

The Birmingham Leader

Eccentric Begins Special Series on City Government and THAT

By G. R. A.

The Chief Cause of Increasing Costs of State Government

From my son's what privileged vantage point in the Governor's office in Lansing for over 15 months, I have come to the conclusion that the chief reason why the cost of State government is so high is because of the demands that people "back home" make upon the Legislature.

Every sane legislator who honest public official really wants to keep down the cost of government, but when he or she goes into the Legislature he or she becomes, too often, the unwilling victim of "pressure groups" in his or her district, who want additional or new services from the State.

For example, in 1946 the people approved the Sales Tax Diversion Amendment, which added millions of former State revenues back to schools, cities and townships, approximately eight and one-half millions were returned to them from sales taxes—nearly three times the amount these townships were levying from their own taxpayers.

Because of this, Budget Director John A. Perkins and a number of key legislators recently determined to limit their own budgets. The State has been giving annually for rural libraries should be discontinued, they feel, so that townships with their extra, and too often expensable, new financial resources would be able to pay for their own library services.

It was not very long, however, before the library lobby contacted the Legislature, and the State, they wanted that \$375,000 restored and, as I write this Sunday, April 11, it may be returned to the towns, but more money than they legally appear willing to spend.

This has been an example of "pressure group" demand for the expenditure of your taxes in response to "pressure," creates a new State service, costs more than it dispenses such services, it costs the cost of State government.

The real solution lies in the willingness of local units of government to handle their own problems. This, of course, would mean a direct local tax, something local units are afraid to levy so they join with the "pressure group" and go to Lansing for help.

The same drift of funds of government to run off to Lansing for help is seen in the drift of many State funds. This is an obvious reason why the federal government's budget is so astronomical and why they are taking over your national government. . . not to overlook bureaucratic growth in the States, as well.

When will it stop? . . . If the citizens, themselves, demand less help from outside their own local units of government when they are "pressured" upon their legislative and administrative representatives.

Only when the average American citizen is willing to meet social and economic problems in units of governmental jurisdiction closer to his own hearth.

Building Soars As Warm Weather Nears

Representing an outlay of nearly six times the value of the permits issued for the month of February and over \$29,000 above the corresponding month of 1947, the 52 building permits issued by Scott A. Hersey, city building inspector, for the past month represented a valuation of \$451,300.

The 48 single residences to be built will cost an estimated \$394,000. . . . The other permits issued were for alterations on six single residences, two of which were for repairs to fire damage; one new building and eight repairs; one two-family residence and one basement permit. Two permits were also issued to move buildings.

The 43 new buildings are valued at \$432,500. . . . The seven alterations will cost \$18,800.

Would Include Humphrey St. in Area Improvement

Improvement of Humphrey Street from Grand and Woodward with curb, gutter and hard surfacing was recommended to the commission Monday night by Donald C. Egbert, city manager.

"All the other streets in that area are or are about to be improved," Egbert pointed out. "It would be more economical to improve the whole area at one time. The commission asked the manager to prepare a preliminary report on the cost of the Humphrey improvement and to report back to the commission."

By George Wm. Averill

If the street in front of your home is to be improved, does the City of Birmingham levy a special assessment against your property? Why is the street improvement not paid from city taxes?

What functions does the City Treasurer's office perform in addition to sending out tax bills? Who is responsible for the upkeep of the city's wells and maintenance of a proper water supply in city water mains?

These and many other questions concerning our local city government will be explained in a series of articles, beginning today, to be presented by The Birmingham Eccentric.

In coming months the story of how Birmingham's municipal government functions will be unfolded through the column of this newspaper. It is not a new story by any means. All of the information presented is readily available at the particular city office.

Many Busy Citizens However, few citizens have availed themselves of these facts because of various good reasons. Many are busy with activities that preclude their attendance at city meetings, while many others inhibit their dropping in to visit with the various city officials to learn how things are done.

Realizing this situation, the Eccentric will contact the several city departments and request from them the facts concerning their departmental operations and functions in a clear, concise form as the result of our interviews.

Subsequent articles will review the history of the City of Birmingham itself, who first settled here, some of the earlier buildings, and the development of Birmingham as a residential city. It was not until 1895 that Birmingham had a number of small factories flourished here.

Will Explain Policies Functions of the city commissioner, the city manager, the city clerk, treasurer, assessor, health officer, department director of public works—their duties and responsibilities will be discussed in an interesting series of articles. So will the routine activities of the police and fire departments, and the various city departments, safety and standards bureau, sewerage treatment plant.

After these standard operation-

Y to Recognize Leaders at Annual Dinner Tomorrow

At the second annual "Recognition Dinner" of the Birmingham Y will be held in the Men's Club at the Birmingham Y on Tuesday, April 16, at 6:30 p. m. . . . Outstanding young leaders of the Y will be recognized and given awards for their efforts this past year.

Four members of the committee of Management, Y. C. Smith, Dr. John W. Lewis, William C. Wilson and Samuel Laitner, will receive the Emblem Club 25-member pin badge in recognition of the fact that that number of new members this past year. This is one of the most cherished Y awards at the 15-member and 10-member pins which will be awarded to Clarence Vliet and Will DeGraw in the first category, and to Ross Wagner, Walter Morgan and Charles Shain in the second.

Other members of the committee, who have given outstanding service this past year are Merritt Olson, Oscar Peterson, Hugh McClesse, Raymond Peck, Whiting Raymond and Lloyd Lake.

Trophy Awards According to Walter Morgan, chairman of the physical committee of the Y, the trophies awarded to Embury Methodist Church for winning the Metropolitan Detroit YMAA senior boys' basketball tournament, basketball runner-up, YMAA sports tournament, and for representing as Birmingham YMAA, church, and Y, the trophies in the regulation and play-off series.

Walter Morgan Embury Church team being honored are Roger Reynolds, Howard Littleton, Tom and Bill Allen, Gene Wilkins, Myron, Don Traimer and Harry Sudgen.

Individual miniature basketballs will be awarded to members of Rotary Club Wildcats who finished first in the regular season. . . . The play-off trophy will be presented to members of the YMAA basketball quintet who defeated the Lions sponsored five in the final round of the regular season. . . . Members of this group are Gene Wilkins, George Pope, Roger Reynolds, Howard Littleton, Al Larsen, Harry Sudgen, Bill Morrow, Chester Myron, Walter Allison, and manager Bill Reed.

Walter Morgan, chairman of the YMAA play-off series, will be presented to members of the YMAA basketball quintet who defeated the Lions sponsored five in the final round of the regular season. . . . Members of this group are Boyd Larson, Derek Bolton, William Therrian, and Ed DINNER, Page 2

Speaks Monday

Governor Kim Sigler will address members and guests of the Birmingham Hi-12 Club at their Monday evening dinner. . . . Governor Sigler will be introduced by the Honorable Mr. Averill, editor and publisher of The Eccentric and Gov. Sigler will introduce the speaker.

Committee of 40 to Be Briefed at Meeting Tonight

Charles B. Kas, general chairman of the Community House Roll Call, urges every member of the Community House to be present at eight o'clock for the "Know Your Rally" of the committee. It will be a 60-minute illustrated presentation of Community House Roll Call and the acquisition of rights of the 1948 Roll Call.

Sewer Outlet Must Be Constructed to Prevent Flooding

City Attorney Forbes S. Hasall has been authorized by the city commissioner to prepare a plan for the acquisition of rights-of-way for construction of a 60-inch storm sewer outlet from the main end of Webster avenue.

Eden Re-Elected Mayor of B. Hills

C. G. Eden was re-elected Mayor of Bloomfield Hills Tuesday night by the city commission. . . . The commission was reluctant to the city, but decided it was the only thing to do.

Mrs. A. D. McLay's Mother Dies at 80

Mrs. A. D. McLay, 715 Wibleton drive, was called by Des Moines, Iowa, this week by the death of her mother, Mrs. May Wallace, who died Monday at the age of 80.

Commission Names County Supervisors

City commissioner Ralph A. Main was appointed Monday evening to the Oakland County board of supervisors by the city commission. . . . Named again to the board were Elmer Haack, David Levinson and ex-commissioner Ray A. Palmer.

One Down, 499 to Go

A careful survey of these trees has been made by John Johnson, superintendent of the forestry and parks department, and he states that none of these trees will be in safe condition 10 years from now.

500 Unsafe Maple Trees to Be Removed from Old Part of City in Next 10 Yrs.

In order to prevent possible property damage and to eliminate a safety hazard, the city department of forestry will remove 500 to 600 soft maple trees from the central part of Birmingham.

Malender Elected Mayor for 2nd Time

City Commissioner Milton F. Malender is going to have to make the rounds of the "chicken and patting shell circuit" for a second time since he has served on the city commission.

Malender served as mayor of Birmingham for his second time Monday after a lapse of a year as the result of the commission election.

Clause in Deeds to Be Condemned

It would be less expensive for the city to condemn the property between the two Lincoln wells and Fairway drive than to open a driveway around three sides of the park for the benefit of the city commissioners.

Eliminate Home Hazards During Clean-Up Week

Home accidents will take the lives of more than 1,200 Michigan people and injure thousands of others this year unless Michigan residents actively campaign to eliminate health, accidents and fire hazards from their homes.

2 Drivers Fined \$40 for Reckless Driving

Bloomfield Hills police last week created two tickets for racing their cars at 75 miles an hour through the city.

Request Referred

A request to close an alley paralleling 14 mile road east of W. Halsted and Newark Lake road, Clarence M. Shelton, 21, of Pontiac and Ernest C. Van Hoorn, 12, of Cheboygan, were given \$40 on charges of reckless driving.

Rotary Club Elects Board of Directors

At their Monday noon luncheon, Birmingham Rotary club elected its 1948-49 board of directors. . . . It consists of Paul Friedrich, Paul Grant, Elmer Haack, Robert Messon, Dallin Mainman and Miles Robinson.

Only One Bidder

City commission Monday evening purchased 8,000 gallons of gasoline from the Standard Oil Co., the only firm which would bid on the contract. The gas, at a price of 13.021 cents a gallon, will be used in city vehicles.

Local Y Bowlers Take Detroit Title

Sparked by John Nickell's 533 score and Ronnie Gardner's 500 average score, the local YMAA boys' bowling team took the 1572-73 Detroit title in competition with 14 other representative teams from other YMAA's.

PHONE 11

Ask for a classified ad taker who will help you with your ad.

Egbert to Submit Roadway Plan to Commissioners

Just what streets are to receive an oil coating under the city charter amendment approved at the April 5 election is the immediate problem of City Manager Donald C. Egbert, who in the next week or so must submit to city commissioners an over all summer road oiling plan.

Egbert indicated Monday evening at the commission meeting that he would prefer to establish the following priority for such improvement:

- Streets under improvement with curb and gutter;
- Certain streets in strategic areas which already have a hard surface base and sidewalks;
- Oiling of less important streets which have hard and gravel bases and the order in which the petitions are presented.

The city expects to be able to obtain 150,000 gallons of oil to be used on streets this summer and is planning accordingly.

City Committed "We have an obligation to put an oil coating on 4 miles of streets which now have curb and gutter and are awaiting permanent hard surfaces," the manager explained to the commissioners.

Home accidents will take the lives of more than 1,200 Michigan people and injure thousands of others this year unless Michigan residents actively campaign to eliminate health, accidents and fire hazards from their homes.

How many Birmingham residents will be included in this campaign? . . . How many Birmingham residents will be included in this campaign? . . .

Schedule Next Week "The types of rubbish and the DPW pickup schedule will be announced next week," Gunn said.

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SPORTS, TO BE SURE But No More Hunting . . . As a special convenience to users of Eccentric classified ads, we have instituted a new ad policy.

SPORTS and HOBBY EQUIPMENT In it you may find all kinds of sports and hobby equipment for sale.

High Team Score Northern YMAA took the trophy for 1947-48 high team pin score, Likewise, a member of their group took the trophy for high pin number.

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Deadline is Tuesday at 2 p. m.