



Battle in Shain Parking To Be Settled by Court

Case Loses Speed Fight; Limit to Be Cut Anyway

By SAVILLA SLOAN
Special Writer

The 35 mile per hour speed limit on Westview Road in front of East-over School, which was criticized by Bloomfield Township Supervisor Homer Case last week, will probably be reduced next week.

However, according to Robert Osgood, Oakland County traffic engineer, the speed limit will not be reduced because of the school, but because a neighborhood build-up justifies a state residential limit of 25 miles per hour.

Osgood said the two agencies that determine local speed limits—the Michigan State Police and the Oakland County Road Commission—are opposed to a general limiting of speeds because of schools.

Osgood personally opposes the idea as well.

"It would be unfair, as lowered speed limits would serve no purpose for 21 hours out of the day," he said.

Oakland County, according to Osgood, has approximately 200 schools, none of which have reduced speed zones.

CASE'S CRITICISM before the Bloomfield Township Board charged that, not only had there been no action on the request of citizens of the Eastover School section for a reduction of speed in

front of the school, but the county had not acted on requests for speed reduction on Quantico Road in front of Conant Elementary School.

Case also declared that Brother Rice and Marian High Schools on Lahser south of Maple had installed traffic lights at their own expense when they could get no speed reduction in front of the schools.

OSGOOD STATED that a speed check will be made on Quantico Road between Telegraph and Wing streets.

(See LIMIT, 7-A)

City Seeks Last 3 Lots In Block

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

The start of condemnation proceedings in Oakland County Circuit Court on three homes in the block south of Shain Park has been authorized by the Birmingham city commission.

By a 4 to 1 vote Monday night commissioners instructed the city attorney to prepare the proper papers for presentation in court. Only Commissioner David F. Breck cast a no vote.

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Police Think Drag Strip Would Cut Street Races

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Birmingham area police believe a drag strip for auto racing in Oakland County would be permissible under proper conditions.

Authorities in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township all agree that the racing strip might have some good effect on Woodward Avenue speeding by teen-agers.

They all insist, however, that if such a strip is ever built it must be properly policed and well supervised.

DURING THE past month police have been cracking down on traffic offenders along Woodward and the courts in the various communities have been handing out stiff fines and in some cases jail terms to young people found guilty of racing or dragging.

"There is nothing wrong with a drag strip if it is properly supervised," said Birmingham Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley.

He warned, however, that any drag strip is potentially dangerous. "The safety conditions of the strip must be near perfect," he said.

over his racing to city streets. Moxley said that it was very much opposed to closing a public road for use as a drag strip as some communities have done.

He believes this is an imposition on the residents of the closed road and of neighboring areas.

"I think any drag strip must be away from a residential area and protected from the curious," Moxley said.

ALTHOUGH land is at a premium in this area, Moxley said that such places as the old Fackard car proving grounds near Utes or an abandoned airstrip might be converted into a drag strip.

Bloomfield Township Police Chief Norman Dehnke is a sound backer of a drag strip.

"Let's get the kids a place to race," Dehnke said. "Maybe this would get them off Woodward."

MONDAY'S decision was reached without discussion as commissioners agreed the subject had been gone over thoroughly many times.

The condemnation resolution appeared on the commission agenda under general business. This is where motions that have been tabled without date appear.

As Monday's meeting was about to end, Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham moved to take the resolution from the table. He was supported by Commissioner Charles A. Renfrew.

THE MOTION carried by a 6 to 1 vote with Commissioner Robert A. Page voting no.

Commissioner William E. Roberts immediately moved to call a vote but Mayor William H. Burgum ordered the resolution read.

No further discussion was held and the resolution was adopted.

City Attorney Dean Beier will now file a suit in Circuit Court to condemn the property. The owners will have the right to contest the action and seek damages.

MONDAY'S action seemingly ended months of study and discussion by the commission.

Several weeks ago commissioners had instructed the administration to begin planning the construction of a drag strip.

(See BATTLE, 4-A)

Explosion in House Traps Woman, 82

By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

An 82-year-old Bloomfield Township woman continued to fight for her life in William Beaumont Hospital Wednesday after being trapped for three hours under tons of debris in an explosion at her son-in-law's home Saturday.

Hospital officials said Mrs. Gertrude Bramley's condition was "very slightly improved" but that she was still "on the guarded list."

Mrs. Bramley suffered a broken right arm and fractured pelvis when a boiler exploded at the 42-room home of Detroit attorney Max H. Fruhauf, 3782 Brookside.

ONLY ONE wing and the garage of the \$200,000 home was left standing after the explosion. A broken safety valve probably was responsible for the blast, according to Township Fire Marshal Albert Landino.

The Birmingham Fire Rescue Squad, aided by police, firemen and civil defense workers from the Birmingham-Bloomfield area were credited with saving Mrs. Bramley's life. Chainsaws, crowbars and hydraulic jacks were used to free the trapped woman.

The explosion occurred shortly after 1 p.m.

Mrs. Bramley, in a second-floor bedroom at the time, plunged to the basement and was buried beneath beams, slate roofing and bricks.

Her daughter Mrs. Alma Fruhauf, was sitting on a sunporch at the rear of the home and was hurled to the floor by the explosion but was not injured.

Fruhauf was working in the yard.

"WHEN I HEARD the explosion, I ran to the house. My wife tried to get in to her mother but things were falling all around her and she never made it inside," he said.

Rescue workers were guided by Mrs. Bramley's faint cries and about 3:15 p.m. they reached her and it took another 45 minutes to get her out.

The rescue operation was directed by the Birmingham Fire Rescue Squad, whose township officials credited with cutting the debris removal time in half.

Capt. Dick Nunnelly, of the rescue squad, had the workers maintain complete silence as they tried to locate Mrs. Bramley under the rubble.

AFTER SEVERAL minutes of calling out to the trapped woman, Nunnelly heard a faint cry for help.

"We took a fix on her approximate location, and we were lucky enough to hit the right spot," he said.

On the day to the hospital, Mrs. Bramley was more concerned about her daughter's welfare than her own injuries.

According to Dr. John Markley she kept asking:

"Is Alma all right?"

(See EXPLOSION, 2-A)

Rescue Unit Passes Test At Explosion

The Birmingham Fire Department's heavy duty rescue unit was used for the first time in a major disaster when a Bloomfield Township home exploded.

Since its purchase two years ago the \$12,000 unit had only been used for such things as getting youngsters out of trees and similar situations.

HOWEVER, it played a major role in the three-hour effort to free 82-year-old Mrs. Gertrude Bramley from under tons of debris.

Four men, under the direction of Fire Captain C. G. Dick Nunnelly, responded to the request of Township Fire Chief Volney Davis to help.

Mrs. Bramley was trapped in the rubble of the two-story brick home at 3782 Brookside, owned by her son-in-law, Max Fruhauf.

"WHEN WE first arrived on the scene we had to determine if we were looking for a conscious person," Nunnelly said.

The Birmingham men along with Township fire and police officers remained silent for a few minutes and soon faint cries for help were heard.

"Once we located what general area of the house Mrs. Bramley was in, three different approaches to rescue her were started," Nunnelly said.

"ONE WAS from directly over the victim, which was the way she was ultimately released," Nunnelly said.

"Another was through a man hole outside the basement. We also began to dig down beside the basement wall and take a 90-degree turn and breach the basement wall."

HE SAID when physical contact was made with Mrs. Bramley the latter two methods were dropped and she was concentrated on the straight down shaft.

"Because we were afraid of more debris falling we avoided using heavy hammers and cleared much of the rubble away by hand," he said.

When the rescue team reached her (See TEST, 5-A)

ONLY ONE WING and the garage of the 42-room Fruhauf home remained standing following the explosion that almost leveled the \$200,000 structure was traced to what authorities believe was a defective safety valve on a furnace boiler located in the basement of the house.

Romney Urges Vast State Tax Changes

Gov. George Romney unveiled his much speculated upon tax reform program before the Legislature last Thursday morning.

It included something for everyone, but was riddled with mixed emotions throughout the state.

His program was termed "tax reform without tax increase" for jobs and justice" and even his most severe critics agreed that it is the most far-reaching tax reform program yet introduced in Michigan and is geared to attract more jobs to the state.

FOR THE individual, the program eliminates the sales tax on food and drugs, costing the state \$92 million in revenue.

He also proposes a 20 per cent reduction of that portion of a homeowner's real property tax that goes to school.

Senior citizens are given a property tax deferral if they conform to certain low economic standards.

The intangibles tax, a 3 1/2 per cent income tax franchise tax, is also scheduled for the scrap heap if the program passes.

FOR BUSINESS, the program would end the state business activities tax, which is actually a gross income tax, assessed whether a business is profitable or not.

The corporate franchise tax, which is a tax on the privilege of doing business in the state, would be waived for new businesses in the state for two years.

Business would also profit from a 20 per cent reduction in personal property tax assessed for school needs on inventories and machines.

A statewide poll tax was suggested.

AMONG THOSE favoring tax reform, 36 per cent felt that a state income tax is needed. An equal percentage urged that the state sales tax be increased to 5 per cent.

Of those answering the questionnaire, 48 per cent urged an increase in nuisance taxes, such as excise taxes on beer, liquor and cigarettes.

A statewide poll tax was suggested.

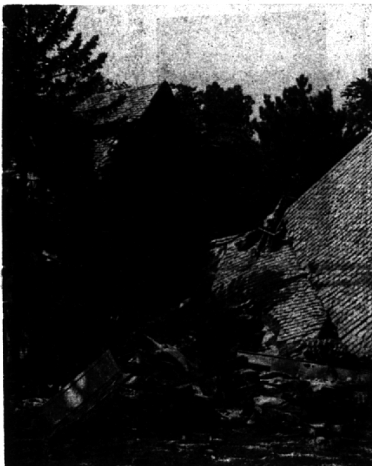
(See TAX POLL, 2-A)

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When the rescue team reached her (See TEST, 5-A)

ble when a boiler exploded in the home of her son-in-law, Max Fruhauf, of Bloomfield Township. This picture was made by Township Detective Don McLaughlin who helped in the rescue operations.



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Tax Poll Finds 88 Pct. Want Some Reforms

Of those answering the poll, 88 per cent indicated that some adjustment in the over-all tax picture is needed.

Twelve per cent preferred the present tax structure.

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(See TAX POLL, 2-A)

C of C Backs Thurs., Friday Night Hours

The Board of Directors of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce has announced it will support and promote Thursday and Friday evenings as the nights local stores will be open.

The chamber board acted on a recommendation from the group's Retail Merchants Division.

The retail division met last week to discuss the evening hour problem.

Charles Mortensen, chamber member and Merchants Division, said the board took two things into consideration before making its decision:

- 1) What would be best for all of the people served by the merchants
- 2) What the retailers themselves preferred.

"The board felt a degree of consistency was desirable," Mortensen said.

BIRMINGHAM'S largest retail outlet, Jacobson's, have been considering opening on Monday night, but reportedly have changed their minds.

At the retail division meeting last Wednesday night at The Community House, Ed Chudik, retail president, announced the results of a postal card survey on store hours.

Of the 80 replies received by Chudik, 38 merchants preferred to stay open on Thursday and Friday nights only. Another 14 voted to be open both Thursday and Friday nights.

He said two showed a desire to stay open on Mondays and Thursdays and two voted for Mondays and Fridays. One store voted to remain open on Monday nights only.

CHUDIK TERMED the response of 80 cards of the 125 sent out as "very good."

HE SAID the survey included all of the merchants in Birmingham.

HE STRESSED the fact, however, that there was "no law" against a store being open on any night it chose.

The main chamber body has also decided to send a letter to all merchants who are not presently open in the evening or open nights other than those backed by the chamber urging them to go along with the Thursday-Friday hours.

In addition to the letter a chamber member will personally call on each of the merchants involved.

Voters League Seeks Funds, New Members

(See Editorial, Page 1-B)

With the encouragement of Gov. George Romney, the League of Women Voters is conducting its annual fund drive and acquainting the community with its activities.

The financial drive is headed by Mrs. George W. Dehnke of Birmingham. At this time the League also invites all women to become members.

Gov. Romney, in designating League of Women Voters Week, praised the organization for "impressive contributions to more effective and responsible citizenship, government and public affairs."

HE SAID, "THE Michigan League, encompassing 35 Michigan counties, has worked diligently and effectively for many important governmental improvements including fair employment practices, better children's services, taxation reforms and most recently, Michigan's new Constitution.

"Michigan people continue to receive help in becoming concerned citizens by the League's sustained attention to encouraging people to register to vote.

"Because the League believes democracy depends upon an informed electorate, it provides the public with accurate and objective information about ballot issues and biographical information about candidates. An informed citizenry is an intelligently acting citizenry.

"I URGE ALL our people to recognize the impressive contributions to more effective and responsible citizenship, government and public affairs that have been made over the years by the League of Women Voters throughout Michigan."

The Michigan League began 44 years ago and now has 3,700 members.

Money Talk?

School finance was probably the topic of discussion in this conversation between Dr. John B. Smith, new superintendent of Birmingham Public Schools, and Lloyd Van Buskirk, director of school finance. Dr. Smith arrived in Birmingham Monday to take over the job as head of the district's 14,000 students. He will devote much of his time during the next two weeks meeting community leaders and becoming familiar with the area.

Police Think Drag Strip Would Cut Street Races

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