Within the next few weeks the dreary world of nature about us will be transformed, through the magic of LIFE, into a million billion forms of shrub, plant, and tree energy as each pattern seeks to grow. There is something about Spring that brings new hope and promise to human beings who see in Nature a perennial victory.

The Birmingham Eccentric

16 PAGES, PART 1

SIXTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 1 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1940 | $1.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Can you blame that local lady who, under the influence of a bad cold, failed to like her physician's suggestion that "you go home, dress, and go to bed"?

Then there is that definition of Modern Woman: She is one who can rush through a store aisle eighteen inches wide without brushing a single item off the heavily laden counters, and then drive home and knock off a door from a 12-ft. wide garage entrance.

State Purchasing Methods

Kindly and aged Governor Dickinson must have raised his eyebrows one day last week when the newspapers revealed that a tire firm owned by Republican boss Frank D. McKay had been given a slice of State business—one reason being, according to State Purchasing Director Robert J. Riley, "because Frank D. McKay is a big contributor to the Republican Party." Of course, Mr. Riley said that McKay's firm had submitted a sufficiently low bid to get the business, which is a fair treatment; but when Mr. Riley added that "to the victors belong the spoils," I think Mr. Riley was showing that politics plays an important part in his department. In this particular transaction, covering the purchase of several thousand dollars worth of batteries for automobiles, apparently nothing wrong, from a pure business standpoint, took place; that's fine. But to get back to Governor Dickinson, for the life of me I can't understand why he did not summon Mr. Riley to his executive office and say something like this: "Mr. Riley, it is your job to buy many things for the State of Michigan. You are to ask for and receive bids without regard to politics. You are to receive sealed bids, too. You are to run your department on the basis that, instead of 'to the victors belong the spoils,' to the people belong non-political and highly economical conduct of your department. The next time I hear that you are allowing politics to determine your purchases you are going right out of this building on your ear, or something." Yes Sir, Folks, that is what I think the Governor ought to have said I know that you think so, too.

Plenty of Debt

Michigan's 5,300 cities, villages, counties, and townships owe a total of $595,029,203.00 in public debt, according to figures released by the State Treasurer's Dept. at Lansing. Much of this debt is the result of the speculative orgy during the 1920's, when so much of the nation went mad with speculative wealth they had "piled up." It will take a long time to retire this debt; but most of this huge debt was asked for by the people; "there ought to be a law" against its repetition.

I Dream of Democracy

Monday night, after concluding the gathering of election returns from Birmingham's annual city election, when only 741 votes were cast out of a total registration poll of 4,341, I went home and to bed. During the night I had a dream, the chief actor in which identified himself by the odd name of Spirit of Democracy. He claimed to be many, many thousands of years old, but only a resident of Earth for a fragment of those years.

"Do you know that I am quite disturbed about conditions in the United States today—the one nation where I thought I had a secure and enduring residence?" he asked me, in response to my troubled thoughts about the failure of citizens to vote in their home community.

"Why, I'll bet that your city contains thousands of people who have some definite notions of improving State and federal government, and that's what makes me wonder why more of them don't give some time to the operation of their own community affairs," declared my nocturnal visitor. "Your city boasts of its intelligent type of citizen; you have organizations that want to reform and improve lots of things—some of them half way around the earth—and why they fail to focus their talents and attention upon problems right at their front doors is what worries me, in these troublous times. Mr. Editor, if you write anything this week about the poor showing of voters last Monday, please say this for me: tell your citizens that a clean community is made when people beautify and clean their own front and back yards; tell them that State government is made better when local governments improve; that the federal government is better when local and state governments are good; and that government in any place is in proportion to the interest and abilities of the people who support that government. Tell your people that I am worried about their ability to retain the Spirit of Democracy. Tell them that good government, like Christianity, like charity, begins at home. Tell them that American Christianity will *(See THIS AND THAT, Page 2)*

J. B. HOWARTH & SON
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Good insurance is not cheap. Cheap insurance is not good.
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200 to Push Community House Drive

Will Start Monday In Annual Project; Budget Is $12,000

The annual solicitation of funds for the maintenance of the Birmingham Community House and the continuance of its welfare and social work will be held from April 8 to April 22. A corps of over 200 workers will take the field, Monday, in an endeavor to obtain subscriptions.

At a meeting of the solicitors on Monday, April 1, H. Ross Mack, chairman of the Central Committee, outlined the aims and purposes of the drive and distributed to each solicitor the cards covering the calls which are to be made.

To supplement the personal solicitation, an appeal by letter was addressed to over 300 Birmingham residents last week in the belief that there are a great many people who will prefer to dispense with a personal call and who would like to make their pledge or contribution direct by mail. To date, the response to this letter request has been very gratifying and nearly a hundred contributions have been received, it was said. It is anticipated that before the formal drive starts that this number of contributions will be doubled and these cards will be withdrawn from the workers, permitting them more time for the necessary personal calls.

Budget $12,000

"We have set the budget at slightly more than $12,000," said Mr. Mack," as we believe that Birmingham residents are anxious to extend the work and service of the house further and are willing to contribute in an increasing amount in order that the mortgage might be paid off. We believe that sufficient number of citizens realize or have experienced the benefits of the Community House to make this program possible. Arrangements have been made to collect pledges in monthly installments which will appeal to a great many people who wish to serve *(See DRIVE, Page 4)*

Mrs. Royce Beers Taken by Death; Funeral Saturday

Funeral arrangements were completed late Wednesday afternoon for Mrs. Royce L. Beers, prominent club woman, who died at 10 a. m. Wednesday following a four-day illness. Mrs. Beers, who suffered a stroke Saturday, died at her home at 345 Arlington drive.

The body is to be at the home until Saturday morning when it

Mrs. Beers

will be taken to the Manley Bailey Funeral Home for services Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock with the Rev. W. Glen Harris officiating. Burial will be in White Chapel.

At the time of her death Mrs. Beers was president of the Birmingham branch of the American Association of University Women, having been elected to this position in the spring of 1939. Members of the board of directors, heads of standing committees of this organization have made plans to attend the funeral services in a body.

In addition to heading the A. A. U. W., Mrs. Beers was an active member of the First Presbyterian

(See MRS. BEERS, Page 2)

NEW ROTARY DIRECTORS

New directors elected by Birmingham Rotarians Monday include Clyde C. Bennett, Paul Grant, Dr. Clayton C. Gracey, Dr. George Marin, Grady Padgett, and John McKee. These men will meet today and elect officers for the year which begins July 1.

Victor and Bluebird Records. New releases weekly. Leonard Electric, 152 W. Maple. adv.—ef.

Last Meeting Together

LAWRENCE HULBERT (left) and ARTHUR J. KANE pictured **Monday night not long after the election returns came in, announcing Kane that he had been nosed out by a 10-vote margin. Hulbert, who has retired after 12 years' service, holds before him a beautiful testimonial certificate presented him by fellow members and the various city department heads. (See story on Page 2).**

City Marbles Champ to Be Picked In Contest Sponsored by Eccentric

Calling all marble players! Here's news for you boys (and girls) who are adept in that ancient game of marbles: The Birmingham Eccentric is sponsoring a city championship contest in cooperation with the YMCA and the schools. There will be attractive prizes, one for each school champion, and one for the person who achieves victory in the city finals. The prizes will be listed in next week's Eccentric.

Complete rules for the contest, and entry blanks will be distributed to all the schools by Friday of this week, where they may be obtained at the principal's office. Get in the contest, kids!

Note this carefully: the contest to choose the school champion will be held on Friday, April 12, at 4 p. m., weather permitting. That is a week from tomorrow, so get busy and practice! Each school will have its own contest. The city championship will be run off Friday, April 19. Robert D. Lynd, YMCA secretary, has designated Charles Deary as chairman of the officials' committee. He will be assisted by Fred Stewart and Walter Noonan, and by others who have not yet been announced.

Entry blanks must be turned in to school principals by Thursday noon, April 11. Each list of rules to be distributed at the schools will bear an entry blank.

The marble game to be played, called Ringer, uses a ring 10 feet across, with 13 marbles arranged in the center in the form of a cross. The object is to shoot these marbles out of the ring, the player shooting the largest number out of the ring in any game being the winner of the game. No less than two or more than six may play in any one game.

To determine which players shoots first, each participant shoots up to a "lag" line, the nearest marble winning first honor.

Those are the principal features of the game. Consult the rules sheet tomorrow for the details.

The prizes have not yet been determined, but rest assured, you marble fans, they will be worth having! They will be listed in next week's paper.

THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN

Despite his suggestion that the Commission wait another week, Wilmer E. Moody was elected Monday night by his fellows to serve with Manager Donald C. Egbert on the new city Recreation Commission. Moody was active last year in this work.

Building in City Continues to Rise

Building operations in Birmingham continued their rise during the month of march, amounting to $11,150 more than in February and $14,900 more than March of 1939.

The total thus far for 1940 is $135,100, compared with $114,175 for the like period in 1939.

Eight new single family residences were approved during the past month, their value being $53,300 or an average of $6,625 per dwelling. One business permit was issued for the clinic hospital to be built by Dr. William Lloyd Kemp and valued at $11,000. Alterations totaled $1,800 for March.

The permits follow:

At 112 East Lincoln, the addition of an enclosed porch on the Lawrence Smith home.

At 1145 Webster avenue, a frame house containing 7,609 cubic feet, by Covert Robertson. 11341 Woodward, Detroit.

At 1053 Hazel street, by Leo A. Stiers, a frame asbestos shingle house, 5,300 cubic feet. Arvid C. Petersen, builder.

At 622 Chesterfield, by Norman Berry, 11341 Woodward avenue, Detroit, a frame 1½ story, 30,402 cubic feet. Covert Robertston, builder.

At 1030 West Lincoln, by Charles H. Fischer, 5072 Bishop road, a brick veneer house, 22,617 cubic feet. Cox & Baker, 1490 Harper, Detroit, builder.

At 1901 Kenwood court, by Myron E. Snyder, 911 Madison, a 1½ story frame and brick veneer, $8,496 cubic feet. Suburban Homes, Inc., builder.

At 1010 West Lincoln, by Lawrence D. Kurtz, 249 Richton, Highland Park, frame 2-story house, 26,322 cubic feet.

At 1393 Woodward avenue, by Harry R. Shank, Royal Oak, alterations to store.

At 271 Chesterfield, by Park Smith, alterations, $1,000.

At 314 Larchlea drive, by F. C. Guest, 588 Larchlea, 2-story brick veneer, 21,168 cubic feet, Ralph Scheel, Waddington road, builder.

At 985 Pierce, by Charles M. Jones, addition of enclosed porch.

At 523 Southfield, by Dr. William Lloyd Kemp, brick veneer clinic hospital, $11,000, contents, 49,024 cubic feet.

At 1064 Lincoln court, by Harold Brook, 176 North Woodward, 2-story frame house, 19,278 cubic feet.

At 266 and 288 East Maple, by Briggs Commercial and Development Co., addition of partition.

Sudden Thaw Causes Ice to Damage Bridge Water Main

Last week's sudden thaw caused some damage in Birmingham.

The water main passing under the Woodward avenue bridge was buckled by ice and it sprang a leak, necessitating the closing of gate valves on either side. Other water mains continued the service so that there was no interruption.

At 1259 Bird street, a private service leading from the main in the street broke and washed a hole in the street. A milk truck sank deep in the hole.

Several other places required attention from the Department of Public Works.

A shipment of patching material was due at the city yards Monday afternoon.

Have You Met?—

Mrs. Price Londergan of 359 Henley drive who moved to Birmingham recently from Detroit.

Mrs. Londergan, who has a daughter, Margaret Jean, 8, said that the most important factor in her moving to Birmingham was the local schools.

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

IN PLAY TONIGHT

That immortal favorite, "Little Women," is to be given tonight at Barnum School at 7:45 p. m. Among the cast are these five, posed in classic mode: (center) Mother March, JACQUELINE BUCK; (lower left) Beth, DULCIE KRASNICK; (lower right) Jo, MARGARET PLUMSTEAD; (top left) Meg, NANCY JUHL; (top right) Amy, SYLVIA MERRILL. (Eccentric photo).

Tax Roll Gain Is $100,000 In Annexation

Heights People Vote Favorably in Final Show-Down Election

Faced with a show-down court order, residents in The Heights subdivision changed their minds drastically in the election last Monday and decided that the time had finally come to annex to Birmingham. There, before they had turned it down, but Monday, they approved it 12-0.

The City of Birmingham approved annexation 536 to 101, while the third group voting on the question, Bloomfield Township at large, of which The Heights had been a part, rejected it 59 to 33. However, the large majority rolled up in the City offset this adverse vote.

Why did the Heights finally decide to annex, but the Township itself vote against it? The answer lies in tax rates and valuations.

In the Heights, the 92 lots and 10 houses have been valued on the Township books at $100,000, and these properties have been assessed at $21.48 a thousand. The Township proper will now lose its share of this total rate. Coming into the City, the Heights people will now be forced to pay the City rate of $38.79 a thousand.

The City rate is made up of $18 a thousand, city proper; $14 schools; and $5.79 county and drain. Thus, the City coffers will be enriched by $1,900 income yearly if the people all pay their taxes, and possibly more, for when the 92 lots are assessed by Birmingham's assessor to conform with other values in the City, it is possible that the values may be higher than those hitherto set up by Bloomfield's Supervisor Perry A. Vaughan. The Heights already was in the Birmingham school district.

However, the Heights people will gain the privilege of getting Birmingham sewer, water, fire and police protection. Immediately on hearing of the election outcome,

(See HEIGHTS, Page 2)

City Almost Gets New Type Well

Bid of $7,390 to drill a new water well on the City's West Lincoln avenue site was accepted by the City Commission Monday night after a lengthy discussion, occasioned by a last-minute offer of a competing concern to do the job cheaper with a newly-developed method.

There were two bidders, the Ohio Drilling Co., Inc., which won the job, and the Layne Northern Co., which had bid $10,500. When the Layne representative found he had lost out, he showed a moving picture of a new method which almost won over the Commission.

Screen Collapses

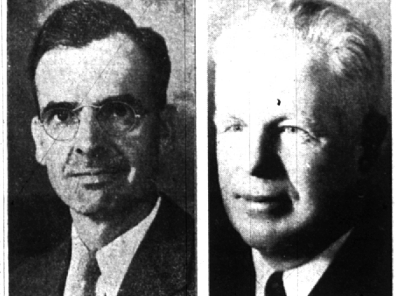
The new well will replace the old "Lincoln" shift which was shut down in February after a screen 125 feet down had apparently collapsed.

Specifications for the new well call for the usual construction: an outer iron casing 3/8 of an inch thick, 50 inches in diameter. Inside this fits another casing 26-inches in diameter. Between the two, gravel is poured in. At the

(See WELL, Page 2)

Kane Loses Position In City Election Upset; Coryell, Bissett Win

Two New Commissioners



HARRY E. BISSETT

RALPH I. CORYELL

Mayor for 1940 Will Be Named on Monday Night

For the first time in four years, two new faces will appear around the City Commission table next Monday night when the seven members meet to elect a mayor for the coming year.

That fact is the result of Monday's election, before which one new commissioner was a certainty but two new commissioners was something in the nature of an upset. Arthur J. Kane, incumbent, lost his place by a 10-vote margin in balloting that attracted only 741 to the polls, a small total for a field of six candidates.

Coryell Leads

Ralph I. Coryell, well-known nursery man and long prominent in village and city affairs, led the ticket with a total of 286 votes, while Harry E. Bissett, second-term president of the Retail Merchants Association, was second with a total of 264 votes.

The standing was this:

Ralph I. Coryell	**286**
Harry E. Bissett	**264**
Arthur J. Kane	**254**
Samuel E. Gawne	**237**
K. B. Olson	**192**
John E. Long	**163**

In the contest for library board, Mrs. Mary H. Lambie led with 541 votes; Merrill C. Adams was second with 429 votes, while Dr. Hugo Erichsen was third with 245 votes. The first two were elected.

In the contest for constable, Irwin Neff, Jr., incumbent, defeated Arthur Holmes by a 444 to 194 margin.

Charter Change

Besides approving the Heights issue 536 to 101, voters OK'd a minor charter change 463 to 152, abolishing the practice of prepar-

(See ELECTION, Page 2)

Township Voting Held Monday; No Upsets Registered

No upsets were scored Monday in the elections in Bloomfield, Troy and Southfield Townships.

In Troy, the only one where there was a contest, Samuel C. Halsey, incumbent Republican supervisor, defeated Paul Nelson, Democrat, 651 to 541. The only Democrat to win office was Jacob Attenberger, unopposed for highway commissioner, a post without pay and duties. Glenn W. Ladd, received 810 votes, unopposed for his 11th term as clerk.

Other results were as follows: Troy Township treasurer, Henry H. Eseman (R) 652, John M. Barrett (D) 504; justice, John L. Halsey (R) 631, William F. Burgam (D) 513; board of review, Jay Chatfield (R) 671, Orth A. Repp (D) 419; constables, Leroy G. Weaver (R) 585, William W. Reading (D) 435; William Renshaw (R) 737, Norman Johnson (D) 291; Eugene Marentette (R) 601, Clinton B. Mullins (D) 409; George Osborne (R) 652, Russell Barnard (D) 462.

In Bloomfield Township, where there was no opposition, the following were returned to office: Supervisor, Perry A. Vaughan; clerk, Floyd Beardslee; treasurer, Dana E. Anderson; highway commissioner, Jacob Baumann, Jr.; justice, Delbert C. James; board of review, Robert J. Brennan; constables, Bernard N. Gillen, William C. Forman, Ralph Hemmerly and Edward C. Matthews.

In Southfield, the question of of salaries for the supervisor and clerk, established at a Township meeting but never voted on in an election, was ratified. The supervisor gets $3,000; the clerk, $1,800. The following Republicans were elected without opposition:

Supervisor, Lynn Everett; treasurer, Albert J. Johnson; clerk, Fannie Adams; justice, James B. Wood; board of review, Clyde Gass.

Votes Cast In Other Years

The following table shows the size of the vote cast in other spring elections since the charter election of 1933:

Years	Votes
1940	741
1939	1,405
1938	629
1937	1,168
1936	920
1935	1,199
1934	661
1933	2,919

In presidential year, November of 1936, the total was 4,124.

Citizenship Day Promoter Is Here

By JOHN H. HARWOOD

Judge Albert H. Schmidt, of Manitowoc, Wis., one of the men of vision who started the Wisconsin city's famous Citizenship Day honoring 21-year-olds, was in Oakland County the early part of this week to give advice and moral support to the group which plans to stage such a celebration May 19 in this county.

While the guest of Henry Scripps Booth, in Bloomfield Hills, Judge Schmidt described in an interview why he thinks the Citizenship Recognition Day, to be held the third Sunday of every May, will become of nation-wide importance.

Not a Stunt

"This is not merely a flag-waving stunt," he pointed out. "It is a sound idea to recognize something which has never been fully recognized before—the attainment of adult, voting age by the young

(See CITIZENSHIP, Page 2)

Jaycees Elect New Officers

The Junior Chamber of Commerce observed its first birthday anniversary with a banquet and election of officers Monday evening at the Community House. At this meeting David H. MacAdam, Jr., was elected president to succeed William N. Smith, who headed the group during its first year.

Wayne Mortimer was elected first vice president and Ralph Smith was named second vice president. Secretary for the coming year will be Richard C. Phillips and Ralph C. Lynn will serve as treasurer.

Walter R. Forbes and Sam T. Burns compose the board of directors and Cortland Cromwell and Mr. MacAdam are members of the State board of directors. Mr. Smith and Ernest Pettypiece are co-chairmen of the planning committee and Charles Lawler is in charge of the membership committee.

Arrangements are being made for a membership drive and it is planned to obtain outside speakers for banquets during the coming year.

Panel of Citizens To Discuss Personnel Work at Baldwin

Personal and vocational guidance will be discussed again in ance for Baldwin High School students the second of a series of "quiz" panel discussions on this subject, with a group of parents in the panel this time. The meeting is Tuesday, April 9, at 8 p. m. at the High School; the public is invited.

In February, teachers discussed the idea; in May, the series will be closed by a panel composed of students. Baldwin P.-T. A. is sponsoring the series.

Seven Taking Part

Three women and four men will make up the panel. Acting in the role of coordinator for the discussion will be George R. Averill. Taking part will be Mrs. John F. Dunn, South Bates street; Alan Joslyn, 39 Suffield road; Mrs. W. Clifton Randall, 770 Shirley drive; Mrs. Maude Mack, 679 Frank street; John D. Maynard, 941 Forest avenue; and Percy G. Burnett, 563 Hanna street. Mrs.

(See PANEL, Page 2)

Electrical Charge Damages Radios In Storm Here

The severe electrical storm Wednesday morning brought the Fire Department out on two calls, the first to the home of James E. Pepperell, 324 Greenwood avenue, and the second to the home of C. D. Wilson, 335 Frank street. In both cases lightning struck electrical wires, overloading the circuits, causing slight damage to radios in both cases.

At 10:08 Tuesday evening neighbors reported a roof fire at 680 South Woodward avenue in a house owned by Robert A. Groves. The building is being occupied at the present by James Thomas and H. A. Lancaster. Damage amounted to about $3.

At 11:10 the same evening a bonfire near the Moultrop Supply company on East Maple brought out a fire truck. It was feared a strong wind would carry the blaze to the Moultrop building. There was no damage and the flames were extinguished.

A rag under the hood of an automobile owned by E. S. Toles, of Charlotte, brought the department to Woodward and Landon avenues Monday. There was no damage.

A partial flood of the River Rouge on the north side of town Friday backed up into a sewer and flooded the basement at the Charles McCarthy home, 315 Park street, and when an odor of gasoline was smelled the Fire Department made an investigation. There was no fire.

Stamp Collectors Meet Here Sunday

An outstanding exhibit of essays and proofs of United States postage stamps and a specialized collection of cancellations will be brought to Birmingham Sunday for the third annual exhibition and banquet of the Oakland County Philatelic Association.

Showing this collection will be W. B. Gould, of Rochester, N. Y. He will also show a nearly complete collection of U. S. imperforates, issues in blocks of four. There will be many other exhibits.

The various committees have made arrangements to entertain visiting philatelists at the Community House next Sunday afternoon and evening where the affair will be staged. Banquet tickets are still available and may be secured locally by contacting Maurice R. Geisel. There will be special entertainment for the ladies and a ping pong tournament for the men.

The exhibition opens at 1 p. m. and will continue until 11 in the evening. Admission to the bourse and exhibit will be free and collectors and non-collectors alike are invited to attend.

Dr. James Howell, Maurice Geisel, E. E. Pulis and Frederick Rainey are the Birmingham men heading committees of the association

Perhaps Petitioner Should Have Waited!

Commissioner Lawrence Hulbert long has been a leader in shaping City policy. Monday night, in his final meeting, he argued against selling water service to Harry E. Warning, whose property abuts the northern city limits, near the Heights. Hulbert opposes extending city services to non-residents despite extra rates charged. The other six commissioners voted in accordance with his arguments.