

The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

Crowds To Jam City For Centennial



Eccentric Photo by Bill Thom

THE MULTI-COLORED lights of the ferris wheel lit up the night sky at the Birmingham Village Fair. The shouts and squeals of happy youngsters and adults could be heard for blocks around. It was estimated that between 80,000 and 90,000 people attended the affair.

School Beach Plan Faces Court Test

By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

The Bloomfield Hills School District has been ordered to show cause Monday why it should not be permanently restrained from building a beach on its Walnut Lake property for a summer water recreation program.

Circuit Judge Frederick C. Ziem Monday issued a temporary injunction stopping work on improvement of the beach by the school district. The court action was initiated by eight property owners on the lake.

The petitioners—David Jassy, Richard A. Freund, Robert Hoffman, Julian Ossenstein, John V. Nababedian, Joseph S. Radom, Martin Butzol and George Machek—contended in the suit that the beach would be a nuisance and would constitute a menace to public health.

They claim that the structure of the soil does not permit an adequate sanitary system.

Despite repeated requests for information, Bloomfield Hills Supt. of Schools Eugene Johnson feels the lawsuit stands, in part, from a misunderstanding.

"We in no manner intend to convert the site into a public beach," he said.

Johnson referred to a plan recommended by recreation director Ed Wichert which outlines the following program:

- The waterfront would be used five days a week, Monday through Friday.
- MAXIMUM USE time would be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Maximum use per day six classes of youngsters, kindergarten through the sixth grade, per day depending on registrations.
- The waterfront would be under adult supervision and control at all sessions.
- The beach would be used for an instructional program (Junior (See PLAN, 4-A))

THE SCHOOL BOARD Tuesday night instructed its attorney, Lawrence King of Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone, to defend the district's position in court.

The dispute involves a 40-acre site with 200 feet of frontage on Walnut Lake which the district purchased in 1961 with the hopes of building a junior high school—possibly by 1968 if a proposed bond issue passes June 8.

The court action centers on a plan by the board of education to develop part of a 6-acre parcel on the northeast side of the lake into a beach where students can learn to swim.

The suit also charges that the property owned by the school district is zoned for single residential use and that the proposed use of the land is not permissible.

THE PLAINTIFFS said that the beach has begun despite their protests and school officials "have hastened their efforts" to begin their summer program before a "legal test can be made."

Opening a school-operated beach would violate the residential nature of the area, the suit further stated.

Also named in the suit were West Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills and Troy, three of the communities served by the school district.

Henry Moses, chairman of the township planning commission, said lake residents fear that the beach might become so public that the result would be "beer parties and midnight parties driving to the beach after it was closed—especially before a school is built at the site."



JUST LIKE riding in the family automobile seems to be the feeling of these youngsters enjoying a ride at the Village Fair last week end. None of the youngsters appears to be the least bit frightened of the whirling devices.

It's Agreed: Fair a Success

By LARRY EVOE

It was a big success. From almost every segment of the community, it was the consensus of opinion that the Birmingham Village Fair was a hit.

The chamber of commerce, sponsor of the event, estimated that between 80,000 and 90,000 persons visited the fair during its four-day run last week.

Vincent C. Seontine, general chairman of the affair, called the project a "tremendous community effort."

City Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham, who had voted against having the fair in Shain Park, said he was wrong and added he thought everyone had a "whole of a time."

"I didn't think a show like that could be put on without certain unpleasantness," Ingraham said "but I was wrong."

"I attended each day and was very pleased. Both the kids and the adults got a lot of fun out of it," he added.

ster in his arm as the family headed home.

SEONTINE expressed the chamber's gratitude for cooperation between the various community organizations involved in the fair.

"Being the first fair, we had many organizational and technical problems," Seontine said.

"Without the fine assistance given us the final product would not have been a reality," he said.

Seontine gave a special thanks to the people of Birmingham and area for their "enthusiastic" patronage of all of the concessions.

"We feel that the event was a (See FAIR, 4-A)

Residential Growth Sets School Pace

By the Citizens Committee for Birmingham Schools

In the first two articles of this series the reasons for the millage and bonding proposals on the ballot in the Birmingham School District election on June 8 were outlined, and the need for the operating millage increase was explained.

Before examining the proposed \$5,350,000 building program, let's take inventory of the school system's physical plant.

The Birmingham School District operates 21 school buildings—16 elementary schools, 3 junior high schools and 2 high schools. Seven of these schools were built before 1950, the oldest still in use having been built in 1912. Only one more school was added to the system before 1950. From 1950 through 1962 thirteen schools were built.

The school construction program was followed by the pattern of residential development in the district. Five of the seven schools in the system before 1950 are in the city of Birmingham. Of those built since 1950, five are in Birmingham or mainly serve Birmingham children, while the others serve more recently developed areas.

THE DISTRICT, which extends from the Birmingham-Troy line on the east to Walnut Lake and Middlebelt Road on the west, is still growing. Other nearby playgrounds planned may be needed before we reach residential "saturation." But the end clearly is in sight.

Professional surveys forecast an eventual top enrollment of up to (See GROWTH, 8-A)



THIS LITTLE lady sits at the controls of her Village Fair airplane with all of the confidence of Charles Lindbergh about to take off across the Atlantic Ocean. Many of the youngsters preferred a co-pilot rather than taking a solo flight.

LWV Gives Support To School Proposals

By DAVE PHILPO

The Birmingham - Bloomfield League of Women Voters has endorsed and will support the two school proposals to appear on the June 8 ballot.

Following a lengthy discussion at the Community House Monday, LWV members reached a consensus of agreement favoring "unqualified support" of both the \$5,350,000 bonding proposal and an operating millage proposition calling for an additional 8.6 mills in 1964 and 7.5 mills from 1965-68.

The LWV will join forces with the Citizens Committee for Birmingham Schools during the next 2 1/2 weeks in efforts to achieve passage of the two propositions.

THE LEAGUE took special note of older, retired persons living on fixed incomes and parents of children who attend private or parochial schools and agreed that each would have to decide his limitations and vote "their consciences."

However, it was felt that parents of private and parochial school children derive benefits from a good public school system—one of which is an increase in the value of their property.

Mrs. Jo Saltzman explained that 4.17 mills of the total increase would be allocated to the present school program; 7 mills would go for salary schedule improvement; 68 mill for program improvement; and 1 mill for "unforeseen developments."

THE NEED for additional funds results from an increased enrollment of pupils greater in proportion than the tax money from new homes. League members were told the state equalized valuation will (See PROPOSALS, 4-A)

MOSES CHARGED that the school district "kept us in the dark about their plans for a long period

Fashion Show, Parade Peak Of Celebration

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

One of the largest crowds ever to assemble in Birmingham is expected to be on hand Saturday for the Centennial Day celebration.

Since the observance began on May 13, it has been estimated that nearly 100,000 persons have taken part in the various centennial and Michigan Week events.

After witnessing the popularity of the first activities, centennial officials are optimistic about the events still to be staged.

The program continues with the Heritage Day tour of historic sites and old homes Friday morning and the Heritage Day luncheon Friday noon at The Community House. The latter will be hosted by the Senior Men's and Women's clubs.

Birmingham Mayor Charles W. Renfrew will present certificates to the oldest resident, oldest native born resident and honor other outstanding citizens at the luncheon.

IN THE afternoon activities will shift to the site of the old grist mill on Maple at Baldwin.

Mayor Renfrew will officiate at a dedication ceremony for the placing of a mill stone near the spot where the mill once stood.

The Centennial Day observance on Saturday will begin at 10 a.m. with the annual Carp Carnival at Quorton Lake.

Activities will switch to the downtown area at 2:30 p.m. with the start of the Junior Chamber of Commerce-sponsored parade.

Led by the Michigan State University Marching Band, the parade will pass through the downtown area and disband at Shain Park.

City Honors Volunteers For Service

By LARRY EVOE

The City of Birmingham passed Monday to honor the many volunteer members of the various boards that aid in the running of the town.

The occasion was the annual Michigan Week government luncheon at The Community House. The noontime celebration also served as the official introduction to the community of visiting Mayor Olen V. Fry of Coldwater.

Representatives of 17 boards and committees were introduced by host for the lunch Mayor Pro Tem Robert W. Page. Mayor Charles W. Renfrew and his wife were being honored at a similar observance in Coldwater.

Page said the centennial year was a "most appropriate time" to (See VOLUNTEERS, 6-A)

Propose Law For Historical Board in City

Birmingham city commissioners are studying a proposed ordinance setting up a historical board.

City Manager L. R. Care presented the commission with a draft of the ordinance Monday night.

If adopted, it would call for a historical board consisting of five members appointed by the commission.

The idea of establishing such a body was suggested two weeks ago by Commissioner Charles F. Clippert. Clippert said he thought the centennial year would be an appropriate time for the city to appoint a historical group.

The proposed ordinance calls for the commission to appoint the board 30 days after its adoption. Each member would be appointed for a three-year term.

BOTH the city clerk and treasurer would serve as nonvoting ex-officio members of the board.

The board would meet at least four times a year and special meetings could be called at the request of the chairman or any three other members of the group.

Money would be appropriated to the historical body by the commission.

In general, it would be the group's duty to collect and preserve (See LAW, 4-A)

Life with Dad at the Fair

By DAVE PHILPO

When you are being chaperoned by a preschooler and a toddler at a village fair, a certain amount of enthusiasm is expected of you.

I learned my lesson the hard way Saturday.

Robin, 4, had looked forward with great anticipation to the fair that Scott, 2, but even he had a vague idea of what "pony" meant, as we had described the merry-go-round.

Robin scrambled aboard her mount and took the reins with the air of an experienced horsewoman.

Scott talked.

Determined not to waste 50 cents (his fare and mine), I stood alongside and held him in his horse, as the wooden animal moved toward the floor in the first stimulated gallop, Scott quickly dismounted and sought a safer perch in my arms.

THE TICKET attendant suggested that I get on the horse with my son.

Somewhat reluctantly I obeyed and held Scott in front of me. His somnolence was satisfied. After three or four turns, it

became evident that I was the biggest kid aboard, and the waving parents on the sidelines did nothing to ease my self-consciousness.

My next venture was to the ferris wheel where a line had formed in front of the ticket window.

We waited 15 minutes and when the ferris wheel started to rotate I decided he did not care to ride with the ferris wheel.

"It's going too high, Daddy," she informed, "I want to ride the helicopter!"

At THAT point I made an arbitrary decision that we would ride the ferris wheel.

Robin loved it.

At the height of the arc, she delighted in looking the seat back and forth. I back and forth. In a quivering voice I managed to tell her "not to do that."

Scott did fine on the uptake, but on each downward swing I could detect a not-too-faint whimper.

I despise from the rides, I decided to display my prowess as shooting a basketball—and will a prize for the kids in the meantime.

Twenty-five minutes and \$1.50

later, I had acquired a 25-cent baseball and three 5-cent leis.

THE NEXT diversion—the little cars that go around on a track—was more to Scotty's liking.

He had to ride alone and at first he was scared. He gripped the steering wheel with one hand and the manifold on the side with the other and only a camera could have captured the excitement etched on his face the first time around.

By the second turn, he had begun to smile and by the third he gripped the wheel in the true racing tradition.

He did not wish to leave the car when I lifted him out.

ROBIN and Scott rode the helicopter together. She held him close with a firm backboard—in her usual protective manner.

Robin had one more turn on the merry-go-round while Scotty and I watched.

After I brought candy for each of them, I tried to explain to Robin that we had to go home. She did not accept my explanation, and we left, anyway.

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