

# Answers Letter On Parking Lot

To the Editor:  
The following is a copy of a letter I sent to Mr. W. A. John, whose letter to the city commission appeared on Page 1-B of the May 23 issue of The Birmingham Eccentric.

Dear Mr. John:  
I am disturbed by your recent public letter condemning the Birmingham City Commission for its projected plans for an expansion of the municipal parking system. My concern is not only with the position you have taken on this specific issue but also with the implied lack of confidence in our philosophy and policies in local government. I would hope that you of all people could appreciate the vital need for an expansion of our parking system. You have contributed so importantly to the growth of the automobile industry during the post-war period, and it is the automobile generated population mobility that has changed Birmingham.

**THE FAILURE** of most core cities to anticipate this factor has contributed to the development of the perimeter areas, for with this mobility the population has pushed outward and has carried with it a need for stores and services.

This was a clear and present problem when the beltway program 10 years ago, and at that time no one denied the problem or offered an alternative solution to the establishment of a municipal parking system.

We feel that the program as evolved was soundly conceived and has been carefully executed. It has been financed without drawing on tax funds, and it has contributed to the well-being of our community.

**WE ARE** now faced with the need for a further expansion of this system, and we are moving exactly in the direction that was discussed a decade ago.

Our pace has been dictated largely by the ability to finance, and the delay in building the parking facility at the site under question has been necessitated only by the ability to fund.

As you know from your own observation, we passed a resolution of necessity 10 years ago declaring this selfsame block to be essential for parking, and at the time this resolution was recorded in 1954 two commissioners, Mrs. Willett and myself, voted against the rescission.

**THIS** rescission was due to the determination to place a higher priority on other locations, and did not mean that long-range plans had abandoned this site. It is interesting to note that no one raised any objection to the parking lot south of Shain Park at that time.

Now, 10 years later, we are

talking about the same location and the only factors that have changed are more cars and the attractive improvement of 30 Buses. The site fits our pattern of surface parking — it is the same location as selected several years ago—the need is more pressing.

**YOU SPEAK** of this commission "as serving the business interests," and I hope indeed that we are serving the business interests as we are also serving the residential interests, but I deplore emphatically and categorically that our helplessness to business has been to the disadvantage of the residential property owner.

As a close follower of the city government, you should know that your insinuation is wrong. Over the past 12 years the City of Birmingham has invested over \$6,000,000 in capital improvements that have benefited the city. This sum represents expenditures of a character primarily benefiting the business areas. The approximately 30 per cent burden carried by business does not indicate business is not a favored child.

**YOU ALSO** refer to the "conspicuous absence" of signage in the government of the City of Birmingham. I don't agree and feel that the responsibility for this is outstanding.

During my 12 years on the commission I have served with scores of citizens holding responsible positions in our economy. They have represented a cross-section of our metropolitan business life and include professional men, bank officers, insurance company executives, directors of trade associations and management and industry officers.

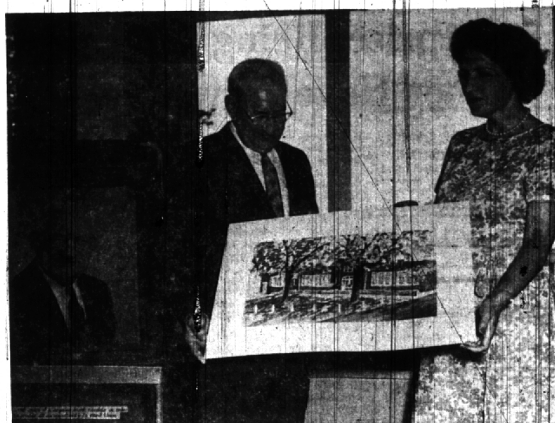
**I, OF COURSE,** have no idea of how you arrived at your conclusion but I feel sure that if you had served with these men, at I hope, you would have been highly gratified with their character and capabilities, and would not have made such a hasty judgment.

Our commissions and boards are a part of the fabric of this small American city, working not as opposing elements but rather as parts of a whole—all working with a common interest in the well-being of the community.

In the past, differences of opinion have existed, but these have not been divisive up until now.

As a long-time resident of the community, I hope that your articulate voice can be lifted to the support of your city—not to exaggerate the artificial difference between business and home owner.

CHARLES W. RENFREW



## Pictures of Pleasure

Franklin School Principal Marjorie Tate and retiring custodian Jim Bowden admire a pastel of the school presented to Bowden by the PTA at a reception for him Sunday afternoon. Mounted on an easel next to them is a photograph of the custodian which will be hung in the library as a gift from the community to the school. More than 300 people attended Sunday's event to honor the longtime resident of the village who has served the school for 33 years.

## Two B'ham Men Will Be Honored By Area College Franklin Church Pastor Transfers to Plymouth

Two area men are among seven who will receive alumni achievement awards from Lawrence Institute of Technology today.

They are William D. Innes and Seymour Sterling.

Innes, a 1953 graduate in mechanical engineering, is the general manager of the engine and foundry division of the Ford Motor Co. He lives at 6830 White Pine Drive, Birmingham.

Innes is responsible for all engine development at Ford and recently was in charge of the Ford racing program which saw two Lotus-Ford cars finish high in the standings of the Indianapolis 500 race.

At his request, the Rev. Hugh C. White, pastor of the Franklin Community Church for the last three years, has been transferred to the First Methodist Church of Plymouth.

His replacement will be the Rev. Kenneth Rivers Callis, formerly of the First Methodist Church of Sargaw.

Rev. White, his wife Doris and two sons, Stewart and Jeffrey, will move from the parsonage on Wing Lake Road Monday. He delivered his final sermon in Franklin last Sunday morning to a congregation which has taken in 301 new members since his transfer here from the Grosse Pointe Methodist Church where he served for 15 years.

**IN A LETTER** to the congregation completely surprised by the move, White stated, "There has been some misunderstanding regarding our denominational affiliation as was expressed at the time of the annual meeting on April 3. It is my belief that the church can operate effectively by recognizing that we are an incorporated Methodist body without leading people to believe that there is no real denominational affiliation attached to this church."

"IT IS ALSO my belief that all of the organizations of the church must associate themselves with the World Movement of Christianity through the denomination of which we are a part."

"I would be remiss in my duty as a minister of Jesus Christ if I did not make every effort to bring this organization face to face with its great opportunity and lead its great need," he concluded.

Associate minister Archie T. Roberts is also leaving to serve as minister of the Dixfield Methodist Church.

**STERLING**, a 1946 graduate in electrical engineering, is president of the S. Sterling Co. of Southfield which he founded in 1946. Sterling resides at 3275 Quarton Road, Birmingham.

He has written numerous articles for technical publication, has won several salesmanship awards and is a member of many professional organizations.

**Local Boy Attends School on Canoe Safety, Instruction**

John Collins of 521 Fairfax, Birmingham, is attending a National Aquatic Canoeing Instructors Program at Culver Military School, Culver, Ind.

John was chosen and sponsored by Camp Nissokone to attend the aquatic school, where he will be qualified as Canoe Instructor by the Red Cross. The course will conclude on June 21, and John will return to Camp Nissokone as canoe instructor.

Five Collins' have attended Camp Nissokone. John Collins, Jr., John's father, attended the camp as a boy in the early 30's, as did John's two uncles, George Collins, of Rochester, Michigan, and Robert Collins, of Chicago, Illinois. Bill Collins, John's younger brother, is the fifth "Nissokonean."

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**Conservative Club Will Present Movie**

The Oakland County Conservative Club will present a film on the Birmingham YMCA, on June 18 at 8 p.m.

The 30-minute film is the story of the Young Americans for Freedom and shows the growth of Conservatism among the nation's youth. A large portion of the film includes remarks by Conservative such as Senators Barry Goldwater and Strom Thurmond.

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**Fire Damages House In West Bloomfield**

An unoccupied house across the road from Walnut Lake in West Bloomfield Township burned early Wednesday morning. Damage to the building was estimated at about 75 per cent by Capt. Walt Whitman of the volunteer unit which fought the blaze.

Twelve men answered the call, which was received at 3:11 a.m. The house, located at 5335 Patman, was owned by Frank Nite.

**Board**

(Continued from 1-A)

712, Richard R. Calize, 5385, and Sally Saunders, 385.

For the community college board of trustees Birmingham's George R. Mosher led a file of 27 candidates in the Birmingham district with 1,587 votes.

Next in line was Birmingham resident Almeda Max with 1,202. The other four pace setters in Birmingham were Wendell Brown, C. Ray Ballard, Hope Gorman and J. Russell Bright.

**Kingsley Inn** invites you to celebrate

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**MSU Offers Courses at Oakland U.**

Extension courses in various fields of study will be offered by Michigan State University this summer on the Oakland University campus.

Credit and informal courses in education, school lunch management and sociology begin the week of June 17, with others starting throughout the summer.

**ADULTS** can enroll now at the MSU Regional Continuing Education Center at Oakland, or during the first class session. Morning, afternoon and evening classes are available to fit in with summer vacation plans and job requirements.

**Thom** (Continued from 1-A)

fore opening his own commercial art studio in Detroit.

He said the studio when he was commissioned by Parke, Davis & Co. to paint two series, "A History of Pharmacy in Pictures" and "A History in Medicine in Pictures." There are 40 paintings in each series, considered by authorities to be the most authentic, extensive and comprehensive ever executed in behalf of the two professions.

Thom, who was also one of the founders of the Birmingham Arts Council, is a member of the New York Society of Illustrators and a member of the Scarab Club of Detroit.

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