



City to Purchase Property for Parking Lot

W. Maple Parking Ban Is Defeated

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Parking will remain on W. Maple. Birmingham city commissioners Monday decided not to prohibit parking on Maple Avenue in a five-to-two vote.

The commission had had before it a resolution that would have prohibited parking on the north side of Maple between Hunter and Chester from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Commissioners Carl F. Ingraham and David F. Breck voted to prohibit the parking because of



Dickey Takes School Post In Colorado

OTIS M. DICKEY

Dr. Otis M. Dickey, superintendent of Birmingham Schools for three years, has accepted a similar post in Colorado.

He will become superintendent of the Cherry Creek School District in suburban Denver in the middle of July.

Dickey's job in Birmingham was not met with the highest of praise. Dr. John B. Smith, 65, of Greenwich Conn.

When Dickey, 48, announced in Birmingham job, he said he hoped to work on the college level in this area.

"The district is a fast-growing quality suburban area of Denver," he said. "It is well over 100 square miles in area and is expected to

"I DID conduct very careful and extensive investigation of such opportunities," Dickey said. "However, it was not possible to effect a meeting of the minds in the limited number of situations which I felt were challenging and worthwhile."

In a letter Wednesday to the members of the Birmingham school system staff, Dr. Dickey said that "while I might wish that such a revealing investigation could have been conducted without requesting the release from our board of education, my interpretation of the ethics in the matter dictated the course which I followed."

HE SAID he was very impressed with the standards of quality and the level of support established by the board staff and citizens of the Colorado school district.

"The district is a fast-growing quality suburban area of Denver," he said. "It is well over 100 square miles in area and is expected to

(See DICKEY, 2A)

Jochim Graduates Cum Laude from Seaholm High

Due to a typographical error, the name of Michael Allan Jochim was omitted from the list of seniors graduating cum laude from Seaholm High School in last week's Eccentric.

Jochim is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Jochim, 1832 E. Lincoln, Birmingham. He is one of 25 seniors who maintained an academic average of 3.5 or higher during their school careers.

Commencement exercises for the 457 graduating seniors are scheduled for 10 a.m. today in the school gym.

the large amount of traffic congestion in the downtown area.

THE ADMINISTRATION was instructed to bring in a report on the possibility of instituting some type of parking on Maple that would relieve the congestion to some extent and improve the traffic flow through the business district.

Commissioner Charles W. Renfro pointed out the possibility of tandem parking or increasing the size of parking spots so drivers would not have to rush into a space and thus tie up the lanes of traffic.

Tandem parking is now being used successfully in front of the telephone company building.

Several dozen members of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce appeared at the commission meeting to protest the proposed parking ban.

In a letter to the commission, Donald L. Cummings, chairman of the chamber's parking committee, said his group did not believe the "pending resolution" would effectively solve the problem or serve the best interests of the community.

"It is our belief that the use and development of Maple Avenue as a vital artery serving our community and its township is incompatible with any plan which seeks to encourage the use of an east-west thoroughfare serving a high traffic flow of auto motorists who use it," Cummings said.

HE NOTED that many of the motorists who use it come from the growing industry to the east and are traveling to the residential area west of Birmingham.

In short, he said, the chamber felt the people using Maple have more than to pass through the downtown area.

"Speaking before the commission Monday, Cummings said: "We are firm in our belief that Maple is a shopper's street."

He said that the hours immediately after school are among the busiest for merchants and a parking ban would bring about a decline in business.

"The cars parked along the curb look good," Cummings said. "It looks like downtown Birmingham is doing something."

He added that the cars act as barriers to protect children playing on the sidewalk in front of the stores while the motorists window shop.

"WE THOUGHT at first of throwing in the sponge but after a later meeting we decided it would be a terrible mistake," Cummings said. "To take off parking at any time would be detrimental to business in Birmingham."

The chamber believes the city (See MAPLE, 2A)

Thom Again President Of Community House

Robert A. Thom, internationally known artist and founding president of the Bloomfield Arts Association, has been re-elected president of The Community House for 1963-64.

Thom, 6169 West Surrey, Bloomfield Township, was unanimously re-elected by The Community House board of directors.

Other officers elected include

William H. McGaughey, 131 Guilford, first vice president; Edward H. Lechen, 180 Lowell Court, second vice president; Mrs. John W. Fawer, 407 Fairfax, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert F. Kohr, 400 Wimbolt, corresponding secretary; and S. Tenney McGraw, 690 Kimberly, treasurer.

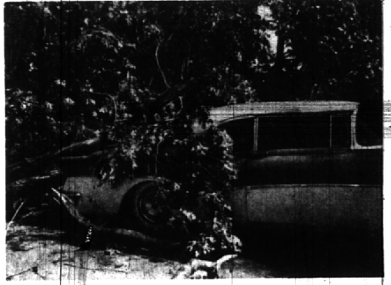
THE COMMUNITY House, 380 Bates, Birmingham, is now in its 40th year of operation and is supported by contributions from the thousands of residents in the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Beverly Hills area that it serves.

Policies of The Community House are set by the 17-member volunteer board of directors.

Thom was first elected to the board in 1961. He was elected first vice president in 1962 and last February was elected president of The Community House to fill the unexpired term of the late Thornburn Wiant.

A NATIVE of Grand Rapids, he attended the Institute of Fine Arts in Columbus, O., and spent several years in the art department of the Detroit Edison Co. and the Chevrolet Division of General Motors, before

ROBERT A. THOM



WHEN HIGH winds felled five trees Sunday night at the Bloomfield Township residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Lichy, the 4954 Whispering Pines, one barely missed inflicting heavy damage to a car belonging to Mrs. Lichy's mother, Mrs. George Sadler of Pleasant Ridge, who was an overnight guest in the Lichy home.

Thorson Trial Starts; Jury Under Guard

By SAVILLA SLOAN
Special Writer

The first-degree murder trial of Robert M. Thorson moved into its third day Wednesday in Detroit Recorder's Court.

Thorson, 36, of 2352 Buckingham, Birmingham, is charged with the Dec. 4 slaying of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Dorothy M. Thomas, in her Detroit home.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Max M. Silverman said he will call 49 witnesses in the case before Judge Elvin L. Davenport.

A jury of eight men and six women has been picked to hear the case. The jury will be housed under police guard in a Detroit hotel during the length of the trial.

DEFENSE attorney Konrad D. Kohl said he desired the jury be (See TRIAL, 4A)



ROBERT M. THORSON

THE WOODED lot of John C. Lichy, at 4954 Whispering Pines, suffered damage to trees. It had five less trees after the high wind Sunday night.

A large oak, six feet from the house, which was struck by lightning the night before, fell across the garage attached to the home.

Another oak fell across a car belonging to Mrs. George Sadler of Pleasant Ridge, who was an overnight guest. The car was parked in the driveway.

IN CONTRAST, Birmingham's Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies in Bloomfield Hills gives ministers a place to talk over their concerns. See story, pictures on 1-D.

Birmingham Recreation Department launches summer program. See story, pictures on 1-E.

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THIS TREE was still smoking Monday morning after it fell across the Lichtys' garage during the storm Sunday night. It gave rise to the possibility that lightning had struck twice in the same place, for during Saturday night's storm the tree had been struck by lightning with such force that its bark, thrown against the walls of the house, cracked plaster inside.

Storm Damage Light But Freakish Here

Park and Forestry Department head, Darrell Middlewood, said only three or four trees and some large limbs were blown down in Birmingham.

Assistant Fire Chief Lionel Pepperwell said that although there were four or five incidents of electrical wires going down, there were no house fires caused by the storms.

A \$500,000 bond issue for erection of a swimming pool at Bloomfield Hills High School was defeated by 455 votes. There were 1,199 votes supporting the proposal and 1,654 votes against.

By a small majority, voters in the Hills school district supported formation of a community college for Oakland County, but defeated the one-mill tax levy for its support by a vote of 1,570 to 1,327.

Bowers, McGraw Win 4-year Terms In Hills District

BOWERS AND McGraw defeated Arthur Randall and Robert Eitz for positions on the school board. Randall collected 659 votes and Eitz, 563.

Bowers is presently serving as president of the board. McGraw, long active in school affairs, is president of the Bloomfield Hills PTO Council.

This is the third time a bond issue to erect a swimming pool has been defeated. However, the margin of opposition has narrowed. At the time it has appeared on the ballot,

College Loses In Defeat of 1-Mill Levy

The Community College District was defeated at Monday's School Board election when voters approved the district question, but rejected the one-mill tax rate. The margin was 18,976 "yes" and 18,369 "no."

SIX CANDIDATES were chosen to the first board of trustees from a field of 27. They are Wandell Brown, 6,703; George R. Mosher, Jr., 6,673; Hope Gorman, 5,649; Harold J. Abrams, 5,646; Thomas Giles Kavanagh, 5,641; and C. Ray Ballard, 5,591.

Their election was contingent upon approval of the first two questions, which failed. A total of 3,617 voters went to the polls in a better than usual turnout for a school election.

THE VOTE WAS 2,165 "yes" to 1,077 "no" on the district question. (See LEVY, 4-A)

IN THIS ISSUE

1-B Happlings of Long Ago
1-B Library, from which volumes may be borrowed and kept until Oct. 1.
1-B SUMMER STORY hours will be held Tuesday mornings and afternoons July 2 through 30. Readings for preschoolers (ages three through five) will be held at 10:30 a.m. while readings for school-age boys and girls will begin at 2:30 p.m.
1-B As usual, there will be a collection of fiction books at the library, from which volumes may be borrowed and kept until Oct. 1.
1-B Tobbogganing Costs SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP (1963) - Bond issue and referendum to raise money for tobogganing costs with Beverly Hills for plans for a toboggan run in Southfield Park. Further participation will be discussed when 1-B the costs are determined.

Options on Eight Parcels Approved At \$150,050 Cost

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night authorized the purchase of eight parcels of land in the block south of Shan Park for possible use as a municipal parking lot.

In a 6-1 vote, the commission recommended the options to purchase be exercised, the purchase agreement be approved and the mayor and administration be authorized to carry out the agreement. Total price of the land is \$150,050.

Commissioner David F. Breck voted against the measure which would allow the city to purchase another step toward building a municipal parking lot in the block bounded by Merrill, Bates, Townsend and Henrietta.

BRECK AND the Central Birmingham Residents Association have been opponents of the lot for the past few months. A founder of the CBRA, Breck campaigned for commission this spring using the slogan "keep Birmingham residential."

Representatives of the CBRA had been carrying on a petition drive in recent weeks to gather signatures of persons opposing the lot. To date, they have submitted over 2,600 signatures.

The administration and the majority of the commission have expressed the urgent need for more parking in the downtown area, especially in the southwest quadrant.

It's Coombe And Leach on B'ham Board

Incumbent George W. Coombe, Jr., led the field of candidates for the Birmingham School Board election Monday.

Coombe, 4412 Parklane Court, Bloomfield Township, polled 1,809 votes as he won his second four-year term on the board of education. He is presently vice president of the board.

The other board seat was won by Dr. Charles A. Leach, 500 Winton Drive, Birmingham. Dr. Leach received a total of 1,227 votes.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS termed Monday's turnout of 3,617 voters "better than usual for a school election." The community college issue was a major factor in bringing out the voters.

Voting was especially heavy in the Harlan Elementary School area. Residents of the Harlan area and the school board were envious for several months early this year over the redistricting of the secondary school boundaries.

The community college issue, which was defeated in the county, pulled heavily support in the Birmingham School District. The millage proposal passed, 1,983 to 1,212, here.

OTHER VOTE totals for the Birmingham Board of Education were William J. Berglund, 1,067; Louise C. Adams, 823; Jutta Letka, (See BOARD, 5-A)

Baldwin Library Summer Reading Program Ready

Movies previewing the theme of this summer's children's reading club activities will be shown at Baldwin Library Saturday at 9:30 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 2:30 p.m. This year's theme will be mountain climbing and many famous expeditions will be seen on the film.

The summer reading program is for children in grades two through six and begins Monday and runs through July 26.

Admission to the showings is by ticket only. Tickets are free and must be picked up at the library any day prior to the program.

Bond, Millage Proposals Win In W B'field

A \$1,600,000 bond issue was authorized as well as a proposal raising millage for school operation through mills.

There was no contest for the two school board vacancies. Incumbents Paul Roch and Frank Marriot were returned to office with 840 and 822 votes, respectively.

District voters turned down both the county proposal for establishment of a community college and the one-mill tax to support it.

THE BOND issue squeaked by on a 508 to 444 vote. Its fund will be used to purchase three school sites, build and furnish a junior high school and retire a \$120,000 bond issue.

The millage proposal passed by a 537 to 439 vote. It included an extra six mills, already voted, substituting nine mills to be spread for five years.

One of the liveliest, most sparkling special sections ever produced by The Birmingham Eccentric appears with this week's edition. It tells you all about the Birmingham Arts Festival. Its four-page cover, printed in color, serves as a handy program. There's a calendar of festival events on Page 3. To learn more about the festival and the many people participating in it, turn now to the special Arts Festival Section.



BIRMINGHAM ARTS FESTIVAL JUNE 16-23