Every Birmingham Voter Urged to Cast Ballot in City Election

It is human to be acquisitive, to want more material things of life. That is understandable. But when such acquisitiveness is dominated by the spirit of ingratitude, problems arise. One of life's most tragic situations is to come face to face with ingratitude from one you have tried to help.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

SIXTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 1 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1946 | $2.00 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Do You Really Believe This, Henry?

What is left of the New Deal's original symbol of Santa Claus in the President's cabinet again revealed himself last week. He is none other than Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Commerce.

In a speech before a woman's club, Henry got a lot off his chest.

Henry, a straight party man, ("right or wrong, our party!") is mad at all members of Congress who fail to vote for the Administration's main program.

Henry believes in lending billions of dollars to lots of other countries; Henry believes that Congress should have supported the FEPC—that is, all Democrats should have, which they didn't; Henry wants the U.S.A. to share the atomic bomb secrets with Russia.

Yep, Henry, big-hearted with the nation's money and liberties, is Washington's most famous living official still wearing the robes of that Santa Claus so ably tailored by the late FDR.

In his speech to the ladies last week, Henry got right up and declared that any congressman, in either House or Senate, who failed to approve a major Administration program "should be read right out of the party."

For example, if you, as a Democratic Senator from New Mexico, in considering a certain issue, had deep personal convictions against it, even though it came from the White House today, you should be exiled from all future participation as a Democratic candidate in elections.

Yes Sir! just like that!

In other words, Henry argues that a member of Congress should become a mere rubber stamp for all legislation coming from the executive branch of the federal government.

How, tell me, can any man or woman who says he believes in democratic self-government, talk like that?

Don't we elect members of Congress to make legislation as they see fit?

Don't we elect a President, who appoints his helpers, to be the executive branch of the government, to carry out Congress' laws?

Yet Henry, in his funny notion of democracy, wants Congress to abdicate and become mere rubber stamps for the whims and caprices of the executive branch.

Plainly speaking, it seems to me that Henry's argument is the kind used in Russia, and once used in Germany and Italy. Those countries believed, and Russia still believes, in tyrannical dictatorships.

Henry will bear careful watching for a long time to come.

He is a political opportunist, a fair-haired pleaser for voters; his speech to the women doesn't suggest that he has a high opinion of the average American citizen's faith in self-government.

Watching Henry for some years, I've come to the conclusion that Henry believes in the value of a benevolent tyrant to govern people. But, as history repeatedly has proved, under any description, a tyrant is a tyrant, and, eventually, has been overthrown by the people he tried to shackle.

Henry ought to stick to his official job and cease his mumbo-jumbo.

Lt. Col. Payette Of Atomic Bomb Crew Tells Of Big Trip

Lt. Col. Hazen Payette, U. S. Army Air Corps, and a member of a crew of the fleet of planes which dropped the atomic bombs on Japan, was the speaker for the Birmingham High Twelve Club at the Monday evening dinner meeting in the Community House.

Col. Payette explained how the crew of his plane was brought back from the European war area and given months of special training over the southwest United States and the Caribbean Sea. He said the crew realized they faced a special mission but did not know what it was to be. Further training was in the Pacific area.

Briefing for the big bomb trip required 52 hours, Col. Payette told the club members. Each crew of the fleet of planes was carefully instructed as to its work of bombing, scientific study and photography.

"It was on August 5" he stated, "when we flew to our target, which was Hiroshima. Weather conditions were perfect and we accomplished our mission. Photographic records indicated a devastated area of about four square miles. The intense brightness of the bomb was followed by a black fog-like condition mushroomlike to a white cloud which arose about 45,000 feet in a few seconds.

Parking Troubles at Maple? Vote for MARTIN as Commissioner. (Pol. Adv.)

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

Dates For Summer "Y" Camp Are Set For Coming Season

Period dates for the Oakland County YMCA camp on Loon Lake near Hale, were announced today by S. N. Geal, camp director. There will be four two-week periods, with a capacity of 100 boys in each period. The dates are June 19-July 3, July 17-31, July 17-31, and July 31-August 14.

Geal also announced that Homer "Gus" Roberts would return this season as program director.

Registrations already are coming in, Geal reported. He is busy rounding out the camp staff and making other arrangements for waterfront, nature, handicraft and horseback riding activities.

Boys interested are invited to see Mr. Roberts or Miles Robinson of Birmingham or Mr. Geal at the Pontiac YMCA. Registration blanks for the camp may be secured from Mr. Geal.

Oakland County Forms Committee To Back Sigler

An Oakland County Sigler-for-Governor Committee was formed Tuesday evening in Pontiac when 54 men and women, from every section of the county, met at a dinner at the Waldron Hotel. Circuit Judge George B. Hartrick and George R. Averill, publisher of The Eccentric, headed the meeting.

Kim Sigler, former special prosecutor for the Carr-Sigler Grand Jury, was the guest of honor. Mr. Sigler, recently dismissed from the Grand Jury by Grand Juror Judge Louis E. Coash, is a candidate for Governor of Michigan on the Republican ticket.

During the meeting Mr. Sigler briefly stated his position on various State issues. He devoted most of his talk, however, to the reference of his efforts to stamp out graft and corruption in Michigan's legislative branch of government, and points of elected governors "to drive the crooks out of office and into prison."

Steering Committee

A steering committee was selected at the conclusion of the meeting to be added to in the immediate future. Fletcher Renton, former mayor of Royal Oak, and veteran of both World Wars, is chairman; Mrs. Bert Norton of Rochester, is secretary.

Petitions for Sigler were taken out by those present, and will be circulated for signatures on behalf of Sigler.

Among those present were H. H. Gardner, John E. Taylor, W. E. Moody, and George R. Averill, of Birmingham; Henry S. Booth, Donald S. James, and E. S. Nichols.

An aggressive campaign for Sigler will be staged in Oakland County prior to the state primary election which takes place June 18.

Good Response Is Reported In Drive For Canned Foods

Birmingham's canned foods drive has four more days to go, final collection being Monday, April 1. Until next Tuesday it will be difficult to estimate whether the desired goal—one can of food per person in each family in the area—has been reached.

School reports continue to be outstanding amongst those of groups cooperating. Birmingham's public schools collected well over 2,500 tins of food, according to Dr. John Springman, assistant superintendent of schools. Excellent results have likewise been reported in many of the outlying schools, according to Mrs. Philip H. Pretz.

Exceed Their Quota

Spectacular example of a wholehearted school response is that of the Bloomfield elementary and high school, Vaughn road, Bloomfield Hills, reported by Kenneth Ollis, faculty representative on the Student Council. The elementary school drive was set off by the Student Council to whom a student, Virginia Beresford, called attention to the drive. The quota of one tin per child is being more than met in the school rooms.

Bloomfield Village School has sent in a collection of over 200 tins of food and expects to collect more. Wm. Crim, war veteran, transported this collection to the Hill School.

Wing Lake School's drive is incomplete but has already netted an average of three tins of food per student. A school project it is chairmanned by Bill Shannon, assisted by Bobbie Dedo and Kitty Proctor. Sherwood School, country

(See DRIVE, Page 2)

New Young Blood for the City Commission! Elect BILL MARTIN. (Pol. Adv.)

IF selling your car, why not call your local Chrysler dealer. 479 So. Woodward. Phone 4021. Adv. tf

BILL MARTIN for Commissioner—doesn't believe in spending millions. (Pol. Adv.)

City Will Add New Pumper To Fire Dept.

Will Bring Capacity Up to That Set By Inspection Bureau

Addition of a big new fire department pumper of a capacity of 750 gallons per minute was authorized on Monday night by the City Commission. Purchase of the added equipment was urged by City Manager D. C. Egbert and the resolution authorizing the purchase was offered by Mayor Wilmer E. Moody.

Manager Egbert explained the need for his additional fire truck in a review of the situation. "The city of Birmingham has two pumpers in their Fire Department," he said.

Equipment Is Old

"There is one American LaFrance Pumper with a capacity of 750 gallons a minute. This pumper is now approximately 24 years old and was engineered in about 1920 and, of course, since that time there has been a great development in quality of metals and design of apparatus. The other pumper is a Ford built up in our Department with a capacity of 400 gallons a minute. This unit is under-powered and the ordinary light motor is not satisfactory for the heavy duty work to be performed by a Fire Department pumper.

"The Michigan Inspection Bureau recommended a pumper capacity of 2,000 gallons per minute at the time of their inspection in 1940," he states. "We have a pumper capacity of 1150 gallons per minute.

"We are in no immediate danger of losing our present classification for fire insurance rates, however, with the addition of many new buildings with their additional risk, our rating would be in jeopardy."

Will Buy Soon

Mr. Egbert declared, "There is not sufficient personnel in the Fire Department to operate three pumps, nor is the addition of sufficient personnel to properly man these pumps advisable at the present time.

"It is recommended," he told the Commission, "that the City proceed to advertise for a 750 gallon per minute standard fire department pumper, with full

(See FIRE DEPT., Page 2)

Will Not Change Zoning For Store

A request of Wm. G. Olsen of Olsen's Market, for a change in the zoning classification of his property on Willits street, where he planned to erect a store building, has been turned down by the city Plan Commission and the City Commission.

The City Plan Commission recommended no change be made in the present zoning—now listed for multiple dwellings—and the City Commission concurred in this recommendation. The vote by the City Commission was four yes and three opposed. Those voting to support the Plan Commission were Commissioners Wm. Coit Allee, Milton F. Mallender, Ralph A. Main and Mayor Wilmer E. Moody. Voting no on the plan were Commissioners Ralph I. Coryell, Ray A. Palmer and John E. Martz.

Opposition to the plan was voiced by Clyde C. Bennett, who owns an apartment house just to the north of the Olsen property on Bates street. In addition Mr. Bennett spoke before the group declaring that a food store in the location sought by Mr. Olsen would

(See ZONING, Page 2)

Birmingham Veterans Endorse BILL MARTIN for Commissioner. (Pol. Adv.)

Starts 41st Year

Charles J. Shain

Charles J. Shain Begins 41st Year In Same Location

Forty years in the same kind of business in the same location is considered quite some stretch of time, but Charles J. Shain this week completes the fortieth year with the Shain's Drug Store in its location, corner of West Maple avenue and Pierce street. On April 1 Mr. Shain begins his forty-first year.

But for Mr. Shain, who was born and reared and spent nearly his entire life in Birmingham, life—business life— seems to be just beginning after 40 years experience. He has seen Birmingham grow from a tiny hamlet to the present beautiful city and has seen his own store grow and prosper with each succeeding year. Still he is said to have many plans for future growth of both the city and his store. He sees expansions necessary for both and his friends say they will not be surprised to see changes soon in keeping with his belief in the future of his home city.

Wide Experience

And the forty years, closing this week, have developed interesting experiences and history for both Mr. Shain and the store building.

The old building was there way back before its present owner was ready to go into the drug business. And it long housed a drug store. Whitehead and Mitchell. It also housed the first telephone exchange for the village; and post office and bank, too; and up on the third floor of the building was the office and shop of The Birmingham Eccentric.

When the drug store was purchased by Mr. Shain back in 1906 there was a lot of activity around that section of the city. The Wilson Drug Store was located across on Cobb and located where the Birmingham fruit store is now. Across the corner where Cunningham's Drug Store is now located was the city offices, public library, and one-

(See SHAIN, Page 2)

WANT STREET IMPROVED

A group of residents in the northwest corner of the city have petitioned for a black top paving treatment for a number of their streets; They ask for improvement of Raynale street, Chesterfield to Glenhurst; on Brookwood court; Kenwood court and on Glenhurst street from Oak to Raynale. The street already has drainage, water, curb and gutter and gravel and the addition of blacktop will make for a fine roadway, they told the City Commission in their petition. Work is to be undertaken as soon as the necessary legal procedure can be handled and the finances are arranged.

Parks Instead of Weeds! Vote for MARTIN as Commissioner. (Pol. Adv.)

Seek $23,000 In Community House Drive

Campaign to Open April 1. Hope for Early Contributions

The annual financial campaign of the Birmingham Community House will open next Monday with a goal of $23,000, it was announced today by E. J. Anderson, president of the House. The campaign, annually known as the Yearly Roll Call, will be divided into two efforts. The first will be the mail subscription drive and the second the personal call campaign.

During the two operations the Community House officers and committees hope to receive contributions from a record breaking number of residents of Birmingham and the community.

The mail campaign opens Monday when a large number of letters will be in the mail. The hope is that from the persons receiving the letters will come a great flood of good sized returns. The personal call effort will open April 22 by the Community House Guild members. A group of more than 250 persons is expected to be organized for this latter effort.

Committee Named

President Anderson announces his Roll Call Committee will be composed of Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn, general chairman, and Mrs. Malcolm W. Welty, Herbert H. Gardner, Frank J. McGinnis and Paul L. Penfield as co-chairmen.

Officers of the House, recently elected include President Anderson; vice-president, Dreton Wright; recording secretary, Mrs. Frederick Booth; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Neil McMath, and treasurer, P. G. Burnett.

Various churches and organizations are being asked to assist with the campaign. Church publicity is being arranged through the pastors and church leaders while members of clubs, leagues and other organizations are being asked to assist in every way possible.

Many clubs and other organizations have been making annual contributions to the House and this is expected to prove true again this year, according to Mrs. Quinn.

The committee asks that those planning to make contributions mail their checks as quickly as possible. "We hope to accomplish a large part of our task through the mail campaign," said Mrs. Quinn.

Plans Completed For New Hospital On 13-Mile Road

Initial plans have now been completed, and the land has been acquired for the ultra-modern 300 bed general hospital to be built near the intersection of Woodward Avenue and the Thirteen Mile road to serve the communities of Birmingham, Berkley, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak and Troy Townships. This announcement was made this week by Lloyd Clawson, chairman of the South Oakland Hospital Authority.

Clair W. Ditchy, architect, has been commissioned as architect for the new hospital. "The fact that Ditchy is a resident of Oakland County gives him an intimate approach to his problem and insures a sympathetic understanding of its importance as a community facility," said Mr. Clawson today.

The new hospital will serve approximately 140,000 persons in an area in which authorities have de-

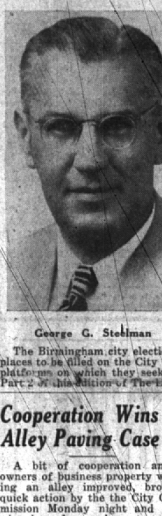
(See HOSPITAL, Page 2)

MARTIN for Commissioner—able, experienced business administrator. (Pol. Adv.)

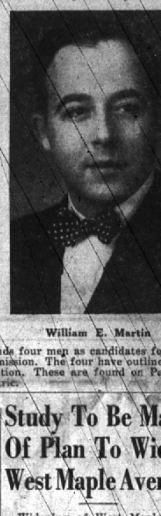
In Commission Race

Milton F. Mallender

Ralph I. Coryell



George G. Stellman



William E. Martin

The Birmingham city election finds four men as candidates for two places to be filled on the City Commission. The four have outlined the platforms on which they seek election. These are found on Page 2, Part 2 of this edition of The Eccentric.

Cooperation Wins Alley Paving Case

A bit of cooperation among owners of business property wanting an alley improved, brought quick action by the the City Commission Monday night and likewise drew from a large group of adjoining property owners, who objected to the improvement, a statement they would not push their objections.

Owners of business property on South Woodward avenue seeking improving of the alley between Landon and George streets, displayed what members of the City Commission declared one of the finest bits of cooperation seen at a Commission meeting in a long time. They offered to pay the entire cost of the alley improvement, stating that residential property on Any street, included in the proposed special assessment district, really would not benefit by the improvement.

Everyone Happy

"If we want the alley improved I think we should be willing to stand the entire cost," declared E. W. (Si) Osborne speaking before the Commission. Mayor Wilmer E. Moody suggested that he contact other owners and see if such a plan could be worked out. Several of the business group were present and quickly agreed to Mr. Osborne's idea.

So the alley will be paved with concrete, and be a really fine bit of improvement for the business property. Residents on Ann street all have their driveways in from that street. Several said that paving the alley, with the accompanying increase in car traffic, would prove a hazard to the children of the area.

Study To Be Made Of Plan To Widen West Maple Avenue

Widening of West Maple avenue, together with improvement of the lighting system is up for study and planning by the city. City Manager Donald C. Egbert recommended to the City Commission, Monday night, that a study of the proposal be made under authority of the Commission. He stated that much of the curb along this street was in anything but good shape and that some sidewalk needed replacing.

"The widening would tend to bring the pavement and walks to proper levels," he explained. "With wider cars more room is now needed for car traffic, while cities now consider ten-foot sidewalks of sufficient width.

The necessary resolution directing the study be made was offered by Commissioner Ralph I. Coryell and supported by Commissioner Milton E. Mallender.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Egbert's report to the Commission follows:

A substantial improvement could be had in West Maple Avenue by the widening thereof and, in my opinion, West Maple would be a much better business street if the roadway were widened to a width of 41 feet from face to face of curb, leaving a total width on each side of the street for sidewalk purposes of 12½ feet.

The existing street lighting system on West Maple Avenue is very inadequate and of a very poor type. In connection with the widening of West Maple Avenue, it would be my recommendation that a modern system of street lighting be installed, and this matter has been discussed with the Detroit Edison Company.

The width of 12½ feet from

(See PLAN, Page 2)

Red Cross Campaign Moves Ahead Slowly

Reports from all townships and cities of the county in the 1946 Fund Campaign total $57,464, according to H. Russel Holland, chairman Fund Campaign. It will be necessary to collect $136,035.57 in the entire county in order to make the quota of $193,500.

While many workers have not as yet reported, the amount to be secured is large and workers are requested to complete their solicitation immediately. Reports are being received by Mrs. T. W. Jackson, chairman of townships and cities.

Leading Businessmen Endorse MARTIN for Commissioner. (Pol. Adv.)

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. PHONE PALMER 5-0788. —Adv. tf

Here's Way Proposed New Hospital on 13-Mile Road Will Appear

Above is shown as artist's idea of how the proposed new South Oakland County Hospital will appear when both buildings and grounds have been completed. The Hospital Authority reports that plans are all completed for the project.

Interest Light In Annual City Election Apr. 1

Only Contest Is For City Commission. No Opposition In Hills

Monday, April 1, is election day in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills.

Interest appears light, with only one contest before the voters of the two cities. In Birmingham there are four candidates for the two posts to be filled on the City Commission. A few all other positions, and for the various posts in Bloomfield Hills there are no contests.

Seeking the two posts on the City Commission are, Ralph I. Coryell and Milton F. Mallender, incumbents; George G. Steelman and William E. Martin. The term of office is three years.

Fill Other Posts

Other positions to be filled include two on the Baldwin Library Board and one constable. There are no contests, the only candidates for the library board posts are Mrs. John S. Lambie and Merrill C. Adams. The lone candidate for the post as constable is Clyde Collins.

Bloomfield Hills will name two members to the City Commission, the candidates being George C. Booth and Charlton G. Eden. The candidate for constable is Domonick Velhaino. The Commission members are named for two years and the constable for one year.

Bloomfield Hills has but one election booth, that at the Municipal Building where all voters will come to cast their ballots. Their voting will be from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Where People Vote

Birmingham city electors will vote in six different precincts. The hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The precincts are as follows: Precinct One—at the Lutheran Church, 1800 West Maple avenue; Precinct Two—at Holy Name School—620 Harmon avenue; Precinct Three—Adams School, corner of Adams road and Oakland avenue; Precinct Four—Municipal Building, 151 Martin street; Precinct Five—Bell Funeral Home, 820 East Maple avenue; and Precinct Six—Pierce School, 1829 Pierce street.

In both Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills residents are being asked to vote as early in the day as possible. "It helps our election boards quite a lot when people come in early," said Mrs. Irene Hanley, city clerk, today.

"It helps lessen the load in the rush hours when working people come in. All voters who can conveniently do so are asked to vote during the forenoon or early afternoon. We will have the voting machines all set and ready for early use."

More Homes For Veterans Being Planned In City

"Birmingham appears well on its way to increasing its new homes available for veterans, according to Mayor Wilmer E. Moody. Mr. Moody stated at the Monday City Commission meeting that already 600 homes are being built or arrangements for building them have been started.

The occasion for his statement was the appearance of Thomas Klingensmith, 815 Southfield, before the Commission with preliminary plans for the erection of 50 moderately priced homes for sale to veterans.

Mr. Klingensmith told the commission the homes, for which he had FHA approval, and contractors in line to erect them, would be of concrete blocks, or cinder blocks, and that they likely could be erected for less than $5,000 per home.

Must Secure Lots

He stated that lots on which to erect the homes had not yet been secured. He told the Commission that a number of veterans with whom he has talked already have lots own building sites. At the request of the Commission he presented his plans for city study as to zoning and building code provisions.

Mayor Moody explained that this plan for homes would be given immediate consideration by the Birmingham Ways and Means Committee to aid in securing homes for veterans. "This committee will give you every assistance possible," Mr. Moody declared.

The government contract, covering the proposed group of temporary housing units which the

(See HOMES, Page 2)

Birmingham Women Say: Elect Wm. E. MARTIN as Commissioner. (Pol. Adv.)

Victor and Bluebird Records. New releases weekly. Leonard Electric. 162 W. Maple. Adv. tf

The League of Women Voters urges all registered voters to vote in the city election next Monday April 1st.