

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

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I have a little grandson, just a year old. He provides me with joy and inspiration; he will become great or small in proportion to the love and intelligence he receives as he grows up. Babies are potentially what their elders make of them. wherever they are born and live.

HIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

(While G. R. A. enjoys a well-earned vacation in Florida, several local townpeople will write his column. This week's guest columnist is Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, Birmingham superintendent of schools.)

By Dwight B. Ireland

Forty-nine Graduates

While my good friend George T. Averill is enjoying a well-deserved vacation in Florida, several local townpeople will write his column. This week's guest columnist is Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, Birmingham superintendent of schools.

The first semester of the school year 1948-49 has slipped into oblivion and forty-nine young men and women have stepped from Baldwin High School into a confused world to test their mental, physical, and moral strength.

Four years ago, as they began their high school careers, they seemed so young and any number of the day of their graduation they were men and women.

Appraisals Experience
A great deal happened in this matter of growing up in so short a period of time, and every sincere teacher tries to appraise the experiences of these years. Did the school clutter their minds with useless or unrelated facts, reproduced perfectly for a high mark or imperfectly for a low mark, according to the whims of a teacher?

Or did the school bring to each of these individuals experiences which were vital, stimulating and dynamic enough to translate the confusion about him into a systematic order and enable him to at least logically conclude the next steps which should be taken with confidence and personal satisfaction?

It was hoped to see in the distance a social pattern of living which lifted the individual to a higher status of personal satisfaction and attainment, or has he become enticed by the mechanical operations of an industrial world and the marvelous production of goods without an appreciation of the need for moral responsibility for the deeper satisfactions of living?

Gigantic Tasks
The parent who wonders over these outcomes will begin to appreciate the gigantic tasks which have been assigned to the schools and should become aware of another side of this picture. Facts produced by such men as Benjamin Fine arouse questions in our minds as to whether the schools can measure up to the responsibilities that are assigned to them.

Schools face a great influx of pupils which has been estimated at nine million more than the present population of the elementary and secondary schools of this country. Over one hundred thousand new elementary teachers will be needed for this population.

Building programs will be required all over the country which will represent millions of dollars.

All of this comes at a time when this nation has seemingly become more unattentive to most high school graduates. The number entering the teaching field has diminished through various reasons because of unattractive salaries and an exhausting responsibility, a lack of status in the community, local demands for more leisure time with their reasonably normal life for the teacher in the community, and a feeling of the profession from within by expressions of dissatisfaction which seriously affect the vocational studies of students and retard teaching as a life vocation.

No Cultural Perspective
At a time when the best minds should be attracted to the profession, the ranks are filled by too many of the less desirable persons who fail to have cultural perspective as well as the academic achievement necessary for effective work in a modern school.

What is to be done with the problem? Shall the citizens remain indifferent to it and give up the last vestige of hope for that institution which has more to do with the preservation of the democratic way of life which we all cherish than any other institution in this land?

Superintendents Meet in Grand Rapids
On Friday and Saturday of the past week superintendents of the State of Michigan assembled in Grand Rapids to study some of the pressing problems facing the education leaders of this state.

This coming year approximately three thousand new elementary teachers will be needed in this state. A check of the graduates in this area indicates the fact that throughout the graduating class can be met within this state this coming year. The result will be threefold: the graduating class can be met within this state this coming year. The result will be threefold: the graduating class can be met within this state this coming year.

All kinds of loose signed notices regarding ROYAL MATTHEW COMPANY, PHONE B-1977—Adv., if.

Builders to Learn of Future Plans

To Result In Saving To City, Contractors, Believes Mayor

In order to acquaint building contractors with proposed future developments which may affect their properties, the city commission Monday night approved an amendment to the city's building code which now requires a review of building plans—particularly Business A and Business B construction—by the city plan commission.

Most residential construction, however, will be reviewed by the building inspector and a permit issued if the development is not affected by future city plans. Doubtful cases will be referred to the city planners.

"It has cost both the city and the builder, in many cases, a large sum, considerable money because construction was automatically authorized without regard to future city requirements," Mayor Milton F. Mallery explained Tuesday.

At Little Added Cost
"Such matters as future street widening, paving, tree plantings, water mains and other things were planned for certain areas by the city and of which the builder was not aware. Relocation of services, special assessments, etc., were then come about at a later date and caused a financial problem to both the city and the builder. If these future developments had been made known to the builder before he started construction, the building could have been redesigned at little added cost to take advantage of the future developments," Mallery said.

He also pointed out that in this manner builders could be acquainted with the desires of the community in regard to type of structure which would be most acceptable in any certain location.

Can't Control Aesthetics
"While we have no legal right to control aesthetics, the city can at least acquaint the builder with the desires of the community and enlist his cooperation if he had planned something which the plan commission disapproved," Mallery said.

Arrested Here, Pair Suspected In Flat Rock Robbery

At a hearing held here Monday morning, John J. Zherot, 18, of Detroit was bound over to the circuit court on a concealed weapon charge.

The 17-year-old Detroit boy, Roy Tosto also of Detroit, were arrested last week by Officers Richard Brown and Merly Holmquist when they became suspicious of the young men driving around the streets aimlessly in the early hours.

Car had no tail light, the officers reported. They took the pair to headquarters where they said there was "unusual activity" in one A search revealed a .25 calibre automatic. Tosto was released for lack of evidence after Zherot admitted ownership of the weapon.

State Police Enter Case
Their arrest brought forth a statement that they were riding around Birmingham looking for a place to rob. State police, notified of the arrest, have taken Tosto into custody. They reported to local police that they have a signed confession from him, admitting a breaking and entry charge in a home near Flat Rock.

Short Wood Measure Costly to Sellers
Two Pontiac men, William P. Graves and Earl Decker, pled guilty in Birmingham justice court last week to charges of selling a short cord of wood. Both paid fines of \$15 each.

Henry Johns, sealer of weights and measures for the city, signed the charges against the men after investigating the complaint of a local woman who said she had purchased a short cord of wood from the two Pontiac men. Johns found the cord was less than legal requirements.

Road Oil Program to Cost City \$13,916
City share of the 1949 road oiling program will amount to \$13,916.73, according to figures quoted by the city commission Monday. This amount includes the 15 per cent stated in the charter and the state street assessments which are assumed by the city.

Donald Ebert, city manager, pointed out in addition to this the city will be required to pay \$403.59, which represents an assessment of \$107 on school board property and \$6.22 on city property. The amount to be paid by property owners has been set at \$29,426.93.



Harvey Renshaw, Forestry Department foreman, tests out the new phone at Quarton Lake while his department boss, John Johonnot, looks on. A direct line to the police and fire departments, the phone is to be used only in case of emergency. In the background checking the thickness of the ice are two other department members, Ken Braidwood and Eddie McGregor.

Only Streets, Not Alleys, Can Have Names, City Decides

An alley is an alley, and not a street. Therefore it can have no name, city commissioners decided Monday evening.

Commissioners thus denied the request of Lawrence Smith, landscape architect, to have the alley named. Smith has an office located on this alley, which extends from Elm to Hunter in the block south of E. Maple.

The commission suggested that Smith obtain a street number on E. Maple and indicate his office address in this manner.

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Thermostatic Control Of Outside Forces Pathway To Success, Speaker Says

"I have a deep conviction to share with you graduates," Dr. Henry H. Crane, commencement speaker, told the graduating members of the Baldwin high school January class last Thursday night. "It is a major question, which I am sure you will ask: That question is, 'What's it all about?'"

As regards the fust and fury and complexities of life. Over and over you will ask, 'Why am I here?' or 'What's the big idea?'"

Dr. Crane, pastor of Central Methodist Church in Detroit, went on to say he believes the answer to be in whether or not the graduate will change. They are the ones who will make the patterns which others will follow.

Europe's Tragedy
"It was this lack of thermostatic persons which caused much of the tragedy in Europe," the speaker pointed out. "Last summer I attended the religious conferences in Amsterdam, and later traveled through some of the countries of Europe. I attended the trials of the war criminals, and over and over again heard these men whine that they had not wanted to do those things, but had been led to. They were following the pattern that their leaders had set."

Adaptability Not Enough
He pointed out that many believe the ability to adapt oneself to surroundings is a great asset. Dr. Crane agreed with this, to a degree, but stated that unchecked, this would halt man's progress in any direction. He told the graduates that this one characteristic controls the lives of lower animals and plants. Take them out of

Hills Police Laud Hazel Park Driver

According to Bloomfield Hills police, only the skillful handling of a huge truck train saved James W. Urban from possible serious injury Saturday afternoon about 5:30. Urban was driving his vehicle south on Woodward and was nearing a stop light when the brakes failed and the truck ran wild.

The truck went through the light, striking a passenger car driven by Mildred M. Todd. The machine was quite badly damaged, but the driver did not receive any injuries.

Urban continued fighting his truck, steering it toward the side of the road. It entered the gas station property near Kingsley Inn, and snapped off the air hose standard, after which it crashed into the wall connecting the station and the Inn. Urban also escaped without injury.

Police Chief Isma Banks said that, thanks to Urban's exceptional ability, no other cars were involved. The accident happened at one of the peak traffic hours.

Thieves Take \$80 From Eastside Home

Police Chief Ralph Moxley and Detective Sgt. William Green are investigating a robbery at the home of Mrs. Robert W. Esig, 1848 Buckingham.

Mrs. Esig reported that she left home about 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon and returned about four hours later. She noticed that the house had been ransacked. She reported a loss of about \$80 in cash. Police said they felt the persons had been scared away by the return of the Esig family since a suitcase, half full of clothes was found in one bedroom. Entry was gained by breaking the glass in a door at the rear of the home.

Results of Civic Questionnaire:

Citizens Desire Soft Water and New High School

By George Wm. Averill

By overwhelming majorities, Birmingham residents approve of a city-sponsored water softening program and an immediate start on a new high school to relieve present overcrowded classroom situations.

These two facts were revealed this week as The Eccentric completed tabulating the answers to its civic questionnaire, published some weeks ago. One hundred ninety-one local citizens took the time and trouble to answer the questionnaire, results of which show definite trends on specific questions.

On the matter of a new high school, 139 persons were in favor of an immediate start, only 20 said "No," while 32 expressed no opinion.

Of those replying to the questionnaire, 148 had water softening outfits in their basements at the present time. Of this number, 136 said they would like the city to soften the water at the various city wells, while only 12 persons opposed such a move.

Thirty-four replied that they had no water softening outfit now, but 32 said they wanted the city to undertake this program. Two said they objected. Nine persons expressed no opinion whatsoever on this subject.

Sewers which back up apparently trouble only 28 out of 182 persons who answered this question. Here's how the 28 answered the sewer backup—frequency part of the question: Too often—1; not often—2; once—3; rarely—1; each heavy rain—4; once a month—1; every spring—2; several times a year—9; once a year—4; and 3 times in 10 years—1.

* Here's the lineup on the rest of the more pertinent questions:

- Do you think the police department needs more policemen?
 - YES—58
 - NO—52
 - No Opinion—81
- Does the police department need more squad cars?
 - YES—54
 - NO—47
 - No Opinion—90
- Do you find it difficult to find a parking place downtown?
 - YES—83
 - NO—32
 - Sometimes—11
 - Seldom—8
 - No Opinion—12
- Do you think parking lots would receive enough cash customers today to pay for themselves?
 - NO—81
 - YES—55
 - Doubtful—6
 - No Opinion—49

On those who said "NO" to the above question, 42 went on to give their opinion of how long it would be before these municipal lots would pay:

- Two years—1 person
- Three years—2 persons
- Four years—3
- Five years—18
- Six years—9
- 15 years—4
- Never—5

An overwhelming majority were definitely against converting the Municipal Park into a parking lot for shoppers. Here's the way the results stood:

- Against conversion—151
- In favor of conversion—19
- Angle parking around edge—3
- No Opinion—18

Of the 21 persons who live on gravel streets, 4 said they wanted it to remain the same, 3 wanted it roadolied only, while 13 favored full improvement.

Sixty-five said their street was roadolied, and 24 of these wanted it to remain the same, one wanted the addition of curb and gutter, while 35 said they would like full improvement.

Living on roadolied streets with curb and gutter were 15 residents. Of these, 12 wanted full improvement of their street, while 3 wanted it to remain as is.

Eighteen others live on a gravel street with curb and gutter; 16 of these said they wanted full street improvement.

Living on streets already paved with concrete or asphalt were 70 persons replying to the questionnaire. Three persons did not say what kind of street they lived on or what they would like it to be.

If the city officials want something to do in their spare time, they might check into the 87 suggested locations for one or more street lights, 7 proposed traffic lights, and 19 suggested spots for new street stop signs.

A traffic light at 14 Mile and Woodward was proposed by 24 persons, 9 suggested a signal at Oak and Chesterfield, and these other locations were also mentioned for possible signalization: Brown at Bates, Woodward at Harmon, Bates at Maple, north crossover at Woodward and Hunter.

One person suggested a caution light at Cranbrook and Maple, while several others said the present caution light at Southfield and Lincoln should be placed in full operation.

One man even proposed that the city remove present traffic lights at Lincoln, Brown, and Oakland on Woodward.

These are the 19 locations of new stop street signs, as pointed out in the questionnaire:

- Torry and Holland
- Southlawn and Pierce
- Pierce and Lincoln
- Brown and Pierce
- Along Hanna
- Glenhurst and Midvale
- Chapin and Cummings
- Shirley and Arlington
- Lake Park
- Streets intersecting Cummings
- Streets intersecting Edensborough

(See QUESTIONNAIRE, Page 2)