

In spite of the troubles that sweep over this earth, I have always believed that there is no such thing as a free lunch. It is only by the sweat of our brows that we can bring down the curtain of darkness upon the harrowing days of a nation.

SIXTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 2

# and THAT

By G. R. A.

## Solution of Local School Secret Society Problem

A few weeks ago several meetings were held in Birmingham when several hundred local men and women, high school boys and girls, and interested citizens of the Board of Education to talk about secret societies and fraternities.

Such groups, in the public schools, are illegal, under Michigan law.

For many years they have been known in Birmingham (and other areas of Michigan), but nothing much was done here to bring them before the Board of Education.

The two meetings revealed much of the public reaction; most of the discussion was, however, in favor of allowing secret societies and fraternities to continue in Birmingham; one reason was that each meeting was dominated by those in favor, consisting of both adults and students, new members of these illegal organizations.

Finally, the Board of Education, unwilling to accept the view of the individual personal feelings of each member, adopted a resolution which would be a permanent problem. At the beginning of each semester each student and his parents or guardian will be asked to sign a card which asks: Are you familiar with the Michigan law governing secret societies? Are you a member of such a secret society? At the end of each semester, the latter question will be asked, with only the student replying on the card.

In cases where a student admits belonging to a secret society or fraternity, the Board of Education will withhold academic credits for that semester.

Thus, you see, an effort will be made to "police" the situation.

The Executive for many years, has referred to the illegal existence of secret societies and fraternities in Birmingham's public schools. We have pointed out that, if such a State law is wrong, or unworkable, it is impossible to expect the law to serve it, at the same time seek to have it taken from Michigan's statute books.

But while it is a law, it ought to gain the respect and observance of all groups that are supposed to be under the American procedure of self-government.

Two meetings referred to here, many facts of human nature were revealed. A challenge not only to those involved, but also to those outside the realm of secret societies who are impatiently supposed already to be on the road to self-liquidation.

Those speakers, a majority of whom were adults, frankly suggested that "even though the law cannot be ignored it is circumvented."

The attitude of some of the audience, for it is but a partial cross-section of the people who seem to want to observe "other" laws that approach the problem logically, made commendable suggestions.

The youngsters present, and they were more than three score in the audience, were forthright in their statements favoring secret groups; of course, one might expect them to be, in spite of their ignorance of basic laws and customs. After all, it is natural to "herd up" even illegally.

The youngsters haven't made the world in which they live, after all; they are supposed to be guided by their elders, and elders are supposed to be under the guidance of their elders, or suffer to stand on the books.

This secret society and fraternities problem in Birmingham will be solved best by the introduction of sufficient school plans and policies to keep youngsters interested in activities that arise under the supervision of the proper authorities.

## Red Cross Funds Campaign To Continue Another Two Weeks; Both Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Exceed Their Quotas

With Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and several townships reporting totals in excess of their respective quotas over the city according to Judge H. Russell Holland, general chairman of the campaign.

Birmingham with a quota of \$13,200 had reported a total of \$12,574 collected up to Tuesday of this week. Bloomfield Hills had a quota of \$10,200 and reported \$10,500 collected. Both cities still have many arduous still to be heard from and these totals are expected to be exceeded, the County Red Cross Chapter headquarters reported.

Red Cross Birmingham campaign chairman Charles S. Kinnison, chairman, and Mrs. W. C. Cole, co-chairman, in Bloomfield Hills, Chairman and H. West Gallego is co-chairman.

Need Much More Collected in the county has been collected in the county which means that \$90,854 must be raised within the next two weeks.

## Street Oil Bought For This Season's Improvement Effort

Residents of this city who have been asking "when do we get our share" of the street oil, will be pleased to learn that the city placed an order for 100,000 gallons of road oil for the 1946 season. The cost is to be about over six cents per gallon, and it is likely the oil will be delivered in installments.

Several groups of home owners who are interested in the program for street oiling, are being organized. Those groups which left their funds in the city treasury will be notified as to when the oiling will be done.

New groups will pay slightly more for the oil than last year, but it is an improvement over last year. The new price will be 1.2 cents per gallon, as against 1.1 cents last year.

Storage for at least a part of the season's supply of oil is provided at a large school building near the Grand Truck railroad.

## Building Permits Show Decided Up Trend For March

Building permits for March took a noticeable upward trend, according to Scott Hersey, building inspector. They total 59 with a value of \$4,474.

The 28 single family residences were valued at \$2,121. The list disclosed 28 new homes, six new business structures, one industrial building, four additions, one residence, one permit for an addition to a multiple family unit, and one for a garage.

Permits in January were 19, with a cash total of \$64,665, while in February they were 21, valued at \$182,535 on 17 permits. March saw the biggest boost with the 59 permits.

Range of costs on new homes is from a low of \$3,500 to a high of \$21,000. There are a number of homes in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range, and one at \$8,000 and one in the \$12,000 class.

## Tuesday's Wind Subsides Without Causing Much Damage In Birmingham; Some Blasts From 45 to 60 Miles Per Hour Reported

Tuesday afternoon's windstorm caused practically no damage to Birmingham, although reports from the police department and local offices of the public safety department.

Resulting from a lake region low pressure area, the winds resulted in blasts ranging from 45 to 60 miles per hour in the Birmingham area.

Detroit Edison line furnishing power to homes in the city. Oak-Kansas area was out of commission for about an hour Tuesday afternoon. The power was immediately sent to correct the difficulty. One was discovered; another was a loose connection at the Edison Company.

Agency Window Loaned. The window loaned as part of the plate glass window of the Cadillac Sales agency on North...

## Sidewalks On Woodward To Be Improved Plans and Estimates of Project Ordered By City Commission

Sidewalks through that portion of the Woodward avenue business district that have been cut and broken to allow the laying of new gas mains will be replaced entirely by the city, it was announced by City Manager D. C. Egbert.

The manager recommended to the City Commission at Monday night meeting that the study made of the proposed improvement, costs new sidewalk grades and that sketches of the job be made.

William L. Martin, Milton F. Mallender, elected to a three-year term, and William L. Martin, elected to the post formerly held by Ralph I. Corryell. These two led in the four-cornered contest for the two positions.

## New Building Ban Not Expected To Slow Commercial Structures Started Here

A survey of the industrial building situation in Birmingham disclosed that most of the new buildings already under way will be completed during the spring and early summer.

It is thought the roof may be put in place by the end of the week. This is the largest of the various new commercial buildings being built along the street, and on Woodward, Shaw and other streets.

## Local Dealers Have Coal On Hand For Two or More Weeks

Coal dealers in Birmingham seem of the notion that the present coal strike likely will not be continued much past two weeks and that the job will be enough to keep Birmingham furnaces in operation well past that length of time.

More Coal On Way J. M. Hardin of the Parks Coal Company said his yard had about a four weeks' supply of coal on hand and that he hoped the strike would not continue past that length of time.

## Interest Keen In Sigler's Campaign To Head GOP Slate

What promises to become one of the most colorful political campaigns in Michigan history was assured two weeks ago when Kim Sigler...

Chief reason for public response to the Sigler banner lies in his vigorous prosecution of cases involving bribery and graft between certain former members of Michigan Legislatures, and outside lobbyist and business interests prior to Sigler's recent dismissal as special prosecutor he had convinced...

## May Have Two Plants Here For Building of Prefabricated Homes

Work is being pushed on the new plant of the Michigan Steel Fabrication Company, located at 545 Eton road, near the Grand Canyon road.

The structure will be of steel, utilizing the Quonset hut type of building material. The company hopes to have its plant in operation within a short time, and will build prefabricated homes and other buildings.

## Vote By Precinct In Election

Below is given the vote by precinct in Monday's general city election. Below is given the vote by precinct in Monday's general city election. Below is given the vote by precinct in Monday's general city election.

## Motor Corps Gives Fund To Red Cross

In addition to a \$50 contribution by the current Red Cross committee of the Birmingham field unit of the American Red Cross Motor Corps, recently announced by the Oklahoma Council of Motor Corps Units, has donated \$200 to the camp and hospital committee of the Oklahoma Council of Motor Corps Units.

This latter fund will be used to purchase a wheel-chair, portable record player and other equipment for the wounded veterans confined to Percy Jones hospital in Belle Creek.

## Pick Birmingham Man To Sculpture Big War Memorial

A scale model of the War Memorial fountain to be erected on the Mall of the City of Cleveland is scheduled to leave Birmingham in the near future for display in that city.

Created and designed by Marshall M. Fredericks, 879 Baldwin building, this monument to the more than 100,000 heroic dead of World War II from Greater Cleveland was made possible by contributions in excess of \$100,000 by Clevelanders.

The memorial will be 50 feet high and 100 feet in length, made of bronze and granite, with carefully planned water spray and lighting.

Mr. Fredericks was raised in Cleveland and graduated from the Cleveland School of Art. He is now a member of the men from Cleveland who served with the armed forces during the war.

## Van Wagoner Gets Into Democratic Governor Contest

Interest in state Democratic circles the past week has centered in the announcement of Murray D. Van Wagoner of Mt. Pleasant road.

Mr. Van Wagoner is a former highway commissioner and is now a member of the Birmingham Board of Education.

## School Injunction Complaint Answer

A motion to dismiss the suit pending in Oakland County Circuit Court against the Bloomfield Hills School Board was granted by Judge Claude H. Stevens, attorney for the school board.

The case arose from a bill of complaint filed by the Bloomfield Hills District who are said to be interested in having part of their school district join the Bloomfield Hills school district.

## DAVCO BOAT IS WINNER

Local friends of Harlow N. Davock of this city were pleased to see the Davock boat, the 45-foot sloop, away, owned by Davock, had won the 44-foot cutter, Starlight, owned by James B. Brickwell, slipped into some fast going.

TRIED TO ENTER HOME. Mrs. Peter Henry, 852 Puritan, reports to police that the other evening upon returning home she discovered a man in her home. She expressed the belief that someone might have been attempting to burglarize the home.

## Mallender and Martin Nominated To Commission

In a very tight city election vote, Milton F. Mallender and William L. Martin were elected to a four-year contest for two positions on the Birmingham City Commission.

Mallender and Martin will replace Ralph I. Corryell, who was elected to his second term in office and Martin will replace Ralph I. Corryell in the battle for votes over the city.

## Lead In Only Contest In City Election To Take Office Monday

The old commission will conclude its term on Monday, April 22, and the new commission will take office on Monday, April 23.

Mayor Mallender and Martin will officially take office on Monday, April 23, at 10 o'clock.

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