He who works for the money's sake alone trudges a wearisome road, and at its end finds little of lasting joy. He who labors with thought of service to others not only obtains material security, but peace of mind.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

72ND YEAR—NO. 31 BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1949 22 PAGES FIVE CENTS

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

There is strong evidence in the United States, today, that a majority of our leaders are pessimistic about the duration of freedom that remains for the whole population.

So often one hears responsible and presumedly intelligent people say: "Oh, what's the use of working to preserve the American system that made this nation so great! What's the use of endeavoring to work against the drift toward the Welfare State, another name for Socialism. The majority of citizens are inclined to trade personal freedom for the fiction of governmental security. Too many people accept the 'Santa Claus idea' offered by politicians . . . unmindful of the fact that security comes only from personal effort in a free enterprise system.

"So why should I strive to sweep back the tides of this drift? America will never be what it once was . . . a nation of self-reliant, self-supporting, honest hardworking people."

Haven't you often heard such statements?

Perhaps, too, amidst the confusion of these days you have allowed this pessimism to dominate you at times.

Life Constantly Changes

Every sensible man and woman, however, when in proper historic perspective regarding mankind's long struggle, will throw off momentary pessimism and face the future with calm confidence. If he is motivated by correct thinking on the subject, he also will "do something about it."

What can you and I do to push back this "drift"? . . . well, only what we can, within the area and influence of life that we live.

First, we can recognize that life is constant change. True, it is desired that change be progress . . . the kind of progress that brings greater security and a maximum of happiness to all willing to work.

We can realize that nations are composed only of people, and that the forms of political, economic, and social controls they adopt are but laboratory experiments carried on to bring about security and happiness.

A Civic Experiment

As happens in the scientific laboratory of the chemist or engineer, some experiments result in whole or partial success, others in failure. It is equally so in the laboratory of government. That is why, in the United States, we have continuing Congresses, Legislatures, city and village councils or commissions . . . to review, change, or adopt measures in the controls that emanate from units of government.

That is why the various Courts carry on, not only to adjudicate current civil and criminal problems that arise, but also to interpret, in the light of today's needs, the laws that are placed in our statute books.

What we are pleased to call "The American Way of Life" is but a civic experiment started in this comparatively new nation when its founders refused to pay unfair tribute to a former British King.

"Pursuit of Happiness"

You recall that our Constitution of the United States, in its preamble, refers to ". . . life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". The only things actually guaranteed in this Constitution are life and liberty. Insofar as happiness is concerned, this Constitution guarantees only the "pursuit" of this desired goal.

Of course, without life and liberty there can be no real pursuit . . . so what we have to fight for always, in this as yet jungle of civilization, are "life and liberty", by and through which conditions we can apply our heads and our hearts to "the pursuit of happiness."

It seems to me, then, that if every person decided better to understand what our Constitution guarantees; that he is willing to live within its terms by working hard, by being honest, by paying attention to current civic problems and sincerely seeking correct answers to them . . . he then does what he can to achieve personal security and happiness.

A Further Responsibility

Having done, and continuing to do, these things, then his further responsibility is to become an evangelist for these rights by discussing them with as many others as he can . . . and doing it with the fervor and spirit of a human being convinced and dedicated to the qualities of self-reliance and self-support in a society of free people.

Yes, there is a way to hold back the drift toward the Welfare State.

It is the same type of thinking that transformed America from a wilderness to the best nation this earth has ever developed . . . a nation that accomplished this development through the freedoms and guarantees of a great constitutional document.

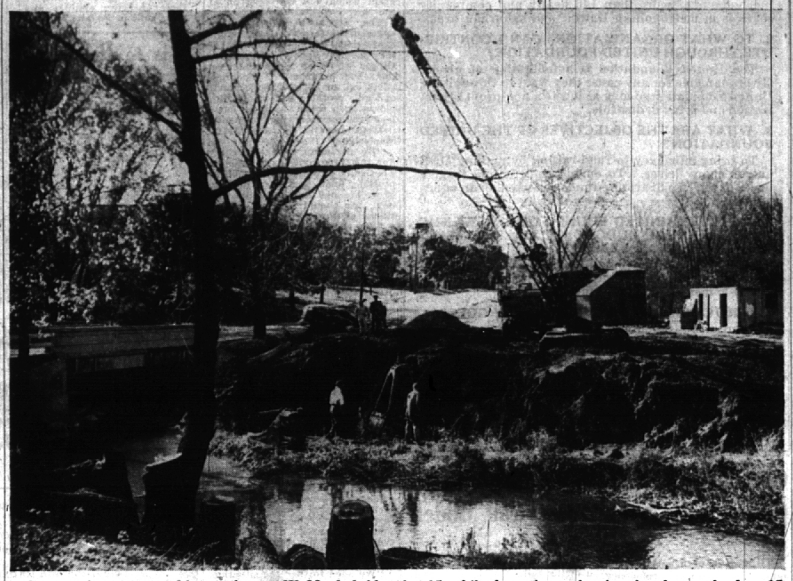
Like Two Frogs

Remember the story of the two frogs that had fallen into the crock of cream? One of them, a pessimist, said to himself: "What's the use? I can't climb up the steep and slippery sides of this crock, so might as well give up and drown".

The other frog had a different idea. He exemplified the qualities of self-reliance and self-support. He started swimming about, with now and then a fruitless leap upward. The important fact is that this second frog, motivated by

(See THIS & THAT, Page 2)

Crews Are Busy on New W. Maple Span Over River Rouge



Construction crews working on the new W. Maple bridge this week cut back the west bank of the rouge, thereby straightening the channel and making way for the foundation bridge.

The substructure is expected to be completed by November 15, while the entire project is pointed toward a June 15, 1950 deadline.

Traffic is being maintained over the old bridge during this new construction. (Photo by Joe Wheeler)

Maples Win, 21-0, and Hand Vikings 33rd Straight Loss

By Jack Adams

Still in the victory column, the Maples defeated a win-starved Hazel Park team 21-0 for Birmingham's third win of the season last Friday night at Pierce field.

Trying to stave off their 33rd straight defeat, the visiting eleven almost broke away on the opening kickoff by using a tricky reverse. A stout Maple defense held, and Hazel Park kicked to Birmingham's 24-yard line.

A sustained Maroon attack was not halted until Bud Boynton crossed the goal line. Tom Tracy converted and Birmingham led 7-0.

Second Touchdown Drive

Undaunted, Hazel Park fought back throughout the remainder of the first period.

Midway in the second quarter the Maples started on the Vikings' 48 and drove down to the Parkers' five yard line. A lateral from quarterback Dick Mott found Chuck Baker who swept around left end behind superb blocking Bud Boynton and Jack Nicholas for the second Birmingham score.

Tracy again converted and the Maples left the field at halftime leading 14-0.

Aided by a Birmingham 15-yard penalty, the Vikings bounced back in the third period and forced the Maples to a goal line stand on the Birmingham nine. In a desperate effort to score Bud Gray tossed a pass to Bob Plouffe which fell incomplete in the Birmingham end zone.

Costly Viking Fumble

A Hazel Park fumble in the fourth quarter proved costly when Tracy recovered. Three plays later the Maples scored when Mott rifled a pass from the Viking 25 to the Parkers' eight to receiver Tracy, who eluded a would-be tackler and raced to the Hazel Park end zone. Tracy's conversion brought the score to 21-0.

In the third quarter the Vikings were hampered when star halfback Plouffe was removed from the game with a temporary injury.

All Maples saw action as Coach Vincent Secontine emptied the bench to give all Maroon players a share of varsity experience.

* * *

E. Detroit Next League Foe for Maroon and White

By Bob Hardy

Travelling to East Detroit for their second away game, the Maples will try for their third league victory as against no losses. The kickoff will be at eight o'clock at the East Detroit athletic field.

With eight returning linemen led by acting captain and right tackle Alvin Gnesda, and four returning backfield men, East Detroit will field a team thoroughly primed for the contest.

East Detroit uses a single wing, both the Missouri and Notre Dame, a deep punt, a spread formation, and an occasional sleeper play.

With this varied attack, the Maples will be faced by hard work, not only on the offensive but also on their defense if they wish to stop the Shamrocks' hard charging line and shifty backfield.

School Building Plan Gets Voters League Endorsement

The Birmingham League of Women Voters, at a public meeting Monday afternoon at the Community House, voted unanimously to support the proposed $3,100,000 school district expansion program.

This is believed to be the first time in many years that the local league has backed any particular program. It usually acts as an information medium on local issues, preferring to gather facts for presentation to the public rather than actively support any program.

Prior to the special Nov. 7 school election, the organization will distribute a factual information bulletin as a voters' service, Mrs. William Jackson, educational chairman who presided at Monday's meeting, and Mrs. R. B. K'Burg, voters' service chairman, said in a joint statement.

Hear Details of Program

The favorable stand taken by this local group followed a public meeting in which Superintendent of Schools Dwight B. Ireland, School Board President Ernest W. Seaholm, and Board Members Mrs. Lewis B. Sappington and William Spence participated.

The meeting was the latest of several efforts of league members to inform themselves and the public of the current school situation and was preceded by three "cracker barrel" discussions.

During the meeting, league members were told of current school problems, such as overcrowding and increasing school enrollment. Details of the proposed high school and other school additions, called for in the expansion program, were also explained.

* * *

Flood of Students Heading for B'ham High School

By 1961, more than 1,600 local boys and girls will be in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Turn to Page One, Part Three, for a special story on current school enrollment statistics and what they mean to the local school picture in the next 12 years.

$75,000 Addition to Walnut Lake School Is Part of Board's Expansion Program

A part of the total building plan proposed by the Birmingham Board of Education is a $75,000 addition to Walnut Lake School. Dwight B. Ireland, school superintendent, said this week. "This past year it was necessary to divide the general-purpose room with folding doors to create an additional classroom. Classes are now reaching proportions which make it difficult to combine grades. Since in the very near future this rapidly growing community will need a classroom for each grade, the plan is set up to provide for this need," Ireland said.

One room will be added to the north side and will serve as a kindergarten. Adjacent to this will be a teachers' restroom and a storage room. On the southeastern corner of the building a room will be added for the upper elementary grades.

Playground Too Limited

"These rooms have been added according to this plan to minimize the amount of playground space that will be used for the building expansion program. Since the playground is already too limited, as little inroad as possible must be made on the play area," he said.

Additional attention will be given to other needs of Walnut Lake School such as the water system, he stated. "At present the pressure isn't sufficient to provide adequate fire protection. An endeavor will be made to remedy this situation," Ireland revealed.

The boiler capacity of the building is thought to be adequate for the additions.

Movies of 'M'-Army Game to Be Shown Here Next Monday

The Birmingham Sideline Quarterback Club is going to hold the season's first local football film showing of a University of Michigan football game at Baldwin High School next Monday evening at 8:15. The Michigan-Army pictures will be shown.

According to Harold H. Gasser, secretary of the organization, Wally Webber, Michigan freshman football coach and expert narrator, will accompany the film showing with his colorful description of game proceedings.

Coaches and players of the Barnum Junior High and Baldwin High School squads will be guests. All quarterbacks and friends are invited to attend, Gasser said, and this meeting will be open to the ladies. There will be no admission charge.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. PHONE B'HAM 1-0788.

Clinton Spillway Assessment OK'd

Although it is about double what was originally anticipated, the city commission Monday night approved a $5,549.07 assessment against Birmingham for its proportionate cost of the new Clinton River Spillway drain project.

The first assessment, as proposed by the county drain commissioner, called for Birmingham to pay $8,431.17, but this was pared down when the benefits were shown to be considerably less than first proposed by the county.

City Attorney has been instructed to determine whether this assessment can be placed on the school and county winter tax bill, due next January.

A hearing on the flood control project will take place next Monday in Mt. Clemens.

Hats Cleaned and Blocked while you wait. 279 E. Maple.

C. L. Williams Safe After Night Spent In Woods

By Alice E. Morgan

Charles L. Williams, 59, of 1242 Auburn, chalked up quite an experience on his hunting trip last weekend.

With Mrs. Williams, he drove to Trout lake in Mackinac county, and after parking the car, took his two dogs and entered the woods. Before leaving the car he told Mrs. Williams he would return in about half an hour.

Once in the woods, the dogs left the comparatively clear area and began to work in the heavy woods nearby. Williams followed them for a short time and then decided to return to the car. Unable to find the road in the area he expected, he consulted his compass and changed his direction from south and east to north and west.

He wandered all day through the heavy brush and by nightfall was feeling his lack of drinking water. Williams realized he would only become more bewildered if he tried to find his way out after dark and built a fire.

Wasn't Worried

"I wasn't worried," he said in an interview Tuesday afternoon. "I'd hunted that country before and knew I'd find my way out before long. I stayed by the fire all night and dried my feet and got a little sleep.

"The only thing that worried me was Mrs. Williams. She's pretty much of an invalid and was there in the car, quite helpless. I didn't know how she'd get along and I worried about how she'd stand up under the strain.

"I'd worked my way to higher ground and knew pretty well where I was by the time it got dark, but decided to stay there, anyhow. About eight o'clock Saturday morning I heard planes around, and since I'd heard the sirens during the night, figured they might be looking for me. They never would have spotted me where I was, so I built a little fire out of dried grass, hoping they'd see it.

"While they were flying around, I heard the ground party coming. One of the fellows whistled and I answered him. That's all there was to it."

Williams said he had gotten quite thirsty and that he'd missed his cigarets, which had been all gone early the night before.

Mrs. Williams Safe

After getting out of the woods he learned that Mrs. Williams had flagged down a conservation department car and had been taken to a hotel for the night. Only two cars had passed the spot during the entire day, she told him. As soon as she reported her predicament, searching parties were organized to look for her husband.

Williams said that, had he followed his first inclination instead of using his compass, and held to his original direction, he would have reached the road he sought within a very short time.

Undaunted by his experience, which he described as "not too bad because the weather was favorable," he returned to the woods Sunday and "had a little luck".

NO HUNTING—NO TRESPASSING signs for sale at Eccentric Office. (33)

$82,250 Torch Drive Quota Is Announced at Kick-Off Luncheon

Henry J. Whiting

More than 200 volunteer workers for the Birmingham-Bloomfield division of the United Foundation Torch Fund Drive this week began soliciting the area for its $82,250 quota of the $8,550,000 metropolitan campaign quota. The drive began on Tuesday and extends through November 10.

Henry J. Whiting, division chairman, announced the amount at the workers' kick-off luncheon Monday. He said $15,000 of the local figure would go to the Pontiac Community Chest. The $82,250, Whiting said, is based on last year's receipts of the community fund and the health agencies of Detroit, plus funds obtained through solicitation in this area for the Pontiac chest.

"This quota is our part of the United Foundation quota of $8,550,000 in which 141 health and welfare agencies are combining their appeals through the Torch Fund Drive. Judging from the number of volunteer workers here today, I believe we can be the first suburban area to go over the top," Whiting said.

Commends Committee

A. Y. Wilson, co-chairman of the suburban division, commended the campaign committee for the efficiency shown in the routine organization of the campaign.

Said Wilson, "I think it is significant of the spirit of your organization out here that you have been responsible for a joining of forces by the Pontiac Community Chest and the Community Chest of metropolitan Detroit when these two organizations have in the past years failed to reach any accord by their own devices. This is certainly to the best interest of everyone."

The agencies included in the United Foundation were outlined by John Hunt, director of the suburban divisions. He suggested that the citizens of Birmingham organize a local chapter of United Foundation.

"This," Hunt said, "would enable this community to have some new services heretofore not available and give more voice in the disposition of such funds.

Federation of Givers

"The United Foundation is a federation of givers," he explained. "Givers can give for any cause they want to through the United Foundation just as long as it is to a non-profit organization and is tax deductible."

How to handle solicitations was discussed by Mrs. Roland J. Quinn, local campaign director.

"The question: 'How much shall I give' will be asked you frequently," Mrs. Quinn pointed out. "Only the giver can answer that question. No gift is too small," she said.

She suggested that the standard of giving worked out by the United Foundation be used as a basis. Quoting from a U. F. leaflet, Mrs. Quinn read:

"If you are an hourly rated worker, a minimum of 5 hour's pay. If you are a salaried worker, the suggested schedule is: $2,000 to $4,600—one-half of one per cent of annual pay; $4,600 to $20,000—1 per cent of annual pay; and $20,000 and up—two per cent of annual pay."

Give His Fair Share

Another method suggested by Mrs. Quinn is that the donor determine how much he would ordinarily give to many different appeals throughout the year. Then, after considering how many more needs a contribution to the Torch Drive covers, give what he considers his fair share. It is hoped that each giver will increase by 15 per cent to 20 per cent his

(See TORCH DRIVE, Page 2)

Detroit Little Symphony Concert Dec. 2

Program for SOC Area Sponsored by B'ham Musicale

The Little Symphony of Detroit will make its first out-of-town public appearance December 2 when it gives a program that evening in the auditorium of the Royal Oak high school.

The December concert, being given for the particular pleasure of Southern Oakland County residents, is being sponsored by the Birmingham Musicale, local woman's music organization.

The program will be confined to works by Bach and Mozart, and Katja Andy, well-known pianist, will be soloist.

The Little Symphony, with discussions under the guidance of Kirk Van Emerick, was organized last February by 30 members of the late Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

3 Previous Programs

Purpose of this smaller group is to give musical programs of works originally composed for small orchestras. Much of this music is unfamiliar to patrons of big symphonies, except where transcriptions have been made to fit the greatly expanded size of present day symphonic organizations.

Most of the famous composers have written pieces for musical groups of this size. Sell-out audiences have attended the three previous programs of the Little Symphony given since last spring at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Dwarf Iris Is in Bloom for 2nd Time This Year

It may be fall to most people, but Earl A. Saunders, 444 Berwyn, this week reports a wee bit of spring in his garden—his dwarf iris are in bloom for the second time this year.

"It is one of the earliest of spring flowers, blooming in late April or early May," Saunders said. "And here it is the middle of October and blossoming again."

In all his 25 years of home gardening, this has never happened to him before, he declared.

"Any skeptics are welcome to visit my garden and see the blossoms," Saunders invited.

City Asks State for Immediate Erection of 14 Mile Signal

After reading a two-page summarization of progress on city-state highway negotiations concerning the three additional US-10 traffic signals, City Commissioner Bruce G. Booth Monday night had the commission pass a resolution asking the state highway department to install the 14 Mile light immediately.

"That is such a dangerous intersection that the state should put that light in right away, rather than wait till all three are put in at one time," Booth declared.

Church Seeks Closing of Alley to Permit New Construction

The Embury Methodist church this week requested the city commission to close an east-west alley in Sheffield Estates in order to permit the construction of a new church.

The church owns the block bounded by 14 Mile, Croft, Pentstone and Bradford and plans to use it as a unit, with ample off-street parking provided.

The petition was sent to the city plan commission for further study.

Teacher's Away—So Kids Will Play

Schools in the Birmingham district are closed today and tomorrow to permit teachers to attend the Michigan Education Assn. district conference in Detroit.

Classes will resume at 8 a.m. Monday, Oct. 24, said Superintendent Dwight B. Ireland.

MSC Expert to Aid in Preparation of City Master Plan

The city plan commission hopes to have a fairly workable "master plan" for Birmingham by the end of next summer, it was disclosed last week at a meeting of the group.

The plan commission at this meeting approved the employment of Charles Barr of Michigan State College to do the most work on the plan.

Between now and next summer, Barr will meet periodically with plan commission members to learn what the city has in mind for future development.

No 'Dream' Plan

"It should be emphasized that Barr will not come up with any 'dream' plan, but something which will be practical and financially within reason," stated Mrs. Peter B. Loomis, plan commission chairman.

Barr will prepare a preliminary study plan which will give a general analysis of the community based upon general facts and reconnaissance.

"It is understood that this preliminary study plan cannot be based upon detailed research and, therefore, can serve only to point out factors to be given emphasis in the master plan research program," Mrs. Loomis explained.

Next summer Barr will come to Birmingham to make a master plan map and report, which is expected to include an analysis of land use, future growth, sewer system, water system, schools, zoning and streets.

Need Is Felt

"He will work with the plan commission for the purpose of starting us out on the right road in our over-all planning for the city," said Mrs. Loomis. "We have long felt the need of a good consultant that could help us formulate the kind of sound usable city plan for Birmingham that we believe our citizens want as a guide to the town's future development."

Barr has been a member of the department of landscape architecture and urban planning at MSC since 1930. He holds a degree from MIT, recognized as one of the leading schools in city planning. He recently took a year's leave of absence to spend an additional year at MIT to learn the latest procedures in land use and zoning.

Miss C. Stoddard Retires; Served 23 Years With Police

Miss Carrie Stoddard, 12032 Torry street, Fenton, will retire Saturday after 23 years service as policewoman and clerk of the Birmingham police department.

When Miss Stoddard first became a member of the department, the entire force consisted of five men. The call system, to summon officers, was a light hung over the intersection of Maple and Woodward. Call boxes were later installed and eventually supplanted by radio and patrol cars.

She was also required to "double in brass" for the fire department when an alarm came in, and turn on the siren which summoned the then volunteer department.

"We were where the Cunningham store is now," Miss Stoddard recalled, "and when the siren would sound I used to watch the fellows coming on a dead run and jumping over the hedge. Vern Griffith was nearly always the first one there."

Miss Stoddard said that when she came to the department the late S. O. Wylie Bell was a member of the village commission. Now, at her retirement, his son, Donald Bell is mayor. She has served under Police Chiefs Anderson, Tuttle, Hackett, and the present chief, Ralph W. Moxley.

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PHONE 11

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Deadline for Insertion Tuesday—5 P.M.