The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1933

FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR—NO. 13

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These little paragraphs are written on the week, with no preparation as to all. I just sit me down to my old typewriter and let my fingers pick out those letters that come close to spelling out my thoughts. These weekend minute mental adventures are happy moments to me.

TOWNSHIP VALUE SET AT $8,696,162

Bloomfield Tax Rate Will Be Influenced By Settlement With Cities

Bloomfield Township taxes will be levied this year on an assessed valuation of $8,696,162. The valuation has been approved by the State Tax Commission, but the rate will not be known until after a settlement has been reached with Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham over the distribution of joint liabilities and assets, according to Supervisor Perry A. Vaughan.

This is the first year in which Bloomfield Township's valuation is computed with Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills omitted. Both cities within the past year, and municipalities incorporated as such, has established its own valuation for the assessment of state and county as well as local taxes.

The Oakland County Tax Commission has allotted 6.8 mills to the township for operating expenses. Whether the full allotment will be used, Mr. Vaughan said, will depend upon certain features of the settlement, such as whether or not the township is to retain the township park and gravel pit. What property remains to the township after the settlement will also determine its tax levy for debt service, Mr. Vaughan pointed out.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

James W. Parry, city manager: "Seventeen persons owe 48 per cent of delinquent taxes owed the City of Birmingham on unimproved property. Unpaid taxes on unimproved property represent about 4 per cent of the city's delinquent tax total.

Cash Sacrifices

1932 Shipstan Sired.—3 Bedrooms, Tile bath, 2 car garage, 50 foot lot (Vacant) $3,000.00

1927 Birmingham Blvd.—3 Bedrooms, 2 Tile baths, Library, Screened porch, 100 foot lot. (Shown by appointment). $4,750.00

A Good Buy Near The Quarton School

Attractive home, nearly new, English type, Large living room and upstairs bedroom. Two other pleasant bedrooms and tiled bath with stall shower and tub. Steam heat, oil burner, electric refrigerator. Price $8500, with only $500 down. Shown by appointment.

Above prices are for free and clear deeds.

Harold Blake
2018 W. Maple Rd.
B'ham 2496

Library Circulates 6,082 Books In June

Readers drew 6,082 books from Baldwin Public Library during June, as compared with its circulation of 7,727 books for the corresponding month of 1931 when the Library was operating on a full-time basis, according to the monthly report of Mrs. Nancy B. Thomas, librarian.

Forty registrations were recorded during the past month, and 24 were withdrawn, the report shows, bringing the total registration to 5,300 persons.

Seven books were added to the Library's shelves from the rental collection, and one through a gift, while 125 books were withdrawn. The total number of books now in the Library is 13,305, according to the report.

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The World At A Glance

One Man's Working Hours
Why Industrial Speed?
Tall Figuring on Flour Tax

By LESLIE EICHEL,
Central Press Staff Writer

NEW YORK, July 6.—Secretary of Labor Perkins has a busy summer ahead. Numerous industries will not line up on the labor code without a fight.

Sec. Perkins

A report comes to this writer from the representative of a large insurance company—a report of an experience he had. He went to a house on which his company had a mortgage. Payments and taxes were far behind. In the house were a mother with a newborn babe and four other children. They hadn't enough to eat. The father, ironically, was working in a large bakery—from 5:30 in the morning till 8 at night. The insurance man tried to reach him on the phone. The bakery firm refused to call him to the phone—until the insurance man had a talk with the manager.

The worker couldn't pay on his house because his wages were only $18 a week—in spite of the hours.

* * *

REASON?

Why have plants been speeded up to capacity? Is the demand actually as great as that? Or is it, in many instances, a desire of corporations to turn out as much as possible at low wages before the national industrial recovery act installs higher wages and restricts working hours under its codes?

One large midwest plant is said to be paying men only 14 cents an hour, for long hours. It is working close to capacity. It is concerned with the automobile industry.

* * *

FLOUR TAX

The agricultural department had to do some tall figuring to estimate what the processing tax on wheat should be. It was supposed to be figured as of July 1—but that meant there would be no tax with wheat around $1 a bushel. The tax went into effect that date. The money from it is to go to farmers for reducing their acreage next year.

The law, going into effect July 1, provides that the maximum tax shall represent the difference between the current farm price for wheat and the average of that received from August, 1909, to July 1914, the pre-war years. The average for that period was established by the department to be 88.4 cents a bushel.

To make a difference in favor of that price, so that a tax could be applied, the agricultural department decided on the June 15 wheat price of approximately 60 cents a bushel as representing the normal current level.

Thus, a processing tax of 30 cents a bushel on wheat milling was made effective as of July 9. From that day on, bakers will pay $1.38 more for a barrel of flour.

The announcement was made by Rex Tugwell, assistant secretary of agriculture.

Secretary Wallace was touring the grain belt, urging growers to reduce their wheat acreage by 20 per cent in 1934 to become eligible to share in the benefit payments of $150,000,000, to be raised literally by a tax on bread.

* * *

FARMER JOYOUS?

If anybody believes the farmer is overly jubilant concerning the rise in prices because of heat and drought he is mistaken. Damage to crops always is a serious matter financially, not only to farmers but to banks and to coal- hauling railroads.

A farmer will tell you that only the speculator comes out ahead of the Chicago Board of Trade.

* * *

PLANES WINNING

The average citizen does not realize what a large amount of passenger traffic is being lost to airplanes by railroads. Air traffic between New York and Chicago, New York and Washington, and to and from the Pacific coast is costing the railroads a pretty penny. More planes are being added each month.

The Pennsylvania Railroad has air-conditioned all its trains between New York and Washington, and is following the same course with its New York-Philadelphia trains.

The bus is not the threat to de luxe travel—it is the plane.

* * *

DANGER

Persons going into the stock market are cautioned by reliable brokers to investigate earnings first. Securities of many corporations are selling far above their earning possibilities for this year. Only a few companies have pulled out of the red so far. True it is that with reduced expenses, they would not have to do as much business as formerly to show good earnings. On the other hand, industrial prices, higher wages and restricted working hours are likely to add to their costs. To look into the future is a problem.

* * *

FRANC

If France goes off the gold standard, what will the effect be on world markets? Can the downward plunge of currencies be stopped? Will security prices tumble from their peak with currencies? These are anxious days in international money marts.

Art Summer School Opens At Cranbrook

Opening classes will be held today in a six-weeks summer school course in painting and sculpture being offered by the Cranbrook Academy of Art, with John Carl Gingham as the director. The school will close Aug. 18.

Classes will be held from 2 to 5:30 P. M. daily except Saturdays and Sundays, and will include painting and wood sculpture, anatomy, outdoor sketching, and lectures in contemporary art developments.

Most of the classes will be held out-of-doors, but the Cranbrook Art Library and Museum, painting studios and craft shops will be available to the students.

DRIVER IGNORES RED LIGHT, HIT BY TRUCK

Mitchell Swedo, 18807 Brinker street, Detroit, suffered contusion of the chest and a cut on the right wrist in an automobile accident Friday night at the corner of Lahser and Lone Pine roads. Swedo was driving west on Lone Pine and failed to stop for a traffic light, according to Bloomfield Hills police. His car was struck by a truck driven by D. H. Ethington, 1927 Sturdevant avenue, Detroit.

Police took Swedo to St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, from where he was discharged a short time later.

ROTARY CLUB HEARS REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Activities of the Birmingham Rotary Club for the past year were reviewed Monday noon at the club's weekly meeting in the Community House, when annual reports were given by the president, Harry E. Bissett, and the secretary, L. B. Howbuth. The installation of new officers, scheduled for this meeting, was postponed one week.

APPOINTMENTS STILL AN ISSUE

Allen Says Commission Can't Agree On Filling City Jobs

Whether or not there are to be changes among department heads at the Municipal Building is a leading issue today, being the Commission which is to make appointments and among those citizens interested in city affairs.

Asked about the appointments following last Monday's Commission meeting, when again no reference was made to the matter, Mayor Harry Allen said:

"I don't know that some members of the Commission believe some changes ought to be made. But I haven't been able to come to an agreement on it yet, and until I do, I haven't wanted to force it."

He pointed out that under the village type of government, appointments were not made annually each year, even though the charter provided for annual appointments, and said there was nothing in the new city charter to forbid appointments to be made now.

"The present officials may hold office at the will of the Commission indefinitely," he said. "The executive offices are listed in the charter as a means of setting up the type of government the city will have, but there is nothing to prevent the old officers from serving as long as their services are satisfactory, or nothing to compel new appointments if the Commission sees fit not to make them.

"I imagine, however, that appointments will be made—sometime. Either the old officers will be retained or somebody else will be chosen to take their job—whatever the Commission can agree upon."

The charter says that "the Commission shall appoint a city manager who shall be responsible to the Commission" and that "the Commission shall within thirty (30) days after the charter takes effect, and from time to time thereafter whenever a vacancy shall occur, appoint a clerk, a treasurer, an assessor, and a health officer, and it shall annually appoint two members of the board of review." The charter has been in effect since April 1.

Several applications have been received for appointments to the office of manager and treasurer. Recent applications for the latter post have been filed by James W. Cobb, former postmaster, and Donald K. Plumstead, 348 George street, brother of the late Charles J. Plumstead, former village treasurer.

Clubs Will Resume Golf Rivalry Friday

The second in the series of three inter-club golf matches being played this summer by the Birmingham Rotary, Exchange and Lions Clubs for the Weyhing Brothers Trophy will be held Friday afternoon on the Birmingham Golf Club links.

The Rotary Club team won the first match, held June 7 at Glen Oaks, and now enjoys a lead of 16 points over the Exchange Club and 60 points over the Lions. In each match, the scores of the low-gross eight players representing each club are totalled to determine that club's score for the match.

The club with the lowest gross total for the three matches will keep possession of the trophy for one year.

HEADMASTERS GROUP HONORS DR. STEVENS

Dr. William O. Stevens, headmaster of Cranbrook School, has been elected treasurer of the Country Day School Headmasters Association. The election was held at the closing session of the association's annual convention, held last week at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

SEZ YOU

	True	False
1. Reniform means kidney-shaped		
2. Slaty is classed as an adverb in the English language		
3. Ebriety is soberness		
4. Dynam is a unit of work or one foot pound		
5. Duodecimo is a sheet folded into 12 leaves		
6. Colossal means very small		
7. Biodynamics is the doctrine of vital force or energy		
8. There are 12 square feet in one square yard in the square measure		
9. Iowa has an area of approximately 56,147 square miles		
10. "Garcon" is French for "a boy" or "a waiter"		
	TOTAL	

Here's how to get your intelligence score: If you think a statement is true, place a check beside it in the column headed "True." If you think it false, place a check beside it in the column headed "False." After you have completed the questions, look up the correct answers and put 10 down in the "Score" column every time you are correct. A perfect score is 100.

Answers will be found on page three, this section.

City Nearly Ready To Act On Public Works Program

(Continued from Page 1, Part 1)

Woodward, due to the necessity of having to establish and maintain traffic lights, but it would also ultimately cause a duplication of municipal services, such as fire protection and schools because of the impossibility of ready flow of traffic, both motorist and pedestrian, across the 200-foot right-of-way.

"The project of the grade separation was taken up with the state highway commissioner some two years ago and met with his approval. At this time it was stated that the grade separation would be constructed at the time of the construction work on the project if it were at all possible, and that if it were not possible, it would be written into the highway department program for construction at a very early date.

Prints Submitted

"In connection with the various conferences held with the state highway department, we had prepared suggested plans for the separation, one on the ultimate construction and one on what partial construction could be done and still permit the construction of the project as it should be. Copies of the prints on these two bases are attached hereto for your information. They are suggestions only, and are of course based on the state highway department's plans for the 200-foot right-of-way with two 40-foot pavements.

"This city would welcome an interview with you on this subject, and is quite willing to do anything within its power to further the project."

Following is the report of the four members of the city's public works committee on the sewage plant proposal, as read to the Commission Monday night:

"Your committee appointed to study possible public works projects of a self-liquidating character, to which you referred the question of a possible sewage disposal project under the National Industrial Recovery Act, has been unable to hold a meeting of a majority of the committee. It is doubtful whether any meeting of a majority of the committee could be held at this season of the year and rather than delay any plans which the City Commission may have under way, the following report is given as the opinion of those members present at the meeting of June 29th.

Case Study Impossible

"As in the case of the former report on the water treatment plant, the committee does not feel that it is in position to recommend this project over other possibilities which the Commission may have in mind. It has also been unable because of the nature of the project, to give a searching analysis to it as was done in the case of the water treatment plant. The sewage disposal project has already had a great deal of study put on it with one or two engineering reports. The committee has, therefore, made no effort to check the soundness of these reports and, in fact, finds itself in the position essentially of merely rendering its opinion on some phases of the project which are briefly as follows:

"1. There can be little question about the need for the construction of a sewage disposal plant. It is only a matter of community decency and is a problem which the city will inevitably be obliged to carry through.

"2. The availability of Federal aid at this time would appear to make it entirely opportune.

"3. The carrying forward of this project on the modified district basis would unquestionably be the best solution.

"4. If the project cannot be carried through on the district basis, your committee would strongly recommend that whatever construction be done, either by Birmingham alone or in conjunction with one or more of the interested districts, be of sufficient capacity to ultimately serve the larger drainage District. It is believed that the additional cost of the installation, while involving an additional capital expenditure, will be more than offset by ultimate collections from the districts to be served and the freedom from pollution of the stream above Birmingham which would otherwise result."

SCHOOL STUDENT POPULATION OFF

42 Fewer Persons Between Five And 20 Listed On 1933 Census

A decrease of 42 persons between the ages of five and 20 years in the Birmingham school district is noted in the 1933 school census just completed by Mrs. Nellie Williams, child accountant and attendance officer.

A total of 2,963 students are listed on this year's census, while the figure last year was 3,005.

New names entered on the census for the first time totalled only 441, whereas last year there were 508 new names. Withdrawals this year numbered 442, as against 332 in 1932.

The number of 20-year-olds on this year's census is 141, as compared with 95 of last year.

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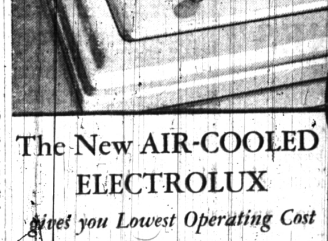

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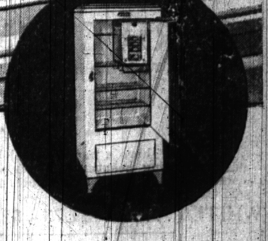

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