

Newest and Highest

## B. E. Fowler Named Acting Postmaster

### Democrat Takes Over From Byrne, Who Is Retiring

Bernard E. Fowler, 1595 Oxford road, for the past 8 years a delegate from Oakland county to the Michigan Democratic state conventions, Monday assumed the duties of acting postmaster of Birmingham. He succeeds Joseph A. Byrne, who retired on that date after 15 years' service as postmaster.

Fowler, whose temporary appointment by the U. S. Postoffice Department was approved by the State Democratic Central Committee, will serve until the U. S. Civil Service Commission conducts an examination for the position and the regular appointment is confirmed by the Senate.

For the past four years a life insurance salesman, Fowler, who is 50 years old, has worked at the local post office for several years during the Christmas rush periods. He also has some experience in railway mail service.

Lived Near 21 Years He has lived in Birmingham for the past 21 years, and for 33

### Rating Up 7 Points

The Birmingham post office, just rector, that is rating on efficiency of administration and operation, resulting from a visit by postal inspectors last November 13, is 94 per cent. Postmaster Joseph A. Byrne said in a parting statement Monday.

On December 6, 1946, the same type of inspection resulted in a rating of only 87 per cent, Byrne pointed out.

years in Bloomfield township. A veteran of World War I, he is a member of the American Legion and the VFW. He was graduated from St. Charles high school, Pontiac, and Cass Technical High school, Detroit.

Byrne, appointed in 1933, asked to be retired in order to accept a position in private business. He has indicated he will take a "good, long vacation" before he takes a new job later this fall.

In deciding a permanent postmaster, the Civil Service commission must set a date for an examination. The three top names which come out of this examination will be forwarded to the Post Office Department, which in turn sends on to the state civil service committee for recommendations. (See POSTMASTER, Page 2)

## Annual Swim Night Events Will Be Concluded Tonight

Tonight at 7:30 the second half of the Birmingham Recreation Board's annual swim night will be held at the Barton pool. The girls' night will be held Tuesday evening and the boys will attempt to break pool records this evening. The event was divided into two nights because of the large crowds and the size of the crowds which attended last years swimming meet.

Parents are invited to attend the meet tonight. Admission is free. The following events: 1) flutler kick on the side of the pool; 2) jelly fish float; 3) kick board race; 4) brick fling contest; and 5) free style relay.

Special Added Attraction The event is open to various age classifications are 1) plunge for distance; 2) free-style 100 yard race; 3) team relay; 4) water swim for distance; 5) diving; 6) kick board race; 7) side stroke race; 8) back stroke race; 9) breast stroke race; 10) water ball contest; 11) inner tube race; and 12) free-style relay.

A special added attraction will be presented. This is a diving act of state-wide fame. Miss Irma and Miss Surma Wart and Pupple will perform from the spring board. Director Frank Whitney stated.

The Recreation Board's doll display has been finished and the winners will soon be announced and notified. The handicraft and work shop display will replace the doll exhibit in the Chamber of Commerce window this week.

**Boy, 8, Suffers Slight Concussion As Result of Spill**  
Peter Collins, 8, of 291 Wadlington, suffered a slight brain injury when he fell from a bicycle which was spilled from his bike when it hit a bump on West Maple at the intersection of East 26th.

Taken to Ford Hospital, Detroit, for observation, he returned home Saturday.

## I'm Not Interested, Pop!

### Commissioners Attack State's Intrusive 'Begging' Question

### Egbert Names St. Clair Man City Engineer

Leon B. Kordell of St. Clair, Mich., this week took over the duties of Birmingham city engineer, although it will not be entered on the record officially until September 1.

This was disclosed this week by City Manager Donald C. Egbert after a surprise announcement by present City Engineer Harold H. Corson last Saturday that he will retire on that date after serving the City of Birmingham in various capacities since 1927.

Resident engineer for the City of Chicago from 1924 to 1942, Kordell recently has been working for the Defense Plant Administration, a federal agency on plant appraisals, reconversion problems, contract terminations, plant clearance and disposal of government-owned surplus property.

Division Engineer This is the first time that the DPC has been in charge of its construction of the Dow Magnesium Corp. plant at East River, Mich. In 1944 he was promoted to division engineer and placed in administrative charge of construction of all DPC plants built in eastern half of Michigan, outside the City of Detroit.

Part of this time was spent as chief engineer for the DPC in charge of about 250 engineers and involved one \$60,000,000 project constructed by the Austin Co. of Detroit, and where A. F. Plant, 564 Brookside, is vice-president.

Corson has been a resident of Birmingham all his life. He was with the state highway department for a while until he came to Birmingham in December 1927 as a village engineer.

Will Take Vacation For the 11 years between 1932 and 1943, he acted as both city engineer and city treasurer. When he left to go to the Navy in 1943, Corson took over as acting city manager until the date of the city engineering department.

Recently Corson was placed in charge of the city's water and sewer facilities within the city.

The month of August Corson plans to spend a vacation in the country.

During the time Kordell was with the City of Chicago, he supervised construction of seven bridges through a good deal of the city. These projects were interspersed with work on maintenance, structural design, specification writing, estimating operations, Moxley said.

It is expected that traffic on Maple road will not be disturbed during operations, Moxley said.

### New Gas Main Now Being Laid Along West Maple Ave.

Yesterday the R. D. Baker Co. began laying a new 4-inch gas main from Woodward and Maple along West Maple to the south on Southfield and Merrill street.

The work will be laid in the same trench in which the new city water main was recently placed. It is expected that traffic on Maple road will not be disturbed during operations, Moxley said.

## Denmark Struggles to Recover Its Pre-War Economic Happiness and Prosperity

By Doris E. Kus  
The people of Denmark are working valiantly to recover their pre-war economic status, but the struggle is a bitter one and many Danes are feeling discouraged and depressed, according to Jorgen Horth, Copenhagen.

Horth arrived about 10 days ago to study business methods at the Progressive Walder Company and plans to remain here approximately six months. Twenty-six years old, he is in the States through the American-Scandinavian Foundation's exchange student program. Horth has already been in the business world for 10 years. He has also studied in night school during those years and has specialized in the technical and economic phases of business administration. In Copenhagen, he is managing agent with a machine tool company.

Horth feels that the tight government management in his country isn't too good a thing, that too much of it is likely to stifle initiative. But the Danish leaders are loosening up this control as the

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### Policeman Nabs B and E Suspect Early Sunday

An alert Birmingham policeman, making his rounds of the business district, early Sunday morning, arrested a Pontiac man on a charge of breaking and entering a gas station at the corner of Hamilton and Woodward.

Patrolman Merle Holmquist, the alert policeman, was on duty at 4:45 a. m. when he heard a noise inside. Going around to a back window, he apprehended James Thomas, 34, of 54 Elizabeth, Pontiac, who Holmquist said was attempting to crawl out the window.

Brought before Justice John J. Gault Monday afternoon, Thomas waived examination and was bound over to circuit court for trial. He was held in the city jail at the station, an investigation disclosed.

Out on Probation According to local police, Thomas as a three-year probationer having been apprehended under similar circumstances in a Pontiac barber shop six months ago. Mrs. Grace Brownell, 372 Oakland, this week reported to police that she had been burglarized. She and her husband were in the house late Saturday afternoon when they were awakened by a noise. They believed the thief entered the house while Mrs. Brownell was absent for a short time.

City's Dog Pound to Be Repainted, Get Daily Cleaning  
In response to a number of complaints registered with the Chamber of Commerce, Chief of Police Ralph W. Moxley this week has undertaken a clean-up and painting campaign at the local dog pound.

According to Charles Mortenson, secretary of the chamber, the complaints came as a result of the recent drive to keep dogs off the streets pending control of a number of rabies cases reported in the vicinity of the pound.

An examination of the dog pound brought to light several unsatisfactory conditions. Chief Moxley is quickly correcting. The pound is being completely repainted and Moxley will make complete daily cleaning. Food will be carefully watched to see that all "visitors" receive health and nourishing food during their stay, as well as fresh drinking water.

"Taking care of the pound," said Moxley, "should be a means of punishing the owner through the fact and inconvenience of dog. Birmingham deserves the best of dog pound care and will get it."

## THAT and THAT

### Some O' These Days, Folks, I'm A-Comin' Home!

For many, many weeks this column has contained some of my observations and comments upon the conduct of Michigan's State government. I've presented numerous glimpses of situations that have come under my scrutiny as Gov. Kim Sigler's executive secretary.

For this week, at least, I'll forego such subjects, and, instead, tell you folks of Birmingham and vicinity how much I've enjoyed the home-town, together with the business and social friends who, for the past more than 28 years, have made up much of my life.

First, of course, I miss my own family. Leaving Birmingham at seven o'clock each Monday morning, and not arriving back to the family hearth until each Friday evening, (exclusive of trips I've had to make on State business that have kept me from weekends at home), means that most of each week is here in Lansing.

Mrs. Averill has taken the most sacrificing of wives. I can assure you, she tells me that, while I am absent at home, she has had to do with all the thrills of the fact that I am giving my time to State service. In his home, she is joined by her daughter, Susan—who, in spite of my absence, manages to retain a deep filial devotion to her father; Johnny, a student at Ann Arbor, whom I see less than the others, never fails to write me, and helps to keep me buoyed up as I spend my five-day-a-week existence at the State Capitol.

Speakin' of Grandsons!

Bill, my oldest son, is responsible for the news end of this newspaper, and I am in contact with him often; his seven-month-old son is an added magnet for my return home each week—which reminds me, folks, that I must get ready for that I have the finest, grandest, best-looking, most sweet dispositioned grandson who ever lived. (Boy, am I prejudiced!)

I miss, too, everything about my home, the trees and the flowers, and even the weeds; I miss the daily grind of the morning, my favorite dog, and even of Miss, the cat my wife is so fond of, and whom she writes me of for affection for the feline. I am tolerant.

My neighbors don't see much of me nowadays, nor do most of Birmingham's business people, so I miss them, folks, more and more so long. But I do miss all of you, and some of these days I'm a-comin' back home, and again become part of the community that has occupied so much of my adult life.

But the old Eccentric appears to be getting along in both his private and public life. He is a member of the Post Office Department, which in turn sends on to the state civil service committee for recommendations. (See POSTMASTER, Page 2)

I Wanta Go Home!  
I want to get back home so that, as often as I wish, I can be in the incidents in its growth, and to marvel at its present-day expansion—for, as you who live there know so well, Birmingham and vicinity hold great potential attraction for family living than most other of Detroit's suburban areas.

Yep, folks, some of these days I'll be a-comin' back home. When I do, I'll look back upon my "vacation days" as a great experience and adventure in American civility, and when I'll be a-comin' back home for the effort I've made with Kim Sigler in State government.

(P.S. Oh, yes, I'll tell you in advance when I'm comin' back for good.)

## Issues Call for Varsity Managers

Coach Vincent Scellone of the Birmingham High school football team has issued a call for all boys who wish to become student managers of the varsity football team. Prospects are to meet with the coach at Pierce School at 10:30 a. m. on Thursday, August 26.

Scellone says he intends to use five managers this season and three all boys who are interested to show up at the appointed time.

Football practice will begin Monday, August 30, and full instructions to candidates for the team will be announced in The Eccentric next week.

**Elected to Board**  
Reaching Grand Lakes Camera Photo topped with a 12-inch copper ball, Birmingham's newest and highest—Baptiste was placed "in operation" last week when being flying a kite over the city. Miss Irma and Miss Surma Wart and Pupple will perform from the spring board. Director Frank Whitney stated.

