



Case Levels Blast at County Road Unit

Offers Home Rule As Solution to Oakland Problems

By KEN WEAVER
Managing Editor

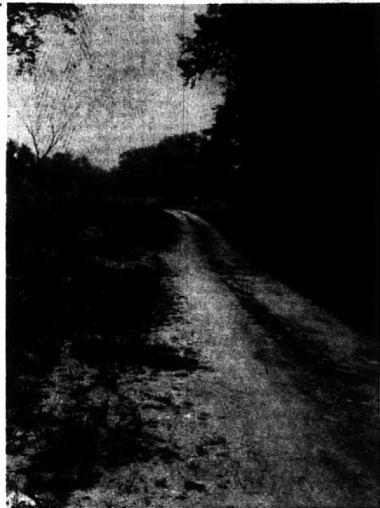
Homer Case believes county home rule is the answer to Oakland County's "headless form of government." It would provide better management, a streamlining of county government, the Bloomfield Township supervisor told Birmingham Rotarians Monday. He was the club's luncheon speaker. Michigan's new constitution has made possible the county home rule type of government, Case explained. "What is the need? What do we have now?" he asked. "We have a headless form of county government. The departments are like satellites in space . . . under the subjection of no one." Case cited the county road commission and health department as prime examples in need of improved administration.

POINTING OUT that only 24 of the 85 members of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors are directly elected by the people (the rest are appointed by their municipal governments), Case said:

"We have a government that is not responsible to the voters." The road commission, he emphasized, "is not even accountable to the Oakland County Board of Auditors" under the present constitution.

CASE, WHO cited his own case as one of being appointed to the board of supervisors under an "antiquated system," said the county health department is not responsible for food handling. The department, he said, has encouraged all cities and townships to adopt their own food handling ordinances. In Oakland County, this would mean 49 different codes "when we have a county health department. We should allow the department to enforce these ordinances. This is one area where county home rule would be more effective," said Case.

GETTING BACK to the road commission, he said 25 (See SOLUTION, 2-A)



What's This? Million For Teens to Spend?

(Special to The Eccentric) NEW YORK — Birmingham's teen-age population has become an economic force to be reckoned with — a \$1,741,000 force. As a consumer group, they have this impressive amount of money at their command, a matter of great interest to local retail merchants.

Equally important, from a business point of view, is the influence these youngsters wield in determining how their parents spend money. They help decide the kind of car that is purchased and the type of improvements that are made in the home. The size-up of the teen-age market is based on studies and reports made by the Department of Labor, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, Gilbert Youth Research, Inc., and other agencies.

AT AGE 15 the cost is up to \$865, at 17 to \$920 and at 19 to \$955, with college costs excluded. The average figure is \$905, which occurs at age 16½. Applying this national average locally, the amount spent on Birmingham's teen-age population per year comes to an estimated \$1,741,000.

IN BIRMINGHAM, as in most other areas of the United States, the teen-age population is large and is growing larger rapidly, it is shown. In 1960 there were 1924 boys and girls locally between the ages of 13 and 19, according to the Census Bureau. The number is expected to be about 30 per cent greater by 1965.

The rate of growth in this age category is found, in line with the national trend, to be three and one-half times faster than that of the population as a whole. BUT SHEER numbers is only part of the story. Teen-agers locally have bigger allowances than ever before. One reason is that their parents can afford to give them more. Another is that since, to a greater extent than in former



THESE TWO sites were the objects of a blast against the Oakland County Road Commission made Monday night before Bloomfield Township's Board of Trustees by Township Supervisor Homer Case. Case setds before a 35 mile per hour speed limit sign on Westview Road in front of Eastover School. The commission has refused to reduce the speed despite the fact that Westview has a 25 mile an hour limit a few thousand feet to the west. The picture on the left, illustrates the condition of Devon Drive. Case says the county has received funds for its maintenance since 1929.

Resolution to Condemn Houses Tabled by City

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

The problem of what to do with three homes in the block south of Shain Park is still unsettled.

Birmingham city commissioners were presented with a condemnation resolution on the property Monday night but barely discussed the matter and then tabled it without date.

The City has been unable to reach a purchase agreement with the three property owners involved and had instructed the administration to prepare the condemnation resolution.

The properties are sought for Municipal Parking Lot No. 7 in the block bounded by Merrill, Bates, Townsend and Henrietta. All of the other properties in the block have already been purchased by the city.

COMMISSIONERS several weeks ago authorized the administration to begin drawing plans for the construction of a temporary lot on three-quarters of the block.

When the condemnation resolution came up Monday night it first appeared the commission would not even discuss the matter.

Just as Mayor William H. Burgum was about to pass on to the next item on the agenda, Commissioner David F. Breck tried to get a discussion going on the fate of the three homes.

"I would like to see some discussion on the matter so we could let the property owners know what is going on," Breck said. He has since proposed to the parking lot set a discussion going on the commission last April.

"IF YOU want to discuss it, go ahead," Burtum said. "I think if no action is taken then we are leading the owners into believing we do not intend to condemn," Breck said.

He said the owners were present in "a state of suspense as to what to do with their homes. He noted that one of the owners had informed him he would like to

School Area Speed Limits Cause Concern

By SAVILLA SLOAN
Special Writer

"Do we have to kill a child before we get action from the Oakland County Road Commission?" Bloomfield Township Supervisor Homer Case threw this question before the township board Monday night. Case had just completed a summary of his inability, as well as that of township residents, to convince county road officials to reduce speed limits in front of certain schools located in the township.

Case's blast was triggered by the road commission's refusal to reduce the speed limit in front of Eastover School on Westview Road.

"SINCE MAY 20, letters have poured into (County Traffic Engineer Robert) Osgood's office asking for a reduction from 35 to 25 miles per hour in front of Eastover School, including a letter from the Eastover Property Association." Case said. "As late as five o'clock this afternoon we have had no action from the commission." Case pointed out the inconsistency in the present speed limits on Westview Road.

"Just beyond the school, Westview west of Squirrel Road has a speed limit set by the county of 25 miles an hour. Yet we can't get this same speed limit continued in front of the school where there are many children walking to school."

HE ADDED THAT a radar check by the newly purchased township radar equipment revealed that the average speed of traffic was 34 miles per hour in front of the school.

"The road commission lets the public's traffic pattern set the speed limits," Case said. "They survey the average speed of traffic on a road and use that to determine the speed limit to be set."

Futile efforts by township citizenry to get reduced speed limits in front of other township-located schools, both public and private, were also recounted.

CASE POINTED OUT that parochial high schools—Brother Rice and Marian—located on Lahser have had to install a traffic signal at their own expense to allow students to safely cross Lahser.

The move came after refusal of the road commission to reduce speed on Lahser or to install a traffic signal at county expense. Conant School, on Quarton Road west of Telegraph, was pointed out as another failure of citizens to get the road commission to reduce speed despite continued effort on their part.

"Many school children have to walk to this elementary school on road shoulders parallel to fast-moving traffic," Case added.

THIS IS NOT the first time that Case, since becoming Bloomfield Township supervisor, has had occasion to criticize the road commission.

He has several times advised the township board that either the road commission be made more responsible to the citizenry, or that townships make an effort to gain local control over local roads.

HE ADDED a second charge before the township board Monday night. He showed pictures of the poor condition of Devon Drive, a road south of Square Lake west of Lahser, for which he claimed the county had received funds for its maintenance since 1929.

"The road is merely a pathway and will be impassable in the spring thaw," he said. The county has given tacit approval. (See CONCERN, 5-A)

'Woodwarding' Drivers Feel Police Crackdown

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

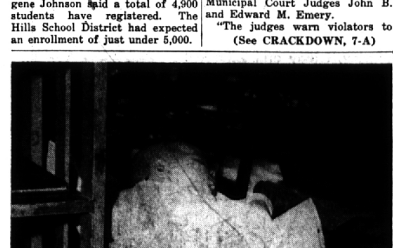
Woodward Ave. speeders, dragsters and drive-in patrons are beginning to feel the effects of more rigid police control of the street.

Police in Royal Oak, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township generally agree that teen-agers are beginning to think twice "about continuing to

Record Enrollment In B'ham Schools

Birmingham's public school enrollment has reached an all-time high. School officials estimate a total of 14,013 students will be attending classes in Birmingham by the end of the week.

This is the first time enrollment figures have topped the 14,000 mark. The district had predicted an enrollment of about 13,900 students. In Bloomfield Hills, Supt. Eugene Johnson said a total of 4,900 students have registered. The Hills School District had expected an enrollment of just under 5,000.



And So the School Year Starts

On the first day of school you can see almost anything, even a baby. But don't be alarmed; they aren't sending babies to school yet. The mother of this infant, Peter Regan, was in the Adams School Friday to enroll her kindergarten son. On the first day of school Mitchell Scott found occasion to sharpen a

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Puppy Likes Street; Lands In Dog Pound

By BETH SHOTKA
Staff Writer

Where, oh where, has my little dog gone? If anyone is asking this question, Frank Rising, 1245 Derby, Birmingham, may have the answer.

On Sept. 9 at 9 p.m. Rising was driving south on Adams with his wife, when a beagle puppy darted in front of his car and began running down the street.

RISING DESCRIBED the puppy as a "courageous thing" when he told of it scurrying through the traffic and not leaving the street for the safety of the sidewalk.

The puppy continued down Adams, crossed Maple and dashed through the cars, their headlights shining on it as Rising followed closely behind.

The puppy finally stopped in the field next to the A&P store across the street from the Adams fire station and crouched in the grass. Rising jumped from his car and tried to approach the frightened animal. He talked to it for some 20 minutes, but to no avail. The puppy

(See PUPPY, 5-A)

