Your life is a series of days that you, very largely, create yourself. What you think, what you do, what you are, are majorly within your own hands. When you understand this fully, you can improve your lot.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

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THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

(Various State of Michigan officials are writing GRA's weekly column while he lazily cruises the Florida Keys on a vacation. This week Governor Kim Sigler discusses the services which the State renders its citizens. — Managing Editor).

State Services and Their Cost

By the Hon. Kim Sigler
Governor of Michigan

George Averill gave me the opportunity I've been waiting for when he asked me to be one of his guest columnists while he takes a well-earned rest down in Florida.

For more than a year now, I have wanted to tell you who read this column what an outstanding job George is doing as my Executive Secretary and right-hand man.

We call him the "inimitable George Averill" in Lansing, and now that he is away for a few weeks, we know how apt that term is—nobody can quite take his place.

Makes People Feel at Home

During the past year, George has done the job just the way I knew he would when I persuaded him to leave The Eccentric and come up to Lansing. He has a friendly smile and handshake for everyone, plus a knack of making people feel at home and unburden themselves. When problems come up—and they do with tiresome regularity—he wades right in, goes to the heart of the matter, and comes out with a good answer. I can't begin to tell how much detail work George has taken over.

Probably the best thing about your editor and Executive Secretary is his idealism and his sincerity. He is dedicated to the principle of good, clean, honest government; he doesn't let anything interfere with this principle and works daily to carry it out.

However, George didn't ask me to eulogize him when I took over the column this week, so perhaps it would be well to turn to the subject of state government, which he did ask me to discuss.

Where to Start?

It is difficult to know just where to start when writing about this business of government. It's my business, as I have said so many times, and it is one in which you, and I, and every citizen of this state has a stake. To handle millions of your dollars each year, we run educational institutions and prisons and hospitals, we build roads, we care for the needy. We even sell certain merchandise.

The state government does all of these things as a service to its citizens, for which the citizens pay in the form of taxes. The state performs these functions because its citizens believe it can do the job better than could the individual or a smaller unit of government.

By the very nature of the services it renders, state government is bound to cost a great deal. That does not mean, however, that there should be waste, inefficiency, unnecessary employees, and unneeded activities. We are waging a constant battle to eliminate all of these. In this period of high prices, it is difficult to talk about paring costs—instead, our efforts right now are geared primarily to keeping them from going higher.

Obligated by Law

I am firmly convinced, as I have said time and again, that all state activities should be reviewed carefully by the people, who should decide what services they want and what they are willing to finance. I am just as firmly convinced that there are some functions adopted by the state which could be eliminated or performed by local units of government. As long as they are as they are part of our responsibilities, defined by law, we are obliged to carry them out.

I get a lot of letters complaining about the cost of government, and I am inclined to agree with many of them. But just suggest the elimination of some activity in which the writer is especially interested, and you get a scream you could hear from Lansing to Birmingham. It is the old, old story of selfishness and pressure groups.

We will begin to make real progress only when a large body of our citizens wake up, take a look at the state as a whole, and back such programs which will advance the good of the state, instead of some little segment of it or its population, at the expense of all the rest of the citizens.

Meantime, while we wait for the utopia of a completely unselfish citizenry, free from all pressure groups except those in the people as a whole, there is much that can be done to improve state government, reduce costs, increase efficiency and service.

Earmarking of Funds

Even as generous as your editor is with his space, it is impossible to go into all of them, so I am going to mention just a few, to indicate the scope of the problem.

For example, take the earmarking of funds for special purposes. Highways get all the gas tax (and I might add that highway needs are great right now), cities and schools get 76% of the sales tax, and so on down the list. We do not begrudge any of these activities the money they really need. Yet earmarking gives certain departments more revenue than they actually can use, while other de-

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New Phone Exchange May Be Started Within The Next Few Weeks

A $300,000 telephone building for Birmingham is included in Michigan Bell's $68,000,000 statewide 1948 construction program, it was announced this week.

Walter B. Fauser, manager here for the company, said it was hoped that construction on the new Birmingham office will get under way within the next few weeks.

The building will be located at the northeast corner of Henrietta and Martin streets.

The new two-story central office will be the first step in a 1½ million-dollar program to bring dial service to Birmingham by the end of next year.

Final details of the proposed structure have not yet left the drawing boards, Fauser said. The building, however, will be of the latest contemporary style.

Will Complement Civic Center

"Michigan Bell is taking particular pains to design a building for Birmingham which will complement the civic center," Fauser declared.

"When completed, the structure will be a credit to this community which has a reputation for the best in architecture whether residential, cultural, or commercial."

The building will house a large public office on the first floor and the latest type of "cross-bar" dial switching equipment on the second floor. Provisions will be made for the addition of other floors as growth of the local telephone system warrants.

It is expected that the building will be completed in approximately one year after the start of construction.

Depends on Materials

Thomas N. Lacy, president of the Michigan Bell, emphasized that plans for the 1948 construction program, including those for Birmingham, are contingent upon the availability of materials and favorable economic conditions.

He said the proposed program is by far the largest in the history of the company for a single year. It exceeds the record-smashing program of last year by $20,000,000.

By the end of the year, Michigan Bell expects to have completed about $161,000,000 worth of new construction in its territory since the end of the war. This is over 73 per cent of its $220,000,000 postwar improvement and expansion program for the five years ending in 1950. By the end of 1948, the company will have increased its plant investment 55 per cent since VJ-Day.

The company will spend more than $10,000,000 for the construction of at least 13 new telephone buildings and major additions to some 17 existing structures. Centerline will be one of the cities to receive a new telephone building. Cities in which major additions are planned include Detroit, Royal Oak, Pontiac, and Commerce.

Largest Single Item

The largest single item on the construction program this year is $14,760,000 for cable extensions to connect telephones to central office switching equipment and for the long distance network.

Noting that record cable supplies have fallen short of meeting the tremendous requirements, Lacy said that greater quantities are expected to be available this year. Even with the added supplies, he warned, "it will be difficult to provide service to all on the waiting list," which now numbers about 50,000.

"Virtually all orders for service now on file will be completed in 1948," he declared.

"Although we hope to fill a majority of the new orders placed with us this year, some may have to be carried over to early 1949."

About $14,400,000 has been earmarked for new dial switching equipment this year and over $6,000,000 for additional manual and long distance switchboards.

Drunks, Traffic Accidents Keep Police Busy During 1947, Annual Report Shows

By Alice E. Morgan

Birmingham police traveled a total of 23,607 automobile-miles and 3,966 motorcycle-miles during 1947 and used 12,689 gallons of gasoline.

These and many other facts were brought out in the annual report of the department which Chief J. P. Hackett has submitted to City Manager Donald C. Egbert. Work ranges from traffic and finding missing persons to checking reports of a cat having bitten someone.

Each day 247 business places are checked for unlocked windows or doors, and from a careful survey of the report it would seem many local business men are lax about this particular item. Entry after entry notes that a door or window was found unlocked by the officer on patrol.

No Major Crimes

It is interesting to note that none of the five major crimes—criminal homicide, manslaughter by negligence, rape, robbery or aggravated assault—were reported locally last year. There were 31 cases of breaking and entering reported, of which three were false.

Two of the 14 larceny cases reported were unfounded in the classification of goods valued at more than $50 taken, and six of the 211 under $50, were also unfounded. Eight automobiles were reported stolen, with three unfounded reports.

There were 76 persons charged with various offenses, three of whom were women. In age groups 17-20 years led with 24, while the 36-45 group were recorded with 13 offenders. Drunkenness and drunk driving lead in the causes for arrest.

Parking violations caused embarrassment to some 8,316 motorists, while 696 arrests were made for the violation of road traffic laws while the vehicle was in motion.

In the matter of stolen vehicles, all five actually taken were returned to their rightful owners. August seems to be the most dangerous month for auto thefts, having had two reported, just half as many as 1946. The total for the previous year was 19, against the five of last year.

In the over-all 1947 picture, March was the worst, with a reported total of 52 offenses. From 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. were the busiest

(See REPORT, Page 2)

Ice Skating Rinks Discontinued for Rest of Winter

The Birmingham Recreation Board has discontinued the city's skating rink program for the remainder of the winter.

"We are now at the period when alternate freezing and thawing weather makes this program too expensive for us to maintain on our present budget," said Wm. Coit Allee, president of the Recreation Board. "We regret that we cannot continue to prepare good skating surfaces. We estimate that more than one thousand skaters a week have enjoyed the cleared and flooded areas of Quarton Lake and our rinks at the south end and at the center of the city. These have been kept in good condition since the Christmas vacation, which has afforded recreation to children and adults for many weeks.

"This program has cost the Recreation Board more than $1400 for a season that has been consistantly cold. From this time on the program would be increasingly expensive, since following a thaw the surface of the skating rinks requires more labor and water to maintain in good condition. We do not have sufficient funds to do this properly and therefore we must curtail the program at this time."

Costs Are High

Donald C. Egbert, city manager, explained the high cost of maintenance of skating rinks. "In order to get a smooth surface, scraping and flooding must be done when the temperature is below 20 degrees. This means that night is the favorable period for working. This increases the labor costs, since our men work over-time. If the work were done in the day time, we would not have the ice ready for children after school and in the evening.

"On the city rinks," Egbert stated, "at our properties at St. James Park and on Smith-Poppleton Field, we anticipate having the property in much better condition for economical operation next year. Our desire is to develop recreational areas for the best use of the people of Birmingham as soon as funds are available for this purpose. The city is looking forward to the time when we can have all areas which we presently own, developed for the recreational use of all citizens, youth and adult."

To Leave Church

Rev. Charles H. Cadigan

Cadigan Resigns From His Post at Cranbrook Church

The Rev. Charles H. Cadigan, D.D., for the past nine years Rector of Christ Church Cranbrook, announced his resignation, to take effect June 15, at a meeting of the parish vestry this week.

In a letter to the parishioners written by Dr. Cadigan, he stated that for months it had become increasingly clear in his mind that he wished to enter the field of personnel and industrial relations, for he believed this area of social tension today is one containing important consequences for the future of the nation.

Since Dr. Cadigan became Rector of the Cranbrook parish, the church has grown in membership and in its organization and general program. His leadership has given special emphasis to work among young people, and to schools and colleges.

Honorary Degrees

He has served on the boards of Kingswood, Cranbrook, and Brookside Schools, and was for one year acting headmaster of Cranbrook School. During the war he was president of the Church Society for College Work, a national organization promoting religious activities in college centers.

In recognition of his contribution to the Church and to young people throughout the nation, both Amherst College and the Virginia Theological Seminary awarded him honorary degrees of Doctor of Divinity.

Dr. Cadigan concluded his letter to the parish by acknowledging his appreciation of the loyal support he had received from the vestry and parish, and by stating that he had tremendous confidence in the future contribution which Christ Church Cranbrook would make to the community, to the field of education, and to the nation.

Pontiac Man, Wanted By Law, Thumbs Ride With Local Officers

Jack Kent, 26, of Pontiac was arrested Saturday by Birmingham police after he had stopped at a Shirley drive home, allegedly looking for work. Warned by some remark made by the housewife, the man left hurriedly, crossing the Birmingham Golf Club grounds to Evergreen road. When apprehended by the police he was thumbing a ride, and flagged their car, they obligingly stopped. They reported that Kent was carrying a gun stolen from a bowling alley, which had also netted him $300.

Pontiac police are questioning the man in connection of a series of robberies which have taken place in homes there.

"Punch" Taken Out of City Hall

For the first time in 19 years, city hall employees are not required to "punch the clock." This week the time clock which all salaried city employees have punched four times a day since 1929, was removed from the wall on the main floor and discarded.

$10,612 Worth

City commissions Monday evening approved the purchase of $10,612 worth of city equipment and supplies.

Largest item was the appropriation of $7,987 for a new street sweeper to replace the present 23-year-old vehicle, $1,965 for 15 water gate valves, and $660 for 30 tons of calcium chloride for use on icy city streets.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS CO., PAN 4, PHONE B'HAM 1-0788. —Adv., tf.

Roll Call Sets Membership Goal of 4,000

1948-49 Budget of Community House Is $29,558

More active participation by more members in the Birmingham Community House Association, as well as more funds for the Community House, will be sought in the 1948 Roll Call set for April 19-30, presidents of organizations which regularly use the civic center as a meeting place will be informed at a luncheon meeting today as guests of the Roll Call Committee.

Every family a member of the Birmingham Community Association is the goal. At present the Association has approximately 2500 members. The Roll Call committee estimates that it should have at least 4000.

Heads of organizations for which the Community House is headquarters will be given a complete outline this afternoon of the plan to identify more people with support and activities of the Community House. Organization presidents will be asked to provide volunteers from their groups to function on a large Association membership committee which will contact every family, if necessary, with information about the Community House activities and method of operation under an annual fund raising campaign to cover budgeted operating costs.

Who Are Members

Under the by-laws of the Community House Association members are those who contribute to the annual fund campaign. They elect the board of directors, approve budget estimates and may speak their minds on Community House program and policies at annual meetings.

At the last Association meeting, held in March 3, a 1948-49 budget of $28,558 was approved. This is the amount which must be raised by the 1948 Roll Call. It is $2,000 less than the 1947-48 budget but $6,000 more than was raised in the 1947 fund drive, a fact which made it necessary to raise additional funds this winter to meet the cost of operations without curtailing program.

Mrs. Howard J. Liverance, president of the board of directors, in describing plans for today's meeting, said the Community House activities and program, designed to keep pace with the growth and needs of the community, are not known to hundreds of families which have come to the area during the past five years.

War Partly Responsible

"The war is partly responsible for the lack of adequate information about the Community House", Mrs. Liverance said. "There have been so many important things to be done that the Community House has not tooted its own horn. It was so busy serving the community that it took it for granted that everybody knew how much goes on in the civic center and how many valuable organizations and programs would be stopped if there were no Community House.

"But since we organized the Newcomers Club, which has made many new friends for the Community House, we have learned that there are literally hundreds of families in this area who know nothing about the Community House. When we tell them about it they become enthusiastic and active friends.

"We want them all in the Community House Association and we think that the best way to reach them is to have people go in person and tell them about it and invite their participation in a program that is the very heart of our neighborliness."

Today's meeting, which will be attended by about 50 men and women, is the first event in the 1948 Roll Call. It will be presided over by Charles B. Kase, board member and chairman of the Roll Call Committee. In addition to organization presidents, ministers and heads of Parent Teacher Associations have been invited to attend.

30 Charter Members Expected at First Kiwanis Dinner

Several prominent Michigan Kiwanians will be present next Tuesday, March 2, when the Birmingham Kiwanis Club is organized. They will be Ray Symes, District 1 Lt. Governor; John Grimes, District 11 Lt. Governor; John Super, state chairman of Kiwanis extension, and representatives of several neighboring clubs, including the sponsoring club, College Park (Detroit).

About 30 tentative charter members are expected at this first dinner meeting.

Speaker of the evening will be Claude A. Rich, past International trustee. A motion picture, "Fred Jones, Kiwanian," will be shown after the meeting.

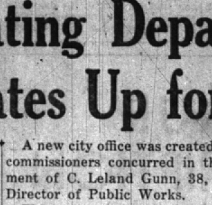
Former or visiting Kiwanians wishing to attend may make reservations with James Sterling, 863 Southfield road.

Gunn Appointed Director of Operating Departments; Wage Rates Up for Study

A new city office was created Monday evening when city commissioners concurred in the city manager's appointment of C. Leland Gunn, 38, city planning engineer, as Director of Public Works.

This action came as the result of a Hall-Liles, Detroit management consultant firm, recommendation that city operating departments be grouped together under a coordinator who would supervise departmental activities.

Gets New Post



C. Leland Gunn

Gunn, who lives at 343 Ferndale, will have immediately control over seven city departments: Water, Engineering, Public Works, Sewage Treatment Plant; Buildings, Safety and Standards; Parks, Recreation and Forestry, and temporary department of Master Record Maps of city facilities.

Responsible to Egbert

His appointment follows by one week the commission's decision that city operating departments, as mentioned above, should have their work scheduled so it will not conflict with activities of other departments.

It will be Gunn's responsibility, as outlined to commissioners, to prevent overlapping of departmental responsibilities. He will be directly responsible to City Manager Donald C. Egbert.

Gunn told The Eccentric yesterday morning that his new job will in no way interfere with the duties of the present departments except to establish his scheduling program.

A re-evaluation of the city's present salary and hourly rate schedules is to be made in the next few weeks in order to place Birmingham on a competitive level with surrounding municipalities.

Present Schedules Too Low

The fact that present salary schedules are too low was brought out in the city's attempt to hire additional personnel for the engineering department. It was discovered that Birmingham pays $800 to $1,400 below what recent college graduates can obtain elsewhere.

The city expects this survey to be completed within the next 45 days, and the new salary schedules can be worked into the city's 1948-49 budget.

A resident of Birmingham for 24 years, Gunn was graduated from Baldwin High School. Completing his engineering degree at Lawrence Tech, Detroit, he has worked for the city since 1929 in the engineering department or as building inspector.

He was commissioned in the Navy in 1943 and as an engineering officer went into the South Pacific for a year to supervise civilian engineering projects on Ponape and satellite islands. He came back to the States last June and resumed his work with the city in July as city planning engineer.

$7,500 Red Cross Quota Established for Birmingham

Quotas and township chairmen for the 1948 Red Cross Fund have been announced by Milo J. Cross, chairman for Oakland County. The fund campaign will begin March first.

The quota for Birmingham will be $7,500 under the chairmanship of Herman Erke.

The Bloomfield division quota will be $6,000 with J. Curtis Willson as chairman.

The Southfield Township quota will be $3,745. The chairman has not yet been appointed.

Team Captains Named

The following Birmingham area captains were announced Tuesday by Erke: Harry Denyes, Mrs. R. H. Dewey, Mrs. H. H. Gardner, Mrs. Robert T. Garrison, Alfred M. Gurley, Henry Johnson, Mrs. William Kennedy, Mrs. J. E. Maunders, Dorothy Porritt, Mrs. Fred G. Samuelson, Mrs. Frederic W. Swain, C. E. Smith, Mrs. Theo. J. Strehlow, Ralph Trout and Robert G. Yingling.

"We want to emphasize again this year that Birmingham residents with business affiliations outside Oakland County have a good reason for making at least part of their contributions here," Erke explained.

"A sizable per cent of collections obtained by each county are retained for use within that county by its own Red Cross chapter. Therefore, residents who have been living elsewhere will probably want to split their contributions for the benefit of the Oakland County chapter."

According to Cross, the quota for 1948 is slightly less than the 1947 quota, and yet the needs of the Red Cross this year are fully as acute. The Red Cross, both the American National Red Cross and the local chapter, are meeting increasing demands in the face of increased cost.

Many Times a Year

"Oakland County citizens turn to the Red Cross many times a year," Cross explained. "For example, last year over ten thousand veterans, servicemen and their dependents, as well as civilians in need, turned to the Home Service department for assistance. The cost of this program alone was more than one-fifth of the total contributions in 1947.

"In addition, the need for disaster preparedness cannot be too strongly emphasized after the serious disasters throughout the country last year. There is no rule that makes Oakland County an exception. Serious fires, floods, or transportation wrecks can occur any time and at any place."

Emphasizes Need

Cross emphasized the need for funds for the new national blood program that the Red Cross is initiating in several centers throughout the United States this year. Within approximately five years the program is expected to be complete, so that whole blood and blood derivatives are available everywhere without cost for the present.

"Besides these essential services, the local Red Cross chapter needs funds to continue to serve Oakland County with programs in Water Safety, Home Aid, Home Nursing, Nutrition, Junior Red Cross and the many valuable Volunteer Services. It addition funds are needed to continue the continuing program of foreign relief to Red Cross societies all over the world," he said.

The quota for the entire county, as announced previously, is $97,483.

Dog Show Entries Die in Gasow Fire Saturday Morning

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the garage and kennel at the home of Dr. F. H. Gasow, Watkins road and Coolidge, about 5:30 last Saturday morning. Gasow, local veterinary, was able to get his cars out of the garage, but reported the loss through suffocation of three English Springer Spaniels which had been entered in the Detroit Dog Show this week end. Two other entries were not in the kennel at the time of the fire.

Members of the Troy Township Fire Department answered the alarm, but were unable to save either building. However, the Gasow house, which was connected to the garage by an areaway, escaped damage.

Gasow declined to make an estimate as to the amount of his loss.

A fire early Sunday afternoon destroyed the roof and attic of the Leland J. Bunyan residence at 667 Oak street, causing an estimated $2,500 to $3,000 damage.

Sparks from the chimney caused the blaze, firemen reported.

8 Candidates for City Commission; Moody Won't Run

One petition for the April city commission race has been filed and seven others have been taken out, the city clerk's office announced yesterday.

Already filed is the name of Bruce G. Booth, 1740 Penistone.

Petitions are believed to be circulating for Ernest R. Baldwin, 592 Lakeside; Gilbert C. Good, 1915 Webster; R. G. Hoover, 415 Catalpa drive; Elliott S. Kinney, 1125 Chesterfield; Mayor Ralph A. Main, 1819 Fairview, whose term expires in April; William Smith, 567 E. Lincoln, and Garland W. Tate, 1684 Latham.

Commissioner Wilmer E. Moody, 253 Chesterfield, telephoned The Eccentric Tuesday afternoon to say he would not be a candidate for re-election on the April ballot.

Palmer Still Doubtful

"I have served 12 years on the commission, which is quite a long time for any one citizen," Moody explained. "There is enough other good talent in the city which is available. Secondly, my health has not been too good since last December and I feel it advisable to declare myself out as a candidate."

Moody underwent a serious operation last December 5 and still needs a number of weeks to fully recuperate, his close friends report.

Ray A. Palmer, 720 E. Maple, whose term also expires in April, has not yet stated whether he will run for re-election. A petition is believed to have been taken out for him, the clerk's office reports.

Nominating petitions must be filed by 4 o'clock this Saturday af-

Villa Residents Form New Group to Protest Eton Road Re-Zoning

Property owners in the Birmingham Villas subdivision last week formed the B'ham Villas Property Owners Association in order to more effectively protest the possible re-zoning of single residence property along Eton road to a terrace classification.

Elected to offices in the new association were David H. Curry, 1611 Villa, president; Thomas B. Soady, 1555 Villa, and W. P. Hickman, 1360 E. Maple, vice-presidents; K. C. Gorton, 1750 Villa, secretary, and Lewis A. Carrier, 1509 Villa, treasurer.

According to an association spokesman, the group was formed primarily to prevent a re-classification of Eton road property which would permit terrace construction.

This is the second group in two weeks which has protested the possible re-zoning. Last week the Birmingham Estates Association went on record as opposing the move.

A hearing on the re-zoning will come before the city commission on March 8.

Get Auto Tags Now

Local motorists who haven't already obtained their 1948 auto licenses have until 8 p.m. this Saturday evening to obtain them. Birmingham branch office officials reminded this week.

Committee Heads Report at C of C Directors Meeting

A total of 10 committee reports marked the Monday evening meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Paul N. Averill presented an outline of the comprehensive solicitation campaign which will be instituted this week in an attempt to increase business and professional memberships. A somewhat more elaborate campaign is planned next week to reach even more residents and to greatly enlarge this section of the membership.

The present status of the Birmingham Credit Bureau was given by Ralph Wilson. This was also on the possibility of the Bureau being taken over by the Chamber of Commerce when larger office quarters become available.

Buy Stamps Locally

In his report on the post office situation, Dr. Robert J. Mason urged local residents, who do business in Detroit, to make larger stamp purchases here. He pointed out that this is the surest way to insure better postal service in Birmingham.

George J. Thomas, in his preliminary report on industry, placed emphasis on tax reductions, better transportation, the local gas situation and fire protection.

Selection of several research committee heads will be reported on more fully at future meetings, according to John Martz. Genaro Flores suggested that the Junior Chamber of Commerce be offered office facilities as soon as the larger quarters are obtained and the rush of auto license sales is over.

3,367 Auto Plates Sold

Dr. G. E. Marin discussed the Southern Oakland County Hospital situation with respect to the new Metropolitan Hospital Plan. Clarence Vliet, acting secretary, reported that membership in the National Chamber of Commerce will be completed during the week.

The report of Mrs. R. S. Plexico showed that the local branch office of the Secretary of State had issued 3,367 license plates, made 201 transfers and recorded 506 sales

(See MEETING, Page 2)