There was a more youthful time in my life when I thought that difficulties and handicaps were bothersome and unnecessary to human progress. But from them I have discovered some of their great value. "Pearls of great price."

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 7 24 Pages | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1948 | $2.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

When Vindictiveness Rules In a Legislature . . .

Well, Folks, that was a lively close to the recent special session of the Michigan Legislature. It certainly represented "democracy in action", even though part of the machinations of that group of Senate obstructionists would hardly bear the light of ethical practices. While Governor Sigler failed to get most of the constitutional reforms he wanted, he has emerged as a fighter for the modernization of an antique State Constitution . . . something the voters will remember later this year.

• • •

One idea which the Governor presented to the Legislature and most desired to have made law was that the State, together, under one head, the now separate agencies of State budgeting, accounting, purchasing, and building. The House approved the plan excluding the building phase of the idea, and it looked (24 hours before the close of the Legislature) as though the Senate would give a majority vote to the plan.

It was then that Senator Joseph P. Cloon, of Wakefield, in the western end of the Upper Peninsula, got busy and led the parliamentary moves to defeat it. In this he was aided by Senators Hittle, Nichols, Clarence Reid, plus the "invisible" opposition of two or three others, (whose names may be revealed a bit later.)

Of course, you may be sure that Lieut.-Gov. Keyes was hardly expected to help Sigler—and, of course, from what I have learned, he most positively didn't!

• • •

So, Folks, it was a case of one vindictive Senator (Cloon) aided by a very few antagonists of the Sigler administration, who thwarted the program—a program that merely asked the Legislature to allow the voters themselves, at the November election to approve or disapprove of the issues involved.

It was the same Mr. Cloon who, two weeks before, had questioned the Governor's traditional $10,000 expense allowance; the very next day the Senate rebuked Mr. Cloon by taking that $10,000 and other usual appropriation budget and making it a constitutional grant, even upping the amount to $12,500. It was the same Mr. Cloon whose vindictiveness was aroused because the Governor would not go for an increase in the gasoline tax. I have been informed that Mr. Cloon sells and/or leases various kinds of road building equipment to Upper Peninsula county road commissions, although I would hardly know of the connection of this to any increase in financial aid, from gasoline taxes, from the State to county road commissions.

• • •

I first met Senator Cloon during the 1946 political campaign when Governor Sigler was traveling through Senator Cloon's district in the U.P.; I never did become an intimate of his, though casual contacts and observations had caused me to accept him as a chap who, though hard-hitting, was reasonably interested in the welfare of the entire State; a chap capable of rising above the type of tactics he evidenced in this recent special session.

However, in spite of his opposition, I wish him well and trust that he rises to the stature of an Upper Peninsula statesman so much desired by us who live below the Straits of Mackinac.

No. 3

Key to Future of Birmingham Held by Its Citizens

By George Wm. Averill

Incorporation, of Birmingham took place in 1864 with J. C. K. Crooks as president of the board of seven trustees. A new charter was granted the village in 1885, which provided for six village commissioners. Another charter change in 1918 gave the town a manager and reduced the number of commissioners to three. A few years later the number of commissioners was again raised to seven.

On April 3, 1933, Birmingham became a city and voters adopted a new city charter which established a city manager form of government, simply an enlargement of the village manager type which functioned here during previous years. The number of commissioners, under the terms of the new charter, remained at seven.

Through the efforts of local women under the leadership of Miss Martha Baldwin, a Ladies' Library Society was formed in 1867. Their efforts were largely responsible for the beautiful Baldwin Public Library on Martin street, dedicated in 1928 and named in honor of Miss Baldwin.

How Eccentric Was Named

Seventy years ago, George Mitchell and Almeron Whitehead decided Birmingham needed a community newspaper. So they founded The Birmingham Eccentric on May 2, 1878. The name of the paper, over the years, has come in for a great deal of good-natured joking. And from time to time, The Eccentric editorial staff has to tell how and why that name was selected.

It is simply this: both Mitchell and Whitehead were members of "The Eccentric Club", a local organization composed of young men. So the two chaps decided to name the paper after the club.

George K. Updike was The Eccentric's first subscriber.

The present editor and publisher, George R. Averill, purchased The Eccentric on Feb. 14, 1920.

Steadily Expanding

The first issue of the paper in May, 1878, was a small four-page affair. Since that time it has grown to the point where now it publishes a weekly average of 16-22 pages. Over the past 30 years, the job printing department has increased in size so that today The Eccentric does a volume of job printing work exceeded by few printing shops in the State of Michigan.

Birmingham today is probably Detroit's most attractive suburb. A residential community, it has only a very few small industries located at the eastern city limits. The official U.S. census taken in 1947 places Birmingham's population at 12,683. Today, a year later, that count may be close to 13,000, what with the record residential building program now under way.

The city's business district is steadily expanding, too. A new $300,000 Bell Telephone office is under construction across from the Municipal Building, and when completed will provide complete dial telephone service for Birmingham telephone subscribers.

What Does Future Hold?

Exactly what the future holds for Birmingham no one is in a position to say. But it is clearly understood that several major city services must be revamped and enlarged in order to provide citizens with adequate benefits. Growth has been so rapid, particularly in the past 10 years, that the city faces considerable overhauling in its storm and sanitary sewer systems. Water mains are to be given a more adequate and economical water distribution.

A great proportion of the city's 90 miles of streets are still dirt or gravel. The city commission presently is faced with working out a street improvement program which will keep pace with Birmingham's desirability as a residential community.

Chlorination and soft water treatment of water has been proposed for the city. Studies show the sewage treatment plant will soon need expanding. School board officials have stressed crowded conditions of local schools. They have suggested the need for a new, enlarged, more modern high school.

Answers Can Be Found

These are but some of the problems this community faces in the future. Still other matters will present themselves for solution. But they can be decided and acted upon intelligently if each and every citizen will actively participate in the search for the answer.

Birmingham today faces its greatest test: shall it undertake to remedy all its present inadequacies and thus continue to hold its place as a most sought-after residential area? Or will it maintain the status quo and hope for the best?

One of these is the road to continued prosperity for the community; the other will throw the city into reverse. An intelligent, informed, understanding and cooperative citizenry will solve the problems and select the right path.

NEXT WEEK: The City Commission.

Birmingham's Roll Call at Halfway Mark

Deadline Extended Until All Residents Are Contacted

Encouraged by a substantial increase in the number of people contributing to the support of the Birmingham Community House by subscribing to the annual Roll Call, many members of the Roll Call Committee of 400 were still at work and will continue until the job is completed. The Roll Call total stood at $17,500 on Tuesday, with about 175 workers' reports still outstanding.

Mrs. Velma Isley, executive director of the Community House, who is in charge of the roster of the Community House Association to which all Roll Call contributors of a dollar or more belong, estimates that approximately 1000 new names will be added to the list as the result of the work of the Committee of 400 which was set up to contact every family in the Birmingham area which has not already subscribed by mail to the Roll Call.

Every Dollar Counts

Many of the contributions from new members are small, however. and Charles B. Kass, general chairman of the Roll Call, estimates that the first objective of the Roll Call, $28,558 for 1948-49 budgeted operating expenses, will only be met if every worker carries out his or her assignment and if reports of teams contacting business houses continue to be as good as they have been thus far.

"Every dollar counts now", he said. "We must keep right on with the job until every possible donor has been seen. We are anxious for workers to get their final reports in but we are even more concerned that every family in the area shall be given an opportunity to contribute to the support of the work of the Community House next year."

Kass and Mrs. Cassius L. Miller, chairman of the Committee of 400, were enthusiastic in their praise of the large group of men and women who are taking the Roll Call message to many families newly resident in the area and not familiar with the program and services of the Community House.

Explains Purposes

Mrs. Miller explained the purposes of the Committee of 400 as follows:

"First, we informed the Committee of 400 of the work and problems of the Community House as fully as possible. They went out and informed 4,000 others and got contributions from most of them. We are delighted that so many new friends have been made for the Community House and that

(See ROLL CALL, Page 2)

Gardner Named to County Board in Saving Bond Drive

Herbert H. Gardner, according to an announcement made by Alfred C. Girard of oPntiac, has been named cochairman of the current Oakland County Security Board Drive. Girard, county chairman, says the quota for Oakland County it $4,454,000 in series E, F, and G bonds.

Girard and Gardner announced that the U. S. treasury had placed a direct quota on every plant will business in Michigan employing 25 persons or more. It is on the basis of $37.50 for each employee for the period of the drive which ends June 30.

The U. S. Treasury campaign heads have expressed the hope that the payroll savings plan will be renewed, getting at least 55 percent of all employees in on the program. The savings bond army is being reestablished in Michigan.

Future Big League Pitcher Drops Ball in Lap of B of E

Robert Thalacker, 13-year-old seventh grade student at Quarton school, wants some day to be a big league pitcher. But before he reaches the top, he figures he's got to have a lot of practice. And one place to obtain this experience is on a school baseball diamond.

But Bob, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arbie O. Thalacker, 1011 Westwood, says the ball diamond at Quarton has too many holes in it to afford the best playing conditions.

Accordingly, and without the knowledge of his parents, young Bob appeared at the city commission meeting Monday night to see if the city couldn't fix up the Quarton diamond. He knew the city had a summer recreational program and therefore maybe he should call the diamond's condition to the attention to the city.

Up to School Board

Mayor Milton F. Mallender kindly explained to Bob that straightening up the ball field was a matter for the school board.

"You see the playgrounds, Bob, and they are the ones you should talk to. The city hasn't any power to do it, but the school board has," Mallender said.

So Tuesday afternoon Bob went to see Norman A. Wolfe, assistant superintendent of schools in charge of buildings and grounds. The case was presented to Wolfe.

"I assured Bob that we will try our best to get not only the Quarton area graded and the holes filled in, but shall endeavor to do it at all the school playgrounds."

Meanwhile, Bob plans to keep his arm limbered up, ready to pitch the very moment he can get a good diamond.

Safety Patrol Award Won by Pierce School

Special to The Birmingham Eccentric

Birmingham's Pierce school will receive the Automobile Club of Michigan Traveling Safety Cup Award and be eligible to send one safety patrol boy on tour to Washington, D. C., from May 13 through 16, it was announced Monday by Ernest P. Davis, Auto Club safety director.

Pierce will receive the award and trip along with 120 other Michigan elementary schools as recognition from Auto Club's safety and traffic division for their outstanding traffic safety education programs during the 1947-48 school year.

Selected to make the trip is Arthur H. Robinson, Jr., captain of the Pierce safety patrol. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Robinson, 511 Wallace street.

Why Not So Low

"Superintendent Dwight B. Ireland, Principal Malcolm V. Ferguson and the safety patrol are to be congratulated. They and the leading 120 other schools in Michigan schools in this program are the largest reason why the state's child traffic death rate is so low," Davis said.

Ferguson gave most of the credit for the patrol's success to Miss Laurice Tanber, 5th grade teacher at Pierce.

"She was the patrol's sponsor and her interest and efforts sparked the boys to this outstanding achievement," Ferguson stated.

All expenses of the 120 patrollers' trip to and from Washington will be borne by Auto Club, as a small reward from the motoring public to the patrols responsible for guarding the safety of school children in all kinds of weather.

(See AWARD, Page 2)

'Two-Faced' Owls to Come Out of Hiding

DPW Superintendent Marx Fall has been requested by Mayor Milton F. Mallender and city Commissioner Don Bell to get the city's three aluminum "two-faced" owls ready for use at any time.

"I've already had a couple of requests for use of the things," Bell commented Monday evening at commission meeting.

"And I've already seen some of these starlings begin to nest, particularly in their old haunts—on Linden, Aspen, Poppleton and E. Maple avenues," remarked the Mayor.

Mallender lives at 430 Aspen and Bell at 820 E. Maple.

Family Life Institute at Baldwin High

Students to Seek Answers to Various Problems of Youth

More than eleven hundred junior and senior high school students and many parents will participate in Birmingham's Family Life Institute which will take place next Thursday, May 13.

"Attitudes on Youth and Family Relationships" will be the topic for a panel discussion in Baldwin high school auditorium at 8 p.m. that evening. This meeting is open to the public and all parents are urged to attend.

Members of the panel will include Dr. Glenn Frye of Benton Harbor, an authority on parent-child relations; Dr. Eve Schlecte of Rochester; Boyd Walker, director of the Detroit Metropolitan YMCA counseling and guidance service, and Dr. Claude Uhler, director of Clinton Valley Children's Center.

Parents Point of View

Students will be represented by Gerry Neumann and Virginia Reinhart of Baldwin high school.

Mrs. Peter B. Loomis, member of the School Board and mother of children in elementary, junior high and high school, will present a parent's point of view.

Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools, will act as moderator.

The Institute will occupy the entire morning session at Baldwin High School. Dr. Frye will address the student body the first hour. The students will then break up into discussion groups to talk over problems which they have chosen as vital to them. Leaders of these groups include Dr. Frye, Walker, Rev. James Wright of the Methodist Church, the Rev. J. J. Kress of Holy Name church and Hugh Booth, industrial relations secretary of the Detroit YMCA.

Other Discussion Groups

Other discussions will be led by Miss Estelle Martin, director of the Family Service Center of Pontiac, Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham; Mrs. Mary Mulvey of the Clinton Valley Children's Center; Sidney Geal, director of Camp Mahn-Go-Tah-See and Harry Hoey of Chanbrook School.

During the final period the girls will be addressed by Dr. Eve Schlecte and the boys by Dr. Claude Uhler.

The program is under the direction of the advisors for girls and boys, Mrs. Carol Darling and Larned Goodrich.

At Barnum junior high school, Miss Muriel Brusie and M. A. Tindall are in charge of the program for the afternoon period. Dr. Frye will address the 7th, 8th and 9th grades; Dr. Schlecte will talk to the girls, Dr. Uhler to the boys, with short discussion periods led by Geal, Miss Martin and Mrs. Mulvey.

Committee's First Action

When the Community Council sent out questionaires to all organizations to find out what they considered the most serious problem facing the community, "Family Life" received the second highest number of votes. Accordingly, the Family Life committee was set up under the chairmanship of Mrs. Alec Dennie. Representatives of all organizations interested in child and family relationships studied the best way to present the subject to the com-

(See INSTITUTE, Page 2)

Some Time Before City Will Get to 'Village' Streets

Mayor Milton F. Mallender has made it plain that while the city is definitely interested in eventually improving all city streets, it will certainly not go out of its way at present to improve roadways in neighborhoods where there is a definite lack of interest in such improvements.

"For the next couple of years, the time of the commission will be taken up with the improvement of arterial streets and residential streets which a large number of abutting property owner wish improved," Mallender stated at Monday night's commission meeting.

The city has only a limited amount of money to advance to assessment districts for street improvements, and arterial and residential street construction which the city generally needs or residents are petitioning for Mallender explained, will keep this money revolving for quite some time.

Cites Example

The mayor cites as examples of needed arterial improvements Lincoln avenue east of Woodward, Chesterfield between Maple and Oak, Oak between Woodward and the River Rouge and Pierce between Lincoln and 14 Mile.

"Although residents living along these arterial streets may not see the advisability of permanent street improvement, these streets are used by many other motorists to get from one part of town to the other. They must be improved," Mallender said.

On the other hand, many residents on neighborhood streets have expressed a desire for street improvement, having recognized the benefits to be derived from such construction, the mayor continued.

'Village Atmosphere'

"Therefore, it will be quite some time before the commission will be able to get around to considering residential streets which now are dirt or gravel and which abutting property owners want kept full of pot holes to maintain the 'village atmosphere'," Mallender said.

Road oiling of 11 streets moved a step closer to reality Monday evening when the commission approved the passage of the measure and set May 17 as the date of hearings on the confirmation of the various assessment rolls.

The streets are Birdlane, Oak to Raynale; Pierce, Lincoln to 14 Mile; Worth, Maple to Oakland; Ridgedale, Poppleton to Adams; Knox, Poppleton to Adams; Purinton, Oak to Lincoln; Woodland, Greenwood and Lakeview, all from Harmon to Oak; Vinewood, Lakeview to Woodland, and Hazelwood, Vinewood to Oak.

Three More Petitions

The commission set June 1 as the date of hearings on the road oiling of Ridgewood, Lincoln to Catalpa; Catalpa, Grant to Pierce, and Cedar, Lincoln to Catalpa.

Three new petitions were received for road oiling on Chesterfield, Oak to Redding; Oak, Woodward to Lakeview, and Harmon, Greenwood to Quarton Lake. These petitions were referred to City Manager Donald C. Egbert for study and recommendation.

A resolution prohibiting residents from putting crankcase or other inferior oil on streets as a dustproofing measure was adopted Monday by the commission.

May Get 200,000 Gallons

Egbert admits that from the number of road oiling petitions now being filed, it is evident that the amount of oil which will be required will be substantially in excess of the original 100,000 gallons.

He said, however, that he had been given some assurance that the city would be able to secure up to 200,000 gallons for the summer road oiling program.

The oiling will be begun by the DPW just as soon as warmer weather permits the proper working and mixing of oil into the roads, the manager explained.

Water Rate Hike Is Approved by City Commission

Birmingham residents will begin paying an 8-9 per cent increase in water rates effective July 1, the city commission decided Monday evening.

Many residents, when they receive their water bills in October, will not be aware of the change, however, because they will still recognize the "$2.50" base rate which will still be on the new bills. However, they will not find a 10 per cent reduction in the amount of the bill "if paid promptly at the Water Department."

This elimination of the 10 per cent discount is what amounts to the raise. A 5 per cent penalty will be added to water bills if a second billing becomes necessary in 30 days from date of the first bill.

Eliminates $2,000 in Work

The new system will also permit the city to save more than $2,000 annually in bookkeeping costs necessary under the old system, City Manager Donald C. Egbert declared.

"The Water Department will realize about $7,500 additional revenue during the next year as a result of the new rate change," Egbert said.

He pointed out, however, that this increase revenue would have to be turned back into capital improvements to enable the department to keep pace with the present rate of growth of the city's water system.

Still Lower Than Most

Present water rates were established Sept. 17, 1923, while today's labor and material costs have greatly increased since then, the manager explained.

"Even under the new proposals, Birmingham water rates will still be under those of several surrounding communities," he said.

Royal Oak now charges a $2 minimum and 24 cents for each additional 1,000 gallons; Berkley, $2.25 ..... 26.7 cents per add. 1,000; Clawson $2.50 min., 26.7 cents per add. 1,000; Pontiac, $3.30 min., 10.64 add. 1,000.

Birmingham will charge $2.50 minimum and 20 cents per extra 1,000 gallons.

Census of School District to Begin on Monday, May 10

A school district census of all children between the ages of birth and 120 years will get under way next Monday, May 10, it was announced by the Board of Education this week.

Under the direction of Mrs. Irene B. Stevens, the census is expected to be completed by May 30.

Working the Adams school area will be Mrs. Louise Cobb, Mrs. Mary Fletcher and Mrs. Martha Wilson; Quarton — Mrs. Ruth Coons and Mrs. Lillian Moore; Pierce—Miss Pearl Hollister, Mrs. Ina Nixon, Mrs. Fred Hopson and Mrs. Eva Craig; Franklin—Mrs. Alice Grigg; Bloomfield Village—Mrs. Ruth Murray, and Walnut Lake—Mrs. Mae Shattuck.

Two-Way Stops

Two city intersections are to be studied by the chief of police and city manager to determine the advisability of making them two-way stops. The intersections are Pierce and Frank and Purdy and Frank, and are used extensively by school children attending Barnum junior high.

Also to be investigated is the possibility of reestablishing the "No-U-Turn" policy on Woodward between Oakland and Lincoln avenues.

Cleaner Streets Now

Birmingham's new automatic street sweeper was delivered to the city this week and was placed in immediate operation to remove accumulated litter on downtown streets, Marx Fall, DPW superintendent, has announced.

Delinquent Payments

Delinquent special assessment payments amounting to $23,701.20 will be carried to the 1948 city tax roll, City Treasurer Russell T. Berger said Monday.

These are unpaid assessment installments due between May 1, 1947, May 1, 1948, year, he said.

Poppy Days

May 28-29 have been set aside by the city commission as "Poppy Days" in Birmingham when members of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars may sell paper poppies to aid disabled veterans.

BULLETIN

Scott A. Hersey, Birmingham building inspector, collapsed at his office in the Municipal Building yesterday morning. After emergency treatment at his office by several physicians, he was rushed to St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, where his condition is reported as serious. The cause of his collapse had not been determined at the time The Eccentric went to press.

Men Share Spotlight on These Bills

Stassen Wins In Barnum Election

Students in Miss Leila Hildebrand's eighth grade history class at BMarnum high school this week held a "mock election" to determine the next president of the United States.

Every member of the class took part in the Republican convention after speeches had been made for the main candidates. Stassen won with just the two-thirds majority vote needed, running ahead of Taft and Dewey. Dewey and Vandenberg were dead-locked for the vice-presidency and Bricker finally won out as a compromise candidate.

Speeches for the Democratic candidates were made with everyone then participating in the Democratic primary. Eisenhower and Truman were chosen president and vice-president.

In the final election Stassen and Bricker received 20 votes; Eisenhower and Truman, four and Wallace and Taylor, one

Speeches were made by Eric Davison, Gael Greig, Dwight Babcock, David Sale, Ken Wilson, Stuart Scheifele, Glynn Robinson, Janet Whitney, Ned Sharples and Tom Dinnel.

Chairmen of the election were John Hardin and Dudley Chapman.

All makes of inner spring mattresses resoiled. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. PHONE B'HAM 1-0788. —Adv., tf.

Pictures of chickens, hogs, cows—and women—on this out-dated currency.

Some Years Ago, Pictures of Women Did Appear on Currency, Research Shows

By Alice E. Morgan

A few days ago a group of women in the East voiced a complaint against the United States Mint. They felt "left out" because of the mint's common practice of using only the faces of famous American men on the bills we spend every day. They seem to feel that the men are holding some sort of an edge on this honor—if it can be called such.

The two reproductions of old bills, at the left, one issued by the bank of Rochester, New Hampshire, the other by the Missisquoi Bank of Vermont, show that in two cases, at least, men have shared this distinction and once with a cow, no less.

Sharing the spotlight with the cow we find none other than Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. If the date on the bill were nearer those of today, we might say the cow had belonged to Mrs. O'Leary, late of Chicago, and made her bid for fame in that city.

On the second bill, we certainly find that the fair sex holds the spotlight. Here they outnumber the poor lone male two-to-one. The center figure, we assume, is that of an Indian maiden, but there is no mistaking the good New England housewife at the left, with her flock of chickens about her feet, her apron full of grain.

Furthermore, in digging through some old family "treasures" we found another "Shinplaster" (this one for five cents) which also carried the picture of a woman.

This should satisfy the disappointed ladies who utter the protest that the women are ignored.

If they still raise their voices, let them consider this fact: what face appears on most dimes, quarters and half dollars? Why, a woman's, of course

RENT THE SPARE BEDROOM

If you have a spare bedroom in your home that you would like to rent to some refined lady or gentleman, why not do it now?

The income from the renting of a spare room will help take up the slack in the high cost of living and it is no trick at all to find good roomers with the aid of an—

ECCENTRIC CLASSIFIED AD PHONE 11

Any time up to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Ask for a classified ad taker and she will help you prepare an advertisement that will get results. Or, drop into the office if you prefer.