You cannot run away from your faults. They will pursue you wherever you go. The only way to free yourself from evil is to occupy yourself with good. Darkness always gives way to light, and evil to good.

The Birmingham Eccentric

TWELVE PAGES
PART 1

FIFTY-FIFTH YEAR—NO. 20 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1938 | $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Bewildered, the Frenchman returned to his country and made the following comment upon those who reside in the United States:

"Ze Americaine he is ver' funny. Ze Frenchman on nev' ide' dem—just like ze Amerlaine cocktail. Fir' he put a little whiskey to make ze drink strong, zen he put in some sugar to make her sweet, zen he put in lemon to make her sour, zen he say, have you an' he drink her."

Many of the usual promises of the aspiring politicians. The best way to judge the abilities of a candidate to deliver his promises is to investigate his successes or failures to date in his own life. The trouble with too many politicians is that, like the incompatible bride and groom who promise to take each other "for better or worse, whereas they too often seek divorce, to does the politician reveal the unfitness for the job—which is his chief means unbound and his savagant government for the people who support it.

So the appreciative listener to the musicale: "Dorothy! Ma's sparrow have a large repertoire!" To which her mortified companion enthusiastically replied: "Yes, but that's all he can do at any orkent of dem birds."

Who is the oldest person in Bloomfield Township? Figures given out by the Federal Census Bureau show that there are 3,964 persons in the United States claiming to be 100 years old or over. The Eccentric will be pleased to receive the name of persons now living in Birmingham or the remainder of the township whose ages exceed 100 years or even 90.

The whole world recognizes that the greatest happiness can come only with the absolute outlawry of war. One person, however, the National Council for the Prevention of War, is quoted as saying that it will cease the publication of its interesting "International Disarmament Notes," simply because of a lack of funds. Such is the irony and paradox we call mankind. It will spend one hundred dollars for destruction, but refuses to pay one cent for the relief from the taxation burdens of past wars. And then fails miserably to save a few pennies to help in preventing another.

To live and let live. Peacemakers not only make love; they rule life. Hear, see, and be silent. A day without disputes brings sleep—it is not dreamless sleep, but a pleasant one long, life and a pleasant one is enough for two; that is the reward of peace. He has all that matters who thinks of what is nothing to him; there is no greater perversity than to take everything to heart; there is equal folly in troubling about what does not concern us and in not taking to heart what does.

—Balthasar Gracian

VILLAGERS and the VILLAGE

By THE WANDERER

While the people in this locality will see a partial eclipse, two villagers, Mrs. Antoinette Montgomery of Lafayette street and her son Jack, will be witness a total eclipse of the sun at Montreal, Can.

A trip of weird adventures crammed into a few brief days are being told by Grover E. Cook, Birmingham druggist, "Al" and his wife, who spent Sunday from one week through northern Michigan, culminating in realizing on the northwest corner of the Lower Peninsula. They tell of being sold three gallons of gasoline for seven in a "grip" station near Manistee, of the proprietor evidently had a grudge against city slickers.

Another interesting story which Mr. Cook tells The Wanderer is of being stranded, out of gas, just on the edge of the storm which struck Traverse City with such terrific force toward the latter end of the week. He was delayed by the lack of a long enough to prevent his arriving into the full path

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DID YOU KNOW—

That D. B. McBride is a partner in his father in one of Birmingham's newest business undertakings?

That Harry A. Mudge once worked as a meat-cutter for A. R. Fox?

That E. H. Newbirk was a "swing band leader" in the "100 Days Now" for three seasons?

(See Page 8, Part 1)

RACE ASSURED FOR PLACES ON HILLS COUNCIL

Eight File For Positions On New Five-Man Commission

TO TAKE OATH SOON

With the entry into the Bloomfield Hills city commission race of Robert C. Hargreaves, Cranbrook road, the total number of candidates for the new five-man commission was increased to eight, assuring the first real contest in the history of Bloomfield Hills elections.

The new Commission, to be elected at the time the proposed new charter is approved or rejected at a special election scheduled for Sept. 7, 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.

President Allen Files

In addition to Mr. Hargreaves' petition, the following six had filed petitions by the deadline Saturday, according to William M. Stanley, city clerk: Luther D. Allen, East Long Lake road, who has been president of Bloomfield Hills since its incorporation as a village five years ago; A. R. Glancy, Lone Pine road; Frank W. Atkinson, Tyverton road; Frank W. Shuell, Lone Pine road; William G. Lerchen, West

(Turn to Page 2, No. 4)

CONSIDER RAISING WOODWARD SPEED

Parry Suggests Raising Maximum On Highway; Presents Auto Club Recommendation

Possibility that the speed limit on Woodward avenue through Birmingham, now considered the slowest portion of Woodward avenue between the northern limits of Detroit and South Boulevard, Pontiac, might be raised within the near future was seen at the village Commission meeting Monday night.

Recommendations furnished Manager James W. Parry by the Automobile Club of Michigan were read to the Commission by Manager Parry and were commented on by members of the Commission. Most of the Commissioners seemed to favor an increased rate of speed on the southern and northern edges of the village, though they were unanimous in agreeing with the automobile club that an increased rate between Lincoln avenue and Oak street would be unwise.

Considerable discussion was evoked by a suggestion that parts of the highway remain unposted, permitting motorists to proceed at comparatively high speeds over these stretches. Mr. Parry reminded the Commissioners that to leave unposted a section of a road within a municipality automatically placed it under the State law, making the speed limit 20 miles an hour in residence districts and 15 miles an hour in business sections. Various Commissioners expressed the opinion that this would be undesirable.

A suggestion put forth by Mr. Parry regarding posting of the highway was met with considerable interest.

"I propose to ask the State Highway Commission to post the entire highway from either the SW or

Turn to Page 2, No. 3)

Facts On The Commission's 8-Point City-Village Survey

This matter (of incorporating the village of Birmingham as a home rule city without changing the present boundaries) was initiated by petition, and the election was called by the Village Commission for August 3 of this year. Shortly prior to the date fixed for election the members of the Village Commission were urged to make an independent study of the major questions involved in the proposed change in the form of government and to report thereon prior to the election.

Accordingly the time set for the election was adjourned to the 6th day of September next. The result of the study and investigation made by the members of the Village Commission may fairly be stated thus:

1. Effect on School Districts

Incorporation as a city will in no way change the ability of any part of the school district lying within the corporate limits, to divorce itself from the school district.

2. Effect on Cost of Administration

Assuming that the affairs of the city will be administered as efficiently as the affairs of the village have been or will be administered, and with the same Spartan-like zeal for freedom from political influences, **the cost of administering the government as a city should not be substantially in excess of the cost of administering the government as a village.**

3. Township Taxes This Year

Township taxes in any event will have to be paid for the present fiscal year by both Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills.

4. Division of Assets and Liabilities.

In the event of incorporation as a city the personal property of the townships will be divided and their liabilities assumed between the city and the respective portions of the townships remaining after incorporation, in the same ratio as the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the township by the incorporation bears to the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the remaining portion of the township.

Any real property of the township, if any, lying within the city, will be held jointly by the city and the remainder of the township, in the ratio above mentioned. Real estate owned by the township and situated within the limits of the city will not be divided, but will continue to be owned by the township.

5. Representation

The city will have four representatives on the Board of Supervisors of the county, whose compensation will be paid from the funds of the county, and who will be appointed by the City Commission.

6. Effect of Poor Relief on Taxes

The Board of Supervisors has heretofore determined that the townships and cities shall hereafter furnish sufficient for the necessary poor relief of their inhabitants. We have given careful consideration to this for the purpose of determining whether or not Birmingham should remain a village or be incorporated as a city. We find as we have the present poor relief

7. Township Board Welfare Budget

The Township Board of Bloomfield has informally indicated what its budget for the ensuing year will probably be. These figures have been submitted several times, and we will not attempt to repeat them here. Assuming such figures to be substantially correct, and assuming welfare costs which seems to be reasonably justified by the amount expended by the township last year, it appears to us that no saving to the taxpayers will be effected by incorporating as a city until the welfare load has been substantially lessened. In fact, we believe it to be possible that for the next year or two the charge may mean a slight increase of taxes.

8. Saving in Normal Times

However, when the need for poor relief to the inhabitants of the village has assumed normal proportions a very substantial **saving to the taxpayers should be effected by operating the government as a city.**

Respectfully,
HARRY ALLEN,
LAWRENCE HULBERT
E. W. SMALLEY
MAURICE LOWMAN
T. B. SMITH
FRANK S. PACKARD
WALTER J. O'CONNELLY

FOURTEEN IN CHARTER RACE

All Who Circulated Petitions Qualify Before Deadline Tuesday

Fourteen men had qualified for the city charter commission Tuesday, the deadline for entries. All four whose petitions were filed during the last week qualified. Nine of these will be elected at the special election Sept. 6.

The complete list of entries is: Harry Allen, West Maple avenue; George Averill, Evergreen avenue; John S. Black, Oak street; Edward L. Bryant, Aspen road; Ralph I. Coryell, Arlington road; Harold T. Ellerby, Adams avenue; Lawrence F. Hulbert, Brown street; Ernest W. Osborne, Pierce street; Frank Packard, Harmon avenue; Charles J. Shaip, Pierce street; Harry S. Stacey, Worth street; James Taylor, Madison avenue; Clarence Vliet Sr., Brown street; and Lee A. White, Brookside Drive.

SEVEN-DAY SERVICE ON SPECIAL DELIVERY

Special delivery service is a seven-day-a-week service, despite many persons believe otherwise, Postmaster James W. Cobb announces.

"Many persons believe that because the carriers do not work Tuesday or Saturday afternoon or all day Sunday there is no special delivery service," Mr. Cobb says. "However, we maintained a seven-day special delivery service about six months ago and the continuous all the time whether the regular carriers are working or not."

POLICE RESTORE NAME TO RECORDS

Mrs. Chewning's Name Erased And Substitute Entered On Police Court Books

The name of Mrs. William Chewning, daughter of Senator James Couzens, today appeared again on the Birmingham police records after having been temporarily erased. Mrs. Chewning's name was re-entered on the police books at the order of Chief John P. Hackett after he had been questioned as to the reason for its removal.

Mrs. Chewning, the popular Margot Couzens before her marriage to Mr. Chewning in Washington, was arrested on the charge of speeding at the Fourteen-Mile road and Woodward avenue late Sunday afternoon, charged with speeding 30 miles an hour. Patterson Springstead of the Birmingham police department, supplied with Mrs. Chewning's license, arrested Officer Floyd S. Buck, who was the arresting officer, before Justice Floyd S. Buck, who gave her a fine of $15. After her name had been written into the police court records it was erased and the name "Mary Cadden, Detroit," was substituted. According to police officers, a similar change was made in the court records.

Mrs. Chewning did not have a Michigan driver's license, as her residence is in the District of Columbia, but she had a temporary permit issued by the Bloomfield Hills police department.

The effort at concealment was made on the initiative of the police department, officers said, in an effort to save Mrs. Chewning and her father from publicity. Neither she nor any member of her family had authorized the records be falsified, nor did the knowledge of the family take of the falsification, the chief said.

Baer's Cedar Island Lodge, Dancing every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Modern Ballroom, Novelty and Hillbilly Coliseum, 5 miles east of Pontiac.—Adv. 32tf

FURNITURE STORAGE
39 Brownell Phone NO. 1-F
Call 223 for the Correct TIME! Leonard Electrical Co.—Adv. 32tf

Burns Fatal To Man; Child Born To His Widow

BEAR LAKE, Mich., Aug. 25—Funeral services were held in the Episcopal Church here Monday for a Birmingham man, father of a child born within a few hours after he died of burns received in a serious automobile accident in Midland, Mich.

The Birmingham man was Harry Harold Crain, 21, eldest son of Mrs. A. M. Lonsberry, of 463 Hamilton avenue, Birmingham. Crain died after an automobile crash and fire had killed his sister-in-law and her four children, he died in Midland Hospital. Early a baby in a few hours after his death interrupted the return by automobile to her home here of Crain's widow, Mrs. Florence Messer Crain.

Crain's brother-in-law, George Messer of Bear Lake, and the latter's wife were driving Crain to Birmingham to visit his mother for the first time since his marriage a year ago. They were carrying two five-gallon cans of gasoline on the running board and when the car collided with the one driven by George Patrick, of London, Ont., the cans broke and sprayed gasoline over the Messer car. It caught fire immediately and the occupants were trapped. The other carstarted over on its side, but did not catch fire and Patrick and three men riding with him were uninjured.

Crain's death brought the total dead from the crash to six. The others who died were Mrs. Florence Messer, 41 years old, wife of a Benzie County farmer, and her four children, Edward, 12, Forest, 10, Stella, 6, and Mary, 4. Mrs. Messer, who is 43 years old, is in Midland Hospital suffering from severe burns.

The accident occurred in front of the Dow Chemical company plant at 2:30 A. M. Friday. A city patrolman and a night watchman for the chemical plant ran to the scene and extinguished the flames. Edward, Stella and Mary were dead, and Forest and his mother died in a Bay City hospital later in the morning. Crain's body was indentified by Dr. A. W. Newitt, former Birmingham physician and village health officer, who is now practicing in Midland.

Crain's mother, Mrs. Lonsberry, whom he was on the way to visit,

(Turn to Page 2, No. 2)

90 TEACHERS SIGN FOR YEAR

Nearly 100 Per Cent Have Signed And Returned Contracts

Nearly a 100 per cent return signed, of all teachers' contracts in the Birmingham Public Schools was reported late last night by Ray A. Palmer, president of the Board of Education.

"Out of 94 or 95 contracts sent out, we have received back about 90," Mr. Palmer said. "Inasmuch as the other four or five teachers are out of town on vacation or otherwise cannot be reached, we expect a satisfying return of signed contracts."

Mr. Palmer said he would not be ready to make public the names of teachers who have or have not signed and returned the contracts until "at least next week."

TEN MORE DAYS TO REGISTER

Bayley Extends Deadline To Sept. 3; 3,610 Now In

Extension of the deadline for registration for village and township elections to Sept. 3) was announced last night by James Bayley, township clerk. This was done in order to permit more voters to register than had done so to date.

Up to 6 P. M. yesterday, 3,610 had registered at the township clerk's office. It is expected that 1,300 more will register by the final deadline, Mr. Bayley said.

An increase of 200 registrations a day has been noted in the past two weeks, according to office records.

Birmingham voters may register with either the village or township clerk at the Municipal Building. All who are not put on the permanent voting rolls by the registration will be denied ballots.

Fintex Team Wins 'Y' Softball Crown

The Fintex Clothes team in the Y. M. C. A. softball league won the commercial division championship last night when the Vogue Cleaners succumbed to scoring spurts in the third and fifth innings and were defeated 5 to 2.

Loyal Hodge's circuit drive with two runners on in the third frame won the contest.

Hohn, highly touted pitcher for Fintex, was much wilder than usual, walking six of the 21 batters who faced him. Both of Vogue's runs were scored on wild pitches by Hohn after the runners had gotten on through walks.

Only six hits were made in the game, four by the winners and two by their opponents.

Vogue's stars of the game were Myers, shortstop, and Fuhrman, catcher.

Fintex—0 0 3 0 0 2—5
Vogue—0 0 1 1 0 0—2

Batteries: Fintex, Horn and Fiath; Vogue, O'Toole and Fuhrman.

JURY FREES DRIVER OF LIQUOR CHARGE

Welfare Subject Acquitted In Buck's Court Of Drunk Driving Charge

A jury's verdict of "not guilty" was returned Tuesday in Justice Floyd S. Buck's court in favor of Carl Oppenhoff, 58 years old, 1244 Holland avenue, arraigned on a charge of drunk driving.

Oppenhoff, whose family is on the Troy Township welfare list, was arrested on Woodward avenue at Brown avenue Aug. 13 and pleaded not guilty when arraigned. He was sent to jail in default of $100 bond.

Oppenhoff was driving a car despite the fact the County Poor Commission ordered welfare subjects to turn in their license plates to their township supervisors July 15. Several have since been returned on the recommendation of investigators to permit them to secure jobs where the services of an auto were needed, according to Perry A. Vaughan, supervisor of Bloomfield Township.

Cambric derives its name from Cambrai, France, where such goods were first made.

Named by Auxiliary

Photo by Arnold
Mrs. Gordon L. Bailey

Mrs. Bailey was elected treasurer of the Michigan Department, American Legion Auxiliary, at the Departmental convention in Kalamazoo Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Capt. Floyd L. Stanley and George B. Minton were also honored. See article on page 3.

Joe Wins Stirring Victory In Court

Candidate's Manager Frustrates Dark Plot To Keep Name Off Primary Ballot

Joe J. Jackrabbit, candidate for county dog commissioner, won a great moral victory in court today when Judge Donald Deutlebaum refused to issue a writ of mandamus to prevent Joe's name from appearing on the ballot in the coming primary.

The writ had been requested in a petition filed by Danny Dingle, attorney for the United league for Better Government, who charged that Joe was "illiterate, incapable and unqualified for public office," that he had used "coercive and intimidative methods in gaining support," and that he has "already spent three times as much on his campaign as the law allows."

"Haw! That's funny!" guffawed Joe as soon as the charges had been read off to him in the court room, where he sat playing high-low-jack-and-the-game with Hank Hoopydoopy, his campaign manager.

"I may be illiterate, but I'm not so dumb as a lot of dim-witted lawyers I know around here," he said, with a significant leer at Dingle on the other side of the room.

"Your honor, I object!" Dingle sputtered. "I object to this—"

He halted momentarily when he saw Hank reach with a meaningful gesture around towards his hip pocket and start pulling out something that looked suspiciously like a blackjack.

"I object to the stale atmosphere in this room," the attorney continued. "Can't we have a few windows opened?"

This turned out to be a clever ruse, for as soon as the court attendant opened the first window, Dingle, whose face was white and knees shaking, jumped out and hasn't been heard of since.

"Petition denied," boomed Judge Deutlebaum, bringing a broad smile of victory to Joe's face.

Interviewed on some of the charges contained in the petition while leaving the court room, the victorious kangaroo politician said: "Intimidation? Coercion? Nertz! I may have given some good advice to a couple guys about voting for me, and remaining in good health, but I was just helping 'em along. Wouldn't threaten nobody.

"And as for spending too much money, all I got to say is that what happened here today has only showed me I ain't spent half enough."

HAVE YOU MET?—

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Alexander, who have been residents of Birmingham for a month, having moved here from Indianapolis. Their home is at 975 Madison avenue. They have two children, Marilynn and James Jr., aged 13 months and two and a half years, respectively.

Mr. Alexander is divisional manager for the Maytag Washing Machine company, supervising a division including Michigan and parts of Ohio and Indiana. For the present he is maintaining offices in Birmingham.

Commission Study Favorable To City; Major Saving Seen

Commissioners See City As Advantage From Several Standpoints

WELFARE MAJOR TOPIC

SEES $20,000 REDUCTION

Two new angles on the city-village question became apparent this week following the Monday night session of the Village Commission.

These are: a marked change in the attitude of the members of the Commission toward the question, and the scheduling of a number of meetings and forums to discuss various phases of the question.

Allen Changes Stand

Village President Harry Allen voiced the changing stand of the Commissioners Monday night at the Commission meeting when he stated that "the only thing bothering me about the proposed change is the indigent problem; otherwise as far as I am concerned there is no reason to oppose a change." This was a startling departure from the President's previous pat stand in favor of Birmingham's remaining a village.

That for the first year or two a city government might not be a financial saving was the general opinion expressed by the Commissioners, but nearly all foresaw a saving after that and voiced their approval of a change.

"I don't believe the village would gain a dollar during the first two years by changing to the city type of government," Commissioner Lawrence Hulbert announced. "However, the real saving which will be effected will be that of a better government, a better organized administration, and more clarity of ideas and aspiration."

Commissioner Hulbert further expressed the idea that while the difference in expenses of operating as a village and as a city would not be sufficiently great to make a large sum, it would be "just as well if the township government did not have a hand in everything around here," he said, with a significant leer at Dingle on the other side of the room.

Commissioner Hulbert further explained this statement with another argument for economy in that the city would not have the additional complication of two elections, city and township, on all questions.

"We are now supporting two sets of officers in our municipal and township governments," the Commissioner said. "By becoming a city we will avoid this duplication of positions and save ourselves not only a great deal of time and red tape, but considerable real money."

Welfare a Problem

Considerable discussion of the problem of the village's indigent question took place in the session of the Commission. It was argued by proponents of the City side that a valuable saving would be effected by the relief from necessity of supporting township welfare subjects living outside the village. On the other hand, counterpoised opponents of this plan, the city as such could not call on township officials for aid in solving its indigent problems.

Among the most important of the meetings to be held this week on the question will be the one at 1 o'clock Wednesday at which Lawrence V. Smazel, of the staff of the Michigan Municipal League, will answer questions conduct an open forum and speak on the question, before the Birmingham branch of the National League of Women Voters.

Claude H. Stevens, prominent Detroit attorney and one of the leading students of municipal government in this area, will address a forum and answer questions on the controversy, at the Community House at 8 P. M. Tuesday. Mr. Stevens will be brought to the village through the efforts of a group of citizens interested in presenting both sides of the question to the taxpayers before the election Sept. 6.

PRINTING PROBLEMS are solved out to your satisfaction. Folks, when you bring them to The Eccentric's printing department. If you call us at 31, 12, or 11 we'll be glad to send a salesman to see you, too.—Adv. 2tf

Smazel Sees Striking Saving In City; Argues Figures

Taking the same set of figures on the Birmingham city-village question which recently indicated that village taxpayers might save only $810 by the change to the city form of government, Clarence V. Smazel, of the Michigan Municipal League staff, who last week analyzed these figures for The Eccentric, has revised them according to the information he obtained in a study of township government, so that they show a saving to Birmingham taxpayers of approximately $20,000 a year, even under present poor relief conditions.

The figures as originally published July 7 indicated that Birmingham as a village would pay out $46,200 for township government and poor relief, and as a city would pay out $45,390 for taking over the cost of township governmental functions and its own poor relief.

Mr. Smazel pointed out that the cost of Troy township government had been underestimated by at least $15,000 and that Birmingham's share of the poor relief in Troy township would be only about half of the amount stated. With these and other minor corrections in the figures, due to more complete data on the subject, Mr. Smazel points out that figures should read as follows:

As a Village Birmingham Would Pay:

Bloomfield township, 35 per cent of $40,000 township operating budget	$22,000
55% of Bloomfield Twp. poor relief (based on $12,000 total for year, $5,019 spent in first six months)	6,600
Troy township— 25 per cent of $40,000 operating budget	8,400
25 per cent of $35,000 poor relief costs	7,350
Total cost as village	$44,350
As a City Birmingham Would Pay:	
To poor relief in Bloomfield (township part of village (35 per cent of $12,000)	$10,200
To poor relief in Troy township (part of village (25 per cent of $15,000)	8,750
Added cost to city in taking over certain township functions	5,250
Contingencies in above	600
Total cost as city	$24,800

Under this revision, the net benefit of becoming a city would be $19,450 a year under present conditions and a great deal more as soon as the poor relief burden, which is concentrated in the more thickly populated areas, lessens.

Of course, these figures can be criticized." Mr. Smazel remarked. "Anyone may say that, for instance, poor relief costs will rise in the future because we will have to pay rent, buy more clothes, and incur other expenses of a similar nature. However, if that is true, **it will rise under the township plan as well as under the city plan,** and the net results for Birmingham taxpayers will be the same—in either case it would cost them more money.

"These figures do not, of course, take into consideration the fact that Birmingham taxpayers have been meeting their tax bills better than have those in the remainder of the township; if this factor were considered, the showing would be much more definitely in favor of becoming a city from the purely economic standpoint.

"Neither do these figures point

(Turn to Page 2, No. 1)

Well Worth Watching

Though small, the classified ads in The BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC often offer *exactly* what you are looking for in houses, furniture, services, used articles.

Well worth watching! Many, many readers of The ECCENTRIC look them over each week . . . which makes this newspaper the logical place for you to place your message.

Call Birmingham 11
The Birmingham Eccentric

Register by September 3rd—or You Will Lose Your Vote!