for something grown when not indulged in. Too much material wealth removes much of the zest for basic living. A goal only remains a goal when it still lies ahead of one. A simple life is a good way to live.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

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THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Competition in Politics

An old saying goes that "competition is the life of trade and also the death of traders."

In the realm of politics, the element of competition is good for the general public. That is why the two-party system in the United States is approved by all who would keep America as free as possible.

Only people with totalitarian minds want all authority centralized under a single party or group.

All of which touches on what is going on in State government these days in Michigan.

Here you have a Legislature, two-thirds of which is Republican. Then you have a Governor who claims to be a Democrat, plus Democrats in the State Attorney-General's and Lieut.-Governor's offices. The remainder of State-elected offices, five in number, presently are held by Republicans.

Veto Is Powerful

Although politically in the minority insofar as Legislative representation goes (the same holds true for the political color of the Administrative Board), the Governor's veto power over legislation itself makes him quite dominant, since over-riding a veto requires a two-thirds majority.

This division, politically speaking, requires both sides to be on the alert. It brings in the element of competition in thinking and acting.

Results are both good and evil, depending upon the amount of sheer "politics" that governs each side.

Faced with financial deficits, the Governor wants a corporation tax. He would use most of it to finance increased, some of them new, expenses of government. While much of his argument for increased spending, especially for mental institutions, is sound, much of it obviously is slanted to catch votes.

Will Reduce Expenses

Republicans are opposed to new taxes of any kind. They are going to try, by arbitrary slashing of department budgets, to reduce present costs of government, thus bringing expected revenues closer to actual needs.

Unless they are able to reduce over-all State costs, Legislators within a year from now will of necessity have to impose additional taxes—even Republicans understand this.

In the meantime, this being an election year, all the State politicians are aware that what they do or do not do will be reflected in the number of votes they get in November.

Thus we witness real competition between Republicans and Democrats in Michigan. To paraphrase the first sentence of this column, "competition is the life of politics and also the death of some politicians."

Williams' Record

In a recent survey of Michigan newspaper editors regarding their estimate of the status of Governor G. Mennen Williams, 49.4 per cent of them believe that Williams is doing a reasonably acceptable job. A year ago 60.4 per cent of these same editors, perhaps adopting a "wait-and-see" policy, were in his corner.

More than three-fourths of the newspapermen are opposed to his plan for a new corporation tax; 84 per cent favor the application by Congress of the Hoover Commission's plans for reorganization of the federal government.

Exact percentages of Michigan editors relative to Gov. Williams were: very good, 5.9%; good, 20.5%; 50-50, 43.2%; poor, 24.4%; very poor, 5.1%; and no opinion, .9%.

Beginning Teachers Get $100 Increase

A $100 boost in starting salaries for Birmingham teachers was approved by the Birmingham board of education at the regular board meeting Tuesday night.

Effective next fall, starting teachers will receive $2,700 a year, instead of the former $2,600.

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$13,500 Rec'd as Roll Call Drive Starts

Report Meetings Scheduled for March 24 and 31

It may not seem exactly like spring all over Birmingham, but the thermometer at Maple and Woodward, recording the progress of the Community House Roll Call drive, is steadily rising. It indicates that $13,500 has been received toward the $32,000 goal.

The drive, which opened Friday, was preceded by a kick-off meeting Thursday night at the Community House. Solicitors for the Roll Call picked up their individual envelopes of drive material which had been prepared by volunteer workers at the House.

Walter C. Laidlaw, vice-president and general manager of the United Foundation for Michigan, was the guest speaker.

Laidlaw based his speech around salesmanship, with the Community House as the product and the solicitors as the salesmen.

Citizenship at High Level

"What is this product you are about to sell?" Laidlaw asked. "Its name is Birmingham Community House. It is a service developed over a period of 27 years in the highest standards of civic good, efficiently operated, with a record of performance that could well stand as a model for any civic endeavor."

Laidlaw discussed the organization behind the product, why everyone should buy the product, and stressed the fact that it is comparatively priced. He listed the wide scope of the House's activities.

"This means," Laidlaw pointed out, "that citizenship in this area is functioning at an inspiringly high level. It means that human values are being recognized in a practical manner for the benefit of all.

Benefit to Tax Rate

"With proper time I could show where this Community House has a beneficial effect on your tax rate, has a distinct influence on public improvements, and has a direct and economic relationship to your standard of living."

Laidlaw listed the steps a good salesman must take in order to make a sale.

"Now we have to get going," he said in conclusion, "and not come back until every last prospect has been given his opportunity to make the best investment in his life."

The meeting opened with a short talk by Charles B. Kass, president of the Community House board.

Harold Turner, Roll Call chairman, followed Kass.

"We are very gratified by the daily arrival of many contributions by mail. To date, which is before the drive has actually begun, we have received $13,500," Turner announced, "which is a good start toward our goal of $32,000."

Given Choice of Areas

Turner introduced Mrs. Richard T. Hatch, co-chairman of this year's drive. Mrs. Hatch supervised the division of territory for the 350 volunteer solicitors.

"We have tried to give everyone his choice of areas to solicit, but in some cases it was impossible," Mrs. Hatch said. "Just do the best you can, and the Community House will appreciate your efforts."

Three short "Do" and "Don'ts" skits, showing the wrong and right ways to approach prospective contributors, were presented. Four board members, Mrs. Harris Machus, Mrs. Berrien C. Ketchum, Charles N. Blunt, and Charles B. Kass, participated.

A sound car cruised the business section of Birmingham Friday and Saturday to remind local residents that the Roll Call drive is under way.

Those who wish to mail their contributions to the House may still do so. Checks should be made payable to the Birmingham Community House Assn., Inc.

Solicitors are asked to make their reports at any of the four report meetings—10-12 noon, and 7-9 p.m., on March 24 and 31. The drive ends March 31.

Wrong-Way Driver Nearly Puts Tragic End to Birthday Party

A birthday party of seven teenage girls came to a near-tragic ending about 3 a.m. Sunday when their car was struck head-on by another car traveling south on the northbound lane of Woodward avenue, one-half mile north of Long Lake road.

The wrong-way driver, Stanley Bielowski of Dearborn, pleaded not guilty when arraigned Tuesday before Bloomfield Hills Justice Alva Richardson on a charge of driving under the influence of liquor.

Three of the birthday celebrants and a passenger with Bielowski were treated and released from Pontiac General Hospital. Miss Gertrude Stoltenburg of Berkley, whose birthday it was, remains in the hospital with facial cuts and bruises.

Bielowski's hearing has been set for April 6.

Lenten Speaker

BISHOP J. S. STAMM

Bishop John S. Stamm, president of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, will visit Birmingham next Sunday to address the first annual United Lenten Sunday evening service.

The meeting is sponsored by the Birmingham Council of Churches, and will be held at the First Baptist Church, corner Bates and Willits.

Ministers of the local churches will participate in the program, and all members are invited to attend. Special music will be provided by the host church.

This is the first United Lenten Sunday evening service attempted by the local Protestant churches. It is hoped that public response will be as great as to the already traditional Protestant Reformation services which have attracted great audiences in recent years.

The service is open to the public and everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Russia Seeks End to U.S. Freedom, Says Blair Moody

Speaking on the subject: "Our Foreign Policy and the Federal Budget", Blair Moody, ace Washington correspondent of The Detroit News, Monday took 150 members of the Birmingham League of Women Voters for a first-hand reportorial glimpse of problems and solutions relevant to his topic.

Moody, for the past 17 years reportorial observer of the foreign and domestic scenes, praised the part women have played and can play in making self-government a more workable human experiment.

He pointed out that women, as represented by the League, could manifest their interest and political strength by approaching problems on a nonpartisan, non-selfish group basis; by educating and informing others on current questions, and by making timely contact with their elected representatives in Congress.

Pressure Groups Harmful

"The only best way to solve domestic and international problems is to tackle them without bias or political partisanship," declared Moody at the Community House Monday afternoon.

"Capitol Hill, where our federal lawmakers sit in Washington, is the scene for the operation of many pressure groups, people who want mostly those protections and privileges that benefit them—without consideration of the interests of the whole people. That is why I say groups like you women, representing the non-predatory public interest, can do much to improve government."

U. S. Under War Cloud

Running through Moody's entire talk was this theme: For the first time in American history this nation now is under the threat of enemy invasion by a government (Russia) whose entire system of social, economic and political economy is alien to ours; the United States is in the same threatened condition that many European and Asiatic countries have been for centuries.

The American concept of human freedom is at stake. Is our nation, are enough of our people, willing to make the necessary personal sacrifices today, and in the immediate years to come, to prevent the further dangerous spread of Communism—to make sacrifices short of actual war itself?

To achieve this spirit of defensive sacrifice, pointed out Moody, will require both an alert and an informed citizenry, plus a greater non-partisan approach by public officials to realistic solutions of the problem.

Our Federal Budget

Referring to the tremendous current federal budget, the speaker revealed that 72 per cent of it is for maintenance of military strength, both at home and among friendly western European nations. This includes aid through the Marshall Plan and the Economic Recovery Administration.

(See MOODY, Page 7)

$1,000,400,000,000 Is Estimated Cost of World War III

"When years hence, the total and final cost to Americans of World War III are added up, a high government authority has informed me that it will amount to a trillion (that's a thousand billion) four hundred million dollars", Blair Moody, Detroit News Washington correspondent, told League of Women Voters here last Monday.

Assessment Investigation Almost Over

Businessmen Pleased With Review Board's Cooperation

An investigation of current greatly increased assessments on Birmingham business land values will be completed this week, said Edwin Gage, who represents an executive committee of local businessmen. A first meeting with the Board of Review members, Chad M. Ritchie and Fred C. Pew, and assessor Elmer W. Haack, is scheduled for tomorrow, Gage added.

It is expected that a second and final meeting between interested parties will be held early next week, at which the business group will make known the full results of the investigation.

"During the past week we have made a study and analysis of the whole assessing picture of the city," Gage said yesterday. "We agree that Haack has effected a reasonable uniformity in values in the business area, even though some of them were boosted several times over the last assessment roll figures.

Splendid Cooperation Shown

"Publicly, we want to thank Messrs. Ritchie, Pew and Haack for their co-operation in providing us with data necessary to the investigation. They have shown a splendid desire to answer every question we have put to them."

There is some belief among the business group that, while Haack has made a reasonably satisfactory assessment, he has made the highest base rate of valuation per foot more than current investment returns can bear. That phase of the situation will be discussed further.

Another finding suggests that if the assessor seeks to assess both residential and business property at 40 per cent of its value, then currently the residential property is favored by a smaller valuation.

West Maple Lots Rezoned to Permit Jacobson's Store

Two hundred forty feet of W. Maple frontage was rezoned Monday night by the city from business A to business B classification to permit construction of the new $250,000 Jacobson's women's and children's wear store at the northwest corner of Bates and Maple.

Admittedly a move to permit only this construction, city commissioners read into the record that the area may be returned to business A again to keep other than retail business from building in this block.

Business A zoning would have required Jacobson's to have a 17-foot setback from the street. Business B areas contain no setback stipulation.

Commissioners felt that it would be inadvisable for the new store to be so far back from the street, while business property to the east had built up to the sidewalk.

Commissioners admitted it would be better to handle the problem by removing the setback requirement from the zoning ordinance, rather han by rezoning.

However, the city plan commission has asked that the zoning ordinance remain as is until it can be restudied in its entirety and suggested changes made later this year.

Exchange Club Guest

Dorr Gunnell, Exchange club state president, was the guest of the Birmingham club at its regular luncheon Tuesday noon. Gunnell spoke of the coming state convention cruise to be held in June, and of the 39th anniversary plans of the Detroit Chapter, No. 1.

Chinese Seek Higher Living Standard Through Communism, Lecturer States

Russia is taking advantage of the Chinese people's desire for a higher living standard to turn them to communism as a means of obtaining this higher standard, Dr. Gerald F. Winfield, promotion secretary of the United Board for Christian Colleges in China, said in a talk before Birmingham Rotarians at their Monday noon luncheon.

"The Chinese have had a taste of better living because of American investments in China during the past 100 years. Now, instead of accepting fate and dying of starvation, these people are fighting back and trying to live," he declared.

"Russia has offered them communism as a way of obtaining this newer, better life. And after 14 years of civil war, many of the Chinese are turning to it."

Dr. Winfield, head of the biology department and public health lecturer at Cheeloo University in Tsinan before World War II, said in the next year or so the Chinese people may discover that communism will not give them a better living standard and rebel against Russia.

He suggested that America develop a four-point counterthrust against the communists.

1) Maintain our military power and counterpoise it to offset Russian military strength;

2) Vigorously promote our democratic principles and stress the importance of the individual in a democracy;

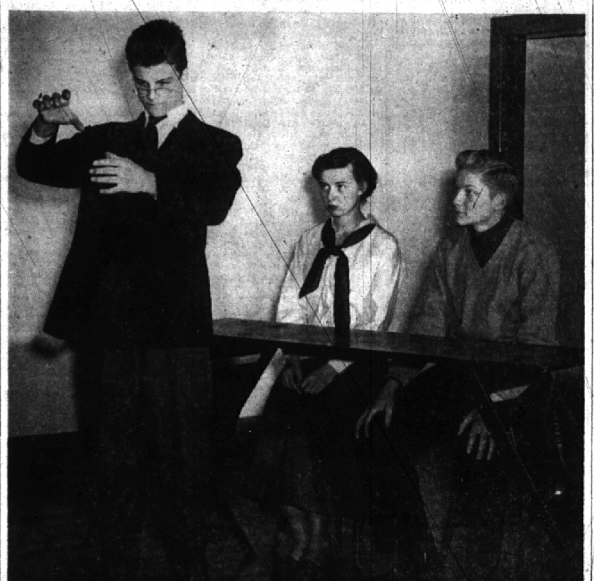
3) Organize U. S. technical knowledge and know-how on all types of economic endeavor that would increase China's productivity; and

4) Learn how to put the enormous quantities of cheap U. S. capital to work in China.

You can now buy a famous Reynolds and Shaffer water softener for $108.00. Harry Turner, phone Lincoln 2-7200. (511f)

Future Assessment Districts to Receive Concrete Streets

Baldwin Students Rehearsing "Our Town"



Ann Morrow and Dick Shallberg are very serious as they watch Ed Matus create an imaginary concoction during a rehearsal of the soda fountain scene in "Our Town". This hit of stage, screen and radio has been selected for the annual senior play of Baldwin high school and will be given in the school Thursday and Friday, March 30-31.

Amendments to Charter, Bond Issue Reviewed

In addition to electing two city commissioners, two library board members, and one city constable, voters in the April 3 city election will be asked to approve three city charter amendments and a $105,000 bond proposal for improvements to the city's DPW yard on Eton road.

Sketches of the four city commission candidates appeared in last week's Eccentric. There is no contest for the library board or constable.

These charter amendments and the bond proposal are printed in their entirety on Pages 6, 7 and 8, Part Three, in today's Eccentric.

Regarding the three charter changes, two of them merely are designed to bring the city's charter in line with recent state legislation.

Charter amendments No. 2 and 3 revise the dates when the assessment roll is to be prepared and when the city board of tax review shall meet.

The city already has, by ordinance, changed these dates to conform to state law. But to bring the charter up to date, the changes must be voted upon by the residents at this election.

Amendment No. 2 changes the date the tax roll must be ready from the first Saturday in May to the first Monday in March.

Amendment No. 3 says the

(See REVIEW, Page 2)

Coroner's Inquest Into Gas Explosion Starts This Morning

A coroner's inquest into the Dec. 11 gas explosion here which cost five lives will get under way at 9:30 this morning in the county court house, Pontiac.

County Prosecutor Clyde D. Underwood has prepared a list of 23 witnesses who may be called upon to testify at the hearing.

Concerning the Consumers Power Co. program of relaying old gas mains, City Manager Donald C. Egbert said the company has outlined to the city plans for putting in 44,398 lineal feet of new wrapped steel pipe in various parts of the city during 1950.

Egbert said that where bare steel service connections are encountered in laying the new pipe, Consumers plans to replace these services with wrapped steel pipe.

On file with the city are applications for permits to replace 35,115 feet of this old type pipe, Egbert said.

16 Mile Negotiations 'Moving Favorably'

Negotiations for acquisition of right-of-way for the opening of 16 Mile road from Adams to Woodward are proceeding favorably, Lee Brooks, Oakland county road commissioner, reported to The Birmingham Eccentric this week.

"The man working on the right-of-way is expected to give me a more detailed report this week on how far his work has progressed," Brooks added.

About half of the needed right-of-way involves the city's Springdale park. City Manager Donald C. Egbert said his studies are still incomplete regarding whether the park can afford to give more than the north half of the road right-of-way.

State Meeting

Roy Barnes of Royal Oak has announced that the annual state meeting of the Michigan society of Friends of the American Revolution will meet at the Community House on Saturday, April 11. Committees for the event are now being appointed and will be announced later.

End to Confusion

Forest Court became Twin Oaks lane Monday night.

Deciding the former name was too easily confused with Forest, another city street, city commissioners approved the change.

March 30 Meeting

The city plan commission will hold its regular monthly meeting next Thursday evening, March 30. Ordinarily, the group meets the fourth Thursday of each month.

Local Children Respond to Plea for Special Pet

By Alice E. Morgan

Little five-year-old Gertrude Coteals of Green Lake never knew how many unseen friends she had in Birmingham. She never saw the little black cat, with a few dashes of white for her, either. Little Gertrude died before she had time to find out about these things.

Birmingham came into the picture last week Tuesday. Mrs. Charles Gilson of Brown street received a call from Doyle Newman, president of the Oakland county animal welfare shelter, asking if she could help him get a kitten.

Newman, who lives at Walnut Lake, told Mrs. Gilson that this was not just "any" kitten, but a very special one. He told her, too, about Gertrude.

The little girl had just recently come home from Walter Reed hospital in Washington, suffering from a severe heart ailment. Her parents knew she had not long to live, and tried so very hard to fulfill her dearest wish—a kitten. It was to be a white kitten, a black kitten or a black and white one.

Children Respond

Mrs. Gilson sought aid from the youngsters in the schools in Birmingham. In Barnum, Adams, Pierce and Walnut Lake schools children responded at once to the little girl's plea.

Telephones were busy in many homes that evening as the boys and girls called family friends trying to find a suitable kitten. One little lad made house-to-house calls in his neighborhood, all to no avail.

Some of the youngsters offered to loan their pets to Gertrude as they found they were unable to get one for her. At Pierce school the Brownie troop went to Malcolm Ferguson, their principal, and offered to make a project of it. They proposed working for the money and buying a kitten for Gertrude from a pet shop.

Last week Wednesday morning

(See CHILDREN, Page 2)

Spring Does Strange Things to People!

The first day of spring brought some funny sights to Birmingham.

Crossing N. Woodward in his socks and carrying a pair of shoes in his hand, one man gathered quite a few looks from beneath a wide assortment of raised eyebrows.

Later in the day a store window dresser was seen running around with a man's "foot" in his hand. It was tastefully garbed in a yellow sock with a handkerchief stuffed in the top of the "leg".

Spring daze with a vengeance, perhaps.

9-Cent Cost Differential Per Sq. Yard

Comprehensive City Engineering Study Results in New Policy

A concrete slab pavement will be the future type of permanent improvement for the city's remaining 38 miles of unimproved streets, the city commission decided Monday night.

In adopting this new policy, commissioners reversed a trend since the war for improvement of residential streets with an asphaltic concrete surface, commonly referred to as "blacktop."

A study of comparative costs of concrete slab with integral (rolled) curb vs. blacktop, undertaken by the city engineering department, showed only a slightly increased cost for the concrete over the blacktop.

9-Cent Differential

Conservatively estimated by City Engineer L. R. Gare, blacktop today costs approximately $4.41 per square yard, compared to $4.50 for concrete.

Gare also pointed out that maintenance costs of good concrete streets are less over the years than they are on blacktop.

"The belief now is that the old type concrete pavements, which lasted for 20 to 25 years, are inferior to the kind now being constructed," Gare stated. "Present concrete has been improved to the point where it can be expected to last 10 to 12 years longer than the old kind."

Of a total of 84 miles of city streets, 18 miles are presently improved with curb, gutter, drainage structures, gravel base mostly stabilized with asphaltic oil, but without a permanent wearing surface.

Blacktop for 18 Miles

Many of these 18 miles are scheduled for future surfacing with blacktop under present and former assessment districts.

According to Gare, most of these 18 miles will still get the blacktop surfacing.

"In most cases, it would be impractical to tear out the gravel and put concrete between the curbs," Gare said.

It would cost about $3.50 per square to put in the concrete, compared to $1.40 it will cost for just the blacktop over the work that has presently gone into these 18 miles.

Economy Is Cited

"I firmly believe that a well constructed and designed concrete pavement, such as we plan for residential streets, will prove much more economical over a long period of time and provide better service than the stabilized gravel base road with blacktop surfacing," Gare declared.

Said City Commissioner Milton F. Mallender:

"There is no comparison between the quality of the two types of streets. Concrete is so much better."

Explains Reason for Blacktop

He explained the reason behind the city's decision some four years ago to use blacktop for street improvement.

"After the war, there was a real variance in the cost of the two, with concrete at the top of the price list," Mallender said.

"This is a major decision as far as the city of Birmingham is concerned," said City Manager Donald C. Egbert. "It involves a substantial amount of money and can involve a substantial amount in future years in maintenance cost."

Gare said he based his cost estimates on large enough paving contracts that would enable contractors to set up their own batching plants here and to use a paving mixer.

He estimates the minimum sized contract would have to be 6,000 lineal feet to permit a contractor to adopt this procedure.

City Inspector Says Garbage Cans Must Meet Specifications

Henry Johns, food and dairy inspector for the City of Birmingham, said strict enforcement of city ordinances concerning garbage receptacles will begin April 1.

Johns stated that collectors would mark all improper cans with red tickets as a warning for householders. This will include cans in which there are holes, those on which the covers are not fly-tight, extremely dirty cans and those without proper handles. Cans which are not of proper size to care for garbage disposal adequately will also be marked.

He added that further official action would be taken wherever these warning tags were ignored.

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