



The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

Initiative, Referendum Charter Change Sought

Commission Studies LWV Proposition

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

The Birmingham Bloomfield League of Women Voters has asked the Birmingham City Commission to place a proposal before voters at the Sept. 1 election to provide an initiative and referendum amendment to the city charter.

Commissioners accepted the LWV's proposal Monday night and are expected to act on it within the next two weeks. If the issue is to be placed on the ballot, it must receive commission approval by July 20.

The league has been studying initiative and referendum sections of local governmental units in the state since November, 1963.

The city charter adopted in 1933 made no provision for an initiative and referendum section.

An initiative is local government in the power of the electors to propose ordinances and to enact or reject such ordinances.

THE REFERENDUM is the power of the electors to approve or reject ordinances enacted by the commission.

League studies show that in Oakland County all 34 home rule municipalities with the exception of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills have initiative and referendum sections in their charters.

Mrs. Garvin Bawden, Jr., president of the local LWV, said the group had at their annual meeting voted to "support measures leading to the amendment of the charter of Birmingham by the addition of a section granting the right of initiative and referendum."

Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham said he felt the City had gotten along without it and R since 1933 and he could see no reason to rush into the matter now.

MRS. BAWDEN said the LWV had suggested the proposition at this time because it believed the primary was an "ideal time" for such a change.

Ingraham said publicity on the issue would be a hard thing to control.

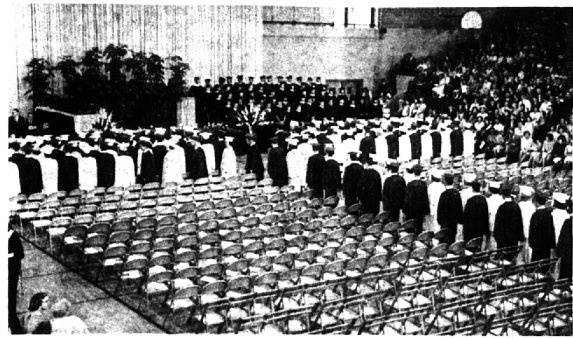
"If there are people not in favor of it the City can't campaign against it," he said. "I think the commission must have ample time for discussion on this."

"I have heard of situations where cities with I and R were hamstrung," he added.

Although the I and R provisions of Michigan charters differ from city to city, the league study showed all of them had three common points:

The base for the petitions' signatures, the percentage of the base required for signatures and the time limit for referendary petition filing.

In its presentation to the commission the LWV included an edition of a model city charter from the National Municipal League which included an I and R section.



SEAHOLM GRADUATES, numbering 521, march solemnly into the school gymnasium to start commencement exercises Friday. The class of 1964 head Dana Rose, assistant vice president at Michigan Telephone Co., urge them to use their leisure time making the most of their human abilities to become better prepared for the "Day After Tomorrow." Superintendent of Schools John Blackhall Smith and Seaholm Principal Ross Wagner presented the diplomas.

Graduates Given Glimpse Into Electronic Future

By DICK ZEMMIN
Staff Writer

Seaholm High School presented commencement exercises in the school's gymnasium last Thursday morning before proud parents who filled the bleachers to capacity. The ceremony was presided over by the Seaholm band, under the direction of Robert Kutscher.

plomas from Dr. John Blackhall Smith, superintendent, and Ross Wagner, Seaholm principal.

The graduates, representing what commencement speaker Dana Rose of Michigan Bell called "one of the greatest assets this country has," marched in to "Pomp and Circumstance," played by the Seaholm band, under the direction of Robert Kutscher.

onto a straight course, automatically moving you from lane to lane and applying your brakes.

"Rocket craft will cross the continent in minutes, tomorrow's supermarket will be a winding ramp which carries you downhill on a (See GRADUATE, 4-A)

Commission Pays Honor To Fire Chief

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night paid a special tribute to Fire Chief George S. Scott, who was killed in a plane crash last week.

Mayor Charles W. Renfrew asked those in attendance at Monday's meeting to stand while a memorial resolution was read into the minutes.

The six-paragraph message was written by Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham. It read:

Whereas George S. Scott, a lifelong resident of Birmingham, served his city and his country faithfully and without reservation as a fireman, fire marshal, fire chief and naval aviator, and

"Whereas all who knew him and worked with him, loved and respected him, and

"WHEREAS The members of this community suffered in his tragic death on June 7, 1964, a loss immeasurable.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved (See CHIEF, 2-A)

GIRLS WORE white caps and gowns, while male graduates were dressed in maroon, the school's two colors.

Dr. Kenneth Gass of St. James Episcopal Church gave the invocation and Charles Bethel, class president, presented the class gift to Student Congress President William Metcalf.

The graduates donated funds to purchase new furniture for Seaholm's lobby.

Rose, assistant vice president for Michigan Bell Telephone Co., was introduced by Mrs. Dean Reier, a trustee of the board of education.

"TEN-AGERS are wonderful. They're smart and strong and confident and eager. They're going to change the world."

Then, to help the graduates from becoming completely lost in their future world, Rose described to them some of the inventions that will play a major role in their "day after tomorrow."

Rose mentioned that 90 per cent of all scientists are now living today. He illustrated the fast rate of progress by pointing out various discoveries.

"First, people will live to be 100. Ultraminature electronic devices implanted in the body will replace damaged lungs and hearts.

"YOUR OPEN-ROAD car will travel electronic highways; flip a switch and a control will lock you

B'ham Girl Key Witness In Flint Case

An 18-year-old Birmingham girl is a key police witness in an abortion case involving a Flint businessman.

The girl, a student at Michigan State University, was questioned early Sunday morning in Birmingham by a team of Flint detectives.

Police said that Donald E. Luce, 35, of Flint, had allegedly performed an abortion on the girl in East Lansing Saturday afternoon.

Genesee County Prosecutor Robert M. Leonard said Luce had performed more than 100 abortions a year for 11 years. Many of the illegal operations took place in East Lansing and involved MSU coeds.

LUCES' ARREST climaxed a four-month investigation by Flint police, Leonard said. In February one coed was taken to a Flint hospital after Luce was said to have operated on her.

Leonard said that Luce, who is also involved in an abortion case in Ingham County, operates a collision shop and paint store in Flint.

Many of the operations, taking only about five minutes, were performed in Flint motels. Luce was freed on \$1,500 bond pending a hearing July 1.

place to park; a painted cat girl and a girl from Copenhagen who can leap. It is Rotary and Little League and a pinocchio club. It plays, home movies and a band concert. It is The Community House, a pair of swans and volunteers to the Peace Corps.

BIRMINGHAM is pretty girls and lonely old maids. It is churches and skating rinks and rummage sales. It is cheese cake and cloying mortgages and matricide; Woodward Ave. and a skyscraper motel.

It is a painter's delight and a poor man's problem. It is slums that aren't slums and mansions that are. It is pockmarked pavement and potholes and cars

and buses and too few elevators and waitresses; it is a bedroom town and a town of homes.

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Birmingham is English and German and Italian and Swedish and white. It is Echo City and Lakeside Drive. It is a tractor plant and a Greek theater; it is auto salesrooms and antique shops and laundromats.

BIRMINGHAM is art, it is conscious and opere; it is a lady mayor and Junior League (See CITY, 7-A)

Hills Students Smoking Less, Board Learns

By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

Bloomfield Hills High School students are smoking less now than they were a year ago, Principal Richard Speiss reported to the board of education Tuesday night.

But he isn't quite sure which deserves more credit—a 20-day suspension penalty instituted by the student council last year or the government report linking cancer to cigarette smoking.

However, Speiss recommended to the board that the program be continued as long as the students support it.

He said 15 students had drawn 20-day suspensions since the program has been in effect and that there have been no second offenses.

SPEISS REPORTED that a petition was passed around by students just before school closed in an effort to indicate that the penalty was too severe.

"It will be interesting to see the results of this petition," he said.

In a report on the Walnut Lake swimming site controversy, attorney Lawrence King suggested that a private road leading to the area be closed by the school district. He fears that Walnut Lake residents, who use the road, might claim adverse possession in the future and have the road declared a public thoroughfare.

King said it would be easier to resolve the matter now rather than wait until construction begins on a new school at the site.

He added that David Jassy, one of the residents who instituted a circuit court suit to halt the swimming program, had agreed to sign an agreement acknowledging his use of school property.

ONE PINE ROAD deadends at Jassy's property and a turnaround drive is located on both his land and adjoined by the school district.

The school board authorized Supt. Eugene Johnson to conduct tests on the swimming site to make sure that the water is free of contamination before the limited summer aquatic program begins.

In other action, the board: * Agreed that principals and teachers should be consulted on additions of their schools and their line of school property.

LEE A. IACocca said he was the most successful and fulfilled generation of all time."

Retain Same Zoning For Bailey Property

By LARRY EVOE

Five lots along W. Maple near Larchlea zoned for business will remain in that classification.

Birmingham city commissioners were unable to get enough votes Monday night to approve a plan

board recommendation to rezone the property to residential.

The property owners, Mr. and Mrs. Mantley Bailey and Mrs. Ellen Haack, had objected to the rezoning on the grounds they had paid business taxes on the land since it was purchased.

The plan board and the Talliferro Estates Association had felt the property should be rezoned to residential because it was more in keeping with the surrounding land.

BECAUSE HE also owned land abutting the property in question, Bailey was able to file a protest to the rezoning. When such a protest is filed, it takes a yes vote from six of the seven commissioners for rezoning.

Two commissioners, Carl F. Ingraham and William E. Roberts, voted against the rezoning.

Roberts said he voted against it because he could see no "justice" in it and felt the City should take steps to condemn the property and buy it from the present owners.

Roberts said he had no quarrel with the planning board report but believed the rezoning issue was an unusual case.

"We must take the initiative if we are to maintain this area," Roberts said.

HE PROPOSED the City condemn the land, purchase it from Bailey and then rezone it to a residential classification.

"This I know is contrary to anything we have ever done, but I feel we have reached a point where (See ZONING, 8-A)



HUGH RICHARD McCOMBS, Jr., accepts from Douglas Elliott, representing the Detroit Edison Co., the Edison Scholarship Award. Hugh was one of three scholarship winners honored at the Groves High School commencement exercises last Thursday night. The scholarship is a two-year award; Hugh will be attending Yale University next fall.

'Succeed Where We Fail,' Executive Urges Seniors

By MARILYN DUPREE
Staff Writer

gowns abaya boys in green proceeded into the Groves gymnasium and down the center aisle.

Beaming families and friends watched and waited to see their favorite graduates in the procession.

ONE HIGH SCHOOL sophomore arrived at the gym an hour before the program began to see her graduating boyfriend. She wanted to sit up front near him so she could snap pictures of the event.

Neil Granader, president of the senior class, presented the class gift, which is a sculpture to be placed on the school grounds. The sculpture is presently being designed.

E. Ross Hanson, president of the Birmingham Board of Education, introduced Lee A. Iacocca for his first commencement address. Iacocca is the vice president, general manager of the Ford Division of Ford Motor Co. Time magazine has referred to him in a cover article as "a leading authority in the youth market."

IACocca BEGAN by openly admitting that "part of my pleasure comes from the fact that your school has the Falcon as its symbol."

He then reassured the audience that maybe he should honor the hallowed tradition calling for the speaker to "wrap the universe in a ball and toss it out to you with the admonition to go out and clean up the mess."

Iacocca said he was no philosopher, rather a businessman. He intended to speak as a businessman, and he did from the viewpoint of the businessman.

He spoke of his own school days but said that he was "young enough to remember too long."

Statistics from Forbes magazine on dropouts stated that of all students who started at high school freshmen four years ago in this country, only 22 per cent would receive their diplomas this June.

College dropout figures are even more astounding.

EVERYONE, business included and perhaps selfishly, wants to "make the most of this generation. Here from being beat, you must prove to be the most successful and fulfilled generation of all time."

There are great things to be done, he said.

School Budget Hearing Set For Tuesday

The Birmingham Board of Education will hold a public hearing at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the Hill Building on the budget for the 1964-65 school year.

Lloyd Van Buskirk, Jr., director of finance, said this was the first time that the school district has been required to hold such a hearing. The hearing is necessary under the new state constitution.

The total budget will be about \$9,895,000, the largest in the history of the Birmingham School District. The 1963 budget was \$7,933,000.

Included in the total, Van Buskirk said, was the 5.6 mill increase in the tax rate voters approved at the June 8 election.

Instructional costs involving nearly \$7,000,000 make up the biggest share of the budget. The remaining 15 per cent goes for the purchase of supplies and payment of utility bills.

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7-D Feature News
4-D Obituaries
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8-D Real Estate
C, CC Society
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Birmingham: A City of Contrasts

By CLEO SYMONS
Special Writer

What is Birmingham?

Birmingham is fair skies and a benevolent sun; weather-beaten houses and mansions of stone; needle spires and blocks of plate glass; old paint and new chrome; it is a one-man saw upside down; cement mixers and dental drills; a beehive with 26,000 bees.

Birmingham is a friendly city and a touchy smalltown girl; an athlete and a wrinkled crone in a Dior gown. It is tear-rooms and panache houses and glittering neon signs. It is a apartment cells and shady country lanes.

It is Seaholm High and Berz Airport and the River Rouge; it is the Village Players and a sewage plant gone arny.

It is a traffic jam and no sidewalk and women in bikinis. It is young executives in black suits and eccentrics in beards. It is barbecues and hi-fi and a bar in 25,064 recreation rooms. It is Shain Park and Quarton Lake and wrecked houses smelling of lyeol and years.

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