

What's This? Building Boom In B'ham?

The City of Birmingham experienced a building boom in 1963. City Manager L. R. Gare told commissioners Monday night the community had a "remarkable" increase in construction work during 1963 over the previous several years.

He said the building permit valuation, estimated at \$6,793,200, almost doubled the 1962 figure of \$3,446,000.

"The number of permits in themselves (416) has not increased noticeably, although the total cost of the building permits has jumped from \$15,000 to \$26,600," Gare said.

Our Teen Of the Week

If you happen to run into a girl around the Marian High School halls with a lot of pins on her blazer and a friendly but tired smile on her face, it is probably Francine Thurber.

If you haven't met her yet, you should because she is the president of the Marian Student Council.

She has a lot of experience behind her; she was president of the freshman class and vice president of the sophomore class; then followed as junior class president.

Last year, the student body elected her president of the Student Council.

FRANCINE IS A member of the sodality and honor society and served as MUN chairman. She is vice president of the Mother Seton Club, a parish organization, and was chosen to represent the school at Girls State, where she became eligible for Girls Nation.

Francie would like to enter the University of Michigan and major in art. She hopes to become a high school teacher. Incidentally, she teaches a first grade class at church on Saturdays.

She likes to paint and ski and takes decorating classes. Francie is 17 and lives at 1139 Emmons, Birmingham.

She is The Birmingham Eccentric's second Teen of the Week.

He said at the present time permits are being processed very rapidly and there was only a waiting period of a few days.

"I do not believe that it is necessary at this time to hire additional personnel in the building department, but if the trend started last year continues it is possible the extra help will be needed," he said.

Commitment For Lovvas Boy Ordered

Oakland County Probate Judge Donald E. Adams has ordered Daniel Lovvas committed to a state mental hospital.

Daniel, 15, has admitted the Jan. 24 fatal stabbing of Nancy Jean Jones, 14, as she walked along Purdy Street near Barnum School.

Two defense psychiatrists testified at Tuesday's hearing that they thought the boy could be successfully treated, according to attorney Walter R. Denison.

The boy's commitment petition was filed by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Lovvas, Jr., 1042 Smith, Birmingham.

JUDGE ADAMS' ruling will probably take precedence over a March 10 scheduled hearing on the case before Judge Norman E. Barnard.

Denison said the boy will be retained at the Oakland County Children's Center until a place can be found for him either at Pontiac or Northville state hospitals.

Immunization Program for Polio Okayed

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night approved a plan to take an active part in a free county-wide polio immunization program in the spring.

The city will make the two fire stations and the municipal building available as vaccination centers on two Sundays, April 19 and June 14.

John F. Saeffe, city administrator, said the Oakland County Medical Society will handle the entire program as part of a joint effort with the Wayne and Macomb medical associations.

SAEFFE SAID churches, schools and other organizations in the area also are being asked for facilities and the medical society will announce at a later date the exact location of the centers.

Dr. Worth W. Henderson, chairman of the public health committee of the society, said oral vaccine can be expected to protect people who take it against the damaging effects of poliovirus.

Dr. Henderson said the vaccine is almost certain to give a much higher rate of immunity than the Salk vaccine and repeated boosters may not be necessary. He noted, however, some authorities recommend a booster 10 weeks after the first immunization.

According to latest school estimates, a total of about 1,640 students will be scheduled to attend Beverly and Valley Woods in September, 1964.

WITH BOTH buildings operating at full capacity there is a pressing need for about 1,175 students, Smith said.

"If we are to avoid double sessions, some changes in school boundaries will be necessary until an (See PLANS, 4-A)

THE DOCTOR cited three advantages of the oral vaccine over the Salk method: ease of administration by mouth; only two feedings are necessary; protection against all three types of polio.

Dr. Henderson said the medical society would like to immunize all persons from six-months through 60 years of age.

Although the clinic will be free, Dr. Henderson said donations would be accepted.

Two Injured, One Killed In Troy Airplane Crash



MRS. RITA MARSH, 49-year-old wife of this light plane at Berz Airport in Troy. Her husband was critically injured. Marsh, was killed Saturday in the crash of

First Fatality At Berz Field

By DAVE PHILIPPO
Township Editor

The condition of a Bloomfield Hills stockbroker, critically injured in the crash of a light plane in Troy Saturday, remained "guarded" at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak Wednesday.

Charles Marsh, 58, of 381 Cranbrook, suffered multiple fractures and lacerations in the crash which killed his wife, Rita, 49, and injured his mother-in-law, Mrs. Freida Von Wrangell, 68.

Mrs. Von Wrangell, riding in the back seat of the four-passenger Comanche Piper, suffered fractures of the left arm and nose and is reported in satisfactory condition at the Royal Oak hospital.

The fatal crash, first in the 20-year history of Berz Airport, at Maple and Coolidge occurred about 12:30 p.m. as the plane started a flight to Buffalo.

MARSH, A stockholder with Manley, Bennett, McDonald & Co., had just taken off and retracted his landing gear when airport officials "realized he was in trouble."

"He was just a little past the end of the runway when I heard the engine make a popping and banging noise," said George Berz, younger brother of the owner, Milton Berz.

"The ship started down and to the left. By this time I was running for the car to get down there fast."

Berz said the plane hit on its left wing and nose, sheared most of the wing off and ripped the cabin open.

Mrs. Marsh was sitting in the front seat beside her husband.

THE FEDERAL Aviation Agency continues to investigate the crash. (See CRASH, 2-A)

Seaholm Portrait Is Still Missing

The photograph of Ernest W. Seaholm that was reported missing from the school two weeks ago still has not been found.

The large, color picture was first mislaid from its place on the wall near the school library on Feb. 18.

School officials have turned over a piece believed to have come from the frame of the photo to the Birmingham Police Dept.

Seaholm Principal Ross Wagner said he believed the picture had been destroyed. He said the piece of the frame turned over to the police was "badly mutilated."

Elmer C. Robinson, 572 Linden (See UNIT, 4-A)

Why Open 14 Mile? B'ham: Traffic Relief

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

The Oakland County Road Commission's proposal to open 14 Mile from Cranbrook to Southfield is not a new program.

In fact, according to Birmingham City Manager L. R. Gare, a lack of adequate east-west roads in this area was cited by the Michigan State Highway Dept. as far back as 1947.

However, it was not until three weeks ago when Birmingham and the county entered into an agreement on the necessity of the im-

provement was the project able to get much beyond the talking stage.

The only major hurdle still to be cleared before the project can get under way is approval from the Village of Beverly Hills.

A RELIEF OF traffic congestion on Maple Road is the biggest reason Birmingham would like to see the improvement accomplished, Gare said.

In the last 10 years, Gare said, the volume of traffic on Maple has increased over 50 per cent and is still on the rise. He said the waning (See RELIEF, 2-A)

Start Plans For Revision Of Boundaries

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Tentative solutions for the Birmingham elementary schools' enrollment problems in the fall are already beginning to take shape.

Dr. John Blackhall Smith, superintendent, has presented the board of education with a series of possible solutions to relieve overcrowded conditions at Beverly and Valley Woods schools.

Smith said, however, that no pupils would be transferred until after meetings with the parents of those to be affected.

Lack of classroom space at both schools is "most critical," Smith said.

According to latest school estimates, a total of about 1,640 students will be scheduled to attend Beverly and Valley Woods in September, 1964.

WITH BOTH buildings operating at full capacity there is a pressing need for about 1,175 students, Smith said.

"If we are to avoid double sessions, some changes in school boundaries will be necessary until an (See PLANS, 4-A)

Seek Advisory Unit On School Millage

See editorial, 1-B

Invitations have been sent out to 30 residents of the Birmingham School District asking them to serve as members of a citizens advisory committee for the school board.

The letter, signed by E. Ross Hanson, school board president, asks for assistance in considering the building and operating requirements of the district and possible solutions to meet them.

Citing the help given the board by a similar group in 1961, Hanson said that "the board of education is again confronted with arriving at appropriate financial proposals to put before the people of the community."

"Not only should they reflect the quality of the schools the people desire but also their willingness to support them financially," he said.

HANSON SAID the board felt that a representative group of citizens had in the past and would again assist the board in arriving at "realistic and thoughtful" solutions to problems facing the schools.

According to Hanson, members of the committee will be invited to meet with the board and administration as soon as preliminary

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League Desires Home Rule Flexibility

By SHELLEY SPANN
Public Relations Chairman
B'ham League of Women Voters

With this article we conclude the first portion of this series in which we have dealt with county home rule from the aspect of enabling legislation.

It is our hope that the citizens of Birmingham-Bloomfield will have now attained such a high degree of understanding of the subject that the state legislature will be flooded with letters expressing opinions of the kind of legislation area residents feel we need.

A bill based on the county proposal, outlined and compared to the Home Rule Committee report in our last two articles, was introduced in the Senate Municipalities Committee in Lansing by Senator Farrell E. Roberts, Republican from Oakland County; Senators Raymond Dzendzel and William Ford, Democrats from Wayne County; and Senator Stanley Thayer, Republican, Wahtenaw County.

An administration bill incorporating recommendations of the Home Rule Committee has been introduced and is in the House Towns and Counties Committee.

Representative Kowalski, Democrat, Wayne, has submitted the county proposal intact to the House. All of these bills are similar.

D. Hale Bing drafted the Counties Association bill, submitted to

the House Towns and Counties Committee, which is much less flexible.

LEGISLATORS are not, however, anticipated agreement on a county home rule this year. The usual procedure is the formation of a joint legislative committee to study the subject between sessions.

In the process of many years of study on local government, the League of Women Voters developed its standards for a county home rule provision in the constitution and the statutes.

League members are firmly committed to the principle of flexibility in this legislation.

REASONABLE, intelligent flexibility means simply that action should be free to act according to their needs within certain limits defined by state law.

In 1908, the idea of municipal government was viewed with alarm by many as the most radical innovation possible. They were sure that each city and village would become an empty responsible only to itself.

Such has not been the case. Because of its flexibility, Michigan's municipal home rule act has not only served its cities and villages but it has become a model for other states.

THIS IS THE kind of flexibility the League believes must be embodied in the enabling legislation. Too much rigidity will destroy and negate the principle of county home rule which Michigan needs to keep pace with changing times.

We believe that the principle of flexibility should apply first to the voters in adopting the new constitution which allows for some variation in local needs and for a reasonable amount of self-determination.

Two rigid patterns of enabling a charter commission might prevent a county from considering home rule. This was not the intent of the voters in adopting the new constitution with its county home rule provision.

MEMBERS OF the League of Women Voters believe that implementing legislation should give to local voters maximum opportunity to improve their unit's internal structure.

It should leave the decisions regarding the number and kinds of appointive, hired and elected officials and whether elections should be partisan or nonpartisan to the

local charter commission and to the voters.

No statewide legislation can possibly anticipate the needs of all 83 counties and provide a rigid structure which is satisfactory to each.

The standard constitutional pattern, in effect for 110 years, is the terms of Merrill O. Bates and Earl Givens expire this election.

IF THIS framework was satisfactory to the voters, it would be a model for other states.

Some officials have expressed the fear that a lack of structural rigidity will result in 88 different forms of government with which the state will have to cope.

The municipal home rule act requires only the election of a mayor (See LEAGUE, 6-A)



A 'Sweeping' Sale

Mrs. Walter Eckberg, The Birmingham Eccentric Homeowner of the Year, purchases the first household item to be sold by the local Optimist Club during its annual fund-raising project. On hand for the sale were (from left) Robert Patterson, Robert Jackson, general chairman of the event, and Jack Chapman. The campaign will be conducted throughout the month of March.

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