

Civic Loyalty Day Section of The Birmingham Eccentric, September 14, 1939

BIRMINGHAM WILL OBSERVE CIVIC LOYALTY DAY SEPT. 16

The City's Governing Body



Birmingham's City Commission, the legislative body that governs the community, consists of seven persons, two being elected each year, and every third year three are elected. Either men or women are eligible for the office. After

election, each year, the Commission selects its own Mayor, whose term lasts one year, but he may be re-elected for that position. In the above picture you see the Commission, together with several of Birmingham's appointive adminis-

trative officers, arranged behind the tables actually used when they meet each Monday night at eight o'clock in the City Hall, to transact the public business.

At these Monday night meetings the general public is very welcome. Every member of Birmingham's official family is pledged to a program of constructive public service for the nearly 12,000 people who comprise the local population. Members of the City Commission receive \$5.00 for each meeting they attend; no extra compensation is paid for special meetings, of which there are quite a number every year. Nominations for the office of a City Commissioner are made by petition, prior to the annual election in April of each year.

From left to right, seated: Commissioner Lawrence Hulbert, Engineer-Treasurer Harold H. Corson, City Clerk Irene Hanley, Mayor John E. Martz, Manager Donald C. Egbert.

Standing, left to right: Elmer Haack, Assessor, Commissioners Wilmer E. Moody, Luther Heacock, Frank S. Packard, Arthur J. Kane, and Ray A. Palmer.

History of Birmingham Has Many Highlights

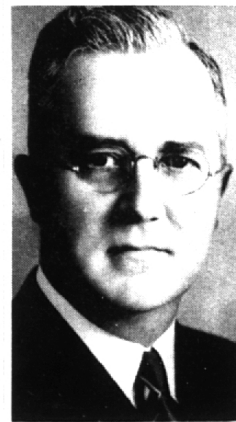
NOTE: Although Birmingham is 120 years old, authentic records of its history prior to the first publication of The Birmingham Eccentric in 1878 are very few. Much significant data of the development of the community during those first 59 years, however, have been obtained through the research conducted a few years ago by The Eccentric, who employed Mrs. Iva Marlotte, a former resident of the city. Through her diligent investigation a great deal of scattered information was verified and carefully compiled.

The history of Birmingham is the history of a road—a road upon whose surface first trod the moccasined feet of the Red man centuries before the advent of the New

World's pioneers. Even before the French landed their canoes at its southern extremity in 1701, this road extended from the banks of the swift-flowing Detroit River to the little Indian settlement at Saginaw, 92 miles north.

But it was not until 1819 that John Hunter and his brother, Rufus, traveled this trail through the wilderness, seeking a homestead. In the winter of that year they came to what is now Bloomfield Township from their home in Au-

Mayor



John E. Martz

Mr. Martz, of 724 Lakeview Drive, is an attorney. He was elected to the Commission in April, 1935, and was elected mayor of the city by his fellow-commissioners the following year. He has been re-elected mayor for each succeeding year. In April, 1938, he was re-elected to the Commission.

COMPLETE PROGRAM

This tabloid section has been prepared by The Eccentric to commemorate, pictorially, the first Civic Loyalty Day in Birmingham. Pictures of public officials, leaders of local organization, publicly owned and privately owned buildings, municipal projects, etc., are contained herein. For more complete details of the actual program of Civic Loyalty Day, please read the regular edition of The Eccentric for this date.

The Meaning of Civic Loyalty Day

By GEORGE R. AVERILL
(Editor The Eccentric)

WHEN, Monday evening, July 17, I sat with members of Birmingham's City Commission and suggested to them that one curative lotion for the apparent weakened condition of the body politic would be a dose of "Civic Loyalty Day" activities, I did expect considerable community co-operation on the project. But, in the light of the progress thus far made for observance of this idea here Saturday, September 16, this co-operation has exceeded even my usual optimistic viewpoint.

And so, when Saturday night closes down upon the last phase of the program, I know that Birmingham, as one unit of many units in the American system of community life, is going to be a stronger and more understanding bulwark in the preservation and maintenance of the republican-democratic idea of government as we know and love it.

"Great oaks from little acorns grow" is fittingly illustrated in the plans and activities for Birmingham's first Civic Loyalty Day. It successfully proves, too, that, like the acorn from which grew a forest and sheltered an army, so can the essential idea behind Civic Loyalty Day grow into a larger citizen participation, if other American cities and villages "go and do likewise."

On behalf of City officials, of the many private citizens who are lending helping hands to make Civic Loyalty Day a great success, and on behalf of Good Citizenship—without which the United States cannot endure—I submit their collective thanks to the thousands of men and women, boys and girls, of Birmingham who will reap inestimable community benefits by what I like to call Civic Loyalty Day: A Renaissance of Better Citizenship in A Free Government.

Our Municipal Building



Built in 1928, the Municipal Building you see pictured above is, with the Baldwin Public Library, the best City-Owned structure in Birmingham. It cost \$175,000.00. Within this building are practically all of the City's offices, including a spacious room where the Commission meets every Monday night to transact the public business. At

one end of the building is the Fire Department, and at the other the Police Department. Offices of the City Manager, Engineer, Treasurer, Assessor, Municipal Judge, Clerk, Building Inspector, and Water Dept. are also housed within this modern tax-supported edifice.

burn, N. Y., by way of Canada and Mr. Clemens, turning north when they reached what was then only the Saginaw Trail.

And when they reached a site just north of what is now the City of Birmingham, they watered their animals, cleared a tract of land, and began the construction of a crude log cabin in which to find shelter from the intense cold. Like all American pioneers, these rugged brothers endured the severest privations and hardships that future generations might enjoy the comforts of the earth.

Near the site of their new home the brothers found traces of an Indian village in ruins, evidently made desolate by a catastrophe of war. There is a tale told by a French trapper which concerns this Indian village. The Chippewas, he related, lived there in the wild beauty of primeval woods and silver streams. Painted warriors of the Fox tribe appeared suddenly from the forest depths. Savage cries reverberated through the hills. Surprised by the sudden attack, the Chippewas fought bravely, but they were overwhelmed. When night came, only smoldering fires, scattered remnants of tepees, and mutilated corpses remained to tell the tragedy. The entire settlement had been massacred.

But John Hunter and his brother, while taking all precautions against an attack by wandering savages, rested more secure in their cabin because it was the middle of the winter and because, under the system of representative territorial government established by Governor Lewis Cass, settlers felt more at liberty to settle outside the Fort at Detroit.

There is nothing to indicate
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