The youngster in his teens looks upon middle age as something close to antiquity; yet men and women who reach and pass the half-century mark need not feel any older than their thoughts. As a matter-of-fact, I think that middle-age and older is a time for beginning to appreciate life's real goodness.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

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MANAGER PROPOSES AMENDMENT TO CITY CHARTER

An amendment to the charter of the City of Birmingham to permit the city government to "establish, operate, extend and maintain" a municipal parking lot or lots within city limits was recommended to the City Commission Monday night by Donald C. Egbert, city manager.

To be submitted to the voters of Birmingham for approval or rejection at a future election, the proposed charter amendment would permit the city to set up parking areas in the city, with the right to fix and collect a charge for service and use on a public utility basis.

The land for such parking areas would be acquired through "gift, purchase, condemnation or otherwise," according to the terminology of the proposed amendment as prepared by City Attorney Forbes S. Hascall.

Cities Home Rule Act

"Under the Michigan Home Rule Act, each city may in its charter provide for the establishment, maintenance, operation, etc., of facilities for the storage and parking of vehicles within its corporate limits," Egbert told commissioners.

"Therefore, since there has been quite a bit of recent discussion concerning the possibility of creating off-street parking areas, I believe this charter amendment should be made in order that the City of Birmingham may participate in any future parking plan should the need be established," he stated.

Hascall agreed with the view expressed by Egbert, adding, "There is some doubt in my mind as to whether the city would have any legal right to participate in any form of off-street parking program whatever the nature. It might be attempted under the 'general powers' clause of the charter concerning public improvements, but I think this might prove dangerous in the event court action resulted from such a step."

"The State law provides such power to establish municipal control of parking projects which Birmingham may obtain by adopting this amendment to its charter.

(See PARKING, Page 2)

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Claims American Workers No Longer Free

One day last week Edwin J. Warren, 831 Bennsville, Birmingham, walked into my office with a common complaint against the way labor leaders are operating these days.

Mr. Warren, 79 years of age, once worked for the Ford Motor Co., and he knows something about the problems of men in industry. At the present time he does his daily chores about town as a sort of handy man.

"The unions today are preaching the doctrine of less work for more pay," said Mr. Warren. "They have the laws made so that a man who thinks he is a free American cannot work unless he joins some union; I claim that this is unconstitutional, and a detriment to national security. Many workingmen, including those who belong to unions, feel as I do about the subject. The best answer to the problem of raising the standards of American life is found in a four-letter word spelled w-o-r-k! It takes work to produce the things that we all want; loafing on the job will never do it. High wages coupled with loafing on the job only results in higher costs for what we buy."

As a means of bringing about changes in the matter, Mr. Warren believes that American women should band together and try to influence their men-folks to override the unfair and stupid labor leaders who determine the union policies.

"In the long run, it is the women and their children who suffer most from strikes and layoffs," concluded Mr. Warren. "The women, then, should use their strength, both in the home and at the polls, to free the American workingmen and women from the shackles of reckless labor leaders and dumb politicians."

Preventing a New War

Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg recently stated that "we will not have won the last World War until we have also won the peace." He pins his hopes for enduring peace upon the perfection of an international organization known as the United Nations; this organization seeks to combine the nations of the earth against the ability of any single nation to prepare for and wage war.

Nobody but a fool would contend that such an effort on the part of the nations is useless to prevent another and greater war—the next time, if it ever happens, one in which atomic bombs will be dropped without notice . . . a war that may last only a few days, instead of a few years.

Through a world police force, plus economic sanctions, the United Nations expect to prevent another war; perhaps I should add that the greatest single factor in this preventative is the continuous meeting of representatives of all the interested nations in sessions that will endeavor to smooth out their normal current differences.

Whether you do or do not like some of the other countries in the United Nations setup, you must agree that the only way to prevent fighting is to keep the nations together where they may discuss their problems. Then a presentation of honest facts, argument and debate, leavened with the qualities of forthright honesty and decency, toleration and cooperation, will become the tools to cut away the basic causes of war.

Yes, Senator Vandenberg is right when he says that "winning the peace" is the only barrier to another war.

That's why, it has always seemed to me, intelligent people should support any world movement such as the United Nations; that is why, since the first World War, I always argued for the rightness of the idea of a League of Nations.

Our City School Board Girds Itself For Battle With Secret Societies

By Helen Bishop

While students of the Birmingham secondary schools prepare to hold pre-initiation parties for would-be members of their sororities and fraternities, the Board of Education prepares to hold fast to the Michigan state law which declares illegal any sorority, fraternity or secret organization which draws more than 50 per cent of its membership from secondary school students.

From what the Eccentric can learn, local sororities and fraternities seem intent on continuing their operations regardless of the law. In the event that the law can't be circumvented, rumor has it that some of the organizations have even gone so far as to retain attorneys to fight for their right to band in a fraternal manner, should this right be questioned.

Sorority Checking Legality

Although one of the groups was reported by a Detroit newspaper to have retained Walter A. Kleinert, 454 Yarmouth, as its attorney, Mr. Kleinert informed The Eccentric that he knew nothing about it, although he did mention getting a phone call from a sorority member, asking if a sorority was legal. He informed her that he knew nothing about it.

Regardless of what the sororities and fraternities are doing, however, the Birmingham Board of Education has decided to inform parents by letter concerning the illegality of certain sororities and fraternities, in order to forestall any pleas of ignorance concerning it.

When they register this September, students will be required to sign a declaration stating that they do not belong to any such organization and will not join one while enrolled in Birmingham schools. The signed declaration will become part of the student's registration and official school records.

Not Eligible for Credits

"Students who have not signed the pledge will be improperly registered at the school and will not be eligible to receive credits, at the end of the school year," Dr. Dwight R. Ireland, superintendent of schools, said.

The Board has also indicated that at the beginning of the school

(See BATTLE, Page 2)

Bloomfield Hills School District Ready for Opening

Plans for the opening of schools on Sept. 9 of the new reorganized Bloomfield District No. 2 have been completed, according to Carroll Munshaw, Bloomfield Hills superintendent.

The new district, which came into being by the action of the Oakland County Board of Education on July 8, comprises all of the former areas of the Bloomfield Hills, Linton, Tuscarora, and Wing Lake districts and parts of the Bloomfield Village and Leonard Districts, Munshaw pointed out.

The new Board of Education consists of Marc Patten, president; Perry Vaughan, secretary; John Blanchard, treasurer; Frank Arnold trustee, and Kenneth McGregor, trustee.

Operate Three Schools

The new district will operate three schools during the 1946-47 school year.

"The Wing Lake school will enroll beginners through grade five and the Tuscarora school will enroll beginners through grade six, except grade five. All other pupils will be enrolled at the Bloomfield Hills School on Vaughan Road," Mr. Munshaw announced.

The Board of Education has contracted with the Great Lakes Greyhound lines to furnish transportation for students living in the former Wing Lake, Linton, and Tuscarora Districts who are assigned to the Bloomfield School, he reported.

Parents Get Schedules

Buses will leave the Wing Lake school at 8:12 a. m. and the Tuscarora school at 8:30 a. m. Mr. Munshaw stated that schedules have been sent to the parents of all children who are expected to ride the buses.

Mrs. Geneva Forslund and Mrs. Long will continue to teach at the Wing Lake and Tuscarora buildings.

At the Bloomfield Hills School, R. J. Spiess, recently released from the Navy, will rejoin the staff as high school principal and athletic director. Mr. Spiess held this post before entering the Navy in 1943.

Janet Garety of Ferndale will teach grades four and five, and Evelyn Vershure of Detroit will direct girls' sports. Music will be taught by Bernice Arnold of Detroit and art by Charlotte Lamm, a graduate student at the Cranbrook Art Academy.

All other staff members are the same as last year, Mr. Munshaw revealed.

Teachers will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 3, and meetings will be continued through Friday, Sept. 6. Students will enroll on Monday, Sept. 9, at 9 a. m.

BULLETIN

Just at press time, City Manager Donald C. Egbert informed The Eccentric that the government project engineer would be in Birmingham sometime today, Aug. 29, to discuss the erection of the quonset huts. Egbert said the Detroit construction firm was ready to start work on the project immediately, if it could. Probable arrangements will be made today for the work to begin next Tuesday, Sept. 3, or as soon thereafter as possible, he indicated.

• The sinews of American labor are as powerful as the weightiest iron chains. Together, man and machine enviably produce a wide world of goods, praised around the world!

Here's the Latest About Oak Street: 'We Don'ts' Score Two More Points

Birmingham's game of "We Do and We Don't" continues this week with the City Commission still playing "it."

The "We Don't" side—representing those property owners on Oak Street who don't want to see it made into an access street for the "We Do's" in northwest Birmingham — Monday night had read into the official minutes of the city's proceedings two letters discouraging the proposed improvement.

One of the documents was a letter from C. J. Kelly, 632 Oak Street, who called attention to the proposal that "no parking" signs would be erected on Oak street in the event it was improved.

Calls Proposal 'Unfair'

"It would be very unfair to deny part of the residents of Oak street the privilege of parking for their guests and themselves," his letter stated.

He referred to the statement Commissioner John Martz made at the August 19 commission meeting, who said that this "no parking" proposal would destroy the character of Oak street and it thereby would have seen its best day.

"Oak street will never be an artery—it will always remain a vein," Mr. Kelly concluded.

The second entry read into the minutes came in the form of a petition signed by six Oak street residents. It requested that Raynale street be cut through from Lakeside to Hunter in lieu of the proposed widening and increasing of traffic on Oak street.

"We further petition the Commission that a study be made of this widening of Raynale street and that a report be made thereon," the petition concluded.

Although no definite date has been set for a hearing on Oak street, the Commissioners decided that Mr. Kelly's letter be read into the minutes and that he be invited to express his views when the proposed hearing takes place.

The petition was referred to the City Manager who, it is understood, is also considering Raynale street as a possible alternative to the widening of Oak street.

Arrest 2 Youths Who Reportedly Set Fire To Cars

Birmingham police early Sunday morning arrested two Pontiac youths who, police said, admitted that during the week end they had set fire to two stolen cars and intended firing a third.

One of the cars, owned by Walter W. Hayden, 815 Ridgedale, figured in the capture.

The two boys, James Crowell, 24, and James Goins, 21, have waived examination and are now confined to the Oakland County jail in Pontiac awaiting trial in circuit court, Police Chief John P. Hackett stated. A third man is being sought as an accomplice.

According to the story as told by police officers, Crowell and the unidentified man stole a car from Royal Oak, stripped it of tires, and set fire to it Friday night after abandoning it on E. 14-Mile road.

Fire Department Called

Then Saturday night, police said, the trio admitted stealing Hayden's car. Taking it to the gravel pit, the tires were removed and the car set afire. The Birmingham fire department was notified of the blaze but was not able to extinguish it before the car was totally ruined.

Noting that the tires had been removed and thus indicating the burning was deliberate, a police squad car remained in the vicinity after the fire was discovered.

A short while later officers apprehended a third stolen car in which were Crowell and Goins. The third party managed to escape in the darkness.

Oily Rags Cause Fire In Garage

Spontaneous combustion resulting from oil-soaked rags caused $10 to $15 damage to the garage of the Arnold L. Stamman home, 1020 Hazel, yesterday at 1:30 a. m., the Fire department reports.

Flames charred the side of the garage before firemen extinguished the blaze. A car parked in the garage was not damaged.

Oak-Chesterfield Now Permanent Stop

Stop signs at the intersection of Oak and Chesterfield avenues are to be permanent fixtures, City Commissioners decided Monday night.

For the past 30 days this four-way stop has been tried out to see if it can reduce much of the speeding over Oak street.

Grid Practice Starts Monday At Pierce

Coach Hal Helmer, of the Baldwin High School football forces, has announced that practice will start on Monday (Labor Day) morning at 9 o'clock.

The initial session will be devoted to limbering up and throwing and kicking drills, he stated. Beginning Tuesday, drills are scheduled at a twice-a-day pace. One session will be held from 9 a. m. to 11:00 a. m. daily and another will begin at 1 p. m. and continue until 3 p. m. This program will continue until school starts.

According to Helmer, nine lettermen are available from last season's squad, including: Leon Thurston, Ernie Anderson, Bud Worde and Jack Filkins, who were backfield men, and John Anderson, Roland Watson, Herb Terwilliager, Bruce Smiley and Joe Bowan, linemen, Bob Saffill, regular fullback from last season's squad, recovered a head injury last spring and has not yet announced whether he will be able to play football this year.

More to Make Bid

A group of players from last year's reserve team will be making a bid for berths on the varsity. They include: Jack Hardy, Dave Maylen, Drayton McClelland, John Bones, Pete Gregg, Bill Robertson, George Campbell and Bill Plant, linemen, and George Burdick, Darrell Kelley, Joe Bedard, Jack Goodwin, George Pope, Jack Zinser, Jack Pomeroy, Stan Boynton and Dick Adams, backs. Dick Murray, who was injured early in the season last year, is also ready to try again.

Another gang of gridders from Barnum Junior High will also answer the initial call. These include: Walt Bodle, Colin Campbell, Lee Hansen, Clayton Joyce, Duke Layland, Jerry Yates, Guy Tunnecliffe and Fred Terwilliager from last season's potent junior high team.

Pays $65 Fine

Paul E. Buchanan, 307 N. Perry, Pontiac, paid a $65 fine and had his driver's license revoked this week in Birmingham police court for reckless driving.

Commissioners Can't Supply Aid That 2 Vets Seek

Returning veterans want to establish themselves in business in Birmingham but are having difficulty in obtaining places in which to operate, the City Commission learned first hand Monday night.

Gustav Ernst, 1428 Holland, appeared before the Commission to request that he be given permission to erect a three-car garage on a lot his family owns directly across the street from their home.

He stated that he needed this building to house landscaping equipment to prevent it being stolen, since it is being left outside at present. He added that he would not be able to construct a business establishment at this time, but that he intends to as soon as conditions permit. In the meantime, he needs the garage.

Can't Give Permission

While heartily approving Ernst's desire to establish a successful business, commissioners explained that they were powerless to grant permission for this garage.

This would be contrary to law, they said, to permitting a business establishment in the heart of a residential section and thus be unfair to surrounding property owners.

A second veteran, Walter R. Forbes, then asked Commissioners for a temporary permit to operate a print shop at 119 East Frank Street.

He pointed out that his property on the northeast corner of Ann and Frank was only one lot removed from an area along Woodward zoned as "Business B."

Commissioners explained to Forbes that as long as his property was zoned for multiple dwelling, a permit could not be issued. They suggested that he present a formal petition for re-zoning of his property, the petition to be submitted to the city plan commission for study.

Commissioner Ray Palmer remarked that should the plan commission return a favorable report, the next logical step would be to re-zone the multiple dwelling property in the area north of Pann Island east of Ann into "Business B" territory.

Police Report 549 Meter Violations

Five hundred and forty-nine parking tickets have been issued by the Police Department since the installation of the little parking meters up and down the business section of Birmingham, with no let-up in the number issued if violations continue.

In a report to the City Commission Monday night, City Manager Donald C. Egbert said that while this is entirely too many tickets—even though half of them are warning tickets—it should in no way affect the enforcement of the regulations regarding parking areas.

Police Chief Hackett and Egbert feel that the installation of the parking meters has definitely improved the parking situation and that any failure to enforce the regulations would jeopardize the improvement.

Boy On Bicycle Injured By Car

James Dunlap, 13, of Howell, received a fractured leg when the bicycle he was riding was hit by a car Sunday evening near Adams and South Woodward.

W. H. Perkin, 20249 Yacama, Detroit, driver of the car, reported that the traffic was heavy and he did not see the boy until it was too late to avoid the accident. The bike was traveling without lights, he added.

Report Due Tuesday

City Manager Donald C. Egbert's recommendation concerning adjustment of Birmingham taxicab rates will be presented at next Tuesday's commission meeting, he indicated to commissioners last Monday night.

Cites Need to Allow Easier Tackling of Parking Problem

School Librarian Resigns; Unable To Find A Home

Another letter of resignation from a Birmingham teacher who cannot find living quarters for himself and family in the city has been received by the Board of Education, Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools, announced Tuesday.

"Walter K. Halsted, who was to be the new librarian at Baldwin High School, has stated that he cannot find suitable quarters for the coming school year and is therefore forced to resign from the school staff," Dr. Ireland stated.

Dr. Ireland also referred to a letter he recently received from another teacher who had found an apartment and indicated to the landlady that she would take it for the school year.

Ask Exorbitant Rents

"This teacher informs me that the landlady recently asked the teacher if she intended using the apartment and asked for a check to insure occupancy. Now the landlady has decided to rent it to someone else with practically no explanation to the teacher, who finds herself again on the search for suitable quarters."

One thing in particular Dr. Ireland has noticed in conversation with the teachers is that exorbitant prices are being asked for rooms.

"When a landlord wants $10 a week rent from a teacher for a room without meals, it hits the teacher's pocketbook awfully hard. They just aren't able to stand such a figure," he pointed out.

Dr. Ireland reiterated his appeal for permanent home owners to contact the Board of Education if they have any living quarters which they could possibly offer to teachers.

Most Stores Close

Practically all Birmingham business establishments will be closed Labor Day, next Monday, September 2, Clarence Vliet, secretary of the Retail Merchants Association advised Tuesday afternoon.

"In order that each store may advise their customers that they will be closed Labor Day, printed cards will be distributed and prominently displayed by those stores who will be closed Monday," Vliet said.

The cards are expected to be distributed Friday, to give ample notice to shoppers so that they may prepare for the long week end.

Board of Education Decides on School Bus Routes and Stops for '47 School Year

Bus routes and rates for the 1946-47 school year have been announced by the Birmingham Board of Education.

While routes and stops have changed but little over last year's schedule, the semester bus pass will cost $10 this year, compared to $5.50 in 1945-46. This raise was necessary, the board decided, in order to defray the additional costs of maintaining such a bus system this year.

It is advisable to clip and save this list for reference during the school year.

Those pupils living outside normal walking distance will be provided with free passes, while those youngsters within a prescribed area will be required to purchase the pass.

The Board anticipates that approximately 400 students will use the four buses which will make eight runs on the eight routes described below.

Passes Will Be Issued

All pupils who ride the bus lines will be issued passes by the principals of their schools. These passes must be retained as a means of identification when getting on the bus.

In addition to transportation for secondary schools, the buses will provide free transportation for elementary school pupils living in the Beverly Hills area south of 14 Mile who will attend Quarton and Adams elementary schools.

The prescribed walking distance

(See BUS ROUTES, Page 2)

City Clerk Seeks Nominations Six Weeks In Advance

A proposed amendment to the City Charter of Birmingham, which would require candidates for city office to file their petitions and to accept the nomination two weeks before the time specified in present charter requirements, was presented to the City Commission Monday night by Miss Irene Hanley, Birmingham City Clerk.

"This suggested amendment will merely give the printer, voting machine custodian and myself an extra two weeks in which to prepare ballots for April elections," Miss Hanley said.

Too Short A Time

"At the present time, candidates have until the third Saturday preceding the election to accept the nomination, having filed his petitions the week previous. This means that there are only two weeks to prepare copy, correct it, print the ballots and set the voting machines. It is also practically impossible to comply with the state law which requires that absentee voters ballots be available ten days prior to an election."

Since it requires the vote of five members of the Commission to approve a charter amendment, this proposal was set aside until possibly next week because of the absence of three commissioners.

Schools Still Figure On Sept. 9 Opening

Birmingham public schools are still scheduled to open on September 9 as announced last week, although school opening may be delayed if, in the opinion of health authorities, it would be the wise thing to do.

"Our action in this matter will follow that of the superintendents of schools of surrounding areas," Dr. John Springman, assistant superintendent of Birmingham schools stated Wednesday. "If further delay is necessary to safeguard our pupils, school opening will of course be postponed. But at present we are going ahead on the assumption that school will begin September 9."

There have been no new cases of polio reported in the cities of Birmingham or Royal Oak this week, but 15 new cases were reported in Wayne County.

Michigan Also Seems To Be Pretty Good Sunflower State

For the third time in four years, E. A. Saunders, 444 Berwyn avenue can look out his back door and see at the edge of his garden several tall sun flowers.

In fact, they are 14 feet tall, with a face which is 12 to 15 inches in diameter, Mr. Saunders says.

"There are about 25 of them in a 55-foot long row which form a screen to the west of my victory garden," he stated. "And all of them are over 10 feet."

Mr. Saunders stated that he originally planted this sun flower windbreak in 1943, then again in 1944, missed 1945, but is back again this year, with a sturdy growth.

"In the other two years," he said, "I have always obtained several 14-footers, with the rest at least 10-footers same as this year."

What do you use them for? he was asked.

"Why as a screen for my garden in the summer—and bird seed, of course, in the winter."

Back Pay Forms At Post Office

Application blank for veterans' claims for unused terminal leave pay have arrived at the Birmingham post office, postal authorities have announced.

A quantity of the forms are also available at the Municipal Building office of veterans' affairs, Blanche Breakey, veterans counselor has announced.

"The veterans counseling service stands ready to offer any assistance it can in helping veterans fill out the government forms," Miss Breakey added.

She said that veterans must bring with them their original discharge papers, plus certified copies of the papers if they have them. If three-quarters of the size of the original, photostatic copies will be certified at the office for those who do not already have them, provided the veteran brings the original discharge.

Any veteran having filled out his own application for terminal leave pay, may have it notarized without charge by any notary public in any of the three Birmingham banks, bank officials have announced.

IF selling your car, why not call your local Chrysler dealer, 479 So. Woodward. Phone 4621. adv. tf.

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