



This Is the Sport the Teen-agers Call 'Woodwarding'

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

A "sport" that has become a favorite pastime among area high school and young college students in recent years is the practice of "Woodwarding."

The rules of the game are quite simple. All you need is an automobile (without hub caps, of course), money for gasoline and the desire to spend your evening driving up and down Woodward Avenue.

The length of the playfield runs from 10 Mile Road in Royal Oak on the south to Square Lake Road on the north. The contestants are usually carloads

of boys pitted against carloads of girls but occasionally mixed groups are allowed to play. An important part of the game is the pit stops at the drive-in restaurants strung out along Woodward Avenue.

IN RECENT weeks some citizen criticism has been directed against the restaurants. The tragic death of 14-year-old Connie Crossland on July 18 brought to the light the world of the drive-ins.

Since her death, police have been able to piece together evidence that the young girl spent almost two weeks in the Bir-

mingham-Royal Oak area going from drive-in to drive-in. She would hang around the drive-ins, make friends with the employees, be introduced to local youngsters who would buy her food and often take her home for the night.

Connie's case, however, seems to be the exception. Police in both Royal Oak and Birmingham generally have nothing against the drive-ins and speak well of their management.

THE LARGEST number of drive-ins and the most popular with the teen-agers are in Royal Oak.

The four-mile strip of Woodward between 10 Mile and 14 Mile roads has 13 drive-in restaurants. This is more than any other single street in the United States, according to Royal Oak Police Chief Ray C. Hayward.

Hayward says the problem is not the drive-ins, themselves, but rather the traffic congestion created on Woodward by cars trying to get in.

IN AN EFFORT to keep the traffic moving, parking has been taken off Woodward during the evening hours, signal lights have been installed at each of the half-mile roads and right

turns of Woodward are prohibited at busy streets. The elimination of right-turns helps to keep the teen-age traffic out of the residential neighborhoods, Hayward said.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, the Royal Oak police assign five cars to do nothing but patrol Woodward.

Their duty is to keep traffic moving but also to cut down speeding and racing. Hayward said traffic counts have shown that between 65,000 and 75,000 vehicles traveled along Woodward in 10 Mile and Cool in a single day during the middle of the week. Week-end totals could reach 100,000, he said.

HE EMPHASIZED that his department had very few calls about trouble at the drive-ins. He said the owners hire private police to patrol the parking lots and things are usually kept running smoothly.

His department holds periodic meetings with the drive-in owners to work out mutual problems, he said.

"When a drive-in is properly policed, it is a good place for the youngsters to be," he said. "He noted that if they didn't spend time in the drive-ins they could be out racing on country roads and getting into other kinds of trouble."

WITHIN THE Birmingham city limits there is only one drive-in. Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said his department has had no problem with traffic congestion at the restaurant but has had a number of complaints from nearby residents on the noise caused by the youngsters.

Drive-in managers concur with the police that they have very little trouble with the youngsters.

One manager, who has been in the business for about a year and a half, said he had had no major incidents in all of that time.

He said most of the youngsters

were not looking for trouble but merely seeking a place to gather and talk with friends.

THE GUARDS at his drive-in have a policy of letting a car drive through the parking lot once or twice without stopping to purchase anything and then ask them to leave.

Cars may be barred from entering a drive-in for up to 48 hours, he said.

Traffic counts have shown between 700 and 800 automobiles pass through the bigger drive-ins in a single evening as compared to about only 200 during the daylight hours.

Letter Sent To Students On Societies

Board Continues Crackdown Policy

Continuing its policy of cracking down on fraternities, sororities and other secret organizations in the schools, the Birmingham Board of Education has sent out letters stating its position to all students who are registering in the secondary schools this fall.

The letter follows a statement of position and intent of policy and rules the board adopted at its June meeting.

At that time the board agreed it had no choice but to deny class credit, promotion or graduation to any pupil who knowingly is a member of a prohibited organization.

BEARING the signature of newly-elected Board President E. Ross Hanson, the two-page letter points out that the board is obligated to protect the state and line to enforce the state law.

In addition to the letter, parents had been informed of the board's policy through the "Board Brief" which is distributed to all persons living within the Birmingham School District.

The letter begins Sept. 5, additional information on the policy will be distributed to all students in the seventh to 12th grades.

THE LETTER stresses that after the opening of school "the board of education will assume that all parents and students have been adequately informed of their responsibilities under the law."

Under present Michigan law public school students are prohibited from belonging to "any organization whose active membership is composed wholly or in part of pupils of public schools and which is organized and perpetuating itself by taking (See LETTER, 6-A)

Old Salem Hearing Set For Sept. 9

A public hearing on a proposal to vacate a portion of Old Salem Park will be held before the Birmingham City Commission on Monday, Sept. 9.

The commission declared no necessity for setting up a special assessment district for the project on Monday night, reasoning that only two property owners would benefit from it.

At the meeting of July 15, the commission requested that the city extend the pavement on Old Salem Court 94 feet to pass in front of property owned by Charles C. Curtis and Carl T. Bauman.

The request was referred to the engineering department for an estimate of cost. City Engineer William T. Killen put the cost at approximately \$1,600.

CITY MANAGER L. R. Gare said he had discussed the project with Curtis and during the course of the conversation it was suggested that it might be possible to vacate the street and split it equally down the center of the 40-foot proposed street. This would enable the two property owners to make their own improvements.

Gare said he had discussed the matter with the city attorney's office and it was felt there would be no problem in working out the vacation agreement.

If the commission does approve the vacation, Gare said, he would recommend to the city council the full width of the right-of-way be retained by the City for the maintenance and installation of public utilities.



End of a Chase

A six-mile chase, with speeds of up to 80 miles per hour, ended in Birmingham Sunday afternoon for a 20-year-old Royal Oak youth. The boy, Ronald W. Stump, along with two friends, was finally cornered at Brown and Chester streets by Birmingham and Royal Oak police. Royal Oak authorities said the

boy ran several red lights and stop streets in the chase. When stopped, he could give no reason for trying to elude police. He was fined \$150 and lost his driver's license for 30 days in Royal Oak Municipal Court Monday.

Paving Brings 'Time' Back To Franklin B'field Board Aids Neighborhood Groups

By SAVILLA SLOAN
Special Writer

Two neighborhood groups appeared before the Bloomfield Township board Monday night to seek official action in solving problems concerning their areas. A group from Westchester subdivision sought more adequate screening between residential homes and a shopping center under construction on the southeast corner of Lahser and Maple.

Residents in the area of Lahser and Winlake roads asked the board to take action against a three-year-old lake-dredging, pit-mining operation of Lahser which has resulted in five deep water-filled pits, which, they claim, are unsightly and dangerous.

In both matters, residents got board cooperation. BOARD representatives will meet with the Lahser-Maple developers to work out a means of screening off a proposed supermarket operation from nearby homes.

Screening standards were set in court decrees last year, when developers won a judgment making the property commercial. The decree called for a six-foot link chain fence with a 30-foot greenbelt.

Grading of the Commercial property has made it four feet higher than residential property and residents feel a six-foot link fence would give little protection.

They would like a masonry wall. In return they would allow the greenbelt to be narrowed from 30

to 10 feet, within 45 feet of the to the north, to give the commercial property parking space.

THE BOARD voted to take the lake-making operation to court. They will seek an order to the project as a "nuisance," contrary to the health, safety and welfare of township residents.

The action came after township efforts over the past two years have failed to get the dredging operator, John A. Gohl, to provide safety measures around the pits he has created, to remove surplus and unsightly machinery—which was not being used in the project—and to expedite completion of the lake.

Owner of the property, William Pulte, told the board that, were Gohl not to complete the lake, he would simply abandon the land and let it be taken for back taxes.

After the board voted to start proceedings against Pulte and (See BOARD, 2-A)

Tennis Court Proposal Sent Back to Board

A proposal for the construction of two tennis courts at the corner of Glenhurst and Oak streets was referred back to the recreation board for further study by Birmingham city commissioners Monday night.

The commission voted 3-2 to table the project until a later date. Mayor William H. Burgum and Commissioner Charles W. Renfrew voted against the motion.

Several residents of the Glenhurst-Oak area appeared at Monday's meeting to oppose the construction of the courts. They felt the courts if needed could be better placed on a portion of the Quanton School playground rather than on the two vacant lots.

The residents stressed that although two of the three baseball diamonds at the school were in use most of the time the third was seldom used and might therefore be converted into tennis courts. The Birmingham Board of Education owns all of the property involved in the proposed project.

CITY MANAGER L. R. Gare said representatives of the school board and the City on the recreation board favored the plan and tentative approval had been given to the project by the board of education.

Stiff Penalties Invoked For Woodward Racing

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Woodward Avenue may be a popular race-way for area teen-age drivers, but youngsters taken to Birmingham Municipal Court have to pay a high entry fee.

For the second straight year Birmingham Judges John B. Emery, Jr., and Edward M. Emery have shown they will not tolerate speeding or "drag-racing" within the Birmingham city limits either on Woodward or Hunter Blvd.

During the last month 13 young drivers have been brought before the Emerys for speeding and racing violations, and everyone of them has been given a stiff fine, probation and in one case, jail.

THE "GET-TOUGH" technique will rarely be one of the policies of the court in its regard to racing and that the penalty for conviction is quite stiff.

Racing is "knowledgeable violation of the law" in the opinion of the Emerys; that is, a person who is racing is aware that what he is doing is illegal.

"If a driver's record shows a flagrant disregard for the law he is in trouble," Emery said and noted many first offenders are given a

small fine and released with a warning. "But the general policy of the court is that second offenders go to jail," he said.

BIRMINGHAM youngsters are becoming aware of the consequences involved if they are found racing in the city and are checking their speed in the city.

In July only one Birmingham boy was brought into court for racing. A 22-year-old, he was fined \$15 for



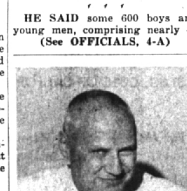
ROBERT E. ANDERSON
Hills Baseball League Elects '64 Officials

An advertising executive has been elected president of the Bloomfield Baseball League, Inc. for the 1964 season.

He is Robert E. Anderson, 1680 Hillwood, Bloomfield Hills, vice president, director and general manager of Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn, Detroit.

Anderson said the league plans further expanded activity for the seventh consecutive season starting next spring. He predicted a "considerably heightened program" would be necessary in 1964 to accommodate the anticipated increase in the number of youngsters wanting to play ball.

HE SAID some 600 boys and young men, comprising nearly 40 percent of the membership, (See OFFICIALS, 4-A)



Head B'ham Plan Board

The new chairman of the Birmingham Plan Board is architect Linn Smith (left). George W. Talburt, 520 Purlan, an attorney for Chrysler Corp., was named vice chairman at the board's August meeting. Smith, whose offices are at 849 S. Adams, replaces Walter R. Denison. Smith previously had served as vice chairman.

the violation and released. During the school year, high school students receiving moving violations are required to appear before a Birmingham's teenage court.

The court is made up of a group of teens who hear the case and pass sentence. They often require law-breakers to write long essays on good driving practices and to attend Oakland County traffic clinics.

DURING JULY over \$1,000 in fines were assessed against Woodward-Hunter speeders. In addition, six youths were placed on six months probation and a 19-year-old Pontiac boy was sentenced to five days in the Oakland County Jail.

Those convicted last month included: Gary L. Neadeau, 23, of Berkley, \$80, speeding, \$75 racing and six months probation.

Lawrence C. Bowman, 24, of Detroit, \$40 speeding, \$75 racing and six months probation.

Howard G. Murray, 29, of Madison Heights, \$45 speeding, \$85 racing and six months probation.

Howard S. Piers, 15, of Pleasant Ridge, \$25 speeding, \$75 racing and six months probation.

Gene M. Evohner, 16, of Madison Heights, \$75 racing and six months probation. (See RACING, 5-A)

City, C of C To Discuss Maple Parking

The city commission and the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce are expected to discuss the problem of parking on W. Maple at next Monday's commission meeting.

Commissioners took no action July 29 on a report by Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley aimed at improving parking facilities and relieving congestion during peak hours on the street.

The commission postponed making a decision to allow the chamber's parking committee time to study Moxley's report.

A possible solution to the problem is tandem parking similar to that on Martin St. in front of the Municipal Building, according to Moxley.

TANDEM PARKING consists of two cars parking bumper to bumper—the rear of one touching the front of the other—with a small "no parking" area between each set of stalls.

If adopted, tandem parking would result in the loss of 10 parking spaces along Maple between Hunter and Chester streets.

A motion to prohibit parking on the north side of Maple from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday was defeated at the commission meeting of June 10.

Heart Attack Fells Park Smith

Former Birmingham Fire Chief Park H. Smith was stricken with a heart attack Sunday morning at his summer home at Hubbard Lake, Mich.

Smith, 60, of 271 Chesterfield, Birmingham, retired in February after 27 years as a paid member of the Birmingham Fire Dept. He was with the volunteer department would rest in the loss of 10 parking spaces along Maple between Hunter and Chester streets.

IN THIS ISSUE

The Birmingham Eccentric gives its readers another opportunity to plan their own state tax reforms. See story, ballot on page 5-A. Editorial, page 1-B.

Arts Festival workers are honored at a party at Bloomfield Open Hunt Club. See story, pictures on 1-C.

The Birmingham Colt League All-Stars are eliminated from tournament play—but not before reaching the regionals. See story, pictures on 1-E.

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