

City OK's Fund For Sculpture—With An If

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor



This is a model of Marshall Fredericks' proposed wild swan sculpture and reflecting pool. Birmingham city commissioners have agreed to contribute \$25,000 toward its construction provided that an equal amount can be raised through citizen contributions. The art work will be placed in the Birmingham civic center area.

The proposed swan sculpture for Birmingham's civic center is nearer to reality today following action by city commissioners Monday night.

Commissioners authorized a \$25,000 City contribution to a sculpture fund provided that an equal amount is raised through citizen subscriptions.

Mrs. G. Howard Willett, Jr., chairman of the Birmingham Centennial Committee, has proposed that the sculpture of wild swans be dedicated as a memorial to the observance of the 100th year of

Birmingham's incorporation as a village.

The swans were designed by local sculptor Marshall Fredericks, whose work on the estimated \$50,000 cost of the project would be a gift to the city.

EXACT LOCATION of the sculpture has not been determined yet, except that it will be in the civic center, which comprises the general area of the Municipal Building, Baldwin Public Library, Shain Park and The Community House.

It is believed by city officials that the casting and actual placing of the swans in the civic center will take more than a year.

The idea for Fredericks' work is not a new one. Nearly seven years ago the sculptor offered to design and supervise the construction of a fountain for Shain Park.

OVER THE YEARS, Mrs. Willett has been a major supporter of the project. Several times she has tried to persuade the City Commission to take the initiative in starting the project.

In 1962 a committee of Birmingham-Bloomfield residents was formed to raise money. Mrs. Willett again approached the

commission on the matter last December after President Kennedy's death.

Both Mrs. Willett and Fredericks were out of town and unavailable for comment on Monday's commission action.

Fredericks has said he believed that the Birmingham area needed a focal point and that he had tried to design something that would be attractive to all ages.

THE SCULPTURE will consist of three wild swans resembling those that were frequently seen in this area during pioneer times. The birds will be cast in bronze.

Also included in the design is a reflecting pool. The cost of the pool has been estimated at around \$10,000.

A motion Monday night by Commissioner David F. Breck to have the City contribute the \$25,000 only in the event the citizen fund drive fell short for an equal mark failed for lack of support.

Breck said he would like the resolution to read up to \$25,000 but felt it would be a benefit to the City if "we could get away with less."

COMMISSIONER Charles W. Renfrew said he believed the City

should contribute the \$25,000.

"If the committee raises more than that, then possibly we could have a \$65,000 project," Renfrew said.

Acting Mayor Robert W. Page said he agreed with Renfrew and noted that the sculpture would be an important part of the "overall" beautification plan for the civic center.

For several months a group of local architects and designers have been working on a proposed plan for the improvement of the civic center area and are expected to report to the commission shortly.

Chamber's Plans For Family Fun Festival Okayed

Birmingham's Michigan Week Centennial celebration is going to get an early start.

City commissioners Monday night approved a request by the Chamber of Commerce to conduct a Birmingham Family Fun Festival in Shain Park from Thursday, May 14, through Sunday, May 17.

The festival, which will include an old-time merry-go-round, will not conflict with previously approved plans to set up a bazaar and other exhibits in the park during the following week.

Virgil E. LaMarre, chamber vice president, said it was felt the festival would augment the work already planned by Mrs. G. Howard Willett, Jr., and her centennial committee.

"OUR PLAN encompasses a far greater over-all participation of

citizens and citizen groups than is presently contemplated," LaMarre said.

Along with creating additional family interest and participation in the centennial program, LaMarre said the chamber believed it would be an opportunity to meet some of the fiscal problems facing the centennial committee.

The chamber proposes to place an assortment of juvenile rides and rides for teen-agers and adults in and around the park.

The equipment and operation of the festival would be provided by Happyland Shows of Southfield. The firm stages similar shows at Detroit, Country Day and in Grosse Pointe.

INCOME, LaMARRE said, would be divided between the show operators and the Chamber of Commerce.

"The chamber in turn would turn over a portion of its net income to the centennial fund for whatever use the committee may deem necessary," LaMarre said.

He said the show would be staged in the "best possible" taste and the firm is dependable and well-managed.

In connection with the show, the chamber hopes to have concession stands operated and manned by local service clubs, youth organizations and churches.

LaMARRE ASSURED commissioners that no professional pitchers would be employed, no alcoholic beverages would be connected with the show and that all clean-up (See PLANS, 2-A)

Area Families Await Word From Alaska

By MARY BAHN
Staff Writer

The mighty tremors that shook Alaska last week end causing state wide disaster were strong enough to affect residents in far-away Birmingham.

Don Miller, executive director of the Oakland County chapter of the American Red Cross, reported that seven out of a dozen inquiries made from Birmingham - area families concerning relatives living in the stricken state have not been answered yet. Five have heard from relatives in Alaska, finding that all was well.

Miller said that 180 calls were received from Oakland County residents concerning relatives, while more than 51,000 inquiries have been made to the Red Cross on a national level.

IN BIRMINGHAM, Mr. and Mrs. Russell LaMotte, 575 Berwyn, received good word about Mrs. LaMotte's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George Bayer, from Michigan's United States marshal, Orville Trotter.

"We first heard from Trotter (See FAMILIES, 6-A)

Judges Appoint Condit to Fill Prosecutor Post

A Birmingham attorney, Richard P. Condit, has been appointed prosecutor by the Oakland County circuit judges to fill the unexpired term of George F. Taylor.

Taylor, whose resignation became effective Wednesday, stepped down from his prosecutor's post to run for Congress in the new 10th district.

Condit, 30, is a former assistant prosecutor and a graduate of Notre Dame and at the time of his appointment was a partner in a Birmingham law firm with Walter R. Denison and Daniel Devine.

Condit is married and the father of four sons. The family lives at 4778 Mulberry. (See CONDIT, 2-A)

Ask School Bonds, Millage Hike



Fashion Show Planners

Marianne Barnett (seated), chairman of the Michigan Week fashion show committee, checks over details of the program with her committee members. The fashion show will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 23, as part of the Michigan Week-Centennial celebration.

bration. Mrs. Barnett said 39 men's, women's and children's shops will display fashions in the show and a total of 85 businesses are taking part in the planning and staging of the event.

See 80% Voting in Hills; One Issue: Apartments

By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

When Bloomfield Hills gets an election issue, it makes the most of it.

With just four days to go before Monday's spring election, the tempo of the campaign has quickened perceptibly and a record turnout is predicted by City Clerk Stadler.

Stadler predicted that 80 per cent, or 1,200 of the city's 1,500 registered voters will make their way to the polls. Requests for absentee ballots are also running heavier than usual, he said.

The one issue in the campaign being waged by the two rival camps is two-story apartments vs. three-story apartments.

ONE 3-MAN contingent, composed of former commissioner Robert A. Frye and sticker candidates Ross Pierce and George Webb, have become identified as the "two-story slate" and oppose a section of the new zoning ordinance that will allow three-story apartments.

Squared off against them is another 3-man slate composed of incumbent commissioners James A. Beresford and John Blanchard, and Edward A. Schirmer, a former member of the city planning commission.

Beresford and Blanchard feel that three-story apartments would not be a drastic change from the two-story limitation and believe they would be more defensible in the courts. They voted to include the town house provision in the new ordinance.

THE TWO-STORY slate is backed by a citizens committee which sprang into existence when it was evident that the three-story provision might be included in the zoning ordinance.

Within the next few days the committee will distribute detailed voting instructions for residents who wish to cast ballots for written candidates.

According to E. R. Davies of the Eccentric states views on candidates in Bloomfield Hills election—see editorial on 1-B.

citizens committee, voters will use a choice as to the method they use in voting for sticker candidates.

They may either write in the name of the candidate or attach a sticker with the candidate's name to the ballot.

BERESFORD, Schirmer, Frye and Webb are seeking 2-year terms on the commission, while Blanchard and Pierce will battle for the 1-year term left vacant by the death of Mayor Lyman Craig.

The other two commissioners — not up for election this year — are David W. Lee and Louis J. Colombo, Jr.

AN EDITORIAL

Vote 'Yes' Twice

The Birmingham Eccentric believes that it is in the best interests of the city for voters in Monday's election to vote "yes" on the two propositions on the Birmingham ballot.

One proposal would authorize the City to sell a 70-acre parcel that it owns in Troy. This land was formerly a well site and a refuse disposal area. It no longer is used for this purpose.

The site is utilized now as a pistol range for the Birmingham Police Dept., but we do not feel that this factor alone should prevent the sale. Inasmuch as the land offers no other functional value to the City of Birmingham, we believe it should be sold and the proceeds be used for a worthy municipal cause.

THE SECOND proposition would provide for the appointment of three members to three-year terms on the Tax Assessment Board of Review, with the city assessor to serve as a nonvoting advisory member and clerk of the board.

Under the present city charter provision, the assessor sits as a voting member of the board. Like others, we have no quarrel with the present assessor; but we firmly believe that the practice should be discontinued.

No one should sit in judgment on his own decisions, which is exactly what the assessor does under the present setup. Good sense tells us that this just shouldn't be.

Board Approves Proposals for June 8 Ballot

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

A multi-million dollar bond issue and a millage increase covering the next five years has been approved by the Birmingham Board of Education and will be placed before school district voters at the June 8 election.

The bonding program, which will cover the cost of new school buildings and major remodeling and permanent improvements to existing schools, has been set at \$5,300,000.

The millage proposal calls for an additional 5.6 mills to be levied in 1964 and 7.5 mills from 1965-1968. A 1.9 mill levy approved in 1961 will be collected for the last time this year.

Property owners in the Birmingham School District presently pay a total of 26.31 mills for the operation of schools and toward debt retirement.

THIS IS 12.9 mills above the county allocation of 8.4 mills to local districts. In addition, 5 mills are going toward the retirement of debt service.

The proposed increase of 5.6 mills for 1964 would raise the total to 31.91 mills or \$31.91 per thousand of assessed valuation. No increase would be needed in the debt service to finance the new bonding proposal.

The bonding proposal would be issued on a 30-year basis. A special meeting of the school board was held Tuesday night to set the amount needed to construct additional buildings and meet operating expenses for the next five years.

THE PROPOSED program approved by the board culminated several months of study by the board, school administrators and a special 30-member citizens advisory committee.

Organized to give school officials advice on the shape and scope of the fund requests, the citizens group approved the proposal last week.

Dr. John B. Smith, superintendent of schools, said the building program was brought about largely because of an unexpected increase in enrollment.

He said the school system now has about 800 more students than an Ohio State University survey of several years ago predicted for the fall of 1964.

"Based on current and projected enrollments, it appears clear that we will probably be \$850,000 short by operating under our current program," Smith said.

He said a total of 14,150 students are now attending Birmingham schools and by Sept., 1968, the number could grow to 18,323.

"Naturally, the increased enrollment brings about a need for more teachers, supplies and space," Smith said.

THE BONDING issue will cover the cost of construction of a new elementary school in the Evergreen-13 Mile (See BOARD APPROVES, 4-A)

Returning to Downtown

Birmingham's Soldiers Monument is going to be returned to the downtown area. City commissioners Monday night authorized the administration to remove the 15,000-pound memorial to Birmingham-Bloomfield men that took part in the Civil War from Greenwood Cemetery to the civic center. The monument will be placed on northeast corner of the Municipal Building near the flag pole sometime before Memorial Day. Relocation was proposed by The Eccentric in an editorial in its Dec. 5 issue.

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