*It has always been my conviction that human nature, in substance, is GOOD in quality; given proper environment, sound encouragement, human beings will rise above the baser expressions that otherwise come out. GOODNESS in people will grow like a tulip bulb in spring—ready to push its head up when warmth and rains arrive.*

# The Birmingham Eccentric

20 PAGES, PART 1

SIXTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 52 — BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1939 — $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

# VOTERS TO DECIDE ANNEXATION ISSUE

## THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

In 1937 the total of all Michigan farm crops amounted to a value of $238,952,000; during that year the federal government paid farmers $7,376,000 for not growing stuff. In 1938 the value of Michigan farm products was $206,441,000; the first eleven months of 1938 the federal government paid farmers $7,376,000. The federal formula, then, seems to be: grow less, Mr. Farmer, and we'll pay you more. Just who is craziest?—the government for paying, or the farmers for accepting?

—

You have read that alumni of the University of Michigan are opposed to the candidacy of Republican Harry G. Kipke for Regent at the April 3 election. Kipke was "nominated" by the McKay-Barnard - McKeighan political machine. That's why we are going to vote for Democrat Dr. Dean W. Myers, of Ann Arbor, instead of Kipke.

—

While there seems to be no check on the march of Hitler toward annexing more and more of central Europe, one night say that when he Czeched Czecho-Slovakia, he eliminated checks upon himself. With Hitler, it now appears his slogan is: Czech, and double-Czech.

—

**Good Singing**

Monday noon, about 40 boys and girls from Baldwin high school's a capella choir and glee club sang before local Rotarians, under the able direction of Victor Ulrich, supervisor of music. They did a remarkably good job, impressing every adult present. Their collective ability to bring out musical harmony convinced me that every age of youth, under proper adult direction, can render harmonious service to society; but youth only reacts to its leadership and its environment—which suggests that all who contact youth have a distinct responsibility for its development. With wrong musical supervision, youth is bound to sing off key, isn't it? And doesn't that rule apply in everything else youth does?

**Teaching Courtesy**

Another fine youth direction given in local schools was unveiled to me one day last week when the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades at the Adams school held an assembly on the subject of "courtesy." For four weeks this attribute was stressed by principal Thomas, teachers is each of the five rooms, and by special aids from M. A. Tyndall and Lawrence Chapman, of the faculty. The youngsters were told of the values of courtesy and sportsmanship in disciplinary, respect for property, cooperation, safety, association with fellow-students, teachers, parents, and all others they meet. Each of the four weeks each room voted for the most courteous boy or girl that week. The five who were voted for the fourth week included Harold Kelley, Paul Kelley (brothers), Connie Coulter, Marjorie Brenkert, and Joan Taylor. (Joan had received the vote during each other week, too.) For the next four weeks the campaign at Adams will deal with "safety." That type of education seems to me to be very practical emphasis upon qualities of character that, in adult life, guarantee security and happiness beyond the abilities of being a mere encyclopedia of information—for that type of training creates good habits, qualities that may be cashed in on every day that one lives.

—

**Southern Side-Lights**

One of the civic problems that has confronted the South ever since the conclusion of the War Between the States is the Negro vote. You will recall that the Constitutional Bill of Rights grants equal rights at the ballot box for all free men, and Woman Suffrage got the vote for the women. But, so far as I was able to learn in a recent trip through Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and Kentucky, the colored folks do not vote. Most of these States have what they call an "educational clause" in their State Constitutions. This means that each community's election board can give a "test"—with the result that few colored folks take it, and those who do seem to fail on enough questions to disqualify them for voting. It is summed up in an illustrative story I was told by a friend in Mississippi. A colored chap was being given the test, and a certain question was asked; he scratched his kinky hair for a few moments and then smilingly answered: "I guess, Boss, de answer to dat one is dat I don't vote." Even wealthy colored people, I was told, do not seek to vote at election time. With the tremendous illiteracy among the colored people of the South, it is readily seen what would happen if they did vote—even though plenty of the darkies are as capable as thinking as many of the "poor whites."

## Phone Rates Will Be Cut On April First

### Company Estimates Huge Savings To Users Under Zoning Plan

Effective April 1, the Michigan Bell Telephone Company will institute the zoning plan under which savings of approximately a quarter of a million dollars per year are estimated for users of telephone service between Detroit and nearby points. The announcement was made Saturday by W. B. Fauser, area manager here for the company.

The plan was authorized by the Michigan Public Utilities Commission under an order of January 10 of this year, following many months of study and conferences with the Michigan Bell Company. It creates a new Detroit District Exchange, which includes the present Detroit exchange and the suburbs served by the Center Line, Farmington, Birmingham, Livonia, Roseville, Royal Oak, Trenton, Wayne and Wyandotte exchanges. Detroit, and each telephone exchange serving these suburbs, are designated as "zones," under the plan. The Detroit zone, because of its size, is further divided into seven "areas," each comprised of one or more central office districts. No change is made in the rate for calls made wholly within the Detroit zone, which comprises the present Detroit exchange.

**Zone Reductions**

There will be reductions, ranging from 5 to 15 cents, for a 5-minute call between a suburb adjoining Detroit and the Detroit zone areas

(Continued on Page 2, Part 1)

## Church Launches Campaign Against Indecent Reading

A campaign against obscene literature was launched in the Holy Name church Sunday by Rev. Fr. James W. Cotter as part of the program of the Archdiocese of Detroit, headed by Archbishop Edward Mooney.

The League for Clean Reading was formed as part of the National Organization for Decent Literature, with the taking of a pledge by parishioners to refrain from purchasing and perusing all reading matter which violates the code of the N. O. D. L. and not to enter places where such literature continues to be sold.

Literature listed as undesirable fell into the following classes: That which glorifies crime or the criminal; is predominantly "sexy"; features illicit love; carries illustrations indecent or suggestive, and that which carries disreputable advertising.

A committee was appointed for Holy Name church to take a survey of all magazine racks within the parish limits and later to visit the operators. Letters are to be written to advertisers in the offending publications and committee members will make weekly visits to the places of sale every week. Members of the Birmingham committee are: Henry M. Foley, Frank J. McGinnis, Mrs. Harold H. Corson, Mrs. Frank J. McGinnis, Mrs. J. R. Quinn, Miss Virginia Moore, Mrs. Henry M. Foley and Mrs. J. R. Adams.

DIRECTOR

Mr. Allman

* * *

## Leslie C. Allman Is Promoted To Vice-Presidency

The appointment of Leslie C. Allman of Hupp Cross road as vice-president and director of public relations for the Fruehauf Trailer Company was announced this week by Harvey C. Fruehauf, president of the organization. The appointment comes at the end of ten years of association.

Previous to joining the Fruehauf staff, Mr. Allman was in the advertising business. His first position with his present company was in the capacity of advertising and sales promotion manager.

Mr. Allman has gained notice in the industry for his speeches and articles on transportation subjects. When, in 1933, Fruehauf led the defense of the trucking industry against the bitter attacks of competing transportation interests, Mr. Allman was given the added responsibility of director of public relations for the company.

His appointment to the vice-presidency, according to Mr. Fruehauf, is expected to increase the company's efforts on behalf of highway transportation.

## Philatelists To Join In County Exhibition Here

Special First Day covers of the New York World's Fair stamp will be presented to all those who attend the dinner given by the Oakland County Stamp Club at the Community House, on Saturday, April 1, at seven p. m. These stamps, which go on sale only in New York, on Saturday, will be flown here directly from the Fair, and are scheduled to arrive in time for presentation at the dinner. The covers will be an elaborate cachet of the Club insignia.

The dinner is but one of the many activities planned for Saturday, when the Club will hold its second annual exhibition. The doors will open at 11 a. m., and the exhibition will run through to 11 p. m. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Dr. James H. Howell, Maurice Geisel, Frederick P. Rainey, W. E. Rouse and Edward E. Puls comprise the Birmingham committee,

(Continued on Page 2, Part 1)

## *David Gafill Packs Adventures As Traveller Into Magazine Article*

Rising literally from the depths of a mine to the position of reporter for Fortune Magazine has been the experience of David Gafill, son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Gafill of Hilltop lane, after a year packed with new and exciting experiences. The results of his year are incorporated into an article on migratory labor in California, entitled "Along the Road," and appearing in the current issue of Fortune. A year ago in September, young Gafill started from Mackinaw City to hitch-hike to California. A blanket was his only luggage. He made the trip in 12 days, traveling on the roads and riding the freight cars. As his companions, he had all ages and conditions of men, and many and varied were his experiences in that short period.

**Joins Pickers' Camp**

In California, fresh adventure awaited him. Almost penniless upon his arrival in Los Angeles, he first found work in a camp populated entirely by Mexicans. He slept on the bunkhouse floor and ate Mexican food. Starting at 5 a. m., the men in the camp picked tomatoes all day in wet trenches, for 30 cents an hour.

The young adventure-seeker next worked his way to San Francisco. During a desperate search for work, he slept in waterfront flop houses, and went hungry most of the time. Finally, he found employment in a mercury mine, high up on a mountainside, out of Santa Barbara.

**Retained by Fortune**

The editors replied that they had been considering an article on the migratory labor in California. On the strength of his notes, Gafill was retained to live and work among the wanderers and record what he saw and heard.

He bought a dilapidated old car and started at Brawley, in the Imperial Valley, at the height of the carrot season. He followed the crops north into San Joaquin Valley, finished with the cherry picking, near Stockton. This life occupied him for four months.

His story finished, he headed for home, again via the freight cars. In six days, he had completed the run from 'Frisco to Chicago, another trip packed with exciting memories.

## Ask Change In Districting Of Local Schools

### League Asks State To Proclaim Birmingham 3rd Class District

A motion requesting the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to declare the Birmingham School District eligible for reclassification as a third class district on a population basis, was adopted Monday by the Birmingham League of Women Voters at a meeting held in the Community House. The motion directs the secretary of the League to send the request for a proclamation to Eugene B. Elliott, State Superintendent, as a preliminary step to pave the way for further action by Birmingham voters.

The motion further sets forth that "the change of classification from a graded district to a third class district would be in every way advantageous to Birmingham." It points out that the Birmingham school district "attained the necessary population of 10,000 some three years ago." General school laws of Michigan require that a school district must have a population of 10,000 or more to qualify as a third class district. The motion states also that as the Board of Education has "not yet taken" the "necessary steps for reclassification," the request is to be forwarded to the State Superintendent.

**Registration of Voters**

The main difference between third class and graded districts under state law, are that in the former, registration of voters is compulsory, that school board proceedings must be printed regularly, and the three school board shall consist of seven members with four year terms.

As a graded district, its present classification, registration of voters is optional in the Birmingham School District, printing of school board proceedings is also optional, and the board consists of only five members with three year terms.

The meeting was attended by representatives of other organizations, including the P. T. A. Council and various P. T. A. groups and the Birmingham Branch of the American Association of University Women. In charge of the porgram was Mrs. Stanley Spiegel, chairman of the department of government and education. Mrs. Spiegel opened the program with a discussion of "Federal Aid in Education" based on the report made by the President's committee.

The motion adopted was the outcome of an open discussion of local school problems including the possible reclassification of the district. Among the points brought out upon which League members were generally agreed, were that registration is important not only as a civic advantage, but because it is embodied in the program of the National League of Women Voters; that regular printing of school board proceedings, gives voters necessary official information, including the record votes of

(Continued on Page 2, Part 1)

## Choir And Glee Club Sing For Rotarians

Birmingham Rotarians Monday noon at the Community House were given a musical treat when members of the Baldwin high school's a capella choir and Boys' Glee Club sang nine songs. Victor Ulrich, music supervisor in the Birmingham schools, conducted, aided by Kathryn McKinney at the piano.

The a capella choir, consisting of 40 boys and girls, did a remarkably good job in singing "Morning," "Christmas Morn," "Tis the Evening's Holy Hour," "Were You There?" "All in the April Evening," and "The Children's Prayer."

The Boys' Glee Club sang "Tinker's Song," from Robin Hood, "We Sail the Ocean Blue," from Pinafore, and "Street Urchins Medley."

## Have You Met?—

**Mr. and Mrs. Earl H. Smith of 1240 Dorchester road.** They are the parents of a small daughter, Jerrelou, who is currently enrolled at Adams School.

The family moved to Birmingham recently from Huntington Woods. Mr. Smith is connected with the Packard Motor Company.

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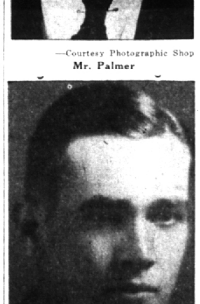
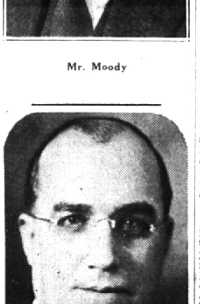


Mr. Gawne



Mr. Heacock

## Action Sought On Petition For Hills School Annexation

George C. Booth and Roger Marquis appeared before the Board of Education at its regular meeting Tuesday evening, at the Board of Education offices. Their mission was to bring again to the board's attention the petition filed last August to permit certain portions of School District No. 1 Fractional now lying in the City of Bloomfield Hills to be annexed to Bloomfield Hills District No. 2. At that time the petition was presented last summer, the board's action was unfavorable. However, the board on Tuesday promised to consider the problem along with others now being studied by a special committee.

The possibilities of a more complete and far-reaching program of safety education in the schools was discussed and Superintendent Howard D. Crull was directed to study the needs and to put Safety Patrols into operation where need of them is evident in the elementary schools in the city. The Board also asked Mr. Crull to seek the assistance of the Police department in particularly dangerous street crossing areas.

A report from the band uniform committee was read. The board voted to match dollar for dollar up to the amount of $100, the money raised each year by the High School band. This amount is to be placed in the band uniform fund for upkeep and eventual replacement of the new uniforms. The fund is to be dispensed by the business manager, Louis M. Randall, upon a requisition signed by Arnold Berendt, instrumental music instructor, the treasurer of the Baldwin P. T. A. and the Ray H. Bechtold, high school principal.

A request was made the Quarton P. T. A., through a representative, Mrs. Richard Johnstone, for a review of the traffic ordinance dealing with bicycles. This was referred to the superintendent for action.

A meeting of the special committee studying school needs and composed of Harvey Rosso, Lee E. Joslyn, Jr., and William A. DuLec, met last night.

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## Exchange Members Eat Birthday Cake

In observance of the twenty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the Exchange clubs, Rice A. Howell, district governor, gave a brief address at the meeting of the Birmingham club Tuesday noon, at the Community House. At the conclusion, he cut the birthday cake, made especially for the occasion and decorated with the club seal.

Present were six charter members of the Birmingham Exchange club, as follows: Ralph L. Moulthrop, James W. Taylor, J. H. Sheridan, Harry S. Starr, Ralph L. Wilson and E. W. Osborne.

Tuesday also was the birthday anniversary of Chief of Police J. P. Hackett and the club paid its compliments to him.

William Weiland played musical selections including "Tranquillo Overture" on the accordion and told of his appearance on Major Bowes' radio program.

## Plans Maturing For Community House Campaign

First of the majors to complete his selection of captains for the annual Community House drive, set for April 14 to 24, is W. F. Thomas. He announces the following captains to work under him: Mrs. George D. Clark, Mrs. George W. Platt, Harold H. Corson, Mrs. T. A. Henshaw and Mrs. Delbert C. James.

According to Harold B. Kuder, general chairman of the drive, there will be a meeting of the majors and others actively interested the end of the week, when final plans will be mapped. Mrs. Carleton C. Patterson is vice-chairman and the majors, in addition to Mr. Thomas, are Dr. Clayton H. Gracey, Raymond H. Peck and Forbes S. Hascall.

After the selection of captains is completed, they in turn will appoint 25 workers apiece to assist in the drive.

## Find Man's Body Hanging in Garage

The body of Oscar Miller, 57 years old, was found hanging from a rafter in the garage of his home at Eleven Mile and Lahser roads, at 9 a. m. yesterday, by members of his family. He had been in ill health, according to relatives. He is survived by his wife and three children. The body was turned over to Coroner Donald S. Bell.

## Four Candidates Seek Three Posts On Commission

### Incumbents Ask Return To Office On Basis Of Past Record

Of major interest in the city election Monday, will be the contest for three seats on the City Commission, for which four candidates are contending. Three of these are members of the present Commission. They are Wilmer E. Moody, Luther Heacock and Ray A. Palmer. A name new to Birmingham electors will be that of Samuel E. Gawne, who is seeking a public office for the first time during his three years of residence in Birmingham.

For the benefit of those who are comparative newcomers and who wish more information regarding any or all of the candidates The Eccentric reviews the record of the present Commission, and the qualifications of those who have served and are serving as commissioners. A statement from Mr. Gawne is given to inform voters the course he will favor if elected.

**Three Year Record**

The City Commission with its present personnel has been functioning as a unit for the past three years. In 1936, Mr. Heacock was re-elected as a member, and Mr. Moody and Mr. Palmer were also winners in the election of that year.

Since that time, the old city debt as refunded has been more than met, as to principal payments maturing, and interest payments have been made to date, records show. In the course of retirement, the city had an opportunity to purchase its own bonds at a low price. Of these $8,000 in bonds were used to purchase the new park site on the Super Woodward Highway, leaving a balance of $7,000 on hand.

Among the major projects sponsored by the Commission, and for which the city paid cash within the past three years, are the site for the sewage disposal plant purchased for $40,000; the new well and buildings on Lincoln avenue, for $21,000, and the cost of moving the water tank to make way for Wider Woodward avenue, for which the city paid $16,000. The city's share in financing WPA Sewer-age projects amounted to $25,000, and the city also paid its share of $9,500 in a WPA

(Continued on Page 2, Part 1)

## Devout To Attend Special Services During Holy Week

Song, story and the presentation of the traditional palm branches will conclude Passion Week and at the Palm Sunday observations in the city's churches. In Union Services or separate programs, nearly all of the Birmingham places of worship will take special notice of the significance of the season.

"Golgotha," a motion picture depicting the last days of Jesus on earth, presented at the First Baptist Church at 7:30 Sunday evening, in a union service, will form the most outstanding Palm Sunday observation. Besides the host church, other denominations who will unite in sponsoring the presentation are the First Presbyterian, First Methodist and United Presbyterian Churches.

The general public, as well as the congregations of the various churches, will be welcome to attend. Besides the film, there will be special music.

**Will Sing Cantata**

Maunder's cantata, "Olivet to Calvary," will be sung by the choir of the First Presbyterian Church, during the evening. Miss Emma G. Esslinger, director, will accompany the singers on the organ. Soloists will include "Mrs. Manley A. Tyson, soprano; Miss Vadne Scott, contralto; Ward Goodale, tenor, and Edgar Thomas, bass-baritone.

The cantata includes "On the Way to Jerusalem," chorus: "Before Jerusalem," recitative and air: "In the Temple," recitative, solo and chorus; "The Mount of Olives," solo and chorus; "A New Commandment," recitative, air and quartette; "Gethsemane," recitative and chorus; "Betrayed and Forsaken," chorus and solo; "Before Pilate," chorus; "The March to Calvary," chorus; and "Calvary," recitative and chorus.

Beautiful and reverent inter-

(Continued on Page 2, Part 1)

### Present Fate Of "Heights" To Rest In Hands Of Electors

Three issues, one of local import and two amendments to the State Constitution, will appear on the ballot Monday in addition to the names of candidates for city, county and state offices.

Residents of Birmingham will vote upon the question of annexation for land now lying in Bloomfield Township, and designated as "The Heights." The question, which also appeared on the ballot in 1938, was approved by Birmingham residents. In order to bring it within the limits of the city, voters in Birmingham, Bloomfield Township and the specific area in question, must cast votes favorable to annexation.

The Heights consists of 36 acres in the Quarton Lake district, north of the city boundary line, Oak street.

"Birmingham citizens have twice voted for the annexation of The Heights," said Mayor John E. Marts. "They are reminded that this question is again on the ballot."

The State Amendments provide for non-partisan elections for justices of the Supreme and other courts of the State, and for the vesting in Circuit Court Commissioners like judicial powers as exercised by justices of the peace.

Offices to be filled in Birmingham are two vacancies on the City Commission for which there are four candidates. These include the incumbents, Wilmer E. Moody, Ray A. Palmer and Luther Heacock, and a new candidate, who is making his initial appearance in civic affairs, Samuel E. Gawne.

Forbes S. Hascall, incumbent, is seeking a return to office as justice of the peace, in which he is opposed by Virgil Lockrow, who held the same office before Birmingham was incorporated as a city. James W. Taylor is unopposed in the race for office of associate justice, which he now holds.

Three candidates are seeking places on the board of Baldwin Public Library. They are J. B. Howarth and Mrs. H. G. Wood, incumbents, and Dr. Hugo-Erichsen. Irwin Neff, Jr., is opposing Arthur Holmes in the race for constable.

Absentee voters ballots may be secured from City Clerk Irene E. Hanley until noon Saturday. The polls will open Monday at 7 a. m. and close at 8 p. m.

**Election Board**

The following have been appointed to the election board: Precinct 1, voting at the Quarton School, Gladys Chissus, Martha Wilson, Aggie Deer and Lillian Moore; precinct 2, voting at the Pierce School, Grace Cobb, Winifred Burkman, Louise Barden and William Howting; precinct 3, voting at the Municipal Building, Elizabeth Graves, Beatrice Olson, Alice Kelly, Edith Beier, Genevieve Price and Winifred Bailey; precinct 4, voting at Bell's Garage, Sadie Stewart, Julia Kemp and Pearle Lamb; precinct 5, voting at the Pierce School, Rosa Coburn, Edna Barber, Iva Deer and Mary Gravlin.

Due to the success in getting out the vote on the part of public spirited citizens last November, a second effort will be made by a similar group to get voters to the polls Monday. Free transportation will be provided voters who would otherwise be unable to get to the polls early in the day. Anyone desiring it, may call 316, and transportation will be provided. In the group are David Levinson, J. W. Taylor, E. W. Osborne, Ralph I. Coryell, Forbes S. Hascall and Ray Palmer. The group is non-partisan, and interested solely in getting citizens out to vote. "If citizens are opposed to dictatorships, they should assert themselves as individuals, and get out and vote!" Mr. Taylor said.

### Commission Adopts Assessment Guide

The City Commission Monday night adopted a resolution designing a method for assessing benefits on corner lots for the cost of gravel roads and narrow pavement. Numerous requests have been made by citizens for a determination of the manner of spreading this cost for corner property owners.

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