

Birmingham News-Globe February 15, 1945

SIXTY-SEVENTH YEAR—NO. 47 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1945 \$2.00 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

Much Clothing Gathered Here To Aid Russia

and THAT

By G. R. A.

Looking Back Over 25 Years On Your Hometown Newspaper

Twenty-five years ago yesterday, February 14, 1945, when Birmingham was only a mere speck, populated by a few thousand people, the "Village" atmosphere still clinging to it, I took over The Eclectic; it had been established for 42 years; the property consisted of two small hand-fed job printing presses and a few pieces of equipment was housed in a rear half of what is now the first floor of the Telephone Exchange, on Pierce street. Total floor space was about 300 square feet.

Since that date, lots of paper has run through that place, thousands and thousands of stories, large and small, births and deaths, civic improvements, cultural activities, and the usual news that comes from a community that has increased to nearly five square miles and a population close to 13,000, have come with editions of this newspaper.

Today, with a loyal organization ranging between 75 and 80 people, with equipment that turns out the best in letter-press plain and color printing, your "Home-Town Newspaper" now occupies approximately 11,000 square feet of space.

Yes, lots of paper has run through our presses during these 25 years, 17 of which I've had the good fortune to have as a partner my youngest brother, Paul N. Averill.

"The Good Old Days"

As one looks back to one's early years in making adjustment to the new, the old days, the "good old days," can one be blamed for a sense of nostalgia—for "the good old days," when the printer, as publisher, editor, reporter, advertising manager, bookkeeper, and part-time doctor, and a host of other facts of a struggling weekly, I got to know a majority of the people in the city, and in the end, then, four, six or eight page edition of this newspaper, was far from a bad thing, and I'd gathered and written most of it.

In those days Woodward avenue was narrower than it is now; it had a few lines lined with half-century, or more, spreading elms and oaks, that almost covered the street; a 16-foot concrete pavement (broken in places) and a few horse-drawn carriages, and a few automobiles, and a few cars—the steps of which often deflated automobile fenders, and the mud that splashed on them were the accidents as an auto and interurban came together.

Many Local Changes

Most of Birmingham's streets then were dirt or gravel; where Cunningham's drug store now stands was the Hickory Street Library, whose first floor was used for village office; in it were the three-story building, the three-man police department, and old "June Bug," that gallant old chemical truck, which was entirely by volunteers. On the second floor, reached by narrow creaky stairs, were a few offices operated by loyal volunteer women.

Birmingham's business section at that time was located in the north side of East Maple now the east side of the city. The barber shop, was the village blacksmith shop. Across the street was the old Peck Hotel, a three-story block affair over whose front sidewalk stretched a wooden canopy, supported by slender pillars at the curb.

The Grand Truck passenger and freight station was located at the northwest corner of East Maple and what is now the southbound lane of Hunter River, the old wood frame building so familiar even yet in certain villages; it housed a police force of twelve, and a police court, and a court building, and was moved in the late 'twenties by the State of Michigan to its present location, preparatory to the building of the two-lane boulevard Woodward avenue.

Our school buildings were fewer, of course; then there was no Quaker school, or Pierce buildings; Barnum was smaller, and so were Adams and Baldwin.

"Horse and Buggy Days"

Horses and buggies were familiar sights in Birmingham then. Most of the adjacent area was used for farm production; while motor cars were becoming more and more the means of getting around, the horse and buggy was in comparison with today.

In those early days more people lived in rural areas than in the current urban centers. The ship and school district meetings were held in the homes of the people—and many a healthful day took place.

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Birmingham To Play In District Tourney

Birmingham's high school basketball team is being rounded up for the state championship tournament, which will be held in the state basketball tournament.

Dates for the district tournament, first of the affairs leading to the state championships, are listed for March 1, 2, and 3, at Fennelle. The drawings will be made late in February, probably at a meeting of tournament managers and school officials at Fennelle.

The regional tournament, also billed for Fennelle, is on the books for March 8, 9, and 10 with the drawings to be made following the various district events.

The winning regional tournament team will enter the state final, probably at Lansing, on March 15, 16 and 17.

Coach Cooper will attend the district tournament, which is to handle the interests of his district champions.

Birmingham took the district title in Class B last year but was bumped off in the regional by a powerful Flint team.

Former Head Of Local Schools Is Taken By Death

Mrs. Oliver Adams Green, (Rhodes) 60, a former superintendent of the Birmingham public schools, died yesterday at her home, 1212 Crooks Road, Royal Oak, Sunday.

She was born in Royal Oak township, Dec. 22, 1884. She attended the University of Michigan, where she received her bachelor's degree in 1910.

She was married to Mr. Adams Green, who was a member of the Birmingham board of education.

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Best Drug Store War Bond Window

Wilson's Drug Store, always active in War Loan Bond sale efforts, has secured another triumph by winning the drug store window contest. The window has been entered in the national contest.

The window, featuring War Bonds as Christmas gifts was designed by Ralph A. Wilson and installed by Tom Mills and Adam Stark of the pharmacy department of the store.

Arranged in patriotic colors the window showed a fireplace, with a background center of a large war bond. Christmas greens and reds were arranged along the base of the fireplace.

Although no word has come through as to the size of the quota Birmingham will be asked to accept for the next War Bond Drive, the next War Bond Drive, anticipated this coming spring, for several previous drives store contests were organized and it is anticipated there will be another of these events organized and ready for action when the spring War Loan campaign starts.

During the Fifth War Bond Drive, the quota of the store was negotiated the sale of \$50,000 in War Bonds to one customer of this month only boosted this group into the win column but added the store in bringing its total to a high figure.

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War Fund Goal of Red Cross To Be \$25,000

Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and the area surrounding will open their Red Cross War Fund campaign on Tuesday, Feb. 15, with a jump-off meeting at the Community House. The evening session is a special bid to offer to cover the Red Cross War Fund.

Headed up the drive are Charles S. Kinnison and I. W. Robertson, co-chairmen, who are arranging the meeting and the campaign.

They announced today that supplies for the Red Cross War Fund would be received this week by the various one captains with the expectation that a large number of donors would have received them and be ready for the work on the opening day.

Seek \$25,000

Last year the Birmingham Red Cross War Fund raised about \$25,000 and this year the workers hope to push this total well past the \$25,000 mark.

The Feb. 20 meeting will be in the nature of an inspection of the Red Cross War Fund, and will be held at the Community House.

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Twin Brothers Are Reported Wounded

Jack and Gene Terrell, twins and former employees of the Birmingham Eclectic, are both in American army hospitals overseas, suffering from gunshot wounds.

Jack A. Terrell was wounded in one hand and one hip on Dec. 30 while fighting in the upper French front and has been sent to a hospital in England.

Gene W. Terrell was wounded on the German front on January 23 and is in a hospital in France. For Gene it is the second time he has been put out of combat commission by an enemy bullet. He already wears one purple heart.

The two young men spent about a special bid to offer to cover the Red Cross War Fund.

News of their combat experiences was received here Tuesday by Birmingham and its sister city, Kalamazoo.

Regional Plan Laws Are Sought In Legislature

Measures to further city and regional planning are reported to be on their way in the state legislature.

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Commission To Take Lead In City Planning

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