

They Made It a Success

By all standards the combined Birmingham Centennial and Michigan Week for the Birmingham-Bloomfield area observance must be considered a success.

It has been a success because of the number of local people who have rolled up their sleeves and contributed their energies and talents, regardless of whether they were residents or part of the business community, in order that the celebration be of stellar caliber.

It has been a success because these people have shown that community components can get together and come up with a solid program that benefits the whole community.

IT HAS BEEN a success because it gave focus to the community's priceless heritage while at the same time bringing together groups that would have been practically alien to each other except for this effort.

While we can't have a centennial celebration every year as a solidifying effort, let us hope that we remember the experience when our divergent points of view tempt our humanness to bicker on little matters. For the celebration to be a success it took stewardship. The community owes a debt of gratitude to Twink Willett for her leadership as chairman of the centennial committee and Bob Kenning for his leadership as chairman of the Michigan Week festivities.

WHILE THE celebration program is not a one-man or one-woman affair, certainly these people would bear the blame if the program met with failure.

Also to be congratulated are the many people and organizations backing up these able leaders, who in their particular efforts combined to make a complete program.

In chronological order, we acknowledge the centennial committee who worked

since the turn of the year to set up the programs. This includes the financial chairman, Carl O. Barton; history and heritage chairman, James K. Flack; arts chairman, Robert Bender; and Centennial Day chairman, Samuel Mitchell. And, of course, their various committees.

DR. HOMER Armstrong, Spiritual Foundations Day; John Saefke, Government Day; Mrs. Edward Talbert, Hospitality Day; William Yaw, Livelihood Day; and Walter Piel, Education Day; and their respective committees should be included in the recognition.

Three other workers should be singled out:

Jack Kershenbaum, who took on the local alleys and came up with a transformation that should be an inspiration for local merchants. Beyond "clean up, paint up and fix up," our back streets almost became more glamorous than our residential areas.

ALSO OUTSTANDING were Vince Secontine and Knowles Smith of the Chamber of Commerce. The Village Fair was a product of chamber work; and if this is an indication of things to come, the chamber is on its way back to importance in community leadership.

Marianne Barnett deserves credit and praise for her energy, time and talent in arranging the Fashion Show.

The last worker we would like to single out is publicist Audrey Marriner. A newspaper knows when publicity is well done.

By publicly recognizing some we do not mean to imply that there were not others who worked equally as hard; the mere fact that there were, has made the celebration a success.

We commend all of the participants for a successful program and wish we could do this again next year.

'Looks as if We Can Do Everything Except Stop the Population Explosion!'



YESTERYEAR HAPPENINGS

50 YEARS AGO May 22, 1914	30 YEARS AGO May 24, 1934	15 YEARS AGO May 19, 1949
Baldwin Park is being made beautiful by that veteran worker, William C. Reynolds. Trees are being trimmed, the brush is being removed, tilling is being done, and, when completed, the Baldwin Park will have more than shine and a very handsome fountain will add beauty to all of the surrounding parkside.	That the skeleton dug out of the ground last week near the intersection of Southfield and West Maple avenues is today of an Indian brave appeared today to be almost definitely established. The fact that the position of the bones in the three-foot grave showed the legs had been flexed at burial, and the discovery with the skeleton a large bead in which a small round hole had been drilled, are the chief reasons for believing the skeleton was that of an Indian.	Architectural plans which have been designed by Swanson and Associates for a new high school in Birmingham have been reviewed in detail by Larry Perkins of the architectural firm, Perkins and Will, in Chicago. Superintendent of Schools Dwight B. Ireland said in a 3,000-word report on the progress of the new school. The report explained that the new structure as designed at this time contains 31 classrooms which will cover the present enrollment. Baldwin High School and the ninth grade of Barnum Junior High.
Albert Nank, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Nank of Deep Run Farm on Woodward avenue, was run down by a speeding auto last Saturday afternoon. The little victim of human unnecessary speeding sustained a broken hip and many bruises. Those in the machine, man, woman and child stopped while the injured child was carried into the house but did not offer further assistance. The machine bore no license number.	The application of Ray Bethards for a license to sell beer in a restaurant in Bloomfield Township just outside Birmingham appears destined to rest on the table of the Township Board until it is forgotten. Bethards, a Birmingham resident, and former manager of the Fourteen Mile Inn on Woodward avenue, presented the application last week, accompanied by a petition signed by about 20 residents.	Local government will require slightly less than a three-quarter million dollar budget for the next fiscal year, the city commission indicated at a public hearing Monday evening. Less than 20 interested private citizens attended the hearing. The budget, tentatively set at \$728,510, will be formally approved at next Monday night's commission meeting.
The property known as Fountain Farm, located on the Town Line Road North and East of the village and owned by Volney Nixon was sold last week to Mr. Schultz of Detroit at a fancy price. The owner will go ahead and put in some improvements which will make it one of the many Detroit-Birmingham residences which are becoming so deservedly popular hereabouts. Whitehead & Standart are responsible for the sale.	Birmingham merchants today had won their battle for the continuation of angle parking on Woodward avenue between Willets and Brown streets. The City Commission, still not convinced that angle parking is advisable from the safety standpoint, nevertheless Monday night voted down a recommendation from City Manager James W. Parry that the parallel system be restored.	Greyhound patrons living on Washington boulevard are going to have to walk a little farther now, for the bus will no longer travel that street. The same goes for persons living on Maple, between Pierce and Southfield. Beginning Monday, the daily route retained is the one which goes from Maple to Lincoln, traveling over Pierce street.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Should City Ignore 27-Year-Old Error?

To the Editor:

In the "City Beat" column in the May 7 edition, Ken Weaver referred to an area of Birmingham that is not being maintained in the traditional standards of our town. In the same issue it was reported that a hearing to reconnoiter an isolated pocket of commercial property had been delayed. This isolated pocket happens to be in Talliaferro Estates.

The Talliaferro Estates Subdivision Association is engaged in a fight to save one more area of Birmingham from "business blight."

WE ARE engaged in a struggle with the city commission which has refused to accept the responsibility of reconnoitering a piece of commercial property to residential use.

The commissioners who oppose the reconnoitering admit that it would be in the best interests of the city as a whole but refuse to correct a mistake because it is 27 years old! Should a cancer be allowed to grow merely because it is old?

Will the problem become any less acute because of the passing of time?

We think not.

IT IS interesting to note that substandard areas of this and every other city border on commercially-developed areas.

The thing that hurts most is the refusal of elected officials to believe that the best interests of the city as a whole do transcend the monetary interests of the individual and not the other way around.

It is also interesting to note that the reasoning in question was strongly urged by the City Planning Board. The Talliaferro Estates Association simply supports this appointed group.

And so as our fine community celebrates 100 years, our residents go down to defeat from "commercial cancer."

HARRY O. SMART
181 Westchester Way
Birmingham

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

They had a little storm out at Oakland University recently when the student editor thought he could up the circulation of the campus paper by adding a little sex to the normal campus news.

Seems the chancellor told him in advance that if he did, he would be suspended from the newspaper staff.

Instead of printing the gory details of sex on campus, the editor took pot shots at the chancellor for trying to "suppress" the news.

Even though the editor was trying to uphold some basic journalism standards, I think the chancellor was right in both judgment and action.

WHEN A NEWSPAPER is subsidized; that is, when it can't operate on the funds that it generates through ads and circulation, it cannot claim to be independent of those who are picking up the tab.

A campus newspaper is an adjunct of the university. What it says and does reflects on the university.

Therefore, freedom of the press must be limited to the best interests of the university.

Who, then, should judge what the best interests are? The answer obviously should not be students who are learning the profession of journalism, who have not yet faced the responsibilities that go with the freedoms.

FOR EVERY FREEDOM or right there is a responsibility. And the responsibility of a free press is to determine whether the publishing of a story will do more harm in a community than the value of its newsworthiness to that community.

Oakland U is not the only college to face this problem, nor is the principle restricted to college newspapers. "Academic freedom" raises the same questions.

I suppose I'll never be a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, but I don't believe a teacher has a freedom in teaching that transcends the norms of morality or legality.

Under the guise of academic freedom, certainly a teacher wouldn't be permitted to flog a student to death or to answer the questions in class. Why, then, should violations of the laws of libel and slander or morality be permitted if they injure the reputation of an institution?

ACADEMIC FREEDOM to me must be looked at in the same light as freedom of the press for student newspapers.

If the professor accepts compensation from a university for teaching, the university has a right to censure him if his work or teaching methods are not in the best interests of the university.

And the decision as to what is in the best interests of the university must be determined by the man who pays the bills. At Oakland University this would be Durward (Woody) Varner, the chancellor.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

"Did you ever see so many people out on Thursday night in Birmingham?"

The Marine Corps band gave an excellent concert; I wish they'd play more marches.

"I wanta go ona helicopter!"

"Buy me a hot dog, buy me a hot dog!"

"Come on, fellas, step right up and let's see how good a skier you are. Hey, Joe, come on over and try your foot on this; I'll stake you to the first one."

These were among the comments heard at the Birmingham Centennial Celebration got off to a fast, exciting start last week.

A sizeable crowd reacted enthusiastically to the concert by the Marine Corps band from Quantico, Va., in the Seaholm gym Wednesday night. Poor weather forced it inside, but this didn't appear to dampen anyone's spirit.

A QUICK visit downtown Thursday afternoon disclosed a feeling of anticipation as workers hurried to complete the booths and riders and armchair spectators mingling through the Shain Park area.

On hand to survey the situation were centennial general chairman Mrs. G. Howard Willett, Jr.; Mayor Charles Renfrew and Robert Kirkpatrick of Michigan Bell.

They paid a visit to the alley behind Machus' Bakery and watched the sign painters at work. Reaction by them and others to the efforts of the merchants to improve the appearance of alleys was quite favorable.

Couple Irked By Studio

TO THE EDITOR:

If a word to the wise will suffice—would like to tell of our experience with a health studio.

We accepted an invitation for a free trial treatment, after which we were subjected to a high-pitch sales talk urging us to take out LIFE MEMBERSHIP, for an additional \$170.

To shake them off and give ourselves time to think and talk it over, we gave them a post-dated check. After thinking it over we came to the conclusion that it must be some sort of gimmick. Needless to say we cancelled the check.

IN RETALIATION for this the studio suspended our membership and we were not allowed to take any more treatments at the studio. Our efforts to retrieve the fee of unused months were fruitless. The calls from a lawyer and Better Business Bureau were also ignored.

So here we are minus treatments and minus our \$300. Let our lesson be a lesson to others as well.

SUSPENDED PATRONS

OVER AT the tent on Henrietta St., Knowles Smith and Virgil LaMarre from the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce were busily installing a sign and trying to prepare the setting for opening day ceremonies.

Artist-civic leader Robert Thom and wife Nellie strolled through the Village Fair area, Bob appearing quite trim and chipper after his recent illness.

Somebody remarked that long-time resident and former school Supt. Clarence Vleit should be around somewhere—and all of a sudden there he was, walking casually through Shain Park.

ANOTHER TRIP in the evening found Doug McKenzie, Bob Falkner, Henry Johnson and Dain Millman hawking soft drinks at the Rotary booth.

Bob Kenning, assistant city manager and local Michigan Wheelchair man; his wife Shirley and their three sons appeared to be enjoying themselves on the rides and partaking of refreshments.

Kenning, by the way, thinks we have made him a symbol for age in The Eccentric, though his youthful appearance and vitality certainly contradicts any such conclusion: "One of your writers says I look like Gregory Peck (veteran movie actor) and you call me an Old Marine."

THEN THERE was the Dignity Dunker, where Seaholm athletes were giving their feet to dunk their coaches in a tank of water. We saw one coach take a dip three times in the space of five minutes. Must have been one of the more popular ones!

A concessionaire reported selling 35 pounds of hot dogs in a two-hour period Thursday evening.

Which testifies that it was a large crowd.

And a hungry one.

Friday night's crowd far surpassed that of Thursday, exceeding all expectations.

Which caused one person to comment:

"It goes to show, we're human in Birmingham, after all."

Keats Put It Nicely

Though we believe a little more thought could have gone into the selection of alley names, we commend the Birmingham Alley Beautification Committee for its program to improve the appearance of downtown alleys.

The centennial celebration has given impetus to this project, with the setting up of an alley cafe behind Machus' Bakery and the decorating of rear entrances.

Out of these temporary moves should come permanent improvements that will give meaning and substance to the centennial observance.

Alleys we must have; but there is no reason why they should be unattractive—and there is every reason to make them attractive.

IT IS FITTING and proper to plan such a project. We hope that our children will be able to look back in later years and say, "These impressive alleys and courts got their start in 1964."

Certainly, such an effort is commendable from the standpoint of aesthetics. It is another move to make an already pleasant community an even better place in which to live and work.

And certainly from an economic standpoint this will be an asset. Making it more attractive and convenient for shoppers to enter the stores will encourage them to do so and thus add to business.

We are pleased with the program that Jack Kershenbaum and his alley beautification group have devised and urge merchants, property owners and residents to give it their wholehearted support.

AS FOR the names chosen to date, we frankly believe that "Twink's Mews," "Roberts Row" and "May Hipp Court" are hardly appropriate for the personalities involved. We think they deserve greater recognition than having alleyways named for them.

The committee's intentions were good and they can be excused if their selections fall short of the desired respectability; but we hope they will give the matter more thought and come up with names that will be more acceptable.

We are reminded of this verse from John Keats' "Endymion, Book I":

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
"Pass into nothingness."
Let is be so with our alleys.

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Down in Jacksonville, Fla., the juvenile crime rate has dropped 40-50 per cent in the past year. Reason? Its municipal judge created an advisory group of teen-agers who listen to each case and recommend the punishment. Five boys and girls (rotating each week) do the jurying. Apparently, youth has faith in its own age-group's judgments.

AID Director Bella asks for more "selection-out authority." Question: Is being "selected out" really less painful than being just plain fired?

Seamless hosier is less sexy than hosier with seams, says a designer. But when the seams are crooked sex takes a holiday.

A majority of doctors have quit or cut down on cigar smoking, a survey shows. Next on the agenda is a study of new uses for ashtrays.

If the American people had their way "we would be in Cuba tomorrow," says Goldwater. And probably in Peking or Moscow the day after that.

Most experts don't think inflationary pressures will intensify, says a business magazine. Prices will just continue to go up.

The latest thing in seat belts is one that has to be fastened before you can start the car. Another blow at personal freedom.

"Coin grabbers" are said to be a problem to the U.S. Mint. The mint has our sympathy—but there's something to be said for coin grabbing, too.

The most distant object is more than six billion light years from Earth. That sounds appealing as the season of political oratory begins.

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