

Somebody once said, "There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come." Based on this idea, it is the Editor's idea to do a "What's in the Air" column. The idea is to do a "What's in the Air" column. The idea is to do a "What's in the Air" column.

75RD YEAR—NO. 6

The Birmingham Journal

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1950

22 PAGES FIVE CENTS

Set for June, Cutover Date Now Indefinite

36 Western Electric Employees Walk Off Job Early Monday

Preliminary load testing of Birmingham's new dial exchange was halted at 10 a.m. Monday when 36 Western Electric employees walked off the job in protest over a television installation dispute in Indiana.

Testing was started last week on the city's new \$1,500,000 exchange, now about 80 per cent complete.

These tests are designed to determine the effect of various subscriber calling loads and to check for possible errors in the 6,000,000 connections.

THROUGH EXPERT use of highly technical testing cabinets, testmen set up a calling load in a bank of equipment at the telephone exchange to determine the apparatus' ability to "take it."

The date now becomes uncertain here for Michigan Bell, which will take Western about 30 days more, when they return to work to complete the installation and check the equipment then would be turned over to Michigan Bell for final testing.

The company, Fisher said, had planned a cutover date for June.

"The date now becomes uncertain because of Western Electric employees' action," Fisher pointed out.

Between now and the cutover date, the company will be finishing up on outside plant facilities and the publishing and delivery of a new telephone directory for Birmingham. The book will reflect the new Midwest-preferred telephone numbers for all local companies and will contain Mayfair and Pontiac listings.

BEGINNING NEXT Monday, the company will call all local subscribers to test each dial telephone to insure proper hook-up working of the dial.

Fisher said a series of dial instruction demonstrations would be conducted in all Birmingham neighborhoods before various lunch and civic clubs between now and the cutover.

Accidental Shooting Injures Detroit Man

Wilson Carey, 29, of Detroit, was treated for a self-inflicted gunshot wound at St. Joseph Mercy hospital Tuesday afternoon.

Fisher, employed by Harold Turner, Inc., told police he had been sent to bring a truck back to the garage, but while in the truck, he picked it up and accidentally shot himself in the right leg.

Police are conducting an investigation in an effort to learn who had placed the gun in the truck.

Postal Delivery

Acting Postmaster Bernard Fowler said yesterday morning that no changes have been made yet in the local postoffice regarding city delivery. He said "window service" here has complied with work-hours for some time. Future changes in delivery will be made to meet with governmental plans to cut postoffice expenses.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO—

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New Southfield Halts Up for General Vote

By G. R. A.

Great Lakes Miracles

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PATROL BOY of the Week

(Continuing the series on "Patrol Boy of the Week," The Birmingham Journal, in cooperation with the Birmingham police department, this week presents Michael Pryce, patrol captain at Pierce school.

These boys are selected on the basis of outstanding contributions to the safety of schoolchildren and chosen by the school safety division of the police department. The patrol boy chosen each week tells his story in his own words.

My name is Michael Pryce and I am captain of the safety patrol at Pierce school. I was 11 on Dec. 8. My parents are Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Pryce, 328 Smith street.

Last spring I was elected captain of the safety patrol. I was the first boy to be elected to the post. A boy usually starts training in the fourth grade, which I did. I was elected to the post in the fifth grade so when the fifth grade entered Barnum a trained patrolman I was.

If a boy is chosen for patrol he has to maintain good marks and his teacher may ask to have him taken off patrol.

A patrol boy has to try to set a good example for other children. If he doesn't, they will not obey him. He also tries to prevent fighting so other children will not be hurt on the school ground.

IF A BOY gets into trouble and refuses to obey the patrol boy, he may take them to the principal. They may also be taken to the principal for breaking any of the safety rules.

My job is to check the post four times a day. I am on duty all the time. If a boy is sick he calls me before 8:15 a.m. and I go to his home to get someone else on his post.

Pierce school has nearly doubled the number of patrol boys. I think the patrol boys have done a fine job.

However, several persons who attended the Monday special election said it was their opinion that the school should have a more complete fire protection.

"The election was amended, but was not completed," said the school principal. "The school should have a more complete fire protection."

HOWEVER, a resolution was passed that instructed the town of Detroit board to carry out previous fire protection proposals.

Jensen argued that new fire stations should precede the erection of a new town hall. Discussion brought out that many in the audience questioned the effectiveness of new fire equipment when improved roads often were impassable.

Many of the persons attending the meeting commented after the meeting on the general confusion which prevailed. Before the meeting, there were predictions that it might be sparked with considerable animosity.

The 1950-51 township budget is an amount of \$112,110 was approved. Of an anticipated income of a similar amount, the township estimates it will receive the bulk of its money, or some \$82,760, from the state sales tax diversion.

Garbage Authority to Be Discussed at Meeting Tonight

Four Birmingham city officials plan to attend a dinner meeting tonight in Royal Oak to learn more about the proposed garbage rubbish authority for several northern Oakland communities.

Copies of the finished report are expected here in a few days.

City Manager Donald C. Egbert said the plan is to create the creation of an authority, issue of bonds with each area to pay its proportionate share according to the amount of refuse delivered to the incinerator.

IT IS PROPOSED to use an incinerator after considerable study was devoted to other possible methods, Egbert explained.

Planning to attend the dinner tonight are Egbert and Commissioner Charles Seitz, Chad Ritchie and Garland Tait.

Beverly Hills Couple, Son, Die in Crash

Driver Held After Sunday Fatality; Nine Persons Hurt

Three members of a Beverly Hills family were killed and nine other persons injured Sunday in a four-car crash on US-16, a few miles west of Pontiac.

The dead are Edgar H. Streten, 54, of 19000 Thirteen Mile road, his wife, Grace E., 55, and a son, Robert E., 14. The only surviving member of the family is a son, Edgar G., 21, who was at home at the time of the accident.

The Stretens died when their car was hit head-on by one driven by James W. Commons, 25, of Flint. Deputies from the Oakland county sheriff's office said Commons crossed the yellow center line in the four-lane highway, crashing into the Streten car.

THE IMPACT threw the Stretens' car into one driven by Joseph Rokosiewicz, 25, of Detroit. A fourth car driven by Joseph Boudreau, also of Flint, was unable to avoid the crash.

Walter F. Hollimon, 25, and Robert Simpson, 25, both of Flint, were injured in the crash. Commons crossed the yellow center line in the four-lane highway, crashing into the Streten car.

SAFETY OF Commons' blood was tested. Commons was found after a bottle of liquor was found in the car.

Commons, a neighbor at the Lawrence Institute of Technology in Highland Park, told officers he was on his way to work with his family, but had stayed home to study.

Commons was born in Kent, England on Jan. 1, 1896, and attended school there. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I, coming to this country shortly after the war.

Commons was married to Griffith in Sand Creek, Mich. in September, 1926, and ten years later came to this country to live with his family. He was a crane operator for Detroit Edison and had been with the company about 26 years.

Mr. Streten is survived by two brothers.

MRS. STRETEN was born in Sand Creek on April 27, 1895, and attended school there and at Kent. She also attended the Harper hospital training school and worked for the Detroit board of health.

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