There are very definite laws of morality that govern our world—laws that are as immutable as the demands of pure mathematics. It is given to but few to be born to a life of absolute Christian attainment—so many of us are required to struggle through many handicaps toward the Life Undefiled.

The Birmingham Eccentric

16 PAGES, PART 1

FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR—NO. 52 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1936 | $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Next Monday, April 6, is Birmingham's annual city election. Three Commissioners are to be elected from a field of seven contestants. Have you decided on the three you want to vote for? Read their statements in this newspaper this week.

So far as "issues" are concerned in this annual election, it seems to me that two important ones are: more efficiency and economy in Birmingham's government, and the conducting of public business in the open where Commissioners may invite public discussion of problems.

I do not impugn the motives or acts of any present or past member of the City Commission who has allowed "star chamber sessions" of the Commission to grow until right now we have a government of a "committee" instead of a Commission. By this I mean that one Commissioner, possessed of an idea which he thinks is good for Birmingham, can, and does, have his idea "snowed under" in the private Commision meetings simply because a majority of the other Commissioners do not agree with him. Thus, many potentially good plans never reach the light of public discussion, and to this extent the specific Commissioner is not a true representative of the taxpayers.

For many years Birmingham's Village and City Commissions opened their meetings promptly at eight o'clock Monday evenings. But for many months—in fact, several years—these meetings start at no regular time; sometimes it is nearer nine o'clock than eight when they adjourn the "star chamber session" and open in public. I know that more than one Commissioner has lamented this situation, but still they do nothing about it.

Under a constantly increasing burden of cost to the taxpayers, this system is, I agree, a convenient arrangement for the City Manager who is thus not required to defend his administration publicly. It ought to be changed. Only the voters can do this. That's why, in my opinion, you should vote next Monday.

As one grows in years one's face changes; the mouth widens, the nose grows down, and outward, the ears lengthen. So says Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, noted anthropologist. The change starts in childhood, is supposed to be conditioned by hereditary and climatic factors. But we wonder if, in spite of all this, one can't learn to grow his mouth wider, his nose down and outward, and his ears longer, with a mild on his face. After all, what and how we think has its bearing on what happens to our face, don't you think?

Persons impressed into forest fire fighting service in Michigan this year will receive 20 cents per hour, the same as last year. State officers have the legal right to order any able-bodied man within the vicinity of a forest fire to help it; putting it out, whether that man be a millionaire tourist or a truck driver from the city.

Here's a rather frank letter from a debtor to his creditor: "Dear Sir: I got your letter about what I owe you. Now be pachunt. I aint forget you. Plees wate. When some fool pays me I pay you. If this wus judgment day and you wuz no more redy to meet your maker as I am to meet your bill you sure would go to hell. Hoping you will do this yours truly . . . . ."

Immortality

There is no new thing to be said of Lincoln. There is no new thing to be said of the mountains, or of the sea, or of the stars. The years go their way, but the same old mountains lift their granite shoulders above the drifting clouds, the same mysterious sea beats upon the shore, and the same silent stars keep holy vigil above a tired world. But to the mountains and sea and stars men turn forever in unwearied homage. And thus with Lincoln. For he was mountain in grandeur of soul, he was a sea in deep undervoice of mystic lonaliness, he was a star of steadfast purity of purpose and of service. And he abides.—Homer Hoch.

"To hold a grudge or foster a misunderstanding is a foolish thing—it profits you nothing; it narrows you and tends to sour your outlook on life. And this is written with the full realization that the writer is guilty, possibly more so than most. But, God willing, he won't be again. If you have had a misunderstanding with some fellow, remember, he, too, may think that you are wrong and maybe he's right at that. Why not do the manly thing and go to him and see if you can't get together? Chances are he'll meet you more than halfway and you'll find that he is a pretty decent sort of fellow after all. At any rate you will have

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QUITS RACE

Arthur J. Brandt

Commissioner Brandt, who qualified for re-election and whose name will appear on the ballot at Monday's election, has announced his withdrawal from the race. He said, "I don't expect to run. Too much work prevents me from attending commission meetings, and giving proper time to municipal affairs".

OPEN FORUM IS ADDRESSED BY MRS. SHAIN

Speaker Gives Interesting Highlights On Naticnal Defense Policy

"Our National Defense Policy" was the subject of Mrs. Charles J. Shain's address to members of the Open Forum at their regular Tuesday evening meeting in the auditorium of the Baldwin Public Library. The speaker was introduced by Mrs. John K. Ormond.

Mrs. Shain said, "from 72 to 84 cents of every dollar spent by our government goes for the paying of past, present and future wars of this country. What a world we could create among ourselves if that ratio could be reserved". The speaker pointed out that the policy of our navy, as stated by the Secretary of that branch, is to maintain sufficient strength to support our national policies and commerce and guard our possessions. What is our demand for a navy second to none but an invitation to other countries to build bigger and better ships than we do, asked Mrs. Shain.

"The question of our attitude toward the Philippines is vitally important", said Mrs. Shain, adding, "Our military authorities are insisting that the islands should be fortified and a military base be established there. And yet we have granted them their independence in ten years.

"What do we mean when we talk of establishing an adequate defense policy? Within the history of our country as a nation we have landed our troops on 46 foreign shores on one hundred different occasions and yet we claim we have only fought wars of defense. Just what are we defending and why must we defend on foreign soil?

"We, the taxpayers of the billion and a quarter dollars military appropriations, must write into our party platform our attitude toward army, navy and air forces. We must know how the money is being spent—whether the raising of our defense costs from four million dollars in 1932 to 16 million in 1936 is justified. And should our entire military defense receive one and a half billion dollars this year while our Department of State was alloted only $13,904,100?".

Following Mrs. Shain's interesting talk it was announced that the forum will continue to offer discussions of subjects of national political importance from a non-partisan point of view. The schedule for the next three weeks is given:

April 7, William Colt Allee. His subject will be, "The Right of Federal Courts to Declare Legislation Unconstitutional".

April 14, Rev. Frederic Siedenburg, S. J., University of Detroit. He will talk on, "Human Security".

April 21, Dr. Harrison B. Fagan, Wayne University. He will address the forum on, "The Status of Labor".

HACKETT WARNS CAR DRIVERS ON PARKING

Chief John P. Hackett of the local Police Department has issued a warning to car drivers that effective yesterday officers will start checking all automobiles for over-time parking on Woodward and Maple Avenues.

The chief stated that each street has signs posted to notify the public of the 30 minute parking limit, enforceable by city ordinance. He added, however, that police usually allow drivers aproximately an hour before ticketing their cars.

Fines for overtime parking are: $1.00 for the first offense, then $2.00, and for third offenders within a year the cost is $4.00.

ABOLITION OF ROAD SYSTEM IS COMPLETED

Counties Take In 10,428 Miles Of Highways From Townships

Michigan's township road system passed out of existance yesterday after reaching the ripe old age of 85, when 83 counties of the state took over 10,428 miles of roads. The ten thousand odd miles of township highways were all that remained of 62,200 miles of roads originally certified in 1931 to State Highway Commissioner Murray D. Van Wagoner.

Abolition of the township road system finished an evolution in highway administration that started in 1931 when the legislature enacted the McNitt township road law. The act provided that the counties take over the township road mileages at the rate of 20 per cent a year. A first-year appropriation of $2,000,000 was allocated to the counties to help them shoulder this burden. This amount was increased by $500,000 annually until the present annual appropriation is $4,000,000.

Although the adoption of township road mileage is now complete, the McNitt Act provides that the couties in 1937 take over streets and alleys in recorded plats outside of incorporated cities and villages. No provision is made to re-imburse the counties for these additions to their road systems. This clause will work a hardship on industrial counties of lower Michigan where there are many subdivisions outside of city limits.

The law leaves the township highway commissioner, formerly among the most important of local officers, with an empty honor. The office is a constitutional one and a former attorney-general has ruled that the election must be held but that no salary can be paid the township road commissioner.

As the township roads faded into oblivion, Commissioner Van Wagoner pointed out that problems arising from the enactment of the McNitt law will be one of the studies the highway planning survey now in progress. He expressed the opinion that a number of recommendations for amendments to the law probably will be submitted to the legislature.

The history of township roads in Michigan dates back to 1851 when the legislature enacted a law authorizing any township to borrow or levy taxes up to $10,000 for roads. The McNitt Act has relieved local property owners of the tax burden.

The 1935 Oakland County Directory lists 25 townships, all of which will benefit by the McNitt Act. This year's transfer of township roads to the various counties leaves only sub-division roads under the care of individual townships and it is likely that those roads will come under county supervision in 1937.

Luther Allen, chairman of the Oakland County Road Commission, had this to say regarding the change. "The acquisition of township roads by the counties relieves the townships of maintenance on these roads, helping them considerably, financially. However, there are approximately 700 miles of sub-division roads still under township supervision. When that additional mileage is taken over by the counties next year, as it appears most likely, then all costs for maintaining roads will be eliminated for the townships.

"The burden placed on the counties will be cared for by revenue secured from the state gas tax, hence no strain will result

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HEALTH LAB WILL BE SOLD BY CITY

Saginaw Officer Desires To Purchase Complete Equipment

City Manager James W. Parry told the Commission Monday night that an opportunity had presented itself to sell the Health Department laboratory to Dr. V. K. Volk, Health Officer from Saginaw County. Mr. Parry stated that the equipment was purchased in 1929 at a cost of approximately $2000 but that it has not been in use for some time because the Oakland County laboratory is used.

It was stated that Dr. Volk has expressed the desire to buy the complete equipment, the value of which City Manager Parry estimated to be about $900. The commission acted favorably on the resolution.

Street Repair Denied

A letter was read to the commission from the Board of County Road Commissioners by the city manager in which the former body denied a request that the county repair a certain section of West Maple Avenue. It was pointed out in the letter that the county commission had no jurisdiction over the section of road needing repair.

CITY ELECTION NEXT MONDAY

Pictured above are the six candidates who will vie for three vacancies on Birmingham's City Commission at Monday's election. They are left to right, top row, W. E. Moody, Luther Heacock and D. B. Wilkinson. In the bottom row are Maurice Lowman, Ray Palmer and Arthur J. Tuggey.

BARNUM LEADS FLOOD DRIVE

Over $200 Donated By Students In Six Local Schools

School children of Birmingham cooperated 100 per cent in securing funds to relieve the stricken families in the Eastern flood area. The drive for money officially ended last Friday, although additional contributions were accepted until Monday night, and the six schools within the city had contributed the generous total of $202.55 as their share. When it is realized this $350 was the original amount expected from the entire community, it can be seen how whole-heartedly the school kiddies entered into the Red Cross Relief Campaign.

Barnum School was the leading contributor, donating the sum of $69.44 while Adams was a close second with $63.03. Other schools gave the following amounts: Pierce, $10.31; Baldwin, $17.74; Quarton, $29.50 and Holy Name, $12.53. In every school the teachers gave their time and effort in aiding the work and as a group they are to be highly commended for their cooperation.

The school that led all the rest—Barnum—was the only one where the students worked out the campaign to raise funds themselves. The Student Council in the junior high and the junior Citizens' League in the elementary grades handled all details and supervised the collections. Students who had relatives in the flooded area brought letters to their classes and gave reports on conditions in the different cities inundated.

The March 27 edition of the Adams School Booster, school publication, was dedicated to the American Red Cross and its work. Several very well written and interesting articles in the paper helped considerably in obtaining the splendid contribution that the boys and girls of Adams gave.

Mrs. Harold Corson, chairman of the local Red Cross unit declared that she was elated over the splendid cooperation given by the students and teachers at the six educational institutions.

BOY SCOUT DINNER HELD THIS EVENING

The annual dinner for parents and members of Boy Scout Troop B-4 will be given at the Barnum School this evening, with the Lions Club as hosts. Col. Edwin S. George will be the speaker.

Omer Lewis is chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements, assisted by Arthur N. Wingerden, G. Dewey Kimbell, Andrew Watson and J. L. Stutte.

Mrs. Watson is chairman of the dinner committee, which also includes Mrs. W. D. Denyes, Mrs. Howard R. Estes, Mrs. W. H. Rowland, Mrs. Robert Allen and Mrs. Lewis.

Eat Rattlesnakes Here

A surprise bit of food was introduced to Birmingham Exchangites Tuesday noon at the Community House when what appeared to be tasty crabmeat cocktails were served. After the meal was consumed Fred J. Douglass, club president, made this statement: "Fellows, while down in Florida a few weeks ago I visited Arcadia, where a large rattlesnake farm is operated. I had a chance to buy some small cans of the stuff for a dollar and a half each. Knowing that you fellows always like a rattling good time, I decided to serve you a rattling good meal. You've just been eating canned rattlesnake, thinking it something else." Among the dishen prepared was heard a growing snicker, a few gulps, several squirms, and—well, whatever else goes with and after a surprise dish of diamond rattlesnake.

MUTUAL FIRE AID DISCUSSED

Five Chiefs Meet With Commission And Form Plans

Five fire chiefs, representatives of Oakland County's leading municipalities, met with Birmingham's city commission Monday night to discuss a contract for fire protection as drawn up by the Detroit board of fire commissioners and submitted to this city. In addition, tentative plans were made for mutual aid in emergency cases between the cities represented at the session.

Discussion revealed that additional information was needed regarding the question of liability. Royal Oak and Ferndale, two of the towns represented, have already signed contracts with the Detroit group but the city fathers here prefer to investigate the matter further before signing a contract that calls for payment of $50 per hour for each piece of fire equipment sent out by Detroit in response to a local call for help.

The matter of a mutual aid agreement between Pontiac, Ferndale, Royal Oak, Birmingham, and Clawson was given careful consideration and information regarding such an agreement is being compiled for the next time the chiefs meet.

Fire Chiefs attending the session included Frank W. Kuhn of Pontiac, Charles Henning of Royal Oak, Vernon Griffith of this city, Donald Post of Ferndale and L. P. Straub of Clawson.

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ROCKWELL IS CLUB SPEAKER

Sports Editor Talks To Exchange Members On 'Cheap Heels'

Bitterly assailing the "cheap heel in sports", Tod Rockwell, sports writer for The Detroit Free Press, spoke to Exchange Club members Tuesday noon at the Community House, relating a number of personal observations of the great and near-great in the boxing, baseball, football, and track sports worlds. Mr. Rockwell, during his college days at the University of Michigan, was an outstanding football player and for the past seven years has covered sports for his present newspaper connection.

He hailed Harry S. Kipke, U of M football coach, as one of the best in the game today. "Kipke was a star in baseball, basketball, and football while a student at Ann Arbor, and was finally brought back to serve as coach so that Fielding H. Yost could bask in some reflected glory," declared Mr. Rockwell. "It is too bad, these days, that a short-memoried public should forget that Mr. Kipke brought four championships to the Ann Arbor gridiron team, and now that his team hasn't been going so good for a couple of years, the public seems willing to kick him out."

Mr. Rockwell told how Eddie Tolan, Detroit's colored runner who won Olympic championships, was dissuaded from concentrating on denistry at the University of Michigan, and coached to be a track star. "Now that Eddie is out of athletics, the public has forgotten him; such is the short glory that attaches to a real champion."

"Much of the glory fastened on a sports champion comes from newspapers that try to build up their circulations," lamented Mr. Rockwell.

"One of the worst mistakes ever made in professional baseball happened when Walter O. Briggs, owner of the Tigers, tried to create an added spark of sportsmanship in his players by offering them a bonus—if they made good as World's Champions this year," said Mr. Rockwell. "As though you should try to buy the stuff of which champions are made! Fortunately, the bonus plan was not allowed to stand."

The qualities of Cochrane, Bridges, Auker, and other Tigers were praised by Mr. Rockwell, who also criticized Al Simmons as "a lazy loafer who laid down on the job last year with the White Sox so that he could join the Tigers this year." He eulogized Joe Louis and heaped condemnation upon Max Baer.

April 6 Ballot Has Thirteen Names In Race

Candidates Will Vie For Vacancies On Commission, Library Board; One Position Open For Constable

Birmingham's annual city election, when three Commissioners, three Library Board Members, and one constable will be elected, takes place next Monday, April 6. The polls will open at seven o'clock and will close at eight o'clock.

Seven candidates are running for the three vacancies on the City Commission. They are Luther Heacock, W. E. Moody, A. J. Brandt, Arthur Tuggey, D. B. Wilkinson, Ray Palmer, and Maurice Lowman. Heacock and Brandt are present Commissioners seeking re-election; Mayor Harry Allen, whose term also expires, is not a candidate for re-election.

J. B. Howarth, Mrs. Florence Cushing, and Mrs. Lee A. White, present members of the Baldwin Public Library Board, are up for re-election; Mrs. Margareta Niedenfuhr is seeking her first term against the other three.

Two candidates are running for the office of constable, Roy D. Montgomery and Phil Lambert.

While on the surface there seems to be little public activity regarding the election, there is considerable activity going on behind the scenes, especially for the three vacancies on the Commission. Several groups of individuals are known to be working quietly for one or more candidates, and a fairly representative vote is looked for when the polls open Monday.

In keeping with its custom, The Eccentric has prepared a brief questionnaire touching on the qualifications of the candidates for the Commission, and herewith presents them. A questionnaire was sent each candidate last week. All were answered except the one addressed to Mr. Brandt. He was out-of-town this week on personal business.

Rumors that he might withdraw from the race have been heard this week, and The Eccentric made an effort to get in touch with Mr. Brandt at a Cleveland address furnished by Mrs. Brandt. The following telegram was sent to him Tuesday afternoon.

Local rumors that you may withdraw from city commission contest due to purchase of Franklin Motor Co. in Syracuse, New York are afloat is there any truth to these rumors stop please wire via Western Union at once at our expense.

EDITOR
Birmingham Eccentrie

At his home in Birmingham late last night Mr. Brandt, having returned, from Cleveland, verified the rumors of his withdrawal, asserting that his own private business makes it impossible to give sufficient time to the responsibilities of a City Commissioner. He sought to have his name stricken from the election ballots, but City Clerk Irene Hanley already had had ballots printed with Mr. Brandt's name on them.

Replies to Questionaire

Last week The Eccentric mailed each qualified candidate a questionaire. The questions asked were: (1) How long have you lived here? (2) What business experience have you had? (3) What public offices have you held? (4) What suggestions would you make for greater efficiency and economy in this city's government to the end that the taxpayers may receive a maximum return for each tax dollar expended? The letters are given below.

To The Editor,
The Birmingham Eccentric
Dear Sir:

Answering your inquiry of Mar. 26, I came to Birmingham in the Spring of 1893 and have lived here continuously since with the exception of three years during which time I resided on Lone Pine Road.

I served on the Board of Trustees for three years, 1909 to 1912, and as Superintendent of Public Utilities for there years, 1915 to 1918. Since that time I have engaged in the plumbing and heating business.

There is only one policy that can be followed and that is to operate the public business with the same thought and care that would be given to my own business. I had considered that I had done my part as a public servant until persuaded to enter my name as Candidate for the City Commission. If elected I will serve to the best of my ability and until fully acquainted with all facts, I cannot express an opinion for or against any personal or any change in the present government set-up.

Sincerely yours,
D. B. WILKINSON

The Birmingham Eccentric
To The Editor,
Dear Sir:

Replying to your questionnaire, covered in your letter of March 26th, I am submitting my answers to your questions.

No. 1. Since October 1928.
No. 2. Fifteen years of execu-

(Turn to Page 2, No. 3)

PRECINCTS AND LEADERS GIVEN

Twenty-two Are Named As Attendants For Voting Booths

The city commission, Monday night, appointed 22 local men and women as inspectors at the five precinct stations throughout the city for the election which will be held Monday, April 6. The election boards, by precincts, will be composed of the following:

Precinct 1—Mrs. R. W. Chisus, Chairman, Mrs. Irwin Kelly, Mrs. F. E. Olson, Mrs. Otto Beier and Mrs. R. Y. Moore. The voting booth is located at the Holy Name School, on Harmon Avenue.

Precinct 2—Mrs. James Cobb, Chairman, Mrs. Winifred Burkman, Mrs. Robert Allen, Mrs. Mel Deer, Mrs. Allie Porteous. The voting booth is located at the Adams School on Oakland Ave.

Precinct 3—Mrs. Wm. Blumberg, Chairman, Mrs. Clarence Cummings, Mrs. Bruce Carnahan, Mrs. Louzelle Schultz, Miss Betty Graves, Mrs. Lula Patterson. The voting booth is located at the Municipal Building on Martin Street.

Precinct 4—Mrs. Clare Stewart, Chairman, Mrs. Mary Gravelin, Mrs. Pearle Lamb. The voting booth is located at the S. O. Wylie Bell Garage, East of Elm Street, South of Maple Avenue.

Precinct 5—Mrs. Elmer Gravelin, Chairman, Mrs. William Barber, Mrs. Charles Coburn. The voting booth is located at Embury Methodist Church, corner of Benaville and Woodward Avenue.

It was stated that election booth attendents will receive 37 and one-half cents per hour for their services, the chairman at each precinct to be paid an extra dollar.

Regarding proper qualifications for voting, any citizen of the United States, 21 years old, who has resided in Michigan six months and in the city of Birmingham twenty days is eligible to vote providing he or she properly registered at the City Clerk's office on or before Saturday, March 28.

CORYELL NURSERY IS LOW BIDDER

Local Landscaping Firm Has $48,657 Price On State Job

Coryell Nursery of this city submitted the low bid of $48,657.08 on the landscaping of 0.87 mile on US-25 in Marysville from M-29 to Ravenswood in St. Clair County, according to Murray D. Van Wagoner, State Highway Commissioner. Th project, it was stated, is the most comprehensive landscaping job undertaken this year by the state highway department. The bid, along with two others, was the first taken in Lansing since February 27. Most of the current program is now under contract.

The Marysville project will be financed entirely with Federal funds. Under Federal regulations covering the current construction program, a definite percentage of these funds are ear-marked exclusively for landscaping purposes.

Plans for this project along the St. Clair River are of the boulevard type. In addition to the landscaping between the two roads, the west roadside will also be landscaped. A windiny concrete sidewalk will be built throughout the development along with a special drive. Plans also include a rustic shelter house, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, and other features of a parkway.