

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

People who love to see things grow in their gardens welcome spring as long as they live. It is a wonderful life scene, this watching grass, shrubs, flowers and trees respond to Nature's awakening each spring.

I have watched my neighbors as they wander about their premises, (and I do it myself), now and then standing before something that has changed from its winter drabness into the unfolding of its colorful summer garments.

You plant some seeds—be they grass, flowers or vegetables—and in a little while, with the help of water and sunshine and time, they come up for a look at your world, which is their world, too.

You look upon them as fondly as a mother cuddles her baby. Here is something growing that is the fruit of your labor, the result of your care.

You don't know exactly how all this wonderful chemistry of life happens . . . but you are standing in the presence of Life, with its great Mystery, and that's a great inheritance . . . at so little in cost!

Yes, seeing things grow from the earth is a wonderful restfulness, a tremendously important mental and spiritual therapy for all who love their yards and gardens!

Arturo Toscanini, the greatest living orchestra director (perhaps the greatest who ever lived) brought his NBC Symphony to Detroit two weeks ago, and musically-emotionally thrilled 5,000 who packed themselves into Masonic Auditorium.

The 83-year-old genius gave the kind of performance that only a man of his talent, with real musicians at his command, could give.

To Detroit, whose genius is dedicated to the production of industrial wealth, accompanied by the harsh clang and clamor of machinery, the NBC offering of harmony was a good therapy.

If "musical bath" can soothe the savage breast, then this materialistic civilization ought to get huge doses of it.

Toscanini's worth as a human being is greater than whole legislatures and most of our members of Congress—not to overlook others in even higher political places in this and other lands.

It is chiefly selfishness and indifference to the immediate settlement of problems that much of the woes of this world is due. Nations, like individuals, are not endowed with superhuman or supernatural powers.

The problem that beset an individual, in most cases, are the problems that beset a State or a nation. When not met, they pile up—the individual finally contends with some type of disaster, and so does a State or a nation.

People are not as civilized as they often believe they are. They will live with the menace of annually flooding rivers, alongside a rumbling volcano . . . take chances with slums and squallors . . . spend more than they earn . . . fail to conquer bad habits, etc.

Such is the whole history of mankind thus far. How many more centuries he will need to be able to live in greater peace and security one cannot foretell.

Ten thousand Bostonians recently gathered on the Boston Common and pushed five tons of baked beans down their collective throats. They were observing Boston's Mid-Century Jubilee, staged by the Chamber of Commerce.

Well, as an old bean-eater, I can't see anything wrong in that. We need more and more of such occasions in this land of ours.

Next we expect to read where some town where frankfurts are made puts on a big public picnic.

Perhaps the best contemporary affair of this kind would be the determination of the Russian people to barbecue all occupants of the Kremlin . . . that's one repeat that would remove a terrible burden from the remainder of this earth's population.

New Squad Car

Purchase of a new police car from the North Chevrolet Co. has been approved by the city commission. The cost is \$245 plus one 1949 used squad car.

You HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD

When You Advertise In The Eccentric

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Highlights at Ground-Breaking Ceremony



REV. ARNOLD RUNKEL, SUPT. D. B. IRELAND, WYLIE GROVES
New high school officially gets under way



Groves, Rev. Runkel, Ireland, G. R. Averill, R. W. Reese, W. Spence, R. Campbell
The 'front line' just before the ceremony started



BALDWIN STUDENTS COMPLETING A 2-MILE MARCH TO ATTEND THE HISTORIC FUNCTION
Afternoon classes dismissed for this special occasion

800 Witness Ceremony at School Site

Ground Is Broken for \$2,109,765 High School

In a simple but impressive ceremony witnessed by about 800 persons last Thursday afternoon, Wylie Groves, treasurer and veteran member of the Birmingham board of education, officially broke ground for the construction of the school district's new high school.

It is believed that the \$2,109,765 project is the largest single school contract ever awarded in Michigan by a school district of comparable size.

Afternoon classes at Baldwin were dismissed for the occasion.

Led by the Baldwin band, the 650 students marched the two miles to the Lincoln-Cranbrook road site where they joined school and city officials, faculty members and other interested citizens.

AFTER THE BAND had played the National Anthem, June graduation class president Bob Ervin picked up the shovel and handed it to 12B class President Paul Phillips.

Ronald Phillips, junior class president, then took the shovel and gave it to Woodrow Dare, president of the sophomore class.

Dare handed it to Groves who, with School Superintendent Dwight B. Ireland and Rev. Arnold Runkel, stepped out in front of the crowd some 30 feet where Groves turned the earth.

Rev. Runkel then offered a prayer.

The program concluded with the singing of the Baldwin school song.

New Rouge Bridge Approaches Okayed

Engineering plans for new approaches to the wider W. Maple bridge over the Rouge have been accepted by city commission approval.

Approaches will require a 5-foot widening of Maple for a short distance west of the new bridge, an easing of the Maple curve at Southfield, wider entrances at Hawthorne, Aspen and Linden streets, and a cut-over through Baldwin Park to Merrill street.

The old bridge and street will be taken out, reports City Manager Donald C. Egbert.

A Happy Holiday

Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills police departments report an almost accident-free holiday week.

With the exception of scraped fenders no mishaps marred the four-day period in either community.

Commission Approves New Traffic Signal at W. Maple, Bates

It will take six to eight weeks to street and place in operation a new traffic signal at W. Maple and Bates, Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said Monday evening after the city commission instructed him to proceed with plans for the signal's installation.

Increasing vehicular and pedestrian traffic at this intersection warranted the signal, Moxley declared.

City's Job to Find Parking Solution Board Members Say

The board of directors of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce feel it is not up to their organization to suggest a solution to the city's off-street parking problem.

Accordingly, they plan to attend in a group next Monday's city commission meeting, to discuss this fact upon commissioners.

Chief of directors have received a letter from City Manager David C. Egbert, on behalf of the commission, asking the chamber to outline the action the city should take toward solving the problem.

Board members say they will cooperate with any equitable plan, but they maintain it is not up to them to find the answers.

MRS. G. R. A. H. M. SHINNICK, president of the Birmingham League of Women Voters, in a letter this week to Mayor Bruce G. Booth, said the League's board believed the best decision on the off-street parking matter can be made by the city commission.

Participating in city administrative officials, we have confidence in your good judgment to decide on the best plan, she wrote.

Her letter also said the board League recognized the need for parking and urged city action on it.

On the motion of Commissioner Chad M. Ritchie, the commission asked the city commission to report on the present status of the proposed off-street parking program and when the city commission could expect to receive for consideration the revised parking recommendation.

17 Staff Members Are Selected for Summer Program

A staff of 17 instructors and supervisors will conduct the city's 1950 summer recreation program, Frank Whitney, recreation director, said this week.

Participating in the activities again this year will be Arnold Berndt, Sally Buck, Frank Weaver, Mrs. A. W. Berndt, Harold Gasser, and Charles Murray.

Berndt, director of instrumental music in Birmingham schools, will supervise all musical activities.

Miss Buck, a student at Bowling Green University, will direct the girls' swimming.

A MEMBER OF Baldwin high's championship swimming team, Weaver will take charge of the boys' locker room and diving board activities.

Mrs. Berndt, who will be the accompanist for the children's dramatics.

Gasser, a member of the Sideline Quarterbacks club, will direct the annual Junior Track Olympics.

Murray, U. of M. basketball star and next year's team captain, will run the evening gym programs.

Nine newcomers joined the program this year, Whitney said.

Leland, of the Erasmus school for Detroit area Catholic schools, will coach boys' swimming.

Hugh Lovell, of the Erasmus school coaching staff, will handle boys' sports.

Francis Niedenfuhr, University of Budapest graduate, will direct city and special activities, while Mrs. Jane Radtke, a student teacher, will supervise the Pierce playground and children's dramatics.

OTHER SUPERVISORS and their activities will be: Mrs. Barbara Witz, teacher at Baldwin-Adams playground and Barnum craft shop; Harold Newcomb, Baldwin tennis coach—individual and group tennis instruction; Miss Avis Murray, Baldwin high senior swimmer—girls' locker room; Miss Jane Woodhouse, Baldwin artist—elementary arts; Miss Nancy Chapel, U. of M. student—Quarion playground and children's dramatics assistant; Mrs. Francis Niedenfuhr, recreation secretary at Hill school.

Two Women Killed In Auto Collision At Twelve Mile, Lahser

A two-car collision took the lives of two women at Twelve Mile and Lahser roads last Wednesday.

Mrs. Vera M. Hamly, 58, Berkeley was driving on eastbound to Mt. Carmel hospital and Mrs. Catherine Ferguson, 52 of Detroit, died last night.

The other driver, Eugene Fortum, was detained on suspicion to Mt. Carmel hospital and Mrs. Fortum, both of Dearborn, received head cuts.

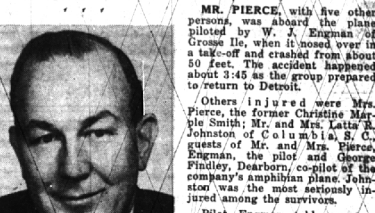
Grant Improvement Hearing June 12

A preliminary hearing on the improvement of Grant street, between 14th and 20th streets, has been set for June 12 by the city commission.

Frank R. Pierce Services Attended by 200 Notables

Funeral services for Frank R. Pierce, 49, of 421 Arlington, were held from St. James Episcopal church Tuesday afternoon with more than two hundred leaders from the automobile and related industries present.

Mr. Pierce, president of the Dearborn Motors corporation, died at 5 p.m. last Thursday in the Charlotte (N. C.) Memorial hospital of head injuries received when his company plane crashed during a take-off at the Charlotte airport.



FRANK R. PIERCE

MR. PIERCE, with five other persons, was aboard the plane piloted by Eugene Engman of Grosse Ile, when it nosed over in a take-off and crashed from about 60 feet. The accident happened about 3:45 as the group prepared to return to Detroit.

Others injured were Mrs. Pierce, the former Christine Marble Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Latta Johnston of Columbia, S. C.; Mrs. A. W. Berndt; Mr. Pierce, co-owner of Mr. and George Engman, the pilot and George Findley, Dearborn, co-pilot of the company's amphibian plane. Johnston was the most seriously injured among the survivors.

Pilot Engman told reporters that the air was turbulent due to an approaching thunderstorm. He said that once the ship was airborne he knew the crash but that he was unable to avoid it.

"I TRIED to avoid a parked DC-3 and a hangar, but crashed into an embankment," he said. "I had no time to trouble."

The ship caught fire as it plowed into the ground but flames were extinguished by airport firemen before they caused serious injury to any of the occupants.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierce had flown to Nashville, N. C., for the premier of a company-made motion picture. The party had gone to Charlotte to visit Mrs. Pierce's relatives.

Mr. Pierce was born in March, 1901, in Detroit. He began his career in salesmanship as an 11-year-old boy in Greenfield, Mich., where his parents had moved eight years before.

His entire life had been involved in selling, climbing steadily from a boy in a hardware store to a Detroit-born farm equipment.

He was also president of Wood Brothers, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa, a subsidiary of Dearborn Motors, and president of the Dearborn Motors Corporation.

He served during World War I and was commissioned as second lieutenant in the field at the age of 17. He followed this by joining J. J. Peacock, Inc., distributors for "rigidair" in Philadelphia.

During the 11 years which followed he was sales manager, sales supervisor, sales manager, educational director and general sales manager for the firm.

In 1923 he joined the Prieditz Division of General Motors as an executive vice president. He was later named president of the Prieditz Division in 1929.

He was named vice-president of both Dearborn and automobile sales for the company in 1941 and was credited with tripling their sales.

MR. PIERCE returned to General Motors in 1943 as manager of the public relations department in Detroit.

Two years later he was made vice-president in charge of employee cooperation and a member of the company's general staff. He resigned this position in 1946 when he became associated with Dearborn Motors.

Leaders in the automotive and (See PIERCE, Page 2)

SOHA Seeks Law Enabling It to Disband

Enabling legislation to permit it to disband if it so desires is to be sought by the South Oakland Hospital Authority.

It will also canvass donors with the purpose of raising their contributions.

This action was decided last Tuesday evening at a meeting of the SOHA board of trustees. The vote was 10 to 3.

The group emphasized that this motion did not mean the authority was going to disband, but merely to give it power to do so if this course later was considered advisable.

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