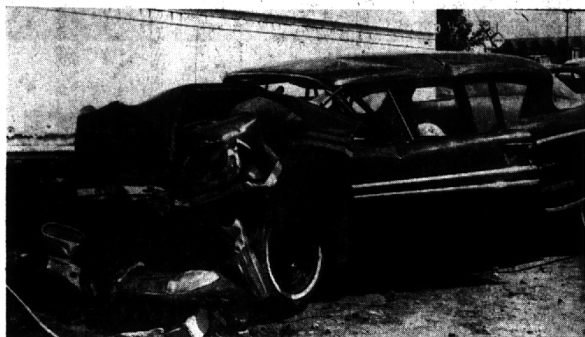




Twp. Demands Removal Of 'Death Strip'



GRIM REMINDER OF A HEAD-ON COLLISION...
An 18-year-old youth died in this car.



ON TELEGRAPH ROAD, NORTH OF MAPLE
A 41-year-old woman was also fatally injured.

Two Fatalities Prompt Meeting On Telegraph

By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

Two deaths and three serious accidents last week have convinced Bloomfield Township police and government officials that the concrete median strip located in the middle of Telegraph Road must go.

A meeting will be arranged today or Friday to discuss the possible elimination of the divider, which has sent the township accident rate skyrocketing within the past week.

Early last Thursday morning a 40-year-old Pontiac man struck the divider on Telegraph near Maple, lost control of his car, crossed into the path of oncoming traffic and was involved in a head-on collision which hospitalized him and the driver of the other car.

LESS THAN eight hours later, Edward Gorski, 18, of Detroit, also northbound on Telegraph, struck the divider, lost control of his vehicle and crossed over into the southbound lane.

He and Mrs. June E. Snelling, 41, of Waterford Township, were fatally injured as their cars crashed together—again head-on. The two accidents occurred within 100 feet of each other, about 1,000 feet north of the Maple intersection which hospitalized him and the driver of the other car.

Witnesses discounted speed as a factor in both crashes, testifying that the drivers were at least five miles below the 55-mile-an-hour limit.

WRITTEN ON the back of the Gorski-Snelling accident report was this comment: "This cement barrier has caused numerous accidents in the past and has caused two fatal accidents in one day at the same location. Requests have been made to the Pontiac Division office of the state road commission to no avail."

In a similar way, it expresses the anger and frustration felt by Police Chief Norman Dehnke, who has increased traffic enforcement by 500 per cent along Telegraph within the last year.

WHEN HE, Cpl. Richard Reuther, head of the traffic safety division, Township Supervisor Homer Case and Treasurer Arno Haled met with highway department officials, Dehnke will recommend:

That the concrete median be torn out immediately and replaced with double yellow lines down the center of Telegraph.

A long-range plan that would see Telegraph widened from its present four lanes to six lanes with a tree- and grass-lined parkway in between, similar to the one on Woodward Ave.

A reduction in the speed limit to 45 miles per hour and a delayed time light at Maple to allow left turning vehicles to clear the intersection.

Dehnke's argument for the removal of the divider strip, running from 14 Mile to Long Lake Road, will be bolstered by a report by Cpl. Reuther showing the number of accidents caused directly or indirectly by the cement abutment.

DEHNKE WILL ask that high- (See FATALITIES, 7-A)

Reject Street Paving; Study Another Plan

By LARRY EVOE

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night declared no necessity for a project that would have been accomplished over a three- or four-year period.

"Whenever we set up a program the people involved feel they are a target," he said. "The commission gets the same feeling all the time, why us?"

A majority of the property owners opposed the paving program by submitting petitions bearing over 150 signatures against it.

The owners felt the program would place an undue financial hardship on them. Some also maintained they would like to keep a "rural atmosphere" in the area.

Ingraham said if the City kept delaying such projects there would never be a hope of "getting a program through."

HE SAID HE did not think his plan would reduce an individual property owner's assessments but the 15 per cent usually paid out of general tax money might be reduced with the aid of state funds.

"The property owners might, however, benefit by the size of the project," Ingraham said.

(See PLAN, 6-A)

Thorson To Face Trial For Third Time

Deliberation Ends In Jury Deadlock

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

The second first-degree murder trial of Robert M. Thorson ended in a hung jury Wednesday, and the Wayne County prosecutor's office reported that it would try him a third time.

Prosecutor Samuel Olsen said that "as prosecutor of Wayne County I have a duty to try Mr. Thorson again."

Detroit Recorder's Judge

Elvin L. Davenport declared a mistrial after the jury informed him it could not reach a verdict.

Thorson, 32, of 2852 Buckingham, Birmingham, was charged with the Dec. 3, 1962, slaying of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Dorothy M. Thomas, in her Detroit home.

His first trial also ended in a deadlock last June after the jury had deliberated nearly 18 hours.

UPON THE announcement of the current jury's deadlock, defense attorney Konrad D. Kohl made a motion to quash the evidence and to dismiss the case. He said his client "just couldn't go through this again."

But Davenport refused the motion, stating that it was not within his powers and that this was a decision for the prosecutor's office.

Asst. Prosecutor Max Silverman left the courtroom and telephoned Olsen. He then informed the judge that his office would have a decision by 10:30 a.m. Thursday (today). A few minutes later court was resumed and Silverman announced that they would try Thorson again.

A pre-trial hearing was set for 11 a.m. next Thursday.

AFTER SILVERMAN'S statement, Kohl made another effort to have the case dismissed and once again was refused.

Kohl said there was a point "where prosecution becomes persecution" and said he felt this case had reached that point.

He submitted to the court that the prosecution had "fulfilled all of their obligations to the people. They could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he (Thorson) was guilty."

"This treatment is cruel and inhuman. The Thorsons are not living life, but merely have a state of 'be'ing."

KOHL THEN said he would (See THORSON, 5-A)



ROBERT THORSON



JOAN THORSON

INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM Rule Out Amendment For September Ballot

Birmingham voters won't be deciding on an initiative or referendum amendment to the city charter at the Sept. 1 election.

City commissioners Monday night agreed to consider the proposal by the League of Women voters calling for the amendment but decided not to put it on the ballot before the April municipal election.

An initiative in local government is 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.

The local LWV recommended to the commission last week that an I and R amendment be placed on the September ballot.

Commissioners generally agreed that there was not enough time before the election to get the issue before the public.

THE LWV was opposed to putting it on the spring ballot because they did not want I and R to become a campaign issue.

Commissioner William E. Roberts said he felt I and R would make a good campaign issue.

Commissioners also agreed to inform the LWV by Aug. 3 if they would accept the group's proposal for I and R or would come up with one of their own.

Mrs. Garvin Bowden, Jr., president of the local league, asked for an early decision on the part of the commission so her group might study what the city comes up with.

She indicated Monday night that the LWV might try to put their own proposal on the November (See BALLOT, 8-A)

3 Development Plans All Have Same Goal

See EDITORIAL on 1-B

By LARRY EVOE

Birmingham has three plans for future development. What's going to happen to them? How are they alike? How different?

Both Mayor Charles W. Renfrew and City Manager L. R. Gare expressed confidence this week that the three plans all have the same goal in mind—to make Birmingham a better place in which to live and work.

Since 1961 the City has been presented with the Central Business District Development Plan (CBDD), the Comprehensive Plan and, more recently, the Citizens Action Committee plan.

A fourth study undertaken by the city commission last month involves traffic patterns, volumes and projection of future traffic needs.

"WE MUST recognize that there is a common denominator in the three plans," said Renfrew. "Everything involves the establishment of an alternate traffic route and the undertaking of a program to strengthen the heart of the city."

Both the commercial and residential elements must be satisfied. Gare echoed the mayor's feeling and pointed out that the construction of the ring-road or peripheral roads was almost a reality.

"In the 1964-65 budget money was appropriated for the widening of Oakland and Chester and the straightening of Forest and Woodward," Gare said.

"We're off to a good start," he said.

HE ADDED, however, that the

City must also provide additional parking in the downtown area either by decking established lots or through the construction of new facilities.

Renfrew said he thought there was no "substantial conflict in the concepts and fundamentals of the plans."

"The commission, however, must be the agency to get the groups together," he said.

He indicated that meetings either between the groups or individually with the commission would be scheduled soon.

Renfrew called the commission (See GOAL, 8-A)

B'ham School Board Okays Record Budget

A record \$2,395,642 budget for the 1964-65 school year was approved by the Birmingham Board of Education Tuesday night.

The budget was approved after the first public hearing ever held in the school district. Under the new constitution such hearings must now be held by school districts.

The \$9 million figure compares with a \$7,933,000 budget for this year. Included in the total was the 5.6 mill increase in the tax rate approved earlier this month.

Of the total budget, \$3,288,000 has been earmarked for elementary education and \$3,505,000 for secondary instruction.

INCLUDED IN the elementary budget is \$2,720,000 for principal, consultant and teacher salaries. The remainder of the money will go for instructional purposes, clerical salaries, substitute teachers and miscellaneous expenses.

The secondary budget sets aside \$3,500,000 for salaries of principals, consultants and teachers. Guidance personnel salaries will take \$178,938 and secretarial and clerical salaries call for another \$188,495.

Special education will operate on a budget of \$196,608 with \$166,332 going for teachers' salaries. Most of the remainder of the budget will go for consultant and supervisor salaries and teaching supplies.

ADMINISTRATIVE expenses and salaries are expected to total \$271,136 or about \$34,000 above 1963-64. Of the total administrative budget, \$63,000 will go for the salary of the superintendent and assistants.

A total of \$262,000 has been set aside for transportation costs again with the largest amount, \$165,400, going for salaries.

Other major budget categories include \$1,092,000 for operation of schools; \$247,267 for maintenance of school facilities; \$293,943 for remodeling and improvement to buildings; and \$61,400 for insurance, judgments and interest on short and long-term loans.

Propose 8% Hike in Hills School Budget

An increase of 8 per cent in income and spending is reflected in the 1964-65 budget of the Bloomfield Hills School District approved for public hearing Tuesday night.

Revenues estimated at \$3,063,599 and expenditures totaling \$3,049,068 highlighted the budget presented to the school board by Supt. Eugene Johnson and Asst. Supt. Irvin E. Menucci.

The difference between the two figures will mean a \$4,500 surplus for the school district.

A hearing on the new budget will be held at 8:30 p.m. on July 6 during a reorganizational meeting of the school board.

INCOME AND spending in 20 figures will mean a \$4,500 surplus for the school district. Most of the increased revenue comes from current taxes, based on a levy of 18.83 mills on the \$117,288,412 state equalized valuation and from a \$101,000 anticipated increase in state aid.

Johnson said the increase in expenditures resulted primarily from (See BUDGET, 8-A)

Income Up Here, But So Are Costs

(Special to the Eccentric)

NEW YORK—How is the average Birmingham working man making out financially? His income has been going up and is now at a much higher level than it was 10 years ago. From that standpoint, he is better off.

Living costs, however, have also moved upward in the period. Rent, apparel, food, services and taxes, despite the recent Federal cut, are all higher than they were then.

Taking both the plus factors and the minus factors into consideration, where does he stand today?

FROM DATA compiled by the National Industrial Conference Board, by the United States Chamber of Commerce and others, he is well ahead

of the game. He can buy more today with an hour of his labor than he ever could.

The answer is that his pay scale has moved up faster than his living costs have.

He is able now to buy a pound of American cheddar cheese or a pound of butter after putting in only 18 minutes of working time, which is much less than it took 10 years ago.

A POUND of round steak can be bought after 13 minutes on the job and an automobile tire, size 6.70 x 15, after about 5 hours.

Just how well the average production worker in the United States has fared in the 10-year period, taking into account the decline in the value of the dollar, is indicated by the figures. (See INCOME, 7-A)

IN THIS ISSUE

Changes in parking regulations proposed in Birmingham. See stories on 3-A.

BOH members move over as horses move in. See stories, pictures on 1-C.

Dancing's on the curriculum at City and Country School of Bloomfield Hills. See pictures on 1-D.

Dressage winners named in Detroit Horse Show. See story, pictures on 1-E.

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CONCRETE STRIP LINKED TO ACCIDENTS
3 vehicles crossed into oncoming traffic.