

Survey Under Way To Determine City Defense Equipment

An extensive survey is being made by the 14 members of the newly formed Civilian Defense committee to determine what means of meeting a bombing at-

tack are available in Birmingham. The group met with Director John J. Hamel, Jr. last Thursday when the various phases of local defense were discussed. Members of the fire and police departments are recording volunteers who might be needed to meet a war emergency. Others of the committee are determining the food and medical supplies available and the equipment which might be needed here in such an event.

THE COMMITTEE, made up of members from the police and fire departments, city officials, the city's three utility companies, chamber of commerce and the local Red Cross, will report its findings to Hamel as soon as possible. Hamel said Tuesday that another group meeting would be held sometime next month. "We will probably not meet again until after the next conference in Lansing when the 42 municipal civilian defense directors make their report," he said.

Speakers Selected For Pre-School Faculty Meetings

A pre-school conference for teachers will be held here on Tuesday, Sept. 5. It will start with a breakfast at 8 a. m., after which Dr. Dwight B. Ireland will introduce new faculty members and discuss the school year. Dr. Marion Egan, of the University will speak on "A Comparison of Continental and American Education". Separate meetings will be held in the various schools after the noon recess. School principals will preside over discussions of the programs which face the individual units of the Birmingham school system.

ON WEDNESDAY morning all elementary and secondary school pupils will report for half-day sessions. Dr. Virginia Axline of Columbia university's teachers college will address a teacher's meeting at 1 p. m. on "Mental Hygiene in Public Schools". A second conference will be held for teachers in their own schools following her address.

City Will Discuss Access Drives at Aug. 28 Hearing

Special assessment districts for construction of four sections of the Hunter blvd. access drives will be discussed at a public hearing August 28 before the city commission.

Packers Outlet, Harrisons Floor Covering, C. F. Smith Co. and Colonial Terraces have asked the city to proceed with construction as soon as possible.

The state highway department has agreed to pay 75 per cent of the cost of the drives, with the property owners bearing the remaining portion.

School Board Will Inspect Building Progress Sunday

At a special meeting of the Birmingham school board Aug. 1, Mrs. Lewis B. Sappington was appointed to serve on the building committee.

The group, composed of Ernest Seaholm, president; Amos Gregory, secretary; and Wylie Graves, treasurer, meets each Tuesday morning to discuss building plans and progress with the architects and school superintendent, Dr. Dwight B. Ireland.

It was announced that Sunday, Aug. 13, will be set aside for board members to visit the sites of the new school construction. The program will be arranged so all may become fully acquainted with the progress of construction to date.

New Public Health Nurse Named Here

The newly appointed city health nurse, Mrs. James Donaldson, 160 Catalpa, began her duties this week as assistant to Mrs. Anney Gillette. Mrs. Donaldson was named to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement last week of Mrs. Blanche Breakey. Mrs. Donaldson, a graduate of the Henry Ford school of nursing, has had seven years experience as a public health nurse with the Detroit visiting nurses association. She also served for a year with the Macomb county health department on its tuberculosis control program. Mrs. Donaldson has been a resident of this area for nine years.

Woman Injured In Hills Collision

Mr. Murry Tyler of Evert, Mich., was injured Sunday afternoon as the result of a two-car collision on Woodward avenue nearOPYDKE road in Bloomfield Hills. Mrs. Tyler was taken to St. Joseph's hospital after she sustained a fractured knee and lacerations.

Police report the car she was riding in, driven by her brother, William Guy Tyler of Detroit, crashed into a car driven by Leo Ferstle of Dearborn.

Primary Registration Deadline August 23

Deadline for registration for the state's Sept. 12 primary election is at 3 p. m. August 23. City Clerk Irene Hanley reminded local residents this week. Her office will also accept registrations on Saturday, Aug. 12 and 19 until noon, she said. "Persons who have not registered at the board of education office for school elections are not automatically qualified to vote in city or state elections," she warned. "You must also register with the city," she said.

July Fire Damages Amount to \$10 Here

The Birmingham fire department had an increase of seven alarms last month over the June figure, or a total of 37 runs. The report of Fire Chief V. W. Griffith, shows the department answered 14 calls for fires and five investigations; 20 for gas investigations and three miscellaneous calls. No general alarms, first aid or false alarms were recorded. In spite of the better than one-village average, property damage hit a low for the first seven months of 1950, with only a \$10 loss. The year's high was in March, when insurance claims of \$4,425 were paid.

Park

(Continued from Page One)

made by ladies and if there were only lady brick layers, lady bricklayers would be a thing of the past. The Ladies' Library society in Birmingham is particularly interested in the park. The society is particularly interested in the park. The society is particularly interested in the park.

IN 1933, the building was finally completed and everyone in town attended the dedication ceremony. It was a grand affair and everyone was proud of their new library.

It was not until 1937 that the building was not strictly public. Or at least it wasn't distributing books free.

IN 1937, Marina Baldwin appeared before the village commission with a surprisingly generous offer.

If the people would approve of not less than a half-mill tax on the assessed valuation of the village to be used for support and maintenance of the building, Miss Baldwin would deed the property and the library to the city for use as municipal property.

But Miss Baldwin was a few strings on the deal. One was that the second story of the building structure would continue to operate as a library, but it would be a free public library.

IF AT ANY TIME, the building was not used partly for library purposes the land would revert to the University of Michigan.

Another provision demanded that the land surrounding the building be maintained as a city park and nothing else.

This provision applied only to the combination library-municipal building property and not to the land owned when the present municipal center was bought in 1926.

This may well be the basis of some of the mistaken ideas concerning the use of the present city park.

The matter went to a vote of the people and was approved by a surprisingly small margin—111 to 100.

ONCE AGAIN it had been the agriculturists leading the protest against the group's plans.

The Eclectic editor favored the plan but in fine old journalistic tradition ran the following letter in page 1 under the headline "Agin The Scheme".

"The following communication has been received, and believing in giving all sides fair play, we print it. He says:

MR. EDITOR—I want to say to you and to the people, that I am dead against this library and municipal business, first, last and all the time. What do we want of a library, anyway? I take my paper and I read out what's what away from home, and THE EC-CENTRIC tells me about my neighborhood.

"Some say we want a reading room. What for? My boy won't read anyway and if some other boy wants to read can't he buy books let him borrow them.

"**WE DON'T NEED** no place for this Village Board to meet. It's an imposition on taxpayers to pay out money to rent a room anyway. Just as well meet in some store; plenty of people would be willing to have them for the trade they'd bring, and they'd take the jail in too.

"Some say the village ought to own that corner. For my part I'd like to see a good blacksmith shop right on that very corner, like there used to be in the good old days before fountains, seats, shade trees and all that nonsense was ever thought of.

"Talk about people's being generous; if them wimmen's got anything to give away, they'd better give it to the forr'n mislans, they need it.

"Why you figger up what half a mill on a dollar means. It's going to weigh us down with a monstrous det. You and I can't afford to pay for the sake of helping other folks. We can't afford to pay to keep any poor boy off the streets, and aid to give him book learning.

"**THERE'S TOO MANY** folks learning now. For my part I'd ruther stand round in the stores and talk. I'm clear agin it, and you kin run it in your report too. A BIG TAXPAYER."

As you can see, the situation was tough.

The city offices were moved into the ground floor of the library and Clarence Vliet, former superintendent of Birmingham schools for 17 years and a member of the Library board, explains the setup like this:

"The second floor held the library with a stage at the rear of the room for any dramatic productions that came up.

"On the first floor were the fire and police departments facing each other across the front in the middle of the building were the clerks and secretaries. The rear of the first floor was made into a dog pound.

"**MANY LIBRARY BOARD** meetings on quiet evenings were broken up by a pack of howling pooches on the first floor."

The event was noted in the leath-bound Bible of this way: "Died August 3, 1907. A free Public Library. The first library book: Mrs. A. J. Stearns, Mrs. Bigelow, Misses M. Baldwin and V. L. Posh and Messrs. Whitehead and Miss Baldwin died in 1913, leaving the residue of her family estate to the school district to aid in building a new high school.

When Charles Shain took over as village president in 1924, he had "some lofty dreams" in the back of (his) mind," he admits.

SHAIN WENT into a huddle with Vliet and persuaded him to

go along on the plan and talk the library board into it also. The library board was composed of three men and three women. Shain says the women always "thought the fellows were trying to put something over on them," and she proposed to meet with them. "What Shain wanted to do was sell the Woodward-Maple lot and purchase the three lots bounded by Pierce, Martin, Bates and Merrill streets for one large municipal center."

He proposed to enter into a "friendly" suit with the University of Michigan to have the reversion clause on the library property relaxed.

The library board finally agreed on the conditions that the same restrictions be placed on the new library property and the proceeds of the sale would go towards construction of a modern "Baldwin library."

U. OF M. WAS agreeable and the deal was made. They had no use for the land, but only wanted to see Miss Baldwin's original intent carried out.

The Woodward-Maple lot was sold to Briggs Investment Co. for \$100,000. The money was to buy the present library block.

Also purchased were four lots where the Municipal building now stands.

The big bond issue election was then held. Voters approved the buying of the additional two blocks for "municipal purposes."

An article in this paper just before the election quoted Shain as saying, "The second block, owned by the village, will be used for purposes to be determined later. To own it now for future expansion is the purpose of buying it now."

IT THEN QUOTES Shain in

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this significant statement: "It would be suitable for a federal building, community center of some sort, a recreational park, a band stand or something which may arise in the future."
In the depression year of 1933, the United States built the park as a government project.
"Since then it has become one of the most noted landmarks of Oakland county."
Veteran Oakland county newspaperman Joe Hines, writing in his "Man About Town" column in the Post-Tribune, recently listed it high in his selection as one of the 12 most beautiful spots in the county.
But the parking situation is becoming worse daily in Birmingham. The original three-lot off-street parking plan would provide 85 parking spaces.
Would another solution be to change the city park into a parking lot which many experts estimate would hold around 170 cars.
AT LEAST 400 residents have indicated to us in that first petition how many signatures will come on the "status quo" petition now going the rounds remains to be seen.
But the officially unanswered question in the minds of Birmingham residents today is still, "What will it be? Municipal park or parking lot?"

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