When the history of the New Deal is written, I think it will record much that is good for mankind. The evil portions of it will describe the efforts of impractical bureaucrats and radicals to seize too much power, to spend too much money—resulting in a dangerous drift toward totalitarianism.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

SIXTY-SEVENTH YEAR—NO. 4 — BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1944 — $2.00 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

At last high officials in this nation openly admit that each of us should get into a real, live hell game. They request us to eat more eggs. (When the history of this war is written, never will it be said, in truth, that American hens laid down on the job.) Now, Folks, isn't it grand that at least one species of organic life on earth can be organized not to go on strike!

—o—

Now that Wendell Willkie has decided to step down from his high pinnacle in U. S. politics, he is much more free to utter his convictions and have them better believed by people. For, you see, what he will say will not be tinged with desire for personal glory and progress. Personally, I have a reasonably good opinion of the gentleman; I think he was distinctly brave and high-minded about most things—his greatest mistake was in talking too much about everything, everywhere. But he still can be a potent factor in the U. S. A.

—o—

Governor Thomas E. Dewey's position is strengthened for the presidential nomination by the Republican Party this summer. There is no question in my mind about Dewey's desire to live in the White House. But the exigencies of practical politics require that he remain "neutral" by remaining silent. If he is "drafted" in Chicago in June, his position will be stronger than if he went about now seeking it. If he is elected President in November, he will be just one month younger than Teddy Roosevelt was when he succeeded Mr. Kinley in 1901. Certainly Dewey is young, perhaps too young to live in the White House, as years go. But he has had much public experience, possesses plenty of personal courage, stands for things American, and, if he knows how to take advice, could be a great President.

—o—

Since Willkie's withdrawal from the race no doubt F.D.R. and his inner circle are doing plenty of increased maneuvering and thinking about the next presidential election. In Dewey they will have a type of crusading mind that knows how to deal with people. New York's present Governor is no novice in the game of politics. He won public offices in the Empire State against the best competition going; his current record as Governor is not only an economical one, but also liberal in the enactment of legislation to aid the whole people. U. S. Voters, I believe, will see a lively presidential contest this summer and fall—"the old Champion" will need every strategy he knows to sweep back the increasing tide of public opinion that is floating Dewey toward the White House veranda.

—o—

With the arrival of spring, comes the usual housecleaning activities. Which reminded me, the other day, of the boyhood chores the boy youngsters acquired when Mom started out to rid the house of its annual collection of winter's dust and grime. Especially did I recall those days when carpets—not modern rugs—were used in most homes. Around the baseboard in each room were plenty of tacks to hold down the carpets; a youngster's job was to remove these tacks, save them, then take the carpets to the backyard, hang them on a line, and beat the dickens out of them. How the clouds would roll out on the first beating! How tiring the chore was! How insistent Mom was that one continue this beating process long after the youngster failed to see enough dust fall to warrant this "hard work." Youngsters of today will never know the thrill that yesterday's youth got when housecleaning time was ended! Oh, for the good, old days . . . when a feller could go swimmin' in some nearby pond, river, or canal; when such things as income taxes, third terms, gasoline rationing, and My Day were not yet upon the earth! If only in those days, however, polished floors, rugs, and vacuum cleaners had been the vogue—ah, youth in spring and summer might have been only skinnin' holes, horse-on-the-gallop, run-sheep-run, bike ridin', and goin' barefooted. Our children, Folks, will never, never know such thrills!

City Golf Course To Open On Saturday

If the weather continues favorable Springdale Park is to be opened on Saturday for its spring and summer program, according to Scott Hersey, city building and health inspector, who also serves as superintendent of the park.

The buildings and grounds and the golf course have been put in shape for the opening, Mr. Hersey reports, and play on the course should prove exciting. The greens have been given special attention by the department of public works crews.

Recently, the City Commission adopted a schedule of fees for use of the park club house and grounds and for play on the golf course, making a special feature of rates for Birmingham residents.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, PHONE B'HAM 1-0788. —adv

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

Teacher Situation Is Less Critical, Board Of Education Told

The teacher situation for the Birmingham public schools for the coming year is not expected to prove as serious as last, Dr. Dwight D. Ireland, superintendent of schools, reported to the Board of Education on Tuesday evening. Last year there were 31 vacancies to be filled, while this year it appears there will be only seven. Dr. Ireland reported there will be two vacancies at Baldwin, one at Barnum, one at Pierce and three at Quarton. There will be no changes at Adams school, he said.

The report was made in connection with the adoption of the salary schedule for the school year of 1944-45, which revealed that the teachers in the lower salary bracket will receive increases of from $25 to $100 this year. No other changes were made in the schedule.

Dr. Ireland reported that the cost of supply teachers is being kept under the budget estimate as made last year.

Name New Teachers

The Board accepted the report of the superintendent which disclosed that among the teachers not returning will be Florence Ackerly, retiring because of poor health; Georganna Tuck, who is returning to college; Mrs. Lauretta Wade, resigned because of ill health; and Joy Heath, leaving because of ill health. The appointment of Miss Alma Weston, for some time at St. Louis, Michigan, to be commercial teacher to replace Mrs. Evelyn Hall, was voted by the board, as was the appointment of Irene J. Malik, Lynn, Mass., to replace Mrs. Lauretta Wade, who will be unable to continue.

Dr. Ireland told the Board the teacher situation in Michigan and the nation is rapidly growing very serious with predictions of a really startling teacher shortage in 1945.

The Board commenced a study of the school's student unit operating costs, with a view of determining the tuition charge to be made next year. A report is expected to be ready for the May meeting of the Board.

Commencement Speaker

Dr. Ireland's choice of Dr. Harold Nicely, Rochester, N. Y., as speaker at the Commencement ceremonies was confirmed by the Board. Dr. Nicely is pastor of Brick Presbyterian church in Rochester and widely known as a public speaker. Commencement will be on June 8.

The Adams P. T. A. adult education program was reported as

(See SITUATION, Page 2)

Gasoline Ration System Shortly To Be Changed

New plans for the issuance of gasoline rationing books is now being worked out by the OPA and will be placed in operation within a few weeks, according to word just received by James S. Duncan, chairman of the Birmingham War Price and Rationing Board. The plan will change only that part of the work dealing with the actual issuance of the gasoline ration books.

Applications for gasoline and the processing of these applications will be handled as at present through the local offices. The only change being that a record of the application will be forwarded to the district office and the gasoline books mailed out from there.

For this territory the gasoline books will be issued through the Detroit Central Office, located at 600 Griswold street.

File Requests Early

The gasoline using public was warned by Mr. Duncan, that under this new arrangement for issuing gasoline coupons, it will be necessary for applications to be filed at the local office at least a week ahead of the time the gasoline is going to be needed, in order to eliminate delays and inconveniences.

Heretofore it has been possible, in cases of emergency, for car owners and operators of machines using gasoline, to appeal to the local board and secure almost immediate action on their request.

A letter to the local board states a central issuing office will be established in each district over the entire country, primarily to safeguard gasoline ration coupons, and relieve the board personnel and chairman of the tremendous responsibility for their safekeeping.

The plan, the letter explains, is not to relieve any ration board of its responsibilities in determining the amount of the rations that motor car drivers or users of non-highway gasoline will be granted.

The entire procedure of the gasoline rationing program remains the same up to the point of issuing the books. After each board has handled its gasoline applications the clerk of the board will list the

(See GASOLINE, Page 2)

Jack Burket Is Commissioned

Moody Field, Ga.—Aviation Cadet Jack F. Burket, of 347 West Brown, Birmingham, was recently graduated from the Army Air Forces Pilot School at Moody Field, Georgia, and commissioned a second lieutenant with the rating of army pilot.

The new flying officers will pilot all types of multi-engine aircraft; heavy, medium and light bombers; transport and cargo planes; and for those who continue as instructors with the Army Air Forces Training Command's vast network of technical and flying schools, training ships such as they have flown at Moody Field.

HE HAD NO LICENSE

Because he admitted having operated an automobile for a number of years without an operator's license, John Dioyenis, Pontiac, was fined $50 by Judge Forbes Hascall April 11. He was arrested here and his car held until his license was secured.

City Must Use Substitute Materials For Street Repairs and Improvements

In reply to questions asked by Commissioners Howard Estes and Wilmer E. Moody at Monday evening's meeting of the City Commission, City Manager H. H. Corson stated that the city had under study plans for using asphaltic emulsion in street paving and repairing work in Birmingham this season.

Unable to secure oils and other repair and paving materials such as have been used in former years, the city is having to substitute other materials for this work.

Commissioner Estes said residents of Madison and Lawndale streets had offered to aid in the purchase of oils needed for a new street covering. These streets have been oiled in other years and residents seek a reapplication of oil this spring.

Commissioner Moody reported people living on Chesterfield and Pleasant, who paid for maintenance in other years, would be glad to have the streets given another application of some kind of covering this year and that he believed they would again care for the cost.

Commissioner Milton F. Mallender reported dangerous holes appearing in some sections of Aspen street, and received the information the situation would be remedied as quickly as possible.

City Manager Corson told the Commission that investigation of asphaltic emulsion was under way and if found suitable a supply might be purchased.

The city manager also reported that there would be slightly less cash received from the state in gas and weight tax money. The loss is expected to be about 1.8 per cent.

Street Scene In Cerasuolo, Italy, After Bombing

Army Signal Corps Photo

Debris still smoulders in the street of Cerasuolo, Italy, after a flight of Nazi planes had bombed and strafed a few minutes before. Note soldiers inspecting the wreckage.

From U S Treasury

New Bloomfield Village Trustees Elected Monday

Election of four new trustees featured the third annual meeting of the Bloomfield Village Protective Association, Inc., held Monday evening in the Village school. Approximately a hundred residents of the Village attended the session.

New trustees elected for a three-year term were: Robert F. G. Copeland, Karl Crawford and William C. Howe.

Walter Kleinert was named to fill the unexpired two-year term of J. R. Mosby, now residing outside the Village limits.

Holdover trustees include Elmer Sylvester, Lee E. Joslyn, H. G. Corbett, R. K. Vinton and Wayne D. Bienkert.

Immediately after the meeting, the board held a regular session to elect officers for the coming year. Results were: President, H. Sylvester; vice-president, Mr. Corbett; treasurer, Mr. Vinton; and secretary, Mr. Joslyn.

Two honorary members, the first in the Association's history, were named unanimously by the members. They are Perry Vaughn, Bloomfield township supervisor, and Judson Bradway, developer of the Village. Both were present and gave short talks of interest to the residents.

Interesting reports included the

(See TRUSTEES, Page 2)

Robert S. Hopper Made Lieutenant

On Saturday of last week at Craig Field, Alabama, Robert S. Hopper, Birmingham young man, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps and received his silver wings. He will pilot an army fighter plane.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Hopper, 1311 East Lincoln, Lieut. Hopper has been in training in the air corps since February of 1943. He studied and trained at several fields and finished in the one engine advance training unit.

The youth graduated from Baldwin high school with the class of '42 and entered General Motors Institute at Flint, completing his first semester before entering service. He has written his parents that he hopes for at least a short leave so he may be home on a visit soon.

A brother, Edward Hopper, is receiving his army training in the air corps and has finished his preflight training course at Maxwell Field, Alabama.

Plan Joint Meeting Of Service Clubs

A joint meeting of the Exchange, Lions and Rotary clubs, with the Exchange group serving as host club, is announced for Tuesday noon, May 9, at the Birmingham Community House.

The speaker for the luncheon meeting is to be Prof. Floyd E. Armstrong, of the department of economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Several Dangerous Grass Fires Reported

Several grass fires have been reported during the past few days and yesterday afternoon there was a dangerous fire and brush fire in the northeast section of the city over beyond the Grand Trunk railroad tracks.

Fire Chief Vernon Griffith again pleaded with both residents and visitors here to be extremely careful of matches and cigarettes. It appeared, after observation, that many of the fires were the result of carelessness. Some appeared to have been set deliberately.

Chief of Police John P. Hackett said today that some of the recent fires had eaten their way dangerously near residences and other buildings within the city.

Birmingham Golf Is Reorganized And Has New Pro

The Birmingham Golf club has just completed reorganization, purchase of the property from the Birmingham Bond Holders, Inc., the naming of new officials and hiring of a new professional.

The newly formed group will be known as the Birmingham Country club. With Ray E. Forsyth as its president; Arlie N. Lesko, vice-president; O. C. Rakins, secretary; and Harold R. Connor, treasurer. Other directors are Arthur Higginbottom, James L. Hurley, Ralph O. Wire, Frank O'Connell, Emil Lefevre, Frank Biringer, W. Bates Russell and Eugene Bond.

Fred Lorenzo, with Plum Hollow for the past 10 years, is the new manager and Richard Martin, formerly with the Inverness club, is greenskeeper.

The new pro is Charles (Chick) Ruetan, of Yardley, Pa., a former assistant of Craig Wood, the national champion.

Eldon Auker, chairman of the entertainment committee, announces that the club house is already open. The formal opening is set for early May. The Victory dinner will be held Saturday night, April 22.

Salvage Committee Reports Show City Doing Lot of Work

The fine work of Birmingham residents in the various salvage campaigns, drew favorable comment from Domonic Caputo today. The general salvage chairman had just received word that the city's March collection of fats was 6,340 pounds.

Chairman Caputo said there apparently had been no let down in this campaign. He urged, however, that in view of the desperate needs of the nation in its war effort, this fine showing of fats collection be exceeded this month and in months to come.

The paper collection for the month of March was placed at about 75,800 according to corrected figures from the mills. The report of 23,000 from Holy Name school for last month was an error, he stated. The report should have contained no report on school activities on the paper collection as this had already been included in previous totals.

The tin collection has lagged noticeably the past month, the chairman stated. "The nation needs tin and I urge Birmingham residents to take the matter as seriously as they are the fats and paper collections. Let's give this item a big boost during April. We need a lot of tin."

Sgt. Gilbert Good Reported Missing In European Area

Staff Sgt. Gilbert C. Good, an engineer-gunner on a Flying Fortress of the American air corps in the European war zone, is reported missing in action in a telegram from the war department to the airman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Good, 795 Fairfax. The message, received Friday, gave no details but stated that a letter would follow, giving more information.

The young man had been in England for about three months and recent letters home told of several successful bombing missions by the plane crew over enemy territory and of his anticipation of many more such battles.

Sgt. Good had been in his country's service for about three years. He enlisted in 1941 and received his training as an engineer and gunner at a number of fields in this country and then was ordered overseas.

He attended Adams and Baldwin schools in Birmingham and the Detroit Country Day School.

At the family home for a visit is a brother, Lieut. Robert L. Good, who suffered injuries in a plane crash near Calgary, in Alberta, a few days ago. Lieut. Good was given convalescent leave and will be here for some time.

He May Be Safe

In another Birmingham home news came Saturday that brought a bit of cheer for the family and friends of another missing airman. In a letter received by Mr. and Mrs. Roy B. McCutcheon, Sr., 679 Lakeview, a friend of their son, Lieut. Roy B. McCutcheon, missing in action over Europe since March 25, states Lieut. McCutcheon was seen leaping from his stricken plane. He is believed to have descended by parachute to safety when his plane was shot down. Lieut. McCutcheon was a member of a Marauder squadron of the U. S. Army Air Force strafing enemy fortifications and war industry centers over the European area. He was a bombardier-navigator aboard a bombing plane.

Still another army officer from Birmingham is reported missing in action in the European area. Lieut. Milton F. Erickson is missing, according to word to his wife, who resides at 655 Cranbrook road.

Six Birmingham Young Men Meet On Far Away Island In South Pacific

It's a small, small world and six Birmingham boys now believe it.

Leaving Birmingham for war duty and each going his own way the six have finally gotten together in a far away South Pacific island. And, they write, it's not altogether one of those havens of rest and beauty one read so much about (before the war) and still dreams about even now.

Sheldon Olson, specific location a military secret, but serving his Uncle Samuel some place in the South Pacific, writes his mother, Mrs. Beatrice Olson, 370 Townsend, that six lads from the old home town are now able to get together at times.

Here's the list, and most Birmingham residents know the boys: Bob Moody, Raymond McBride, Edgar French, Erwin Delavan, Kenton Shaver and Sheldon "Olie" Olson.

All six boys often get together on week ends and have some fine times together. But Raymie and Olie share the same hut and the picture shows the two boys standing in front of their hut.

But in getting from one location to another they have no taxi, no airplane, no nothing, only their feet. But of course there are exceptions and on rare occasions the

Olie and Raymie

(See ISLAND, Page 2)

City Sets New High Percentage Record Of Taxes Collected

Tax collections this year in Birmingham have been the best in many years, according to a report to the City Commission on Monday night by Russel G. Berger, city treasurer.

The best bit of work was in the collection of the personal property tax, his report showed. In this department only one item of $19.71 remained for collection, Mr. Berger stated. The total of personal taxes assessed was $17,541.99 for the year and the percentage collected was 99.89.

Real estate taxes collected totaled 94.62 per cent of the total levy of $267,401.02. Leaving $14,636.53 delinquent.

On the list of county taxes collected the percentage was 91.71 per cent. On the school tax department the total levy was $260,877.18 and of this there was collected 92.71 per cent.

The Commission named the members to serve on the Birmingham Board of Review, selecting Frank Jewell and Glenn E. Wagoner, both of whom served on the Board last year. Their pay was fixed at $10 per day for the regular three-day session and for such additional days as may be necessary to complete the work of reviewing the city tax roll.

The Board of Review will be in session at the Community Building on May 2, 3, 4 and 5 and such additional days as may be found necessary.

Tax Exemptions

Attention was called to the provisions of law granting veterans' real estate property tax exemptions to war veterans. Applications for this exemption should be made to City Assessor Elmer Staack, it was stated.

At the same Commission meeting the report of the Zoning Commission, denying the request of Mrs. Stella Fisher to have her lot 24 in Ridgedale Park changed from a single residence to a two-family home was received. The Commission voted to concur in the findings of the Zoning body and denied the petition.

City Manager H. H. Corson reported progress had been secured for the construction of a sewer for the church property of Calvary Baptist church in the south part of the city and stated that the city had done its job and had been paid. He said the church would have the remaining part of the installation completed at once. This will provide adequate sewer service for the construction project and eliminate

(See RECORD, Page 2)

Funeral For Sgt. Springstead Held Monday Afternoon

Funeral services for Grant K. Springstead, who died last Thursday afternoon, were held from the Manley Bailey funeral home at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon. The Rev. Charles C. Becker pastor of the First Methodist church conducted the services and burial was in Acacia Park cemetery.

Mr. Springstead, a detective sergeant in the Birmingham police force, was stricken while working in the yard of his home 1402 Cedar street. Death is believed to have been due to a heart attack. His passing was a heavy shock to his family, his fellow workers and his hundreds of friends.

Born in Savannah, New York, he attended school there and on September 27, 1929, he married Hilda Rodgers from Savannah they moved to Clawson where for a year he was a member of the police force. On April 13, 1931, he joined the Birmingham police force and served continuously until his death.

Attended FBI School

In 1941 Mr. Springstead was sent to the National Police academy in Washington, D. C., for a special course given by the FBI. He finished the course with honors in June of that year and three months later he was promoted to the rank of detective sergeant in the local force.

Displaying much interest in community affairs, Sgt. Springstead aided in the organization of the Birmingham Rifle club, serving as its president; assisted with community recreational projects; was interested in and was vice president of the Barnum Parent-Teachers association. He was an active member of the Birmingham Lions club and a member of the Methodist church in Savannah, New York.

Surviving him besides the wife are a daughter, Jo Ann; his father, George D. Springstead, and a sister, Mrs. Winfield Livingston, both of Savannah, and a brother, Howard Springstead, of Detroit.

The funeral was largely attended and floral tributes from the many friends of Sgt. Springstead and family expressed the love and esteem in which he was held.

The entire Birmingham city police department attended the service and the bearers were members of the force.

The honorary bearers were re-

(See SERVICES, Page 2)

Community House Drive Is Opened

Reports last evening from Mrs. W. Chissis, secretary of the Community House fund campaign, indicates the campaign is off to a good start.

Mrs. Chissis reported that the volume of returns from letters recently mailed out was about 33 per cent greater than for a similar period for the last few years.

Checks being received are for substantial sums and the committee in charge visions a very successful drive.

Total sum sought is $16,000.

Ralph Main Has Resigned Position

Resignation of Ralph A. Main, assistant city engineer, was announced this week. Mr. Main, with the city for the past two years, will open his own offices in the Wabeek building, handling civil engineering, including municipal, structural and surveying. Post war planning is expected to draw a lot of his attention.

Named yesterday by City Manager H. H. Corson to the position was Stephen P. Collier, a former member of the city's engineering department. Mr. Collier resides at 80 West Square Lake road, Pontiac. Some years ago he handled engineering assignments in the local department and just lately has been on an engineering project at Willow Run for the Donald Miller Co.

Mr. Main is a registered engineer and land surveyor. He graduated at the University of Pittsburgh in 1926 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. He received the degree of civil engineer from the same institution in 1933, having specialized in municipal and sanitary engineering.

He has worked for several consulting engineers and cities, assisting in the design, construction and operation of sewage disposal plants, garbage incinerators, sewage and water main systems including much experience in all phases of municipal improvements both in Birmingham and other municipalities.

Mr. Main is past president of the Ellwood City (Pa.) Kiwanis Club, past secretary-treasurer and at present vice-president of the Birmingham Lions Club and a member of the Birmingham Golf Club. He is a former Birmingham district commissioner of the Boy Scouts, having received the coveted Acorn Award for organization work.

Birmingham Youth Made Flight Officer

Freeman Field, Ind., April 15.—Francis H. Burder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Burder, 612 W. Frank street, Birmingham, has appointed a flight officer and received his silver pilot's wings at graduation ceremonies held recently at Freeman Field, Seymour.

TWO PAY FINES

James McGregor and Walter Crooker were each assessed costs of $25 and placed on probation for one year by Judge Forbes Hascall in Birmingham city court recently, on charges of assault and battery. Crooker entered the complaint against McGregor and the latter's wife entered the complaint against Crooker.