

You cannot escape the eternal vigilance that you, as a citizen, are called upon to exercise against you. The only way to maintain your rights is to be vigilant. As witnessed by Fair Play.

The Birmingham Times

FISHES and THAT

By G. R. A.

No. 2 Wagon, Broom, Brick Factories, Tanning Mill Here Years Ago

By George Wm. Averill

In 1827, soon after John Hunter began operation of a blacksmith's shop and foundry, Elijah Willetts started a tannery. Then came the first tavern, built by John Hamilton. It was located at the southeast corner of what is now Woodward and Hamilton avenues. Much later, this tavern was developed into the National House, a hostelry which figured large in the social and commercial history of early Birmingham.

Then in 1833, came the first store operated by Sullivan Kelsey. Three years later, in 1836, Piety Hill had a post office. It was in charge of this same Sullivan Kelsey.

Some persons still living here heard of the old Ball Line road. It was a mile east of the settlement and, in a somewhat strange fashion, connected with Detroit. It was surveyed in 1819. The early days of the Saginaw Trail, which now Woodward avenue, were nothing to boast of. It is something of a skeleton in the highway closet that the early settlers would not speak of if they were still alive to do so.

Followed more roads and, with their completion, added population, more persons to work and live. And then came government. The township of Bloomfield was organized in 1828, comprising

Beginning May 1, City Offices Go on Five-Day Week

Beginning this Saturday, May 1, city offices will go on a five-day week, City Manager Donald C. Egbert announced.

The city commission Monday night approved a resolution adopting this new practice after a recent survey showed that Saturday customers were overwhelmingly in favor of having city offices remain open Monday evenings and closing Saturday mornings.

Therefore, this Saturday city offices will be closed and each Saturday thereafter. They will be open Monday evenings, beginning May 3, to permit regular business transactions.

Two hundred five persons were questioned one Saturday morning concerning the change. Of those who replied, 141 said they would prefer Monday evening over the Saturday opening. Only 26 objected to closing Saturday.

Commissioners hope that the Monday opening will encourage more persons to attend the regular commission meetings.

Regular emergency city service will be provided over Saturdays and Sundays as it has been in the past, Egbert said.

Consumers' Mainline Repairs Are Halted

Consumers Power Co. will not be permitted to install or replace mainline gas services in the City of Birmingham until it meets city standards for handling flammable gas, it was announced this week by Leonard Gunn, director of public works.

"I have asked Consumers officials to meet with city officials to outline a program that will prevent trenches from settling in streets and alleys, which has been the cause of many gas line installations made last fall," Gunn said.

To date, no word has been received from Consumers as to the date of the meeting.

Joints to Be Sealed

Three thousand pounds of lead have been purchased by the city commission to be used for sealing joints in water main installations. The purchase price was \$625.50.

PROGRESS REPORT

on the current survey of city offices and administration may be found on

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The report was prepared by Hall and Life Co. and has been presented to the City Commission.

All makes of new spring mattresses available at 10% discount. PERRY, PHONE 3744-1-0262.

Petition for World Trade Hearings Now Must Be Held Soon, League of Women Voters Insist

The advisability of extending the Reciprocal Trade Agreements cannot be decided fairly by the American public until and unless Congress conducts public hearings on the issue.

This statement came this week from Mrs. F. G. Garrison, president of the Birmingham League of Women Voters, as a follow-up to local discussions on the trade agreements conducted last February, during "World Trade Week" here.

"Chairman Harold Knutson of the House Ways and Means Committee has not called for these hearings and the legislation cannot come onto the House floor until the preparation of the bill is short because the RTA Act expires June 12," Mrs. Garrison declared.

Start Hearings at Once

The League this week is circulating among the members of the 41 organizations of the Birmingham Community Council petitions calling upon Congress to start the hearings at once.

"At the Havana meeting of the contracting parties of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, conducted simultaneously with the work on the preparation of the International Trade Organization Charter, considerable interest was shown by both Geneva and non-Geneva countries in scheduling such negotiations to begin within the next few months."

"Since the United States, however, could not participate until the renewal of the Trade Agreement Act, it was decided to postpone the determination of such a schedule until the second meeting of the contracting parties, to be held in July or August of this year."

Following the President's message to Congress, Representative Doughton introduced a joint resolution to extend the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act. This resolution was referred to the House Ways and Means committee, which will presumably hold public hearings. No date for these hearings has yet been announced.

"The National League of Women Voters has sent a CALL TO ACTION, to urge that public hearings be held in Congress at once, and that the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act be extended for at least three years in its present form without any crippling amendments."

"There are indications that opponents of the program may attempt to (1) delay public hearings; (2) drastically curtail or even discontinue these hearings; (3) limit the extension to one rather than three years, thus postponing a real decision until after the '48 election; and (4) require Congressional review of each agreement negotiated under the Act. Any of these tactics could be harmful to the public interest."

Students Become City Commissioners for a Day

A practical lesson in municipal affairs was obtained Monday by Baldwin high school seniors when they worked alongside regular city officials. Student commissioners even discussed Monday evening's agenda.

Waiting while "City Clerk" Jo Laucouer records a resolution are (left to right) Steve Campbell, George Allen, Bill Robertson (commissioner), Miss Laucouer, Dick Stoll (commissioner), Tom Mills (mayor), Fred Mallender (city manager) and Jerry Yates (commissioner).

Softball League Formed; Opening Games on June 3

Tentative plans for an 8-team softball league were set in motion Monday evening when representatives of various groups met in the YMCA offices.

The season will open officially June 3 and all teams will play a double round-robin game. They will be on Monday and Thursday evenings at Gory, Howarth, St. James and Pierce fields, with starting time set for 6:45 p.m. Each team will sign up 15 men and will have furnish uniforms and playing equipment.

24 City Streets Being Considered for Improvement

Improvement of 23 city streets, either with permanent surfacing or temporary oiling, were discussed by the city commission Monday evening.

Commissioners set May 17 as the date for a hearing on the necessity for putting permanent asphaltic surfacing on nine streets in the Birmingham Highlands subdivision: Bryn Mawr, Wellesley, Berwyn, Argyle, Goldview, Glenhurst, Avon Lane, Devon Lane and Radnor.

These streets already have curb and gutter. Donald C. Egbert, city manager, explained.

May 17 was also the date set for the hearing on the necessity of putting road oil on Stanley from Lincoln to 14 Mile.

Egbert was directed to report back on the estimated costs for permanent improvement of Northlawn and Southlawn, both between Pierce and Stanley. Residents abutting these two streets have been complaining to the city concerning the water which stands in the ditches alongside the streets.

By determining the necessity for road oiling Pleasant between Maple and Lincoln, the commission set the project to the city assessor's office for establishment of the assessment district. Pleasant, between Northlawn and Lincoln, is being considered for an oil treatment.

Approve Lincoln Paving

Commissioners asked Egbert to report back on the advisability of putting road oil on various districts of 10 other city streets: Chesterfield, Words, Wimbledon, Edgewood, Fairway, Henley, Warwick, Larches, Park and Baldwin.

In two other matters involving city streets the commission approved the assessment roll for the improvement of Lincoln between Adams and Woodward, to a width of 44 feet and curb and gutter.

The first goal of the Roll Call is \$28,568 for 1948-49 budgeting costs. Funds received beyond that amount will be applied to repairs on roofs and drains and new paint for the outside of the house.

Plans for Trial

Plans for a trial to be held Tuesday in the civics class are made by city attorney Tim Adams, commission clerk J. Wilson, and chief of police Jack Chritton.

Warren Rouse, summoned by the city manager for felonious assault on the sidewalk, was fined \$50 for the offense in the local jail but was released in time to make out his own evaluation of the experience.

City officials buzzed with excitement Monday as students took part in the annual "Civic Control Day."

Seniors started the day by going to the city hall to receive a room where the oath of office was administered by the two city commissioners, Mayor Tom Mills and city manager Fred Mallender. From there they reported to and worked the rest of the day on the various details to whom they were assigned.

Commissioners toured the building during the afternoon. The city to study certain street changes that were on the agenda for the regular commission meeting.

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Local Group Would Discontinue 10% Discount, Add Penalty Instead

Possibility that the city water department may discontinue the practice of discounting water bills 10 per cent is now under investigation by city officials.

Monday evening city commissioners instructed City Attorney Forbes S. Hascall to check the various city ordinances concerning water department operation to ascertain whether or not the city can take this new step.

This measure, if adopted, would be placed in effect next July 1 and would be first noticed on the third quarter water bills received by residents in October. It would also result in an increase in the amount paid for sewage disposal.

"Birmingham at the present time is paying water rates first put into effect on Sept. 17, 1928," City Manager Donald C. Egbert explained to commissioners in recommending what amounts to an 8 or 9 per cent increase in rates.

Two B'ham Triples Figure in 7-4 Win Over Cranbrook

By Duke-Layland

Clay Joyce's two triples, one single and a walk and Mugs Rouse's three singles in four times at bat featured Birmingham's 7-4 victory over Cranbrook on Tuesday afternoon at the Municipal stadium.

Cranbrook scored first when Ken Wright, Crane third baseman, singled and Dick Brock scored him with a fluke double into right center field in the last half of the first inning. The Maples did all their scoring in the next three innings, there being no further scoring until the seventh.

Pat Wall opened the second inning with a single but was thrown out in attempting to steal second. Bob Lusk, Birmingham pitcher, singled him home. Ken MacQueen, Birmingham catcher, singled and Rouse took him home when the catcher threw the pitch go between his legs.

Roll Call Donations Reach \$10,000; Drive Ends Friday

Incomplete reports from less than a third of Community House Roll Call workers, and returns from the letter mailed to every household in March, total approximately \$10,000 to date, according to Charles B. Kaas, general chairman of the 1948 campaign to provide next year's operating funds for the Community House.

Three consecutive singles by Dow, Seaber and Wright gave Cranbrook its fourth and final run in the last half of the seventh.

Emerson C. Brown, 953 Floyd street, and Elliott S. Kinney, 1125 Chesterfield road, were appointed to the board of review by the city commission Monday evening.

On Board of Review

Kinney and Brown will serve May 15-16 when the board meets to review property assessments.

Year gas was tested. The police chief went on a regular run with various city inspectors to inspect an off-duty and reported all was in order. The report of first aid supplies in the city hall was satisfactory.

Baldwin Seniors 'Take Over' Birmingham City Offices During Civic Control Day

By Lee Hanson

City officials buzzed with excitement Monday as students took part in the annual "Civic Control Day."

Health officer Phyllis Morse and city nurse Sally Smith inspected the city hall and city stores, reporting favorably.

Could's Tell Difference

Pictures of mayor Tom Mills and city manager Fred Mallender were taken by the Pontiac Daily Press just before the afternoon session of the commission.

Commissioner Jim Ensign had been studying the problem of putting a sidewalk on the east side of Eton Road. He presented his findings in the afternoon meeting.

It was stated that if one closed one's eyes he couldn't tell the difference between the student and the regular commission member.

One of the most exciting moments during the evening was the question of lining Pleasant street on which Mrs. Carol Darling resides. She was the advisor of the group.

Every student was required to fill out a two-page report of the experience.

Fingerprints were taken and

Costs Must Be Met

"Since that time, costs of labor and material used by the water department are considerably above those in 1923. The cost index now stands about 65 per cent above those of 1940. These additional costs must be met," the manager stated.

The change in the water rates will return a net increase of \$7,400 to the department, Egbert figured. This money would be turned into capital improvements.

Last year the water department grossed \$710,000 of which \$11,000 was surplus. However, since this surplus had to be turned over to the city for the purchase of water meters for additional connections to the system, the department ended the year with no surplus.

Deficit Considering

The proposed new rates would be a \$2.50 minimum charge (which it presently is), but the city would discount the 10 per cent discount on the rate. It had a 5 per cent penalty would be charged if a second billing had to be made at the end of 30 days. Egbert pointed out that Detroit is now considering a water rate increase to meet operational expenses.

"Since many suburban communities are having rate increases will have to be boosted according to the Detroit increase," he said.

Increased Accordingly

The proposed change in water rates will also affect the sewerage rates, which are figured on a percentage system. Since these rates would be collected on a minimum bill of \$2.50 rather than the present \$2.25 (which is \$2.50 minus 10 per cent, or \$2.25) the revenue to the city would be increased accordingly.

"The present rapid growth of the city and the volume of heavy burden on the water department," said Egbert. "Such an expansion in volume of business in a privately owned utility would be financed by the issuance of additional bonds for financing expenditures for our water department."

Neighbors to Stand Cost of Developing Bloomfield Ct. Park

A new park is to be developed in Birmingham—and at no cost to the city.

This welcome news was learned by city commissioners Monday evening when they met in the Bloomfield Court residents approached city officials with the plan of developing a property at the northwest corner of Woodward and Bloomfield Court into a playground for children in the neighborhood.

Swings, horizontal bars and other playground equipment will be installed at no cost to the city, neighborhood representatives said.

Commissioner William Ensign declared, "The Bloomfield Court citizens should be highly commended for their interest in developing this playground."

The Pastest Way to Become a Pedestrian is to Advertise Your BICYCLE. FOR SALE

In the Classified Columns of this newspaper. The advertiser in that's what Dawn Hanson of Oakdale, Michigan, has done. She wanted to be rid of her bike. Dawn reported she calls reading this advertisement the very first one that answered her.

PHONE 11

Ask for a classified ad taker who will help you. Deadline is Tuesday at 5 p. m.