Troubled, indeed, is the lot of the average preacher today. Living in a world of fleshpots, he tries to turn folks from all the evils of the day . . . and, alas, gets so little help from the very people he seeks to save.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

72ND YEAR—NO. 43 BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1950 22 PAGES FIVE CENTS

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

"In the Valley of the Shadow of Politicians—"

The exact details of the 1950 political contest between Michigan Democrats and Republicans is not yet forecastable. That it will be lively, few doubt; but as to the quantity of noise, the brilliance of the fireworks to be sky-rocketed before bewildered taxpayers' eyes —well, that detail is still in the making.

Perhaps the chief enigma in the forthcoming politico-pyrotechnic celebration is Eugene P. Black of Pt. Huron, who served as Attorney-General in the 1947-48 Kim Sigler administration. You will recall him as the man who, personally selected by Sigler to be Michigan's chief law enforcement officer, turned against him during the last year of his administration.

Mr. Black, who thrives on heated combat, may be expected to unleash his fiery temperament against anybody he disagrees with . . . and that disagreement is not confined to any specific person or principle.

Dangerously High and Fast

In many respects, I think I know Gene Black as well, and perhaps better, than most people who engage in current political areas. I know him as a man who, when in agreement with another, will work day and night to accomplish a mutual objective. I know him as a man essentially dedicated to the improvement of the public weal and welfare. I also know him as a man who, when he becomes an opponent, will ride his enmity dangerously high and fast . . . and may God be merciful unto their souls!

Black is not a man given to the usual processes of give-and-take in an argument; right or wrong, in whole or part of an idea, once he decides, there is no quarter to be given by him. That is one reason for his many disagreements with Kim Sigler and others during 1947-48, while Black was in Lansing.

Yea, though politicians walk through the valley of the shadow of their devious ways, the rod and the staff of ambiguity and enmities shall not comfort them; there is prepared for them a table in the presence of their predatory followers, and the heads of candidates are heaped with insincere oils of praise; their jiggers runneth over. Surely, hardly ever shall goodness and mercy follow them all the days of their political lives; and most of them shall dwell in the House of Uncertainty and the Double-Cross forever.

"U. S. Seeks to Stiffen Tito" says a headline. So is Russia trying to do the same thing . . . only the Soviets want Tito laid horizontal, the stiffening to be caused by rigor mortis.

American election procedures do not guarantee complete honesty and ability of men and women who win public office. Recently two Congressmen were found guilty of felonies, and sentenced to prison. That, however, is no intimate reflection on other Congressmen. We should be grateful, though, that the law caught up with the two criminal Congressmen, and gave them their dues.

Generally speaking, a boy starts out by hoping some day he'll be a policeman, a fireman, a railroad engineer, or a circus clown—and winds up putting most of his hopes and energy into making both ends meet.

We learn that a botanist has developed a celery that makes no noise when eaten. We hold no brief for it—instead, we are perfectly willing to accept the noise so long as it is accompanied by the feeling of a favorable, solid munching substance against the palate.

Two Hurt in Early Morning Car Crash

William E. Suiter is in General hospital, Pontiac, recovering from injuries received in an accident about 3:30 a.m. Tuesday. His car and one driven by Carl R. May, Royal Oak, collided on the southbound lane of Woodward avenue in Bloomfield Hills.

May, more seriously injured of the two, is in St. Joseph Mercy hospital suffering from severe shock, chest injuries and a badly bitten tongue.

Suiter received cuts about the head and complained of pains in his back.

Bloomfield Hills police withheld comment concerning the accident. They reported that, due to May's serious condition, it was impossible to question him yet.

New Main to Relieve Area Water Pressure

A new 12-inch water main on 14 Mile between Southfield and Pierce will be included in the city's 1950 construction season.

City commissioners Monday evening authorized the preparation of plans and specifications and awarding of the contract for the construction.

Estimated at $16,000, the new main would materially relieve water pressures in the area, which is close to a city well at 14 Mile and Southfield.

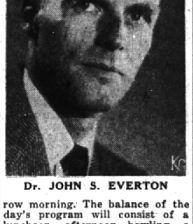
The commission also approved the purchase of a new $5,550 pump for this Southfield well to replace an old pump.

Seniors Begin Graduation Week Events

Kalamazoo College Head Will Address Members of Class

Commencement activities for the mid-year graduating class of Baldwin high school will open with the senior skip day today and tomorrow, Jan. 12 and 13.

The group of 21 will leave Birmingham by bus at 7 o'clock this evening for Detroit, where they will attend a musical comedy. A period of "recuperation" will be allowed from 9 to 11 a.m., tomorrow morning. The balance of the day's program will consist of a luncheon, afternoon bowling, a buffet supper and a basketball game at Hazel Park for the evening hours.



Dr. JOHN S. EVERTON

Arrangements for skip day have been made by Mac Booth, chairman, Bud Boynton, Bill Miller, Jerry Wichman, David LaTrobe, Jack Nicholas and Dick Sullivan.

Commencement Speaker

Dr. John Scott Everton, president of Kalamazoo College, will be the commencement speaker at the mid-year program in Baldwin high school on Thursday evening, Jan. 29. His topic will be "The Darkened Intelligence".

Dr. Everton has a varied background as educator, minister and administrator. He was graduated from the University of Redlands in 1931 with a B.A. degree. In addition to this he holds a B.D. degree from the Colgate-Rochester divinity school, the Ph.D. degree from Yale and the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Grinnell College. He also attended Cambridge university in England on a scholarship from Colgate-Rochester.

He served in churches in Connecticut and Pennsylvania, prior to accepting an appointment to the faculty of Grinnell in 1941. He served as dean of the chapel and professor of philosophy and religion until his election to the presidency of Kalamazoo college last year.

Senior Dinner Jan. 18

In 1945 he served as senior representative of the American Friends service committee in India. Before this he had been at the AFSS work camp in Kentucky. He was with the international work camp in Finland in 1947 and attended the international service seminar in Plymouth, N. H., in 1948.

The senior class dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the Kingsley Inn. Jack Adams, class president, will preside. Talks will be given by Ross A. Wagner, principal of Baldwin high school and Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools.

Jim Hogan and Helen Woolson will give the class prophecy, while the class will is to be read by Bill

(See SENIORS, Page 2)

New Traffic Signal at Adams, Oakland to Aid Children

To provide a further safety factor for Adams school children, the city will erect a traffic light at Adams and Okland to control fast Adams traffic.

Monday night city commissioners, following Police Chief Ralph Moxley's recommendation, authorized $525.40 for the installation. The chief said it would be in full operation during school hours, remaining on "blinker" the rest of the time.

The speed of southbound motorists at this point is a potential danger to school children, the chief pointed out.

The commission also authorized the replacement of the worn-out control mechanism for the Adams-Maple signal with a new one at a cost of $258.

A maintenance contract for the Woodward-Lincoln Mile signal was also approved. The state will stand 75 per cent of the cost, Birmingham and Royal Oak will split the remaining 25 per cent.

The commission also asked Moxley to get accurate costs of a new signal at Bates and W. Maple. Moxley has suggested the installation of a signal at this point to releive growing traffic congestion.

Too Many People Found Skating on Quarton's Thin Ice

Board or recreation members and the police department this week asked parents to impress upon their youngsters that cold night does not make skating weather.

Several persons phoned the police department the latter part of the week to report skaters on Quarton lake. On Sunday, when the officers answered another call, they found 200 skaters on dangerously thin ice. Officers requested everyone to leave the ice, and reported that John Johonnot of the city forestry department would supervise the erection of barriers.

"In the meantime, parents can do much to keep tragedy from the lake by seeing to it that their children do not use it until such times as the ice is declared thick enough for safety," emphasized Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley.

Drier Weather Needed for Crews to Mend Streets

Willard Brown, street foreman for the City of Birmingham, said yesterday morning that the strong winds and temperature drop which hit the city Tuesday had helped somewhat in the conditions of streets.

"The wind dried it out a little, and the lower temperature gives us a chance to do some work. We can get crews out filling the holes with gravel and making other temporary emergency repairs."

Marx Fall, DPW superintendent, reported Tuesday that the cold spell last week had helped "while it lasted". It enabled a few repairs to be made while street surfaces were hard.

"The repairs we could make were temporary and could not be expected to hold. About all we could do was fill the holes, making it easier for motorists and stopping the holes from getting larger every time a car drove through them."

Fall explained that repairs made during the wet weather were practically useless.

"The patches come out just about as fast as we can put them in. It's just about a waste of material and time, and the cold days and nice weather and we could have the streets back in decent shape," he said.

Fall said that to date, none of the city's streets were closed. A short block of Greenlawn boulevard was closed last week, but was mended and temporarily repaired during the too-brief cold spell.

He said that the sewer situation had not become too bad, in spite of the large volume of water flowing through them.

"Our sewers have been pretty thoroughly cleaned and are able to handle the rain without too much trouble. One or two are giving a little trouble, but nothing like conditions of two or three years ago."

Fall said that his department was answering emergency calls as fast and as well as they possibly could, but assured residents that nothing effective could be done until either frost or rain dried out the street surfaces.

Police Classes on Traffic Policy to Be Held Here

Men from 15 police departments in the suburban area, including Birmingham, will meet here Jan. 19 through Jan. 25, to learn how to use the new uniform traffic ticket. The new ticket policy, which makes the reporting and handling of violations the same in all towns, was adopted by these communities last fall.

Participating communities will include Bloomfield Hills, Claridge, Clawson, Farmington, Hazel Park, Holly, Huntington Woods, Lake Orion, Milford, Sylvan Lake, Orchard Lake, Oxford, Pleasant Ridge, Rochester and South Lyons.

Classes will be held daily except Sunday in the commission room of the municipal building. The classes will be from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 2 to 4 p.m.

Class Instructors

Instructors for the course will include Daniel G. Reynolds, assistant director of field service, traffic institute of Northwestern University; James P. Economos, district court, Detroit, membership secretary, M. Waldorf Pletcher, enforcement coordinator, Detroit traffic safety association.

Lt. C. F. Van Blankenstein, safety and traffic and operators license bureau, Michigan State Police; C. J. Scarvada, formerly with the state police and now with the Michigan trucking association.

Birmingham Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said the classes were being divided so all officers might attend without weakening the on-duty personnel of any department.

He also said that it was expected the new traffic policy would go into effect in these participating communities about Feb. 1.

News and society copy must be in The Eccentric editorial office by 4:30 each Tuesday. Deadline for society club news is noon each Monday.

Family Service Agencies to Be Merged Today

New Officers Will Be Elected at Meeting in Community House

Two family service agencies operating in Oakland County will merge into a single agency at a meeting today at the Birmingham Community House.

In an effort to form a stronger family agency which can better serve the needs of Oakland communities, the two services will form the Family Service of Oakland County with offices in Pontiac, Royal Oak and Birmingham.

The Family Service Association of Southern Oakland County and the Family Service Center for the Pontiac - Birmingham - Bloomfield Hills area are the merging agencies.

Election of New Officers

Present board members of the two agencies will make up the board of directors of the new family service agency. New officers will be elected by the new board at the meeting today.

Mrs. L. C. Van Boven is now president of the Family Service Association and Paul N. Averill of Birmingham has been president of the Family Service Center of Pontiac since 1947. The Family Service Association was founded in 1930, the Family Center in 1945.

Professional staff of the two agencies will also be combined and enlarged with Estella M. Martin, executive secretary of the Family Center of Pontiac, as director of the new organization. Mrs. Anne W. McCormick, present director of the Family Service Association, will continue on the staff of the new organization.

Financial support will come from the Pontiac Community Chest and the Community Chest of Metropolitan Detroit. The Detroit Community Chest will carry about two-thirds of the cost of the new Red Feather agency.

Survey Results in Merger

The merger of the two organizations is the result of a survey made last year of family services in Oakland County. The new organization will be able to offer better family counseling to the people of the community.

The new agency will serve Waterford and Pontiac original townships, Troy, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield, Royal Oak and Southfield townships.

In speaking of the reorganization, Mrs. Van Boven said, "This is a step forward in the field of private family service in Oakland County. We hope that more families with personal and family troubles will take advantage of the improved services and consult our trained social workers. Many families have been led out of unhappiness into a full happy life through the help of professional staff."

Averill also praised the merger and said the enlarged agency would aid in "better interpretation of the work of the agency in our communities."

Offices of the new agency are at 256 Washington Square Bldg., Royal Oak and 220 National Bldg., Pontiac. A third office will be opened in Birmingham later this year.

Four Detroit Youths Questioned by Police on Store Entry Here

Four Detroit youths are being held by local police who are investigating the breaking and entering of the Mortimer men's wear store, 123 West Maple, early Tuesday morning.

John M. Tomlinson, 17, was apprehended hiding behind a furnace when officers entered the building. Police said he admitted entering the store, taking money from the cash register and selecting items of clothing which he planned to remove from the building.

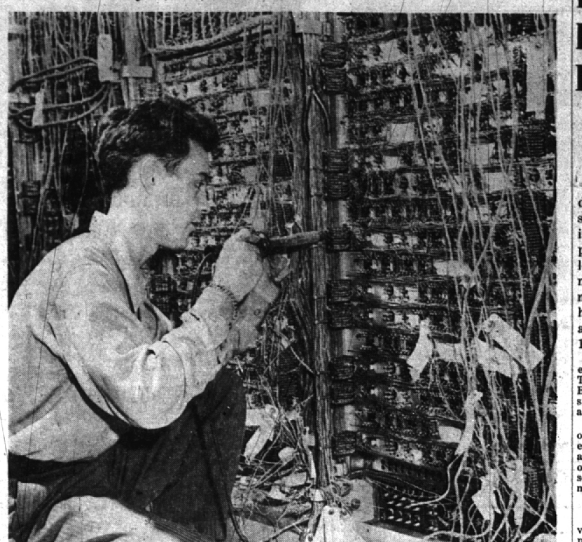
Officers also apprehended Thomas Dummitt, 17; Eugene Van Cleve, 19; and Paul Stith, 18. They found the three in a car parked at the rear of the Wabeek building. Police said the youths were "pretending to be asleep", but that wet hair and clothing proved they had been in the car only a short time.

Request Is Denied for Water Service Outside City Limits

In keeping with established city policy, the city commission Monday night turned down a request from the Watts Electric Co., 2222 E. Maple, for water service from city mains.

Only in the case of the Birmingham Golf Club and Dearborn Motors, where substantial other considerations were involved, has the city extended water service outside city limits.

Only 3,600,000 More Connections to Go



Birmingham's new automatic dial telephone system takes shape in Michigan Bell's modern building on Martin street.

Frank Kayfez, Western Electric equipment installer, is shown making one of the more than 6,000,000 hand-soldered connections necessary to weave the banks of intricate switching apparatus together.

New Dial Office Will Need 58,022 Miles of Wire and 75,000 Electrical Relays

Take enough wire to encircle the earth two and one-third times, add 75,000 electrical relays, a few pounds of precious metals, several tons of steel, sprinkle liberally with rubber and other miscellaneous materials and you have the ingredients of Birmingham's new automatic dial telephone system.

Walter B. Fauser, manager here for the Michigan Bell Telephone company, in discussing the progress of the equipment installation, said that the job was now about 40 per cent complete.

"By the time the equipment is ready to be placed in service next summer, the men working on the installation job will have made more than 6,000,000 hand-soldered connections in weaving the banks of intricate equipment together", Fauser said.

Call Takes Hundreds of Relays

The muscles of the apparatus are provided by the relays. Although their strength could be measured by some fraction of "flea power", the amazing little devices are the workhorses of the dial system.

Each relay is able to perform one pre-determined bit of work when given the proper electrical impulse. Hundreds of relays, working in unison, complete a telephone call.

Tips of the relays, where electrical contact is made, are of palladium—an alloy of platinum. Several pounds of this precious metal are required for the Birmingham dial equipment in order to assure years of uninterrupted noise-free service.

Fauser points out that the "line finder and number-selector" machines—heart of the new dial system—will be able to make any one of a possible 49,995,000 different inter-connections without error and almost with the speed of light.

To Include AMA Unit

In addition to new dial facilities, the local exchange will be equipped with the recently developed "automatic message accounting" equipment. Known as AMA, this revolutionary recording device will provide a record of each call placed to Detroit and other nearby dial exchanges from local telephones.

Birmingham's telephone system will be the third office in Michigan to be equipped with the device, and one of the few installations in the entire country.

Royal Oak was equipped with AMA when the exchange was converted to dial last November. Centerline will be the second office in the state to have this equipment when the office goes to dial operation next spring.

The new device will permit customers here to dial Detroit and other suburban offices directly, without going through an operator.

"When our present plans for Birmingham are complete, our local subscribers will have one of the finest telephone systems in the country", Fauser asserted.

More Buildings, Less Money Shown in Year's Figures

The 34 building permits issued in December by E. S. Clark, acting building inspector, included 29 for new single family dwellings; two new gas stations; one new private garage; one single family residence alterations and alterations on one office at a used car lot.

The valuation of the new buildings was set at $360,323 and $1,100 on alterations.

An unofficial recapitulation of the figures for the past year show a trend toward lower construction costs. The total of 595 permits issued in 1949 were 29 more than those of the preceeding year. However, 1949's valuation was $395,419 less than the 1948 figures.

Of the above amount, for 1949, some $5,111,713 was set as the valuation of new buildings, with $409,062 being spent for alterations on buildings.

The trend for lower building costs showed most sharply in August, as compared to January, 1949. At the opening of the new year, 63 permits represented a construction outlay of $834,020. In August, when 71 permits, an increase of eight, were issued, the total outlay was set at $536,382.

Improperly Parked, 9 Cars Impounded by Police Dept.

Several motorists have learned the hard way during the past few days that "no parking" means "no parking" in Birmingham.

In less than one hour last Thursday evening, four cars were towed into the police garage for having been illegally parked. Two were parked on the sidewalk in front of Sternals; one on the walk at the Hazel-Forest intersection and the fourth was in a cab stand.

On Saturday evening two more ended up in the police garage. One driver left his car in a area where parking is prohibited at all times, while another was blocking the intersection at Ann and Brown.

Sunday saw three picked up. Two for blocking the drive to a parking lot, and the third for being left in a restricted zone on Forest.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley says the department will continue this practice of impounding improperly parked cars whenever they are noticed or brought to the attention of the department.

He warns that it is an extremely dangerous practice, especially when blocking intersections, or when cars are left parked in the so-called "fire lanes" on some of the narrower streets.

Community Council Institute Jan. 31 at Community House

The city's annual Community Council Institute will be held Tuesday evening, Jan. 31, at the Community House, it was revealed this week.

A 6 o'clock dinner, for which reservations are necessary, will precede the panel discussion scheduled for 8 p.m. The public will be admitted at no charge to hear this panel.

Panel members and program details are now being arranged by committee members.

The discussion topic will center around service to children and young people, with special emphasis on mental health.

Court Action Against Southfield Township Slated for Jan. 17

SOUTHFIELD TWP.—Tuesday, Jan. 17, is the date of the hearing on the action of Southfield Kennel owners against the township. The statement was released last week by Mrs. Fannie Adams, town clerk.

Grant Mann, Edwin Combs and Barbara Fleury have filed suit against the township, contesting its right in passing ordinance 121 regulating the keeping of dogs in the township.

Supervisor Dudley Frame, acting for the township, has engaged the services of Julius J. Burns, Detroit attorney, to represent the defendants.

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

City Sewers Not Gas Dumps, Man Finds

Edgar Drum of the Aries Auto Parts, Inc., paid a $5 fine and $5 court costs in justice court Monday morning, after pleading guilty of allowing gasoline to be dumped or drained into the city's sewer system.

The arrest come when the local fire department was called last week to investigate gas odors around Barnum junior high school.

Walnut Lake School Receives Safety Cup

Statewide recognition came to Walnut Lake school Monday when it received Automobile Club of Michigan's Traveling Safety Cup award. Started many years ago to recognize educators' excellence in teaching and safety patrols' cooperation in traffic safety, the award will go to 80 Michigan elementary schools this month.

Walnut Lake school's cup was presented by Auto Club's safety patrol supervisor Floyd A. Webb.

Local United Foundation Being Formed

By-Laws, Officers to Be Determined at Jan. 24 Meeting

A permanent United Foundation for Birmingham now seems to be assured, according to Henry J. Whiting. Application to incorporate a local United Foundation is now being made by the original campaign committee headed by Whiting. Details are expected to take about 10 days.

"The fact that this area collected 131 per cent of the resent Torch Drive quota accepted by the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills Division, emphasized the need for such an organization," Whiting said.

"A local United Foundation operated by local people would enable the contributors to have a greater voice in the distribution of funds and afford some means of screening and evaluating community needs," he explained.

Next Meeting Jan. 24

The original committee have invited several persons who actively participated in the fund raising activities of the Torch Drive to meet with them Tuesday evening, Jan. 24, at the Community House, to elect officers and vote on the by-laws. The by-laws are expected to follow closely the pattern of the Detroit United Foundation.

The signatures of the incorporators are: Henry J. Whiting, Paul N. Averill, Donald S. Bell, Ralph A. Wilson, Mrs. E. J. Andersen, Roland W. Reese, Mrs. Rogers Marquis, Harry D. Hoey, Mrs. T. Hollister Mabley, and Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn.

Estes, Higgins to Push Study of Gas Safety

A concurrent resolution calling for a legislative study committee to investigate safety regulations governing gas transmission in Michigan, will be introduced at the special legislative session March 15 by Howard R. Estes, state representative from the third district which includes Birmingham.

Estes, who said he was in hearty accord with such an investigation, declared Monday afternoon:

"I will introduce at this special session a concurrent resolution calling for a study of existing legislation, the authority now held by state boards under existing legislation, and I will cooperate with these boards and local authorities in trying to obtain the conclusions that might include, if necessary, further legislation that will strengthen state agencies and insure the greatest possible safety in regard to gas transmission in this state."

Higgins Will Cooperate

Last week Governor Williams informed The Birmingham Eccentric that he would recommend such a study committee to the legislature in his special message.

Estes said he has been in constant touch with City Manager Donald C. Egbert, Fire Chief Vern W. Griffith and the city commission regarding the gas problem here since the Dec. 11 gas explosion and fire at the Mother and Son Antique Shop on N. Woodward.

George N. Higgins of Royal Oak, state senator from the 12th district, said he would work with Estes in getting this resolution acted upon by the legislature.

"As vice-chairman of the Senate Committee on Business, where Estes' resolution will come, I will see to it that it comes before the Senate for passage at this special session. I believe such action is necessary, and such a study could possibly show the need for the legislature to improve gas safety regulations."

DEEP DIVING NATIVES FIND PEARLS IN THE SOUTH SEAS

. . . but when they're lost in Birmingham — the Eccentric can find them.

LOST

Lost—pearl necklace last Monday or Tuesday. Reward. Phone 3820.

This lady found her valuable pearl necklace with just one ad in the Eccentric Classified.

IF YOU lose something, want to sell, buy or trade anything—turn to the Eccentric—it gets results.

PHONE 11