

Perhaps the greatest single reason why America today is a nation of leavers is that too many people have never had to meet elemental struggle; living in cities, where comforts and conveniences are purchased, where gadgets have taken the place of individual effort, people have become superficial, un-sound.

SIXTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 5

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1946

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## Bits of Birmingham

One of Birmingham's building contractors declares that efforts of the federal government to build their night dinner to be held by the Palestine Lodge No. 357, in the Masonic Temple, Detroit, this evening at 8:30 o'clock. Gerald Browne, chairman of arrangements, announced. Several industrial leaders in Detroit will attend the dinner.

This Wanderer heard, a few days ago, about Birmingham citizen who had not voted in a local municipal election for 18 years; he broke his civic silence last month because a personal friend of his was running for a place on the City Commission. How many other local citizens, claiming that the American democratic system of self-government is "the best on earth, and worth fighting for to preserve," have failed to vote at local elections for many years?

About 300 Birmingham school district electors have received cards notifying them of the necessity to register before the June 10th school election, this Wanderer has learned from the Board of Education offices. These delinquent electors must either sign the card and return it to the Board of Education office or vote in the election on June 10. Otherwise they will be removed from the registration book and must register before they are again eligible.

"Birmingham residents are cognizant of the improvements in Birmingham schools and are very kind in expressing their appreciation of the things that have been done," Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools, told this Wanderer last week. "It's one of the fine traits of character of Birmingham parents—one of the things about Birmingham. They even are familiar with what the youngsters are reading in their textbooks. One of the very definite characteristics of these parents is their natural inquisitiveness about what we are doing and why we are doing it. I want to encourage more of it—even if we have to establish a new department here."

Two additional women have been added to the group which will take the school census the first part of next month. The Office of the Board of Education has revealed. In past years it has been done by the work of three, but one was needed to canvass the Franklin area—new to the district—and the other to help on the rest of the school district so the figures may be compiled on time. The group this year will be Mrs.

Charles Craig, Mrs. Clyde Coons, Mrs. John Wilson, Mrs. Fred Hopson and Mrs. Albert Grigg, the latter being the one who will contact Franklin residents.

The Lions Club held one of its lively "obituary" programs last Wednesday at the Community House. "There were real live obituaries, not dead ones," declared Club President Ralph A. Main. We just called on some of our members to tell us all about themselves and they did a real lively job. New members having a part in the program included Milton Freeman, Otto Corvatt, Tom Spencer, Jerry Horgan and Harry Dempsey.

"Bids are now being received for Birmingham's new fire truck at the fire station," said D. C. Eberst this week. Recently the city advertised for a new fire truck with the hope of getting a machine before next winter. Specifications of the new equipment mentioned in the bids are being studied by Manager Eberst, Fire Chief Vernon Griffith and others having to do with this city department.

"What you doin' Mister?" queried a youngster of about eight years of Fire Chief Vernon Griffith the other day when he noticed all the fire fighting machinery out of the fire station in the Municipal Building, and a group of the firemen busy cleaning up the inside of the big room. "Well, to tell the truth, we're cleaning house," answered the good natured fire chief, and in quick response the lad declared, "My dad has to help clean house, too. He helps Mom but he don't like it." The fire chief solicited the lad earnestly. "Don't tell our wives or we will have to do double duty when we get home."

The nice weather of last week allowed a lot of roofers to get quite a ways on their various jobs on new and remodeled buildings about Birmingham. One of the largest roofs on which crews were seen hurrying the covering job was that of the new E. W. Osborne building on South Woodward. The building is 100 feet square so the roofers had a lot of asphalt to spread. The side walls of this building were finished late last week. "We've got a lot of mud to throw," one workman told this Wanderer as he prepared the concrete for the floors.

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**New Revisions In School Election Law Are Explained**

Birmingham residents were reminded this week of the new eligibility rules for general school election voters in a statement from Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, Birmingham superintendent of schools. "Last September the State Legislature amended the school code making it possible for many times the previous number to vote in general school elections," Dr. Ireland said.

Previously, to vote in a general school election a voter, in addition to certain standard voting requirements, had to be a property owner or a parent or guardian of a child in school. However, that requirement has now been removed.

A general school election cannot vote on any proposal which involves the expenditure of money, Dr. Ireland pointed out. This right is reserved for "tax-paying electors" whose school property is within the school district.

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**THEIR WAR DUTY OVER**  
Lt. (j.g.) Samuel F. Veitram, of Bloomfield Hills, received his severance at the U. S. Naval Station at Great Lakes April 16, the Navy has announced. Jack McCannell, Jr., SFIC, 31005 Maple Ridge Drive, received his naval discharge the same day at the same station.

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**Well, He's Smiling**  
There seems to be quite a difference between the warm smile of Nikolai V. Novikov, shown at his desk in the Soviet Embassy in Washington, and the deadpan countenance of A. Gromyko, his predecessor as ambassador. Gromyko is now permanent Soviet UN representative.

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