan Week will be an outdoor fashion show in Shain Park at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 25.

(See WEEK, 7-A)

WILLIAM E. ROBERTS

Roberts Appointed Chairman Of Local YMCA Fund Drive

Should YMCA drive for funds be supported?—See editorial, 1-B.

William E. Roberts has accepted leadership in a representative Birmingham Branch YMCA capital campaign committee. It was announced today.

Roberts, a city commissioner and head of a local insurance agency, said of the fund drive:

"At last we are undertaking the completion of a task started in 1956 when several of our 'Y' interested citizens decided that the Birmingham 'Y' should be upgraded into a complete facility unit."

Roberts described his current activities in the organization as one of enlisting a representative group of residents of the YMCA service area to serve with him on the executive committee to head the campaign.

"THIS CANNOT be the effort of a few, if we are to be successful. We must enlist the active sup-

Ask to Preserve Esthetic Values

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Residents of the central Birmingham area spoke their piece before city commissioners Monday night.

The residents, most of them members of the newly-formed Central Birmingham Residents Association, spoke out sharply against the proposed new municipal parking lot in the southwest quadrant of the downtown area.

Commissioners had authorized City Manager L. R. Gare several weeks ago to contact property owners on the block south of Shain Park about purchasing their land for a parking lot.

The land in question is the block bounded by Merrill, Bates, Townsend and Henrietta.

Commissioners on April 15 directed city attorneys to prepare a condemnation resolution on the property in question but no formal action has been taken yet.

Much of the controversy on the parking lot arises because of three homes at the north side of Townsend that have been renovated by their owners.

The homes were featured in the Community Values series in the Eccentric March 25 and the April Better Homes and Gardens magazine. They are owned by David DeWolf and Leg F. Hazan and would be torn down if the lot were constructed.

SAUNDERS SAID the CBRA, which was formed during the spring commission election campaign, "to preserve the residential character of this area," realized the need for more parking in Birmingham but would rather see one of the present lots developed.

The CBRA also feels the new parking lot might trigger requests for rezoning to business in the downtown area to business.

All of the land in question is presently zoned residential-family, but most of the property contains single family dwellings.

MAYOR WILLIAM H. BURGUM said the commission met with the group at a financial planning session what is going on." He said that Monday's meeting was not a hearing.

The position of the commission has been that there is a necessity for the parking lot. The problem had been one of impatience," he said.

(See PARKING, 2-A)

THE EVIDENCE blood-stained clothing belonging to Thorson, was taken from the Thorson auto in Birmingham by Detroit police without a search warrant.

Thorson, who is free on \$5,000 bond, is scheduled to stand trial on June 10.

Samuel H. Olson, Wayne County prosecutor, in a letter to the high courts said his office felt the evidence should not have been used because it was taken in violation of the state and U. S. constitutions.

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May 11 Is Deadline To File for Schools

Two persons have officially filed petitions for the June 10 Birmingham Board of Education election.

Dr. Charles Bowers, board president, is seeking re-election. Richard McGraw is a candidate for the expiring term of William Bachman, who has announced he will not run again. Both are running for four-year terms.

Ballot registration for the school election in both districts closes May 13.

petitions at the Bloomfield Hills school board offices. The deadline for petitions is May 11.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Chamber of Commerce honors former Mayor Florence H. Willett. See story, picture on 3-A.

Lady golfers from Pine Lake Country Club pin feminine exodus to the links. Story, pictures on 1-C.

Birmingham Citizens Council for Youth Physical Fitness proposes a summer teen center at Seaham High School. Story, picture on 1-E.

Amusements
1-A Art's Ark Sale
1-B Arts of Living Page
1-C Bridge
1-D News
1-E Calendar of Cultural Events
1-F Church
1-G City Best
1-H Classified Ads
1-I College News
1-J News to Earth
1-K Eccentricities

Lathrup Budget Hearing Monday

LATHRUP—The city's 1963-64 proposed budget will be presented at a public hearing scheduled for 8 p.m. Monday in the AAA Office Building, 2929 South Blvd.

The hearing will be held in conjunction with the first regular meeting in May of the Lathrup City Council. Adoption of the \$237,516 budget is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at a rescheduled meeting of the council.

Birmingham Scouts To Donate Displays

Den table displays to be donated to the children's village.

Look, Men: You Weigh Too Much!

(Special to the Eccentric)

Thorson Case Appealed to Higher Court

Defense attorneys for Robert M. Thorson, 2352 Buckingham, have appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Women Take Part in Local Michigan Week

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