Your life is but the span of a portion of eternity—so infinite in its measurements that you cannot consider it with clocks or calendars. Really, what all of us ought to use for computing life are good deeds.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

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THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

A Good Appointment

Harry S. Toy, who lives in a beautiful home adjacent to the Orchard Lake Country Club, has accepted the post of Commissioner of the Detroit Police Dept., tendered to him by Mayor-elect Van Antwerp. Mr. Toy should bring honor and respect to that office—but why he took it, when he has a lucrative law practice and "is sitting on top of the world," so to speak, I don't know. (On second thought, perhaps I do; Harry Toy, by nature and habit, is impelled to render service to the public through the system of self-government—a good sign in any language, don't you think-)

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Predatory Feet of Clay

President Harry S. Truman certainly has more than one predatory friend about him. Once again Edwin Pauley, special assistant to Army Secretary Royall, comes in for public criticism. Pauley admits he made big profits by playing the grain markets—even though Mr. Truman a few weeks ago bitterly indicted such activities. A while back Pauley was in similar disrepute for trying to grab off some tideland waters beneath which is oil.

With such revelations of mercenaries in high places, does President Truman ever expect the majority of Americans to believe him to be 100 per cent sincere?

I have always thought that most men, when they became President of the United States, were blessed with the visitation of great idealism, which would take them over the hurdles of average predatory "friendship," and lift them to a personal realization of their great responsibility. Indeed, it is difficult to change feet of clay into alabaster!

—o—

Civilization vs. Jungle

The Detroit News is a great newspaper; it maintains a fine physical establishment, plenty of human talent in its mechanical and editorial departments; it sends men all over the world to bring news to its readers; it maintains the largest city and out-State staff of all Michigan newspapers to do the good job of "covering the news front."

The News long has been associated with good causes; it wants men to become more civilized; it wants to help in outlawing war. It stands for good schools, well attended churches; playgrounds for the kids . . . hardly a good thing exists that The News isn't in favor of. My only deep criticism of Detroit's "Greatest Home Newspaper" is that, every so often, it comes out for the installation of capital punishment for Michigan. It did so again Friday of last week—and right on its front page, too.

Incidentally, I understand that The News is a great admirer of Austin McCormick, famous penologist connected with the Thomas Osborne Foundation; Mr. McCormick currently is studying Michigan's prison system, and soon will make his official report on the situation to Giv. Kim Sigler.

One day last week I had lunch with Mr. McCormick in Lansing. We got to talking about capital punishment, and I asked him his views on the subject.

He replied: "Well, once I favored capital punishment; but after many years of studying prisons, penology, and human behaviorism, I no longer favor that idea. The record proves that it does not deter crimes of first degree murder in States where it is used; it also is a fact that States that have legalized capital punishment find it harder to convict people indicted for murder than States that do not demand a life for a life. Yes, I have changed my thinking on that subject, after a lifetime of research on the problem."

Ah, kindly Detroit News, why do'st thou forsake thy Utopian role for the rule of the jungle?

Plan Commission Gets Petition for High St. Closing

Referred to the city plan commission by the city commission Monday evening was a petition from Mr. and Mrs. Howard E. Tuggey, 612 East Maple, asking the closing of High street, between Hunter and Maple.

"High street serves no useful purpose to the immediate neighborhood but is in fact a detriment; its only function is an unnecessary and often dangerous, one-way short cut from Hunter to Maple at no important saving of time to those who use it," the petitioners declared in part.

City commissioners referred the request to the plan commission for its recommendation.

Furnace Overheats, Fire Damages Home

An overheated furnace caused a fire resulting in considerable damage to the home of J. C. Akerley, 961 Pierce. The fire occurred Sunday, Dec. 14, at 8:26 p. m., according to the fire department.

The flames were confined to the basement where a number of the floor joists were badly burned.

Lions Present Ceiling Projector to Public Library

William Gardner (left) president of the Birmingham Lions Club, last week presented Miss Joanne Lloyd, head librarian at the Baldwin Public Library, with a ceiling projector on behalf of the local club. William Spence (right), immediate past president of the local Lions, was chairman of the Lions Ceiling Projector Fund.

The projector will be loaned by the library to hospital patients who find themselves unable to read or hold books in the normal manner. By microfilming such books and running the film through this vertical projector, each page is clearly shown on the ceiling above the user's head. Pages are advanced or reversed by means of a conveniently located remote control switch which can be operated by the slightest pressure.

Egbert Investigating Waste in Re-Laying of Abbey Road Sewer

By George Wm. Averill

Why the city engineering department permitted 242 feet of existing 36-inch storm sewer to be dug up and then replaced with new 36-inch pipe, instead of halting operations until the matter could be studied and the proper solution determined, has resulted in an unnecessary city expenditure of $2,000, it was revealed at city commission meeting Monday evening.

In an attempt to determine why this difficulty has arisen, City Engineer Harold H. Corson met yesterday with City Manager Donald C. Egbert and the city's consulting sewer engineer. The talks were to continue today.

According to Egbert, 242 feet of existing 36-inch sewer pipe was dug up on Abbey road, to the east from Warwick road, replaced at the same grade with the same size new pipe, all without knowledge on his part or any member of the city commission. City engineering department maps show the old pipe was supposed to be 33-inch.

"The city maintains an inspector on these contract jobs and it is his duty to check work as it proceeds," Egbert told commissioners. "If there was any doubt as to how developments should proceed, the engineering department should have been notified at once so corrective action could be taken."

"A Mistake"

While admitting the whole matter was "a mistake," Egbert assured commissioners that he would have the city's consulting engineers check city engineering plans to see if any more "mistakes" might be made.

"I don't think this will show up for the rest of the project," Egbert declared, "but plans will be checked anyway."

The matter was brought before several commissioners last week and when residents in the Forest Hills subdivision saw the mistake and questioned the project.

This sewer construction is the result of an assessment project in the Wimbleton-Abbey-Oxford-Poppleton area to try and prevent periodic basement floodings. It necessitates the enlargement of several sewers, of which this was one.

Why Wasn't Work Halted?

As commissioners discussed the situation Monday evening, it developed that the Royal Oak contractor was permitted to dig up 242 feet of 36-inch sewer pipe, replace it with new pipe the same size and at the same downward grade.

Commissioner William Martin questioned, "Why did not the city engineering inspector see that the first section of old pipe dug up was 36 inches in diameter, instead of the anticipated 33 inches? Why didn't he halt work immediately until his superiors were informed? If he did pass along the unexpected information, who slipped up then?"

Martin stated that this "mistake" closely follows those of the Grant-Bennaville-Chapin-Cummings street improvements in violation of the city charter, and the unwarranted expense of "between $600 and $1,000" to raise manhole covers a second or third time when Woodward avenue was being resurfaced between Brown and Oakland.

City to Bear Cost

"I've sort of lost confidence in the engineering department as a result of this latest situation," declared Commissioner Donald S. Bell. "It's put the city commission out on a limb. What will it look like to the residents in the areas where the new West Maple sewer and the Lincoln-Purdy sewer are to go in?"

Commissioner Milton F. Mallender suggested that the city commission get to the heart of the matter immediately.

"Call in our consulting engineers and go over the entire project," he asked Egbert. "Stop the work if necessary, get an explanation from our engineering department and convene a special commission meeting if you need to."

All commissioners agreed that the $2,000 expended for this "mistake" would have to be borne by the city, rather than the assessment district.

Good Will Destroyed

"The district certainly is getting no benefit by the re-laying of the sewer," Commissioner C. Theron Van Dusen emphasized.

W. Cole Allen, 756 Henley drive, ex-city commissioner and resident of the assessment district, pointed out to the commission, "This matter has destroyed more good will in that area than can be built up in a long, long time. I'd suggest you get on top of the matter with the least possible delay."

Tuesday afternoon Egbert said that a special commission meeting might be called if the difficulty can be ironed out before the week end.

"It will be ready for the commission by next Monday evening, in any event," he assured.

Bloomfield Hills School Problems Discussion Topic

The December meeting of the Bloomfield Hills parents and teachers was held last Thursday evening in the Vaughn School, with John Cowen as general chairman.

The program consisted of a series of brief talks which were given by Marc Patten, president of the Board of Education; Hazel MacGirr, elementary school supervisor; R. J. Spiess, athletic director and Carroll Munshaw, superintendent of schools.

Patten stated that it is his belief that enrollment has grown to the extent that a Parent-Teachers Association has become necessary.

"For many years the Board of Education has felt that such an organization was unnecessary since the enrollment was so small that almost all the parents were well acquainted with each other. Now, however, that condition no longer exists, so some arrangement should be made whereby parents and teachers may become better acquainted," he said.

Limits of Curriculum

In discussing the broad policies of the Board, he stated that the high school curriculum is limited by the number of pupils enrolled in the school.

"If you prefer a large high school with many curricular offerings you should favor consolidation with Pontiac or Birmingham," he told his listeners. "On the other hand, if you prefer smaller classes, individual attention and other benefits of a small school, you will accept a limited curriculum until such times as increased enrollment makes additions possible. The Board has felt that it was better to do a few things well, than many things poorly."

Mrs. MacGirr discussed some of the needs of the elementary children, commented briefly on what we have learned about how they develop, and presented some graphs of reading and spelling progress. She also answered several questions which were presented by parents.

Spiess discussed the athletic program of the school. "We now have an improved version of the physical education program we had in 1940," he stated. "At that time a group of 14 school men evaluated our program and found physical education to be superior to all respects. It would be nice to have a gymnasium, and we could put it to good use, but there are other things we need more," he concluded.

Enrollment Discussed

Munshaw spoke on the area covered, and the subjects offered in the schools, as they effected students entering college. He discussed the enrollment of the various schools by grades, illustrating his remarks by the use of charts and graphs.

"Our program is strictly academic, college preparatory," he said. It qualifies as far as subject sequences go for entrance to perhaps 98 per cent of the colleges in the country. Less than six of the well known colleges request one or two years of foreign language beyond that which we offer.

January Meeting

"However, they will admit exceptionally able students without regard to this long language sequence. Therefore, the very able student at Bloomfield Hills can qualify for entrance to any college in the country. The student who isn't especially capable has no business applying for acceptance to these particular colleges."

Max Fruehauf was appointed general chairman for the January meeting, the date of which has tentatively been set for Jan. 15. Lawrence Ledbetter will be program chairman.

Dies Monday Night

Thomas H. Cobb

Thomas H. Cobb Dies Following Heart Attack

Thomas H. Cobb of 416 Hawthorne road, well known Birmingham business man, died in the Royal Oak General Hospital Monday evening, following a short illness and heart attack.

He was born in Birmingham on May 20, 1877, and attended local schools, later being graduated from the Ferris Institute in Big Rapids. On August 8, 1906, he married Florence King in Birmingham.

Mr. Cobb was one of the founders, in 1908, of the First State Savings Bank of this city, and a short time later was made president of the bank. He had served 21 years in the banking business, having started his career in a minor position with the Wyandotte Savings Bank.

Funeral Services Today

Later he became associated with the Jay A. Walsh Insurance and Real Estate Co., and in January, 1937, was named vice-president of that firm. In recent years he had conducted his own insurance agency with offices in the Wabeek building.

He is survived by Mrs. Cobb, one brother, James W. Cobb of Birmingham and a sister, Mrs. Stewart Lowes of Goodrich.

Funeral services will be conducted this (Thursday) afternoon at the Manley Bailey Funeral Home with Dr. W. Glen Harris, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, of which Mr. Cobb was a member, officiating. Interment will be made in Greenwood Cemetery.

Christmas Eve Sing Planned at City Park

Everyone Invited to Join Neighbors in Yearly Event

By Alice Morgan

Birmingham will follow its own star on Christmas Eve when the community gathers at the Civic Park—between the Municipal Building and the Public Library—for the annual Christmas sing, arranged each year by the Birmingham Musicale. For many years this has been an annual event, and has become a part of the Christmas celebration to many. To those who have not joined the festive occasion in the past, a special invitation is issued, that they may meet their neighbors in a half hour of vocal rejoicing in the birth of the Christ child.

In order that family plans for Christmas Eve may not be spoiled, and so that children may join their parents in the event, the hour has been set for 5:30 p. m., and will be proclaimed by the ringing of church bells throughout the community.

As in the past, a brass ensemble, under the direction of Arthur Berndt, director of the high school orchestra, will be present, as will Victor Ulrich's a cappella choir, and members of the church choirs.

Members of the ensemble will be Harris Jackson and Gordon Jagger, cornets; Phil Allen, French horn; Jack Adams, trombone; Herb Stasler, baritone horn, and Robert Brown, tuba.

Printed sheets have been prepared and will be distributed to all who attend.

Founded some 12 years ago when Berndt and members of the Community House staff felt it would be a part of Christmas which all would enjoy, and all could take part in, the event has been held each year since that time. As a new idea, those who attended it held torches and flickering candles to light the scene.

Brilliantly Lighted

Today the tree in the park is brilliantly lighted, and lights are strung around the grounds furnishing adequate illumination, that the torches and candles are no longer needed. In some years, members of the ensemble have had to resort to using glycerine in their horns to keep them from freezing. Residents have faced bitter cold, and inclement weather, to keep going on this one evening, which has become so much a part of the Christmas season here.

Newcomers to Birmingham are urged to join their new neighbors and friends. Parents are urged to bring their children that everyone may take this short period to unite in honoring the anniversary which Christmas commemorates. To some it means the brief journey which they take each year; the following of the Star which shone down upon a troubled world centuries ago, and which still guides so many to "peace on Earth."

John Czentnar Elected President of Exchange Club

John Czentnar, 314 E. Maple, was elected president of the Exchange Club of Birmingham at the annual meeting of the club on Tuesday. Donald C. Egbert is the retiring president. M. Lloyd Dean was elected vice-president and Walter C. Morgan was re-elected secretary and treasurer.

Members of the Board of Control for the coming year were elected as follows: Paul Hogg, Carleton Scott, Wm. Wieland, Jr., Thurman Snyder, Manley Bailey and John Thurber.

Richard Patterson Heads Veterans for Next 6 Months

Richard Patterson of 1622 S. Bates street was elected to the presidency of the Birmingham Veterans' organization at the group's December meeting which was held last week at the Kingsley Inn. Elected to serve with Patterson for the coming six months were Fred Dye and Dean Beier, who were re-elected to the offices of treasurer and vice-president, respectively, and Charles James, recording secretary, and Darby Taylor, executive secretary.

Re-elected to the Board of Directors, which consists of the above five officers and four members at large, Maj. Gen. Stanley Rinehart and Jack Moss. New members of the board will be Jack Sitta and Dean Smith.

In an attempt to determine what, if anything, the organization could do to help the recreation program in Birmingham, the election was followed by a detailed report on the recreational program as planned for the coming year and as it existed during the past summer.

BULLETIN

The local Chamber of Commerce began the sale of auto plates yesterday noon, it was announced.

To Refund $6,000 To 1941 Sewer Assessment District

Slightly less than $6,000 will be refunded to property owners in the Birmingham Villa subdivision since the 1941 sewer assessment in which they participated was completed at 57 per cent of the original cost.

City commissioners Monday evening authorized the payments in closing out the assessment district. According to city officials, this project was completed at such a reasonable cost—$7,862.26 instead of the estimated $13,734.56—because WPA labor was used in the construction of the sewer.

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

Local 'Friendship Food' Campaign Now in Progress

Birmingham's local "Friendship Food Caravan" moved into high gear this week as local Junior Chamber of Commerce members placed containers and signs in all local grocery stores.

Part of a state-wide campaign to obtain canned food and soap for the hungry peoples of Western Europe, the plan originated two weeks ago in the Birmingham chapter.

According to State Committee Co-chairman Jack Andrews of Birmingham, who spent Monday in Washington, D. C., on overseas distribution details, France has been designated as the country to receive the Michigan "Friendship Food."

Give Endorsement

"Both Senators Vandenberg and Ferguson have given their complete endorsement of the project, and the State Department has assured us of its cooperation," Andrews said Tuesday.

From his room at St. Lawrence Hospital, Lansing, Gov. Kim Sigler last Friday highly commended the program.

"This plan offers each community in the state an opportunity to make a tangible contribution to international good will and freedom. It has my complete support," the Governor stated.

Birmingham high school students will add to the local contributions tomorrow when each student will pay an "admission" of two cans of food in order to attend the Christmas assembly.

Harry Smart, local drive chairman, said that Birmingham Boy Scout troops will aid the local campaign by calling attention to the containers in local groceries. These scouts have offered to do most of the repacking and stenciling of cartons, he said.

Leaves Detroit Jan. 5

The "Caravan" is scheduled to leave Detroit on Jan. 5 for Philadelphia, where it will be loaded aboard ship and sent to France. Five Junior Chamber members from Michigan will go abroad to see how and where the food is distributed and then report those facts to the people of Michigan.

"Since Michigan did not have the opportunity to contribute to the recent 'Friendship Train,' the 78 Michigan Junior Chambers of Commerce are sponsoring this drive so we of this state may help to make the peace by aiding hungry Europeans through the donation of canned goods," Smart said Monday.

He suggested that housewives who shop by phone can aid the program by suggesting to their grocer to add to their bill several cans of food which the grocer will drop into the "Friendship Food" container in his store.

Local donations will be warehoused here, then sent on to Philadelphia via local truck transportation, Smart explained.

New Water Mains For Yankee, Dixie Approved by City

Assessments to provide a water main grid system in the Birmingham Villa subdivision were approved by the city commission Monday evening. The project will also include a 12-inch main installation on East Maple between Columbia and Rugby streets.

According to city officials, 8-inch lateral mains down both Dixie and Yankee, between Maple and Villa, will provide that area with better circulation of water, which will result in increased fire protection. The district is presently served by 4-inch easement mains which run considerable distances before they are connected to arterial mains.

Game With Alumni Opens Cage Season for Maple Varsity

By Jim McCall

The Birmingham hardwood squad will officially open its season when it goes into action against the basketball stars of Birmingham's yesteryear Tuesday, Dec. 30, in Baldwin gym.

Although the Birmingham crew will have played in the pre-season tournaments at Lincoln Park, the alumni game will be the first home encounter.

Among those expected home to play are Chuck Murray, Stan Schaeffer Dan Grigg, Ed Davey, Bill Saffell, Rog Reynolds, Leon Thurston, Bike Sutton, Jack Filkins, Harold Kelley, Dick Blauman, Carl Blauman and Hugh Morrow.

E. S. Burns Resigns from Plan Commission

City Commission Monday night reluctantly accepted the resignation of Elbert S. Burns, 1002 Pilgrim, as a member of the city plan commission. The resignation is effective immediately.

Burns stated that he was taking this action on the advice of his physician.

Burns was appointed to the plan commission August 12, 1946.

INSURE NOW
TUGGEY'S 612 East Maple Avenue
SECURITY — The Nation's Watchword

Deadlines for Christmas, New Year's Issues Advanced

Since both Christmas and New Year's Days fall on Thursdays this year, The Eccentric will go to press a day earlier with each of its next two issues, or on December 24 and 31, respectively. This will permit us to get copies to the post office for delivery on Wednesday morning.

Accordingly, all news and advertising deadlines have been advanced one full day in order to make this possible.

The following deadlines, then, will govern both news and advertising insertions for the Christmas week and New Year's week issues:

CLUB NOTES: Saturday at 12 noon.
CHURCH NEWS: Saturday at 12 noon.
SOCIETY AND ALL OTHER TYPES OF NEWS: Monday at 5 p.m.
DISPLAY ADVERTISING: Monday at 5 p.m.
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Monday at 5 p.m.

News and advertising which is not submitted in accordance with the above schedule will not be included in that week's issue.

School Vacation

Some 2,800 Birmingham school children will begin their Christmas vacation tomorrow afternoon, Dec. 19, and return to classes on Jan. 5, Superintendent of Schools