

**Says City Unfair To Homeowners**

To the Editor: After attending the commission meeting on May 6, with regard to sidewalks on Derby and Pembroke roads, I feel the City of Birmingham was very unfair to the homeowners in this area.

The majority of homeowners, 61 out of 64, do not want sidewalks because of reasons of safety. Does majority rule or not? One thousand dollars per student is quite a price. Approximately 20 walk on Derby Road.

If it comes to sidewalks, why, then must they be five feet wide, when all other residential areas have only 46 inch sidewalks?

MRS. ROBERT OLDANI  
1577 Derby  
Birmingham

**Attend Meetings to See How Money's Spent**

To the Editor: On May 6, and about 100 of our neighbors were privileged to attend a commission meeting in regard to proposed sidewalks on Pembroke and Derby roads.

We did not know we were being considered for sidewalk construction until we read it in The Eccentric a couple of weeks ago.

It seems that a few people prepared a petition and obtained 750 signatures to the effect that we needed sidewalks. We were not consulted as to whether or not we wanted them. I ask you, is this democracy?

AS THE commission meeting got under way and discussion started pro and con for the sidewalk construction, it was evident no matter what we said we were going to have sidewalks. If this sort of thing is going on in our local government, what is going on at a higher level?

One commissioner took a great deal of pride in letting us know that this was his original notion and that he had swayed a majority of the members to go along with him. The petition was not read at the meeting so we do not know the exact contents of the petition.

THANK GOD, the commission members saw fit to grant us at least one and one-half hours of their valuable time.

Since we are paying for the sidewalk construction, it seems to me that we should have had something to say in regard to the above.

I'm wondering if we as taxpayers should attend more commission meetings to see just how our monies are being used.

(Mrs. E. J.) FAYE B. RAVEN  
701 Pembroke  
Birmingham

SUSAN M. TOUSCANY  
1122 Derby  
Birmingham

past great people and their achievements.

"WE GET AN inspired inner uplift from our history. We get no thrill of loss from the world of the materialist," this youthful matron said to our roving reporter over there in Rome.

What has that gal's mind got that many of our Birminghamites don't possess? Why does her reasoning seem to talk sense while our pleadings to keep our town from becoming "cementized" and striped of all thing's old just sound like lamenting against progress?

Isn't there something about a parking lot that seems to bring out the worse in people's poetry and souls?

BUT PERHAPS the coming generation will possess no longing to speak of souls and poetry?

Maybe they'll see greater significance in a blob of asphalt or concrete than they might in a narrow street, trees, old authentic buildings, birds and grass?

On the other hand, we do need parking lots. Why? Because we're married to cars. The whole family.

Averill saw beauty in Rome. A few hope a bit will remain right here at home.

A READER

**Parking**

(Continued from 1-B)

but we have discovered in the past few months what some few, highly organized and articulate people want or do not want.

It is not the expression of their opinion which is wrong, but the absence of public opinion in general.

This is a city of approximately 24,000 people and I know that the commission has heard from those who support its stand on the need for a parking lot in the south-west quadrant.

IT SEEMS that this has been the attempted subordination of the city plan to the interest of one particular segment of the city. It will be most interesting to see how vocal this same group will be when later developments of the plan affect other sections of the city.

I am sure of those citizens who prefer to stop and PARK in Birmingham. The nice shops, their convenience and accessibility make them most attractive.

I enjoy knowing the people of the business community, many of whom are personal friends.

All of this climate did not just happen—it was the combined effort of the city commission and the many dedicated groups and citizens interested in bettering our city.

I WOULD like to use the facilities of the library and the Community House more often, but from

personal experience I have found that the parking facilities near both of these buildings are inadequate and so my use of them is limited.

This city is no longer a village, and unless we acknowledge the fact that keeping Birmingham unique means long-range planning and a careful study of complex issues for the benefit of the entire city and that some decisions, of necessity, will displease a certain section, we will have lost what our elected officials have been striving for these many years.

IT IS WELL to listen to this group who oppose the commission, but it is quite another to be controlled by their wishes without an expression from those who support the commission's decisions.

I think the commissioners, have given us vigorous, effective and competent municipal government in the past and my sincere hope is that they will be encouraged to do so in the future.

MABEL R. MURPHY  
1339 Dorchester  
Birmingham

**Criticism**

(Continued from 3-B)

behavior in order to maintain their prestige with those unassociated with the group called "criticism."

ONE OF THE significant points brought out is the fact that sidewalks near the road attract the smaller children to the area for play.

This is often observed on streets in the Pembroke-Manor subdivision, and other areas where drivers have to exercise extreme care for the children playing ball in the streets and very small children playing at the curbs between parked cars.

I would prefer not to have this condition on Derby between Etou and the viaduct because of the heavier and faster moving traffic that exists during the after-school hours.

Because of this, I hold more concern for the safety of the smaller children, who are just learning their safety habits, than I do for teen-aged children who can walk carefully and safely at the curbs or on lawns.

CONCERNING THE so-called policy regarding sidewalks in Birmingham, I have not heard of any ordinances, or such, that require this. Whatever it is, it has not been applied to certain other areas of town (many rather exclusive areas) and more than likely never will.

There is something to be said for the fact that cars have on established areas. Can you picture these sidewalks weaving in and out of trees and rising and fall-

**Happenings of Long Ago**

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO  
May 23, 1913

Just across from Thomas H. Cobb's handsome house on Woodward Avenue, Mrs. Elizabeth Stauch has bought a lot and will, as soon as possible, build for herself a new home. This is a fine location and Mrs. Stauch will add one more to the many handsome dwellings in this locality.

John Nye, William Hamilton, George Mitchell, Joe Brooks and a few such met together in church one night recently. A flash picture ought to have been made to prove this fact. Sad to relate, there was no camera handy. John Nye, during the waits, made pencil sketches of many in the audience. The one made of "ye editor" is certainly remarkable for life appearance and portraiture a faithful resemblance.

The junior exhibition at the Baptist church last Friday evening was largely attended, so large in fact that latecomers with reserved seat tickets had to stand up way back with many a "backache."

Entertainment was fine, everybody happy and the juniors got a good sendoff for their final appearance before the public one year from now. It would be wrong to mention any particular student as being the best when all did so well but we will say Anna Yack, a Baltimorean, made pencil sketches of many who had been overcome by, recited the poem, "The Cotter's Saturday Night" in a creditable manner.

30 YEARS AGO  
May 25, 1933

A four-month vacation without pay—and almost "broke" before it starts. That is the prospect which lies before the majority of Birmingham's public school teachers today, with the school system scheduled to close Friday for the summer. Since February the teachers have each received \$10 in cash every two weeks, and 25 per cent of their salaries in scrip. Much of the scrip they have been able to negotiate for living necessities.

Robert C. Hargreaves, city treasurer of Bloomfield Hills, was told

ing with existing grades? It is a start, that is to destroy the clean appearance of this neighborhood for a cause which is not adequately justified.

I join the irritated citizens of this area to rebel against this imposition by a small political body to dictate such action without regard to its effect on the property owner's involved.

K. A. BURNETT  
1536 Derby  
Birmingham

year has been on the commission's outspoken advocate of permanent surfacing, struck out again at local citizens, who wanted bumps and holes and "the village atmosphere" maintained in their streets.

Succeeding the Rev. Charles H. Cochran as rector of Christ Church Cranbrook will be the Rev. Robert L. DeWitt, church officials announced this week. Mr. DeWitt will begin his active duties at the church on Aug. 1, when Rev. Cochran's resignation becomes effective. Rev. DeWitt is a graduate of Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.

With Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of Birmingham public schools acting as moderator, Boyd Walker of the Detroit YMCA opened the first Family Life Institute held in the local schools last Thursday. The first group discussed the basis of a happy marriage.

It was brought out that this is the most difficult of modern battles for the young couple in, when the husband is still attending college.

The University of Michigan was the first institution of higher education in the U.S. to offer a course in pharmacy, in 1868.

Dustproofing of and construction of permanent surfacing on a number of Birmingham streets received the lion's share of attention at the city commission meeting Monday evening. Mayor Milton F. Malender, who for more than a

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