Little by little the boasted personal freedom of the American people is being taken away from them; all in the name of defense. I think it is all right, in an emergency, to grant extra-ordinary powers to the President—but after the emergency has passed, will freedom be restored to the people? Time, alone, will tell.

The Birmingham Eccentric

18 PAGES, PART 1

SIXTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 50 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1941 $1.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

City Asks U. S. Aid In Widening Maple

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Just a Few Impressions of California, Grand Canyon

BIRMINGHAM, Mich., March 10, 1941—With much feeling of gratitude for the great and grand United States, for its variety of scenery, its hospitable people, the ease of motoring, and the grandest feeling of all, on any trip, namely, getting back home, I sit me down to write this last letter of my trip to and through southwestern United States. Within the space of exactly 34 days, Roy Hedge, proprietor of Hedge's Wigwam, in Royal Oak, and your reporter covered a total of 6,612 miles over American roads in 11 States, plus nearly 800 miles on Mexican railroads, and boats in the Gulf of California, off Guaymas.

In previous letters I have told you about the trip, up to the day we left that "dude ranch" in southern Arizona, for Los Angeles, and then return home. The car's mileage from Los Angeles to Birmingham, via Needles, Grand Canyon, Amarillo, El Reno, Wichita, Kansas City, Springfield, Fort Wayne, was exactly 2,740 miles. And every inch of it was over good roads—and by this I mean roads that are hard surfaced, even though several hundred miles of our return trip were negotiated through rain, slush, snow, and some ice. (Northern Oklahoma and Kansas hadn't had such severe snowstorms in many years, we were told.)

From Tucson to Los Angeles

Roy and I left Tucson, Arizona, at 1:50 o'clock in the afternoon, headed for Yuma, located in Arizona's southwest corner, where the Colorado River flows muddily towards the Gulf of California. It was just ten minutes after six when we reached picturesque Yuma, our distance that afternoon being 245 miles over land that was mostly typical western desert country; such land is not barren of all growth, for Nature continues to watch over the various cacti, mesquite, and wild grass that maintain a precarious foothold in the sandy soil. We stayed there over night, and the next morning, at eight o'clock, started toward the next town, El Centro, in California.

Immediately upon crossing over into California we noted the difference of landscape between Arizona and the former; mountains loomed in the distance, while in our immediate vicinity we found ourselves going over a paved road that wound through absolutely bare sand—regular rolling hills of sand that look like pictures of the Sahara Desert in Africa; later we learned that this Colorado Desert is the place where many films, requiring desert scenery, are taken by the Hollywood producers of the celluloid strips. Incidentally, we were stopped on the California side of the river and "inspected"; the inspector, looking for horticultural pests, really made us open every package and bag—more rigid inspection than I experienced a few years ago when travelling through 11 countries in Europe. But the inspector was good-natured, and that helped our dispositions.

"Unusual" California Weather

Now, Folks, please remember that neither Roy nor I had ever before been in California. We had read some literature put out by various California Boards of Commerce, and also listened over the years to many enthusiastic Californians as they extolled the rare climatic virtues of their State; however, we had been reading the newspapers and had learned that Los Angeles and vicinity were having many rains—and so, when approaching the City of the Angels we were not at all surprised to view low, heavy clouds overhead; also plenty of signs of rains as we drove into San Bernardino, 50 miles east of Los Angeles. Up to that point the sky from Yuma to Redlands, near San Bernardino, had been clear and the air warm.) Of course, Roy and I had had plenty of warmth and sunshine in Arizona and Old Mexico, so we didn't kick about the presence of J. Pluvius in the beautiful area that contains Los Angeles and its dozens of other communities. (While we should have enjoyed sunshine, we knew grumbling never has changed the appearance of the sky—and, besides, desperadoes and buffalo were a menace to traffic. Last Saturday afternoon, a conductor on a local freight jumped off his caboose and chased two boys who had shot a hole in the window of the car. His game was not obtained by police. The boys, one 10 and the other 11, were taken in tow by police and lectured; their BB guns were confiscated.)

(See THIS AND THAT, Page 4)

BURGLARY INSURANCE, Best Companies, Reasonable rates. 802 Burglaries 164 Robberies every 24 hours; over half of them Residential. Call or phone 321.
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National Bank Bldg.

Plans Revealed For Apartment House in City

Syndicate to Build $68,000 Structure On East Maple

Birmingham's first major housing development since the depression was approved by the City Commission Monday night when the Birmingham-Detroit Syndicate with headquarters at 70 Atkinson street, Detroit, was given a building permit for an 18-family apartment house at the northeast corner of Worth and East Maple, east of Merrow's gas station.

Cost, $68,000

The structure, to cost about $68,000 according to the architect, H. Augustus O'Dell, will be started as soon as final financial arrangements have been completed. The first hurdle was to secure clarification from the City Commission on a peculiar section of the zoning and building codes which requires residential buildings to be set back 25 feet from the street. Business buildings on the same lot need be set back only 17 feet, and several commissioners were puzzled about the reasonableness of the restriction.

Three of the commissioners believed more time for study was needed and they voted against granting the building permit. They were Mayor John E. Martz, W. Coit Allee and Ralph I. Coryell. Allee immediately offered a motion asking the manager to make a further study on amending the zoning ordinance and that was adopted unanimously.

Against Exceptions

"I am against making exceptions," Allee said. "If numerous exceptions are needed, that shows something is wrong with the ordinance."

O'Dell showed sketches of the proposed building. Plans call for three stories in height, all-masonry, with 100 feet facing Maple and 80 feet facing Worth street, in an L-shape.

There will be six apartments on each floor, or 18 in all, it was said. In the rear of the building will be a parking lot large enough for the cars of all owners.

A group of Birmingham and Detroit men are behind the project, it was said.

INTANGIBLES TAX AID

To answer questions about filing the new State intangibles tax, Raymond F. Reitter, district manager, will be at the Birmingham Municipal Building Saturday, and also Wednesday and Saturday, March 19 and 22.

BULLETIN

New Theatre's Opening Uncertain

Whether or not the new Bloomfield Theatre will open tonight appeared uncertain at 2:30 p. m. today when The Eccentric went to press.

E. J. Hudson, president of the United Detroit Theatres, revealed Wednesday that the corporation and Local 620 of the projection men's union, with headquarters in Pontiac, had differed over the salary to be paid the projection man and also as to the need of a maintenance man or "stage hand." A similar dispute delayed the opening of the new Royal theatre in Detroit, recently.

Russell Bonham, of Pontiac, an official of the union told The Eccentric early today, after a session lasting 2½ hours, that the matter is still unsettled and that negotiations with the company will be resumed today.

Mrs. J. R. Quinn Elected Head of Recreation Board

Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn, of 451 Park avenue, was elected president of the Birmingham Recreation Commission in the first meeting of the new year-around board held last Thursday at the Community House.

Mrs. George T. Hendrie was elected secretary; Luther Hancock, treasurer; and Mrs. William E. Essery was named publicity chairman.

Lloyd Chapman, student guidance counselor and history instructor at Baldwin High, was appointed director of the summer program for another year, and he has accepted the post.

Plans were made for sending invitations to all Birmingham organizations to help underwrite the summer program.

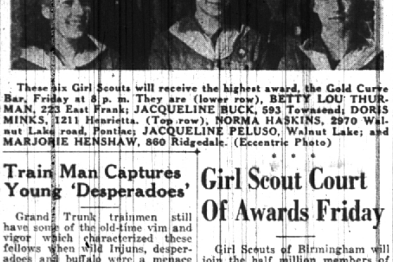
The Recreation Commission is composed of nine members appointed by seven Birmingham groups, as follows:

From the City Commission, City Manager Donald C. Egbert and Commissioner Luther Hancock; from the Board of Education, Treasurer John Harvey Rosso and Supt. Howard D. Crull; Community House, Director Julia K. Lally; Y. M. C. A., Secretary Robert D. Lynch; P.-T. A. Council, Mrs. William E. Essery; Community Council (at large), Mrs. George T. Hendrie and Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn.

MUSICALE TO GO ON AIR

The chorus of the Birmingham Musicale is to sing over station WKAR, East Lansing, Monday at 2 p. m. The station's frequency is 850 kilocycles. Grace Emery will play piano numbers.

Receive Highest Award



These six Girl Scouts will receive the highest award, the Gold Curve Bar, Friday at 8 p. m. They are (lower row), BETTY LOU THURMAN, 223 East Frank; JACQUELINE BUCK, 593 Townsend; DORIS MINKS, 1211 Hawthorne. (Top row), NORMA HASKINS, 2976 Walnut Lake road, Pontiac; JACQUELINE PELUSO, Walnut Lake; and MARJORIE HENSHAW, 860 Ridgedale. (Eccentric Photo)

Train Man Captures Young 'Desperadoes'

Grand Trunk trainmen still have some of the old-time vim and vigor which characterized these fellows when Wild Injuns, desperadoes and buffalo were a menace to traffic. Last Saturday afternoon, a conductor on a local freight jumped off his caboose and chased two boys who had shot a hole in the window of the car. His game was not obtained by police. The boys, one 10 and the other 11, were taken in tow by police and lectured; their BB guns were confiscated.

Proposes Water Tank At Wimbleton Drive

The local location for the city's contemplated water tank would be near Hunter boulevard, just south of Wimbleton, City Manager Donald C. Egbert declared this week. At that point, three major water mains intersect. No property has yet been acquired for the tank, which is needed to meet peak demands in summer, it was said.

Girl Scout Court Of Awards Friday

Girl Scouts of Birmingham will join the half million members of their organization throughout the nation in celebrating the 29th anniversary of Girl Scouting in this country. In thousands of communities from coast to coast and border to border, Girl Scouts are planning special parties or events for birthday week, March 12 to 18.

The F. J. Mulholland Co. will honor them with special window decorations, and Girl Scouts of Troop I will have a window display at Sanders dry-cleaning shop. Brownies of Troop 14 will use the windows of McBride Hardware for a display representing the youngest group of the Girl Scouts.

Court of Awards will be held Friday, at eight p. m. in the Baldwin High School Auditorium. Mrs. Niel McMath, head of the Detroit Girl Scouts, will be the guest

(See GIRL SCOUTS, Page 2)

3-Man Race Prospect for City Election

Candidates Have 'til Friday to File Nominating Petitions

At least a three-man race is a prospect for the Birmingham City Commission in the April 7 election. Wednesday, petitions for two incumbents and a third man were filed.

Petitions were given to City Clerk Irene Habley on behalf of Mayor John E. Martz; William Coit Allee, who was recently appointed to fill the vacancy made by Frank S. Packard's resignation, and a newcomer in Birmingham politics, Fred T. Reed, 941 Emmons. Two are to be elected.

In the library board election, the terms of Mrs. Lee A. White and Howard D. Crull expire, and petitions are being circulated on their behalf, it was learned this week.

Reed operates a barber shop at 1214 South Woodward avenue. He has lived here seven years, is married and the father of five children ranging in age from six to sixteen years of age. He is 41 years old, a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Baptist church, and has a war veteran.

"I had no idea of running but my friends say I should and they

Mr. Reed

circulated the petition," he declared.

Mayor Martz and Commissioner Allee are already known to Birmingham. Martz has served four terms and has been mayor since 1936. The mayor, elected by fellow commissioners, serves one year terms.

Others have until Saturday to file their petitions which must contain not less than 25 names nor more than 50.

The post of constable is also to be filled. Petitions are being circulated for the incumbent, Irwin Neff, Jr. No others have yet entered the race.

Bloomfield To Get Recreation Bldg.

A large recreation building to contain 16 bowling alleys and several squash courts is planned for Bloomfield Hills, it was revealed Tuesday night at the Bloomfield Hills City Commission meeting.

The Bloomfield Hills Development Co., formed of numerous Bloomfield men, including E. A. Clausen, Detroit building contractor who resides here, plans a building 150 feet long by 100 feet wide, situated on Woodward avenue just south of the Fox & Hounds. There will be plenty of room for landscaping and parking, and the style of architecture will conform to that already existing at Bloomfield center, Clausen revealed.

The building will provide for bowling, three or four squash courts, a large lobby and meeting rooms. More details will be available later, Clausen said.

Blames Immunization For Death of Dog; Asks City for $200

Blaming the city's new compulsory dog immunization ordinance, M. L. Ashbaugh, of 1175 Chapin street, has filed a claim of $200 for the death of his Great Dane dog.

A letter to that effect was received by the City Commission Monday night from Oliver H. Kirk, attorney for Ashbaugh.

"I understand that the dog was actually worth $500, but testimony will be introduced to clearly establish the value of $200," Kirk wrote.

The Commission made no comment.

Ribbon Cut at New Theatre Opening

The ribbon lies as ELAINE NEWHALL, 11 years old, snips it to officially open the new Bloomfield Theatre Tuesday night. Left to right are Mr. W. ROSE, theatre manager; ELBRIDGE G. NEWHALL, JR., owner; ELAINE, his daughter; MRS. FORBES S. HASCALL and MRS. THOMAS A. WALLE, of the ticket committee; and MRS. CHARLES J. SHAIN, general chairman. Flower girls are in the background. Mayor John E. Martz and E. J. Hudson, president of the United Detroit Theatres, stood to the right of Mrs. Shain and could not be included in the picture because of the close quarters. (Eccentric photo)

Socialites Crowd New Film House

More than $5,000 was realized for the Community House fund in the pre-opening performance of the new Bloomfield Theatre held Tuesday night. The regular public opening is scheduled for tonight.

Never in recent years has there been so impressive an assembly of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills socialites as that which thronged the new film house, filled every available seat. All proceeds went to the Community House, just as in 1927 when the Birmingham Theatre was opened.

Child Officiates

The opening ceremony was performed in the lobby, with Elaine Newhall, 11-year-old daughter of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge G. Newhall, Jr., snipping a white ribbon stretched across the room. Then the crowd surged in, members of the community's high school-age group sold gardenias and carnations.

At 8:30 p. m., William Rice, announcer for the United Detroit Theatres, started the program, introducing first Mayor John E. Martz. The mayor pointed out the parallel between the past year and that of 1927, when the Birmingham Theatre, its library and the original Community House were opened. In the past year, Birmingham has seen the opening of a new boulevard and the construction of a new theatre and post office. He introduced Mr. Newhall, Mr. W. Rose, the manager, and Mrs. Clifton E. Sears, president of the Community House Association.

Wheeler Amuses Crowd

A humorous part of the program was Bert Wheeler, famed comedian, and two routines from the Wheeler-Earl Carroll show now at the Michigan Theatre in Detroit.

(See SOCIALITES, Page 2)

Tax Collections Reach New High

Tax collections on March 1, when the City Treasurer closed his books and returned the delinquencies to the County Treasurer, were the best in years, it was revealed yesterday.

School taxes amounted to $256,428.73, or 83.36 per cent of the total. At the same time last year, the total collected was 74.73 per cent. The current school budget requires 85 per cent collection to break even, and further returns, coming in slowly, may bring the total to that figure.

City taxes, levied last summer, amounted to $28,962.71 or 86.18 per cent of the total. At this time last year, the total was 79.85 per cent. The City Commission recently took $20,000 from the general fund and used it to retire debt.

The higher percentage of collection is credited to two factors: better business conditions and the scavenger sale, which resulted from the rolls of several thousand delinquent parcels. The removal roll, the taxpayers several hundred thousand dollars in taxes due which might mean not ever have been collected. New owners of the land, it is hoped, will pay their taxes more promptly.

Beauty Rest Mattresses Repaired. Royal Mattress Co., Phone Birm 1-0756

'St. Patrick Salute' Next Monday Evening

"A Salute to St. Patrick" is the title of the entertainment which will be given at the Community House Monday evening at 8 o'clock, sponsored by the Men's Club of Holy Name Church.

Featured artist will be Dr. Rose Walsh, director of the Department of Drama at Marygrove College, an accomplished reader, assisted by Elaine Moriarity, harpist. Children from the school hall also be featured in Irish skits and there is a ventriloquist. Dancing will follow. The public is invited. The committee in charge is composed of Henry M. Foley, chairman; Frank J. McGinnis, assistant, Byron Colgrove, Joseph C. Beh, William W. Dean, Max Egel, Charles B. McCarthy and George Nelson.

Moody Now Heads Hospital Drive

Wilmer E. Moody, a Birmingham City Commissioner, has been named general chairman of the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Drive, to take the reins from Henry Scripps Booth who has been forced to go South for his health.

If Mr. Moody, one of the civic leaders in Birmingham and production executive for the General Motors Truck Corporation of Pontiac, outlined plans for the completion of the drive and soliciting the remainder of the prospects by drive solicitors.

"We are going to take the time necessary to complete this task, and the response to our appeal thus far indicates that the remainder of the people not yet seen will be proportionately generous in their gifts," announced Mr. Moody.

"We are not asking for a gift for a dinnerware set, but a permanent investment which will serve the entire county for many years to come. It is unfortunate that this critical situation demands immediate action at a time when we cannot wait any longer, but the necessity for meeting this need at once is imperative enough to cause us all to give it priority," he added.

"None of us ever knows in advance when we will need the services which we are creating, but one thing is certain there are many thousands in this community who will need it during the coming 12 months. We cannot be prepared with vital services of this nature. These things we must provide."

Lecture on Antiques To Help British

The Birmingham - Bloomfield Hills Unit of the British War Relief Society is sponsoring a lecture by J. Albert Bennett, English authority on antiques. The lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, will be given at 2:30 Friday afternoon at the Community House.

Tickets may be bought at the Community House, the Knitting Shop, or from the ticket committee: Mrs. Clark Pardee, chairman, Mrs. Lewis C. Egenauf, Mrs. Elmer Sylvester, Mrs. J. Nelson Stuart and Mrs. Sherman L. LaMeaux.

There is immediate need for clothing to be sent to Great Britain. From 8 o'clock Wilson's drug store is open every Monday to receive it.

Final Community House Lecture Set For Next Tuesday

Final lecture of the 1940-41 Community House series will be held next Tuesday evening with Louise Leonard Wright, of Chicago, the speaker.

Mrs. Wright, the wife of Quincy Wright, political science professor, is chairman of the de-

Mrs. Wright

partment of government and foreign policy of the National League of Women Voters, and her coming here has aroused activity by the local League unit. That group claimed a shortage of talk with other League members from surrounding cities intended to attend.

She is a fluent speaker and well-informed on her subject, with the challenge of the Americas. Those who wish to attend the lecture at 8:15 p. m. who do not have season ticket may make arrangements by calling the Community House, 1402. The charge will be 50 cents.

Mrs. Wright was an adviser of

(See LECTURE, Page 2)

Injunction Granted In Franklin Case

An injunction preventing Frederick R. Graf and Sam I. Slade from building a commercial structure on Franklin road has been granted by the Franklin Community Association, Southfield Township, by Circuit Judge Frank L. Doty. The building is said to be in violation of the township zoning ordinance.

Fire Victims Say No Help Wanted

Last week's paper, an appeal was made on behalf of an unofficial "good Samaritan" committee which was endeavoring to re-roof the home of an elderly couple whose home had been damaged by fire. The couple is of old-fashioned self-reliant stock, and The Eccentric was assured this week that no help is needed. "We will take care of ourselves," the woman declared.

Victor and Electrol Records. New rates weekly. Leonard Electric, 161 W. Maple.

Base Request on Air Field Defense Angle

Say Road Important As Direct Route To Selfridge Field

Federal aid for the widening of Maple avenue, particularly that section west of Southfield, is being sought, it was learned this week by The Eccentric. The request for the project is hinged on the military angle as a better highway leading from the west to Mount Clemens and Selfridge Field, U. S. air base.

West Maple, from Southfield west, is a narrow 18-foot pavement and was one of the first concrete roads built by the Oakland County Road Commission. The curve and dip at the bridge over the Rouge has been called particularly bad, according to City Manager Donald C. Egbert.

Egbert said Wednesday that he talked Tuesday with two representatives of the State Highway Department about the project. He said he was informed that the Federal government would pay 50 per cent of a secondary highway, which is the classification which has been given Maple avenue. Egbert told The Eccentric, it is also possible that the State Highway Department can be persuaded to take an interest in the need for an improved thoroughfare. It is not now a state trunkline highway although it is an important thoroughfare from a military standpoint.

It is the most direct route leading to Selfridge Field from the entire southern part of the state—Ann Arbor, Fort Custer and Chicago. There is one road, M-59, north of Pontiac, leading to Mount Clemens, but no more in a southerly direction until Maple is reached.

East Maple is wider than West Maple by about two feet and does not need the same attention, it was said.

Egbert said he was informed by State officials that first action in the matter must come from the County Road Commission. He wrote that Monday morning, asking that action be taken.

The City itself plans no expenditure on the project at the present time, it was said.

Legion Auxiliary To Register Friday

Registration of the American Legion Auxiliary's half million women for voluntary emergency service will be conducted Friday, Mrs. Wylie Pearsall, president of the Auxiliary Unit here, has announced.

Auxiliary women will fill out questionnaires similar to those answered by members of the American Legion on Feb. 22. The questionnaire forms are being sent out from National Headquarters to the 9,100 units throughout the country and when answered will provide the auxiliary with a complete listing of the capabilities of its members for service to their communities and the nation.

Four Types of Service

Four general types of service are listed: outside service, inside service, home service and special service.

Outside service includes such work as automobile driving, providing music and other entertainment, cooking and serving in canteens, and emergency social service activities in caring for the homeless and needy.

Inside service includes nursing, first aid, office work of all kinds, household service necessary in the care of victims of a disaster, and administrative activities in connection with such work.

Under home service are listed sewing, knitting and mending.

Special services provide a place for the work of junior auxiliary members, Girl Scouts and other youth groups in messenger and guide activities and traffic direction. Under this heading also are teaching service for the training of workers in women's war activities.

File Information

One copy of the questionnaire will be retained by the local unit and the other sent to state headquarters. A tabulation of the number of auxiliary members available for service in each of the different forms of work will be supplied to the local Red Cross chapter and to the city authorities, with whom the Auxiliary would cooperate closely in case of emergency. Registration and service will be purely voluntary on the part of auxiliary members.

$65 IN COINS TAKEN

Clifford Martin, 540 George street, reported to police Saturday evening that his house had been burglarized and $65 in coin money taken.