

## Pressure Groups Control Legislation, Charges Publisher of The Eccentric

Lobbyists, pressure groups and other small organized minorities are getting what they want from state and national legislators at the expense of the vast, unorganized majority of people, George I. Averill, editor and publisher of The Birmingham Eccentric, told Birmingham Rotarians at their Monday noon luncheon.

"Legislators are constantly besieged by these pressure groups and lobbyists, and it is no wonder that they finally get what they want," Averill stated.

Drawing upon his 40 years of contacts with state and national legislators and his two years as executive secretary to former governor Kim Sigler, Averill charged that most people have become apathetic towards government—local, state, and nation.

**Will Keep Whittling Away**  
"Serious inroads are being made in our democratic freedom. These sinister influences will continue to whittle away at it, and will eventually destroy it if you and I don't take action to stop it," Averill declared.

"You protect your home against the elements by painting it and keeping it in good repair. Yet you don't protect your 'house of government' from the eroding elements of graft, corruption, and all the many other things which are constantly attacking it."

"Why do congressmen have to come home to their districts to try to learn how their constituents feel on particular matters? Why don't you and I write them periodically and let them know how we feel on the subjects under discussion in our legislative halls? The great majority of them want to honestly represent us, but they have such a hard time doing it."

Why don't we make it easier, and at the same time protect and preserve our democratic 'house of government'?" Averill concluded.

## Scholars

(Continued from Page One)  
Henry Wichman and Beverly Adele Yates.

**Senior Dinner**  
The graduates were guests of honor at the senior dinner at Kingsley Inn last night, at which Jack Adams presided.

Brief talks were given by Principal Ross A. Wagner of Baldwin high school and Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of the schools.

Mrs. Woolson and Jim Hogan read the class prophecy, with Bill Downey and Bill Buell presiding over the reading of the class will. These sinister influences will continue to whittle away at it, and will eventually destroy it if you and I don't take action to stop it," Averill declared.

The concluding activities of graduation week will be the baccalaureate services in the First Presbyterian church Sunday evening, and commencement Thursday.

The Rev. Dr. W. Glen Harris will speak on "Youth's Stake in Tomorrow's World," as he delivers the baccalaureate sermon. Special musical numbers will complete the service.

Dr. John Scott Everton, president of Kalamazoo college, well known as an educator, minister and administrator, will be the commencement speaker. He has chosen to speak on "The Darkened Intelligence."

Dr. Ireland said that due to the

## Bloomfield Hills Firemen Are Proud of This Custom-Built Truck



DOMINICK VETTRAINO, WALTER CARR and FIRE CHIEF BERT BARTHOLOMEW ADMIRE THEIR HANDIWORK  
Four-wheel-drive truck ready for use in snow or mud (Photo by Joe Wheeler)

## German

(Continued from Page One)

old job that, and they let me go. I found a temporary job at the bank, but since January of last year, when the bank had no more need of me, I've been out of work."

"How can you and your wife live on the allowance?" I asked.

"If it weren't for my wife's relatives in America, I guess we would have starved. They live in a place called Newark in New Jersey, and nearly every month they send us a package."

I inquired what plans he had for the future.

"I have none," Ebner answered. "They won't take me back in the water department, and I'm too old for everyone else. Fortunately, my son-in-law is working now. We live all together in a three-room apartment. It's much better than that cellar. I can tell you."

"Maybe with him working, we'll be able to get along. It's funny," he said, as we said goodbye. "All my troubles have come from joining parties. I'll never join another one. But now, of course, it's too late, anyway."

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## Hills Firemen Build Their Truck to Fulfill Own Particular Needs

By Alice E. Morgan

It's very simple. If your fire-fighting equipment does not fulfill your needs, build it yourself.

That is the practice of many fire departments in this section, and the men in Bloomfield Hills are no exception. In the past they have had unpleasant experiences with an ordinary two-wheel-drive truck and soft roads. They did not like them at all, and set about correcting the situation.

Some months ago the cab and chassis of a new truck was purchased. It was the same type truck that saw service during the war as a weapons carrier. Department members began putting their spare time on it, and no ordinary truck emerged.

Working at Cranbrook, the men rebuilt the drive system so that today they have a powerful four-wheel drive vehicle. Huge, heavy-lugged tires add to the drive of each wheel and the power of the motor in pulling the truck through snow or mud.

The body has been constructed to fit the department's needs. A hose pump is mounted at the front with wide, heavy metal plates which give adequate space for two men to stand.

**Add to Pressure**  
Taking water directly from the hydrant, the pumps add pressure pounds as it passes through the hose lines, boosting the nozzle pressure several times above normal.

An auxiliary tank built into the body of the truck carries an additional supply of 200 gallons. Light-weight, all metal ladders are carried on one side of the body, with two sections of large hose on the other.

The rear of the truck will have metal handrails for the men riding there. The entire body of the truck will be covered with heavy tarpaulin which will protect the auxiliary tank and smaller equipment such as masks, lights and axes from the weather.

Side lights are still to be mounted, according to Fire Chief Bert Bartholomew, and a few other finishing touches before the men consider the truck complete. However, it is ready to answer calls in its present condition.

The final touch was given when the truck was driven into Detroit for its coat of fire department red. Today the huge red and silver truck stands as a tribute to every man on the department for his interest in his job, his community and his pride in his department.

**All Worked On It**  
Dominick Vetraino, policeman at the Cranbrook Foundation, according to Chief Bartholomew, is responsible for a great deal of the work done. He assisted with the design and contributed many of the design ideas which lift it out of the "ordinary" class.

"Just about every man on the department has had something to do with it," Bartholomew said, "with the fellows from the police department joining their share too. They're all pretty proud of this truck."

He used up a lot of hours, I haven't any idea how many. They feel now that they have a truck as good as any department of equal size in the country.

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## Joint Meeting

J. W. Ryland, president of the Washington Village Civic Association and other members of that group attended. A discussion of the Southfield Community Council, civic affairs highlighted the evening, was held Monday evening, June 10.

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## 'Friends of Public Library' Organize, Elect Officers

"Friends of the Baldwin Public Library", whose chief purpose is to promote the values and services of the printed word to residents of this area, was enthusiastically formed here Tuesday night. Potential charter members, comprising an audience of 145 men and women, attended the organization meeting, adopted articles to create a non-profit group, adopted by-laws, and elected officers and directors for the first year.

Entirely voluntary in form, the group hopes to expand its membership to include many others in Birmingham and adjacent areas. Nominal fees will entitle members to a variety of activities of a cultural nature, to the end that a maximum number of children as well as adults may enrich their lives.

Officers for the ensuing year are George R. Averill, president; Lee A. White, first vice-president; Henry Whiting, second vice-president; Mrs. Hazel White, secretary; Mrs. George Green, assistant secretary; and Graham J. Graham, treasurer.

**Directors Group**  
Directors are Paul Carter, Mrs. Louis Dibble, James Beresford, Rev. George W. Pearson, John W. Watling, Mrs. Caroline McLean, and Miss Jeanne Lloyd, Baldwin Public Library librarian.

Ralph Ulveling, distinguished member of the Detroit Public Library system, was the featured speaker at the meeting, which was held in the auditorium of the Baldwin Public Library. He pointed out the values that can accrue to a library when citizens band together to promote the growth, use and enjoyment of books, periodicals, exhibits and similar subjects, lend their support to such a project.

**A Force for Good**  
"From my own personal knowledge of the work of a 'Friends of the Library' group in Detroit and other American communities, I can attest to the value of such an organization in Birmingham," stated Ulveling. "There are unlimited opportunities for 'Friends' to improve their public libraries; to encourage extension of the use of books to people of all ages; to hold exhibits in the auditorium; to encourage gifts of books to the library; and to bring together folks who love books and literature."

An explanation of the articles of the non-profit corporation and its by-laws was given by John W. Watling, who originally proposed the idea of a "Friends" group for Birmingham. Henry Whiting explained the several classes of membership.

**Board Meeting Next Tuesday**  
The meeting of the Baldwin Public Library committee on nominations, John A. Martz offered his committee's report, which was approved unanimously.

Officers and directors will meet next Tuesday night at the Library to discuss the organization's program for the coming year.

"The personnel of the Baldwin Public Library will be announced later," said Averill, who also acted as chairman of the organization meeting Tuesday night.

**Have You Met ...**  
Former Detroiters, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Schultz of 1350 Suffolk and sons, Billy and Jimmy? Mr. Schultz is supervisor of the Plymouth Motor Company.

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