

## Birmingham's Contribution to the Big Game

### and THAT

By G. R. A.

#### Good Public Officials Are Very Busy Folks

Before I became associated with Gov. Sigler in Lansing, January 1, 1947, I had joined with so many other Michigan folks in assuming that the top-flight officials in State government had a pretty easy time of it. Perhaps not so reasonably so in the days prior to 1930.

Since then, however, our nation and the rest of the human world has been beset with so many problems that the impact of increased Michigan's problems, with the result that men and women in top positions have been kept busy.

At least this is my personal observation, since becoming Sigler's executive secretary. Officials I have associated with in State government, (and that includes in all of the key ones), are busy people. The problems they deal with, every day, are often perplexing; not all the answers to them are easy to find—and, when they are found, quite difficult to apply.

To be sure, there are some folks in State government, secured by civil service protection and the responsibility to State Capital, to Washington, D.C., the tasks of honest and capable public officials have multiplied tremendously.

To the serious public official, his job is never done, never even thought up until he has done it with a brood of a dozen children, he can work long hours, with always plenty left to try to finish.

#### Michigan's School Problems

Thursday evening of last week I sat at a private dinner with top State officials and educators, where for nearly five hours the conversation was directed to Michigan's several problems relating to education.

Among those present were Gov. Sigler, Sup't. of Public Instruction, L. M. Thurston, Secretary of State Fred M. Alger Jr., Auditor-General Muriel Nazzari, Treasurer D. Hale Bracke, Dr. Alexander J. Rutven, Pres. of the University of Michigan, John Hannah, Pres. of Michigan State College, John A. Perkins, head of the State Board of Education; several members of the Michigan Legislature, and half dozen public school superintendents in Michigan.

"How Shall the State Dept. of Public Instruction be organized?" was one question discussed. All present agreed that he should be taken out of the hands, perhaps appointed by a State Board of Education and the Governor, for a term long enough to provide reasonable tenure. The Board of Education should be appointed by the Governor, staggered term basis. The Sup't. should be paid enough to attract the best talent available in the profession.

"How About Re-organization of the State's School Districts?" was another subject of importance. Michigan now has 5,000 school districts, 1,200 less than ten years ago. Larger districts mean, on the whole, better educational opportunities for youth.

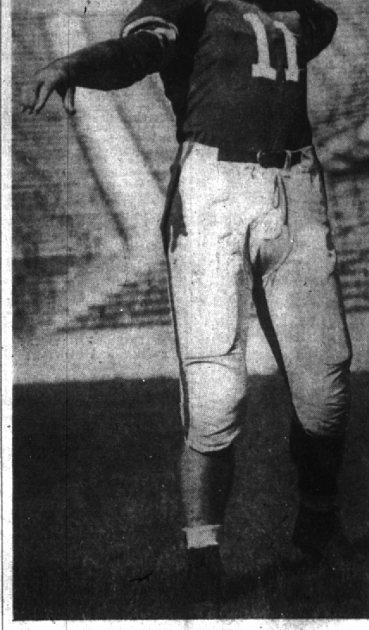
Depending upon the taxable property in a district, it is or is not able to finance sound educational programs; many financially sound districts refuse to annex less valuable districts, resulting in poor educational programs for the poorer districts, though they may be situated side by side. Shall the districts be set up on a county-wide basis? Some of the speakers declared that the ultimate goal for Michigan ought to be a maximum of approximately 100 counties, with 5,000 school districts.

All at the meeting agreed that teachers should be paid on a merit basis; also that they should be accepted in each community as human beings—not as creatures set apart from the average life of others.

One phase of the subject was stressed by myself, namely: that in setting up the Board of Education, plus the mechanics of appointing a Sup't. of Public Instruction, highest State must be kept from controlling the problems relate to the compulsory educational program that the State Constitution requires, which in turn include only the elementary and secondary education—no high schools close to the home communities.

These are the phases of education that are closest to the people, that require more of their tax dollars than the institutions of higher learning. I was happy to find that others at the meeting were agreed on this.

(See THIS & THAT, Page 2)



BILL SPIEGEL

All set to go in Saturday's season opener against the University of Michigan at East Lansing, are Bill Spiegel and Bud Casser, both Baldwin High stars in their high school days here and now members of Biggie Munn's Spartan squad at Michigan State.

Spiegel is a right halfback, playing last season and final year with the team and Casser is a junior member of the squad, which is expected to give the Big Nine and Rose Bowl champs a bitter struggle Saturday, in the game which will dedicate State's new stadium.

For once, the owner of a stolen car is not too unhappy about it. Earl W. Barr, 26, who gave his address as 32407 Palmer, Royal Oak, has been arrested on a charge of developing a police car. He was arrested on a charge of developing a police car. He was arrested on a charge of developing a police car.

The car, a blue 1947 Buick convertible, in the \$4,000 class, had been given the best of care, according to the dealer. When stolen it was equipped with special upholstery and spotlights. The recovered car, in addition to these, had a new paint job and new last-model wheels, increasing its value considerably. It was bearing plates taken from a wrecked car of the same make and model.

When Barr appeared in local court Tuesday he entered a plea of not guilty to a charge of illegal use of plates. Chief Motley of the Birmingham department, said any further charges, regarding the possession of stolen property, would be made through the Rochester department.

Michigan state police are still investigating the hit-run accident which last week sent 8-year-old Donald Maiberger, 17550 Hagerman road, Southfield township, to Mt. Carmel Mercy hospital with internal injuries and four fractured ribs.

A few minutes before the accident on Sept. 13, Donald had alighted from a school bus after attending the day's third grade classes at Annie Lathrop school. He was standing in front of his family's rural mail box on Southfield when without warning he was struck and thrown into a nearby ditch. He was discovered there about a half hour later by a neighbor who had gone after his own mail.

Donald was brought home from the hospital Tuesday, his mother, Mrs. Louis Maiberger, reported.

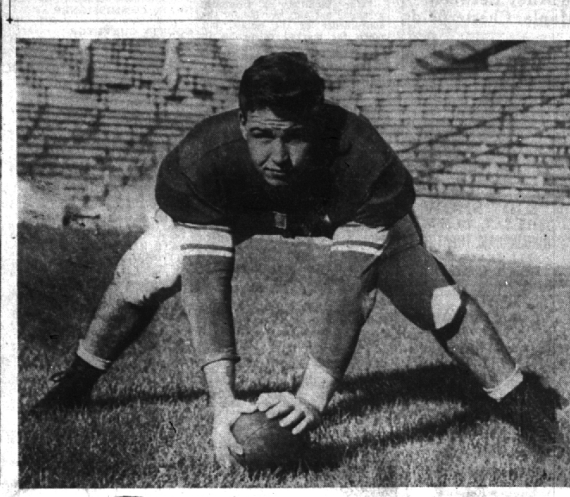
Plans for the Council's program of work for the 1948-49 school year will be discussed and formulated. Members of the executive committee of the Council are Blunt, mother vice-president, Mrs. Jonathan M. Ball; father vice-president, William H. Hohmeyer; teacher vice-president, Ralph Battonhouse; secretary, Mrs. C. E. Kass; treasurer, James L. Cox; school principals, Malcolm W. Ferguson and Samuel Bennett.

Mrs. A. Appleford, hospital-vice chairman, is planning refreshments for over 180 people at the close of the business meeting.

Clyde C. Bennett, 248 N. Bates, was named Treasurer of the Michigan Real Estate Board at their convention held last Friday in the Book-Cadillac Hotel in Detroit.

## TO CUT COLLECTOR'S WORK

### TO 'DENUDE' WALKWAYS



HAROLD (BUD) GASSER

Gasser was Coach Munn's mid-week choice to start at right tackle against the Wolverines. The picture shows him as a center, but in last Spring's drills he was tried at the tackle position and has been clicking there since.

Spiegel will see plenty of action during the season at his familiar right halfback spot, but competition is likely keen at that point with Lynn Chandonis of Flint and the fleet Horace Smith of Jackson, also playing the position.

Equipment of the new Pierce field house, now under construction, reached the two-thirds mark this week with the announcement that Birmingham Sideline Quarterbacks Club would donate \$385 to be used to purchase a whirlpool bath.

Rollie Reese, school board member who is contacting various local organizations for contributions, said that Colin Campbell, Quarterbacks president, had informed him that club members had pledged this amount for the bath.

Still looking for contributions that will provide medical supplies, bins and other storage facilities and some scales," Reese said Tuesday.

A total of \$3,000 must be obtained to completely equip the building, Reese stated.

The \$120,000 capital outlay funds received this fall, plus the same amount obtained last year and held in escrow, will completely pay for the construction and equipping of the new Pierce school building, Ireland said.

The school board, also set the 1948-49 tuition rate of \$308 in accordance with a state formula which limits tuition to actual operating and maintenance costs per pupil. The rate last year was \$260.

Pierce Addition Paid For

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## \$894,686 Budget Formally Approved by School Board

The 1948-49 school district budget, formally approved by the Board of Education Tuesday night, differs very little from the tentative schedule proposed last spring. School Superintendent Dwight Ireland reported yesterday morning.

The current budget will be \$894,686, which includes \$320,000 for capital outlay in the form of school building additions, Ireland said. This amounts to about \$76,000 more than the budget last year, and reflects current salary boosts and increased maintenance costs.

However, the district taxpayers will be paying \$16,000 less in property taxes to the schools, the county having shaved this amount from the budget.

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Eleven columnar Maple trees, each from two to three inches in diameter and protected with heavy steel wire to prevent damage, are going to be planted on W. Maple and Pierce streets, in the downtown section.

Recognizing the complaints of a number of citizens that "W. Maple was being denuded" and made very unattractive by the recent cutting of several aging elms to make way for the street widening program, city commissioners Monday evening decided to spend \$495 to plant the eleven trees; eight on Maple, three on Pierce.

Commissioners agreed that it was worth spending eight times the usual amount to plant a single tree in order to quiet the rumors which have been created here during the past several weeks.

John Johnson, city forester, told the commission that his department would have no trouble putting in the trees, but that he "would not guarantee their length of life."

He said the trees would be planted as soon as the new sidewalks had been constructed. Five foot squares will be left out of the walk at the points the trees will be placed.

From oblique pictures of the columnar Norway maple, it is apparent the downtown section will have little or no shade as a result of the tree planting. Johnson picked this particular type of tree because of its ability to grow upward, close to the trunk, and would not bother store fronts.

As he pointed out to the commission, the tree roots confine themselves to a relatively small area and could be expected not to interfere with sewer services and other utilities.

Will Cost \$45 Per Tree

It was where the city plans to place the trees:

Two on the south side of W. Maple between States and Henrietta and three between Henrietta and Pierce; three on the north side of the street; three on Pierce street.

Usual cost of planting a tree is about \$10. In this particular case, because of the great care that must be taken to get it started properly, it is estimated at \$45 per tree. An additional \$10 per tree is being figured for a protective steel wire screen.

Weed Ordinance Dusted Off, to Be Enforced by City

Owners of vacant property in Birmingham were served notice Monday night by the city commission, beginning next summer, the city will enforce the ordinance that weeds on vacant lots will be mowed at the property owner's expense of possibly 200 feet from the residence.

Pulling out of the files a city ordinance passed in 1929, City Manager Donald C. Egbert recommended to commissioners that the city should either enforce the statute or take it from the books.

Commissioners were unanimous in their opinions that the ordinance should be enforced by all means.

City Got Mixed Up

"For about two years after its passage, the city tried to carry out the ordinance, but the ordinance," Egbert explained, "is somehow the bookkeeping got all mixed up and the ordinance was not enforced in 1931."

Giving the city power to conduct a clean-up program on vacant property, the ordinance stipulates that "it shall be the duty of every owner of any vacant lot, or any other charge of any land... to cut down or cause to be cut down and destroyed all bushes, milkweed, burdock, yellow dock, sweet clover or other noxious weeds growing thereon."

This shall be done before July 1 each year and again before September 1 each year.

Then City May Act

If such weeds are not taken care of, the city may then go in and cut them down and charge the cost of mowing against the property owner.

"The city, naturally, has quite a bit of vacant subdivision property which should not have to be mowed," Egbert pointed out. "But I would suggest to the commission that perhaps the city should, in cases where the weeds grow within 200 feet of a residence, go in and do the mowing."

This is where the most difficulty lies at the present time, and which results in the most complaints, the manager said.

Brother and Sister Reunited After 33 Years' Separation

A Birmingham woman and her brother have just completed a week together, their first meeting since 1915.

Mrs. Lyle Earnest, 607 Ann, and her brother, Ernest Wickstrom, of the same name, separated by adoption and the latter taken to Canada to make his home with relatives, last week, with his wife and three-year-old son, he came from his home in Rennie, Manitoba, to spend several days with his sister and brother-in-law.

It is Mrs. Wickstrom's first visit to this country, and the first time her husband has returned here since he was a child.

New Parking Lot for Use of City Shoppers

For filling in and grading a lot at the corner of W. Maple and Henrietta, the city will be permitted to use the property as a free parking lot for shoppers.

City Manager Donald C. Egbert stated that the lot is being used for the winter months.

The city will continue to use it until such time as a building is placed under construction, he said.

Time Will Move Backward Next Sunday Night

At one minute after midnight Sunday night, Sept. 26, clocks in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills will be set back one hour to place the two communities on eastern city standard time again for the winter months.

The two cities, as with others in the metropolitan area, have been on daylight saving time since April 25.

Theft Reported

Birmingham police are investigating the report of builder Arvid Johnson that he had been robbed of plumbing materials, estimated at \$100, from his store.

Johnson is building on Haynes Street. He said the theft took place last Thursday or Friday night.