

Is there an inkling between a well-thriven tree and a well-turned wheel, between a perfect flower and a perfect melody? Is there a kinship, then, between God and man?

SEVENTEETH YEAR—No. 52—22 Pages

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1948

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# THE S and THAT

By G. R. A.

## It Takes Real Courage to Improve Government

By the time this column reaches you, the current special session of Michigan's Legislature will have been in session for a week and a half. Years truly will have, along with numerous responsibilities as Gov. Sigler's executive secretary, the task of also acting in the role of "Legislative Agents" which is another way of saying that I'll be acting as a kind of lobbyist in Lansing.

This letter role comes about as the result of legislation enacted early in 1947, when the Governor won his fight to license all lobbyists. I have been named as a lobbyist in the Michigan Government, I had to, to conform to the new law—although on my application, I was not named as a lobbyist.

As you have no doubt already learned, the Governor is determined to bring about some long-needed reforms in Michigan's government; some of the problems can be met only by Constitutional amendments, while others can be handled by the Legislature itself.

Lots of people, either from lack of knowledge or personal prejudice, are accusing Gov. Sigler of "trying to seek power"; when accusations are made, they are usually accompanied by an anticlerical dispute, I am amused.

I say this because I know the Governor well enough to realize that he is trying to do it to bring about those changes which, in my opinion, are necessary to improve government, should have been accomplished years ago. Mr. Sigler, insofar as personal desire, is not concerned, wants only those controls that are necessary in any organization where the employees are a Governor, whoever he may be, is an employee of all the people in the State.

It takes real courage to stand up against the interests and forces that are opposed to constructive basic changes in a State's constitutional and statutory laws. Mr. Sigler has that courage. I can assure you.

During recent weeks he has journeyed to New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Illinois, contacting Governors of those States and other leaders to discuss how they improved their respective State Constitutions, and to the end that each State's constitution be placed before the people. Last week I went to Atlanta, Georgia, for the Governor's similar mission.

So, folks out of Lansing these days you'll find some important ideas will be forthcoming from the Governor; please don't about them, think them over, talk about them with your neighbors, and always remember that "The People are the Sovereign State"; if you agree with your public officials, let them know your ideas. . . also, do so when you don't agree.

Vandenberg is Popular  
While down in Atlanta, Georgia, last week end, I had occasion to talk to Wright Bryan, editor of the Atlanta Journal, said Mr. Bryan in answer to one question I put to him: "Of all the Republicans being mentioned for the Presidency, I like your Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg. I think he would get many votes in the South."

To the same question Ralph M. editor of the Atlanta Constitution, said: "Vandenberg is easily the best Republican as a Presidential candidate; the South right now is all rolled up around Truman's so-called Civil Rights bill, and we in the South want more evidence of the two-party political system down here than we've ever had. If Vandenberg is to run for President, I have reason to believe that he will get many votes in the South."

THE ECCENTRIC

PHONE 11

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

# Voters Will Decide on Advisability of \$2,000,000 Bond Issue

(This is the second of three articles The Eccentric is presenting to explain to Birmingham voters what proposals they will find on their ballots at the April 5 city election. The article is the third of the bond issue.)

By George Wm. Averill  
In addition to the two city charter amendments, which were explained last week, registered Birmingham voters on April 5 will be asked to approve, or reject, three bond issues which would permit \$2,000,000 to be spent on city parks, sewers and a new W. Maple bridge over the River Rouge.

Specifically, the three measures are:

1. \$500,000 to be spent on the development of city parks and recreational areas.
2. Another \$500,000 for the Maple bridge and approaches, and a \$100,000 issue to be used for the city does have an unusually large number of areas presently set aside for recreational purposes.
3. Have Many Parks

In recommending that the city commission, at this election, ask Birmingham voters for \$500,000 for park development, City Manager Donald C. Egbert pointed out that the city does have an unusually large number of areas presently set aside for recreational purposes.

The question of the widening of the Maple bridge has been a long-standing problem for many years. The speaker will be William Marbach, D. of Pontiac, who has selected "The Fellowship of the Church" as his topic. A reception will be held immediately after the service for Dr. and Mrs. Harris and their two children, Cherry Mae and Robert Glen.

Dr. Harris came to Birmingham ten years ago from West Trenton, N. J., where he had served for ten years. The Presbyterian Church in the Blackwood was also a part of his charge.

He entered the ministry in 1921, in the ranch country of West Texas. He began his career in religion with only a high school education, working and preaching and saving toward the day when he would enter college. He received Trinity University in Wabash, Texas, and at 18 received his degree in regular preaching assignment. This first charge had two churches, in which he alternated.

Strawn was 125 miles from the University; Sunset, 150, and the young minister spent many weary hours in dusty trains as he performed his duties and attended classes simultaneously. So much of his time, in fact, was spent on trains, that most of his sermons were written there.

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# Harris To Be Honored By Congregation

Special Service to Note Ten Years of Service Here

Members of the First Presbyterian Church this Sunday afternoon will honor the tenth anniversary of the local pastorate of Dr. W. Glen Harris, their pastor.

Scheduled for completion by the end of this year, the cable project will be followed by the installation of four more switchboard positions at the central office building here.

To cost about \$40,000, the new switchboard positions should permit the company to extend telephone service to its existing lines on its waiting list, as well as provide facilities for the future telephone needs of subscribers in the Birmingham area.

March 29 Date of Second Annual Voters' Rally

The Voter's Rally which proved so successful last year in presenting the candidates for the city commission and explaining the issues in the election to the voters, will be repeated this year on March 29 at the Community House at 8:30 p.m. according to Mrs. F. G. Garrison, president of the League of Women Voters.

Last year the event was launched through the cooperation of the League of Women Voters, the Real Estate Board, the Birmingham Veterans' Organization, the Chamber of Commerce, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Junior League.

This year the Chamber of Commerce, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Junior League have offered to cooperate with the League in publicizing and staging the event.

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# More Trunk Lines Being Installed by Michigan Bell

Plans to begin the installation soon of 458 trunk telephone circuits between Birmingham, Royal Oak and Detroit, at a cost of approximately \$120,000, were announced today by the Michigan Bell Telephone Company.

Conduct, in which telephone cable constants Associates is placed, already has been delivered to this community and can be used to connect along Woodward avenue, the route of the underground installation.

Scheduled for completion by the end of this year, the cable project will be followed by the installation of four more switchboard positions at the central office building here.

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# Commission Accused of Favoritism

Eton Road Opening Won't Benefit Them, Residents Declare

In a two-hour, drag-out discussion Monday evening, about 25 property owners in the Eton Manor subdivision bitterly opposed the city commission's proposal to open Eton road from Yorkville to Derby.

Commissioner Milton F. Mallender abruptly stopped arguments when he moved the question of the opening and his motion was unanimously supported by the other commissioners.

Property owners practically accused the commission of prejudice in this matter and under the city desired to put through the road opening so the Graefel subdivision development could be annexed to the city.

No Favoritism  
Commissioners reacted very unfavorably to this type of argument and declared there was no favoritism being shown anyone.

Speaking for the commission, Mallender emphasized, "The city now owns the entire roadway and the hopes of the Birmingham district now has only one outlet, which is Etonborough. With the opening of the road, a good place north of that, a good road street with curb and gutter is definitely needed."

That area is in the township, is unzoned, and the City of Birmingham could not prevent any development there, even if it were a factory," Commissioner William Garrison explained to the assembled group.

Possible overloading of Auld road, a local road, also mentioned by the residents protesting.

"The Etonborough school district is a matter for the school board," Mallender said. "It is in no position to control that matter, either."

The residents agreed among themselves that the assessment district for the road opening should be confirmed and that Graefel petitioned the city for an annexation.

This petition must be filed with us before I will vote for confirmation of the assessment roll," Mallender emphasized.

In the event the road is opened and the curb and gutter is put in, Graefel has agreed to pay half the cost of the road which about his property. This will relieve them of its charter share of 15 percent which would have to pay if the territory were annexed and now belonged to the city, the commission pointed out.

Local Firm Awarded Pumphouse Contract

A contract for \$8,000 for the construction of the Walker well pumphouse on E. Maple avenue was awarded to Chisens Construction Co., Detroit, by the city commission Monday evening.

The bid was \$500 below what the city had estimated the building would cost.

Seek Reappointment

The Birmingham Women Citizens' Committee this week urged the city commission to reappoint Mrs. Cyril R. Lewis, 739 Lakeview, to the Oakland County board of supervisors.

Commissioners deferred action on the matter till after the April 5 city election.

We Need Copies of 'World Trade' Issue

When it published its special "World Trade Edition" last January 22nd, The Eccentric had no way of anticipating the demands which would be made on us for extra copies of that particular issue. We did, however, print several hundred additional copies but they have rapidly dwindled to the zero point.

And we are still getting requests from organizations and communities outside the state who want to obtain samples of that edition. To them, this application, The Eccentric today asks that readers still possessing one or more of the "World Trade" copies to please give them back to The Eccentric as soon as possible. We, in turn, will mail them to these many interested communities and organizations.

They have heard of Birmingham because of this special edition; they want to know more about how we citizens organized the local discussions on world trade.

BUT WE CAN'T SHOW THEM HOW UNLESS YOU READERS HELP US!

Any copies of the January 22, 1948 issue of The Eccentric will be greatly appreciated. Please bring them to our business office.

# Traditional Treasures Services Planned by Churches in City

Appropriate observances are planned for the churches of Birmingham for Good Friday, Palm Sunday and the Holy Week.

As usual, the three-hour service, beginning at noon, will be held with the members of the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches uniting. Three separate services will be held in the First Methodist Church, all woven around the theme, "The Strange Man on the Cross."

Dr. W. Glen Harris, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, will preach on "His Relation to Man." The service will be assisted by Rev. Arnold F. Runkel, of the First Methodist Church, who will preach on "The Cross as a Symbol of Service." The service will be under the direction of Mrs. Walter Turner, organist of the First Baptist Church. Mrs. Ruth Davidson and Ray Wragby will be the vocalists.

The second service, at which Rev. James Wright of the hostess church will preach on "His Relation to God," will be held at 1 o'clock. Rev. George L. Rentschler, of the First Presbyterian Church, will assist in the service. Mrs. Mildred Ritter, organist at the First Presbyterian Church, will play. The service will be assisted by Mrs. F. A. Prothero and Paul Sutton.

Emil Kontz of the First Baptist Church will preach at the final service, his topic being "His Relation to the World." He will be assisted by Rev. James D. Epps of the Embury Baptist Church. Mrs. S. J. will preach on "The Cross as a Symbol of Service." The service will be under the direction of Mrs. Walter Turner, organist of the First Baptist Church. Mrs. Ruth Davidson and Ray Wragby will be the vocalists.

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The Rouge boys then took the lead at the quarter and 20-15 halftime.

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