

I know it is easy to offer platitudes, or advice, to others. Example, of course, is a greater aid to people than mere words. But when you can't find living examples of what you want to be, then read of them.

The Birmingham Electric

and
By G. R. A.

Vigorous Youth Should Take Over
By Eugene F. Black
State Attorney General

(GRA returned to Michigan Saturday from a three week's vacation in Florida, looking completely rested and sporting a nice mustache. During the brief respite from his duties in Lansing, various Michigan public officials have been writing to him. This week's issue—Managing Editor.)

When my friend, George Averil, tremulously requested utilization of this column by Michigan's present and temporary Attorney General, he was undoubtedly figuring out all the immunities from liability, of Birmingham's puffed Ecceitrie, would thereby be subjected to new strains and uncharted perils. Mindful, as I am, of his unspoken doubts, I shall be most circumspect, if not actually demure.

I consider myself a private citizen in my definite sense, two years commissioned by the people to ascertain and report back in answer to a question having mounting crescendo from all over the State in recent years—"What's wrong with the State Government?"

My answer to that question, given at first and last, is that there is nothing in public office in Lansing, follows:

Two Prominent Factors
Two factors prominently stand forth in bar of efficient State government. One is the constant interference of constitutional restrictions on free exercise of the democratic process. The other is the constant interference of professional seekers or holders of public office—no backbone. To the latter, the two elements have completely been the ship of State in smooth if field waters.

When the two elements have been completely been the ship of State in smooth if field waters, the people, having first grown weary and flustered, have turned to political action and again to the initiative of the people.

The gasoline tax diversion amendment, the civil service amendment, the non-resident tax amendment, and finally, the sales tax diversion amendment—these are the amendments that have been proposed and are being considered and hastily drafted.

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Eto Rezoning Dispute Won By Residents

Construction of Terraces Prevented by City's Action

Recognizing the desires of a large number of residents in the Eton road-Maple avenue area, the city commission Monday evening turned down a petition for the rezoning of two and a half blocks from single to terrace classification.

Property owners present at the meeting were emphatic in their requests to have the commission deny the petition, claiming that the proposed terraces would be a detriment to the neighborhood.

Arvid Peterson, builder who proposed the measure, admitted to property owners and the city commission that he would not try to construct any project which the immediate neighborhood did not desire.

Willing to Drop Matter
"Although it is my feeling that the terraces would be an improvement over the multiple dwellings that could presently be erected on two blocks in this area, I have yet to offend the public with any project," Peterson said.

The dispersed area which was up for rezoning included the two and a half blocks just west of Eton road between Villa and Haynes streets.

The city plan commission, in a hearing last week, recommended to the city commission that the petition be turned down.

Back to Single Residence
Peterson, however, pointed out that the use of most of the most road just south of Maple, now zoned for multiple dwellings, could be used for a multi-story apartment building.

The present city building code limits the use of multiple dwellings to a maximum of four units per lot.

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Projector Makes Convalescing Much Easier

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Nancy Allen, 19, of 459 Townsend, tells Bill Spence, Lions club ceiling projector fund chairman, how much she enjoyed the use of the projector during her convalescence from a back injury suffered while tobogganing last December.

"The projector provided my main diversion through many weeks of convalescence," she stated. "It was surprising to see how many well known books had been recorded on film. The projector is a perfect boon to bedridden."

Miss Allen has been permitted to sit up in bed for short periods, the first time in 12 weeks. The projector already has been loaned to another local person who is unable to read books in the normal manner.

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Community House Director Explains 1948-49 Budget

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By Hazel B. White
(Member of Board of Directors, Birmingham Community House)

(This is the first in a series of eight articles by Mrs. White which are designed to explain the operation and administration of the Birmingham Community House prior to the annual Roll Call for funds.)

Many people ask members of the board of directors of the Community House why its operating expenses are so high. The answer is that they aren't high, but remarkably low in terms of housekeeping and maintenance, familiar to every family budget.

The Community House should be thought of as a vast friendly home where the latch string is always out and nothing is ever too much trouble. Permanent guests in the house are 40 organizations that use the Community House regularly for their meeting place.

Several of these are lunch clubs. A few are dinner clubs. These regular boards helped swell the total of meals and teas served last year to 37,000.

In addition to the 40 clubs who are senior members of the Community House are 400 individuals and hundreds of groups or individuals who use the house once a year, or perhaps once in a lifetime, like the families who hold wedding receptions, graduation parties or anniversary celebrations there because their own homes are too small for such events.

Every household knows that a house which gets such hard use requires constant care and repair. The Community House is no exception. It is a vast friendly home where the latch string is always out and nothing is ever too much trouble.

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Fairway Opening Dropped; Lincoln Paving Postponed

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One street project was turned down and a second was adjourned for 30 days by action of the city commission Monday evening.

The proposed opening of Fairway drive, between Larch and Ardmore, was dropped by commissioners after practically all the residents in the affected area opposed the move.

The confirmation of the assessment roll on the 44-foot paving of Lincoln between Adams and Woodward was adjourned for 30 days in order to obtain more information from the State and county in regard to that intersection.

Opening of Fairway was originally suggested by the commission Monday night, but the residents in the affected area opposed the move.

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Army Chaplain Scheduled to Address ROA

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Duffy, Three-Time Jap Prisoner, Will Tell of Pacific War

Rev. John E. Duffy of New London, Ohio will be the guest speaker at the dinner meeting of the Birmingham chapter of the Reserve Officers' Association, to be held next Thursday, March 11, at the Fox and Hothams.

Duffy, who thrice was a prisoner of the Japanese, was captured by the Japanese and spent 10 months in the Philippines. He was captured there and participated in the Bataan Death March.

He was captured again by the Japanese, he was among those who suffered extreme torture at the hands of the Japanese.

Duffy was one of the few to escape some time later, when the Jap prison ship to which he and many others were being transferred, was bombed and sunk by American planes. He made his way back to land and was taken prisoner for the third time by enemy forces.

He will speak on the Pacific War as he saw it. During his stay in the Philippines, Duffy will be a guest of the Birmingham chapter of the Reserve Officers' Association.

The organization is also slated to be held at this meeting.

New Budget for Community House Set at \$35,958

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The 1948-49 budget for the Birmingham Community House was announced at a pre-Roll Call meeting Monday evening.

The budget, which is the first since the roll call, shows a total of \$35,958, including operating expenses, \$31,381; maintenance, \$2,500; improvements, \$1,300; and property expenses, \$1,177.

Revenue from rentals and other sources for next year are estimated at \$7,400, leaving a deficit of \$28,558 toward operating expenses which the roll call must produce.

Important repairs, including painting of the exterior of the community house, roof and drain repairs and kitchen improvements are not included in the operating expense budget. They are estimated at \$5,000 and any amount collected above operating expenses will be applied to them.

Organizations pledged the groups to supply workers for the Roll Call which is announced for April 19-20. Every house in Birmingham is to be contacted. The Roll Committee hopes to enlist 400 workers in the Roll Call.

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Area East of Hunter if High Street Is Closed

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City vacation of High street could lead to the orderly, ultimate business development of Maple avenue east of Hunter, city commissioners were told Monday evening.

This prediction was made by Harold E. Tuggey, 612 E. Maple, who last December petitioned for the closing of this 160-foot leftover from the opening of Hunter boulevard.

According to Tuggey, he has a tentative purchaser for this south-west corner of Maple and Hunter, provided the city vacates the street.

The proposed plan calls for the construction of a fine, neighborhood shopping center," he explained.

Commissioners set March 29 as the date of the hearing on the vacating of High street.

Should the city close the street in accordance with the petition and thus permit the development of the corner, it would mean an automatic end to the city plan commission's recommendation for an auxiliary street paralleling the east side of Hunter.

Faded out of Maples and Hunter to build four years ago, the auxiliary highway plan with critical approval of Commissioner Milton F. Maller.

"I haven't liked the idea of the auxiliary street for some time. It has been several years ago when it was presented several years ago, and I have been suggesting that it be dropped. It is a waste of money to build it now, and it is a waste of money to build it now."

Color Sequence on City Traffic Lights to Be Separated

In order to conform with national standardization of color sequence on traffic control signals, the State is discontinuing the practice of displaying green and amber traffic lights at the same time.

The city's seven local traffic signals are to be placed on the same color sequence as the two State signals on Hunter boulevard.

Police Chief John F. Bickett announced this week.

I have already received a letter from the State Highway Department informing me that the Hunter lights will be changed, and to prevent confusion, the County Highway Department is also changing the city's traffic signals.

Leon V. Balknap, county road engineer, said Tuesday that his department had begun to change the signals.

Since there are a great many traffic lights within the county, it can make no definite commitment on when the Birmingham lights will be changed over to the new system," Balknap stated.

General Manager of Bird House Contest

6,000 Automobile Plates Are Sold in Birmingham

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So far as the sale of license plates is concerned, the Birmingham branch of the Secretary of State's office has just ended a successful year. Still in its first year of operation here, the office sold over 6,000 1948 plates, a number far in excess of the anticipated amount.

The largest day saw over 500 plates issued, with a total of \$700 taken in. The Birmingham branch of the Secretary of State's office has just ended a successful year.

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