

Don't Change It Now

A couple of weeks ago there was a lively discussion at the Birmingham City Commission meeting concerning the financing of the new parking lot facing Shain Park.

In the acquisition and construction of the six parking lots the City now has, it has been the policy of the City to assess property owners within 600 feet of a parking lot 40 per cent of its cost with the City picking up 60 per cent.

The property owners' share is distributed among the people based on a benefit formula. The closer you are to the lot and the more benefit you get, the more you pay.

THE CITY'S share was paid for by revenue bonds which are retired with the money the City receives from revenue from the meters.

The city fathers have justified this arrangement, and justly so, by the fact that the abutting property owners will profit from the increased availability of parking area.

With the construction of what is known as Parking Lot No. 7, there are some property owners who will be asked to chip in for a second or third time, and they feel it is time a new arrangement is worked out.

THEY SEEM to raise the point that this lot may be decked and hence more costly.

If we understand their position, it is that they will go along with the 40 per cent assessment; but, just as the City receives money from the meters to pay off its share, so the property owners as unwilling partners should get back their investment eventually out of this same source.

While the property owners raise valid

points, we don't feel the City is in a position to share revenue on one lot when it has not done so on the six previous lots.

IT WOULD be unfair at this point to change the procedure unless the City went back to the first lot and did it.

However, so that the equities would be fair, we suggest that the property owners not be assessed for any decking.

We propose that they merely be assessed on the basis of acquisition costs plus the cost of improving the property to the point the other lots have been improved.

If the City decides to go to multiple-deck parking, this construction should be borne by the people who use it and retired with revenue bonds.

This practice has been very successful in Ann Arbor and other communities.

AND THIS multiple decking could be Birmingham's answer to its parking problems, so long as the structure is tastefully done.

We have seen parking structures that do not appear to be parking structures, such as the one adjacent to Ford Hospital in Detroit.

We have also seen parking structures that look worse than parking structures. However, judging from the City's past actions in beautifying lots we have no fear as to its actions in this matter.

Again as to assessment, we feel that the costs on this nondecked lot No. 7 should be treated as have been the prior six lots so that no inequities be created.

It would be a serious mistake to make the property owners partners in revenue with the City at this time since prior assessments did not include such a consideration.

Watch for These Things!

On your Labor Day week end look out for people doing these things: speeding too fast for conditions, disregarding stop signs or other traffic controls, failing to yield right-of-way and being under the influence of alcohol.

These are part of the motorists' seven deadly sins—the seven traffic violations most identified with fatal and other traffic tragedies.

Take speeding, for instance. Most people identify this with speeds of 80 miles and higher per hour—and this is common enough. There are plenty of instances, however, where 50, 40, and even 35 miles per hour are too fast no matter how important you feel about it.

IN CROWDED or residential areas, in stretches of traffic moving at a slow pace, the impatient heavy-foot driver is not only an irritant to others but a practical time bomb.

Some self-appointed authorities enjoy putting all the blame on the "slow" driver. Check it out some time—you slow man may just be obeying the posted speed limits. These are posted for established reasons.

On the other hand, maybe the slow driver is moving at the speed his common sense tells him he can handle. A lot of us tend to overdrive our sight distance and reaction time. At 70 miles per hour the average passenger vehicle will move 77 feet before the driver can decide what to do. Even with your "lights on for safety" it's still 77 feet.

ONE THING we would urge on senior citizens and other drivers who like to take it easy—don't make a crusade out of it on a highway designed for faster travel. There is room in this country for both kinds. And for the big-foot tribe — 70 miles an hour is OK on the expressway—if you have all your faculties—but it can be sheer murder in a different environment.

Speed too fast for conditions is associated with 44 per cent of all fatal accidents on the highway. That would mean 744 people in Michigan alone last year. It could have been less if some of them had gone slower, thought faster and buckled their seat belts.

Let's make this the safest Labor Day week end in Michigan since the advent of the automobile.

They're Off—In the Brains Derby



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Former WAC Has High Praise For MacArthur

To the Editor:

General Douglas MacArthur was one of America's outstanding military men of all times. He will forever be remembered for his very brilliant, long and faithful service to this nation he loved so much.

While he was commander of military operations in the Southwest Pacific during World War II, I was in the Women's Army Corps. I served with the Far East Air Service Command in Hollandia, Dutch, New Guinea, in the Southwest Pacific about 10,000 miles from San Francisco.

General Clement E. McMullen, commanding general of FEASC, was from San Antonio, Texas. He had us type cablegrams to send to General MacArthur in the Pacific and to General Bessie F. Myers at Air Service Command, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, O.

SOME OF General MacArthur's combat troops, who had been wounded in action, were stationed in the 27th General Army Hospital in New Guinea while I was there.

With stomach trouble and infection in both ears, some patients played ping pong while I played the piano in the American Red Cross Recreation Building.

Some of us stated they considered

(See PRAISE, 7-B)

Psychological Tests Cause for Concern?

To the Editor:

A bill has been introduced in Congress by Rep. John M. Ashbrook of Ohio in reference to the psychological tests which are being given in many of our schools throughout the nation. At the present time, these tests can be given without parents' consent and without prior notice to the parents.

The bill, H.R. 7743, states that it would not prohibit psychological testing in our schools, but it would require that reasonable notice be given to parents of students prior to the examinations, that the parents be given the opportunity to view the tests and that they be allowed to refuse permission to have the tests administered to their children, if so desired.

MANY PARENTS feel that any warranted psychological examination should be one in privacy and by those who have had adequate psychological or psychiatric training, who alone are qualified to accurately determine the emotional stability of a child.

Many of the questions in the tests have been disturbing to both students and parents. For instance, in the SRA Youth Inventory test for high school students, the student is asked among many other similar questions if his father is a tyrant, if his parings play favor-

ably, if he is ashamed of his father's job or his parents' dress or manners, if there is constant bickering and quarreling in his home, or if his parents try to hold him down.

IN THE Moral Value Inventory Exam, among other questions, the student has to decide which is more important: taking the oath of allegiance to the United States or joining a church. In another question, he has to decide which is worse: denying the existence of God or laughing while the Star Spangled Banner is being played.

In the Washing Well test, which is given to students in grades 4 to 7, the student has to decide such questions as whether he wishes he felt like a real member of the family, whether he wishes his family could afford to give each other better presents at Christmas and on birthdays and whether he wishes his parents did things that would make him feel more love toward them.

I believe that the bill H.R. 7743 should become a law and that in our democracy parents should be given the right to determine whether they wish to have these psychological tests administered to their children.

ALICE HANCHETT,

Syracuse, N.Y.

YESTERYEAR HAPPENINGS

50 YEARS AGO
September 1, 1914

While enjoying the beauty of Baldwin Park during a social at 9:30 o'clock in the evening, the fire whistle made the fire department leave in a hurry. Edward Smith, in his new Saxon car brought the boys up town where they attacked the hose cart and took and ladder. Owing to a mistake in the fire signal the entire department was rushed to the Baptist church. Finally, the entire outfit arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer on East Lake road. Mr. Spencer had gone to the park, leaving the current turned on the electric flat iron. Let to itself, the flat iron had burned through the board, fallen to the floor and burned through the rug and floor. Loss was \$50.00.

The finest specimen of tomato raising was shown in a recent display by Mrs. I. B. Hale who did it all by herself and is mighty proud of it. She exhibited to us three large, smooth and perfectly ripe tomatoes. They were on a stem not six inches in length and the total weight was 31 pounds. To a lover of this highly delicious fruit, these three giants were a sight to behold.

Birmingham schools will open September 8. This year has every appearance of being the best one in the history of the schools. The enrollment promises to beat the record of last year 571. Miss Rhoda M. Starr is superintendent and Miss Lillian Stauch is prin-

cipal of the high school. Miss Wynn B. Easterday is the principal of Barnum School and Miss Maurine Carpenter is the assistant principal.

30 YEARS AGO
September 6, 1934

With interest in both state and county campaigns seemingly at a standstill in all but a few quarters, indications today were that the voting in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and surrounding territories in next Tuesday's primaries will be quite below normal. Only the gubernatorial campaign stirs excitement, with interest in the race between Alex. J. Groesbeck and Frank D. Fitzgerald for the Republican nomination especially high.

Organization of a Bloomfield Hills unit of the Young American Fire Preventers, Inc. was under way today with the announcement that application blanks and membership cards were available at the Bloomfield Hills fire department, now located in the township garage on East Long Lake road. The foundation of the organization is a group of six Berkeley youths. Fire Chief Russell V. Moore of Bloomfield Hills will cooperate in organizing the unit.

A parade, featuring the 100-piece Shrine band and drill team of Detroit, will open at 8 p.m. next Thursday, Sept. 13, the three-day Fall Frolic being sponsored by the record of last year 571. Miss Rhoda M. Starr is superintendent and Miss Lillian Stauch is prin-

The parade will be followed by a concert by the Shrine band and sound pictures.

15 YEARS AGO
September 1, 1949

Birmingham is among the 82 cities in Group VI which recorded no traffic fatality last year. Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley has been notified by the National Safety Council. There were 288 cities of comparable size included in their annual inventory of traffic safety activities. The Council also reported that there were 11,401 vehicles registered here, with a given population of 12,700. The accident record of the city was said to be adequate and the city was to be commended.

The Star Cab Co. will appear before the city commission next Tuesday evening to show cause why its taxicab operating license should not be revoked by the city because of the allegedly poor mechanical conditions of its four cabs. An order to show cause was issued by the city commission Monday evening after reviewing an inspection report filed by the police department.

On and after today, the Birmingham YMCA will be located in the Quorton Building at 144 West Maple Street, with its telephone remaining Birmingham 124. A complete list of club activities and programs will be available in 10 days. The club hopes to continue all of its Gra-Tex clubs of last year and to start new clubs in the Franklin and Walnut Lake districts.

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



One day this summer as I returned to my car in one of our Northern Michigan communities, I noticed an envelope under my windshield wiper.

It didn't take long to realize that it was a note from the local police department telling me that I had overstayed my welcome in that particular parking spot, but that if I dropped 25 cents in the envelope and deposited it in a little yellow container on the corner within 24 hours all would be forgiven.

It did mention that failure to do this within the time allotted would push the price up to \$1.

I LOOKED AROUND and found that the real villain, a silver money-eating machine, had kind of a bloodstained eye, indicating my time had expired.

Normally, I would have been both embarrassed for having my hand caught in the cookie jar, so to speak, and disturbed to think that someone had given me a ticket for something that wasn't really my fault. (Don't we all feel that way when we are ticketed?)

But the consideration offered if I admitted my mistake and acted quickly soothed my temper and I was truly sorry I had overstayed my meter.

THE LESSON I EXPERIENCED could well be brought home to our pleasant metropolis. Nothing disturbs a shopper more than to return to his car to find a ticket on the windshield.

As this feeling turns to animosity toward the police, the town fathers and the town itself.

I personally don't believe in parking meters. I know that something is needed in a community that has inadequate parking facilities to keep the traffic moving around, but I don't feel that people should pay for parking on public streets for which they themselves paid to be constructed.

IF WE HAVE to have them, though, we should do something so that the shopper doesn't feel like we are trying to support the town on the revenue derived from parking fines.

And if we are, this would truly be a misuse of governmental prerogatives in raising money.

These great little silver hands do more to destroy the small town image than anything else which could be erected.

It would certainly make an interesting study of the effect on our community image if our city fathers experimented with a reduced fine for meter violations.



City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

A frequent contributor to the columns of this newspaper is Mrs. Ruth Vogt of 5922 E. Millerway, Bloomfield Township.

She also is a constant reader of The Eccentric, I am pleased to say.

The City Beat column concerning the display of the U.S. flag for the July 4 holiday prompted this communication from her:

"Your July 4 column wondered about 'flags,' etc. That very week my eldest, in cleaning out her room after high school graduation came into the den with the enclosed, homemade card she found in her bottom desk drawer."

THE CARD consisted of a picture of the flag and this poem:

"A beautiful sight,
Our flag waving above the fence.
'It means all things to all people,
'It means the dreams of others who have come before us,
'It stays alive, not by itself
'But only by us, the living, who
'Make it the symbol of freedom,
'As long as we allow this gift to be given,
'Not to a few or to the ones who are
'Black or white—but to all peoples!"

MRS. VOGT then says in her letter: "I remember getting this at camp so well. Mom, said that 18-year-old, 'I've got all your cards you made that you sent me those years spent up at camp.'"

"With the flag almost over, what with the three almost ready to jump into college life, bang, bang, bang in the next few years, the only thought which keeps churning about is:

"Have we given them the necessary tools, for the mind and heart and soul, so that they'll handle the happiness, sorrows, frustrations, challenges, monotony, hard work, play as part of this—

"**WHOLE PICTURE WE LABEL LIFE?**

"**BUT ISN'T** this exactly what all parents hope and wonder about as their first troops off to school or out to work? And:

"If I could shove into a huge bag all of the joys experienced in preparing 'em for this feat, a long train of boxcars, attached end to end, wouldn't be adequate space enough to hold that bag?"

"**Truly,** these 20 years have been so rich in living."

"And this mother's outlook on life gives us something to ponder over during the Labor Day week end.

Old-age pensioners are put back to work in Russia and will get wages but also retain part of their pensions. This is known as twilight moonlighting.

Experts fear that the Leaning Tower of Pisa will fall within 30 years unless something is done to arrest its rate of movement.

The time for action is now—or sometime before 1994, anyway.

A \$10,000-a-year pay raise is a substantial one, but most congressmen don't regard it as anything to talk about—at least not for the record.

The "space switchboard" we've launched makes a global communications system that much nearer. This should help promote peace—and guarantee more arguments.

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