Simplicity of living offers the greatest rewards to those who, in a complex world, seek wholesomeness and happiness. The farther one strays from the simple needs of living, the more troubled become his problems; for it is in the straying, with its need for more wealth, that mankind forsakes his God for mere gold.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

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THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

The Weather Man Is Very Important to Safe Air Travel

Folks who use the commercial airlines have little knowledge of the tremendous part that meteorologists, or weather forecasters, play in obtaining and making available to pilots the condition of the airways every hour of the day. Although I have flown many miles, not until last week was I even reasonably aware of what Uncle Sam and the various airlines themselves are doing to make air travel as safe as posible for the public.

Tuesday of last week I accompanied Gov. Kim Sigler, his legal adviser, Victor A. Anderson, State Trooper Ken Templin, and Pilot Fred L. Waite to Washington; we made the approximately 420 miles in two hours and thirty-five minutes, arriving at the Washington airport while part of the air show given in honor of Mexico's President Aleman was still going on.

It was our intention of leaving the next afternoon, at four o'clock, for the return trip to Lansing. But when that time came, we were informed that a series of thunderstorm squalls was presenting an almost solid front along the line of our planned flight route; that is why we remained over night in Washington, intending to get away about nine o'clock Thursday morning.

World-Wide Data

At the Washington airport, as at some 59 other stations in the U.S.A., the Weather Bureau maintains an elaborate assortment of mechanical, chemical, radio and radar devices to keep posted on weather conditions the world over. Every six hours this and other stations have gathered information regarding weather conditions for every place on earth; the data has proved out to be, on the average, 85 per cent correct.

Data is obtained from numerous devices, one of which is the balloon sent up several times daily at each station, suspended from which are devices that record wind velocities, humidity, temperature, etc.; observations are thus made as the apparatus ascends up to heights of 35,000 feet. Finally the balloon bursts and the recording apparatus descends to earth via a parachute that gets into action, landing at some point on the earth—upon being picked up, most of them are returned to the nearest office attached to the weather bureau of Civil Aeronautics Administration center. The data is then relayed, by radio and teletype, to every station.

Much information, of course, is constantly relayed by the pilots themselves to their own offices, which are in continuous contact with the Weather Bureau stations.

Maps Are Drawn

By the use of various lines and marks made on maps of an area, or of the whole earth, the meteorologists are able to study the several weather conditions that are currently going on; They see when warm and cold "fronts" are in action, and what will happen if they meet; they detect at what altitude it is safe for a plane to travel, to avoid icing of the wings and propellers; they can tell you where fog is expected and if fog is already there, when it will likely leave.

In Washington a Weather Bureau official showed us a world map for a certain six-hour period and told us of weather conditions not only in areas enroute to Michigan, but in Alaska, Siberia, China, India, and many other earth areas.

Although at four o'clock Wednesday of last week, when we wanted to take off for Lansing, the weather was ideal in Washington, within a few hours one of the approaching thunderstorms that kept us grounded struck Washington—with water coming down in torrents. Had we left the airport at four o'clock, we would have encountered this storm.

Eight Hours Enroute

So we slept in Washington that night. The next morning we finally got off at Washington at ten o'clock (Eastern Standard) at noon; we were held in Cleveland for over an hour, waiting for rain and fog to lift in the Detroit area; the flight to Detroit consumed only 37 minutes. But at the Fourth City we were held over an hour, waiting for better weather to Lansing; When Fred Waite did take off he managed to get, as far as Wixom and then, because of fast approaching storm clouds, turned the ship's nose toward Selfridge Field, where we remained for nearly two hours. The last leg of the trip required 35 minutes, and we landed safely at the Lansing airport at five minutes past six o'clock—the return flight from Washington, including confinement to the ground, about eight hours.

Yes, you may rest assured that

(See THIS & THAT, Page 2)

Norge oil burning space heater. Immediate delivery. Heats five rooms. Leonard's, 162 W. Maple. adv.tf

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, PHONE BIRMINGHAM 1-0788. adv.tf

Keep Oak St. 18 Feet Wide City Is Asked

Claim 24-Ft. Width Will Alter Nature Of Neighborhood

By George Wm. Averill

A painful step toward the possible paving of Oak street from Woodward avenue to the River Rouge bridge was made Monday night when, after more than a two-hour discussion between Oak street residents and the city commission, the commissioners determined the necessity of the Oak street improvement and turned over to City Manager Donald C. Egbert the task of recommending just how far the street can be improved without destroying its present nature.

According to Ralph L. Lee, 938 Lakeside, spokesman for the Oak street residents, both the city and the property owners see the need for improvement of Oak street, but the two parties disagree over the degree of such a project.

The city has proposed that the street be 24 feet in width, that adequate drainage be provided for surface water, and that a curb shall be provided at each side of the street.

Would Remove Big Oak

The plan to widen the street to 24 feet from its present 18-foot width would require the removal of approximately 12 trees, including the "big oak," according to Egbert.

The Oak street residents, however, countered the city proposal with one of their own which asked that the street be allowed to remain at 18 feet in width, that no curbs be constructed, that only blacktop be put down, and that a 200-foot concrete apron be provided at Oak and Woodward.

"We . . . are wholeheartedly in agreement that something should be done to provide and maintain a surface on the street suitable for the traffic it is called upon to carry," said Lee in his presentation to the commission, but he added, "We feel that the proposed reconstruction of Oak street had become far more involved than the needs, as we see them, warrant. It seemed to us that an effort was being made to kill too many birds with one stone and at one time."

'Destroy Character'

Chief argument of the group was that by widening Oak to 24 feet and removing some of the trees, the entire character of the neighborhood would be altered.

"I think you will all agree that the one feature of Birmingham which attracts people to it . . . is the village atmosphere and pleasant outlook it provides," Lee told commissioners.

Another reason the group hesitates to have the street widened is that it will bring the vehicular traffic just that much closer to the sidewalks where several hundred school children trot back and forth to school.

Speaking for the Oak street group, Lee proposed that the city (1) provide the proper drainage for the street, (2) repave the hill approaching the Rouge bridge, (3) provide a 200-foot concrete apron at Oak and Woodward and (4) place tarvia on the present width and course of the street.

Approve Assessment District

Lee said the group had no objection to the assessment district which has been proposed, which is in line with present city policy of assessing for residential street improvements.

However, one or two persons present in the audience expressed the opinion that the assessment policy for arterial streets such as Oak should be changed so a district could be extended to include the territory which normally could be considered as benefit by such an arterial improvement.

City commissioners, after determining the necessity for the Oak street improvement, asked

(See OAK STREET, Page 2)

Governor's First Long-Distance Passenger

—Photo by H. P. Eaton

Governor Kim Sigler's first long-distance plane passenger was Miss Susan C. Averill, of 669 Rivenoak, whom the governor flew from Lansing to Birmingham Monday morning after he was presented with his private pilot's license at his birthday party in Lansing the night before. Miss Averill and the governor are pictured alongside the governor's personal plane after they had landed at the Berz Airport. It was here that the governor affixed his first signature as a licensed pilot to an airport registration book.

Dr. James Pollock To Speak Here at Reunion Breakfast

Dr. James K. Pollock, who has just recently returned to the United States after serving as special adviser to General Lucius D. Clay, military governor of the American zone of occupation in Germany, will speak to the 27th annual reunion breakfast of the Ruth Shain International Relations Class, it was revealed this week.

Back at his former position as chairman of the department of political science at the University of Michigan, Dr. Pollock will speak to the class, as well as any other interested persons who wish to attend, at the Birmingham Community House on Thursday morning, May 22, at 9:15.

His subject will be "Latest Report from Germany."

Student of Germany

This annual reunion breakfast is an established custom with the class, at which they endeavor to bring some noteworthy individual into the community to speak to class members and other interested persons.

Dr. Pollock attended all but one of the general elections in Germany during the years of the Weiman Republic, and is believed by many to be a fitting person to have been chosen as a special adviser to U. S. Military government officials in Germany.

He is known for his efforts to establish democratic processes in Germany and for a revival of education in the reconstructed schools with approved teachers and textbooks.

(See POLLOCK, Page 2)

Enthusiastic Audience Greets Revival Of Local Glee Club's Spring Concert

By Victor L. Peck

Last Wednesday evening marked a momentous occasion for the music lovers of our city. It was the night on which the Birmingham Men's Glee Club restored their annual spring concert to the place of high esteem that it held during the years before the war.

A most pleasant occasion it was for those in attendance who made up a packed house in the Community House auditorium. The large enthusiastic audience was generous with their applause and lavish with their post concert praise for Birmingham's own male singing organization.

The program was presented under the direction of A. Shanley Rosso, who is the musical director of the club as well. The club was also fortunate in having two accomplished accompanists in Mrs. Howard E. Tuggey and Mrs. George C. Scott. They have given considerable time and talent to assist the group in attaining the high quality which they demonstrated in the concert.

This singing organization is made up of men from virtually every walk of life. Men of different ages and interests who share the love of singing and do it entirely for the joy and fellowship which they receive.

Proper Voice Blending

The glee club's first group was made up of five numbers. The opening selection, "Beautiful Savior" arranged by Riegger, was sung with reverence and immediately showed proper blending of voices.

Next was an old favorite, "In a Monastery Garden" by Ketelby. The third number, Bohm's "Great Is Thy Love", seemed to complete the warm-up period, if such can be said of a group of singers, and the entire glee club readily entered into the next song which was Richter's "Creation." This number was done with great feeling, solid blending, clear diction

(See CONCERT, Page 2)

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

IF selling your car, why not call your local Chevrolet dealer, 478 So. Woodward. Phone 4021. adv.tf

Uneven Sidewalk Causes Injury; Woman Sues City

The first lawsuit against the City of Birmingham as a result of temporary patching of the city's downtown sidewalks after last fall's installation of a new gas line has been filed in court, city commissioners learned Monday evening.

The complainant is Mrs. Hilde M. Cook, 2163 West Lincoln avenue.

According to Mrs. Cook's attorney, the accident arose from "defective uneven repair to the sidewalk" near the north Woodward avenue entrance to Wilson's drug store, "said sidewalk being in poor condition of repair and dangerous to pedestrian traffic."

The complaint said Mrs. Cook suffered a sprained and twisted ankle and knee which have resulted in complications.

Both City Manager Donald C. Egbert and City Attorney Forbes S. Hascall told the commission that the claim is covered by city insurance.

According to previous statements made by Egbert, the repair of downtown sidewalks is one of the first spring projects contemplated by the city.

School District Gets $24,162 Check in Sales Tax Refund

A check in the amount of $24,162 has been received by the School District of the City of Birmingham from the State of Michigan as the district's share of the sales tax refund, Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools, revealed Tuesday afternoon.

According to Ireland, the method of distributing the money among the various school employees will be determined tonight at a special meeting of the Board of Education called to canvass the results of Monday's school election.

Ireland added that he expects to announce the board's decision to school employees next Monday.

Court of Honor to Be at Camp George

Boy Scout Troop B-8, sponsored by the Rotary Club, will hold its Court of Honor at Camp George on Monday, May 19.

Scouts, with their parents and guests, will enjoy a picnic dinner followed by the demonstrations of scouting skills and the Court of Honor around the campfire.

On the Alert

Birmingham police this week arrested two Detroit men, wanted by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office for investigation of grand larceny and turned them over to that office. The two men were Ellis Spears, 19975 Roselawn and Clement Harrison, 20236 Kentucky.

Local Cancer Fund Drive Goes Over The $7,000 Mark

With the end of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills American Cancer Society drive drawing near, chairman Mrs. Walter E. Powers announces that already more than $7,000 has been collected through house-to-house canvassing, as well as through many local clubs, groups of women, and schools.

This total, which more than doubles the amount brought in during the 1946 campaign, does not yet include money collected by Teen Canteeners in the local theaters, and money contributed by students in elementary schools, and some club groups who have promised to donate.

"The funds we received could never have gone up as high as they did if it hadn't been for the marvelous cooperation of the women who canvassed in their own sections and the team captains," Mrs. Powers said.

Merchants Are Helpful

The Retail Merchants Association, in seeing that contribution cans were placed in almost every store or public place, were of invaluable assistance in letting us reach this goal.

"The area covered by the Birmingham-Bloomfield district this year is actually smaller than last year's but that had no effect on the campaign."

In order to let people know more fully just what is going to be done with the money collected through this drive, Mrs. Powers pointed out that 55 per cent of all the money collected will be spent for research on cancer, and will continue to be spent that way until a cure is found.

Both the national and local organizations of the American Cancer Society will do research—but on a national scale, it will be handled by the National Research Council of Washington, D. C.

More Details Later

Funds up to 25 per cent of those collected will be handed over to the National Research Council, to be spent in grants to various scientists working on cancer, at their discretion. Several Detroit men, she stated, were now working on cancer through such grants.

The other 20 per cent spent on research will be spent in support of the Detroit Institute of Cancer Research, newly established building of the Southeastern Division of the Cancer Society.

The balance of the funds, Mrs. Powers stated, would go to both the National and local organizations, to be used for administration, education on a national scope, free detection centers, patient aid, and for materials to be supplied to groups of women who make up cancer dressings.

Poppy Day May 22-23

Permission for the local American Legion Post and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post to hold their annual "Buddy Poppy" sale on May 22-23 this year was granted by the city commission Monday evening.

School Electors Vote Four to One in Favor of Additional 5 Mills

By more than a 4-to-1 margin, Birmingham school district electors in the special school election Monday approved the Board of Education's request for an additional 5-mill tax levy for the next five years.

The vote was 1544 persons in favor of the extension, 324 against.

In all but the Bloomfield Village precinct the electors gave more than the required two-thirds majority vote, the vote in this precinct being only 65 per cent in favor of the proposal.

The Quarton district headed the tabulation with a 91 per cent vote in favor of the amendment.

Both the superintendent of schools, Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, and the president of the Board of Education, Lee E. Joslyn, were quick to respond to the results of the election with statements of praise for the district in recognizing the seriousness of the need for the additional five mills and responding accordingly.

Can Begin School Additions

Contained in Monday's proposal was a two-and-one-half mill levy to continue $95,000 in revenue needed for school operational purposes. The other 2½ mills the district approved Monday is earmarked for the building of additional facilities at Pierce, Barnum and Quarton schools to relieve present overcrowding.

Vote by precincts was:

Adams—471 for, 83 against; Quarton—504 for, 48 against; Bloomfield—65 to 35; Barnum—234 to 56; Pierce—211 to 79, and Franklin—59 to 23.

A total of 1868 votes was cast out of a registration of approximately 2600.

Ireland's statement Tuesday morning read:

Results Gratifying

"The results of yesterday's election which indicated the fact that 83 per cent of the school electors in the School District of the City of Birmingham supported the retention of two and one-half mills for current operating expenses of the schools above the fifteen mill limitation, and an additional two and one-half mills for the construction of necessary additional plant facilities, were most gratifying.

"They indicate the fact that the people of Birmingham want good schools and are willing to support them.

"I only hope that the administration and faculty of the public schools will be able to reciprocate by making the schools of Birmingham so much more outstanding for the boys and girls of this school district that rich dividends from this additional investment may reward the parents who want the best for their children and the citizens who recognize the school as one of the basic institutions in our society which must maintain the American way of life.

Appreciates Support

"The support of the Parent-Teacher Associations, the teachers, the pupils, the staff of The Eccentric, the staff of the Board of Education, the members of the Board of Education, and the endorsements of the Retail Merchants Association, the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Birmingham Branch of the American Association of University Women, the Birmingham Veterans' Organization, and the League of Women Voters was deeply appreciated.

"The churches and service clubs were also kind enough to call this

(See ELECTION, Page 2)

Safety Patrol Captain Leaves Today for Capitol

Robert E. Newey, safety patrol captain at Quarton School, will be among the 120 outstanding leaders from schools throughout the state entraining for Washington, D. C., today on an all-expense tour sponsored by Automobile Club of Michigan.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel H. Newey, 875 Waddington road.

Newey was selected by local school authorities to make the four-day trip after his school was cited by the Auto Club for its safety activities during 1946-47.

Winning safety patrol leaders will be assembled in Detroit this afternoon from all parts of the state, according to Ernest P. Davis, Auto Club safety and traffic director. After being registered, the youngsters will be given a physical checkup, instructions on the itinerary and trip rules.

The group, along with adult supervisors and registered nurses, will board a special Safety Patrol train at 5:30 p. m. to begin the overnight trip to Washington. Friday morning they will see downtown Washington and the Capitol building on their way to the Hotel Washington, a short distance from the White House.

Will Meet Congressmen

Arlington Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the first public school, Lincoln Memorial and Mount Vernon will also be visited by the group Saturday.

Michigan Senators and Congressmen will dine with the boys Friday night at the Hotel Statler, after which they will attend a national safety patrol assembly in the Amphitheater near Washington Monument. They will join 20,000 safety patrol boys from all over the United States Saturday morning in a parade down Constitution Avenue.

Leaving Washington Saturday at 4:30 p. m., their special train will stop at historic Harper's Ferry, W. Va. for an inspection tour and views of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley.

Upon arrival in Detroit Sunday they will be routed and supervised back to their homes by the Auto Club safety staff.

W. Coit Allee Elected Chairman of Recreation Board

W. Coit Allee, 756 Henley drive, was elected chairman of Birmingham's new recreation board at an organizational meeting held last week end.

Mrs. William H. Jackson, 908 Oakland avenue, was elected vice-chairman and Harold H. Gasser, 768 Suffield, acting secretary.

At the meeting it was decided that the summer program would be set up to provide for several groups: boys and girls under 10 years of age, boys over 10 and girls over 10 years. An effort is being made to obtain the services of separate persons to direct each group.

Lighting System Along Maple to Be Modernized

A new street lighting system along Maple avenue which would double the present number of street lights and provide three times the amount of light at twice the present cost was presented to the city commission Monday night by City Manager Donald C. Egbert.

In approving the change, commissioners learned that the Detroit Edison Co. would install more modern, scientific lamps which would direct light down toward the street, rather than have much of it dispersed outward as the present 30-year-old lamps permit.

The improvement would be made on Maple between Southfield and Hunter, and on Pierce street between Maple and Martin, Egbert revealed.

"The present street lighting system on Maple is of an obsolete type and the light is directed up rather than to the pavement surface as it is in modern equipment," he pointed out.

Twenty-five new lights would be installed on Maple, and the 14 old lamps removed, at an increased cost in the city's monthly lighting bill of $76.

Egbert anticipates that work will commence shortly on the Maple avenue sidewalks between Woodward and Hunter, and he recommended that the commission approve the new lighting project so that old lamp foundations may be removed and new ones installed prior to sidewalk reconstruction.

City Denies Request for Temporary Sign Along Hunter Blvd.

Birmingham's sign ordinance does not permit the erection of billboards along Hunter boulevard, regardless of what good intention may be behind them, the Sun Oil Co. learned at Monday night's commission meeting.

The company had requested permission to place a board near the Hunter service station building at the corner of Hunter and E. Maple to show customers a picture of the modern station that would be constructed when governmental building restrictions are relaxed.

Buy New Trucks

Purchase of two new pickup trucks, to be used by the city water and park departments, was authorized by city commissioners at Monday night's meeting.

14 Mt. Clemens' Errors, Plus 7 Maple Hits, Give B'ham 13-6 Victory Friday

By Jim Milldebrandt

Returning to the win column after a 9-3 defeat at the hands of Ferndale, Birmingham coupled seven hits with 14 Mt. Clemens error to obtain a 13-6 victory over the Bathers last Friday at Pierce Field.

Although the Maroon and Grey touched Monrroy for 11 hits and six runs, the complete lack of control by Whalen, Mt. Clemens starting hurler, gave Birmingham eight unearned runs and the ball game.

Mt. Clemens jumped to a two-run lead in the first inning on Mooke's single, Girson's walk and an error by Monrroy.

Big Third Inning

Bob Saffell opened the game for Birmingham with a line drive single and then scored on a wild pitch and a fielder's choice to cut Mt. Clemens' lead to one run.

Birmingham's third inning saw the Maroons wipe out this run and another gained by Mt. Clemens in the second, as Whalen issued five of his seven wild pitches, giving Birmingham four runs, all unearned, without a hit.

Birmingham collected four more runs in the fifth as Kindley, Joyce and Filkins all hit safely and Bodle and Monrroy walked.

Greeting Evan, Mt. Clemens relief pitcher, with three hits, including doubles by Filkins and Monrroy, the Maples concluded their scoring with four final runs in the fifth inning.

Blauman Is Suspended

Mt. Clemens picked up gift runs in the second and sixth innings using three errors and two hits to score three runs and threatened mildly in the seventh as pinch hitter Leggett smashed a triple to right center, but Monrroy quickly retired Martin on a fly to left field to squelch any last inning hopes for a Bather victory.

Continuing to lead the batting parade is Bill Kindley with his lusty .454 average while Walt Bodle and Jack Filkins are swatting .333 and .307, respectively.

Former Maple hurler Dick Blauman has been suspended for the rest of the season due to disciplinary action.

INSURE NOW

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

City Will Assess At 40 Per cent Of Current Value

Birmingham property owners whose property assessments were increased $100 above an 18 per cent raise early this week received notices of the increase according to a statement issued Tuesday morning by Elmer W. Haack, city assessor.

"All assessments are being made this year at 40 per cent of current value as compared with 34 per cent as of last year," explained Haack. "This means an increase of 18 per cent over last year."

Old buildings have been depreciated for age with the result that some of the older buildings that have not been depreciated in the past few years have been raised very little if any, he stated.

No Effect on School Tax

"Contrary to general opinion, regardless of whether property is assessed at 40 per cent or 34 per cent of full value, it has absolutely no effect upon the amount of school or county tax that can be levied," Haack declared.

He pointed out that the notices mailed this week will take care of new construction or where some particular type or parcel of property was found to be out of line with city's standard of assesment.

The Board of Review, before which property owners may ask for a readjustment of their assessments, will meet at the Municipal Building today, tomorrow and Saturday between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.