

Have you prepared yourself, mentally and spiritually, for the return of glorious and perennial spring? ... Power wreath our soul!

and THAT By G. R. A.

Seven Weeks of Loafing To Forget State Problems

It is good to be back home in Birmingham, following seven weeks of complete business inactivity beneath the Florida sun.

Until I reached Ft. Lauderdale, I spent half of my vacation, not really relaxing, but in two years of mixing with Michigan's State problems, as ex-Gov. Sigler's famous secretary, really, with me.

Before I returned to Birmingham, I had a chance to make some progress in the art of doing nothing... unless getting governmental cobwebs out of my mind.

Aside from the rest I had at Ft. Lauderdale, I had a most interesting portion of my vacation was being the guest of Harold P. Sweeney, Arlington, my thinking newspaper publisher, on his 40-ft. Mathews cruiser.

Upstairs in Key West, we discovered that a former dock worker had washed out in a hurricane, and the good news was that he went over to call on the officers at the U. S. Naval Station there.

Right next door to the Station's executive offices is President Truman's little White House, where painters, plumbers, and electricians were busy enlarging the main dining room.

So, at 8:30 o'clock one morning, Furstenau and I boarded Submarine 484. Promptly we were taken to the 300-ft. motor launch where we were given as good a break-out, as one could find anywhere.

Learning that I used to be a Great Lakes and ocean motor engineer, "Vince" took me to the engine room of the sub where I watched the boys handle the various levers used to get it under way.

Mayor Criticizes Scarcity of City Councilors

Faith an' Begorra! 'Tis A Great Day for the Irish!

By Alice E. Morgan.

March 17—it's a great day for the Irish, and few are the sons of Erin who will give thought to the fact that their hero and patron saint is an Englishman.

However, throughout the world today many a son of the auld sod stoops to become a real Irishman. He wears a shamrock, buys a clay pipe, gathers with the rest of the clan, and has a high old time of it himself.

He'll never tell you how close the good saint came to falling in this historic act. It seems that wherever St. Patrick went, during his traveling through Ireland, he was preceded by a huge drum, beating loudly all the while.

These were Mayor Milton Malender's words to the Legislature of Women Voters' chairman of Voluntary Service, Mrs. R. B. Burg, last Sunday, assisted by Mrs. N. Blant, to obtain information for the League's non-partisan bulletin on candidates and issues for the coming April 4 election.

The bulletin will be distributed as a commission service to stimulate informed and intelligent citizen participation in the election.

The Mayor was asked five questions relating to the responsibilities of a City Commissioner, the proposed 14 and 16 mile roads, the city services most in need of improvement, the extension of school district boundaries, and the Hunter Blvd. access highway plan and the State Highway Dept. responsibility.

He believes a commissioner's responsibilities are to determine the position of the details, of the municipal government, to give to it direction; consideration for the eventual good of the city; to see that it proper administrative officials are appointed; to supervise the financial affairs of the city; to see the extension of city services, in general, the policies of city administration.

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Playing their last hardword game for Birmingham, the first quarter started in a stellar performance throughout the game. Foley paced the team with an outstanding 15 points while Halpin and Layland followed with five markers each.

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Merchants See Need for Parking Lots

Discuss Financing, But No Agreement Is Arrived At

The problem of acquiring and operating off-street parking space for Birmingham shoppers was discussed here Wednesday evening of last week when 15 local business and professional men, together with several residents, met with J. J. Hogan, 886 Wibleton, chairman of the City Plan Commission's parking committee.

While it was unanimously agreed by those present that Birmingham is destined to reach four to five present estimated population of 15,000 within the next 20 years, thus emphasizing the growing need for off-street parking space, opinions varied as to the method of financing the project.

During the 3 1/2-hour meeting one method was advanced by the group which was to be a bond issue. However, some of the business and professional men found agreement among the resident representatives for the idea of the business life of the community paying the entire cost of additional parking space.

Hogan revealed that his special committee has tentatively selected several possible downtown areas for parking. He stated that within 30 to 40 days he expected to have the subject sufficiently outlined to call public meetings, at which time all interested local people may be heard.

During last Wednesday's discussion the idea of turning the city's park, between the city hall and Baldwin Public Library, into a shrubbery-screened parking lot was presented. No final decision, however, was arrived at on the question.

It was admitted by all present that the off-street parking problem is not easy of solution, since the part of our officials and citizens, and the problem of equitable financing enter into the picture.

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Group in Farmington Twp. Organizes to Help Push 14 Mile Road Completion

Some 150 members of the North Farmington District Civic Association this week endorsed the Birmingham Eccentric's campaign to get the Oakland County Road Commission to complete the improvement of both 14 and 16 mile roads by filling in a one-mile gap on each road to make them through east-west routes through this area.

George V. McLaughlin, 32219 14 Mile road, Farmington township, president of the association, in a statement to The Eccentric, said: "The members of the North Farmington Civic Association are much interested in your recent articles concerning the improvement and extension of the 14 Mile road."

Primary reason for the recent organization of this group, McLaughlin stated, was the very poor road conditions in Oakland county and the main objective is to secure immediate and definite action for road improvement.

The Eccentric in past weeks has called the attention of this part of the county to reasons why the two roads should be completed. The City of Farmington itself for many years has recognized the need of lateral through east-west routes to take away the present heavy through traffic on Maple which is compelled to go through the heart of the city business district.

Estimated 16 Mile (Big Beaver road) traffic is forced to go south on Adams and into Birmingham because of a dead end at this point, although an underpass constructed when the new Grand Trunk railroad right-of-way was purchased has been available for the last 19 years for the extension of 16 Mile (through the Woodward and Woodward to the Querton road).

Eastbound 14 Mile traffic is halted at Cranbro road, west-bound stopped at Southfield, because of a mile gap that could be bypassed along a southerly route to the Birmingham Country Club.

McLaughlin continued: "We realize that the present portion of the year we should expect our subdivision roads to offer some improvement along with the city, however, why the main artery which approaches our homes should be nearly impassable at times."

The group's major concern, McLaughlin said, is 14 Mile road, but he mentioned the great difficulty that farmers have at times in getting perishable foodstuffs to market.

McLaughlin quoted from the 1948 report of the road commission to the board of supervisors, issued April 1, 1949, which states that the city's share of the new construction from current funds is 40 per cent as compared with 30 per cent for 1948-49.

In view of this statement, the immediate objective of the group is to increase the city's share of the new construction from current funds to 50 per cent.

To work with their representatives in the county and state government toward an adequate solution to the financing problem. Officers of the Farmington association are McLaughlin, president; John C. McCreary, vice president; Robert Walker, treasurer; Mrs. Thomas Hedet, secretary; and Lowell Critz, Thomas Farley, Chester Downing, Thomas Hedet and Mrs. C. Johnson are on the board of directors.

The association's road committee consists of Mrs. George McLaughlin, chairman; John C. McCreary, Leon Marsh and Thomas Weisheit.

A telephone campaign is in progress to round up signatures, and organizations and clubs to attend the meeting, which will be held at 8 p. m. The event will be sponsored by Southfield Township Women's Republican club.

Publicity committee consists of Mrs. John W. Diederich, Mrs. Marjorie Ranta, Mrs. Ruth Patnam, Mrs. Fannie Adams and Mrs. Arthur Jaynes.

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Remo Ekes Out Win in Last Three Seconds of Play

By Pete Hartuff

The journey jinx still plagued the Maple basketball team as they contended for the regional crown on a desperation shot in the last three seconds of a high school basketball game last Saturday night on the Ferndale floor.

At that point the battle wasn't decided until the final second when forward Bob Folin was fouled while attempting a shot from mid-court. When Folin stepped to the free-throw line, the ball was nearly fouled by a player with nervous tension. The ball hit the hoop and rolled round the rim, but before it fell into the hoop and the final gun shattered the static silence.

The Maples at full strength were by far the better quarter on the floor and led the downriver boys at all quarters. Folin, who riddled the first five early in the first stanza, however, and Dick Ray, Russell and Roy Rousso, who landed were benched with five at that order.

Everett Farr, manager of the Greyhound bus line in Birmingham, has announced the schedules for the new bus route.

The new schedule calls for three daily trips between Birmingham and Clawson two in the morning and one in the afternoon. The buses run on the half hour.

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Will Be 23% Over Those of Last Year

Estimate Operating Costs at 5 Per Cent More than 1948-49

City Assessor Elmer Haack this week revealed that he will raise Birmingham property assessments an average of 23 per cent over those of last year, as based on current reproduction value, in order to prepare for an estimated 1949-50 city budget in excess of \$700,000.

This in itself does not insure that the city will be able to pay higher city taxes this year as compared to last, Haack hastened to point out. "I must be prepared, however, to furnish the city commission with a taxable base over which the city commission will determine what actual taxes will be," Haack said.

If the commission does approve a new city budget large enough to cover the 23 per cent increase in the new assessed valuation, it would mean an approximate 18 per cent increase in the city's tax over that of last year.

Haack, however, emphasized that this valuation increase has effect on the school tax (winter) tax, since these two are based on equalized valuation as determined by the county board of assessors.

City Manager Donald C. Egbert said Monday that he did not see how the city could operate on less than a \$700,000 budget for the fiscal year.

In fact, Haack said, the city must include \$100,000 as its share of recent special assessments, which he pointed out, he doesn't expect the actual operating budget to go much over 5 per cent of that of last year.

Haack's assessments will be for 30 per cent of 1941 reproduction value, as compared to 65 per cent for the preceding year. Based on current reproduction costs, this will be 40 per cent as compared with 30 per cent for 1948-49.

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Board of Appeals' Ruling May Settle Zoning Question

After Tossing the Matter Over in Discussion for More than an Hour, the Board of Appeals Monday Night Decided that perhaps the Poppleton property zoning question was not a matter of zoning at all, but possibly an interpretation of the city's zoning ordinance.

Therefore, the commissioners adjourned the hearing for three weeks, but increased the cost of the zoning board of appeals for a ruling.

It appears that the zoning ordinance, when adopted, stipulated that zoning should follow property lines. In this instance, so the commission wants the opinion of the appeals board.

The Poppleton property on East Maple extends north for 368 feet. It has a Maple avenue frontage of 229 feet, and a petition has been presented for the rezoning of the 210 feet. The front 158 feet is already zoned Business A and it is desired that the rezoning be changed to that classification from its present single family zoning.

Also partially zoned single family are the lots owned by John Savage, Mrs. Knox Poppleton and Austin Ford, at the northwest corner of Maple and Poppleton. It is desired that the rezoning be changed to that classification from its present single family zoning.

John Mertz, attorney representing the property owners, pointed to the changing nature of this area from residential to business and it was his opinion that the proposed rezoning would not effect residential property in the vicinity.

Further Encroachment Many families are presently living in Business A areas, and have been since the zoning ordinance was passed in 1937, and have not suffered as a result," Mertz declared.

However, other property owners, principally those living on Knox street west of Poppleton, still objected to the rezoning as being a detriment to their residential interests in that area.

The matter will come before the commission again April 4 after the board of appeals has had time to decide on the question of whether or not property lines are followed in the zoning of this area.

Speeding Expense in Bloomfield Hills, Four Motorists Fined

Four more drivers are sadder, but wiser, and poorer for having driven their cars in manner considered "reckless" by the Bloomfield Hills Police department. They were fined \$25, \$25, \$25 and \$25 for reckless driving.

Fires Cause Small Losses in February

According to the monthly report issued by Fire Chief W. Griffith, the Birmingham department responded to a total of 18 fires in February, including two first aid kits.

Griffith said the estimated loss on buildings was set at \$150 with an additional \$100 on contents. The reported showed that the fires endangered \$1,000,000 worth of property valued at \$233,000 plus \$135,000 on contents.

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Clear to Speak at GOP Rally in Southfield Twp.

Owen J. Cleary, Republican state central committee chairman, Lee Thurston, superintendent of public education, Charles Ziegler, city commission rat representative, held in the Annie LaRue hall, Tuesday night, to address an audience of about 100 people in the 14 Mile area.

The surplus account is getting property for the result of the city's advancing special assessment money to pay for certain improvements. The city commission city should have close to \$200,000 in the bank to use for emergency purposes. The city has \$147,000 in the bank, but last June it had only about \$25,000 left. It must be paid back.

Haack explained the reassessment picture to the city commissioners in the following letter: "The city commission rat representative has been the occasion for the increase in assessments on improved property. The city commission city should have close to \$200,000 in the bank to use for emergency purposes. The city has \$147,000 in the bank, but last June it had only about \$25,000 left. It must be paid back."

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