

Urban Renewal Here? No

The planning consultants for the City of Birmingham have told the city fathers and the plan board that in their opinion certain areas in the city could qualify for federal funds through the Urban Renewal Administration because they could be considered "a major conservation area."

While the city commission did not turn cartwheels over the prospect, there seems to be feeling among the members that the City should take advantage of the program.

We have just been through a grueling election, in which a majority of voters in our area have recorded themselves as being opposed to more federal involvement in matters that are purely local.

WE DO NOT SEE how the commission would reflect this citizen attitude if it put the City under a federal program that can and should be done locally with local funds.

There is no question in our minds that there are homes and areas within our boundaries that do not measure up to what we would like to see in our community.

But if the No. 1 community in the state in both per capita income and per capita purchasing power has to resort to Urban Renewal Funds to improve itself, then it is time for us to stop fooling ourselves about democracy being built on rugged individualism.

THERE IS AN OLD cliché that "there is no such thing as a free lunch."

Let's look at what is proposed for Birmingham: First a program of code enforcement, selective removal of structures, plus street and utility improvements could be undertaken with the federal government paying 75 per cent and either the City or property owners paying through special assessment, the remaining 25 per cent. There is no question that such a pro-

gram would help Birmingham, but who pays for the 75 per cent that the government would "give" us? It's obvious we do, plus the cost of collecting it and administering it.

BUT PEOPLE WILL SAY the government will do it for someone, why shouldn't we take advantage of it?

The answer is, simply, the less taken the less we need to reimburse the government in taxes.

The second program suggested is that individuals can qualify for 3 per cent to improve their property.

We know and everyone knows that the government can't loan money for three per cent when it is borrowing money from us through savings bonds at a rate higher than that without dipping into the treasury. Again it is a "gift."

NOT ONLY ARE WE opposed to this type of federal handout, because of the financial implications, but also we feel such action would destroy what is needed most in this area: that is, the realization by the property owners of a personal responsibility to their community of improving their residences so that they do not deteriorate the community as a whole.

We also seriously question the administration of a federal program that is designed primarily to clear out slum areas—but which makes money available to communities like ours that have no such problems. It isn't any wonder that our federal budget is increasing each year!

Birmingham is not impoverished. If we have problems, why not solve them among ourselves much as a family would? The federal way can neither give us independence of action nor a sense of responsibility to our total community.

A Lot to Be Thankful For



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Goldwater's Refusal To Lie Caused Loss

To the Editor:

In the old Athens, there was a school of philosophers, who stressed self-control, self-denial, simplicity of living and contempt for material things. They were called "Cynics." One of the best known "extreme" Cynics was Diogenes, who went through the streets of Athens, carrying a lighted lantern, looking for an honest man. Here the history in Athens around that century B.C. is silent whether Diogenes found an honest man in town.

But we, who live in 1964 A.D. can truthfully say we have found a man whose record of honesty, integrity and moral courage is well known to 25 millions, who voted for him on Nov. 3 election to lead us out of the confusion and morass of the past year.

BARRY GOLDWATER insisted that he would rather go to defeat at the polls than try to fool the citizens with promises of pies in the sky, peace and everlasting prosperity for everyone, knowing full well—these things no government can deliver on a silver platter, without first taking it away from the industrious and handing it over to the indolent.

It is a pity that there are too many naive Americans like our six-year-old daughter who confessed: "I know there is no Santa Claus, but I like to be fooled." We have been fooled too long and too often. Our complacency, child-like credulity and philosophy has brought us to a brink of national disaster. We must stop listening to the soothing and enticing promises of Judas's goats, who have made tremendous progress in the last few decades.

THEY HAVE been telling us

that the "public is too dumb to understand" so they have protected us from the truth by telling the nation fairy tales about our military strength and our invincibility. Yet, daily news reports belie these assertions. We are suffering defeat after defeat while American sons and husbands are dying on foreign battle fields for lack of up-to-date weapons.

Yet, these Pugwash grave-diggers are trying to convince us that by unilateral disarmament we can become even more invincible. They even advocate we turn our military forces to U.N. for world-wide police duty, whereby our boys could be sent as far as Mongolia and Mongolia in turn would police America, just to make things even-stein.

To better understand this cabal, please study a booklet: "The Grave-diggers" by Phyllis Schlafly and Rear Admiral of U.S. Navy, Chester Ward. (Pere Marquette Press, Alton, Ill.)

Phyllis Schlafly, has among other honors a master's degree in political science from Radcliffe College, and was selected in 1963 by St. Louis Globe Democrat as "Woman of Achievement in Public Affairs," "because she stands for everything that has made America great and for those things which will keep it that way."

Dianna Dare

Letters from readers always are welcome. But they MUST be signed, although identities will not be divulged if the writer so requests.

Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO
November 20, 1914

Some people are dire distressed about the streets of Birmingham. They don't think the expense is necessary before we can have a dandy paved street for not only Woodward Ave., but also Maple. Next summer will see the avenue paved from Willow to Oak, the northern limit of our village. A connection will be made at each end so the stone and gravel road will run from Detroit to Flint and maybe to Flint. This will boost the growth of Birmingham, more than the trolley did. Our village will see 5,000 population inside five years.

Arrangements have been made at the Family Theater, Birmingham, to exhibit on Monday next, the moving pictures of the Bloomfield Hills open subscription hunt, taken by the Ford Co., during their runs held in the past month. Cards admitting two have been sent to all those whose property was ridden over and, as those who have seen the film say it is very good, it should be worthwhile spending an hour in town to see.

An oyster supper and hard time party, which means the boys may go on their jeans and the girls in their gingham gowns, will be given by the Epworth League on Tuesday evening, Nov. 24, at the Macabees Hall. A collection will be taken from the young ladies for the oysters and the young ladies will look after the trimmings.

30 YEARS AGO
November 22, 1934

The City of Birmingham has been made defendant in a suit for \$92,137.50, which was filed in Circuit Court Tuesday by the Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company. The money is due the company, its suit alleges, from principal and interest on tax anticipation notes it purchased from the city in 1933. The company owns 18 \$5,000 notes, which are dated Nov. 1, 1930. The principal on the notes, together with interest at 4% per cent, became payable Nov. 1, 1933.

Fifty-eight Birmingham dog owners face arrest and court action unless they comply today with the provision of the city's dog ordinance which requires all dogs in the community to be licensed. The names of the owners are contained on a list handed over yesterday to Miss Irene E. Hanley, city clerk, to Chief of Police John P. Hackett. Tuesday was the last day of grace the city had given the owners to have their dogs licensed.

If stamp sales at the Birmingham postoffice, now on almost a normal level, continue their normal trend through December, the office is certain to retain its first class rating for another year. Postmaster Joseph A. Byrne said yesterday. Receipts from stamp sales, which by the rating of all postoffices (See HAPPENINGS, Page 3-B)

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



The World's Fair has closed for the year, but the Hogans had two opportunities to view its majesties; and no matter what the critics might say, it was well worth the trip.

The second time we went we took the kiddies and that made the fair. The exhibits that are geared for the young in age and at heart were really the best exhibits at the fair.

To see the smiles on their faces and share the youthful enthusiasm lets you relive your youth.

BUT THE TRIP TO the fair with the kids also brought home how quickly time is passing. Instead of driving or flying to New York, we decided to take the train, because our children had never been on one.

It was strange since it seems as if I spent half my childhood riding the rails; yet our eight-year-old has flown on the fastest jets, been in cars and boats, but never trains.

We made all of the arrangements and arrived at the station. It was the same as I had remembered it structurally, but there weren't very many people around as in the old days.

WHEN WE BOARDED the train there were only two sleeping cars, whereas in the old days there were at least three trains full of them heading for New York each day.

We got into our compartment, which hadn't changed a bit; basically, it was probably the same car I traveled on 15 years ago, with no improvements.

Not only hadn't there been any change, it looked almost as if it hadn't been cleaned since then.

The kids thought the dining car was terrific but it was less than half-full and centuries old.

THE WAITERS, the porters and the conductors hadn't changed; they were still their old friendly selves, but you could see that they knew they were part of a dying institution.

I hadn't remembered the rocking and rolling that makes it hard to sleep on trains, but that hadn't been improved. Matter of fact, it was almost as if the tracks had been laid with bumps in them.

It was a sad returning to an institution that brought me so much joy as a youngster.

The railroads may be able to justify in their own minds that because fewer people ride the trains they can't afford to make improvements.

AND I'M SURE that they can make more money by carrying freight and are not really too interested in drawing people back to the rails.

But I honestly think they are doing more harm to their image as a public carrier by presenting themselves in such poor light, than the few dollars it would take to spruce themselves up.

If they continue their present course, I'm glad our kids had a chance to ride a train; because they won't be around much longer.

Thanks for Free Elections

History books relate that the custom of thanksgiving originated with the Pilgrims in 1621 following their first harvest. Some 10 years later, various colonies occasionally set aside a day for prayer and thanks until in 1680 in Massachusetts Bay Colony it became a recognized annual holiday.

The governors of these colonies set the date for thanksgiving, and the Continental Congress made provision for the day of thanksgiving annually during the Revolution, with the exception of 1777.

President George Washington proclaimed a day for offering thanks in 1789, then again in 1795.

PRESIDENT JAMES Madison, acting on a resolution of Congress, set aside a day for thanks after the War of 1812. New York adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual holiday in 1817, and by 1858 the holiday was observed in 25 states and two territories.

In 1864 President Abraham Lincoln designated the last Thursday of November for Thanksgiving, and each president thereafter followed this precedent—until 1939.

That year, President Franklin D. Roosevelt changed things around a little, moving the holiday one week forward. The observance in the states was divided then in 1939, 1940 and 1941. It took action by Congress in 1941 to make legal the last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day.

THANKSGIVING has become one of the great holidays in our nation. It is firmly imbedded as a tradition in our homes, our schools, our churches, our business and industry.

Each year across the land people pause to offer thanks for their blessings. Besides attending church services, many families engage in a special prayer hour at home; and frequently the traditional family feast is opened with a prayer of thanks.

It has become traditional, too, to reflect on the meaning of Thanksgiving and its religious implications. Americans are

not content to just say thanks; they must probe deeper into the significance of the holiday, the manner of worship and their way of life.

FOR THANKSGIVING DAY 1964, we believe it appropriate to offer thanks in the many freedoms we continue to enjoy in this country, particularly for the free elections with which our constitution blessed us.

We give thanks, too, that though we differ strongly in our political beliefs, we can resolve these differences through the ballot box.

As we reflect on the history and meaning of Thanksgiving, let us remember that in this great land of ours we still have the right to think as we will, and to freely express our thoughts and opinions.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Greek politicians don't seem as worried as they might be over the squabble in the royal family. Maybe they figure it's the sort of thing that keeps the people from thinking too much about problems the government should be solving.

President Johnson is said to be in closer touch with day-to-day military operations than any previous chief executive. He not only has his finger on the nuclear button, he has it on the GI's rifle trigger.

An electronic "scarecrow" to rid cotton fields of destructive insects is tested. It ought to work—if the bugs don't learn to stuff cotton in their ears.

McNamara thinks "tens of nations" will have nuclear weapons not long hence. The prospect makes thousands of chills go up and down our spine.

Fallout from the Chinese bomb droppings as a gentle rain — and remindeth the world that there'd better be a further tightening of nuclear controls.

PTA Council Rapped For Halloween Letter

To the Editor:

Following is a copy of a letter I have written to Mr. George A. Schmidt, president of the Birmingham Council of Parent-Teacher Associations, protesting the letter on the opposite side of this paper which was delivered to me by my ninth grade child.

(The letter referred to was sent to children reminding them that parents do their "trick or treating" the night before Halloween because the Recreation Department sponsors a parade on that night. The letter requested that pre-school, school and no-school parents in the neighborhood be notified.)

"Dear Mr. Schmidt: This letter is written, I am sorry to say, to protest your letter of Oct. 26 regarding Halloween. In my opinion it was in bad taste. Very few people are unaware of the true meaning of Halloween, but they have not told the youngsters that it does mean more than 'trick or treating,' and that that you must notify people of the 'night before' practice in Bir-

mingham, so that they may also be prepared," is encouraging further abuse of the celebration.

"THE PARENT-TEACHER Association has always meant much to me. I have served it in many capacities and was an officer of the European Council while my husband was in military service. I do not believe that the Association should be used to help encourage 'begging.'"

The Birmingham Recreation Department is doing a good job of trying to change mischievousness and along comes this letter encouraging our young people to still continue their own practices . . .

"Sort of like—'have your cake and eat it too.' Our young people don't need this, and certainly the paragraph asking us to inform our neighbors of this is in bad taste coming from such a fine organization."

Thank you, Mrs. John F. Saffie Birmingham

The Birmingham Eccentric

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City Beat

By KEN WEAVER



One thing that the lengthy Detroit newspaper strike proved is that "there still is no adequate substitute for the printed word as an informational vehicle."

Ernest A. Jones, president of the MacManus, John & Adams advertising agency in Bloomfield Hills, made this observation at a recent meeting of advertisers and advertising agencies.

In his speech, "All I Know Is What I Don't Read in the Papers," Jones reported that a survey conducted by his agency among Detroit newspaper readers and retail advertisers showed "that while both need newspapers to function completely they can muddle along without them when forced to do so."



NEWSPAPERS, he declared, "are a habit with most Americans; deprive them long enough and they will find a new habit."

Jones said the survey "found that a majority of readers and many retailers miss their newspapers and have not found substitutes they consider adequate; but the longer the strike continues the more acceptable the substitutes appear to become."

He asserted that both publishers and printers should realize that "the inevitable result of cutting off an accustomed and necessary service is resentment all around and the primary business of any business is to stay in business."

"This is particularly pertinent to newspapers which have a moral responsibility to the public in addition to their economic function."

JONES CAUTIONED advertisers and media to adjust to the times because "there no longer exists some Peaceful Valley where the winds of change do not blow. And those who attempt to go against this fact may end by just going. No longer is there a sanctuary for those in love with the past, whose ears ring with ancient applause, whose eyes are blind to the portents of the future. Mass communication has made this so. And we in mass communication must abide by what we have created."

Jones said he believes it elementary that the newspaper reader "be supplied with his newspaper regularly and to the best abilities of all concerned."