Dept. of Public Works Men Form Labor Union, Ask Pay Raises

If you don't think that human life is cheap, and property just a little cheaper, consider the damage being done by war in our world today. Most people in every land hate war, but they do very little, constructively and according to natural law, to prevent it. In this respect we are still in the jungle of a primitive era.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven Is A Man of Vision

Dr. Alexander Grant Ruthven, president of the University of Michigan, is an interesting chap—whether he be the guest speaker at a small or large banquet, or merely a dinner companion in some home. I've known the distinguished educator for quite a number of years, and always have been impressed with his practical knowledge of and about the world in which he lives, plus his utter lack of anything like arrogance or false pride over his high station in life.

A few evenings ago at an informal evening buffet supper affair given by Professor of Journalism John L. Brumm, and Mrs. Brumm, in their Ann Arbor home, it was my good fortune to be seated with Dr. Ruthven, Mr. Brumm, and Mrs. Lee A. White. (Six other couples, including Mr. White, Mrs. Ruthven, Mrs. Averill Regent and Mrs. Lynch, Dean and Mrs. Kraus, and a Mr. and Mrs. Drake, were present, too.)

Before he was made President, Dr. Ruthven, a noted zoologist, with emphasis on the reptilian family, was a scientist of considerable note; (still likes to talk about them, including both serious and humorous sides of his many trips to various spots of this earth, in search of more knowledge of this primitive form of life); the Ann Arbor savant is keenly aware of the part that education plays in life, and in no small way is responsible for the attitude our nation's military leaders now have towards young men of draft age who are studying one of the professions or sciences in a college or university these days.

"Monathan a year ago Dr. Ruthven, in a speech before Michigan's University Press Club, declared himself in favor of draft deferment both to teachers and students who are related to the above two groups. He knew that during the first World War many institutions of higher learning were literally impoverished of scientific and professional teachers and students, as they were taken into the nation's armed forces. When the war was over, the gap was very apparent; that was why Dr. Ruthven, looking forward to the welfare of his country in these days, aggressively declared himself against depleting the church's scientific and professional intelligence.

He told me that draft boards all over the nation have written him for his ideas on the subject, and he also has appeared in Washington before military leaders to defend the cause of education.

Educators like Dr. Ruthven are not too abundant; it is fortunate for Michigan that he heads up one of the world's really great universities.

Dr. Ruthven Carried Snake Into A Church

Dr. Ruthven, many years ago, led a research expedition along the south shore of Saginaw Bay, looking for reptiles and various other lower organic life. One Sunday, while on his way to the nearest town with another chap, he came upon one of those harmless pad adder snakes, which he caught and slipped into the pocket of his coat. Before returning to his camp headquarters he and his companion decided to attend a small church, services being in process of going on when they arrived.

The preacher was giving a wonderous sermon, using for illustration that "the wages of sin is death," the story of a young girl who went to a will for water as she drew up the bucket, explained the preacher, she did not notice the presence of a snake inside the well's top edge; but the snake was waiting to do its deadly work, and at last struck at her, inflicting its venomous poison. And the preacher went on to say that if you who are committing sin don't stop, your lives will be blighted just as that snake caused the death of the little girl.

"Of course, the only thing wrong with the preacher's illustration was that the snake he referred to is a harmless one; but that amused me then as it does at fast that, as I sat there listening to the sermon, at the end of it I felt something crawling over my foot. It was little puff adder which had slipped out of my pocket, and was about to slither across the church floor. Perhaps I saved the congregation from some excitement that day, although I really believe that had I not held on to the little reptile it might have added tremendous impact to the preacher's argument."

Talk About Rattlers! Then One Appears

So far as dangerous snakes in Michigan are concerned, Dr. Ruth-

(See THIS AND THAT, Page 2)

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

Interest Runs High In School Election

DPW Labor Forms Union, Asks Raises

Strike Vote Can't Get A Majority Organizer Reveals

Department of Public Works labor in Birmingham has organized a union and the men debated a strike move in a meeting held Tuesday night. It was revealed Wednesday, Memorial day, that the men and their union spokesman appeared before the City Commission and asked for general wage increases.

At the meeting when the annual budget was adopted, it was revealed that most hourly employes were to be given five-cent increases, and City Manager D. C. Egbert recommended that week vacations given in the past be extended to two weeks to conform with the privilege of other city employes, and also that hourly workers be given a maximum of 10 days' sick leave a year, the same as salaried workers. He also recommended time-and-one-half for overtime, particularly at night.

Strike Debated

Anthony Tashnick, organizer of Birmingham's Chapter No. 35 of Local 77, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, informed The Eccentric yesterday that the men met Tuesday night and debated whether or not a strike should be called.

"They feel happy about the vacations and sick leave," said Tashnick.

(See DPW, Page 2)

Bloomfield Hills Will Graduate 14

This evening, commencement ceremonies of the Bloomfield Hills School will be held on the lawn in front of the school building. A platform has been erected and chairs will be set on the grass for the audience.

This year's class consists of 14 students: Stoddard Bangs, Roberta Kathleen Brown, Mary Ann Fry, Ronald B. Hall, Robert G. Hartman, Peter Alan Jenks, Mary Agatha Kelly, Robert C. Lowes, Phillip H. Maxwell, Robert Keller Noyes, Jerome Palms, Grace Madelyn Parsons, Marie Eugene Ryder, and Helen Mayo White.

The program will begin promptly at 7:30 with the Alma Mater sung by the school chorus; next will be the invocation, "We Gather Together," sung by the complete assembly. Following this there will be an address by William Shunck, director of the school. Vaughan will then present the diplomas after which "America" will be sung by everyone present. The program will close with the benediction delivered by the Rev. William C. Hamm of Christ Church Cranbrook.

Last Sunday morning, the Vaughan will then present the diplomas; was held at Christ Church, as it has been for the past five years. The entire graduating class was in attendance and marched in the procession. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Charles Cadigan. The scripture lesson was read by Mr. Shunck.

City Budget Adopted With Little Debate

A City's 1941-42 budget was formally adopted Monday night with practically no change from the figures compiled a week before the public hearing on May 26. Policemen were raised 5.8 per cent to $2,100 a year. Raises averaging 5 percent were given to those in the $1,500 to $2,500 bracket, greater raises going to those in the lower end of the scale. Salaries of department heads have not yet been set, it was said.

The budget was adopted unanimously without debate. In fact, the budget has not been discussed to any degree in a public meeting except as questions were asked by citizens in the public meeting a week ago.

Big Beaver Man Killed by Auto

W. R. Biagr, 77 years old, of Big Beaver, died at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Sunday, of injuries he received Saturday when struck by the automobile of Harold L. Caulk, 24, of Troy Township, at East Maple (15-Mile) and Rochester roads. It was said the man walked into the path of the car. In the crash which followed, Caulk received a broken arm.

Rev. Glen Harris to Get Doctor of Philosophy Honor

— BY JOHN H. HARWOOD

Not so many years ago, W. Glen Harris, as a gangling youth of 16 with a deep religious conviction, was preaching in empty schoolyards of Texas and milking cows to get a too-hold in college. Next Wednesday will come the climax of his long years of study when the Rev. Mr. Harris, pastor of the Church of Birmingham's First Presbyterian Church, will receive his Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Harris has come along way since those days in Texas when he began preaching with little or no academic training except the ordinary high school diploma. There's not a clergyman in his family for counsel or inspiration, nor was there any financial reason to permit the budding minister to spend quiet evenings in meditation and study during student days. But Glen Harris wasn't afraid of work, and that's 99 per cent of the battle he says caused him to

Rev. Harris

2 Churches at 18

Mr. Harris left high school at Crafton, Texas, in 1922, at the age of 16. He then entered Trinity University, a little Presbyterian college at Waxahachie, Texas, and simultaneously began evangelistic work among the cowboys. At 18, he got his first regular preaching assignment, but instead of taking on one church he took five, driving 125 miles to Strawn, Texas, on Sunday, and traveling by train 150 miles the other way to Sunset, Texas, the next Sunday. That's when he started writing sermons aboard train, and Birmingham people will have the opportunity to hear one of those traveler-messages Sunday night, for this week when he returns from Philadelphia to deliver the Baccalaureate sermon for the Baldwin High senior class.

Money was scarce in those early days—correction—money was more scarce, for where is the minister who usually can carry a bankroll? Mr. Harris milked cows,

(See HONOR, Page 2)

Say State Aid For Schools to Be Decreased

Despite the fact that Michigan schools are to receive 2½ million dollars more in state funds next year, Birmingham district is likely to suffer a $1,306.46 loss, it was estimated this week after consultation by school officials with Clair Taylor, director of finance for the Department of Public Instruction, Lansing.

During the past fiscal year, the district received $109,273.89 from the various state funds distributed to schools. Next year, the amount has been estimated at $107,867.43, or a difference of $1,306.46.

Unjust Penalty?

Not only that, there is some evidence that the Birmingham school district has been unjustly penalized by the State in the matter of equalization, costing the district many thousands of dollars a year in state money.

The assessed valuation of the property in the district is $15,714,855. The State Tax Commission, however, feels that the property is under-assessed and that the district here is not raising enough locally. Therefore, in so far as state aid is concerned, the $15,714,855 figured has been arbitrarily "equalized" at $19,338,911, and the difference has resulted in a deductible item of $5,000 in state aid.

Is property in the district as-

(See STATE, Page 2)

Post Office Mural Winner a Secret

Twenty-two designs in full color for the mural planned in the Post Office were examined Tuesday afternoon by a jury of five distinguished artists. Their choice is still a secret, and the winner's number, plus all the designs, have been shipped to Washington, and the winner will be announced in several weeks, according to Sylvester Jerry, of Lansing, chairman.

The judges were Jay Boorsma, director of the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts; Zoltan Zepesby, resident painter at Cranbrook Academy of Art; John D. Morse, junior art curator at the Detroit Institute of Arts; and Eero Saarinen, the distinguished architect at Cranbrook Academy of Art. Mr. Jerry was chairman.

The 22 displays made a colorful show as they were arranged around the auditorium of the Baldwin Library. Many were given over to historic themes, and one was composed of three scenes: John Hunter's blacksmith shop; a religious meeting in a pioneer cabin; and a stagecoach and woodburner train, all three scenes replete with interesting detail. Another was dedicated to Martha Baldwin, probably the outstanding woman in Birmingham's history.

The winner will probably execute the work on a huge canvas, to be fitted into the end of the public lobby, over the Postmaster's door. The award will be $1,400.

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Taxation Meeting Called for Friday

A meeting to discuss local taxation, particularly school taxes, will be held Friday evening, June 6, at the Community House, with Louis H. Schimmel, director of the Michigan Advisory Council of Michigan and the Pontiac and Oakland County Boards of Education, the speaker. Starting time is 8 p. m.

The meeting has been called by the Education Committee of the League of Women Voters, and this group has announced that it looks there will be a large attendance of men and women interested in the problems of local taxation. The public is invited.

The League of Women Voters is a study group that considers many phases of governmental responsibilities in a non-partisan, non-political, non-sectarian manner; and this study extends to state and national developments as well as local. Mrs. Stanley Spiegel will introduce the speaker.

SEEKS DRIVER'S LICENSE

A hearing will be held June 11 on a petition filed with the Circuit Court by Robert Wess, 16 years old, of Birmingham, asking restoration of his operator's license. It was suspended after a traffic violation.

Cranbrook and Kingswood Graduations Are Saturday

The boys and faculty of Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills have been busy the past week in final day affairs with the school year and reach their climax Commencement exercises at Christ Church Cranbrook Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. Formal graduation exercises at Kingswood School will be held at 5:30 p. m. Saturday.

Last evening, the annual Fandell Dinner was held in the gym hall, with Dr. Rudolph D. Lindquist, director of the school, speaking informally.

The dining hall will also be the scene of the Commencement Dance on Thursday evening, from 8 p. m. to 1 a. m. Decorations will consist of potted boxes of spring flowers. Bill Sawyer's orchestra from the Michigan Union at Ann Arbor will provide the music.

An innovation in this year's program of events is the time of the Baccalaureate service. In past years, the service has been held on the Sunday preceding graduation, but this year the service will be held at 4:30 p. m. on Sunday, June 6, at Christ Church Cranbrook. The baccalaureate speaker will be the Rev. George L. Cadigan, rector of St. Paul's Church of Irving Berwick, Me. He is the brother of the Rev. Charles Cadigan, rector of Christ Church Cranbrook. The Baccalaureate address is attended by the students of Cranbrook School and Kingswood School, their parents and friends.

Following the service, a buffet supper will be served at 5:15 on the stadium at Cranbrook School for all the students, their parents and friends, and the faculty. At 8:15 the traditional Glee Club sing will take place in the Alumni Court adjoining the stadium. At the conclusion of the sing at 7:30 the awards Night Program will be held in the auditorium. On the

(See CRANBROOK, Page 2)

Building Over $100,000 For Third Month

Total This Year $495,280 Compared To $236,953 in 1940

Building in Birmingham continued above the $100,000 mark for the third successive month, it was revealed this week in the May report of Building Inspector James B. Baynes.

Twenty-five permits were issued during May for a total estimated value of $103,303, including 12 new homes valued at $32,500; 6 residence alterations at $4,335; and one store alteration costing $1,000. The same month last year involved a total of only $48,175. The total for the first five months of 1941 is $495,280, compared with $236,953 in the same period of 1940.

Following are the permits issued:

At 1091 Canterbury, for Morris L. Bell, 13-room Holbrook, Detroit, 2-story brick, 24x50 ft., $12,000.

At 763 Purdy avenue, for Sidney Gulick, 7-room Tudor, 2-story frame-brick, 27x40 ft., $7,000.

At 1125 Chesterfield, for Ralph Sears, 7-room Colonial, 2-story frame-brick, 27x40 ft., $7,000.

(See BUILDING, Page 2)

U. S. O. Campaign To Help Soldiers Gets Under Way

America is facing an emergency equal to any the country has ever had before, the Rev. W. Glen Harris told 150 persons gathered at Baldwin Library on Monday evening to launch the drive for the United Service Organizations drive. He stressed the importance of providing the selectees in army camps with adequate recreational facilities.

The quota set for the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills participating in this drive, which is national in scope, is $4,000. The campaign started on June 3 and will close June 11. Charles J. Shain explained how the drive has been mapped out for this area. Birmingham has been divided into four districts, and a house to house canvass is being made by volunteer workers, numbering around 156. The same type of a drive is being carried on in Bloomfield Hills and Lathrup Township.

Movie sports are being shown at both local theatres during the two weeks of the campaign. Literature is being sent into many homes through children in the elementary grades at school, other pamphlets will be distributed with the "Shopping News."

A mid-campaign pep meeting will be held Monday evening at 8 p. m. in the Community House, according to Mr. Shain, who says it is very important that all workers attend this meeting.

Throughout the United States an attempt is being made to raise $1,000,000 which will be sufficient to staff 360 recreation buildings, being constructed by the government, near U. S. Army camps. Mr. Harris pointed out that United Service Organizations are taking over the staffing of these buildings because while government is prepared for a total war, it is not prepared for a total war. We will fight for our democracy. In the United States, he concluded, "we still prefer to support our own religious activities."

The Mill Tax Issue

Final statements on the two-mill tax levy are presented herewith, one from the Board of Education, another from the opposition group which has adopted the name, "Citizens' Committee." An editorial and three letters on the Editorial Page also deal with the election issues.

The Opposition:

"The 15-mill limit is the only bulwark of the home owner against high prices and tax grabbers and very careful consideration should be given, any time, before this safeguard is interfered with. Once it is lifted for the alleged need it will be easier to be lifted for another. Once the bars are let down for one group, others will appear. A great number of us remember when there was no limit and we also remember the losses of homes and other headaches due to the high home taxes.

Income Increasing

With a national emergency declared, with Federal taxes soaring, with Detroit, Birmingham and other cities reducing tax rates, we do not believe that is the time to consider raising the tax limit for schools. An examination of the records shows that the operating income has increased from $548,832.78 in 1936 to, $255,179.72 this year. This would tend to prove that the financial condition is sound.

With the State aid being increased from 41 millions to 43½ millions, almost 10%; with the rate of collections of local taxes increased from approximately 86% in 1936 to approximately 90% this year, we believe, with proper allocation, all men teachers can be raised to a desirable level and all other necessary increases made.

Can Get Good Teachers

Last week, a man teacher was hired at $1,625 for the year. This man has experience, training and

(See OPPOSITION, Page 2)

The School Board:

A good healthy opposition to any cause is very desirable because it forces a more satisfactory weighing of the facts that surround the issue. It also helps to know who the leaders are on each side of an issue.

Sponsoring the movement for a 2-mill increase in school operating taxes are the Birmingham Community Council, the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, every P.T.A. in the district, and your Board of Education.

Four Points

The opposition to this movement has, at the last minute, made four points: 1. "New local taxes are not wise at this time, in light of increased national expenditures. It is easy to agree to this as a general theory. Certain economies are going to be forced upon all of us, both the weight of Federal taxes but as individuals and as a community, can we afford to economize by lowering our educational standards? Is that the place to begin? Our costs are rising, the number of pupils to be taught is rising, and our revenue is 2not rising enough to maintain the present standard.

2. "The 15 mill limit should not be exceeded." That seems to be the statement of the same proposition—we shouldn't because we shouldn't. However the law recognizes that conditions can easily develop exceeding the 15-mill limitation, and therefore specifically provides a means by which it can be exceeded.

3. "Since increased appropriation by the legislature will provide enough money to give the teachers a raise."

Amount of State Aid

Consultation with Mr. Clair Taylor, director of finance for the Michigan Department of Public Instruction, results in his estimate that Birmingham will receive $3,908.19 more in State aid next year than it did this year, provided our Governor does not force a slash in appropriations to balance the State Budget, which is not by any means impossible. The $3,908.19 increase—should it be received—would provide an increase in our total budget of 1.5%, or if it all went to teachers, it would provide a handsome

(See SCHOOL BOARD, Page 2)

Three Candidates Make Statements

Following custom, The Eccentric has invited the three candidates for Board of Education to give a statement of their candidacy. Dr. P. Mc Cookie is the new man in the field. Lee E. Joslyn, Jr., and John Harvey Rossow are the incumbents. Their statements follow:

Mr. Joslyn

Editor, The Eccentric:

"For nearly 2½ years I have been a member of the School Board with only one purpose, namely, to improve the Birmingham schools and if reelected for a three-year term, my sole purpose will be towards that same goal.

"Operating a school system requires both time, study and research, as well as some background of experience to enable one to reach decisions in an intelligent manner. In this respect the School Board is similar to any

(See CANDIDATES, Page 3)

June Draft List Is Announced

Names of the 29 men which are to be inducted from Birmingham in the June 18 draft were announced this week. They are: Franklyn Whitney, A. Shanks Rosso, Frank McDowell, Walter Ery, Jr., George Johnstone, Allen Tewilliager, Grover DuVal, Clifford Drinkwater, Norman Lewnds, John Foucart, Irving Bernath, Edward Fleit, William P. Young, W. Emory Willman, Donald L. Russell, Robert Terrell, Jack L. Long, Joseph Borowski, Richard Bugsby, Billy Newton, Joseph Edmunds, William Hatherley, Lawrence Russell, James G. Davis, Francis R. Tyler, Arthur H. Andrews, James M. Malcolm, Jr., James P. Lowman, Robert H. Marion.

Scout Honor Court Friday Evening

Birmingham Boy Scouts' spring Court of Honor will be held Friday evening at the Community House at 8 p. m. Included among the many awards will be Col. Edwin S. George's Pseta Award for memorizing Psalms, and a citation from the American Legion honoring Leonard and Harold Pickers, the two Bloomfield Hills boys who saved a boy from drowning last December.

It has also been revealed that Fred Zoellin has resigned as Commissioner in order to give his full time to his troop, B-1.

Tax Proposal To Bring Out Heavy Vote

Registration Hits New Peak, 2,957; One New Precinct

The most hotly-contested election in Birmingham since the reclassification fight in 1939 faces the voters Monday. The largest turn-out in recent years is expected, for the two-mill issue is not restricted to voters who are parents or property-owners.

A new peak in registration has been reached—2,957 people, or an increase of 325. Of the total, 2,463 may vote at Baldwin High, and 494 are privileged to vote at the new Pierce school precinct.

The polls open at 7 a. m. and close at 9 p. m.

The mill-tax proposal is the big issue on the ballot. However, interest is running high in the contest for the two expiring trusteeships of Lee E. Joslyn, Jr., and John H. Rossow. Both are candidates again, and Dr. J. P. McCookie is the third candidate in the field. Statements from all three appear elsewhere on this page. Three letters also appear on the Editorial Page, and another feature on Page 1 are the statements for and against the mill-tax proposal.

A leading question on the mill-tax proposal has been this: "What

(See TAX, Page 2)

Seniors Await Baccalaureate Sunday Evening

Baccalaureate—the first half of Commencement exercises for the June class at Baldwin High School—will be held at the First Baptist Church Sunday evening as a union service, with the pastors of five churches cooperating.

Friends and relatives of the 148 seniors are expected to crowd the Gothic nave of the Baptist edifice on Willits street. The church's pastor, the Rev. Joseph O. Nelson, will preside, with the Rev. W. Glen Harris, minister of the First Presbyterian Church, delivering the sermon.

Next Thursday evening, diplomas will be awarded in exercises to be held at Pierce Field under the new floodlights, weather permitting.

Sunday evening, the program will open with an organ recital by Thomas Hartle, church organist. Then will come the processional, Largamente from Elgar's "Pomp

(See SENIORS, Page 2)

Swimming Pool Expenses Cut

A definite step in the direction of keeping Barnum Pool open on a year-round basis will have been made when the new type of chlorination system is installed this month prior to the opening of the summer recreation program, according to Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn.

The new installation consists of a Chlor-O-Feeder, which uses an injector pump to feed chlorine solution from a 30-gallon crock directly into the pool. After the initial expense of approximately $215, which is to be shared jointly by the Recreation Commission and the Board of Education, the expense for the eight weeks' summer season will be about $222.

The system hitherto in use, consisting of a set of chemical cells into which the general chlorine gas made an annual item for the eight-week period of $140 for electricity and $267 for supplies. On a continuous-operation basis, the cells would have to be purchased twice every year, while the items for electricity and supplies would be required every eight weeks. Under the new system, the equipment is permanent and only the chemicals, relatively cheap, need be purchased. The reduced overhead cost of pool operation will doubtless give additional impetus to the movement to make Barnum Pool a year-round recreation asset for Birmingham.

To help defray the outlay for new equipment, as well as the purchase of a new diving board, the Recreation Commission has decided, with permission of the Board of Education, to charge a registration fee of 25 cents per season for students, 50 cents for adults.

Troy Youth Held After Traffic Death

Ernest L. Hart, Jr., 18 years old, of 1607 Maple road, Troy Township, has been charged with negligent homicide following the death of Mrs. Allison Spearpoint of 13600 Monte Vista, Detroit, in a crash May 30 in Ferndale. Division of Hart has been set for June 12.

Legion Will Hear Student's Story

A county-wide meeting of the American Legion and las Auxiliary will be held in Birmingham Friday evening. Main principal speaker, will be a Michigan State College student who escaped from Europe after war had started.

He is Walter Ilsley, and he was in Denmark when the Germans invaded that country. He worked for a time in a Finnish munitions factory; and then left Norway on the same ship which carried the American envoy, Mrs. J. Borden Harriman.

The meeting will start with dinner at 6:30 p. m. at the Masonic Temple, with 200 expected. Present will be A. C. Pattbreese, of Charlotte, state commander and Mrs. Norton Pearl, of Detroit, state president of the Auxiliary. Mrs. Thelma Bailey, of Birmingham, will be toastmistress. Mrs. A. D. Cooley is chairman of dinner arrangements; Mrs. Wyn Pearsall and Mrs. Carl Eley are assisting.

City Will Get $7,900 for Streets

In the mass of bills which passed the Legislature in the final rush was the one which gives cities of Oakland County a part of weight-and-gas tax money, it was learned this week. Birmingham expects about $7,900 for street maintenance. Manager Egbert told The Eccentric that he would recommend to the Commission that regular city funds budgeted for street work be withheld in the amount of $7,900.

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