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**Ulrich Describes
Fred Waring Class
to Local Lions**

Victor F. Ulrich, director of vocal music in the Birmingham public schools, spoke at the Lions Club meeting last Wednesday. His talk was about his association with Fred Waring at his school at Shawnee-on-Deleware in Pennsylvania this summer. It was a school conducted especially for people who devote time to choral singing and the training of choral units. It was the first such school conducted by Waring and is a member of the original body of students.

His talk contained a detailed description of Waring's organization and how it operates. He also told about the surroundings at Shawnee-on-Deleware which served as the campus for the school. The school lasted for a period of ten days.

Putting the accent on the Waring influence on modern choral singing, Ulrich presented a mixed chorus chosen from his classes at Baldwin High School to help him demonstrate a kind of Waring "style" which he described as "Rhythmic Antics." The 25 member chorus sang special rhythmic arrangements of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean," "The Volga Boatman," "Dry Bones" and "Country Style."

**Miss Lloyd Feted
at Crockett Home**

Mrs. C. V. Crockett was the hostess Monday afternoon when a tea was given at her home on Kennesaw drive honoring Miss Jeannette Lloyd, new librarian at Baldwin library.

The other guests included the members of the library committee of the Adams school branch, Mesdames K. E. Ketchum, W. H. Jackson, T. P. Sharpley, Gene Gold, Thorpe, F. B. Hubert and Russell Sanders.

SOCIETY NEWS must be in the Eccentric editorial office by five o'clock every Tuesday afternoon. Deadline for CLUB NEWS remains at noon Mondays. adv. tf

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**People's
Column**

To the Editor: Nov. 6, 1947

The following is the substance of a discussion I have had with several Birmingham city commissioners concerning the proposed ordinance to provide off-street parking. I believe it will be of interest to the rest of the community. It is at least a statement of the manner in which I view the particular problem of providing such lots through special assessment procedure to be applied against the business section.

In the opening paragraph of the proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 221 of the City of Birmingham, adding thereto a new article to be known as Article 20, it states: ". . . and for the payment of the cost thereof by special assessments against the property benefited thereby or other legal means."

While it does not specifically state that the cost shall be paid by special assessment, it does strongly imply that the commission expects to use this method.

Anything constructive which the commission contemplates or attempts to do, will always have my full support. However, in this matter I do not agree. This may be a very worthy project, but it does not specifically state how it will be paid for. To me, this is an absolute necessity. WHO WILL PAY THE COST, HOW AND WHEN?

That should be covered in the amendment and thus leave no doubt in any taxpayer's mind. My conviction is that the people who are directly benefited by this action should pay the cost. Of course, the people who get the DIRECT benefit are the people who use the property. Any other benefit is definitely INDIRECT.

There is no way in which the City Assessor, or anyone else, could possibly establish the benefit to any piece of property without leaving room for much argument, legal or otherwise. Consequently, an avenue is left open for much dissatisfaction and possible legal action.

The commission should give this important matter sufficient consideration and incorporate in the ordinance WHO will pay the bill. We all must agree that property acquired for this purpose MUST be paid for.

In some time I have talked to many taxpayers, including lawyers, realtors, merchants, large and small taxpayers. In EVERY instance they have stated to me that, in their opinion, the people who use the lots should pay the cost thereof. Not one person has thought the city as a whole or the land in any special special assessment roll should pay for the properties so acquired. Some taxpayers don't own or drive motor cars. The city as a whole could finance the project by bonds or otherwise from the general fund, and let the parking fees liquidate the project over a period of years. That would leave no argument in anyone's mind about WHO PAYS THE COST.

To date, this proposal is very largely THEORY. We have nothing definite to work by. What has happened somewhere else might or might not be applicable in Birmingham. The commission in this matter has no place to BEGIN and no place to END. No specific property had been designated. THE THEORY is put forward that these parking lots are a NECESSITY. If this be true, then there is no question but that they would be used by the public. If they are used, then they would liquidate themselves. IF they ARE A NECESSITY, then no chance is taken.

However, to take this chance with a special assessment district would be a vicious procedure. One which would lay wide open to present and future criticism. One large taxpayer frankly told me he would carry the matter to the highest court in the land if it were handled by special assessment.

I am not prepared to say whether the proposed method will solve our parking problem. In THEORY it looks all right, but in PRACTICE it is a matter which trial alone will prove. If the commission feels the intent of Article 20 is right and proper, then have the city designate and finance the first lot and try it out.

The matter of having the churches and the Community House bear their share, as was contemplated, is not proper, in my opinion. It is contrary to everything our forefathers fought for and set up. No man should be penalized for going to church. That should be made easy for him with no extra charges placed in his way as an excuse for not going. The Community House belongs to you, to me, and to everyone in Birmingham. It is a public institution for the benefit of ALL and not SOME of the people.

I assume this proposal is meant to be constructive and to make possible the building of new stores and office buildings, needed so badly. To me, it defeats that purpose and encourages the owners to leave their buildings as they are with no more expense than is absolutely necessary to make them tenable.

At the present time, including indications for some years to come, the cost of badly needed buildings is so high that it makes the construction thereof very questionable. To add this additional cost for a parking space, by special assessment, will make it prohibitive. Also, a parking lot, if it could be had within 400 feet of the proposed new building, would be used by others than the tenants for whom it was intended. This would cause no end of confusion and argument.

I'm afraid the commissioners are working on the wrong theory. They must specify their locations for the start, purchase them by general fund money and liquidate the cost of parking revenue therefrom. They must not do anything to hold back badly needed im-

**Luncheon Given for
Fraternity Mothers**

The Mother's Club of Alpha Gamma Chapter, Theta Chi, were luncheon guests of Mrs. J. E. Adams at her home on a Kennesaw road yesterday. A business meeting was held after the social hour. Mrs. Adams' son, Charles, is a member of the fraternity at Ann Arbor.

**Local Artists' Work
in Detroit Exhibit**

The paintings of three local women are hung in the annual Fall exhibit of the works of Michigan artists which opened Tuesday night at the Detroit institute of Arts.

Mrs. Vinton Birch, Mrs. F. B. Etter and Mrs. V. J. Snyder, all members of the Birmingham Society of Women Painters, each have one canvas hung.

Club Notes

Woman's Club
This meeting will be at the home of Mrs. L. S. Helms on Oakwood Blvd. in Royal Oak. Mrs. H. T. Ellerby, Mrs. Earle Shelby and Mrs. Matthew Cammerer will serve the luncheon.

MR. and MRS. R. L. WILLIAMS of Southaven blvd. have returned from a two-week motor trip to Florida where they attended the 90th annual convention of the American Institute of Accountants, held in the Roney Plaza at Miami Beach.

But, by all thy nature's weakness, Hidden faults and follies known, Be thou, in rebuking evil, Conscious of thine own. —Whittier

improvements in the form of good business buildings in Birmingham.
L. E. COLGROVE,
452 Puritan Road.

**Young Musicians on
Exchange Programs**

The Moment Musical group met last week at the home of Miss

Carol Faulkner on Yorkshire road. Mrs. E. M. Cutler, the state president, brought the young people of the Highland Park group who presented a program of vocal and instrumental music.

Tuesday evening, in an exchange-program agreement, the Birmingham group had charge of the entertainment at Highland Park.

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**WILL THERE REALLY
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THIS WINTER?**

Why not ask your Coal Merchant?

THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF GLOOMY FORECASTS RECENTLY regarding a grave shortage of fuels for home heating this coming winter . . . Detroiters, it has been promised, will shiver for lack of oil, gas and coal to burn in their heating plants.

Before you get too panicky about the situation, do this: Call your own local coal merchant and ask him about it. The best authority on your coal supply is your coal supplier; others (including many "experts" who are not connected with the Coal Industry) are too prone to look at a big, hazy picture that conveys only a generalized view.

Of course, your coal man cannot speak with authority on the fuel oil or gas situation; but he can and will tell you the truth about coal. One of the things he will tell you is not to be guided by the size of supplies in his yard. Lake shipments have always had priority at this time of the year; when the navigation season is over the normal shipments direct to Detroit for home heating use will, as usual, take place. So the fact that your retailer's yards may be low now does not mean it will not be amply full by the time you are ready to light your first fire.

Your coal retailer will also remind you of this: Unlike other fuels, there is still three thousand years' supply of coal in the ground. You may not be able to get the exact type or quality of coal you prefer on your first delivery, but barring conditions beyond his control, your coal merchant will be able to keep your home warm, as he has always done during both World Wars, without coupon rationing. You can cooperate with your coal retailer by accepting delivery of the type and size of coal he has available now.

But don't take our word for it. Don't take anybody's word for it . . . except your local coal merchant's. Like your family doctor, his principal concern is your well-being. Before you come to any hasty decision—call him up and ask him: "Will I have coal this winter?"

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