The Birmingham Eccentric

FOURTEEN PAGES
PART I

FIFTY-FIFTH YEAR—NO. 19 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1932 | $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

Philosophy, wherein one may be sure that some fellow-being is faithful and dependable, is one of life's rare gifts. To have a real friend is to have the wealth of the world in your very own.

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Mr. DeFoe, the distinguished editor of the Charlotte Republican-Tribune, once served as secretary to Governor Gov. Chase S. Osborn. He also acted as secretary of the three-man pardon board. Anything he says on the subject of prisons and prisoners contains the voice of some authority. I'm reprinting what he wrote the other day because it affords pertinent comment on a very vital phase of Michigan's social structure. Here is what "Doc" DeFoe wrote:

"Ray C. Brundage, parole commissioner for Michigan, was a social guest in the editor's home the evening of the writing. He is a delightful personality any time, but on this occasion he was more scientific than usual. He loves his work which is a good breed for the more than 9,000 inmates in Michigan penal institutions at this time. An officer who enjoys his job means added interest and increased official efficiency. A George W. Aldrich. The Birmingham Eccentric editor was in on a recent visit the commissioner made to Jackson and when he left the prison that night at 10:30 instead of going back to Birmingham as he announced, this student and lover of mankind drove to Lansing the next morning went to the executive office to compliment the governor on his selection of Mr. Brundage for this difficult job. What Mr. Averill saw in Brundage was genuine human quality plus a desire to be fair. You can't have rules in the work of the parole commissioner. Every case is a new problem. There are no duplicates of mentality, opportunity and environment. That's why this job appeals to the heart and imagination of decent people everywhere. The writer enjoyed creating an opinion that he forced when he was the last secretary of the old three-man parole board—there is a thin line between the man on the outside and the prisoner behind the walls. The next time you hear anyone telling you that an offender ought "to get" just get back in your own life and see if you'll remember how easy it is to slip away. Really the big difference between society on the outside and the prisoner on the inside is luck. Yes, we are speaking directly to you.

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We discussed Mr. Brundage's work and several cases in particular. One boy since his release has advanced himself to an enviable cultural position. He did three stick-up jobs in a week and the sum total of the haul netted the two lads $3.50. They were armed, which changed their criminal classification. The theory of the law is, properly, is that an armed man will shoot his way out if he intends to be a potential murderer. He was given 15 to 20 years and will have eight days in next January. The state psychiatrist called on this first offender criminal (he never was arrested before) after he had been in Jackson 30 days. He gave him a very excellent report, pronounced him a good risk with certain ability to provide for himself. Eight years have passed and the boy has not proved every day. His mother lives in Eaton County and is a splendid person.

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Since Mr. Brundage's visit we have thought of many things instances which he told us. Some were disturbing, but in several cases these men have no one to go "front" for them. Many times men enter into the domain of the parole law. It can't eliminate pressure, politics and influence which enter into the consideration of parole. Not viciously or illegally understand. Not at all. But some prisoners just naturally have more friends than others. In these groups there is always one who knows the routine—in other words how the machinery operates. Under our form of government by George R. Averill, Harold Helberby, E. W. Osborne and Frank S. Packard.

—:—

Petitions have also been filed for John S. Black, Lawrence Hilbert, Harry Allen and Harry S. Starr but none of the four have qualified. The deadline for qualifying is Tuesday, Aug. 23, at 5 P. M.

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The deadline for filing petitions expired last Saturday.

7 ENTER RACE FOR HILLS CITY COMMISSION

Five Petitions Filed, Two More Circulated For Sept. 10 Election

CHARTER IS PUBLISHED

Petitions for five candidates to the new five-man Bloomfield Hills City Commission, to be elected at the time the proposed new charter is submitted for approval or rejection at the special election Sept. 10, have been filed, and two others are in circulation, it was announced yesterday by William M. Story, village clerk.

Petitions have been filed for Luther D. Allen, East Long Lake road, who has been president of the Village of Bloomfield Hills since its incorporation five years ago; A. R. Glancy, Long Pine road; Frank W. Atkinson, Riverton road; Frank W. Shuell, Long Pine road, and William G. Lerchen, West Long Lake road.

Petitions are being circulated for Donald D. James, Donnybrook lane, member of the present Village Commission; and for Clarence E. Otter, North Woodward avenue. A petition is also being circulated for John J. Redman, East Long Lake road, as a candidate for justice of the peace. The deadline for filing petitions is next Saturday, Mr. Story said.

The proposed new charter is published in full in this issue of The Eccentric. It provides that the boundaries of the city shall be the same as those of the present village, and that there shall be but one voting ward as now.

The new Commission will take office immediately and will remain in office until the first Monday after the regular municipal election in 1935. Beginning in 1935, a new Commission will be elected for a two-year term on the first Monday in April of each odd numbered year.

The justice of the peace, who must be a resident of the city and whose qualifications otherwise must be the same as those for a township justice, will hold office until in 1932 after the next general election in 1933. Beginning in that year a justice will be elected every fourth year. The justice will have jurisdiction to the amount of $500.

The Commission may from time to time appoint a city manager who

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TAX COLLECTIONS BELOW LAST YEAR

Worst Slump To Date, Reported During Past Week, Keeps Total At $88,000

The most significant slump to date in 1932 village tax collections as compared with those of last year was reported yesterday at the treasurer's office as occurring during the past week.

Only $88,457 in general taxes, or slightly more than 32 percent of the total levy of $273,800, had been paid in up to late yesterday. Collections at the corresponding period last year were more than 40 percent of the total, according to Village Treasurer Charles E. Humstead.

Special assessment collections up to yesterday amounted to $8,452.97.

A 4 percent penalty will be added to taxes unpaid before Sept. 1.

4 More Qualify For Charter Group Race

Four more men for whom petitions have been filed for election to the city charter commission at the special election Sept. 6 qualified during the past week, in addition to the six who had previously qualified.

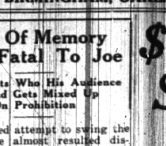
They are Ralph I. Coryell, Edward L. Bryant, James W. Taylor and Lee A White. The six who have qualified previously are Clarence Vliet, Charles J. Lang, George R. Averill, Harold T. Helberby, E. W. Osborne and Frank S. Packard.

Lapse Of Memory Is Fatal To Joe

He Forgets Who His Audience Is And Gets Mixed Up On Prohibition

An avowed attempt to swing the female vote almost resulted disastrously last night for Joe J. Jackrabbit, kangaroo politician and candidate for county dog commissioner.

Joe, who previously had prided himself on being a man among men, and a more or less rough and ready one at that, borrowed a dress suit and a pair of patent leathers from



"—started crooning a lullaby"

the stock on hand at the Candidates' Club and went up to the church to deliver a campaign speech at the regular Wednesday evening meeting of the Stitch and Starch It Society.

Although it was his first appearance in social circles, Joe got along splendidly—for about half an hour. He drank lemonade out of a glass instead of tipping up the whole bowl, excused himself every time he tripped over somebody's feet, and by talking fluently about "box cars," "wagon tires," "straight flushes," "snake-eyes" and Hiram Walker, got the poor ladies so confused they began to think he was an authority on some new kind of modernistic art and that he knew lots of influential people.

His popularity suddenly waned, however, when he began making his speech. He admitted afterwards that he had forgotten where he was addressing the Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform or the W. C. T. U., and so as not to make any mistake he quoted excerpts from speeches he had prepared for both of those organizations.

"Down with the demon rum!" he shouted. "Who is the government to be telling us we can't have any co-ktails? Prohibition is the greatest blessing this country has ever enjoyed. It's made us a sober nation. It's made drunkards of our children. It's abolished the saloon. It's made the bootlegger a rich man.

"It's added to the national income. It's made paupers of every one of us. It's increased crime and graft. It's reduced murders, holdups and corruption.

"I pledge myself forever for temperance, repeal, re-submission, moderation, states' rights, education, government control, modification, nullification, stupefaction and prohibition!"

About this time the good ladies began to get uneasy, and when one of them down in the front row asked Joe if he was wet or dry, he got a bit uneasy himself and started crooning a lullaby in imitation of Rudy Colombo Crosby.

As an answer, this was far from satisfactory, and the ladies began evidencing their displeasure with the contents of a basket of vegetables they had brought to be distributed among the poor families of the parish.

Eventually, the danger became so great that Hank Hoopydoopy, Joe's campaign manager, reached out from the curtains with a meat hook and dagged Joe off the platform and through the back door to safety.

JACK SITTA RECEIVES INJURIES IN ACCIDENT

Jack Sitta, 1880 Oak Street, received minor injuries including cuts, bruises and two broken teeth as the result of a collision involving the car in which he was riding, driven by Theodore Ester, 735 Fairfax Road, and another driven by Ralph Bird, Vaughn Road, at Orchard Ridge and Oak Knob Roads late Wednesday. Sitta was thrown through the windshield of the car. Both cars were badly damaged.

The cause of the accident was fast driving on the part of both drivers, according to Patrolman Stanley Kevern of the Bloomfield Hills police department who investigated.

Only 6 MORE DAYS TO REGISTER!

All voters in Birmingham and Bloomfield Township must re-register in accordance with the new state permanent registration law before Aug. 24 to be eligible to vote in the next national and state elections.

Where to register—Office of village or township clerks in the Municipal Building. Residents of Troy Township may register at the Troy Town Hall. Bloomfield Hills residents may register in the Barbour Building.

The Municipal Building will be open every morning and afternoon, including Saturday, until Aug. 24.

FURNITURE STORAGE
139 Brownell — Phone 7024-F4 —Adv. 2112

HAVE YOU MET?—

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Myers, former Detroiters, who moved to Birmingham two weeks ago after a year's residence in Chicago. They now reside at 155 Pilgrim road. Their family includes two sons, Don, 16 years old, and Bob, 11.

Mr. Myers is associated with the Michigan office of the Auburn Crosby Company, Inc., with offices in the Stephenson Building, Detroit.

$47,000 Slash In Teachers' Salaries Balances Budget; Schools Will Open Sept. 19

Crandell Says Village Must Answer For Further Cuts

Any further curtailments in the school system than those adopted by the Board of Education Thursday night, especially in relation to the load borne by the teachers, might result in consequences for which he would "not care to assume responsibility," Superintendent Charles W. Crandell informed the Board in a communication offered and accepted at the time the curtailments were made.

Referring especially to the possibility of half-day class sessions and citing "responsibility to the children for educational opportunity," "to the instructional staff," and "to the ever and economic interests of the residents and taxpayers of Birmingham," Mr. Crandell said:

Urges Community Action

"If the community after having been given an opportunity fails to avert the conditions which call necessitate such drastic steps then the community must assume the responsibility for the consequences."

The communication also contained Mr. Crandell's offer to return $1,000 of his salary for the current school year, for which he had been given a contract for $6,750. Mr. Crandell's communication, with its attendant offer, was accepted unanimously in a motion made by Earl G. Potter and seconded by John H. Rosso, asking that "the thanks of the Board be extended to him for the spirit in which it was offered."

The statement follows in full:

Aug. 11, 1932.

The Honorable, The Board of Education,
Birmingham, Mich.
Gentlemen:

The following is quoted from my communication to the Board of Education under the date March 17, with respect to teachers' salaries:

"Briefly stated the arguments advanced in favor of the teachers are: as a class they have always been underpaid; that in time of prosperity they do not share in that prosperity as do other groups; that they are expected to contribute generously to relief and welfare activities; that actual living costs to the

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SIX DAYS LEFT PHYSICIAN DIES TO REGISTER ON GOLF LINKS

Thousands Still Fail To Qualify For Primary Vote in Townships

With only six more days remaining for registration before the deadline Aug. 24, thousands of voters in Bloomfield and Troy Townships today had failed to respond to the new permanent registration law.

As a result, light votes from the two townships were predicted for the Sept. 13 primary, since voters who are not permanently registered will be denied the ballot.

In Bloomfield Township, although the daily registration average has increased to about 100, the total number of registrations up to late yesterday was only 2,524. The old election rolls contained more than 4,000 names.

In Troy Township, with an average of only 25 voters registering daily, less than 1,200 names have been entered out of more than 3,000 on the old rolls.

Bloomfield Township voters may register at the Municipal Building or the Barbour Building in Bloomfield Hills. Troy Township residents may register in the Troy Township Hall, the Birmingham Municipal Building, the village hall in Clawson or at Winter's Lunch Room in Big Beaver.

Glenn W. Lade, Troy Township clerk, will also be in Troy Township registrations at the precinct booth at the corner of Adams road and Rochester street here from 1 to 4 P. M. Friday, he announced yesterday.

Mother Succumbs 2 Days After Son Takes Own Life

Mrs. Harry M. Russell Dies After Stroke At Age Of 68

Mrs. Harry M. Russell, for 50 years a resident of Southfield, died yesterday afternoon at her home, 18211 Beverley road, just 48 hours after one of her four sons, William Otis Russell, had committed suicide in Farmington.

Mrs. Russell, who had suffered a stroke and had been seriously ill for two weeks, never knew of her son's tragic death. She was 68 years old. Funeral services will be held at 2 P. M. Saturday, from the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, with the Rev. Frank Allen in charge. She was active in church work for several years.

Burial will be in Southfield Cemetery. Rev. W. Clarence Wright will officiate, assisted by Rev. Henry L. Evans.

Mrs. Russell, who was Ada J. Young before her marriage, was born in Commerce, and came to Southfield with her family when eight years old. She was married there Aug. 29, 1883. Her husband survives.

She was the mother of Henry Russell of Farmington, Dr. Donson Vance Russell, professor of history at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Ia.; Harry Russell of Royal Oak, Mrs. Oscar Miller of Southfield; Mrs. Russell Hoyt of Pontiac and the late Mrs. Will Hauck and William Otis Russell. Nineteen grandchildren also survive.

She was the sister of Mrs. Rose Young of Detroit, Mrs. Renwick McKinney of Birmingham, Mrs. J. H. Russell of Pontiac, and Mrs. Margaret Young of Birmingham.

Married Women On Half-Time; "Special Subjects" Discontinued

NEW CONTRACTS ISSUED

Crandell Volunteers $1,000 Pay Cut; Athletic Program Retained

BULLETIN

Thirty-four of the 93 teachers have already accepted the terms offered them in the new contracts, Superintendent Crandell announced late yesterday.

Officials of the Birmingham school system are awaiting today the response of teachers to new agreements offered them in contracts reducing the 1932-33 teachers' payroll $47,761.75—the most drastic single step taken by the Board of Education in balancing its budget.

The agreements, sent out last week, only eight days on the heels of notices that the 30-day clause had been invoked to break all previously existing contracts, are to be returned to Superintendent Charles W. Crandell by next Monday.

School Year Reduced

They are based on a school program reduced from 38 to 36 weeks, beginning Sept. 19 instead of Sept. 6 as had been originally planned, and range salary reductions in conformance with the following schedule adopted by the School Board Thursday night as the climax to nearly a month of concentrated effort to bring the planned expenditures of the system for 1932-33 within the limits of anticipated revenue:

1. A reduction of 15 percent in the salaries of 15 married women teachers, with the exception of those in administrative positions, and their work to be transferred to a half-time basis. Saving $23,698.47.

2. A reduction of 20 percent in the salaries of 15 "special subject" teachers. Saving, $7,-525.89. Women teachers who are both married and instructors in "special subjects" are classified as "special subject" teachers.

3. A reduction of 15 percent in the salaries of all other teachers, with a minimum wage of $1,000 for full-time work. Saving, $16,537.49.

Administrative Salaries Cut

In addition, the salaries of administrative officers were reduced $1,920, including a cut of $1,000 volunteered by Superintendent Crandell, and $920 in the salary of Business Manager Louis M. Randall; janitors' wages were slashed $4,200; clerks, librarian and nurse, $930; and the appropriation for supplies was reduced $1,750.

Placing of the 28 married women teachers on a half-time basis will leave open 14 positions which have been offered to the "special subject" teachers. This means that the "special subject" courses in dancing, music, manual training, domestic science and the majority of those in physical education—will be discontinued, but that the teachers themselves will still be in a position to organize their usual extra-curricular activities in athletics, clubs, musical programs, etc.

State law requires that at least two teachers be employed in the capacity of physical education instructors. In addition, the full athletic program in football, basketball, track and other sports will be retained as scheduled. According to Superintendent Crandell, football candidates will probably be called together immediately after Labor Day to begin practice in order that the delayed opening

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DID YOU KNOW—

That witnessing a fatal accident caused James J. Kelly to enter the insurance business?

That R. H. Lee shot down 27 German planes single-handed during the World War?

That W. I. Wood was the promoter of the largest swine show ever held in Michigan?

Trade Leader Dies

John C. Lawson

HOLD LAWSON RITES FRIDAY

Lumber Executive Succumbs After Three-Months' Illness

John C. Lawson, one of Birmingham's foremost business leaders for the past two decades, who died Monday evening in St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, will be buried Friday morning at Roseland Park Cemetery following funeral services at 9 A. M. from the Shrine of the Little Flower.

Mr. Lawson, who was secretary-treasurer of the Lawson-Ertl Lumber Company here from the time of its organization in 1913, until his death, had been in ill health for about three months, suffering from arterial and kidney trouble which steadily weakened his general physical condition. He was 50 years old.

Born Near Royal Oak

He appeared to be somewhat improved after spending two weeks at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., in June, although he never fully recovered. About a week ago he suffered a distinct turn for the worse, and was removed to the hospital Sunday. Death followed at 10:30 P. M. Monday.

Mr. Lawson was born in Clawson, the son of John C. Lawson of Clawson and of Kitty Chase of Royal Oak Township, both members of pioneer Oakland County families.

He first entered the lumber business in Royal Oak with his uncle, Jacob M. Lawson, in the Lawson Lumber and Coal Company. When the latter died in 1905, his sons took charge of the business, and John

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DETROITER BADLY INJURED IN CRASH

Skull Fracture Follows Collision Involving Two State Aides, Former Athletes

Robert Acker, 24 years old, 1259 Victoria avenue, Detroit, although somewhat improved, was still in a serious condition in St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital up to late yesterday as the result of injuries he received early Friday morning in an accident on Woodward avenue near Long Lake road in which two employes of the State Department of Agriculture, both former Michigan State College athletes, were involved.

Acker had stopped at the side of the highway to repair a tire, he told Bloomfield Hills police, when his car was struck by a second machine, traveling north and driven by Harold Kiebler of Manchester, Mich.

Officers, who found Acker lying in an unconscious condition beside his car, believed he must have been struck by Kiebler's machine. It was discovered at the hospital later that Acker's skull was fractured. Kiebler said he was unable to see either Acker or his car before the crash occurred.

Riding with Kiebler was John Garver of Lansing, who was treated at the hospital for minor injuries.

Kiebler was held several hours and later released after making a statement to the prosecutor's office in which he said he had been driving a newly purchased car at a speed of about 25 miles an hour when the crash occurred. Neither he nor Garver had been drinking, he claimed.

Kiebler formerly was a star on the Michigan State baseball team, and Garver was a member of the varsity eleven. Both are now employed by the Department of Agriculture.

BARGAIN RENTALS
6 room cottage, $25. Half double house, $30. Another $25. 7 room house in Terrace, $30. Another, $20. Also HEATED lower duplex 4 rooms, $35. 7 room house, delightful location, modern, 2-car garage, $50. 6 room house, exception portion, fine shade, $40.50. Also 6 room house, FURNISHED home, 8 rooms, 2 baths, $125, if unfurnished, $85.
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Real Estate — General Insurance

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SMAZEL SEES VAST GAIN IN CITY CHANGE

Believes Figures Err In Showing Only Small Saving

CITES BUDGET MISTAKE

Shall Birmingham become a city?

This question was asked of Clarence V. Smazel of the Michigan Municipal League staff, Wednesday, while Mr. Smazel was in the village in connection with a study of township government in the county. His answer was:

"Unquestionably Birmingham will profit by becoming a city, in several ways, including a net cash reduction in its total government al costs, even if poor relief does go back on a unit basis in the county."

Reviews Figures

Mr. Smazel was asked to explain his opinion in view of the figures presented to the community in July, and now being studied

Registration for the special village-city election Sept. 6 will be held in the various precincts Saturday, Aug. 27, from 8 A. M. to 9:30 P. M. Voters whose names were on the village election rolls at the time of the last municipal election in April are not required to re-register for the special election.

This registration is entirely independent of the permanent re-registration which closes Aug. 24.

by the Village Commission, which indicate that the change might save taxpayers of the village only $810 annually under present conditions, commonly regarded as too small an amount to warrant the trouble of making the change. The figures are as follows:

What Birmingham Would Pay As Village in 1932-33	
To Bloomfield Township for operating expense (45 percent of $40,000)	$18,000
To Bloomfield Township for poor relief (45 percent of $20,000)	9,000
To Troy Township for operating expense (20 percent of $25,000)	5,000
Troy Township for poor relief (20 percent of $35,000)	7,000
Total	39,000
Additional expense to Birmingham from Bloomfield Hills not removed from Bloomfield Township Tax Roll	6,300
Grand Total	$45,300
What Birmingham Would Pay As a City, 1932-33	
Poor relief in Bloomfield Township	$20,000
Poor relief in Troy Township	9,000
Additional help, supplies, election expenses, etc.	5,250
Contingency	550
Total	34,850
Loss through decreased rents	1,250
Grand Total	$46,100

Commenting on the figures, Mr. Smazel said:

"The tentative budget of $40,000 for Bloomfield Township is one which the township probably can live within by refunding its debts and eliminating all unnecessary expenditures during the year, under present conditions. General fund expenditures in the township last year totaled $64,269.10, not taking into consideration any debt payments. Since the township raised no highway improvement money and the park fund is expected to take care of itself, and in my opinion it can, the general fund is the only one to be raised by taxes of which the village pays a part.

$46,000 Budget Possible

"By cutting out $15,000 from the highway lighting budget, dropping the land contract on the gravel pit and thereby saving the annual interest charges for that purpose (a plan which may or may not be advisable) and making a few other major economies which can be effected without materially reducing necessary township services, the $40,000 budget could certainly be achieved.

"But under no circumstances can the Troy Township budget be brought down to $25,000, as outlined in these figures. Troy Township last year spent $49,277.49 in its general fund, not counting debt payments, and under any program

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