City's Purchase of 62 Lots for Park Attacked in Lawsuit

It is hardly to be expected that even a majority of citizens in a nation will ever have sufficient knowledge of life's fundamental problems and their solutions; so in a democracy the masses must depend upon a comparatively few people to lead them in matters governmental. So we shall have to develop honest leaders to save us.

The Birmingham Eccentric

16 PAGES, PART 1

SIXTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 3 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1940 | $1.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Discipline Needed In Baldwin High

If there are two major deficiencies in Birmingham's public school system, more especially the Baldwin high school, they are lack of fair, but firm, discipline, and training in essential character values. At least this was the conclusion reached Wednesday evening of last week during a panel discussion of Baldwin's "personal guidance program," when parents and teachers, and a few students, held a meeting there.

For more than two hours the folks assembled, exchanged viewpoints and thoughts on a variety of subjects relating to the training of youth; while their views often varied, not a single verbal clash occurred—accountable because the audience and panel members were decidedly good-natured and tolerant, and the added feature of the method of conducting such a meeting.

It just happened that I had been asked to serve as co-ordinator for the discussion, so I know what took place at that meeting. Many times I have sat in on public discussions, but the method of a panel discussion is unique; its fundamental basis is a sort of neighborly good-natured exchange of ideas, leavened almost completely with tolerance. That makes it possible for people who, in other situations, might violently disagree, to sit side by side and continue to disagree, but without harm to existing friendships.

I recommend this panel discussion type of meeting for further solution for every local public problem.

Discipline, agreed that audience, is a vital necessity in the development of youth as a preparation for worthwhile life. Lack of it in the Baldwin High school was affirmed; to give faculty members of that institution greater courage to enforce "fair, but firm" discipline, the audience was unanimous in its decision to stand behind the faculty. People generally believe that adult life demands either self-discipline or such measures from outside sources, and that success in life cannot be attained without discipline; therefore, they rightly argue: "without discipline in school youth is not being prepared for successful adulthood, no matter how much so-called book learning they get."

Personally, I agree with the victors that more discipline is needed in Baldwin high school. I have talked with dozens of boys and girls who attend that building and they reveal a startling awareness of lack of continuous school room discipline by some teachers, though other teachers endeavor to maintain law and order in their classes. And, in my contacts with youth on the subject, I find them equally agreeable to any program of discipline that is fair.

Isn't it true that young people today, as in every generation, rebel against authority? Isn't it true that by instinct nearly all people oppose regulation or control from outside? Isn't it true that youth in Baldwin, or any other school in the land, will just naturally take advantage of environment that lacks discipline? Like most adults, I'm willing to say "yes" to these questions.

Youngsters at Baldwin honestly want the best possible training they can get, as preparation for a worthwhile life. Normal boys and girls there respond to good teaching and get good marks; they are, on the average, a high class lot of future men and women. If they seem to lack discipline, in certain phases of their educational connection with Baldwin, it is largely because such discipline has failed to be exacted by the school itself.

How much can be expected of the public schools in the matter of discipline? Especially when it is admitted that many parents fail to exact continuous discipline from youngsters in the home, the school folks have a hard nut to crack. But this much can be said on the subject: most parents are willing that their offspring be required to obey the rules of fair play, of law and order—and on that the educators can plan and carry out a program that really will go a long way toward "preparing students for a worthwhile adult life."

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Some day industry ought to build a monument to Charles F. Kettering, the famous inventive-engineer vice-president of General Motors Corp. The monument might well bear this inscription: "Contented to be dis-satisfied with current human levels, he thought himself and millions of other human beings far above the mud."

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The European war repeats the historic past. Our own United States, from a moral standpoint, cannot escape thinking of its own place in such a war, but we are sure that whatever we do should be done with this single conviction: our own nation has no current obligation to get into that war.

Rites Friday for Resident Hit by Train

Young Mother Loses Husband and Uncle in 2 Rail Crashes

Funeral services for Russell Patterson, 1615 Holland street, 28-year-old father of four children, who was killed by a Grand Trunk passenger train at 8 a. m. Wednesday, will be Friday at 2 p. m., at the S. O. Wylie Bell Funeral Home. Burial will be in White Chapel cemetery.

Mr. Patterson was acting in the capacity of good samaritan when he met death. En route to his work at the Yellow Truck and Coach Manufacturing company, he was attempting to haul the automobile of a fellow worker from a ditch on Opdyke road, with his light sedan when the east-bound locomotive struck killing him instantly.

Car Demolished

The automobile was pushed more than 200 feet down the track and was demolished. The other car, owned by William Chapman, 673 Lincoln street, Clawson, was slightly damaged.

William McDonald, engineer of the train, also was at the controls of No. 54 on the morning of March 23 when Alvan Best, 37-year-old uncle of Patterson's wife, Mrs. Luella Best Patterson, 22, lost his life in a similar accident at the Williams Lake road crossing. Conductor J. K. Rogers of Durand, said the engineer saw the automobile on the tracks as he

(See MISHAP, Page 2)

Community House Drive Nets Half Of $12,000 Goal

With half the time allotted for the solicitation of the 1940 Community House Fund gone, the Central Committee announced through its Chairman, C. Ross Mack, a meeting of the district chairmen and their workers on Monday night, that approximately half of the amount sought has been pledged or received.

Of the 3,400 families and organizations who represent the pos-

sible contributors, only one third have been called on personally or have responded by mail to the letter solicitation. This leaves about 2,250 possible contributors to be reported on, it was pointed out.

Total Over $6,000

In presenting the results to date to the meeting, Mr. Mack said, "At the half way mark we have received pledges and cash to the amount of slightly more than $6,000 which represents nearly 50 per cent of the goal which we have set for this year's fund. If the solicitors who are devoting so much of their time will make certain that the remaining two thirds of our prospective givers are seen and the story presented to them, we feel certain that the rest of the needed money can be raised. At the present time the funds and pledges that we have were received from about 40 per cent of the usual number of contributors and while there is still a long way to

(See DRIVE, Page 2)

New Paint Store Opens Saturday

A new business concern in this city, the Birmingham Paint, Glass and Mirror Company, is opening for business Saturday, April 20, it was announced today. The store is at 288 East Maple, not far from Cunningham's.

Gravel Pit Bought 'Quietly' by City Will Be Used as Dump, Officials Reveal

Full explanation of the City's purchase of the 71-acre old Walker gravel pit property in Troy Township, a quarter mile east of Birmingham, was made to the City Commission Monday night by Manager Donald C. Egbert.

Disclosure that the city will use the $7500 property as a dump put to rest rumors in Troy Township that Birmingham planned to establish an airport, and the belief of Birmingham that the city planned to get its own gravel there. A Communication to The Eccentric two weeks ago protested on the grounds that it would cost $20,000 to buy the necessary machinery.

Purchase Kept Secret

"Why was the purchase of this property not revealed when the bid was placed at the State Land Sale in the middle of March, "Egbert was asked Tuesday.

"The Commission thought it best to wait until our title became certain," Egbert said. "There was always a chance that speculators might have got the former owner to meet our bid and take the property away from us."

The time limit has now expired in which the former owner or Troy Township could have secured the property, and one load of rubbish has been dumped, it was said.

Monday night, Egbert presented a detailed written report on the transaction, pointing out that of the 71 acres, approximately half has been excavated. He pointed out that since frequent rubbish collection service was inaugurated in 1938, the volume collected has increased to about 11,200 cubic yards a year, and that the total cost of the service is about $4,000 a year.

Always a Problem

The City of Birmingham has always been faced with a serious problem in disposal of rubbish in as much as there are few available

(See GRAVEL PIT, Page 2)

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

Dogs Becoming Luxury in City, Expert Declares After Latest Fee Boost

By the DOG EDITOR

Owning a dog in Birmingham is becoming more and more a luxury and responsibility, made especially so this week by the promulgation of a new ukase by the City Commission boosting the ransom for dogs nabbed by the dog catcher. In short, if things get still more strict, as is rumored, the master as well as the dog will be leading a dog's life in the opinion of some.

The City Commission, in its meeting Monday night, wrote a new chapter in local dog history by decreeing that impounded dogs can be bailed out only by paying the following fees:

Immunized $2.00
Not-immunized $3.50
(No tax)

The $3.50 fee, it should be explained, covers compulsory immunization at the usual veterinary fee of $1.50.

Value of Training

Of course, if the dog can be trained to scram when the dog catcher comes around, these fees can be avoided, just like it's cheaper to be out of jail than in jail. In other words, a dog in the dog house is worth much more than a dog in the pound, and your dog does not have to be immunized if he is not caught, although there was serious talk last Monday night of requiring immunization twice a year.

As it was stated earlier in this article, owning a dog is becoming a rich man's prerogative, almost. As the Dog Editor's grandfather used to say, a poor man has one dog, a very poor man two dogs. But don't let that discourage anybody, for a dog is still man's best friend. In fact, many people admit that they moved out to Birmingham from the Big City in order to achieve freedom for children and dogs, and this is proved by the fact that we have 2,700 children in school and 1,000 dogs at the last count, making nearly 1/2 dog for every child, or 2.7 child for every dog, whichever way you figure it.

Rising Costs

What this article is intended to discuss, however, is the rising cost of dog ownership. After considerable study, we have determined that to keep the average dog for a year costs at least $48, depending on appetite, degree of pampering in regard to diet and equipage, general health and constitution. in-

(See DOGS, Page 2)

Youth Changes Holdup Story

Changing a weird story that he had been forced to holdup the McKee gas station at Lincoln avenue and Woodward avenue, Alex Brezezinski, 18 years old, of 5102 Braden street, Detroit, has confessed to Birmingham police the full story of his escapade last Sunday night.

The youth waived examination when arraigned before Justice Forbes S. Hascall here, Tuesday, and will be arraigned in Circuit Court, Pontiac, today.

At first Brezezinski, a CCC enrollee, said he had been hitchhiking a ride north to his camp at Roscommon, Mich, when the man with whom he was riding forced him to enter the gas station, where Lee Carroll and Alvin Larson were on duty. Flourishing a .25 caliber automatic, he demanded the $77 in the cash register, and the keys to Carroll's automobile.

After several hours of questioning, the youth admitted he was solely to blame.

Taking Carroll's car, the youth drove south, then headed north on Hunter boulevard. An alarm was spread by radio and the arrest was made by Bloomfield officers Elmer Kephart and Walter Sluiter at Long Lake road.

'Mile of Pennies' To Be Repeated By Girl Scouts

To pay off the small unpaid balance on their cabin, Girl Scouts of Birmingham will have another "Mile of Pennies" day here on Saturday, May 27. Permission was granted by the City Commission, Monday night, following a request made by Mrs. Eric F. Hyde and Mrs. George E. Jones. A problem before the group is to get something to make a line on the sidewalk which will not stick too long to the concrete or to the pennies.

"We spent just hours and hours trying to get the lime off the pennies last time," Mrs. Hyde told the City Fathers.

Commissioner Wilmer E. Moody said he would try to procure some paper adhesive used in automobile manufacture.

In the drive, passers-by are asked to donate their pennies, which are then placed in a row on the sidewalk.

Have You Met?—

Mr. and Mrs. George Luther Stone of 983 Wimbleton avenue? With their two children, Cynthia, five and a half, and Hamilton, aged two, the Stones moved to Birmingham about a week ago.

Mr. Stone, State agent for the Home Insurance company, was recently transferred to that company's Detroit offices in the Penobscot Building, from East Grand Rapids.

Plan Meetings of New Voters Here Soon

Will Prepare '21-ers' For Citizenship Day In Pontiac, May 19

Dates for the three instructional meetings for Birmingham's "21-ers", in connection with the Oakland County Citizenship Day on Sunday, May 19, will be announced next week, Mayor John E. Martz revealed Wednesday.

The young men and women, estimated at 123 in number, will be given invitations to take part in the celebration which will bring together new voters from all parts of Oakland County on Citizenship Day in Pontiac. The program is modeled after the fete held in Manitowoc, Wis., last summer, drawing national attention.

Neglected Period

Judge Albert H. Schmidt, of Manitowoc, one of the founders, explained in an interview two weeks ago that the central idea behind the celebration is the need for inducting new voters into the realm of active citizenship, a period of their lives which heretofore has been neglected.

Mayor Martz is the Birmingham chairman, and is being assisted by various civic leaders, Robert D.

(See MEETINGS, Page 2)

Leaders of City Advise Youth in 'Careers Night'

Ambitious Birmingham boys and girls, concerned over their life work, met in a "Careers Night" program Tuesday at the High School and discussed their problems with 13 representatives of various fields.

The program was sponsored by the Schools, the YMCA and the B'ham Branch of the American Association of University Women and was called the most successful of three such undertakings. Tuesday night was the first time all the leaders had been gathered together in one meeting, and the idea met with favor. Observers were present from Cranbrook and such a program may be staged there later in the Spring.

The leaders first met at the Community House for dinner, where they were welcomed by Supt. Howard D. Crull, General Chairman Miles W. Robinson, principal of Adams School, explained the plan. At 7:30, the group went to the High School to meet the students, about 80 in number.

Most of the leaders were Birmingham residents; namely, Russell Hamlin, of the Detroit News and George R. Averill, publisher of The Eccentric, who met with students interested in journalism; A. B. Brewer, Franklin, vice-president of MacManus, John & Adams, advertising; Marius F. Fossenkemper, music director of Michigan State Normal College; Eric P. Hyde, engineer; Ernest W. Seaholm, automotive engineer with Cadillac; Harold H. Corson, city engineer; Miss Dorothy Nelson, visiting nurse; J. Robert F. Swanson, Bloomfield Hills architect; Lane Bishop, interior decorating; Lewis B. Sappington, merchandise buling. Only E. J. Lederle, County School Commissioner, who discussed teaching; Stanley Schultz, program director for station WCAR, Pontiac, and a Mrs. Smith, of the Pontiac Universal College of Cosmetology, were not Birmingham or nearby residents.

Eloquence Fails to Move Council

Robert Boyer, youthful Highland Park attorney, doggedly argued his case for closing High street before the City Commission, Monday night, to no avail, for his request was turned down. However, Mayor John E. Martz, an attorney, praised the youth's eloquence.

Boyer's family owns the tiny triangle of land bounded by Hunter boulevard, East Maple avenue and High street, and sought closing of High street in whole or in part so that the property could be put to some commercial use. The Commission refused to aquiesce when property owners on the other side of High street opposed the move.

ASK $15,000

In his annual letter to the City Commission, John B. Howarth, secretary of the Library Board, asked Monday night that $15,000 be raised for the support of the institution. The sum is the same as last year.

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

Deciding Adams Contest

Largest turnout in The Eccentric's marble tournament was at Adams School, Monday afternoon. JACK BILLINGSLEY, 13, of 735 Forest, the boy shooting won the school championship. CHARLES BRIDGES (left) was runner-up; while EDNA SLATER, 11 years old, of 1542 R[illegible], beat all the girls who turned out. School champions are to meet Monday at 4 p. m., at Barnum School in the city championship tournament. (Eccentric Photo).

Schools' Marble Champs Picked

School championships are being decided this week in The Eccentric's city championship marble tournament being run off with the cooperation of the YMCA.

The grand finale will come Monday afternoon at Barnum School, when, weather permitting, all school champions will meet in the contest for city championship. A silk-lined rabardine jacket in two colors will be presented by The Eccentric to the winner. Each school champion has his choice of a regulation softball bat, glove or ball, or a regulation hard ball. (The prizes are on display in a window of Mulholland's men's shop.) If the weather Monday, is bad, the meet will be postponed a day.

Last Friday, there were 16 entries for the championship of Holy Name School. Joseph Charlier, 14 years old, of 980 Hunter boulevard, was the winner.

On Monday, a large group competed at Adams School, including a number of girls. The winner is pictured above.

At Barnum School, Tuesday, Terry Atkinson, 13, of 387 Hanna street, won the contest. Robert Luth and Edwin Merry were the runners-up.

Wednesday, Dick Daeschner, 12, of 4525 Charing Cross road, became champion of Quarton School, with his twin brother, Bob, the much disappointed runner-up.

Darold Dean, 11 years old, of 648 Bennaville, became Pierce School champion, with Calvin McDaniel, the runner-up.

Two Brothers Injured by Car

Struck by an automobile while walking on Woodward avenue north of the Twelve Mile road, Saturday at 10:48 p. m., George Bigelow, 64 years old, and Raymond Bigelow, 38, brothers, are recuperating from injuries in Royal Oak hospital. They live at 457 Emerson avenue.

George Bigelow sustained severe head injuries in the accident and his brother, a fractured leg. They were struck by an automobile driven by Andrew Sehland, 24 years old, of 1413 Root street, Flint.

NORTHEAST HOME OWNERS

An annual meeting of the Northeastern Home Owners association will be held at 8 p. m., Monday, at the Adams School. Residents eligible for membership live north of Oakland and east of Hunter.

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

Moody Named Head of Recreation Group

Birmingham's new Recreation Commission held its first meeting Wednesday night and elected Wilmer E. Moody president. Moody headed the recreation group last year also) Mrs. Julia K. Lally was named vice-president; Bill Cole, secretary-treasurer. Other members are Howard D. Crull, J. Harvey Rosso, Donald C. Egbert, Ralph A. Main and Robert D. Lynd. Another meeting will be held next Thursday night to discuss a director for the summer program.

Opening Night Film Revived by Theatre

Resurrected from moth balls, a film taken on opening night in 1927 will be shown all next week by the Birmingham Theatre, as part of its Appreciation Week program. The picture shows many of the city's leading lights in the queer-looking styles of 1927. "Little Virginia Farrar" is shown clipping the ribbon held by Mrs. Charles J. Shain and Mrs. Fred D. Farrar, and then the crowd stampedes into the building. Several persons pictured have since passed away.

FIRES DURING MARCH

Firemen answered 19 fire calls during March, three of them false. Total estimated damage was $392. Grass fires were the worst offender.

Suit Attacks City's Claim to 62 Park Lots

Question Develops Over Title of Land Purchased in Sale

The city's right to outbid a former owner of 62 lots in the Grant-Floyd street area was challenged this week in a lawsuit filed against the city by Mrs. Mary Parks, the former owner, attacking the validity of the "scavenger" land sale.

A hearing has been set for April 29 in Pontiac to determine whether the city shall be temporarily enjoined from securing title to the area from the State Land Office Board, which was also named a defendant in the suit, along with the School District and Oakland County. The suit is one of many filed throughout the state challenging the "scavenger" act.

Tells of Offer

A curious part of the problem is the fact that two weeks ago, Mayor John E. Martz told the City Commission that an agent of Mrs. Parks had offered to give the city clear title to the area if the city would make a cash settlement.

"Of course, we couldn't enter into a deal of that sort," the Mayor told the Eccentric, Wednesday.

(See LAWSUIT, Page 2)

Tax Collections Still Improving Treasurer Reports

Tax collections in Birmingham continued to improve during the past year, Treasurer Harold H. Corson informed the City Commission Monday night.

Taxes levied last summer for city purposes have been collected almost 80 per cent; while taxes levied this winter for county and school purposes are about 73 per cent paid, he reported. The delinquent taxes have been returned to the County Treasurer for further collection, where they bear mounting interest penalties.

The following figures show the amounts collected:

CITY TAXES (Summer)

Levy	$265,629.44
Collected	212,017.99
Not collected	53,611.45
Percentage collected	79.84

COUNTY AND SCHOOL (Winter)

Levy	$296,323
Collected	216,094
Not collected	80,229
Percentage collected	73

Corson reported that the personal taxes levied in these two periods had been 98 per cent collected. Further tax collections of city taxes will bring the total to 82 per cent, Corson has estimated.

Name William Olsen To Board of Review

William Olsen, meat market proprietor, was appointed to the Board of Review by the City Commission Monday night, replacing the late Daniel Swartz. Olsen and Walter Moreland, of the Federal Savings and Loan association, compose the Board which will begin its annual sessions the second Thursday in May, meeting for not less than three days nor more than six. This board is the only one empowered by charter to alter assessed valuations on request of taxpayers. Each man is paid $10 a day. Complaints are usually few and changes are not often made.

Eliel Saarinen Telephones to Helsinki, Learns Relatives Are Safe in Capital

Although Germany's occupation of Denmark and Sweden has held stellar spots in the European news of late, several Birmingham people are still interested in the plight of Finland and that country's rehabilitation efforts.

Eliel Saarinen, head of the Cranbrook Academy of Art, and one of Finland's outstanding architects before coming to this country several years ago, learned Tuesday evening when he spoke by telephone to relatives in Helsinki, that they had only just returned to that city from the northern part of the country whence they were driven late in the war by repeated bombings of the capital.

Brother a Bank Official

Saarinen's brother, Haennes, is comptroller of Finnish banks.

"Safe and well" is the only word received since the close of hostilities by George Heideman, Finnish vice consul, from his brother, Lawrence, who enlisted in December in the Finnish army. Heideman is a brother of Mrs. John B. Moody, of Harmon avenue.

Lawrence, 27 year old Detroiter who left New York City for abroad shortly before the beginning of the war in September, reached Europe through devious waters. He was aboard the last boat that went through the "narrows" before they were heavily mined, it was explained by his brother this week.

Young Heideman was in Helsinki when Russian planes dropped their first bombs and returned to his lodgings that night from an air raid shelter to write relatives in Detroit that he would enlist the next day in the Finnish Army.

More Letters Not Expected

The last word from Heideman was a cablegram emanating from Viipuri about 10 days after the close of the war. Letters from Finland have been scarce, relatives of Heideman said Wednesday, and they expressed the opin-

(See SAARINEN, Page 2)