School Board May Rescind Ban Against Teachers Who Marry

A perpetually happy home is more difficult to build than a mighty worldly empire. People in a home live so close to one another that it requires constant adjustment to overcome the superficial frictions of the modern family life. Willingness to make adjustments is a big asset to insuring a happy family circle.

The Birmingham Eccentric

22 PAGES, PART 1

SIXTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 50 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1940 $1.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

A Bit of Various Things About Mexico and Its People

MEXICO CITY, Mexico; March 1, 1940—Tomorrow, Saturday, I am starting back to Birmingham and home; since arriving here February 16, with Mrs. Averill, son John, and guide and friend Senor Gabriel Camporredondo, I have travelled 1590 miles in Mexico. This mileage was put on on trips to Guadalajara, Cuernavaco, Taxco, Puebla, and a number of side trips within an hour or two from this great community of human beings—some of whom live in feudal grandeur, while others scale down almost to the drowsiness of the sleepy lizard.

In the 20 days that I shall have been in the Republic of Mexico, which includes the three days required to reach the Mexican-Texas border at Laredo, I have seen quite a bit of this ancient land of people; but I do realize that I have but touched the surface of much of it, although I must, too, inform you that I have built my opinions and observations upon a recent history of Mexico that I have read on this trip; without reading this history, I am willing to admit, as a brief visitor in Mexico I might have come away with many erroneous impressions.

To me, the story of Mexico from the Toltecs and Aztecs down through the Spanish Conquest, including the efforts of Mexican leaders in the past 130 years to give it a working republicanism, is pretty much the history of every land on earth; it is the story of much human greed and selfishness, and of a little leavening of idealism and dreams of Utopia. In this eternal conflict between human passions, in Mexico, as in the remainder of this world of ours, selfishness and greed have yet to be dethroned.

From the time that our automobile touched Mexican soil February 14, we have travelled a total of 3136 miles in that land—and that does prevail, to an observing reporter, much to record. I asked plenty of questions of many people; among the intelligent men and women whom I interviewed, I must make this observation: they are considerably upset over the drift toward liberalism, even Communism, in Mexico; these objectors, of course, are the ones who have some business or property, regulations and taxes against which are causing them personal distress. The same attitude of mind can be found in many of our own American citizens of property.

Getting Their Land Back

But those who must work for others are not without some sympathy for the trend of the Mexican government toward a re-distribution (many times by outright confiscation without payment) of the wealth of Mexico. This group of people are against the feudal system, whereby the feudal lords be citizens of Mexico or foreign capitalists who, under the 30 years of the Diaz leadership, practically took over Mexico's natural resources for development.

Then there is the predominant group of Indians and illiterate Mexicans who have little attention to the processes of government as they do to the movement of the stars or efforts to regulate the weather; they merely exist by virtue of a perpetually warm climate; they leave the world with about as little as they had when they came into it, and upon their male and female countenances they mirror, because of their unceasing dumb struggle to exist, the very sad and unanimate typography of Mexico itself—their backs are bent from the loads they are seeming always to carry; their feet, shoeless, are bent not because they think, but because the tump strap that becomes their head, like a laurel wreath would a Roman Emperor, is the auxiliary supporting arm for their burdens.

As I have said in previous letters, Mexico is in reality an Indian nation; the comparatively few Spaniards and intelligent Mexicans haven't yet accomplished much to overcome ignorance and illiteracy among the millions of Indians that populate every area of Mexico's 27 States and two Territories; I would hazard the guess that Indian Mexico is a thousand years behind the rural communities of settled areas of the United States.

While the Spanish overlords, from the time of Cortes to the end of Diaz, in 1910, never worked hand in hand with the discredited Mexican branch of the Roman Catholic Church to keep the Indians a contented peonage, it was easy to prevent intelligence from making progress among the Indians. But these enslavements are being removed, to a degree; the Presidents of Mexico, from 1910 to date, have been forced to recognize human rights as against property rights, and so there has

(See THIS AND THAT, Page 2)

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Good insurance is not cheap.
Cheap insurance is not good.
National Bank Building—Tel. 321

Post Office Dedication Set for May 18th

Heavy Construction Done on $155,000 Structure in City

Formal dedication services for Birmingham's new $155,000 post office are planned for Saturday, May 18, it was announced Wednesday by Postmaster Joseph A. Byrne.

A group of civic leaders met last night at the Community House to discuss plans for the projected event.

The brick and limestone structure bounded by Martin, Bates and West Maple is rapidly nearing completion and should be finished well in advance of the final date, May 19, it was said. The cornerstone is already in place.

Officials to Join

Plans for the dedication are in the formative stages, Byrne said. He anticipates that federal and city officials will join in the ceremonies.

The new post office faces Martin street, with its loading platform

(See POST OFFICE, Page 2)

School Board Bids $400 for Land in State Auction Sale

Sale of Birmingham properties offered by the State Land Office Board in the "scavenger" sale began Wednesday afternoon, and the second parcel offered was taken by the local Board of Education on a $400 bid, for use in enlarging the Poppy Field site on East Lincoln avenue. There was no competition to the bid offered by Robert Y. Moore, a county auditor, who by agreement among various Oakland County units is representing them.

Another unplatted parcel was bid in by the Meyering Land Co., while six lots in Adams Park subdivision went back to the State. Today, the sale begins in earnest so far as local properties are concerned.

Although the Board of Education offered $400 for the land, it does not expect to spend any money. The City of Birmingham is also interested in several parcels. The County, City and school district plan to cancel tax obligations of the three units so that none of the three will owe much cash.

(See LAND SALE, Page 2)

Saturday Club Plans Open House Finale

Theodore ("Caesar") Czerkowski, director, has announced that the Community House Saturday Club will hold open house for parents of members at its closing meeting on Saturday, March 16, from 10 to 11:30 a. m. All other interested persons are also cordially invited to visit the club at this time. Leaders of the groups in clay modelling, metal work, painting, weaving and wood work will arrange the work done by members in those groups for exhibition. The dramatics group will present three short plays, while the rhythm orchestra and the harmonica band will entertain with selections from their repertoire.

All Saturday Club members in both sections who have not finished their work may come at 9 a. m. for that purpose.

"Caesar" reminds members who have not yet earned their membership pins that this Saturday will be their last opportunity for this year.

Garden Editor Finds Strong Feeling Over Practice of Burning Fields

If you want to stir up a hornet's nest among nature lovers, start a discussion on the practice of burning vacant lots and fields!

Doris T. Patten, The Eccentric's garden editor, experienced that last week when she received a letter from Mrs. Harrison T. Thurston, chairman of the Wayside Improvement committee of the Birmingham branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association, asking restraint by the public in burning fields.

Mrs. Patten decided to get the opinions of others to augment Mrs. Thurston's letter, and she was surprised at the strong feeling many people hold on the subject.

Three-Page Reply

Dr. Robert T. Hatt, director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, dashed off a three-page letter. Karl D. Bailey, county agricultural agent, has no use for burning over fields. Emil Olin, Birmingham's municipal forester, can point out trees in outlying subdivisions which have been killed by continual burning.

Fire Chief Vernon Griffith admitted that grass fires are a nuisance and an expense to the City. Of 241 calls answered by the Fire Department last year, 102 of them were from rubbish and grass fires.

Following is the letter from Mrs. Thurston which started things off:

To the Garden Editor:

Timely warning on spring fires are again in circulation. May we add our word of caution through your column and urge that care and restraint be exercised in the burning of fields around Birmingham.

Many small trees and shrubs are sacrificed each year in these field fires. Many birds' nests are destroyed and sometimes even the

(See BURNING, Page 2)

Victor and Bluebird Records. New releases weekly. Leonard Electric, 162 W. Maple. adv.—tf

Honored

CAMERON BIGGERS (top), of Baldwin High School, ANNE NICHOLS (center) of Bloomfield Hills School, and MILDRED PAMMENTER, of Keego Harbor High School, are the three seniors chosen by the local D. A. R. to attend a state conference at Battle Creek, March 30. (See story on Page 4).

28th Anniversary Of Girl Scouting Is Being Observed

This week National Girl Scouting is being observed throughout the United States in celebration of the 28th year of the organization in this country.

Founded in 1912 by Juliette Low, the Girl Scout movement has grown until the membership now totals more than 572,000. Figures have indicated that Birmingham is no exception to the growth in Girl Scouting. Membership here numbers 330 girls, this in 15 troops which include 11 Girl Scout troops, three Brownie troops and a Mariners troop.

Local girls, in connection with national observance this week, have decorated store windows demonstrating the different phases of their work. Exhibits are in Sanders dry cleaning establishment, John Baldwin Company, Machus bakery and Mulholland's.

Members of the Birmingham Girl Scout Counell indicated this week that if the local Scout work is to expand here more adults are necessary to act on committees, serve as leaders or give financial aid.

Mrs. Eric F. Hyde, is commissioner of Girl Scouts in Birmingham.

MOVIE IS POSTPONED

The Junior Chamber of Commerce motion picture has been postponed, it was learned this week. Bad weather at this time of the year was given as a governing reason.

South B'ham Park Assured After Request

Two-Acre Site Deeds Are Offered By Leinbach Co.

A park of about two acres was seen as definite for south Birmingham when the City Commission took action Monday night to acquire the property gratis through the State Land Sale and the gift of two lots in addition.

The park site is between Emmons and Davis streets, and extends 360 feet west from Cummings.

The request was made by Mrs. Victor Ogden, 1276 Smith avenue, and John P. Ryan, 1127 Smith.

"We in that neighborhood have had our hearts set on this site for a park for a long time," Mrs. Ogden told the Commission.

The Commission was at first reluctant to acquiesce, recalling the fact that it has another area in mind which is larger. (By bidding at the State Land Sale, which starts with Birmingham property Thursday or Friday, property may be acquired at small cost.)

In the Emmons-Davis-Cummings site, 16 lots are to be sold in the land sale, while two others are not. However, Webster Scheifele, representative of the Leinbach-Humphrey company, said his firm is willing to give quit claim deeds to the two lots, and also to the other 16 lots providing the property is used for park purposes.

"If we can get quit-claim deeds to all this property before the sale, I think we can get all the lots at little or no expense," City Manager Donald C. Egbert said.

If the deal is consummated, it is not definite how soon it will be possible to beautify the grounds, for the City has other park sites which are still unimproved.

Name Birmingham Discussion Heads

Executive committee members of the Oakland County Citizenship Day Inc., forming a national movement which will be observed locally Sunday, May 19, today announced a list of 180 sub committee members and discussion leaders in 26 communities throughout the county.

It will be the duty of these subcommitteemen to arrange preliminary details in their respective localities, such as completing the lists of new 21 year old voters and arranging for meetings at which the newly appointed discussion leaders will conduct the course in citizenship recently prepared by the University of Michigan faculty.

Prof. James W. Pollock of the U. of M. staff today notified committee members that he would be available on May 20 to instruct these discussion leaders in the course. He will address three such meetings in all. These will be held in the Pontiac High School Auditorium at Pontiac on March 20, April 1 and April 11.

The Birmingham appointees include: Chairman, Mrs. Cleveland Walcutt; assistant, Howard Crull; discussion leaders, John E. Martz, mayor; Mrs. Charles J. Shain, Mrs. Lee A White, Mrs. John K. Ormond, Donald C. Egbert, Ace E. Joslyn, Jr., Dave Levinson, Forbes C. Hascall, Mrs. Stanley G. Goodell, Mrs. Luther Heacock, Mrs. R. L. Beers and Mrs. William C. Allee.

Chairman for Bloomfield township is David Anderson, with discussion leaders from that locality not yet announced.

S. V. Norton, the man who originated the plan for Oakland County, has requested members of the County Executive committee to attend a meeting this Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock, in Judge George B. Hartrick's chambers in the Court House.

Says Quarton Lake Hasn't Bothered Her

"The condition of Quarton Lake hasn't bothered me any," the City Commission was told Monday night by Mrs. Frank G. Kane, 419 Lake Park drive.

Although the Quarton Lake improvement question was not on the agenda, Mrs. Kane came anyway to voice her opinion.

"I've lived there 10 years right across from the lake. There is no use spending any money until pollution from Bloomfield is cleaned up and a real park is made," she said.

HARMON TO BE HERE

Tom Harmon, University of Michigan football star, is expected to make an appearance Saturday evening at the annual reunion at the Methodist Church of campers at Mahn-Go-Tah-See, Y. M. C. A. camp. Dinner will be served at 7 o'clock. Other stars and former counsellors will also attend.

Valiant Members of the SPEBSQSA

It is singing like this which put the sweet into "Sweet Adeline," that old favorite of barbershop Carusos. Left to right, they are THOMAS CARRUTHERS, LEO STIER, ARCHIE LIVINGSTON and CARL KURZ. All are members of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartette Singing in America. (Eccentric Photo)

They Preserve Barbershop Tunes

The strains of "Sweet Adeline" are duck soup to the Birmingham's Variety Four, a group which is charter members of the SPEBSQSA. Translated, that means: Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbor Quartette Singing in America; and make no mistake about it, these fellows can warble harmonies which are simply heart-rending to men of the old school who can remember when a barber shave was commonplace and a haircut an event.

The Variety Four attended the first convention of the SPEBSQSA held at Grand Rapids last Saturday evening, and in the contest, took fourth place in stiff competition.

A barbershop quartette should have at least one barber in it, and in this case, it is Archie Livingston, who regularly clips and trims in Jack's Shop on West Maple. He sings baritone. Thomas Carruthers, who operates a service station at Clawson, is first tenor; Leo Stier, patrolman on the Birmingham police force, is second tenor; while Carl Kurz, of Clawson, foreman in a Detroit automobile factory, carries the bass. They belong to Detroit Chapter No. 1, and meet regularly each month.

"It's a lot of fun," Baritone Archie testified.

He pointed out that "barbershop harmony" means officially singing without benefit of piano or written music. Harmonies are improvised by each member of the quartette.

The Birmingham service club, the Exchange, has already signed the boys up for a bit of entertainment at a Tuesday noon meeting within the next few weeks as soon as it can be arranged.

13 Educators In Survey Here

Two university professors, one superintendent, seven principals and three teachers are at Baldwin High School this week, going over it with a fine-tooth comb in an evaluation program undertaken here on the invitation of the Board of Education and Supt. Howard D. Crull.

The purpose, in brief, is to determine how Birmingham compares with national standards so that improvements can be made.

The curriculum, the quality of the teaching and administrative staff, the facilities of the building, the philosophy of the entire program, the worth of extra-curricular activities, are among the things being measured by the group. The study has been worked for several weeks in preparation.

The survey started Wednesday and it is hoped to complete it Friday night when a rough summary will be given to Crull and Principal Ray H. Bechtold. Later, there will be a written report available to the public.

The visiting school men are as follows: Dr. Edgar Johnston, directing the survey, from the Bureau of Cooperation with Educational Institutions, University of Michigan; and Dr. John Emens, of Wayne University. The principals are H. M. Rosa, River Rouge; Earl D. Upton, Royal Oak; Monte McFarlane, Mount Clemens; Lyle Hotchkiss, Salina School, Dearborn; Norris Wiltse, Ypsilanti; W. R. Cleminson, Port Huron; O. H. Olson, Dearborn. The teachers are Harold Mumby, Flint, and Hazen Atherton, Monroe. The superintendent is L. F. Kruger, Grosse Ile Township School.

SO THE PUBLIC MAY HEAR

Echoes in the City Commission assembly room will be reduced through installation of sound-absorbent material in three ceiling panels, the Commission decided Monday night. The job went on bid to the Johns-Manville corporation for $178.

Plan Development In Hazel-Bowers And Adams Area

A building development on the property in Snow Subdivision Plat No. 1, between Hazel and Bowers, adjacent to Adams avenue, is being planned, it was revealed at the City Commission meeting Monday night.

A petition was read from Murray M. Ashbaugh, receiver of the First National Bank, asking that an alley parallel to Adams be closed so that the space can be utilized. The property is owned by the receivership. It was said that 12 narrow business lots facing Adams would be replatted into four residential lots. The Arvid C. Petersen company is buying the property, Ashbaugh told The Eccentric.

A hearing was set for April 8.

Nominations Close For April 1 Poll

Samuel E. Gawne, 717 Glenhurst drive, was the sixth and final candidate to file for City Commission. Nominations closed last Saturday afternoon.

Now in the race are Arthur J. Kane, incumbent; Harry E. Bissett, K. B. Olson, Ralph I. Coryell, John E. ("Ned") Long and Mr. Gawne. There are two vacancies.

A third candidate, Dr. Hugo Erichsen, is seeking a place on the Library board. Also running are incumbents, Mary H. Lambie (Mrs. John S.) and Merrill C. Adams. All foregoing candidates have accepted nomination except Mr. Adams. Closing date is Saturday.

Neither Irwin Neff nor Arthur Holmes have filed acceptance of nomination for constable.

Besides the candidates an important question on the ballot April 1 will be annexation of The Heights.

At Bloomfield Hills

A quiet election is anticipated at Bloomfield Hills since George C. Booth and Luther D. Allen, incumbents, are the only ones who have filed petitions for the City Commission there. Alva J. Richardson, also incumbent, has filed his petition for constable.

ESSAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Winners in the VFW Auxiliary essay contest will be announced in next week's Eccentric, it was announced Wednesday. The judges have almost completed their survey of the 10 essays submitted on "The Benefits of Democracy."

Big Concert of Year for H. S. Band Scheduled for Next Wednesday Eve

Mr. Berndt

Birmingham's high school band continues to grow in its importance to the community.

It has appeared on all its jaunts, has furnished much spirit and the right atmosphere for the football games. It has marched Birmingham streets on festive days, added inspiration to the basketball fans and been right there at all school and civic activities when music has been a part of the program.

Now comes the annual band concert on Wednesday evening, March 20, to begin at 8:15 o'clock sharp in the auditorium of Baldwin High School.

Quite the same as with the children—some Birmingham folks fail to realize the band is growing up. It's in its teens, according to its guardian and instructor, A. W. Berndt, who has been with the band 13 years. One quickly senses, in discussing the band with Mr. Berndt, that it is his hobby although music is his vocation.

Concerts Stimulating

"No organization can continue to exist on rehearsals alone" he stated. "Students in the band are inspired by having engagements

(See CONCERT, Page 2)

1940 Horse Show Will Be Larger

Though three months away, committees already are at work whipping into shape plans for the annual Detroit Horse Show at the Bloomfield Open Hunt club. This event will open this year on Wednesday evening, June 12, and will continue through Sunday night, June 16. Two more shows are scheduled for this year than last, when the opening day was Thursday. The Sunday evening program also was omitted last year.

The show will be run Wednesday evening, Thursday afternoon and evening, Friday afternoon and evening, Saturday morning, afternoon and evening and Sunday afternoon and evening. The Saturday morning show will be for children.

James Vernor, Jr., president of the Detroit Horse Show association, again heads the show committee and Bernard E. Hopper has charge of publicity. Others are busy lining up the horses and riders to be entered, mapping the program and arranging various other details contingent on the show. Famous horsefleh will come from far and near to compete in the Bloomfield ring and the box-holder list will, as always, read like the Social Register.

Officers of the Horse Show association, besides Mr. Vernor are: Mr. Hopper, Alfred G. Wilson

(See HORSE SHOW, Page 2)

Nurse Out-Argues Would-Be Thief

Miss Dorothy Nelson, Visiting Nurse who resides at the Community House, was the subject of an attempted holdup Tuesday evening just as she parked her car outside the House.

The thief, from Miss Nelson said was about 20 years old, accosted her as she stepped out of her car. He said, "you can't park there!"

She argued the point, until finally the youth demanded her purse. Having none with her, she continued the argument and the youth put his hand into his pocket as if to threaten her with a gun which Miss Nelson believed he did not have.

Finally, as someone appeared at the door of the Community House, the youth became alarmed and ran to a nearby car, in which Miss Nelson believes a companion waited. She immediately called the police, but the escape was successful. The time was about 9:10 p. m.

Teachers Who Wed May Win Tenure of Jobs

School Board Plans Vote on 1934 Policy Against Marriage

The much-debated question of whether married women should be allowed to keep their jobs in the public service is again before the Board of Education, and will be decided in the next meeting, Mar. 26.

"If the rule is a good one, we ought to keep it. If it is bad, we ought to rescind it, but I am not in favor of making exceptions," Lee E. Joslyn, Jr., president, told his fellows.

Teacher Makes Request

The question was raised by the request of Mrs. Arloa McMinn Colenso, Barnum School fifth grade teacher, to be allowed to continue her work after her present contract expires this June. She was married last summer, and has been in the system for four years.

The matter first came to public attention two weeks ago when Mrs. Colenso's pupils, unknown to her, submitted a petition to the school board, testifying that they loved her and wanted her retained as a teacher.

Tuesday night, another petition was presented, this one signed by 32 persons in the Barnum neighborhood, praising Mrs. Colenso's

(See TEACHERS, Page 2)

SPRING VACATION

Spring vacation in the Birmingham school district will extend from Thursday closing, March 21, to the Monday after Easter.

Other Matters Before the Board:

The Quarton Parent-Teacher Association plans extensive improvements on the school property, it was revealed at the Board of Education meeting.

Mrs. Stanley Spiegel, 687 Vinewood avenue, presented the ground plan, calling for the building of an outdoor basketball court, a football field, softball diamond and tennis court. Three trees would have to be removed, and this angle was given to Business Manager Louis M. Randall for study.

Mrs. Spiegel inquired also about repairing school swings. Randall said that the chains were worn, and to repair all of them in the schools would cost $217. He was asked for the cost of repairing only the swings at Quarton School, Mrs. Spiegel indicating the P.-T. A. might underwrite the expense. A similar quotation was asked for Barnum School.

Financial Report

The general fund contained $32,216.49 on March 1, it was reported, and will probably contain $7,000 by April 5. Two weeks ago, it was estimated that the year would close with a $13,000 deficit; however, nothing is certain because income from delinquent tax accounts is of an unknown amount.

Evening School Report

A balance of $15.13, existed at the close of the first semester in the Evening School fund. Fifteen persons enrolled in commercial work; 10 in photography.

Band Uniform Account

A balance of $246.58 existed March 1 in the band uniform account. Seven additional uniforms

(See BOARD, Page 2)

Tax Sale List For May 7 Auction Now Available

Copies of the Oakland County delinquent tax list, which describes every vacant or improved parcel of real estate to be sold by the State Auditor General at Pontiac, beginning Tuesday, May 7, 1940, may be obtained at The Eccentric office. The list is being published this year for all delinquent taxes for 1937 and prior years by The South Lyon Herald; The Eccentric, in conjunction with a number of other Oakland County newspapers, is aiding in the task of circulating the tax list information this year.

These delinquent taxes listed require 51 pages of full newspaper size. This is a tax sale, in which title of the property still rests with the owner. In the land sale now under way, the title rests with the state and the price accepted has no relation to the amount of the delinquent taxes. The sales are entirely separate.

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