

In my many years in the newspaper business I have had much opportunity to observe citizens, both in and out of office, and the average, I would say that most public officials are as responsive to the requirements of their jobs as citizens are to theirs, and just as honest—sometimes more so.

SIXTY-SEVENTH YEAR—NO. 41

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1945

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His and THAT

Is Awarded D.F.C.

Most people, if asked the question, "Do you believe that Socialism ever should become the dominant theme of government in the United States?" should no doubt reply vigorously "No." It is a dominant theme of government in the free enterprise system?

One evening recently, in discussing current problems with a group of local folks, the conversation touched on this subject. Now, I have no axe to grind, and still do, in this "free enterprise system." I expect to do so long as I live. However, did you know the assertion that "Socialism, which requires that the tools of production be in the hands of the whole people... through governmental ownership and control, is a desired human objective—though it may require untold generations of time to make it work."

I, having made that statement, was asked to explain just why I considered Socialism "a desired human objective." Well, to put it briefly, every normal human being has the acquisitive motive; he wants as much of his own goods as he can get, and legitimately through a comparatively few want it via means fair to all.

This want is a part, inseparable, of the term "selfishness." It may be admitted, therefore, that most of the things which are quantities of selfishness; we need it, in our present state of civilization, for our self preservation.

Now, I am convinced, the very best way to regulate the competitive method which lives within the free enterprise system is to have a "strong government," to be understood as more than privately operated agencies; for he who requires that the government be run, then and these human beings, in and out of government, be selfish—selfish for wealth, power, or both.

So long as human nature, the best way to regulate it so that material things be distributed as fairly as possible is to maintain the free enterprise system, with government and non-political activities necessary to the fundamental necessities of those who need such aid.

So long as Mother Earth holds forth, and in that of government, honestly, non-political activities necessary to the fundamental necessities of those who need such aid.

However, when he has progressed, mentally and spiritually, toward the state of consciousness that makes him capable of maintaining "Christian brotherhood" from them and to keep the virtues and values of Socialism—and make it work!

But until that happy Millennium, when we do not have to fight for the free enterprise system of fair competition, we must have the problem clear enough, folks?

Husband of Local Woman Missing

Mrs. Ida Louise Wilber, 887 Haynes street, received word from the navy department in Washington late Tuesday that her husband, Kenneth Grant Wilber, 8-2, was missing in action in the South Pacific.

Seaman Wilber entered naval service last May and went to sea last August, after his boat training at Great Lakes. He was employed at Lima, Ohio, when called to service. Mrs. Wilber and their 18-year-old daughter returned to Birmingham to make their home with her mother, Mrs. C. M. Harsh, 1215 1/2th Street.

Mrs. Wilber's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. Wilber, reside in Berkeley, Ala. She has five sisters and three brothers.

Chester A. Lesek Honored by Navy

Chester A. Lesek, boatwain's mate, second class, USNR, 830 Forest, Birmingham, has been given official commendation for "meritorious service" for his training of men and the preparing of the Navy for the invasion of Europe.

"The performance of his duties," the citation reads, "was above that normally his from among those of his rank and grade." Lesek's wife, Annabelle, lives at the Birmingham address.

Male Zoning Change Denied By Commission

Opposition Develops To Larger Business Area At This Time

The petition of Phil Vetari for a change in the zoning several lots in Pleasant Meadow subdivision on West Maple street was denied by a unanimous vote of the Birmingham City Commission at its meeting Tuesday evening.

The request for a change from residential listing to one of business had been asked so that Mr. Vetari could operate a business there. The request went to the Zoning Commission where it received considerable study and a favorable recommendation.

Tuesday evening W. P. Henderson, 438 Larchland, appeared before the city commission. Mr. Henderson had for inspection by the commission the grounds that there is already considerable vacant business property there; that the business building proposed by Mr. Vetari would be in conflict with plans Mr. Henderson has for developing adjacent business property.

Mr. Henderson had for inspection by the commission drawings of proposed buildings for his property in the adjoining Talsifer Estates.

On Planning Board, the appointment of Chas. S. Ruffin, city engineer, to the place on the City Planning Commission was confirmed by the commission.

Mr. Ruffin was named by the commission beginning Jan. 1, 1945 and takes the place of Allen McCrae, 1920 Division, who has been unable to continue because of ill health.

The contract for planning a garbage tank for the city sewage disposal plant was awarded to Shoecraft, Drury & McCann, Ann Arbor, who designed the city's disposal plant equipment. This is a post-war job, plans for which were approved by the Michigan Planning Commission.

The state will share in the cost of the plant. The improvement is estimated at around \$7,000.

Fire protection is to be continued to the B.W. Controller Corporation, 2200 East Maple; the commission voted to renew the contract with the corporation for another year.

Plan Tax Day, permission was voted to the Birmingham chapter of the Oakland County Chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to conduct a tag day in Birmingham, should such a plan be decided upon as a part of the annual fund raising campaign.

City Manager H. C. Corson will meet with representatives of the City Recreation Commission and a group of high school boys desiring a hockey rink for use this winter to endeavor to work out some plan for a temporary rink this season and a permanent rink for use, starting next season.

Urges Yule Trees Be Removed from Homes, the Birmingham Bureau of Fire Prevention Wednesday issued a special appeal to all residents of the city to remove Christmas trees and holiday decorations from their homes at once, as a fire prevention and safety measure.

With the holiday season over the area fire chief believes trees and decorations should give way to safety and should be carefully removed at once.

Sophomore Defense Strong, Seaman Wilber scored the first goal early in the game and then scored in the second period. The junior team had trouble getting their attack going and the skaters had difficulty breaking through the sophomore defenses.

Playing for the junior class were Wait Beers, Don Buell, Drew Wenzel, Bruce Robb, Bud Gasser and Jack O'Donnell. On the sophomore side were Alvin Ritter, James Ritter, Charles Houff, Bruce Smiley, Jack Zinsler, Bruce McCluskey, John and Merce Jones. Just where Red popped in from no one on his team seemed to know. He proved the best defenseman the outfit had, Weldon Macdonald was the referee.

The senior class management and trouble rounding up enough players to meet on these six ice rinks playing time: Charles Coley, James Jensen, Ship Crim, Weldon Macdonald, Carlton Bryant and Thomas Ritter. In the final game the senior players had trouble getting into the ice and were considerably behind midway of the second period. But the tide of battle swung their way when the sophomore skaters began to tire.

The seniors drove the puck at the net from all angles in the final period. John Jones, a visiting serviceman, was the referee.

Study Amid the Ruins of Faenza

Howard Estes Begins Term in Legislature

Howard R. Estes, member of the Birmingham City Commission and operator of the Indian Craft and Gift Shop on West Maple street in Lansing attending the opening session of the Michigan Legislature, as a member of Oakland county delegation in the house of representatives. He went to Lansing Tuesday and is expected to return here Friday for the week end.

Mr. Estes was elected in November in the newly created district of the county, which includes Birmingham and nearby area. His term of office began Jan. 1.

City Is Asked To Give Record of Salvage Paper, the first paper salvage pickup in the year 1945 is to be conducted in Birmingham on Friday of this week, and Don S. Caputo, general salvage chairman, today urged that the city start off the new year with a record breaking supply of this vital war material.

Chairman Caputo said, "We need tin and tons of paper. Chairman Caputo said, 'and while you are about it we ask that you also remember that waste fats, nitre glass, prepared tin cans, old clothing and metals of all kinds are very badly needed in our war effort. Save them and see that they get into the salvage line this year.' It looks as though we are going to need this salvage more than ever before if we are to win the war."

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The Christmas season was an exceptionally heavy one with the desks at yet cleared of all the accumulated letters and packages. The trucks were kept busy 2000 incorrectly addressed letters to be delivered to the sender.

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Plan Local Drive For Funds to Fight Infantile Paralysis

The Annual Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills effort for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is just now being planned by Birmingham National bank and Mrs. Herbert G. Wood, 144 Winton drive, co-chairman for the 1945 drive.

The campaign is to be conducted January 14 to 31, the dates for the national drive, and everyone in the two cities will be given an opportunity to contribute to the fund.

The work is to be organized, along with work in the remaining sections of the county, at a meeting of the national organization, to be held at Pontiac on January 8.

Supports Work Here, a part of the fund raised will go to support the campaign against infantile paralysis at the Oakland County Contagious hospital.

Recently two experienced nurses were added to the hospital staff to assist Dr. Ebel Calhoun in the care of the patients sent there during last summer's epidemic.

Miss Johanna Turley, who was serving on the staff of the Elizabeth Kenny Institute in Minneapolis and Miss Mary Farnham, whose Kenny method training was sponsored by the Oakland County Chapter of the national foundation, have been at the hospital.

They are Kenny technicians, having received their training at the University of Minnesota and the Kenny Institute.

In addition to employing these two specialists the Oakland County Chapter is employing hot pack assistants and in purchasing materials for packing, and washing machines and sterilizers.

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Pfc. Francis Allen Rescues Children In Morning Fire

Pfc. Francis Allen, 1214 1/2th Street, ran barefoot through the cold and snow to the home of a neighbor, borrowed a ladder, climbed through a second story window and rescued his two boys from the burning building early Wednesday morning.

Mr. Allen was awakened at about 4:30 a. m. when smoke and crackling of flames aroused his wife, Mrs. Helen Allen, from their second story apartment to safety, aroused Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Welch Jr., occupying the first floor apartment; phoned the fire department and then raced through the snow to the James R. Blueforn house at 940 Henrietta where he contemplated facing a ladder.

Crawled Through Window, the fire department arrived as the window of the apartment, and aided in rescuing the children, Catherine age 4 and James, age 2. Mr. Allen also rescued his purse and valuable papers, including War Savings Bonds.

The duplex house is owned by John Eason and formerly belonged to fire probably was caused from a small piece of coal which had been popped out of the fireplace during the night onto a rug in the Welch apartment. The fire burned up through the floor into the cold air and was carried to the second floor apartment.

Damage to the residence is placed at around \$1,500, caused mostly by flames and smoke. The fire department reported it used only a minimum amount of water. Damage to the furnishings of the two apartments is listed at about \$1,000 each.

Pfc. Allen was home on furlough from Selfridge Field and was to have returned to his post early Wednesday morning.

BACK TO ACTIVE DUTY

LT. and MR. JOHN J. BIRRELL has concluded their visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Birrell, 1522 Holladay, and have left for Miami, Florida, following a few weeks in the rest camp there. Lt. Birrell expects to be reassigned to active duty. He was stationed in England for his overseas duty with the Army Air Force as an officer on a B-17 bomber. He was honorably discharged in 1942 and returned to complete his required training in that area of war operations.

Birmingham Dollars Helping Give Armies Lot of Entertainment

This city and community only recently completed its Community War Chest Funds campaign, giving the service men and women in various groups sharing in the campaign.

All of those who gave know all of the ways in which many of them and perhaps only a few have been able to give. The money was used to help supply the needs of the service men and women at the front, home and abroad.

Some of Birmingham's gift funds are going at this time to help pay for the purchase of new uniforms, blankets, shoes, socks, hats, gloves, and other necessities for the service men and women at the front, home and abroad.

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Weather Not the Best

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Col. Claud W. Behn Missing In Action

Word has just been received that Col. Claud W. Behn, 264 Fairfax road, has been missing in action since December 16.

Colonel Behn was graduated from Howe Military School, Howe, Ind., and was a student at Howards University in Washington, D. C. He was a member of the band, choir and glee club. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Behn, 264 Fairfax road, Birmingham.

He was trained as a "nose gunner" and was assigned to the Army Air Force, General Behn was overseas the middle of last November.

Birmingham Man Made Lt. Colonel