

There is, about this business of...  
But one is fortunate, indeed, to...  
with a deep desire to help others...  
just for their sake.

# Commissioner's Job Is a Lead-Pipe Clink

## Some People Declare

By George Wm. Averill

So you think the job of a Birmingham city commissioner is a lead-pipe clink? You figure that anyone with a bit of native intelligence can run for the office and still do a creditable piece of work?

Well, that isn't exactly the case, ladies and gentlemen. When a man is elected to the Birmingham city commission, it doesn't simply mean his attendance at 156 Monday night meetings for the next three years. He soon finds himself in for much more than that.

Before we go any further, it should be understood that this article is not a "kick" or a "blast" against the city commissioners. Nor is there any desire to frighten away possible candidates from the job. But there are certain facts which the public should know about the responsibilities of the commission itself as well as about the responsibilities of the individual commissioner.

**City's Legislative Body**

The Birmingham city commission is composed of seven persons elected by the registered voters of the city. Every year for two years the citizens elect two new commissioners. The third year finds three candidates up for election. Elections are held the first Monday in April and the terms are for three years. The city does not find itself with a complete new commission any year, but the entire commission would be handicapped by lack of experience and knowledge of current city conditions if any commissioner were to resign.

**What Birmingham apparently needs to meet the current and future municipal demands made upon it is the highest type of efficiency in its administrative offices. In the administration of any unit of government, the key to success is the quality of prevention, is better than a pound of cure. It is the best and the most intelligent vision, plus ability to apply that vision, which would become "peaceful and contented."**

**Dr. Willard H. Dow, talented and able head of the Dow Chemical Co., told an Ann Arbor audience last week that some day man will be able to do more than to cure. He said that the physical thing he needs; the doctor then suggested that when this day comes, the man who would become "peaceful and contented."**

**Doctor, until there has been a great change in the hearts of mankind. Abundance of material things, however, will never, of itself, eliminate human selfishness, intolerance, and the host of other negatives that make for so much trouble among people.**

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**A few of the learned scientists now declare that the original ape-man of the group 700,000 to 3,000,000 years ago, walked in an upright position. Well, let's assume that's true. But today's man, following the physical pattern of his stride, trying to think in an upright position.**

**Barnum Principal Refused Contract by School Board**

Barnum Junior high school principal Miles W. Robinson has not agreed to a new contract for the 1948-49 school year. Superintendent of Schools Dwight B. Ireland declined to sign a new contract.

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The Veterans Memorial Day committee met last Friday evening to make preliminary plans for the observance of Memorial Day here. Jack Emerson was named chairman of the group and Charles James as co-chairman. Orrin Clark will serve as secretary-treasurer.

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# John Hackett to Retire as Police Chief

Here for More Than 18 Years; Ypsilanti Man to Succeed Him

John P. Hackett, Birmingham's chief of police for the past 18 years, will retire from the local force, 1949.

This announcement came today from City Manager Donald C. Egbert, who revealed Hackett's request for retirement which eliminates a total of 36 years in police work.

At the same time, Egbert revealed that Ralph W. Moxley of Ypsilanti will become Birmingham's police chief when the latter's retirement becomes effective.

Moxley, at the present time, is a detective sergeant on the Ypsilanti police department. Thirty-three years old, he is married and has three children.

**Attends FBI School**

He has been a police officer since 1941 as a patrolman. He has taken advanced police courses at the Institute of Applied Science, Chicago, over a two-year period and was graduated in 1947 from a 3-months course at the FBI National Academy in Washington where police officers are given executive training. He was one of the very few patrolmen attending the Academy at the time, the course being designed primarily for the chief of police.

**John P. Hackett, who was 60 years old last March, who was retained in an advisory capacity until the end of the year, Egbert stated, in order to familiarize Moxley with police activities and equipment here.**

**Born in Ionia County in 1888, Hackett obtained his secondary education at St. Paul and Paul's Academy in Ionia. After his graduation, he went to work for a grocery company in Sunfield in Eton County. Late in 1911 he moved to Lansing where, in September, 1917, he became a patrolman on the Lansing force. He was 24 years old at the time.**

**He joined the Michigan State Police and worked as a trooper until 1928 when he accepted the position of police chief of East Lansing.**

**At the age of 38 years ago on May 1, 1930—he came to the Birmingham department as chief of police. He was 35 years, 9 months and 9 days old when he succeeded Roy Tuttle who had left the Birmingham force in 1929.**

**At that time there were 16 policemen here, and we all worked in the same building. "But it was about a year later when the department went on an 8-hour day."**

**During his 18 years here in Birmingham, Hackett stated that the chief has never had a day when he has changed very little.**

**"But there have been a number of improvements, such as the putting through of Woodward and Hunter, the moving of the Grand Trunk to the eastern city limits, the continuing program of street improvements, the vast number of new residences and business establishments," said the chief.**

**Not Much Crime**

While Birmingham has had considerable increase in the amount of property to protect, this has not accompanied an increase in the number of police officers because of the small amount of criminal activity in the city, Hackett pointed out.

**"We don't have much real crime in Birmingham," he said, "and we have a few cases of juvenile delinquency. Most of our work is to apprehend speeders, a few cases of traffic violations, and a few domestic cases," he said.**

**Even in the future, Birmingham's crime and delinquency, he believes, and he attributes this to the high type of character of the people who make Birmingham their home.**

**As to his own future plans, the chief has not decided upon any particular move at the present time. He did admit that he might like to see Birmingham from the inside and demand over the country to judge shows, particularly in the case of the citizens of which he is particularly fond.**

**Former President of MACP**

Hackett has distinguished himself in his own field through his association with the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, of which he has served as president in 1944, and as chairman of the second group's legislative committee.

**He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and in 1938 was president of the Southeastern Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.**

# Session Encores Program for Streets, Sewers

By George Wm. Averill

Are the citizens of Birmingham willing to invest a little more than a cent a day for the next 30 years in order to correct in the next 10 years present street, sewer and water system inequities and thus give Birmingham a basic utility pattern that will be a great credit and of inestimable value to the city when completed?

This question was presented to city commissioners Monday evening by City Manager Donald C. Egbert, and commissioners answered him in the affirmative.

**Egbert's recommendation for improvement of streets, water and sewer program received high praise from commissioners for the thought and analysis which went into the report.**

**Must Protect Values**

"Of necessity, the program would have to be financed by a bond issue of approximately \$1,500,000 which would be issued over a 10-year period as the money was needed," Egbert explained. The bonds themselves would be issued for a 20-year period.

**In asking the commission to set this improvement goal for the city, Egbert pointed out that citizens must protect their Birmingham property developments by improving the three basic utilities.**

**The manager estimated that it would require a total expenditure of between four and five million dollars to completely improve city streets. He figured the city share would be approximately \$800,000 city share in sewer and water system improvements.**

**At the present rate of increase in the city's population, Egbert believes the city will reach 200,000 people in 30 years.**

**This fact must be borne in mind when considering the improvement program, he said.**

**Have to Prepare**

"Residents will not take care of this 20,000 figure," he said. "Therefore, we have to prepare for it by additional to our present program."

**Genaro A. Flores, president of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, declared yesterday morning that the Chamber was entirely in accord with Egbert's suggestion to establish a goal to improve the program so each and every local citizen would be included in the program.**

**"Our getting behind this plan for better utilities will, however, prevent our group from sending an investor for the same time, a new master plan for the City of Birmingham which would include recreation, schools, parking problems, street lighting and a number of other things," Flores said.**

**Mayor Milton F. Mallerer, in discussing Egbert's report, emphasized that this was by no means the completed program.**

**A Starting Place**

"Egbert has given the city a starting place and the end result. It is up to us to make a plan to solve as we proceed," Mallerer stated. "In this respect, we heartily endorse the program and cooperation of the entire citizenry in recommending and construction of the program as it develops. But there can be no argument that the city must proceed to do this through the improvement of these basic services."

**Egbert said each resident must look at the future.**

"From the point of view of the property owner, this program will involve an investment of from \$300 for a presently partially improved 40-foot lot, to \$700 for a lot which would be completely improved," Flores said.

**Refuse Requests**

Requests for connections to the Birmingham water system from three property owners just outside city limits were refused without prejudice Monday evening by the city commission.

**City Engineer, Mayor Milton F. Mallerer explained, prevents the city from providing water to any one who does not live within city limits.**

# This Week Marks Beginning of Children Crusade

A drastic revision in ordinary campaign procedure has been announced for Birmingham's Children's Crusade. The revision, which will be in effect for the next two years, is designed to aid starving children overseas, municipal employees and to help the city in general.

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# Evaluation Method to Be Explained by City Assessor

Elmer W. Haack, Birmingham city assessor and past president of the Municipal Assessors of Michigan, will explain the evaluation method of the League of Women Voters next Monday, May 17, at 10:30 with an explanation of how the city arrives at its valuation of a house and lot, how the city decides what the July tax is and part of the League's continuous public education program.

**Mr. Haack will speak at the Birmingham department as chief of police. He was 35 years, 9 months and 9 days old when he succeeded Roy Tuttle who had left the Birmingham force in 1929.**

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# Roll Call Drive Is Still \$7,000 Short of Goal

The total of funds received for the 1948 Community House Roll Call drive now stands at approximately \$21,000, and effort is being made to complete the campaign 1,000 households so that the final total may be known and the work of the Roll Call committee completed not later than May 25.

**Mr. Cassius L. Miller, chairman of the committee of 400 men and women who each contacted 10 families for the Roll Call, reported to the Community House board of directors at their regular monthly meeting Monday night that about 95 members of her committee had still working, or have not made their final report.**

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