

# Eccentric Files reveal Current History of Birmingham

## AT ONE OF YEAR'S BIG FUNCTIONS

(Continued from Page 1, Part 1)  
ed president of the Lions club  
formally assumes his duties.

**JANUARY 12**  
Offer of 15.6 acres of land at \$8,000 as a park site for the northeast section of town, was made to the City Commission Monday evening. Land is located between Oxford drive and the new Super Highway (Hunter boulevard).

Mary Garfield and Dorothy King are valedictorian and salutatorian of January graduating class of Baldwin High School. Library is granted \$357.71 by State Board for Libraries. This money will be used to increase reading material and improve equipment.

**JANUARY 19**  
Reductions in local telephone rates between here and Royal Oak, Southfield, Detroit and other cities are announced by Michigan Bell Telephone company. Saving to local residents is estimated to approximately \$19,000 annually.

Walter Weber, freshman football coach at the University of Michigan, addresses the Lions club at their regular luncheon meeting. Mrs. Ella Richard dies suddenly of a heart attack following a tonsilectomy. Mrs. Richard was the wife of Oscar W. Richard, an employee of the post office.

**JANUARY 26**  
After three hours of debate in which more than 70 residents took part, the City Commission votes to purchase for \$4,000, 15 acres in the northeast section of the city as a playground.

Fire, said to be caused by an over-heated heating system, causes \$10,000 damage to a two family residence at 1258 Southfield road. Baldwin High School band to present concert to raise money for new band uniforms.

**FEBRUARY 2**  
Resignation as a member of the Board of Education is tendered by Charles S. Kinnison, president of the board.

Fractured vertebrae, believed to have been received last summer is said to be cause of the death of John Storm, Jr., 10 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Storm of 792 Fairfax road.

Burton M. Phelan, 49 years old of Half Moon drive, dies at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, as the result of cerebral hemorrhage.

Birmingham awakes to find itself in the grip of a blizzard which swept across the eastern and central states.

**FEBRUARY 9**  
Extension of police radio facilities as recommended by City Manager Donald C. Egan is approved by the City Commission. Expert recommended that the local department continue the present arrangement with the city of

Royal Oak for broadcasting messages with additional equipment to provide for a two-way transmission.

**FEBRUARY 16**  
At a special meeting of the Board of Education, Howard D. Crull, nearing completion of his two-year contract, was tendered a year's contract as superintendent of schools. His salary was raised from \$4,500 to \$4,750.

**FEBRUARY 16**  
Cranbrook School hockey team ties for championship of the Tri-State League at Buffalo.

First draft of a new ordinance to regulate and restrict placing of billboards on local thoroughfares is read to the City Commission. A hearing of the ordinance has been set for March 6.

**FEBRUARY 23**  
Effects of the Bloomfield Township offices are now settled in the new Town Hall on Telegraph road just south of West Long Lake road. Main offices are on the first floor and the garage and fire hall are below on the road level facing a court on the south side.

**FEBRUARY 23**  
Flood conditions prevail at several points in Birmingham as a result of the heavy rains.

Petitions are filed for reelection to the City Commission by Wilmer E. Moody, Luther Heacock and Ray A. Palmer.

Establishment of permanent scholarship awards at Brookside School, Cranbrook, for younger boys and girls is announced by the school's board of directors.

Approximately 18 per cent of the grade school pupils are out of school because of illness. This figure is about 10 per cent above normal for this time of the year.

**MARCH 2**  
Samuel E. Gavne circulates petition as candidate for the City Commission.

New uniforms are assured for Baldwin High School band. The fund exceeds quota set by the committee.

Frank Schlack, former merchant, dies at home at 612 South Bates street.

First of a series of lectures on the Red Cross Volunteer Service is held at Community House. Howard Bonham, assistant manager of the midwestern area of the National Red Cross, will appear as speaker.

**MARCH 9**  
Design for new post office is revealed. It will have frontage of 120 feet on Martin street and 206 feet on Bates street.

Promise of cooperation from the State Highway department in landscaping the new Super Highway is given by Murray D. Van Wagner, State Highway Commissioner.

Five girls at the annual Girl Scout camp of Awards. Those girls are Nancy Fletcher, Ruth Roberts

Laura Smith, Elizabeth Moore and Mary Craig.

**MARCH 16**  
In an effort to increase the annual operating revenue for the Birmingham public schools the Board of Education votes to have the president, J. Mark Hardin, appoint a committee of three members to investigate every possible means of achieving this purpose. J. Harvey Rosen, William Daley and Lee E. Joslyn, Jr. are appointed.

State wide meeting of school board members, superintendents, county school commissioners and others interested in education is held at the Walden Hotel. High School auditorium in Lansing.

**MARCH 23**  
Harold B. Kuder is named general chairman of annual Community House drive.

Flares in Birmingham are at half mast in mourning for Gov. Frank D. Fitzgerald.

City adopts ordinance to control signs. Annual license fee of \$50 is to be charged under new code.

**MARCH 30**  
Funeral services are held for Richard Arthur Roberts, 11 years old, who died of injuries sustained in an accident on West Maple road when the bicycle on which he was riding collided with an automobile.

Leslie C. Allman is appointed vice president and director of public relations for the Fruehauf Trailer company.

Campaign against obscene literature is launched by the Archdiocese of Detroit. Committee is headed by Holy Name church.

Take a survey of all magazine racks within the parish limits and later to visit the retailers.

**APRIL 6**  
Edward E. Puls, 156 East Frank street, carries off two grand prizes in the second annual Oakland County State Exhibition held at the Community House.

"Superior" as first division rating for Class B schools is given to the Baldwin High School band at the sixth annual parade.

Orchestra festival, sponsored by the Southeastern Michigan Band and Orchestra association.

First of the "Right" night, J. Shain store on West Maple avenue and Pierce street. Damage is estimated at \$5,000.

Ray H. Bechtold, principal of Baldwin High School, is elected head of the Birmingham Rotary club.

Three incumbents on the City Commission are reelected. Wilmer E. Moody, Ray A. Palmer and Luther Heacock defeat Samuel E. Gavne.

Birmingham Community House sets goal for the annual Roll Call at \$12,000.

**APRIL 13**  
A 22 month old baby dies in its home of asphyxiation from escaping gas and two others were made unconscious.

The child is Robert Louis Ives, son of Mrs. Lawrence Bevard, 21, and his sister, Mrs. Evelyn Palmer, 22, is found unconscious by the former's husband. The family lives at 888 West Bonville.

Mayor John E. Martz who has served Birmingham as mayor since 1935, is reelected for a fourth term at the organization meeting of the City Commission.

Max M. Gilman of Dunston road, vice president and general manager of the Packard Motor Car company, is nominated to succeed Alvan Macauley, who is resigning after 23 years as president. Martz will receive bids on the new Super Highway.

**APRIL 20**  
Last rites are held for Mrs. Howard Edwin Askin Skae of Bloomfield Hills.

The Board of Education takes official action in the matter of adopting a system of registration of voters in the Birmingham school district.

Dedication of Pierce Field tract is held. Teams from Wayne University, the University of Detroit and the University of Michigan are invited to participate in the program.

**APRIL 27**  
Eligible voters in the Birmingham school district will be given an opportunity of deciding whether they wish to change from a graded to a third class district.

Salary boosts are endorsed by the school board. Principals and teachers will be given increases to approximately \$9,000.

City Commission votes to contribute \$300 toward financing the city's summer recreation program on condition that the same be donated by each of a group of local organizations including the Board of Education, the Young Men's Christian association, the Community House and the Parent-Teacher association.

**MAY 4**  
Official declaration that Birmingham school district has more than 10,000 population and therefore is entitled to vote on changing from a graded to a third class district is sent to the local board of Education by Dr. Eugene B. Elliott, superintendent of Public Instruction for Michigan.

Camp Mahan-go-lah-seh, camp for boys at Loon Lake near Iron River, is opened by the Oakland County Y. M. C. A. will open for its tenth season on June 25.

**MAY 11**  
The greatly enlarged program sponsored by the Birmingham Recreation Committee will open on June 19. Both playgrounds and swimming pool will be available.

George Sterling, 14 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Sterling of Oak street, narrowly escapes death when the car he is driving crashes into a tree in front of 885 Westwood drive, breaking it down and striking another tree.

Luther D. Allen is reelected mayor of Bloomfield Hills and

West Maple and Orchard Lake roads.

A permit has been granted for station WCAE in Pontiac.

Edison avenue is now Willow Lane.

Mrs. Robert W. Chisness is the new head of the Student Loan Fund Association.

Six automatic voting machines will be used in the next election, the City Commission has decided.

City boys see a baseball game in Briggs stadium.

Eighty boys will be sent to the camp during the generosity of Mrs. James Cullen.

Bill Gail, a graduate of Baldwin High School, a student at U. of M., tries heroic rescue in Straits of Mackinac.

**AUGUST 17**  
As the City authorized, Editor George R. Averill resurrects a picture of last winter's blizzard and runs it on Page 1.

Stanley Elwood Foster, 21 years old son of Mrs. R. L. Elwood, 931 Ruffer, dies in an automobile mishap in San Bernardino, Calif.

Perry Childs Hill, 704 Hanna street, Detroit, business man, passes away. He was graduate of Wesleyan University and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

The Eccentric offers \$100 in prizes for essays in connection with Civic Loyalty Day.

**AUGUST 31**  
One of the most modern garages in this section of the State will be built here by Cadillac division of General Motors, with cost estimated at between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

An article on early American glassware appears in the current issue of the American Home, written by Mrs. Helen Fitzmaurice Wendell, of Bloomfield Hills.

Birmingham's new sewage treatment plant, under construction, is estimated at between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

**SEPTEMBER 8**  
Despite tropical weather, Baldwin High's football team starts its practice.

The City Commission votes \$4,000 to be paid by the City of Agriculture man in treating ground for the dreaded Japanese beetle, which has been trapped in the City.

North-bound traffic begins the use of the new bridge over the river.

Miss Virginia Burkhardt is the new director of religious education at First Presbyterian Church.

Panicky housewives, but all European sign in town as the average.

**SEPTEMBER 14**  
The war in Europe prompts the Baldwin Library to dig out books devoted to the background of the conflict.

Plans are complete for Birmingham's Civic Loyalty Day, 10, with the idea winning the plaudits of many high government officials.

John H. Harwood is the new managing editor of The Eccentric.

Baldwin High opens the grades 10-12 near the fateful 700-mark, which will make the school Class A.

Class B, rather than weak Class A school.

The F. J. Mulholland Co. enlarges its quarters.

**SEPTEMBER 21**  
The best parade in years is the highlight of Civic Loyalty Day parade, with an estimated 5,000 people as spectators. After the parade, citizens were stopped on the meaning of civic loyalty discussed by Ralph L. Lee, Lee A. White, Mayor John E. Martz, Mrs. Angus D. McIlroy and George R. Averill.

Bernard Schank, service station proprietor, dies of injuries received in an automobile crash on Dixie Highway.

A state archery contest will be held here Sunday.

Plans under way for the annual Halloween celebration.

**SEPTEMBER 28**  
Baldwin High opens the gridiron season with a 14-0 victory over Detroit.

Saturday night, a new state law banning angle parking on state trunkline highways given effect, and already, the retail merchants have gone on record advocating change back to angle parking.

Harry E. Bissett is reelected president of the Merchants Association for his second term. Other officers are reelected, also.

With Congress debating the Neutrality Act, local citizens are polled on the question; a majority votes to retain the embargo on munitions.

"Governor Dickinson Rebels Against Evil" is the slogan for the governor's course of action by the Rev. John E. Martin in the first of a new Forum series in The Eccentric.

**OCTOBER 5**  
Some years ago, Oakland Circuit Court and the State Supreme Court concluded that many "drains" hereabouts were sewers and not drains, and were within the power of the County Drain Department to construct.

Revised arguments were stopped. However, Federal District court completely reverses this ruling and orders the bonds paid. Total value near city, \$675,000. The case will be appealed.

Walker & Co. files suit against City, charging the sign ordinance is invalid.

Plans continue for a big celebration Nov. 3 marking the opening of new Hunter Boulevard.

Heads of six city departments are voted pay raises by the City Commission. Salaries: Mayor, \$390 a month; clerk, \$142.50; engineer-treasurer, \$345; assessor, \$325; chief of police, \$325; fire department, \$275.

M. A. Clark, public relations manager of U. S. Bank, calls a joint meeting of service clubs that

West Maple and Orchard Lake roads.

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