This is the month that the American people, in traditional gratitude for the blessings of this lovely earth, bow in homage to the Origin of all that is within the view and vision of human beings. It is the month of Thanksgiving; a time when again we may replenish the embers upon the hearth of gratefulness.

The Birmingham Eccentric

16 PAGES, PART 1

SIXTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 31 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1939 $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

FETE FRIDAY WILL OPEN HUNTER BLVD.

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Speaking of the proposed and much-talked-about bridge for the Straits of Mackinac, an up-State newspaper friend remarked in my presence: "It will be the eighth wonder of the world, when completed." To which I smiled: "Yes, and the ninth wonder will be how it is going to be paid for."

—

Three weeks from today, thanks to President Roosevelt, the nation will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Too, some football coaches will be in a grateful mood—which brings up the thought that a lot of 'em won't.

—

One of the profound regrets of my life is that my future great-grand-children can't be here to see what contemporary politicians are doing with their money.

—

Of course I don't agree with the chap who said that "lawyers' mistakes are in prison; doctors' mistakes are in graveyards; and teachers' mistakes grow up to be governing bodies in State and nation."

—

It is very unfortunate that a wrong-doer's conscience doesn't bother him as much as an aching tooth or a corn on his toe. Reformation would come more quickly if a bad conscience hurts physically—or doesn't it?

—

Low License Numbers

Secretary of State Harry F. Kelly last week released the new 1940 Michigan Automobile license plates, nary a one of which bears the accustomed low numbers. Mr. Kelly says the new system will save the State not less than $40,000 every year. Fine. Personally, I'm one who will lose one of those nasty low numbers; for 12 years I've had number 235, which used to be my house number on Poppleton avenue, where I lived for the first 11 years of my 20 years in Birmingham. It was an easy number to pick out on a parking lot; so far as having any other "significance," I never found a low number to obtain any favors or concessions anywhere. Perhaps it did tickle my vanity to receive it from former Governor Fred W. Green when it first arrived; but the intervening years have tarnished the tenor of such vanity, and now any old number I get next year will suit me quite well.

—

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt

Thursday evening of last week, in Hill Auditorium at Ann Arbor, I sat within 25 feet of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and listened for over an hour to her lecture on "The Responsibility of the Citizen to Government." The Auditorium was crowded to capacity; most of us who sat on the stage were in attendance at the annual University Press Club meeting; being newspaper folks, and thus close to the problems of government, we probably didn't need the lecture as much as most of the other folks present; this makes us willing, then, to admit that the First Lady, in her country-wide lecture tour, is doing a good piece of community service in reminding adults of their citizenship responsibilities. While I do not agree with much of the New Deal's performances, I want to go on record right here and now that Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt impressed her Ann Arbor audience very nicely—including the array of somewhat callous members of the Fourth Estate who seem to have made them skeptical about the utterances of many in public life. Mrs. Roosevelt was gracious; every word she spoke was breathed upon the air of modesty and matronly sincerity; she reminded me of the type of neighborhood mother who goes about doing much good; I only wish that her distinguished husband had been present, and capable of carrying out to the letter her suggestions. The national debt would be much lower than it now is, I assure you. Of one thing I am quite sure in my own mind; Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt is a capable, informed, and self-sacrificing woman. Meeting her after her lecture, through the courtesy of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Dorothy Kemp Roosevelt, of Bloomfield Hills, I said to her: "As an humble Republican, Mrs. Roosevelt, and as one who has sought to use an editor's position to improve government, I do want to tell you that your lecture was genuinely wholesome and practical, and may you continue to influence American thought along the lines of preserving self-government." As a matter-of-fact, Folks, Mrs. Roosevelt's talk would have fitted appropriately into the recent Civic Loyalty Day program held right here in Birmingham.

J. B. HOWARTH & SON
INSURANCE
Good Insurance is not Cheap.
Cheap Insurance is not Good.
National Bank Building—Tel. 321

Letters Defend Buying Record At High School

Students Protest Charge of Favoring Outside Concerns

Birmingham students and public school teachers have always endeavored to cooperate fully with local merchants in buying as much as possible here, it was declared in several letters to the editor received by The Eccentric this week.

This unusual burst of letter-writing came as a result of an article printed in last week's Eccentric—an article which was a report of a discussion by merchants at a recent meeting. In keeping with its policy of freedom of expression for all sides of a controversy, The Eccentric is glad to print the letters, for it is only through free dissemination of public opinion that community problems may be straightened out. An editorial on the subject appears on page 2 of part 2.

The letters follow:

To the Editor:

In a recent article printed in The Eccentric, several references were made to the lack of support given to Birmingham merchants by the faculty advisors and students of our schools. The undersigned, as presidents of the senior class of Baldwin High School, wish to express the sentiment of the class.

We vigorously deny that it is the faculty advisors and not the students themselves who are responsible for the trend to outside buying. This question has undoubtedly been brought to a head by the recent decision of the senior class to have its photographs taken by a Detroit studio. We were both members of the committee and voluntarily contacted and interviewed various concerns. At the meeting in which we were shown samples and in subsequent meetings, we saw absolutely no evidence of attempted persuasion on the part of the advisors to influence us to buy outside of Birmingham. On the contrary, the effort on the part of all, in particular those who live **outside** of Birmingham, was to keep the contract in Birmingham!

The report of our meetings was given to the seniors; a display of photographs was placed in the hall; the problem was discussed fully in the homerooms; and the class voted a large majority in favor of a Detroit concern.

As to the decision, we believe we had excellent reasons for a change, and were at a disadvantage in having only one local photographer from which to choose.

(See People's Column, Page 7)

May Compromise Vinewood Zoning

Two formal zoning hearings were set Monday night by the City Commission, one for the much-disputed Vinewood-Woodward area where Thad E. Leland wishes to construct terrace apartments, and the other for Bowers, Hazel, Chestnut and Forest streets between Adams and Elm.

The latter hearing was set for Nov. 27 at the request of John Leyer, 1028 Chestnut, who wants part of Chestnut, at least, changed from single residence to income bungalow. It was decided that neighboring residents should be called in also to discuss the question.

A compromise on the Leland zoning question appeared as a possibility; at least several City Commissioners said they believed Leland was treated unfairly when the zoning map was drawn. Leland owns 359 feet extending back from Woodward along Vinewood, but only 120 feet was zoned for multiple family use. Just directly north on the corner was thus zoned 225 feet deep, while a corner on Harmon was thus zoned 335 feet deep. A hearing was set for Nov. 20.

Girl, 14, Struck By Teacher's Car

Nancy McCarthy, 14 years old, of 751 Henrietta, received injuries to her right leg, according to police, in a mishap Monday noon at Frank and Pierce. Miss Inis R. McCoy, 1224 Yosemite, reported that the child walked into the side of her automobile. She took the girl to the office of Dr. John H. Gordon for treatment and an X-ray showed that there was no fracture. Miss McCoy is a teacher at the Pierce School.

Beauty Rest Mattresses Repaired.
Royal Mattress Co., Phone B'ham 1-0788
adv.—tf.

Schools to be Open For National Week

A paper presenting Birmingham schools to the community will be published by members of the local Teachers' Club, as a contribution to American Education Week, Nov. 5 through 11. Each school will have an "open house" during the week.

The paper will contain a program of activities for each school, and articles concerning the different school departments, such as art, physical education, and civics. The purpose of the paper is to present information to the public about the schools.

The project has been undertaken by the committee on public relations: John H. Springman, principal of Pierce School, chairman, and the committee on publications under the direction of Miss Lyla McCormick, of Barnum School.

Schools will be open as follows during the week: Baldwin High,

(See SCHOOLS, Page 2)

Heights Law Suit Gets Court Airing; City Defends Stand

The controversy between the City of Birmingham and the Heights subdivision, brewing since 1937, was aired in Circuit Court Monday afternoon when the merits of the case were presented to Judge George B. Hartrick for his decision.

Chief witness was Arthur I. Philp, developer of the subdivision, who told of the three unsuccessful attempts he made to get the eight or nine voters in the Heights to approve of annexation to Birmingham. He admitted that since the City has refused to permit any more water users in the Heights, his income from the development has fallen to little or nothing. Henry Whiting, of Birmingham, also heavily interested in the real estate promotion, was a witness, along with City Manager Donald C. Egbert, City Clerk Irene E. Hanley, and Fire Chief Vernon Griffith.

Contract in 1936

The case goes back to June 22, 1936 when the City entered a contract to serve Heights residents with water. The City claims the contract was hinged on annexation of the Heights the following spring. Birmingham voted for the annexation but the people in the Heights were against it.

In 1938, Heights residents signed a petition asking annexation, but when election time came, a majority had changed its mind. On Nov. 28, 1938, the City Commission adopted a resolution declaring that water service would be discontinued in the Heights if annexation did not carry in the spring election this year. Two Heights voters were for it; six against it, and again it failed.

"The people felt insulted and they were mad and we couldn't get anywhere," Philp said in court, explaining why the residents of his subdivision had failed to back him up.

However, Philp and Whiting got an injunction restraining the City from shutting off the water, and this stalemate has existed all summer, pending outcome of the trial.

Will File Briefs

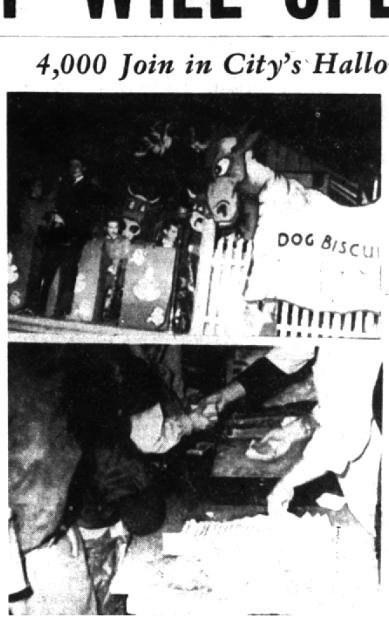
Miss Hanley and Manager Eg-

(See HEIGHTS, Page 2)

CONTINUE ROLL CALL

At the request of captains and workers on the Red Cross annual roll call the drive will be continued until the end of the week it was announced today by Mrs. H. H. Corson, chairman of the roll call.

4,000 Join in City's Hallowe'en Party



(Upper left and lower right) These were two of the features of the unusual decorations at the Community House for the Hallowe'en dance Tuesday night. Mr. Skeleton was illuminated in lights which blinked. (Upper right) LODINE LANGWISH, 9 years old, 624 West Lincoln, proved that ghosts eat solid food, for she took time out to munch a beef barbecue. (Lower left) The photographer managed to squeeze among the hungry throngs to snap this picture of hands and arms over the huge pans loaded with browned beef. (Eccentric Photos)

More Than 50 Awarded Prizes

A desolate-looking half-loaf of bread and a few slivers of meat were all that remained Wednesday following the successful conclusion of Birmingham's eighth annual Hallowe'en Jamboree and Barbecue, attended by some 4,000 people.

"I believe everybody had a good time," General Chairman Charles J. Shain declared. "At least the boys and girls of the city behaved pretty well." (Police reports bore out the contention of Mr. Shain.)

Many Prizes Awarded

More than 50 prizes were awarded to youngsters with the best costumes, for the best floats and for the best dancers in a contest held in connection with the party at the Community House.

The parade, led by the Baldwin

(See HALLOWE'EN, Page 2)

'SCOOP' PLANNED

Baldwin's "Junior Crier" is planning a real "scoop" for its forthcoming issue of Friday—an interview with Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. The reporter, Amy Roosevelt, a 9B student, had to get up early for the interview, for it took place between 7:15 and 8:45 a. m. last Thursday, at the Michigan Central depot in Detroit, where Mrs. Roosevelt had stopped off while en route to a lecture that evening at Ann Arbor. They talked over the breakfast table. Amy is the daughter of Mrs. Dorothy G. Roosevelt, Charing Cross road, and Mrs. F. D. R. is her aunt.

Parade Sidelights

Little Peggy Baldwin, 915 Forest avenue was so confused when she presented her ticket at the Hill School to receive her prize that she couldn't even remember her street address. She backed off explaining as best she could that "I always get my address mixed up with my girl friend's telephone number."

* * *

One trombone player in the high school band certainly had a slick system. No ordinary player was he for a pint sized assistant marched at his side with a flash light. The light was weak and not too steady but apparently it did the trick for the music coming out of the business end of that trombone was really something.

* * *

The not too dignified young man who portrayed the world's largest hot dog was having considerable difficulty by the time he reached the Hill School grounds for the hugh pieces of cardboard which composed the roll portion of his costume were a considerable encumbrance. In other words he was clamped in there so tight he could hardly walk.

* * *

A little lesson in accoustics should be given the young man who stood a block away from the high school band and wondered why the only instrument he could hear was the bass drum. "It's funny," he kept repeating, "that the rest of the band isn't playing." They were, my friend. They were playing like mad but the distance and the fact that the drummer was

(See SIDELIGHTS, Page 7)

Pranksters Only Slightly Active

Birmingham escaped any serious depredations on Hallowe'en, it was reported Wednesday by Police Chief John P. Hackett. There were some minor exceptions, however.

Seven boys between the ages of 18 and 21 were taken into custody by police at 8:30 p.m., Tuesday. One of their number threw a milk bottle through the window of George H. McKean, 551 Chester. The boys agreed to pay for the damage. Their names are not printed because no formal complaint was made against them.

At 11:40 p. m., Tuesday, police were called to Lakeside and Harmond where it was reported that some one was shooting holes through a street light. The miscreant had fled when the officers arrived.

Monday night, windows were broken in the Barnum school; and some one broke the front window of Mrs. Alberta A. Stanley's home at 435 Madison; and also, some one tossed a pumpkin through the front window of the home of Mrs. D. H. Thompson, 1040 Bates.

Other occasional depredations were reported during the past week preceding Hallowe'en. Automobile tires were deflated on Baldwin avenue.

Funeral to Be Friday For Girl, 6, Victim Of Blazing Clothing

Funeral service will be held Friday morning at 10 o'clock at St. Hugo of the Hills Church for six-year-old Barbara Elaine Trollman who died Tuesday night in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, of first degree burns received when her dress caught fire from a stove.

Barbara daughter of Joseph and Pearl Trollman who are employed on the Carleton W. Higbie estate on Kensington road, Bloomfield Hills, had climbed upon a waste basket to reach her school books which were on the refrigerator when the hem of her dress came in contact with the electric stove which her mother had turned on preparatory to getting supper.

The child ran screaming through the house and out doors followed by her mother who suffered severe burns on her hands in attempting to put out the flames. Mr. Higbie, acting as spokesman for the family, said Wednesday that the child was covered with first degree burns from her ankles to her face. The ambulance was delayed for almost an hour before reaching the estate, having first gone to the N. Bradley Higbie home on Squirrel road.

Besides her parents, Barbara is survived by a brother and sister, Joseph, Jr., and Beverly Ann; her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. Powers, of Flint, and her great grandmother, Mrs. Charlotte Willets of Clare.

Victor and Bluebird Records. New releases weekly. Leonard Electric, 142 W. Maple. adv.—tf.

Couple Celebrates 60th Anniversary

By Nellie Hurley Minifie

"It's all very simple," William A. Burtraw pointed out this week. "You merely pick the best girl there is and then you live with her for 60 years."

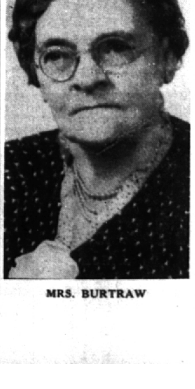
That precisely is what Mr. Burtraw has done, for today marks the 60th wedding anniversary of the couple who make their home at 246 Oakland avenue.

Mrs. Burtraw giggled like a school girl when her husband gave his first prequisite for a long and successful marriage. She winked and explained in a barely audible aside that although her husband was the world's best he was also the biggest liar.

Quite a bit of water has run over the dam, Mr. Burtraw admitted this week, since he first moved to Birmingham 42 years ago and what is now a prosperous little city was then little more than a mud hole on the road to Flint.

Mr. Burtraw was in the flour milling business when he moved to Birmingham and continued in that

(See COUPLE, Page 2)



MRS. BURTRAW

MR. BURTRAW

Prominent Officials Invited to Ceremony

The gala celebration marking the long-anticipated completion of the Wider Woodward-Hunter boulevard highway through Birmingham was completely planned today, featuring pageantry which will use several vehicles from Henry Ford's Greenfield Village, and dedication ceremonies in which prominent officials will take part. The public is invited to participate, and several thousand are expected to throng the stretches of Hunter Boulevard for the program which starts at 7:30 p. m. A grandstand will be erected at Maple avenue intersection.

Delegations Expected

Responses to invitations indicate that delegations from communities up and down Woodward avenue will join with a group of present and former state officials in the outdoor program at the intersection of new Hunter boulevard and Maple avenue. The official delegations will be led by State Highway Commissioner Murray D. Van Wagoner, from Lansing, and by Mayor John E. Martz, from Birmingham.

Preparatory to the pageant to be staged in connection with the dedication, an Indian village made its appearance yesterday at the Maple avenue corner. The Indian group set-up a group of tepees and other equipment. They are living there until after the program.

Four bands representing Birmingham, Pontiac and Hazel Park will take part in the program.

The celebration will be marked by the attendance of all former living state highway commissioners and a former Governor of Michigan. Frank F. Rogers, state highway commissioner of Michigan from 1913 to 1929, will take part in the program. Mr. Rogers is Michigan's Grand Old Man of highway progress. It was during his administration that the wider Woodward Avenue project was launched.

Dillman to Come

Grover C. Dillman, who served as state highway commissioner from 1929 to 1933, will also take part in the ceremonies. He is now president of Michigan College of Mining and Technology at Houghton. Ex-Governor Wilbur M. Brucker has signified that he will attend the program.

The automotive industry will be represented by Irving B. Babcock, president of Yellow Truck and Coach, of Pontiac.

At least four vehicles of those used for transportation in the early days of Michigan's historyare being loaned for the dedication ceremony by the Ford Motor Company They will appear to the audiance just as they did years ago when they were the only means of transportation.

The first event of the program is a banquet at the Birmingham Golf Club starting promptly at 6 p. m. Tickets are available to the public in Birmingham at the City Clerk's office. The places at the banquet are limited to 325. Ticket holders for the banquet will be entitled to reserved seats in bleachers at the site of the dedication and parking space on the west lanes of the new pavement south of the Maple Avenue cor-

(See HUNTER, Page 2)

200 Boys, Girls Expected Saturday At 'Y' Conference

The 11th annual conference of over 200 boys and girls of Oakland County high schools will meet at Christ Church, Cranbrook, Saturday, November 4, it was announced today by Robert D. Lynd, secretary of the Birmingham Y. M. C. A.

The theme of the conference will be "A Forward Look." This will be the topic of the address at 9:30 a. m. by the Rev. Robert W. Woodroofe of Christ Church. This address will be followed by a forum on problems of tomorrow for young people led by Brice Tallman, program secretary of the State Y. M. C. A.

The delegation groups will make a tour of Cranbrook following the dinner in the church.

The afternoon address will be given by George Carhart, of Bloomfield Hills, who recently returned from a five months' stay in Europe. His subject will be "Our World Today." After this address, Mr. Tallman will again lead a forum on youth's place in the world today.

At four o'clock an entirely new feature in the conferences will be the introduction of folk games under the leadership of Ross Bunce, director of physical education at the Adams Avenue Y. M. C. A. of Detroit. Mr. Bunce recently came to Detroit from Ohio. Following the folk games and supper, the conference will close with a worship service conducted by the Rev. Charles H. Cadigan, rector of Christ Church.

This conference is sponsored by the Birmingham Y. M. C. A.

'Wedding' Farce Set for Nov. 7-8

The biggest collective guffaw that Birmingham citizens will have had in a long time is in store for them Nov. 7 and 8, when prominent local actors—all men and very talented, if you please—will present "Womanless Wedding" at Baldwin auditorium.

The 70 well-known artists who are taking parts in the comedy have had each other "in stitches" at rehearsals, revealing heretofore undisclosed talent for comedy.

"Womanless Wedding" will be sponsored by the Birmingham Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, No. 220. Miss Jaymie Hicks is directing. Colorful costumes, wigs and makeup will transform nearly half the cast of well-muscled Tarzans into streamlined "beauties," exquisite "children" or comedians.

Impersonations of famous stars of the radio and screen highlight the production. A wealth of music is interspersed, including both vocal solos and ensemble singing. Shanley Rosso will furnish both the incidental music and accompaniments.

Although the complete cast has not yet been announced, the Eastern Star has acknowledged that Mayor John E. Martz will impersonate Thomas E. Dewey, Attorney for the People, at the Wednes-

(See WEDDING, Page 2)

Evening School Class To Get Under Way Thursday, Nov. 9

Evening School in Birmingham will hold its first meeting Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7:30 p. m. in Baldwin High School, it was announced today by Supt. Howard D. Crull, who has made the arrangements.

Classes will be offered in typing, shorthand and photography, and all those interested must attend the first meeting. Other courses in commerce will be offered if 12 people enroll. The fee for the 16 weeks of work will be $5, all of which will go to the teachers. The classes will meet twice a week on nights satisfactory to the pupils.

O. K. Christmas Lights

Thirteen additional street lights on Woodward and Maple avenues, turned off most of the year for economy, will be lighted for the Christmas season, the City Commission decided Monday night. The cost last year was $79.

BULLETIN

Birmingham's concern over angle parking on Woodward avenue, and the question of whether Woodward avenue will be retained as a state trunkline and thus subject to maintenance by the State will be covered in Commissioner Murray D. Van Wagoner's speech Friday evening, The Eccentric has been informed in a telegram from C. W. Lucas, one of Van Wagoner's aides.

Sell "White Elephants" Buy What You Want!
ECCENTRIC
Classified Advs.
Will Do the Business