

Magazine describes area city as 'racked by fear'

By NICK SHARKEY

Birmingham is: A city racked by fear where parents are frightened that a maniac child-killer is looming behind every corner and children are afraid to play in Shain Park.

B. A community that has suffered through the tragedy of the murder of one of its children and has pulled together to continue normal suburban living.

If you are one of the 14 million readers of "Good Housekeeping," you may have selected A. According to an article in the September issue of that magazine entitled "The Town That Lives in Terror," "Now, as summer comes to an end fear tightens its grip on the police, parents and children in this well to do community."

If you are Diane Vincent, the leader of a volunteer effort to help calm the community in the wake of 15-year old Timothy King's death on March 16, you may have selected B.

"This is a community of public spirited residents who have pulled together and restored a calm spirit," says Vincent said on Friday. She is director of Common Ground, a multi-service assistance agency.

The second paragraph of the seven page article in "Good Housekeeping" says, "The first thing that strikes you about Birmingham is the eerie absence of children. There are no kids in the lovely park behind the police station. No bikes are lined up outside

the Hunter-Maple Pharmacy, the suburban hangout."

Author Bill Davidson continues, "At the Adams Elementary School, children who ordinarily walk the few blocks to their homes are being delivered and picked up, morning and afternoon, by a traffic-choking procession of station wagons driven by mothers."

Another passage quotes an unidentified woman as saying, "We are a community living in absolute fear—almost under siege, waiting for the next attack and not knowing when, where or who."

Another portion of the article quotes Birmingham Police Chief Rollin Tobin as saying, "Hundreds of kids won't go out in the snow or even in the rain because they say, 'That's when the killer strikes.'"

PEOPLE QUOTED in Davidson's story strongly disagree with its content.

"Birmingham is not a city in terror," Tobin said. "You will have to look pretty far to find someone in terror around here."

Adams School Principal Robert Jones said that the traffic congestion outside of Adams was not caused by frightened mothers picking up their children, but by newsmen and photographers.

"If I lived somewhere else and read that article, I would think that the city was in a state of panic," Jones said. "That's not true."

Jones said that he was asked for interviews by many newsmen during the few days after the death of Timothy King, a sixth grade student at Adams. He said he believed the only conversation that he had with Davidson was a brief chat outside the school when Jones was asking photographers to get off school grounds.

Ms. Vincent said, "An article like that is appalling. After an initial shock wave, the people in this city have rallied. There are pretty much back to normal now."

Ms. Vincent said that after Timothy King's death, she had been contacted by several news organizations wanting to do stories about terror in the community.

"We turned down requests for interviews from the 'National Enquirer' and were successful in talking the 'Washington Post' out of writing a terror story."

CHIEF TOBIN said that he gave Davidson a two-hour interview. In the first few weeks after the murder, Tobin acted as press spokesman for the task force investigating the Oakland County child killings.

"I tried to emphasize to him (Davidson) that Birmingham was not a town in terror and that I didn't want him to publish anything that would stir people up."

Tobin said that he was misquoted several times in the article. He especially took exception to the quote

"That's when the killer strikes." "I never talk like that," Tobin said. "People in this community are too sophisticated to believe that I would say something like that. That reads like a story from the 'Police Gazette' about 15 years ago."

WRITER BILL DAVIDSON vigorously defends the article. The freelance writer works out of his home in Los Angeles, Cal.

"I wrote about what I observed while I was in Birmingham," Davidson said. "The park behind city hall (Shain Park) was deserted while I was there. Mothers were causing a congestion near Adams School while

they were picking up their children. Many people told me they were afraid."

Davidson denies that he misquoted Tobin, or any other source in Birmingham.

"Every quote of Tobin's in the story, I can document from my notes. He told me many things which I could not put in the story."

Davidson said that he was in Birmingham for one week, at the end of April and in early May. He wrote the story in May.

He said that Adams Principal Jones gave him a 30-minute interview in Jones' office.

"I stand behind everything written," he said.

Davidson admitted that sometimes there are problems when news stories are written in May and not published until the end of August.

"But that's my editor's problem, not mine," he said.

Davidson's editor is Mary Fiore, managing editor for "Good Housekeeping."

She defended Davidson on Friday calling him a "reputable author who has worked for many national publications."

She said, "We have never had any problems with his stories."

Tenured teacher resigns

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

Covington Junior High teacher Jennifer Strang's resignation was accepted Wednesday night and ended what is believed to be the first tenure hearing in the history of the Birmingham school district.

Mrs. Strang's notarized letter of resignation was received by the board of education Wednesday afternoon and brought about an abrupt halt to open hearings which were to start Wednesday and were scheduled to continue nightly until the matter was resolved.

School officials had charged Mrs. Strang in June with a "serious breach

of ethics" that included having a "relationship" with a former student, a 15-year-old boy.

In a roll-call vote Wednesday, conducted by hearing officer Louis Basso, the six board trustees present accepted the resignation and promptly adjourned the hearing. No reason was given for the resignation.

Board Trustee Sylvia Whitmer was absent from the meeting.

Mrs. Strang was not present at the hearing which terminated her nine years of employment with the Birmingham school district. She was a science teacher at Covington.

MRS. STRANG and her husband both refused to comment on her action when contacted late Wednesday afternoon.

Gerald Haymond, co-executive director of the Birmingham Education Association, said before the hearing that Mrs. Strang "resigned admitting no guilt, nor was she asked to admit any guilt by the school board."

"Because of the type of case, whether she won or lost, she had already lost when the charges were made," Haymond added. "To draw other people into the case was not worth it, therefore, she resigned."

GARAGE DOOR OPERATORS

Genie 450D
CRYPTAR II DIGITAL CONTROLS
\$175.00 installed
1 Year Warranty—Any Suburb
ALLIANCE AUTOMATIC DOOR CO.
358-3833 SOUTHFIELD

"Ridicule is the test of truth."
William Hazlitt

10% OFF
ALL SERVICES
WITH THIS COUPON
Expires 10-15-77

QUALITY PRINTING
FAST SERVICE

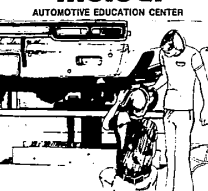
Printing White-U-Well
Xerox Copies
Rubber Stamps
Business Cards

Mr. Kwik Copy

SOUTH FARMINGTON
29825 Grand River
477-1108
GRAND LAKES
7200 Cooley Lake Road
363-7677

Motech Motech Motech Motech

Motech
AUTOMOTIVE EDUCATION CENTER



Good Mechanics make good money!

Build a solid future as an Auto Mechanic.

Unlimited opportunities! Demand for mechanics! Exciting future! These are only three of the many reasons why you should consider a future as an auto mechanic or auto body repair person. Take the first step. Talk with the people at Motech. They'll explain step-by-step the exciting five-day-a-week curriculum which teaches you all about all domestic cars. And you'll learn how the program prepares you to tackle the NASE tests. It's one of only two tests an auto mechanic can pass to become a certified professional mechanic in Michigan. Start on your future today. Call 522-9510 and you'll be on your way.

THE AUTO SERVICE INDUSTRY NEEDS YOU

Enrollments Now Being Accepted

CALL 522-9510

Motech
ADMITS STUDENTS OF ANY SEX,
RACE, COLOR AND NATIONAL
OR ETHNIC ORIGIN.

Motech

AUTOMOTIVE EDUCATION CENTER

35155 Industrial Road,
Livonia, Michigan 48150
(313) 522-9510

CHRYSLER INSTITUTE

CHRYSLER CORPORATION

Motech Motech Motech Motech



BLOOMFIELD HILLS, private 5 house court off Eastway, 1975 classic, spacious and custom with all the comfort extras. On half acre, top area. 646-6000, \$132,500.



QUANTON LAKE ESTATES, gracious living in quiet elegance—ready for immediate possession. Countless rooms, conveniences. 646-6000, \$125,900.



NINE ACRE country estate, prize Contemporary in Highland, just off M-59. Big with doorways, decks, views. Horse barn, coral. Divide in 1983. 647-5950, \$130,000.



BIRMINGHAM, beautifully groomed home, gorgeous lot. Fireplaces in den, master bedroom. Family room, recreation room. TREES. 626-9100, \$114,900.



ROOMY 5 bedroom Contemporary on over 7 acres in Oakland Township. 2 full and 2 half baths, fireplace family room, private den. Lovely terrain. 651-8850, \$124,900.

Chamberlain

DON MASKILL is a man you would like to meet. He's friendly, interested in everything, always on hand to help someone and completely involved with life and family.

IN LATE 1974 Don was a welcome addition to Chamberlain's Rochester office on University Drive in the Meadowbrook Plaza Building. His distinguished career has been a credit to the real estate profession.

BORN IN DETROIT Don was graduated from high school in Windsor and received a B.A. degree in Economics from Michigan State University in 1950.

Donald J. Maskill

THEN CAME 20 years with the Vickers Division of Sperry Rand Corporation as Supervisor of Contract Negotiations with the airlines and the federal government.

NEW HOME SALES began his real estate career in 1971 with Rochester's Great Oaks and West Bloomfield's Walnut Green. His three year sales totaled over 11 million dollars.

DON'S SUCCESS with Chamberlain is evidenced by over \$4,300,000 of sales participation in the last 2 1/2 years. He is an established member of Chamberlain's Million Dollar Sales Club.

A FAMILY MAN, Don and his wife Margaret ("Peg") have ten children, five boys and five girls (two sets of twins) from ages 9 to 27. Bridge and golf interest Mom and Dad, athletics, etc., etc. enthrall the kids.

— ASK FOR —
DON MASKILL

SOLVE YOUR REAL ESTATE problems. "The Chamberlain Way" by calling Don at 651-8850.



SIXTH GREEN of Great Oaks Golf Course just behind this Executive Ranch. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, fireplace family room, wet bar. 651-8850, \$87,500.



FINE VALUE in Colony Park. Library or 4th bedroom, 2 1/2 baths, fireplace family room, first floor laundry, Central Air. Imprecable. 626-9100, \$79,900.



FIVE BEDROOM Classic, prime Farmington Hills area. Family room with brick wall, fireplace, in-law suite, 15'x13' kitchen. On private court. 626-9100, \$82,900.



WOODED RETREAT. Big double A-Frame, total charm. 2 fireplaces in family and living room, 3 decks, 3 large bedrooms, circle stairs. 651-8850, \$87,500.



SANDY BEACH on 30 acre lake, private Bloomfield Hills area. 1 1/2 acre garden spot, magnificent views. Long, wide Ranch. Resort living. 626-9100, \$82,900.



A-1 CONDITION Colonial. Central Air, attic fan, top appliances plus 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths (including Master), custom drapes, shutters. 557-6700, \$65,500.



JUST LISTED. Trim 4 bedroom home. Large pantry in complete kitchen, rustic family room with fireplace, play room, attic fan, private yard. 689-8900, \$59,500.



BEAUTIFULLY done, inside and out. On large, treed lot with fenced yard. 4 bedrooms, fireplace family room, Central Air, etc. 651-8850, \$64,900.



IDEAL family home—modern Southfield Colonial. Spacious, 3 bedrooms plus den, 1 1/2 baths, fireplace, dishwasher, air units. New gas heat. 557-6700, \$59,900.



PRIVACY and CHARM. 4 bedroom brick Ranch on 3/4 acre, Southfield. Family room with wet bar, new kitchen, first floor laundry, pool. 557-6700, \$59,900.



SOUTHFIELD Tri-level. Gorgeous in-ground pool and Cabana, 2 fireplaces in family and living rooms, 4 possible bedrooms. Big home. 557-6700, \$51,900.



STORYBOOK Cape Cod, in-town Birmingham. 3 bedrooms plus study, 2 1/2 baths, finished recreation room with bar, super kitchen. Like new. 647-5950, \$41,900.

Chamberlain
REALTORS®

• BIRMINGHAM
646-6000

• ROCHESTER
651-8850

• TROY
689-8900

• WEST BLOOMFIELD
FARMINGTON HILLS
626-9100

• BLOOMFIELD HILLS
647-5950

• SOUTHFIELD
LATHRUP VILLAGE
557-6700

