

There never is a time in one's life when one's personal conditions of health, beauty, grace of mind, etc., cannot be improved. Discouragement is like a film of dirt upon a window, obscuring an opportunity that lies within vision—if the film is only removed. Retain a conviction.

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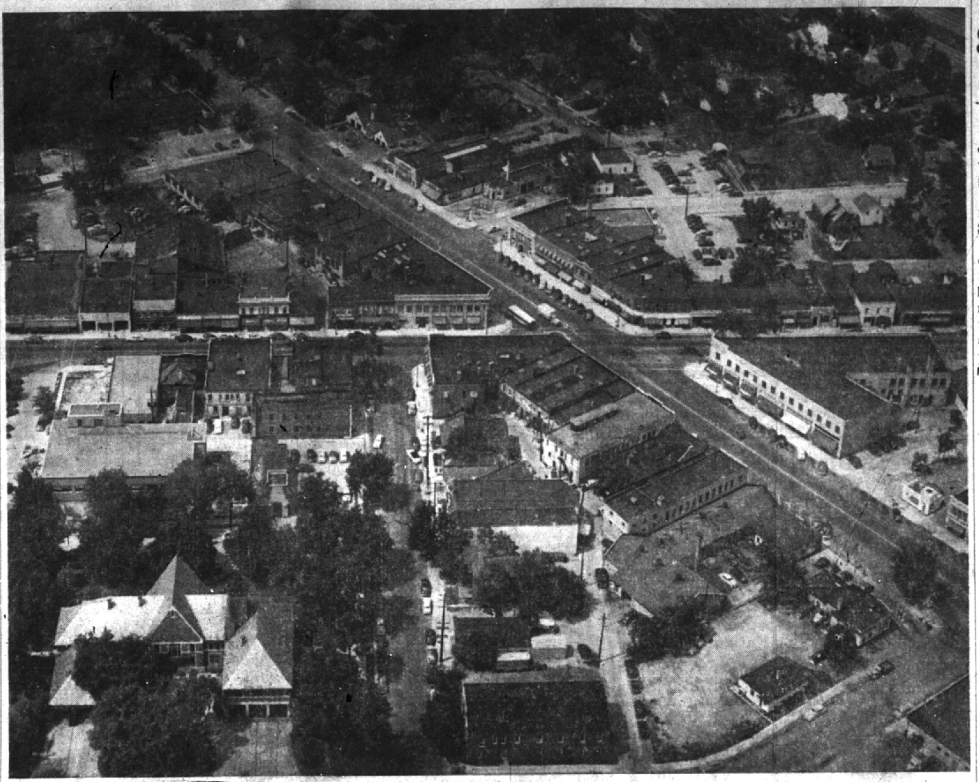
The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1949

PART ONE

18 PAGES FIVE CENTS

Here Is the Latest Bird's Eye View of Birmingham's Downtown Area



Here is an unusually good photo of Birmingham's central shopping district, taken from the air. Careful examination will reveal several local landmarks and many familiar business places. The Municipal Building is at the lower left, Maple Avenue runs across the center of the picture, with Woodward intersecting it to the right of center in the photo.

THS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Welfare Agents Need Supervision, Auditing

In the dispensation of financial aid to old and handicapped persons in Michigan, it is a common sight to see a welfare agent, an attitude of "Santa Claus paternalism" among certain welfare workers, an attitude wholly bereft of any sense of responsibility in paying out the taxpayers' money.

Michigan's Legislature, years ago, decided to assist financially, old people by appointing persons handicapped, incapable of supporting themselves, dependent children, also receive money each month for help.

Back of this legislation was the decent and wise intention to help needy people; to keep them from going to county infirmaries; to give them a sense of independence and respect; and in the case of the handicapped, to assist them to recovery and eventual self-support.

Although these funds come from both state and federal governments, the actual machinery of investigation is on the county level—called "social workers" or welfare agents (generally women) and it is they who make the daily contacts with the beneficiaries.

Agent Is "King"

In Michigan, some of the state monies are matched evenly by the counties. If a welfare agent decides that a certain person is to receive financial assistance, she so reports, and her findings generally are final. At once the checks begin to flow out, and continue until the agent decides for one or more reasons, to stop them.

All of which is technical background for your understanding of the numerous newspaper articles you have been reading in Michigan relative to this problem.

One of the most able and active of Michigan Legislators investigating the subject, is State Senator Colin L. Smith, of Big Rapids. Mr. Smith has been critical of the too many instances in which Wayne County has been handing out the taxpayers' money for such aids.

Impressional Paternalism

In recent years, the State Senator criticized the impractical paternalism of some of the welfare agents. He said that some of them are so radical in their concept of the state's responsibility that they actually reduce conditions of the Socialistic State.

Smith summed it up by quoting from a pamphlet, "Common Human Needs," written by a Chicago woman, connected with the University of Chicago, which declares: "If we public assistance workers have a deep conviction that every individual has a right to claim on society for assistance in time of need, we will resist to help . . . If we do not, our conduct of the investigation will probably express mistrust. . . . It may discourage . . . the applicant (and) he may place the burden of investigation on us. If we have a genuine conviction as to the applicant's rightful claim . . . we will be inclined to help him, not in the terms of the applicant's need and be less protective of the taxpayer's money."

To which Senator Smith replies: "If those granting relief are to have the burden of investigation, who is?"

Taken From the Needy

The Senator, and many others aware of the problem, firmly believe that the money should go to deserving people. But he and others cite many cases where money is given to those who are not, strictly speaking, in need of it. . . . yet lack of supervision over some welfare agents results in the "Santa Claus" method.

The tragic part of this situation is that the available funds, limited by public opposition to burdensome taxes, do not get to the people who really need aid. Every dollar that goes to the un-deserving is a dollar that is not being used to help those who are in need.

Weinholds Involved in Bad Accident

Mr. and Mrs. George Weinhold of Pilgrim were involved in a severe accident near East Village, Wis., a week ago last Saturday.

They were struck at 7:30 a.m. while traveling west on their vacation. The car was involved in a broken wheel and internal injuries. She is now in Luther hospital. The driver, who will remain for several weeks.

Speeding Not Worth Risk, Reporter and Stop Watch Prove

By George Wm. Averill

MEMO TO THE EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: Boss, you didn't find me at my desk Saturday morning for a very good reason. I was sitting alone in the far corner of my basement, jumping every time I heard the passing of a car on my third street outside the house. I was trying to shoo them from my mind, the ghostly noises of crunching bones, human cries of pain, and the tearing, metallic sound as automobile body meets automobile body at an unexpected moment.

My imagination is pretty good, boss, and those sounds I was "hearing" Saturday were the results of my speeding experiment Friday. No, I didn't come close to an accident that day (I think), but I began imagining what could have happened to me had this not been an experiment and had I met some other speeding driver.

I am firmly convinced that speeding isn't worth it. No, sir, not by a long shot. Not worth the time that is saved, not worth the tense nerves during and after a trip.

You see, Friday I asked Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley if I could do a little official speeding around town to see if I could save time from one place to another. I finally convinced the Chief that perhaps my experience driving my own passenger car would show some of these smart alecks around town—those young drivers or much older ones who should know better—that speeding doesn't pay, in the long run.

Here's How It Worked

Moxley assigned two members of his department to cooperate with me—Sgt. Leo Stiers and Ralph Reilly.

The experiment was to be worked this way: Stiers, in one squad car, would radio Reilly in another car (at the end of the "run") that I had started. Reilly would click a stop watch to time the run, stopping it as I reached the end. That would be the "slow time," during which I would observe all posted speed limits, as well as the courteous driver and give any pedestrians and other drivers the normal courtesies of the road.

Police Happy As Long Weekend Ends Safely

Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills areas passed their third long weekend of the summer with a clean slate in the accident bureau. While death rode the nation's highways, these areas escaped with only one very scrapped fender.

Local police, kept alert by the predictions of state officers, saw the three-day weekend draw to a close with only a few speeders to break the monotony of street patrolling. Bloomfield Hills went through a similar lull in traffic troubles, joining the city's forces in a sigh of relief as traffic began to slack off after midnight.

Both departments reported highways in their areas crowded from early Friday evening through Tuesday night. Motorists, however, seemed willing to maintain a moderate speed in this area, and exercise extreme caution on all traffic arteries.

Car Does Triple Roll; Riders Spill

A car driven by William Aikens, 1193 Pierce street, did a triple roll Saturday, depositing its passengers along 11 mile road.

According to the statement of John Maddox, Jr., of 494 Pleasant, one of the passengers, the car began to rock as Aikens shifted from second to third. It then started, its roll and dropped the riders out one by one.

Receiving head injuries and bruises was the driver, Aikens. Jim McKay of 861 Westwood and Matthew McLaughlin of 819 Greenwood.

New Vehicles On Order by Star Cab Co.

Owners Expect Two New Cars Sept. 19, 3 Others to Follow

If immediately brought up to "minimum safety standards, the four Star Cab cabs will be permitted to operate over Birmingham streets until new vehicles now on order, are delivered.

This was decided by the city commission Tuesday evening when it tabled for three weeks a hearing on the revocation of the company's local cab license because of alterations on residential cabs, as determined by a recent police department inspection.

Police Will Check Repairs

"The dealer has promised me two new cars, at least, by the 19th," she explained. "And he may have them all by that time. They will be placed in immediate operation and the old cabs repaired."

State Decides on Locations for 2 of 3 New Signals

Locations of two of the three new U.S. 10 traffic signals have been decided by the State Highway Department, City Manager Donald C. Egbert said this week.

City Will Improve Portion of Bowers St.

Necessity of improving Bowers street, from Hunter to Woodward, was determined by the city commission Tuesday evening. The project has gone to the city assessor's office for determination of the assessment district.

Cranbrook Exhibits Foot-long Egg of Extinct Roc

When that fabulous Arab, Sindbad the Sailor, told of being carried away by a giant bird, he was letting his imagination run riot over the nature of a long-extinct bird whose eggs had been seen in Madagascar.

One of these eggs, a few of which have survived to reach this island, and its eggs are said to have been venerated by the natives.

The egg is about twelve inches long and ten inches in diameter. It weighs four pounds. According to Walter P. Nickell, institute naturalist, the volume is equivalent to twelve dozen hen's eggs.

Low-Cost Homes Take Prominent Place in August Construction

The 71 building permits issued by E. S. Clark's building inspector, office last month represent the city's best in new construction in the city. This is approximately double the total for the corresponding period last year.

The new permits include 30 for single dwellings at a cost of \$34,000, and two two-family dwellings to cost \$40,000. An additional 17 permits were issued for alterations on residential buildings which will cost \$25,540.

Other permits issued included four for new business construction, two for public utility buildings, one temporary chapel, 11 for private garages, and 11 moving permits.

To Vote Nov. 7 on \$3,100,000 School Expansion Program

School district electors will vote Monday, November 7, on the proposed \$3,100,000 school expansion program, it was decided by the Birmingham Board of Education at an informal meeting at the Hill School Tuesday evening.

This decision will be formally approved at the regular meeting of the board on September 20, Superintendent of Schools Dwight J. Ireland said yesterday morning.

While exact details have not been completed yet, it is clear the school district faces a building program of \$3,100,000, plus the amount of interest, to provide a new high school at Cranbrook and Lincoln roads, a new elementary school on Torry field, an addition of two classrooms both at Walnut Lake and Franklin elementary schools, Ireland explained.

Torch Drive Details Being Worked Out

Details of enlisting a group of volunteer workers to carry out the Torch Drive Campaign of the United Foundation in the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills Division are nearing completion, according to Mr. J. Rowland Quinn, Secretary. Committees will be announced next week.

To Conduct Drive Here October 18 to November 10

Details of enlisting a group of volunteer workers to carry out the Torch Drive Campaign of the United Foundation in the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills Division are nearing completion, according to Mr. J. Rowland Quinn, Secretary. Committees will be announced next week.

In the meantime, Henry and William Breech, who are directing the local campaign expect to secure headquarters from which this work can be directed. The campaign will extend from October 18 to November 10.

Purpose of the United Foundation is to consolidate many fund raising efforts of various welfare agencies, and to distribute these on a fair and efficient basis. It is a non-profit permanent organization designed to unite in one campaign a multitude of fund raising agencies. So far, 69 of the national health and welfare agencies are included in the Torch Fund Drive.

More Local Aid

Because of the independent nature of the various agencies, the fund drive for its maintenance is not included under United Foundation number of local agencies. New services will be made available under this new plan, thereby returning to the aid of this community welfare a higher percentage of contributions than was possible heretofore.

A standard of giving has been worked out by the United Foundation. Each person offering the goal. Salaried workers are asked to contribute 1/2 to 1 percent of their monthly salary. The new drive will pay out of its own treasury \$3,600 to \$4,000. 1 percent on salaries up to \$20,000 and 2 percent on salaries exceeding \$20,000.

It is hoped that the minimum gift of \$5.00 will be offered to every person. This would provide three visits from the visiting nurse. The new drive will pay out of its own treasury \$3,600 to \$4,000. 1 percent on salaries up to \$20,000 and 2 percent on salaries exceeding \$20,000.

Detroit Found in Hills Was Beaten, Robbed

Police Chief Isma Banks of Bloomfield Hills said yesterday that a Detroit man who was offered the assault and robbery of Jack G. Haas, 27, of Detroit would probably be turned over to officials of that city. Banks stated that there was no evidence that Haas was attacked and robbed within their jurisdiction.

The man was found early Tuesday morning by a patrolman of the Detroit and Detroit area. He was offered the assault and robbery of Jack G. Haas, 27, of Detroit would probably be turned over to officials of that city. Banks stated that there was no evidence that Haas was attacked and robbed within their jurisdiction.

A Safe August

The Birmingham Fire department has had its quietest month in the fifth exceptionally quiet month, with but 17 calls being received. The department was called to 17 fires, 11 of which were minor, and even more remarkable, no fire loss was recorded inside the city limits.

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