



Suit Threatens Hills School

Site Squabble Brings Delay In Construction

By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

Plans for a second senior high school in the Bloomfield Hills School District have been muddled by a suit lodged in Oakland County Circuit Court by five property owners who live near the proposed site.

The complainants, led by Louis J. Colombo, Jr., contend that the school should not be built on a 40-acre site near the southwest corner of Lasher and Hickory Grove. Colombo, a Lasher Road resident, is mayor of Bloomfield Hills and an attorney.

In a suit filed in circuit court Friday, the group seeks to determine who owns the 20-foot-wide Lasher roadway and who should be responsible for its traffic problems.

They have asked for a temporary restraining order blocking construction of the school until ownership and responsibility have been determined. A show-cause hearing is scheduled for Aug. 31 before Judge Frederick C. Ziem.

THE SUIT contends that no governmental agency has claimed ownership of land bordering the road, even since it came into being before 1883 and asks clarification of condemnation procedures which may be used to widen it.

Lasher Road is the dividing line between Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township.

The school district and school board members have been named as defendants in the suit, but no legal papers have been served, School Supt. Eugene Johnson said Wednesday.

Johnson said he didn't see how the condition of Lasher Road should interfere with plans to build the high school.

"We feel we have the right to use the road as it is," he said. "We are not in the road-building business."

The superintendent added that the district could get by with the road, especially since the proposed structure would be "the smaller of the two high schools for a number of years."

Cost was a factor in choosing the Lasher-Hickory Grove site, Johnson pointed out.

The district paid \$3,000 per acre for the site five years ago. Subsequent attempts to find alternate sites have been stymied by prices as high as \$6-\$8,000 an acre.

"WE DON'T feel school district (See DELAY, 4-A)

Cass: Open-Air Bar; Board Seeks Control

Following board discussion, a motion was passed to ask for a public hearing on the proposed commission to explore the possibilities to control drinking on boats effectively.

Although the commission cannot legislate, Brennan said, the board must have its approval before it can take action.

Other board action included approval of extension of time for payment of 1964 taxes through Feb. 15, 1965, without a penalty.

IT IS a normal procedure for the township to give the taxpayers the extra time to pay their taxes.

Board approval was necessary so the treasurer's office could arrange for printing of the tax statements.

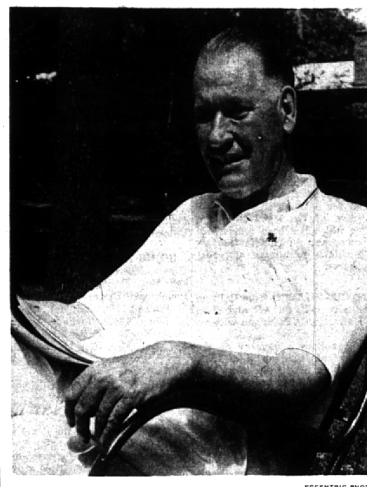
Coolidge Paving Hearing Slated

Birmingham city commissioners will hold a hearing of necessity on the paving of Coolidge Road on Aug. 24.

The developers of a proposed \$50 million project at the corner of Maple and Coolidge have asked that the city prevent the deathly intersection north to Big Beaver.

Residents of Birmingham's Pembroke subdivision have expressed concern about the project because of the potential increase in traffic.

Commissioners are expected to discuss the possibility of constructing a boulevard along Coolidge or building a separate service drive for the use of Birmingham residents only.



DOING HIS HOMEWORK
Mayor Charles W. Renfrew

Store Opened, Almost Closed In Same Day

For story, photos of new Kroger store, see Page 3-E.

By DAVE PHILPO

Lack of a screening fence and failure to obtain an occupancy permit from the township almost closed the new Kroger store at Maple and Lahser nine hours after its grand opening.

The supermarket opened at 1 p.m. in the Bloomfield Commons shopping center, the first and largest of several stores planned for the location.

Malcolm M. Heber, attorney for Prudential Investment Co., developers of the shopping center, appeared before the township board Monday night to iron out differences with abutting property owners over a fence and a greenbelt behind the commercial area.

HE ENCOUNTERED a board visibly upset because his clients had failed to obtain an occupancy permit for the new store.

"Why did you open the store without an occupancy slip?" demanded Trustee Samuel Reeve. "You're slapping this board in the face as well as the township. I don't see where you people are any better than anyone else."

Heber said that he wasn't aware that an occupancy slip was required.

The board was also concerned that a fence had not been erected before the store opened. Negotiations between the developers and residents have been held sporadically since last fall.

HEBER BLAMED the residents for the delay, saying that they couldn't make up their minds on what type of fence they wanted.

"We do not feel that we should be held up by the failure of these residents to agree on what they want," he said.

Attorney George W. Cherry, representing seven property owners nearest the shopping center, said he felt his clients had a proper grievance and that the board should determine the solution to the problem.

THE BOARD resolved the dispute by setting up the following stipulations:

• No further occupancy slips will be issued until the masonry-type fence is erected.

• A temporary fence will be constructed behind the Kroger store to protect the two nearest lots.

• The developers will deposit with the township a contract with the Cadillac Fence Co. for the construction of the fence and a certified check for the complete cost.

• A \$1,000 cash performance bond, posted by the developers, will be forfeited to the Westchester Village Association if the fence is not erected in front of the two lots nearest Kroger within 60 days.

• The grade behind the shopping center will be corrected to provide for adequate screening by the wall.

The Oakland County Circuit Court, in renezing the Bloomfield Commons parcel from multiple to commercial in October, 1962, provided for a 30-foot greenbelt around an L-shaped area running from Maple south to the rear lot line and westerly to Lahser.

The green belt has been installed. (See STORE, 2-A)

STATE OFFICE NEXT FOR RENFREW?

Dean of City Commissioners Decides Against Re-Election

Last in a Series
By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Mayor Charles Warren Renfrew is the dean of the Birmingham city commissioners.

At 59, Renfrew has served continuously on the city's governing body since his appointment in 1951. During that period he has been

elected mayor by fellow commissioners three times.

Renfrew's political activity will come to a halt, at least temporarily, in April.

The tall, soft-spoken native of Bowling Green, Ky., has decided not to seek re-election in the spring.

"I think I've served a good long time," he said. Renfrew feels the decision will be good for both the city and himself.

"There is a tendency among people who serve too long that they have a prior claim on the objectives and direction of government," he said.

RENFREW'S SERVICE to the city began when he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the commission created by the resignation of Chad M. Ritchie.

"I gave me the opportunity to find out if I could make a contribution to the city," he recalled. "I got some of a free pass until I had to run for office the following spring," Renfrew smiled.

Next to the youngest of five children, Renfrew comes from a family well-schooled in the business of municipal government.

His father, a lawyer, served as a county judge in Bowling Green.

RENFREW graduated from Ogden College (now part of Western Kentucky University) at the tender age of 17. He had completed his high school education in Bowling Green at 13.

"Things were a little different in those days; students were allowed to skip grades and I also had the advantage of attending small schools," he said.

The first two years after graduation Renfrew spent helping to prepare topographical maps of Kentucky and Tennessee for the U.S. Geological Service.

He moved to Detroit in 1928 and took a job with the R. G. Dun Co. (See RENFREW, 7-A)

Put Parking Lots Under The Ground?

Commissioner David F. Breck is worried about Birmingham's future parking needs.

Breck asked the administration Monday night to explore the possibility of having underground parking in the new municipal lot No. 7 and Shain Park.

"I would like the study to take into consideration the construction of several levels of parking below the ground and to eliminate surface parking," Breck said.

"We could also look into the question of getting some type of Federal aid for the project under the air raid shelter program," Breck added.

City Manager L. R. Gare said he believed there were no funds available for the shelter program at this time.

BRECK SAID he was concerned about the city's parking needs "20 years from now."

(See LOTS, 4-A)

They Miss Their Papers

Impossible to Know What's Going On'

By MARY BAHN
Marilyn Dupree

How big a part does a daily newspaper play in the lives of its readers?

Is there such a thing as a "newspaper habit" in Detroit?

These are the questions that were asked during a newspaper strike, when readers come to realize the influence of the printed word.

This generalization was substantiated during informal phone interviews of Detroit-area residents who were called at random during the past week.

MANY REACTED indignantly when asked if they missed the paper, as if the question hadn't been asked.

Said Mrs. Robert H. Barnard of 1814 San Juan: "Why, of course I miss it—we've been taking it for over 30 years. I think it's awful."

"I miss the papers very much," said Joyce McDaniels, 16790 Prevost. "I read both papers every day, and I think that this strike has gotten completely out-of-hand."

"This is particularly true when the strike first began during the Republican convention, and now during the Vietnam crisis, it's impossible to know what's going on."

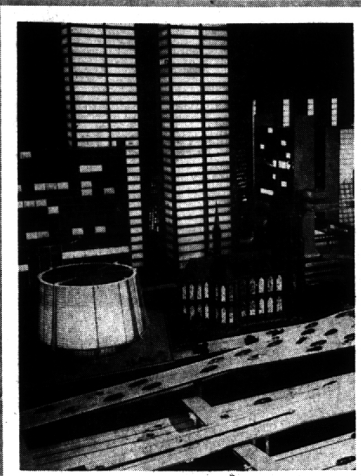
"I'VE EVEN written a letter of protest to the mayor. I usually write letters to the editor, but now there is no one to write to. The mayor replied that he couldn't do anything about it," said Miss McDaniels.

Loretta Healy, 19426 St. Marys, reads the paper every day at work. "I miss it very much, especially the editorial page."

Feeling the loss of the women's page news is Mrs. Dino Tamare, 19898 Joann.

"I've been reading the Birmingham and Royal Oak papers to get the news. All you get on television are the headlines, and the details get lost."

"I THINK the newspapers are going to find that there are many (See PAPERS, 5-A)



What You Can See At World's Fair

The city of tomorrow—a glittering complex of commerce and urban living—is the climax of the General Motors Futurama ride at the New York World's Fair.

Utilization of air rights over existing thoroughfares for commercial and residential structures is one of the features of the futuristic city as foreseen by GM styling staff members who created the Futurama.

The Futurama is an example of the kinds of exhibits you will see if you join the Sept. 28-Oct. 1 World's Fair Tour sponsored by The Birmingham Eccentric and Oakland Travel.

INCLUDED IN the \$139.95 cost are transportation by special bus to and from Metropolitan Airport in Detroit, Kennedy Airport to the Waldorf in New York, one ticket to the fair, one ticket to the United Nations, a boat trip around Manhattan and a trip to the stock exchange via bus.

For couples making the tour there is a reduced price.

There will be no regimentation so that participants may plan their own schedules.

The number that may participate is limited, and a \$25 deposit must be sent to Oakland Travel to secure a single reservation.

There will be three nights and four days at the Waldorf.

THIS IS the second World's Fair trip to be sponsored by The Eccentric and the local travel agency. It comes as a result of the response to the first one, May 26-28. Alice Wessels Burlington, columnist for The Eccentric, will again serve as tour coordinator. Anyone desiring further information may contact her at her home, 3891 Oakhills Drive, Birmingham.

Yamasaki Firm Loses Petition For Office Zoning in B'field

By DAVE PHILPO

A request for the rezoning of a three-acre parcel from multiple to office was denied by the Bloomfield Hills City Commission Tuesday night in an attempt to arrest the spread of the city's commercial area.

The petitioner was Minoru Yamasaki & Associates, prominent architectural firm, which hoped to build a two-story office building on Long Lake, east of High Oak and immediately west of the Village Women's Club.

The consensus of opinion was expressed by Mayor Pro Tem David W. Lee who said he felt the Yamasaki plan was "the finest usage that could be made of the property."

LEE OBJECTED, however, to extending the commercial area outside the boundaries of a once-proposed peripheral road which would have segregated the city's commercial interests.

His sentiments were echoed by Robert A. Frye.

"The peripheral road was designed to give definition to the commercial property," he said.

"Once we allow a change in the zoning ordinance, how many are going to follow? We have to hold the line somewhere."

Frye added that the control of commercial interests "is a crucial issue in this city."

JOHN BLANCHARD said he feels the zoning ordinance should be a "rather stable."

"It should not be amended every time someone comes up with a plan for an attractive piece of property," he added.

Residents of High Oak and Tiverton Road objected to the office building, but for a different reason. (See PETITION, 4-A)

COOLER WEATHER Forecast for Area
Five-day weather forecast for Oakland County:

Temperatures will average 9 to 10 degrees below normal. Normal high for August is in the lower 80s, normal lows in the lower 60s.

Cool, Thursday and Friday. A warm trend will begin over the weekend.

No showers are likely until after the weekend.

Total precipitation: light, 1/10 inch.

1-B Editorial
1-D Nature Now
1-D Obituaries
4-D Real Estate
3, 4, 8-E Society
6-D Sports
6, 7-B Suburban Scene
1-B Theatres
3-A This and That
6-D TV Listings
1-B Yesterday's Happenings

IN THIS ISSUE

The many ways of politicking. See story, pictures on 3-A.

Women sailors' group at Orchard Lake Country Club. See story, pictures on 1-C.

Good summer reading for children. See story on 1-D.

Birmingham's Pony All-Star team wins sectional playoffs at Bay City. See story on 1-E.

Amusements
Art for Art's Sake
Arts of Living Page
Bridge Column
Business News
Calendar of Cultural Events
Church
City Beat
Classified Ads
Down to Earth
Eccentricities

4-E Editorial
1-D Nature Now
1-D Obituaries
4-D Real Estate
3, 4, 8-E Society
6-D Sports
6, 7-B Suburban Scene
1-B Theatres
3-A This and That
6-D TV Listings
1-B Yesterday's Happenings