

Even though your physical self requires you to eat potatoes, rice, wheat, spinach, and meat, your "other self" cannot grow on such a diet. Your "other self" thrives on beauty and art, sacrifice and usefulness.

SEVENTIETH YEAR—NO. 37—24 Pages

# The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1947

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## THE S and THAT

By G. R. A.

My last copy in this column concluded with a statement that I was going north to make another few days' try at getting a buck. In answer to numerous questions that I received while in Birmingham over the past week end, I declared: "No, I didn't have any flax buck shooting a Michigan deer, but I did get all the benefits of a hunting camp—and now back to Lansing for me to try some more straight-shooting in the public interest."

Limitations of a Democracy Speaking of Lansing, and affairs of state government, many of my friends, from time to time ask me: "How are things going in Lansing?" To which I make this kind of reply: "Some days we are pleased and some days we are good crops for the cause of honest and efficient self-government, while on other days we wonder how much of the Sliger administration's good plans are misunderstood by portions of six million Michigan people."

But, anyway, each of us keeps on trying—in the far realization that everything one may seek to accomplish will not meet with the approval of all persons. "There are, you see, so many diversified groups, so many folks with different conceptions of the good projects, that it is hard to get all the people in favor of many governmental improvements; for, while you are bringing about some reform, in which some will lose their jobs, or you seek to cut down unnecessary or duplicating services to others, you will always hear the howls of the organized masses. I have organized many a fall to make their voices heard."

As said before, my experiences in Lansing thus far have made me realize more than ever the limitations of a self-government, yet I am in favor of it more than ever!

A Project for PTA There are 2,371 parents in the Birmingham public school district who are members of the local Parent-Teacher Association, an increase of 700 as of a year ago. With that many parents, things certainly should be revealed in the local school activities, elementary and secondary education in this community.

It has been my personal conviction, for many years, that the local public school curriculum is not so good as that of the colleges and universities of this country; and that, since most boys and girls do not go on to institutions of higher learning, the local levels of teaching do not perform best in fitting youth for the business of life. In this opinion, I am not alone. A plenty of backing by many leaders in educational circles.

It is my conviction, also, that the 2,371 local PTA members, why not investigate this problem, and, if you are agreed that such is the situation, join with other PTA groups in demanding a change in the curriculum demands of colleges and universities upon students—or else segregate the group planning to go to college after high school graduation from those who don't, to the extent that the latter students may be given curricula that fit them for immediate entrance into life's practical problems.

Deport Most Russians Within the past few weeks American leaders have revealed the fact that Soviet Russia really does not want democracy to work anywhere on earth. Our leaders have also hinted that if another war comes, it will be between Russia and the self-governing nations, including ourselves. For the life of me, I do not understand, then, why our government does not treat Russia in our country as Russia does our people in hers. I think that the U.S.A. ought to deport every Russian citizen from this land, allowing to remain only those who balance, in numbers and activities, those U.S. citizens allowed in Russia—and under the same regulatory conditions.

## Ticket Distribution to Be Made Dec. 10 for Kiddies' Party

Teachers of grades 1, 2 and 3 in Birmingham elementary schools will distribute to their classes on Wednesday, Dec. 10, tickets for the annual Kiddies' Christmas Party, sponsored by the Birmingham Retail Merchants Association. It was announced this week. To be held at the Birmingham Theater at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, the program will feature a technicolor children's movie and Santa Claus will be on hand to talk to the youngsters. Les Sellers, party chairman, stated. Candy will be distributed to those who attend at the conclusion of the program, he said.

TUGGERS INSURE NOW... SECURITY — The Nation's Watchword... PANY. PHONE B'HAM 1-0788.

## J. H. Walker, Detroit Edison Official, Dies

### Succumbs at Home As Result of Recent Illness

Mr. J. Herbert Walker died at his home, 432 Arlington drive, after a severe illness on December 1.

Mr. Walker, a vice-president of The Detroit Edison Company, was an engineer-executive of the company for many years and was first employed by it in 1912. He was elected a vice-president in 1945. Before his election as a vice-president, Mr. Walker was assistant to the general manager and was active in organization planning and as a consultant on various commercial and engineering problems of the company.

In recent years, he had responsibility for personnel matters of the company, which included employment, personnel planning, commercial and engineering problems of the company. He developed a new style and practice for answering employees' queries called "The Question Box," which became one of the most widely read features of the company's employee magazine, "Synchroscope."

Mr. Walker was a mechanical engineer who graduated from the University of Michigan in 1911 and obtained his master's degree in engineering in 1937. In November of this year he was given the F. Paul Anderson Award by the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers for outstanding scientific achievement in the field of heating and air conditioning.

He achieved national recognition in this field and was for many years superintendent of the central heating department which supplies steam to the principal buildings in downtown Detroit. He was the author of books and technical articles in this field.

Mr. Walker was a member of Sigma Xi and Tau Beta Pi and several technical societies. He was born in Detroit in 1890 and is survived by Mrs. Walker and two children, James H., Jr., of Philadelphia, and Morley who attends the University of Chicago.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p. m. today from the Hamilton Funeral Home, Detroit.

## Award Contract for Pierce School Wing

Birmingham Board of Education Tuesday night awarded the contract for the 8-room Pierce school addition to the F. H. Taylor Co. of Detroit. The bid was \$19,524. Construction will begin immediately. Superintendent of Schools Dwight B. Ireland announced yesterday morning.

## Taxpayers Group to Elect Officers

The organizational meeting for the recently incorporated Birmingham Taxpayers Association will be held next Tuesday evening, Dec. 9, at 8 o'clock at the Community House, interim president Louis Hascall announced Monday.

A permanent board of directors will be elected at this meeting, he explained. He urged all interested persons to attend.

## Girl Injures Spine As Toboggan Hits Snow-Covered Rat

Suffering a severe spinal injury while tobogganing down Bald Mountain near Pontiac last Sunday afternoon, Nancy Allen, 19, of 459 Townsend street, was immediately taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, Pontiac, where hospital authorities say Miss Allen will remain for about three weeks, then be required to wear a cast for several months.

## School Board and City Officials Favor DPW Siding

A 162-foot railroad siding into the city's Elton road DPW yard is under serious consideration by both school and city board officials who are interested in the project, it was revealed at the city commission meeting Monday night.

City DPW materials could be unloaded with the same savings, Egbert stated. Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of Birmingham schools, has said that the school board would provide. City commissioners authorized the idea of drawing up a formal agreement between the two bodies concerning the proposed siding.

## Firemen Answer 2 Major Alarms

An overheated furnace and a cutting torch were responsible for two major fires in Birmingham this past week. An estimated \$3,000 damage resulted early Saturday morning when the fire broke out in the basement of the home occupied by the Rev. Emil Kozit, pastor of the First Baptist Church, at 247 N. Bates street. Firemen confined the fire to the basement.

Last Friday morning at 11:08 firemen responded to a call from the Grand Truck depot where a railroad crewman had ignited a quantity of automobile underbody coating while cutting away parts of a damaged boxcar involved in the November 24th freight train wreck just south of the Birmingham station.

## Seek New Sweeper

Birmingham's 23-year-old mechanical street sweeper is to be replaced as soon as delivery of a new one can be made, city commissioners decided Monday evening. They authorized the city manager to prepare specifications and advertise for bids on a new one. Delivery is not expected before eight or nine months.

## Royal Oak End Catches Pass for 15-Yard Gain



Jim Schultz, Royal Oak end, gathers in the pass he has just received for a 15-yard gain in the annual Thanksgiving Day game between Birmingham and Royal Oak, held last Thursday in Royal Oak. Dick Murray (left), B'ham safety man, and Walt Bodie, quarterback, are shown playing in as Schultz to bring him down before he can break away for a score. The game ended in a deadlock, 0-0.

## City Authorizes Manager to Survey Snow, Ice Slow Down Teams As Birmingham, Royal Oak Battle to Scoreless Tie

In order that the city's road oiling program, to be conducted during the Thanksgiving Day game between Birmingham and Royal Oak, held last Thursday in Royal Oak, Dick Murray (left), B'ham safety man, and Walt Bodie, quarterback, are shown playing in as Schultz to bring him down before he can break away for a score. The game ended in a deadlock, 0-0.

By Garry Hughes "Oh where, oh where has our little jug gone, oh where, oh where can it be?" wept downhearted Maple grid fans as they saw the annual Turkey Day game join the growing ranks of tied contests, with Royal Oak remaining in possession of the jug on the ice covered Acorn field in a scoreless game.

A crowd of about 8,000 huddled beneath blankets to watch the familiar red and blue machines chug in the annual epic. Numerous times these honed-in fans rose to their feet with surprising ebbs as the unexpected produced its share of thrills. Maple Stop Threat

The first potential scoring possibility came early in the second period when Gordon Clark, Royal Oak end, recovered a fumble on the Maple 25-yard stripe. The Maroon forward wall locked together in familiar brick-wall pattern and Justice Alva Richardson of Bessfield Hill Monday evening

Ernst F. Kern, 33, of 962 Abbey road, Birmingham, \$100 and Russell Bishop, 34, of Fenton, Mich., \$25 on charges of disorderly conduct. The two men had been arrested early Sunday morning by Bloomfield Hills police.

## Two Men Fined for Disorderly Conduct

Justice Alva Richardson of Bessfield Hill Monday evening arrested Ernst F. Kern, 33, of 962 Abbey road, Birmingham, \$100 and Russell Bishop, 34, of Fenton, Mich., \$25 on charges of disorderly conduct. The two men had been arrested early Sunday morning by Bloomfield Hills police.

## New Hearing Date

The hearing on the proposed amendment to the city building code to require a larger minimum amount of floor space in residential construction, will be held on December 22, instead of Dec. 16 as previously announced. City Clerk Irene Hanley stated this week.

## State Dept. Office Expected to Open on Monday Morning

Birmingham's branch office of the Secretary of State is expected to begin operation next Monday morning. John B. Hall, interim treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce, announced yesterday morning.

Office hours at the building, located at 772 S. Woodward, will be from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. Monday through Friday, and from 9 to 12 noon on Saturdays, he explained.

Mrs. R. S. Plexico, 4202 Arlington drive, has been employed as assistant secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and will supervise the operation of the Woodward office, Hall added.

## Still Appear Long Way From Decision on Parking Matter

Whether or not Birmingham city commissioners next Monday evening will finally decide to amend the zoning ordinance to require residential and business construction to provide off-street parking facilities appears to depend on how each of the seven commissioners individually view the advisability of including or excluding the city churches from the amendment's provisions.

Commissioners Monday night held an informal discussion of the problem that has beset the group for several weeks, in an attempt to further clarify the matter before the fourth formal hearing is held next Monday night.

Only Commissioners Donald S. Bell, Milton F. Mallerend and William L. Martin gave any clear indication of the manner in which they might be expected to vote on December 8 if the discussion reaches that stage.

Both Bell and Mallerend stated they are inclined to exclude the churches from the ordinance. Martin, on the other hand, strongly advocated that churches be included in the amendment.

"If I were confronted with two courses of judgment—one to leave the ordinance wide open by excluding the churches, the other to prohibit or restrict them, I would choose to take what I believe would be the lesser of two evils, to leave the ordinance wide open with the possibility of future modification that circumstances may require," Mallerend explained.

Tending to second Mallerend's opinion, Bell declared, "I believe we do not have to include the churches; I think we can leave it up to their good judgment to provide parking areas in the event of expansion or building a new church in a residential area."

Martin denied Bell's contention. "Suppose a church cannot provide financially for both a new building and a parking lot?" Martin asked. "In that event, I think the building would be constructed without the parking lot. Is every church going to be so well off financially that they can afford to invest thousands of dollars in a parking lot as well as a new addition or new building? I don't think so. Therefore, we have to provide for that situation by including them in the ordinance."

Martin also contended that residents of the neighborhood were owed some consideration by the requirement that churches provide a certain amount of parking space to prevent the congregation from parking in front of residences for some considerable distance around the church.

Use Board of Appeals "Such a neighborhood should not have to suffer this inconvenience to an unreasonable extent," he declared.

City Manager Donald C. Egbert entered the discussion when he proposed that the Zoning Board of Appeals could use wide discretionary powers in interpreting the parking amendment as applied to churches.

Bell objected to this suggestion on the grounds that any citizen could take the city into court, maintaining that the spirit of the ordinance was being violated. "The city can't wink at one group, even if it is the churches, and enforce the provisions against the private citizens. We'll find ourselves in court if we do," Bell maintained.

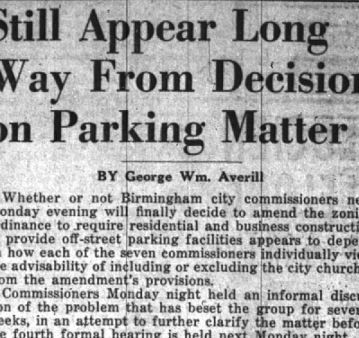
Residents Give Opinion Mallerend ended the discussion by suggesting that each commissioner study the situation between now and next Monday with the idea of trying to reach opinions to the point where some definite action can be taken at the next formal hearing.

Of 77 persons recently questioned concerning their beliefs on the subject, 42 indicated they were not in favor of having the schools, churches or Community House included in the provisions of the ordinance. Thirty-three believed the ordinance should cover them. One woman said she would string along with the city commissioner's decision.

With very few exceptions, however, all admitted that they were basing their answer on personal opinion rather than much actual knowledge of the facts in the case.

## F. J. Crocker, 67, Dies in Auto Crash

Fred J. Crocker, 67, a boarder at 1291 Bird avenue, died instantly Sunday night when the car he was driving collided with one driven by William Hillier, 62, of Detroit. The accident took place on Route M-15, near Saginaw. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Mary Crocker; one son, Webster, a sister, Mrs. John P. Gibb, four brothers, Henry, Louis, George and Ben, and one grandchild, all of Saginaw. Funeral services will be conducted this afternoon in Saginaw.



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## A Pictorial Record of Last Week's 14-Car Railroad Freight Wreck

—Photos by H. P. Estes



(Above) Viewed from the Grand Trunk station south, last week's freight train wreck looked like this. (Right) A spectator salvages an unbroken bottle from a boxcar which was loaded with beer.