It is axiomatic that, though one may live in the midst of teeming population, one spends most of his time alone, with his own thoughts. How much more, then, one can get from life by seeking to keep his thoughts on levels that are optimistic, honest, sincere, with a liberal sprinkling of real idealism in them.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

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Birmingham Backs Sigler Nomination by 3 to 1 Vote

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Respect Of People For U. S. Supreme Court Is Declining

Every civilization the earth has ever produced has emphasized the need for mankind's respect for and dependence upon honest judicial procedure.

Above everything else that mankind can defend, the place of LAW, administered as fairly and objectively as possible, has been praised from earliest recollection, most people have been taught to respect and obey LAW and ORDER.

In the United States, for example, the U. S. Supreme Court has been held up as one of our highest and most respected of democratic institutions. Upon it have sat some of the great men of the nation's history, its decisions, for the most part, have been accepted by the nation as though they had come from the mouth of Deity.

Alas! how the past 14 years have changed that situation.

From the beginning of the late FDR's New Deal administration, it was obvious that the U. S. Supreme Court "needed a change."

"Nine old men," Roosevelt and his satellites called them.

Then came Roosevelt's open and avowed efforts to "pack" the Court with a majority of his own choosing.

But the majority of American people got behind a majority of Congress and refused to go along with Roosevelt. However, before his decease, the late President was able, because of the death or voluntary resignation of Supreme Court members, to appoint men who would do his bidding.

But Roosevelt is no longer is president; in his place sits Harry S. Truman, his ardent and devoted follower.

But let's get back to the Court.

Last week the nation read the blast that Justice Robert H. Jackson let loose against Justice Hugo L. Black; the latter was accused of taking part in a Court decision in which a former law partner was interested.

So Jackson, unable to agree with that type of practice, blasted his fellow-justice in feudal fashion unsurpassed in that Court's long history.

We thus see how far from its former high dignity the U. S. Supreme Court has slipped. It is a very harmful situation when this highest Court in the nation, one of the three basic branches of our federal government, loses the respect of the people, which it so rapidly is doing.

It is part of the times in which we are living, of course. It began, seriously, in 1934 when the New Deal, fanatically goaded on by an inner desire "to make over the nation," began its steady undermining of popular respect for law and order.

An outstanding member of Congress, Rep. Hatton Summers, said recently that "the United States has about a fifty-fifty chance of maintaining itself as a democracy."

What has caused this rapid change?

Generally speaking, the selfishness and indifference of the majority of our people.

We fought two World Wars to preserve individual freedom; while those wars took place outside our national boundaries, we were losing freedom within.

Do you like the picture, Folks?

English Boy Gets Taste of Banana, First In 7 Years

Johnny Cheney, 17, of Oxford, England, arrived in Birmingham last Thursday to make his home with Lt. Col. and Mrs. James H. Howell, 1046 Wimbledon.

And both his finding of a home in America and his trip over are interesting stories.

Johnny was met at the train in Detroit by Mrs. Howell and her son, Jimmie, home for a visit from Culver Military Academy, where he is a senior. Colonel Howard is in Wakeman General Hospital, Camp Atterbury, Ind., recovering from an operation and just could not make it to Detroit to greet Johnny when he arrived.

Met in Oxford

Col. Howell first met Johnny about two years ago in Oxford, England, and took a liking to the English lad who was trying to make his own way in a war-torn world. Johnny grasped at the chance of coming to the Colonel's home country. Johnny saw visions of a college education and maybe better things in life than seemed ahead of him in his native England.

With the aid of the American Red Cross, Johnny's trip was planned, dates set, and sailings arranged. He landed at Portland, Me., and from there came to Birmingham by train.

One of the first things that impressed the English lad was the food, especially the fresh fruits of all kinds. For seven years, he related to the Howells, he had not eaten bananas. Strawberries, too, were things seldom enjoyed by the lad while in England.

Johnny's first week in Birmingham has proven a most pleasant one, he says.

Bloomfield Village Votes Annexation; Walnut Lake Next?

By a vote of 89-21, electors of the Bloomfield Village school district voted to be annexed to the Birmingham school district, at a meeting held Monday night at the Bloomfield Village school on Lahser road. This election climaxed a move begun more than three months ago by a number of Bloomfield Village electors to become part of the Birmingham school district.

At its regular June meeting Tuesday night, the Birmingham Board of Education formally accepted the entire Bloomfield Village district into the Birmingham district, effective July 1, 1946.

At the same meeting, Birmingham Board members were confronted with another possible annexation when Howard Fremody, Burton F. Bingham and Alex F. Nyberg, members of the Walnut Lake School District, appeared before the Board to learn its reaction toward consolidation of the Walnut Lake school district with Birmingham.

No High School Facilities

Mr. Fremody, president of the Walnut Lake board, said, "It is a fact that we now face a situation where we have no facilities to which to send our high school students. There were about twenty of them in Baldwin last year. According to a resolution of the Birmingham Board passed some time ago, outlying school districts will not be able to send new high school students to the Birmingham system. Therefore, we would like an expression from the Birmingham Board concerning its reaction toward consolidation of our two districts."

Birmingham Board members asked Superintendent Dr. Dwight B. Ireland to express his viewpoint on the proposal.

"If Bloomfield Village is permitted to join with Birmingham, then I see no reason why the Walnut Lake District should not be allowed to take the same action," Dr. Ireland said.

Voters Must Decide

"According to State and county educational standards, the Walnut district is one which could very easily become a part of the Birmingham district from an administrative and operational standpoint. It would certainly square off our present western boundary, and it seems to me that if the electors in the Walnut district wish to annex to Birmingham, there is really no reason to discourage them."

The Birmingham Board then passed a resolution expressing its willingness to accept the entire Walnut Lake district into Birmingham provided the majority of electors in the Walnut district so expressed themselves in an election.

Rain Slows Up Registrations At Playground

Approximately 325 Enroll for Barnum Pool Activities

Playground registrations for Birmingham's summer recreation season got off to a slow start the first of the week because of the heavy rainstorms, Paul G. Carter, director of the program, said Wednesday morning.

"Registrations for Barnum pool activities were very heavy, in contrast," Mr. Carter stated.

"Approximately 325 young people and adults enrolled Monday and Tuesday for the pool. Monday's registration was the heaviest, with 145 boys and 100 girls entering the afternoon sessions, and 15 young people and adults for the evening programs."

Pool registrations on Tuesday, according to Mr. Carter, numbered about 65 more boys and girls, and approximately 10 adults.

Good Start for Pool

"We're off to a good start with the pool activities," he said.

Torrential rains the first two days of the week seriously hampered playground enrollments, explained Mr. Carter.

"However, 30 children have registered at Adams, 33 at Pierce and 16 at Torrey. We hope registrations will pick up during the remainder of the week so that the enrollment doubles, at least," he declared.

The sports program was seriously curtailed by the storms, but now it is expected to gather momentum rapidly.

60 Enroll for Music

A total of 60 persons enrolled in the instrumental music instruction classes compares very favorably with that in previous years, Mr. Carter pointed out. "We still need cornet players to balance the instrumental group which meets from 7 to 9 each Wednesday evening," he emphasized.

Two supervisory changes were announced by Carter. Jane Eastman has been shifted to Adams and Quarton playgrounds. Doris Minks, 1211 Henrietta, who worked with the recreational program last year, will supervise the playgrounds at Pierce and Barnum.

Begin Installation Of Parking Meters

Work of installing the Birmingham parking meters is under way in the business district of the city today. City workmen are setting the standards and when this task is finished will begin putting on the meters.

Chief of Police John P. Hackett said it was believed the task of installation would be completed some time late next week and that the meters would be in actual use before July 1.

Meters are to be installed in sections of Woodward and Maple avenues and Pierce street. Later on it is planned to expand the meter territory slightly.

After Seventh Win

Birmingham, playing under the colors of Oak Construction, hopes to make it number seven tonight at Royal Oak High School. With six straight wins tucked away, the local lads lead the Royal Oak Twilight Softball League by one and one-half games. The pitching assignment goes to Ray McBride, the League's leading hurler, holding a record of four victories against no losses. Game time is 6:30.

Victor and Bluebird Records. New records weekly. Leonard Electric, 163 W Maple. adv. tf

IF selling your car, why not call your local Chrysler dealer, 479 So. Woodward. Phone 4071. Adv. tf

We Bet Oak Street Residents Will Be Explaining This One

Birmingham—Michigan, that is—got into the national news again recently when the "Pathfinder," national news-magazine, heard about the condition of our Oak street.

In the May 8 issue, the magazine said under the heading, "No Change Wanted":

"Birmingham, Mich., residents (pop. 11,196) like their town the way it is. So do newcomers from Detroit, and Pontiac.

"When the Birmingham commission wanted to pave Oak St., citizens protested, said paving would change the city's small town character."

Woman Sits Thru Tornado, But She Didn't Realize It

An hour and a half after Mary Howell, waitress in the local Pure Food Restaurant, entered her River Rouge apartment at 320 Burke street, she walked into the hall toward a bathroom shared by two other occupants, and found that it had disappeared.

The tornado that struck River Rouge and nearby Canadian towns at 6 o'clock Monday evening had torn off three of the apartments in the building Miss Howell lives in; fortunately, no one was in them at the time.

"I got home before six o'clock and, with the help of my landlady, took down some clothes that were drying in the back yard," explained Miss Howell here yesterday. "Shortly after entering my apartment, I heard what sounded like a terrific clap of thunder nearby; but that had been going on for some time, so I didn't attach any other significance to it.

"While I was taking in the clothes, the sky became quite dark, and nearby I could see old papers and dust flying in the air, as so often observed in stormy weather. That tornado actually removed parts of our apartment house within 20 feet of me; I'd guess the noise lasted about two minutes, and all the time I thought it was just thunder.

"At 11:30 that evening, however, a man who lives in one of the apartments still left was killed when a bolt of lightning struck him. River Rouge, where I live, certainly was badly damaged by the tornado," she added.

According to reports from the river Rouge-Canadian border area, 12 people were killed, over 200 injured, and property loss ran into millions of dollars.

Tag Day Sept. 21

Birmingham's MOMS Club was given City Commission approval Monday night to stage their regular Tag Day either September 21 or 28, depending on the weather.

Worst Storm In Years Hits City Sunday

Returns for Another Attack Monday AM, Again In Evening

Sunday evening's electric storm is reported one of the most severe in recent history, although the actual damage caused was not heavy. Lightning is said to have struck a number of power line poles breaking wires in several parts of the city. The rain was heavy but not as severe as has been experienced previously. The storm circled away from the city during the late night but swung right back for a second visit Monday morning around 7 o'clock.

Sunday night's most serious trouble was with a power line wire, down just north of the intersection of Woodward and 14 Mile road. Wires were down on Chapin, Humphrey, Smith and West Maple and firemen and police were hurried to all danger sectors. At Woodward and 14-Mile police took charge of traffic and routed travel over Bird, Smith, Cummings and back to Woodward at 14-Mile.

The Detroit Edison company's emergency crew and the city fire department also stood by until the Edison equipment arrived at the scene. The wire sizzled and jerked in fascinating fashion bystanders reported.

Call Emergency Firemen

With so many calls the fire department finally ran out of manpower and the siren was sounded to call in the emergency crews. These men remained on duty until the trouble had passed. This was the first such emergency call in a long time.

The Monday morning storm had numerous people frightened as the lightning apparently hit in the city.

The L. W. Sheehan residence at 1231 Buckingham was struck by a bolt of lightning, which split the chimney lining and set fire to the roof. It is estimated the damage may be somewhere around $1,500. It was reported this was the third time this chimney has been struck by lightning.

Damage in Birmingham from the rain and wind was not as heavy as was reported from surrounding areas. Orion, Oxford and sections on east to Mt. Clemens are reported to have been visited by a heavy hail storm, tree-wrecking winds and heavy rain.

Returns Monday Night

Monday evening the storm—or another one—hit the city, with plenty of thunder, lightning and rain, but damage again was light. Electrical power lines were reported down on South Pierce

(See STORM, Page 2)

City To Eliminate Three of Six Public Drinking Fountains

Three of the City's six public drinking fountains are to be removed upon the recommendation of the City Manager, the City Commission agreed Monday evening.

Those that would be maintained would include the one on the south side of West Maple at Woodward, one on the east side of Woodward 150 feet north of Maple, and the one on West Maple at Baldwin.

"It is my recommendation that we purchase two, or possibly three, substantial fountains that can be kept in proper adjustment and that can be kept in sightly condition," Manager Donald C. Egbert told the Commission.

They would be located at the three points mentioned above.

New Plans For Vets' Housing Offered City

Realtors Ask Public, Veterans to Attend Meeting Monday

Birmingham's veterans' housing program will again come up for public discussion at next Monday's commission meeting when Commissioners, members of the Birmingham Real Estate Board, Birmingham veterans and the general public will discuss recently announced plans that Birmingham contractors can provide several hundred new homes for veterans to relieve the housing shortage.

Robert F. Watt, representing the Real Estate Board, appeared before City Commissioners Monday evening to suggest that the City, the veterans, the realtors, and other interested persons, meet together to see if these new plans couldn't result in the City's postponement of the quonset hut project in favor of the new construction program.

New Plan Presented

"We realtors believe that Birmingham should be made aware of the proposed construction program for veterans which has just recently been presented," Mr. Watt told the Commission. "It would seem to be a better method than the proposed huts.

"One builder has a program to construct 214 houses in Birmingham, part of them for rental purposes. We feel that if there is a better way to handle this housing situation without resorting to quonset huts, then the community should do it.

"I am here tonight to suggest

(See HOUSING, Page 2)

Bloomfield Hills Voters Approve Four Charter Amendments

Four major changes in the Bloomfield Hills City Charter were approved by Hills electors in Tuesday's voting, giving them a more workable document which will be more in line with similar city charters.

The first amendment approved by a vote of 162 for, to 15 against, permits the city to bring the amounts of money which can be expended for equipment and public works, without having to stand the expense of preparing specifications and advertising for bids, more in line with existing prices.

By a vote of 155 to 24, voters approved an amendment bringing the Bloomfield Hills charter into agreement with State statutes and other city charters.

The third change concerned general assessments and taxation, with the primary purpose of eliminating cards which, under the old charter, had to be mailed to property owners giving notice of the meeting of the Board of Review. This was approved by a 163 to 7 vote.

Special assessment changes were authorized when the fourth amendment, approved, 143 to 34. The city commission is now permitted to call hearings on proposed improvements without petition and also reduces from 75 percent to 60 per cent the number of property owners affected by an improvement who must sign a petition for such improvement.

Numerous Auto Crashes Reported During Past Week

Police report the past week one of the worst of early summer for traffic accidents. In four accidents passengers or drivers were injured and had to have medical attention.

Monday morning at about 8:30 o'clock a police car collided with a cab of the Star Cab company, at the corner of Lincoln and Pleasant street and Lt. DeLyle Service of the police department received severe head injuries. He was treated at St. Joseph Mercy hospital and Tuesday was returned to his home. Driving the car was Patrolman Robert Emmet while driving the cab was August J. Arens, 1356 Bennaville.

Last Friday, Norman R. Schroff, 22, of 607 South Pleasant street, Royal Oak, crashed into a tree on the island on Adams street and Woodward avenue. The car was wrecked and Schroff was taken to Pontiac General Hospital with chest, knee and face injuries.

Two Accidents Thursday

Last Thursday two persons were injured when a car driven by Dorothy Wright, Ferndale, collided with a cab of the Birmingham Cab Company, at Bates and Martin streets. Mrs. Clare Baird, 691 Wallace avenue, and Mrs. Donald Chaffee, 312 Pleasant street, suffered hurts and were treated at St. Joseph Mercy hospital.

Last Thursday afternoon a cab driven by August J. Arens, of the Star Cab company, and a car driven by Grace N. Rainey, 288 Oakland avenue, crashed at Merrill and Pierce streets and the cab was overturned. Mrs. Paul Squires, 1787 Henrietta, and her daughter, Betty, age 7 years, passengers in the cab, were treated for bruises, scratches and shock. The cab driver sustained minor lacerations and braises.

New Real Estate Firm Is Offering Homes To Veterans

Ranch Homes, Inc., is the name of a firm entering the home building business in or near Birmingham. This firm, with property located near the intersection of 13-Mile road and Pierce street, reports plans perfected for erecting 116 homes, all of them for sale to returned servicemen.

The property being developed comprises about 40 acres with gravel drives and ranch type homes. Wide, deep lots are said to be provided for.

Van Wagoner Wins State Democratic Nomination Easily

Kim Sigler, fighting former special prosecutor of the State Graft Grand Jury, won the Republican nomination for Governor of Michigan at the primary election Tuesday.

Sigler received 1,055 votes in Birmingham's six precincts, against 138 for Vernon J. Brown, Lieut.-Governor; Raymond J. Kelly, 45; and Edward J. Jeffries, 165. Total votes for Sigler were 11 more than the total of his three Republican opponents.

Murray D. Van Wagoner, Birmingham resident and former Democratic Governor of Michigan, obtained 99 Birmingham votes, while his Detroit opponent, William J. Cody, got only five votes here.

Light Vote Here

Although Tuesday's local voting was comparatively light, due largely to a steady downfall of rain most of the day, Sigler's victory here proved that Birmingham is behind his efforts to give Michigan "honest and clean government." Sigler, who attained national prominence while he was working with the State Graft Grand Jury, upset the powerful current State political machine, which was behind the candidacy of Lieut.-Gov. Brown.

The vote in Oakland county for the Republican ticket gave Sigler 10,298; Brown, 3,526; Jeffries, 2,967; and Kelly, 2,241. Van Wagoner received 3,185 County votes, and Cody got 751.

Nearby Bloomfield Hills also cast most of its votes for Sigler, with 135; Brown received 40; Jeffries 36; and Kelly 16. The Hills gave Van Wagoner three votes, with none for Cody.

Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, unopposed for the Republican nomination, received 1179 votes in Birmingham; James H. Lee, Democrat, got 49 votes here. George A. Dondero, up for re-election as Representative in Congress, was unopposed and got 1132 votes here; his Democratic opponents were John W. L. Hicks, 50, and George C. Cornell, 33 votes.

Republicans Win County

Republicans who won various offices in Oakland County's government, include Clyde D. Underwood, Prosecutor; Clare L. Hubbell, sheriff; Lynn D. Allen, clerk; Charles A. Sparks, treasurer; Orrin McQuaid, Register of Deeds; Earl E. Clark, circuit commissioner; Richard J. Betzing, county surveyor.

Howard R. Estes, of Birmingham, was unopposed for renomination as his district's State Representative, and received 1,110 votes Tuesday.

Sigler's victory at the primary reveals, in the opinion of observers of the State political picture, that a majority of Michigan voters are in favor of backing the

(See SIGLER, Page 2)

ELECTION RESULTS

Election results by precincts in Birmingham are presented in a table on Page 2. County totals in the various contests are also presented.

Digging In Files, City Comes Up With—A Precedent

Property owners on the east side of Maryland boulevard didn't have water, though on the west side did, yet didn't want to help pay for putting in a new water main under the street which would service both sides—this was the crux of an hour and a half discussion Monday night between the City Commission and Maryland property owners.

"We have an easement water main at the rear of our property which is more than adequate for our water supply, so why should we have to foot the bill for additional facilities?" was the principal argument presented by the Maryland west-siders.

"We can't develop our property till we get a water main" came from the Maryland east-siders.

"If we put down an improved street now, we'd only have to tear it up to put in a water main and sewer when the present facilities couldn't handle it" was the City's point of view.

Finally, after everybody agreeing that everybody had some argument in favor of his proposal, City Manager Donald C. Egbert discovered a precedent established in the "Villa Road Case" back in January, 1941.

The same arguments were pre-

(See FILES, Page 2)

INSURE NOW
SECURITY—The Rabin's Watchword
TUGGEY'S, 411 E. Maple Avenue.
—Adv. tf

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. PHONE B'HAM 1-0788.
—Adv. tf.

Quarton Lake Looked Like This Last Friday—But the Storm Filled It Up Again

Photo by Howard F. Estes

By last weekend, Quarton Lake had all but been drained of all water with the prospect that the City of Birmingham could begin figuring on dragging some of the lake bottom to the banks. But those plans were washed away Sunday when one of the worst electrical and rain storms in years brought Quarton Lake back to normal water level and slightly above it.

For more than a week the Department of Public Works had left the gates of the dam open and had drained all but a small portion of the deeper southern end of the lake. But beginning late Sunday afternoon, water began pouring in from the Rouge River at the north end of the lake. Tuesday afternoon the swollen Rouge was steadily dumping thousands of gallons of water into the lake. Water was rushing over the top of the dam with a continuous roar.

It is expected that the storm set back cleaning operation scheduled for the lake a couple of weeks anyway. It will not be until the Rouge subsides that the lake level can be lowered and the draining attempted a second time.

Lake Depth Is Measured

According to Harold Corson, city engineer, the depth of the lake when the dragging project is completed should be about five or six feet.

"Last February I measured the depth of the lake through the ice," Mr. Corson said. "It ranged from a maximum depth of 16-18 feet at the south end to 8 or 10 inches at the extreme north end. The layer of muck covering the bottom averaged between 2½ and 3 feet in depth."

This figures to about 74,000 cubic yards of muck, Mr. Corson explained.

"It will depend on how dry the muck has become and how firm the real lake bottom is when the City begins dragging operations that will determine how much muck can be removed. If the crane with the drag bucket can uncover a firm bottom on which to proceed toward the center of the lake, we will be able to take out more of the muck. However, if we can't do this, we will have to take out as much as we can by working along the bank."

Lack of Oxygen Kills Fish

The DPW had hoped to save a few fish by gradually lowering the water level and leave some water at the south end. Lack of oxygen in what water that remained, however, resulted in practically all of the fish being killed. Dozens of carp, many of them weighing upwards of 30 pounds, floated along the shore and in the river below the dam. Perch, bass, and pike were other species of fish that did not survive. Friday morning men from the DPW buried about 400 to 500 pounds of dead fish along the east bank near the dam.

"It is very doubtful that we can make an ideal condition here," Mr. Corson explained. "The ideal method of deepening the entire lake is by dredging and pumping the muck out. But we will do our best to rid the lake of the growth that has been on it for years.