*The chap who stands before you, sits before, or who comes into your presence, is probably just as good as you are; by this I mean that his motives may be just as good and true. Can't you trust him more?*

# The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 13—22 Pages | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1948 | $2.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

## THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

### The Art of Criticism in Public Life

A few weeks ago in this column I said that "no personal feud existed between Governor Kim Sigler and Attorney-General Eugene F. Black". That statement can still stand today, with a qualification. You have recently read reports of Mr. Black's criticism of certain State affairs, including last week, specific reference to some of Sigler's program; while these reports are true, so far Black's indictments have been objectively made . . . which removes the "personal feud" phase.

As one who is about as close to both Sigler and Black as anybody in State government, I know exactly how Black feels toward the Sigler program, and how the Governor feels toward the Attorney-General.

To be sure, Black is entitled to criticize anybody he wants to—and he has done so regarding every member of the Lansing official family; his nature is one in which the tendency to be critical is a dominant factor . . . his vigorous enthusiasm for action on any current problem before him brings his critical attitude into sharper light than were he willing to "take it easy".

**Achieved by Few**

I, myself, know that very few human beings have achieved, in a given time, the maximum of what could be attained, and in this belief I include people in both private and public life. I never have claimed that the Sigler administration had reached, or even would reach, the ideal American criterion in governmental achievement—that certainly would be expecting the millenium.

But this I do know: the present administration has achieved some forward looking policies in the administration of better State government, as the record will show. Sigler has the personal courage to "stick his neck out" for certain governmental reforms that the best thinking in Michigan agrees needs to be made.

He has given leadership for the Legislature in achieving some of these measures; he has brought into public view the need for additional . . . [illegible] . . . than any Governor within a quarter of a century in Michigan.

**Desirable American Devices**

The honest and constructive criticisms of Mr. Black (or any other public or private citizen in this State) are desirable American devices to hasten further improvement in Michigan's government, of course.

It is to be hoped, however, that such criticism will be devoid of mere personal color, wherever they arise. However, human nature being what it is, nobody can foretell to what extent, during political campaign, just how far public officials will discipline themselves in what they say . . . so, well, we'll all just have to watch and wait to determine the extent to which the verbal bout between Messrs. Sigler and Black will go.

## House's Business Falls Off; Roll Call at $25,500

Signs of summer's approach and the record of an early spring appeared in reports heard at the regular monthly meeting of the board of directors of the Community House Monday night.

Business is falling off in the Ranch Room, rendezvous of youth, which is finding the outdoors much more attractive than the juke box and snack bar in the Community House.

Employment, particularly of day workers and yard workers, is booming. Mrs. Dorothy Charlton, director of the Community House employment service, reported 331 placements in May and asked the board to consider extension of the hours of operation of the employment service if the rush continues.

Her request will be granted if necessary, but for the present the employment office will be open mornings only, and not on Saturdays. During May Mrs. Charlton, who has no assistant, had 1,132 interviews with job applicants and employers.

Charles B. Kass, chairman of the 1948 Roll Call, reported that the fund drive will be definitely closed on June 18. The present total is $25,500.

## Deputy City Clerk

The city commission Monday night confirmed the appointment of Miss Laura Wood as deputy city clerk.

Additional responsibilities and duties required by a city growing as fast as Birmingham necessitates the appointment, Miss Irene Hanley, city clerk, explained.

All makes of inner spring mattresses renovated. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. PHONE PHAM 1-0788.
—Adv., tf

No. 9

## Over $1,200,000 and None of It Belongs to Him

By George Wm. Averill

City Treasurer Russel T. Berger is one of the main cogs in the operation of the city of Birmingham. Indirectly, he assists in the successful operation of both the school district and the county.

For he is the local governmental official who this year will collect and disburse to the city, the school district and the county, more than $1,200,000 in tax and non-tax revenue.

## Fill Excavations, City Tells Owners of Two Properties

The Birmingham city commission Monday evening served notice that the city is not going to permit basement excavation to remain for more than 90 days without a house being built over them.

Accordingly, City Attorney Forbes B. Hascall was instructed to take legal steps to see that they are taken care of.

Object of the city's first thrust are two basement excavations, one at 779 Purdy, a second on the south side of Davis a few lots east of Grant.

**Mothers Are Concerned**

According to city records, Francis Tierney, 727 S. Adams, last winter dug a basement at 779 Purdy street which still hasn't seen any further construction. Neighborhood mothers, it is claimed, are afraid to let their small children leave their yards for fear they may wander near the hole which contains considerable water.

City DPW Director Leland Gunn this week signed a warrant against Tierney, designed to bring him into court to explain why he has not proceeded according to city ordinance which prohibits three months to lapse before construction is continued.

**Health, Safety Hazard**

Gunn also signed a warrant against Elizabeth Hunter, which city records show owns the Davis street lot, has been given until June 22 to remedy the situation or the city will take legal proceedings against him.

Hascall explained that under present city ordinance, such excavations left unused for any considerable length of time are considered dangerous to public health and safety.

"They fill with water, become breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and are extremely dangerous for small children to play around," the attorney said.

The city also has its eye on a hole at Henrietta and W. Maple from which a house was moved a number of months ago and which still has not been filled in.

## Builders Busy As Permits Top $1,000,000 Mark

With the proposed erection of a 94-dwelling terrace project, building permits issued by Edward Clark, acting building inspector for the City of Birmingham, soared to $1,298,215 for the month of May. This is four times the figure of the corresponding month in 1947. The new terraces, to be constructed on Woodward just south of Redding road, have an estimated value of $885,000.00.

There were 37 permits issued for new single-family dwellings which will be erected at a total cost of $357,740.00. One two-family dwelling permit was also issued, as well as 11 permits for alterations on one-family homes.

Other permits included one permit for alterations on a business building, 10 for private garages and two moving permits.

The valuation of the single family dwellings were estimated at from $7,000 to $12,000 each. For the first time in several months no permits were issued for the construction of new business buildings. The one permit issued in this field (for alterations) was placed at an estimated $5,000 expenditure.

## Walnut Lake Bus Service to Start

A brief ceremony at the park in Walnut Lake next Monday morning will mark the opening of the new bus service for that community. Charles Mortenson of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce will be present and speak briefly.

The service will be officially opened when about 50 residents of Walnut Lake will make the round trip to Birmingham by bus. Upon their return, refreshments will be served at the park.

It has been a long-standing project of the residents there to secure this service for their community. The present line will operate on a twice-a-day schedule for 60 days, after which the charter will be granted if sufficient interest in the line is shown.

Ten years ago (1937-38) the Birmingham city treasurer collected slightly more than $500,000 for the three municipal governments. As of the 11 months period ending May 31 for the fiscal year 1947-48, the treasurer has collected:

$375,000 in city taxes;
$403,520 in school district taxes;
$108,467 in county taxes;
$30,000 in delinquent and scavenger sale payments;
$100,000 in water bills;
$35,000 in sewage disposal payments, and
$200,000 in miscellaneous revenues (which includes monies from the state, parking meter revenues, traffic fines, etc.)

**Still a Month to Go**

This comes to a total of $1,251,987 this year with still a month to go before the city's books are closed and another fiscal year begins.

Which all goes to show the increased responsibilities and duties of the Birmingham treasurer's office in the past 10 years.

What are some of the more important routines of the treasurer's office?

First of all, the city treasurer, who is appointed by the city commission, receives and disburses all city monies. He is custodian of all bonds (other than official), mortgages, notes and securities belonging to the City of Birmingham. He is general city accountant, secretary and treasurer of the employees retirement board and treasurer of the city recreation board. He attends all city commission meetings.

**Bills Mailed to Owners**

Twice a year the treasurer receives tax rolls from the city assessor. The city tax roll comes along the latter part of June, the county and school tax roll the latter part of November. His office then prepares tax bills in accordance with taxes as they are spread on the particular roll against the various properties in the city. These notices are mailed to owners of record.

City taxes are billed July 1 and when received are allocated to various funds as levied. County and school taxes are collected periodically to those units during the collection period December 1 —March 1.

It should be noted at this point that the city has nothing whatsoever to do with determining how much county and school tax local residents must pay. That is done by the school board and the county supervisors, respectively. All the city treasurer does is to make out the bills as the schools and the county spread them and collect the money which is returned to the school or county.

**Better Equipped**

This he does because his office maintains more complete information on city property owners than does the school or county, and he also has the equipment to make out the bills properly.

When March 1 comes along, the city treasurer figures out the list of delinquent taxes. This list is sent to the county treasurer, where, excepting for personal taxes, they remain for collection thereafter until paid.

In the case of personal taxes which are delinquent, the county treasurer issues a warrant to the city treasurer to collect these unpaid personal taxes. Then it becomes the duty of the city treasurer to collect the tax, even if it requires seizure of any personal property of the taxpayer in order to satisfy the lien. The treasurer may not like to resort to this but he is required to do so by state law.

**Special Assessments**

The city treasurer also receives special assessment rolls from which he bills property owners for their proportionate share of such things as curbs, gutters, pavements, sewers, water mains, etc., according to the financial arrangements previously determined by the city commission.

When special assessment payments come back in the form of checks or cash, he must see that the money is properly credited to the particular assessment district.

Licenses, permits, fines, penalties, interest, fees, shared taxes, charges for current services and all miscellaneous revenues, including water and sewage, rubbish, garbage and parking meter collections—all these items are noted in the treasurer's office and credited to the proper city accounts. Parking meter collections are made twice a week and returned to his office where the nickels and pennies are sorted and packaged.

NEXT WEEK: City payrolls and employee records.

# Recreation Program to Start Monday

## Baccalaureate Address Given By Dr. Harris

### "God's Challenge To Youth" Theme of Annual Address

"A baccalaureate service gives rise to a mixture of feelings. The graduates review, with pride and an occasional note of seriousness their attainments, and survey the future with hope and confidence. The parents look on soberly, amazed that their children have grown up so fast and say to themselves, 'What next?'. The teachers look over the class and appraise the capacity of the members, hoping that at college and in life they will uphold the reputation of the school and perhaps bring honor to their alma mater by some distinguished service."

This was the opening message to the members of Baldwin High School's Class of '48 and their parents, when Dr. W. Glen Harris of the First Presbyterian Church delivered the baccalaureate sermon Sunday evening. Speaking on "God's Promise to Youth", he told them that the speaker on such an occasion justly wonders where to lay the emphasis.

**Responsible for Use**

"God's promise to youth," he said, "first defines youth's responsibility, second, imposes upon youth a challenge and third, prescribes a discipline for youth."

He pointed out that the Bible tells mankind that when God bestows certain talents on a man, he is responsible for the use to which those talents are put. The man who refuses to accept responsibility buries his talents, as did the man in the parable, and they are of use to no one, himself included.

Holding a diploma from high school as a symbol of talents, Harris showed the graduates that a diploma, although composed of only a piece of paper, a small amount of ink and a bit of colored ribbon, can be heavy. It represents what is expected of him by his God, his parents, his teachers and society.

**Second Promise**

The second of God's promises to youth, the challenge, is something which the graduate cannot ignore. He must daily appraise himself, not just from his own standards but from the standards of the world and society. "In seeking a job, don't make the usual mistake of placing a value on your own ability. Your ability, as well as your shortcomings, will be carefully appraised by those superiors, and your compensation be quickly adjusted to them."

The speaker added, "Accept the challenge given you. Go among men, all of you, and in time it shall be determined how nobly you have lived and which of you is genuine."

The third promise to youth is discipline, Dr. Harris said. "Hero man must learn to control himself. He must guard against the tendency to become self-satisfied. Remember the story of the spider which built himself a substantial web, caught plenty of food, and then became over-critical of things about him."

**House Collapses**

"He found one strand of his web which seemed useless, and finally, after some deliberation,

(See ADDRESS, Page 2)

## Ross Campbell, Bill Spence Win in School Board Election

Ross S. Campbell of Franklin Village and William Spence, 30523 Greenfield road, Southfield township, Monday were elected to four-year terms on the Birmingham board of Education.

Mrs. Peter B. Loomis, 1648 Dorchester, was unsuccessful in her attempt to remain on the board.

Both Campbell and Mrs. Loomis were appointed to the board last summer to fill the unexpired terms of two members who resigned.

The annual election was an extremely close race all the way, only 48 votes separating the top and bottom candidates.

While the official results will not be known until tonight when the school board holds a special meeting to canvass the voting, unofficial results gave Campbell 267 votes, Spence 263 and Mrs. Loomis 219.

**Carry Home Precincts**

As expected, all candidates carried their home precincts. Franklin area voters gave Campbell 80 ballots, 6 to Spence and 22 to Mrs. Loomis. At Pierce school, where many Southfield township residents voted, Spence got 94 ballots to 33 for Campbell and 19 for Mrs. Loomis. In the Adams school area, Mrs. Loomis led the field with 68 votes, closely followed by Campbell with 63 and Spence with 54.

Monday's unofficial results by precinct were:

Adams school: Campbell (63); Spence (54); Loomis (68).

Barnum school: Campbell (28); Spence (57); Loomis (17).

Bloomfield Village: Campbell (13); Spence (3); Loomis (12).

Franklin: Campbell (80); Spence (6); Loomis (22).

Pierce Campbell (33); Spence (94); Loomis (19).

Quarton: Campbell (55); Spence (35); Loomis (65).

Walnut Lake: Campbell (15); Spence (14); Loomis (16).

## *Roland W. Reese Named President of Lions Club*

Roland W Reese, 1847 Webster, will head the Birmingham Lions club for the coming year, it was announced at the club's annual election last week. Reese will succeed William K. Gardner, 612 Landon.

Others elected were Joseph B. Moery, 1st vice-pres.; Robert B. Reeder, 2nd vice-pres.; Donald L. Cummings, reelected to his sixth term as secretary; Russell T. Berger, lion tamer; and Otho Corsaut, Jr., tail twister.

To the board of directors (which includes the above officers) were also elected Max Ege and A. L. McNaughton.

They will assume their duties July 1 after their installation on June 30.

## Long Range Plan Responsible for Good Water Supply

Long range planning by the city manager and the city commission were credited this week for Birmingham's water supply being more than adequate to meet summer demands, principally sprinkling of lawns.

Fire Chief Vern W. Griffith, whose department is also charged with the maintenance of wells and water pressure, has praised City Manager Donald C. Egbert and the city commissioners for anticipating city water requirements.

"Birmingham for some years to come will have more than enough water for both fighting and for domestic use during the summer months," Chief Griffith stated.

"The long range planning by the city manager and the city commission have made available to the city sufficient wells and enough storage capacity to more than meet present demands."

The city's five wells now in operation do not have to be pumped day in and day out without opportunity to be shut down periodically for the recharging of the water supply in the veins or water strata of the earth, Griffith explained.

"An insufficient number of wells would mean they would have to be pumped continually with the danger that water would not be able to seep to the well fast enough to be pumped into city mains with any desired effect," he said. This results in low water main pressure which hinders fire protection and domestic use.

Other factors the fire chief cited for the city's ample water supply is the proper manipulation of well controls, the filling of storage tanks in periods off the peak demand during a 24-hour period, and the instantaneous starting of wells when a demand is indicated by the loss of head in the elevated storage tanks.

City wells presently operating are two on W. Lincoln avenue, a third at Maple and Adams, a fourth at Derby and Eton, and the fifth at Redding and Lakeside.

The old Baldwin well, at West Maple and Baldwin street, is being reconditioned and will be in operation shortly, Griffith said. The Walker well on the north side of East Maple just beyond the city limits still requires several months' work before it can be connected to the city's water system.

An eighth well site, on the Peabody farm on Lahser road, contains a sizeable future water supply, according to geologic surveys reported to the city.

## 200,000 Gals. Road Oil Now Spoken For

### Commission Works on 1949 Street Oiling Program

Roadoiling assessments which have passed the first hearing by the city commission prior to June 14 will require the 200,000 gallons of road oil which the city expects to get this season, City Manager Donald C. Egbert informed the city commission Monday evening.

"Therefore, we should make it plain to residents who now are petitioning for such street improvement that the city cannot guarantee that these later petitions can be included in the 1948 work program," he said.

The city had a firm commitment for 100,000 gallons of oil, with the safe assurance that another 100,000 may be supplied. From that point on, the manager said, no plans can be made at the present time.

**Must Consider Weather**

"However, we should make other streets in order to get them ready for the 1949 program, rather than wait till late next spring and have to rush them through," Egbert stated.

Weather will also play an important part in the amount of work which can be accomplished this summer, he said. Excessive rain or cold weather will mean fewer streets completed, since road oil must be applied on comparatively dry, warm days.

Street improvement occupied the attention of the commission Monday night. Commissioners approved the necessity of dustproofing Shirley, and Arlington, both from Maple to Lincoln, and referred the matter to the city assessor for preparation of the assessment roll.

Rolls were confirmed for Stanley, Lincoln to 14 Mile; Chesterfield, Lincoln to Maple; and a sidewalk on the west side of Eton between Cole and Yosemite.

**July 6 Hearings**

July 6 was set for hearings on the dustproofing of Yosemite, Adams to Dixie; Rosedale, Oakland to Rivenoak; Poppleton, Oakland to Madison; Madison, Hunter to Worth; Ann, Frank to Landon; Oxford, Madison to Kensaw; Oakdale, Oakland to Rivenoak.

Confirmation of the roll for the dustproofing of Oak between Woodward and Lakeview will also be considered July 6, as will the oil treatment of the several streets in the Birmingham Forest Hills subdivision.

The commission will consider on July 12 the advisability of dustproofing Emmons, Grant to Wood-

(See OILING, Page 2)

## *Three Injured Here During Past Week*

Three local persons received injuries in falls last week. Most seriously injured was Rev. David J. Duncan, pastor of Holy Name Catholic Church, who received a severe skull fracture Friday at his home. He was taken to the University of Michigan Hospital at Ann Arbor. Reports received at this issue went to press were to the effect that his condition is much improved and he is responding to treatment satisfactorily.

Pete Mosher, 9, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank N. Mosher of Pierce street, suffered a cut tendon and artery in his wrist when he fell from a signboard at the corner of Woodward and Lincoln Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Mosher were not at home at the time of the accident which was reported to the police department. They rushed the lad to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, where he received medical treatment.

The third victim was David Gafill, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Gafill of 32291 Auburn. He received a broken arm when he fell down stairs while walking in his sleep. The lad was treated at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and returned to his home Tuesday.

## To Get Oil Treatment in Next 10 Days

**With six streets already given a treatment of road oil, Marc Fall, DPW superintendent, announced that in the next 10 days the city expects to complete the following portions of streets:**

**Fairfax and Puritan, both between Oak and Raynale; Worth, Maple to Oakland; Knox and Edgewood, both between Poppleton and Adams; Yosemite, Dixie to Columbia, and Holland, Eton to 500 feet west.**

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## Whitney Announces Broad Schedule of Youth Activities

Franklyn Whitney, who will again have charge of the recreational program in Birmingham this summer, has released the scheduled activities for the coming summer months.

All activities are scheduled to get under way this Monday when playgrounds at Adams, Pierce and Quarton schools will open. These grounds will be open each weekday morning from 9 to noon. The Barnum and Howarth Park playgrounds will be open each afternoon, beginning at 1 o'clock and continuing until 5 p.m. Each playground will be under the immediate supervision of college graduates.

Handicraft and creative projects, games, story telling and special events will be arranged for the interest of all. While no registration is necessary, the group in charge will not be responsible for children under six years who attend the parks. A slight fee may, from time to time, be charged for materials used in the projects.

**Swimming Classes**

The swimming schedule will include classes each week day from 1 to 5 and from 7 to 9 p.m. Classes are arranged for children of the same age levels and abilities. The poolschedule is:

1:00-1:30 Beginning girls class No. 1
1:30-2:00 Beginning boys class No. 1
2:00-2:30 Beginning girls class No. 2
2:30-3:00 Beginning boys class No. 2
3:00-4:00 Advanced girls
4:00-5:00 Advanced boys
7:00-9:00 Older boys and girls and adults.

Fees for the pool are set at $2.00 for the season of 40 days, or .10 cents for individual swim. Water activities will include swimming and life saving instruction, free play, and several special events. Each of the playgrounds pools are under constant supervision by adequately trained college graduates. Swimmers are asked to bring their own towels, suits and soap, and all girls should wear rubber caps.

No child will be allowed to participate in the pool who is not able to stand in the shallow end of the pool where the water is 36 inches deep. Children who will not or cannot, cooperate with the instructor and follow instructions cannot be accepted in the pool activities. Parents are welcomed at all times to observe the youngsters at their pool program.

**Crafts and Sports**

The Barnum craft shop is to be open from 1 to 5 each week day afternoon, with instruction in woodworking, painting, designing, model making and other activities. Children are free to come to these sessions when they wish, to make whatever they desire and remain as long as their interest holds.

Among the other group activities for the summer will be music, baseball, softball, tennis, dramatics and picnics.

The instrumental music classes are held each morning as well as Tuesday evenings. Groups will be arranged to meet individual abilities with all meetings held in the Hill School bandroom. The season fee of $1.50 will be charged those who participate in this program. A. W. Berndt will conduct the classes and will schedule morning concerts to be held at some of the playgrounds.

**Baseball Teams**

Since Birmingham is represented in several county and city baseball leagues, this sport is one of the most popular on the summer schedule. Adults wishing to play may contact Coach Eldon Auker. High school age players can play with American Legion teams by contacting that organization. In addition to these, several baseball schools will be held during the summer for the benefit of younger boys who desire to learn more about America's great sport.

Experts in the softball field should contact the Birmingham Recreation office in sponsoring a fast team to represent the city during the coming season. Additional information concerning the city's softball league will be made through the local offices of the YMCA.

Special classes for tennis instruction will be given if enough persons desire them. The courts are located at Springdale Park, and at Barnum, Baldwin and Adams schools. They may be used at any daylight hour.

**Finale Festivities**

The dramatic schedule will include play acting, dramatized story telling and stage craft for younger children. These groups will meet out of doors at the Hill School each Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. It is hoped that enough children will attend to justify the use of a trained instructor.

Since no summer program is complete without picnics, these

(See SCHEDULE, Page 2)

## Swartz Succeeds Kelley as Head of Comm. Council

Members of the new executive board of the Birmingham Community Council selected Blair K. Swartz, 2512 Dorchester, as president of the board at their first meeting, held Wednesday, June 9, at the home of Mrs. Cleveland Walcutt. The meeting followed a lunch for members of the new board and the retiring board.

Earl C. Kelley, retiring board president after outlining major activities of the Council during the past year which included "World Trade Week" in Birmingham and a Family Institute at Baldwin high school, stressed the significance of groups like the Council with 40 member organizations, in a democratic way of life. He told the new board members of the existence of about 40 similar organizations in the state of Michigan, and to the state's leadership in this phase of cooperation among community organizations.

Commenting on this side of Community Council activity, the new president, who is personnel consultant for the Detroit Edison company, said:

**Fits Into Trend**

"The Council fits perfectly in the present healthy trend to understand and to apply democracy rather than just talk about it.

"The handwriting on the wall now seems to read: 'cooperate or else'. If we are to achieve cooperation on a world or national scale we must first practice on a much smaller scale in the community, in the family and between individuals. And it is not easy.

"Most of us agree on the high sounding principles of cooperation in a democracy, but there is a vast gap between knowing the principles and putting them to work."

**Tabulate Meeting Dates**

Other officers elected were: Mrs. Alec D. Parnie, vice-president, Malcolm Tindall, secretary and the Rev. Emil Kontz, treasurer.

The following committee chairmen were appointed by Swartz: calendar, Mrs. Cleveland Walcutt; institute, Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn; ballots, Mrs. Charles Blunt; publicity, Mrs. Lee A White.

The calendar committee will tabulate and have printed a calendar of meeting dates and major events of all organizations in Birmingham. The calendar will be available to the 40 organizations which are members of the Community Council and additional copies in limited numbers will be placed on sale at the Community House.

It is hoped that the calendar will be ready for early fall distribution. This activity of the Community Council is being resumed after a three-year lapse during the war.

## President Honors Dr. Robert McMath, Cranbrook Trustee

Dr. Robert R. McMath, President of the board of trustees of the Cranbrook Institute of Science and chairman of the board for Motors Metal Manufacturing Company, has been awarded the Medal of Merit by the President of the United States. This is considered the highest war honor for civilians.

President Truman's citation, accompanying the award, stated that it was made on the basis of Dr. McMath's research and development work on bombsights, optical instruments and amphibious vehicles.

The Medal of Merit stems from the badge for Military Merit, established by George Washington in 1792. It has been received by 329 persons.

Dr. McMath is also director of the University of Michigan's McMath-Hulbert Observatory at Lake Angelus.

The medal was presented at a ceremony in Chicago.