



City Rejects Chrysler Plan To Vacate Street

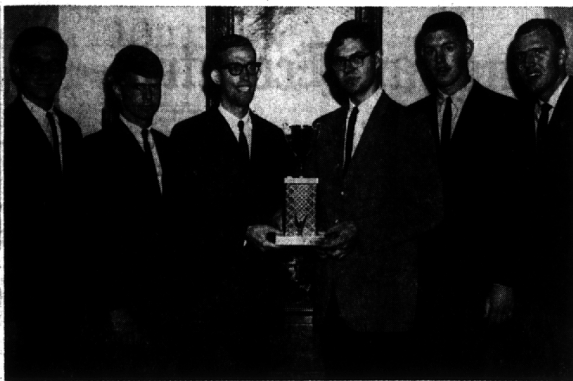
A petition by the Chrysler Corp. for the vacation of Hazel Street between Hunter and Elm was denied by Birmingham city commissioners Monday night.

Although the request was rejected, commissioners referred the matter back to the plan board to be included in a study of the entire Elm-Hazel area.

The plan board and city administration are considering vacating other streets in the area to eliminate nonresidential traffic from the single-family residential areas east of Elm.

Various solutions are being studied, including looping of streets, dead-ending streets into cul-de-sacs, one-way traffic systems and traffic diverters at street intersections.

No date was set by the commission for the plan board report.



Scholarly Duel

Pictured with their trophy is the "College Bowl" team from Hope College (Holland, Mich.), which recently accepted a challenge to a "College Bowl" duel from Albion College. The Hope squad won, defeating the Albion scholars, 97-81 in an hour-long battle in the Kresge Gymnasium. Members of the Hope team included (from left) Robert Tigelaar, a senior from Birmingham; coach; and team members John Simons, Al Smith, Bryce Butler, Mike Parr, and alternate Paul Wackerbarth. Tigelaar is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Tigelaar of 236 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham.

Israel Bond Sponsors

Mrs. Morey H. Firestone, 1352 Stuyvesant, Birmingham, was hostess at the Israeli Champagne Hour for Israel Bond Sponsors, and Dr. Avraham Biran, director of antiquities of the State of Israel, former military governor of Jerusalem and former Israeli Consul General to the Western United States, was the guest speaker. Dr. Biran pinned the Sponsor emblem on the women who purchased \$1,000 in Israel Bonds and the Negev sponsor pin on purchasers of \$1,500 or more in Israel Bonds.

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Newcomer Tells Why He'll Vote for Schools

To the Editor:

Perhaps newcomers to a community should keep silent and listen to older residents discuss public issues. However, it might be useful, in considering the present school tax referendum, to have the perspective of someone new to the community and its schools.

We came here, apparently like most Birmingham area residents, because we thought the town had a superior school system. (It also seemed to have made a commitment to cultural and aesthetic values and people seemed to be friendly, interesting and courteous.) In short, the town was apparently a superior place to live and to rear children.

Now, six months later, our initial expectations have been fulfilled—except that the school system does not strike us as the clearly superior one we expected. I do not deny its quality but it seems to me there are some flaws.

MORE PEOPLE'S COLUMN LETTERS IN SECTIONS B, CC and F

I WAS surprised there was no foreign language instruction for elementary children; no clearcut program for exceptional children; no use of teaching machines, teacher aids, or team teaching; no professional counselors for elementary school children headed for trouble. No one of these is essential to an excellent school system but total lack of them indicates a faltering system or a deficient system.

The initial dismay has worn off, largely because we have seen evidence that the schools are good, and getting better. Clear evidence of this trend is the work of the Citizen's Study group, the 14

"steps toward excellence" planned for the schools and the vote on added school millage.

BIRMINGHAM schools can only be made better if the board, superintendent and staff are given the tools, which means money.

When we came here our tax bill rose by \$200, but our hopes for good, even excellent, schools also rose. And so we will vote for the operating fund tax increase — to make this good school system a better one, the one it should be.

School taxes are the best expenditure, the wisest investment, any community can make. And certainly the schools cannot carry out a commitment to excellence if the community itself does not have that commitment.

I see the vote on June 8 as a measure of the community.

JAMES W. HARRIS
1950 Latham

They Brought MSU Band for Parade

To the Editor:

I am sure that many contributed to the success of the Birmingham centennial parade two weeks ago who did not receive due credit.

However, we are so quick to condemn the "commercial" influence in town that I would like it known that Village Rambler, Fischer Buick, Suburban Oldsmobile and Turner Ford really came through and chipped in when the pinch was on.

These four covered the sizable expenses of getting the MSU band here.

Three cheers for those shady characters in red, white and blue!

DALE A. WINNIS
Arrangements Committee
NANCY J. BECK

She's Faced With a Choice

To the Editor:

Sometimes it concerns me that I have never built a bridge, written a book, invented a tool, painted a masterpiece, discovered a star—these things that shape our world, its future.

And, I've enjoyed so many of these things that other people have achieved.

Most times I satisfy myself that my accomplishments exist, closely bonded with those of my friends and neighbors. Together we have built a church, supported a fine town, and, I think, shaped a few of the thoughts of those younger than we.

Now I am again faced with a choice. I can reach into the future. I can help widen horizons, encourage young dreamers, build sounder educational foundations. I can vote for better, broader, challenging education. Or—I can let this chance pass by.

The future, anyone?

CAROL CRAIGHEAD
245 Harrow Circle
Birmingham

Church News Deadlines

Deadline for all church news is 3 p.m. Thursday, a week in advance of publication. Pictures furnished by church groups should be in The Eccentric office by this time, also.

Requests for pictures, to be taken by The Eccentric, should be made at least two weeks in advance.

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