

It is a fact, I have observed over many years, that most people live on the surface of things. They are much of their time in a concerned way with superficialities—they seldom go beneath the surface of things. They are much of their time in a concerned way with superficialities—they seldom go beneath the surface of things.

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# The Birmingham Eccentric

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PART ONE

## Ambulance Service Cost Set at \$140,000

### City Adopts New Road Oiling Plan

**HUSTON and THAT**  
By G. R. A.

#### Senatorial Red Faces

Here's an incident that is most interesting to all Americans. Recently a U. S. Senate appropriations committee held a secret session in Washington, D. C., during which they discussed expansion programs for the nation's military forces.

Such meetings, naturally, are highly secret. In the anteroom of the Senate hearing room had been gathered numerous air officers and their civilian assistants.

At the proper time, this group was ushered into the closed room, where testimony on this & that was given to the Senators. Lots of it was presumed to be "top secret."

**JUST BEFORE** the hearing closed, one of the Senators observing a quiet, elderly civilian among those present, asked: "Who are you, sir?"

It was then that the unknown gentleman revealed his identity. He is a retired, well-known work at the Capitol that day, asked a guide for directions to the room where the military appropriations hearing was to be held.

Because he was carrying a brief case (the symbol of Washington bureaucracy that gets one most anywhere) the New Yorker had no trouble joining the waiting group of air officers and civilian assistants.

Of course, the Senators were embarrassed. They turned the elderly gentleman over to the FBI and later cleared him.

**FUNNY, THOUGH,** wasn't it? It could have been—had the elderly gent been a spy—a tragically funny thing.

Just imagine... in many less important areas of government today, you can't find entrance without plenty of passes and letters of introduction. No doubt this episode before the dignified Senatorial committee will result in more precautions.

Or, will Mister Truman?

**Pattern of Tyranny**  
As a public official who during his career at the public feed troughs took more and more power, he was more and more in a endeavoring to turn a free country into a tyranny. Such a man, naturally, always will argue that he wants to be a benefactor. Whether he knows it or not, (and he generally does) he's telling a plain lie. For the history of mankind runs strongly with the theme of his fight and struggle against absolute monarchy, whether they be in the guise of a dictator or a centralized democratic bureaucracy. The best country is, as historians and common sense tell us, that which is least governed." So, whether it be a Kubla Kahn, a Stalin, Hitler or a more recent high government official who grabs for more controls over those he governs, he is some degree of the absolute monarch type!

**Florida's Governor Fuller Warren** is a man who is known for gambling and racketeering in Tennessee, Maryland, New Hampshire and Washington. He is known to release it when the Kefauver Committee releases its famous report of a sort of rebuttal by Florida's chief executive to claims made by the Committee that Florida's smalls were more than Denmark. "Well, boys, let's hope the fight is a good one... and why not put it on television?"

**Michigan Democrats** are girding their political loins for the election battles to take place in 1952. Headed by Gov. Williams and U.S. Senator Moody, the anti-Republican crusaders for bigger and better taxes will toll the bells for the only thing that keeps 'em where they are... votes. It is to be hoped that both political camps will put on real campaigns; for only by a full exposure of the various issues of our times can the voters properly make up their minds as to where to place those little crosses on their election ballots.

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Since the 1948 and 1949 prove economical, the city commission decided Monday night to adopt a four-point plan suggested by City Manager D. C. Egbert which practically eliminates future five-year road oiling programs.

The city initiated a program in 1948 which provided for the application of asphaltic oil to many city streets. This program was carried on by special assessment and the city committed itself to the maintenance of these streets for a five-year period.

In his report to the commission, Egbert said "there has been substantial increase in costs since the program was originated and the work which is being done this summer will expend all of the funds originally collected."

**THE REPORT** also stated that "at the beginning of the program it was anticipated that certain streets would involve the city in substantially greater costs than the amount collected due to the fact that the streets were not in good condition and that they were carrying volumes of traffic which were too great for gravel roads treated in this manner."

The costs involved in fulfilling the city's commitments in regard to maintenance must be absorbed in the regular gravel road maintenance appropriation."

The report emphasized that there were many streets within the city that have never been included in any road oiling program and since there are substantial developments on many of these streets, a program must be set up to meet the needs of these areas before the city can construct a permanent pavement.

**EGBERT BELIEVES** the program he suggests will "do a better job at the same cost as the present waste oil process being used but that it would be strictly a cost saving operation and not an attempt to make a permanent or semi-permanent surface."

The report showed that "it is necessary that assessment districts under this new plan be kept large and a large number of streets included within each district even though its streets are not all contained within one area in order to reduce the bookkeeping cost to the city."

The report submitted to the commission stated that the city is at present spending large sums for the application of oil by private individuals and the results are not nearly as satisfactory as could be obtained by a city organized program using the proper grade of asphaltic oil.

**THE PLAN** submitted by Egbert was: First, create assessment districts to include large areas or substantial mileage of streets within one assessment roll; second, estimate costs based on one application of oil to the streets to limit the liability of the city to the application of oil during one season and fourth, levy an assessment of 10 cents per front foot on each lot fronting on a street which is proposed to be oiled and 2 1/2 cents per foot on

side street frontage of corner lots.

This plan would obligate the city to participate in the total cost of each assessment roll created for street oiling to the extent of 25 percent of the total.

**UNDER THIS** new plan details for the oiling will be formulated during the fall and early winter so firm commitments for the delivery of the oil during the summer months can be reached by January.

With Monday's approval of the program, certain streets throughout the city will be selected to be included within the program to start in 1952, and property owners notified so they may express their wishes in connection with being included within such an assessment district.

The nine lettermen from last year's Birmingham high school football squad and coaches pose at opening day of grid practice Monday. Linemen are Jim Newman, Andy Scheifele, Bill Dadds, Gordon Mutch and Marc Joslyn. Backfield lettermen are Stu Ambrose, John Petrakis, Lewis Parry and Head Coach Vincent Seconline.

Seconline was very impressed with the attitude of the players who turned out. He said, "They know they have a job to accomplish. The team has possibilities and only time will tell. Future prospects depend on how our unknowns come through."

A scrimmage is planned Saturday afternoon at 3:30 at Pierce field and the public is invited. The team also will scrimmage with Plymouth Wednesday, Sept. 5, at 2:30. (Joe Wheeler Photo)

#### Opening of Schools Next Week

Final preparations are under way for next week's scheduled school opening in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Southfield and Troy townships.

Birmingham school faculty members will report for a breakfast at Pierce elementary school, Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 9 a.m., and a general teachers' meeting will follow.

**SUPERINTENDENT** Dwight B. Ireland will extend greetings, introduce new faculty members and make preliminary announcements concerning school opening. Paul Carter will then introduce Dr. Tennyson Guyere of Findlay, Ohio who will address the group.

Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, building meetings are scheduled under direction of principals. Elementary pupils will report at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 5 and will be dismissed for the day at noon. Junior and senior high students are to report at 8:30 a.m. and be dismissed at 11:30.

Dr. Ireland stated that starting Thursday, Sept. 6, full school days are scheduled.

**HE POINTED OUT,** "Work will progress from the first day of school and parents are urged to appreciate the importance of prompt registration and regular attendance. The first days of assignment frequently determine the pupil's success for the year."

Schools operating cafeterias will serve hot plate lunches, starting Thursday. Milk will be available for three cents per half pint and plate lunches are twenty-five cents in an elementary school.

(See SCHOOL Page 2)

#### Fire Dept. Runs City As Officials Attend Conference

With the Michigan Municipal league's three-day session opening at Mackinac today, it looked as though Birmingham was going to "run itself."

Chad Ritchie, recently resigned mayor, is one of the speakers. Mayor Pro Tem Dean Beier, City Manager Donald Egbert, City Engineer L. R. Gare and Commissioner Ralph Main, Lance Minor and Richard Patterson will be in attendance.

A question or two, asked at the city hall, revealed that during the absence of so many city officials, authority for operating the city falls in the hands of the fire department.

At this particular time, Fire Chief W. W. Griffith is on vacation, so the actual responsibility rests with Acting Chief Park Smith.

**BID DUE SEPT. 13** For Graveling, Grading of 16 Mile

Bids on the grading and graveling of 16 mile road, between Adams and Woodward, are to be opened by the Oakland county road commission Sept. 13.

It is anticipated that a contract will be awarded at that meeting and the shortly thereafter to the work may be completed this fall.

Birmingham city officials five years ago initiated efforts to have this stretch opened to relieve traffic from the northeast which now funnels down Adams to E. Main.

#### Fire Inspection Day Oct. 9 for Birmingham

Birmingham's more than 250 mercantile establishments will be inspected in the interests of fire prevention on Oct. 9 by representatives of the Michigan State Fire Prevention Association. Fire Prevention week is Oct. 7-13.

The invitation to the association was mailed to association President William J. Reid by chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Fire Prevention Committee, Carson Bingham. The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the project.

Civic groups and the fire department are cooperating with the Chamber of Commerce. Purpose of Fire Prevention Day is two-fold. Fire inspectors conduct an educational program in each community, and they make inspections of business houses, public buildings, schools and churches.

Action authorizing the move was given by the board of directors of the chamber. The association has indicated that Oct. 9 will be acceptable.

**THE PROGRAM** will mean that 50 to 60 fire prevention engineers and inspectors will team in teams and inspect every mercantile establishment in Birmingham for fire hazards and will make on-the-spot recommendations to the occupants of the buildings.

The co-chairmen of the Fire Prevention Committee, Bingham and Fire Chief Wm. Griffith have stated that programs on fire prevention will be carried out in the schools that day and that they are attempting to arrange a joint meeting of Birmingham civic clubs to hear a speech by a recognized Michigan fire prevention expert.

There is no cost involved in the program. It is an effort by the capital stock fire insurance companies to help the public save lives, property values and dollars and it is the first time that such a project has been staged in Birmingham.

**BINGHAM SAID** in commenting upon the plan, "I feel the community will derive great benefit from the fire prevention program which will be held here Tuesday afternoon. The community is fortunate to have the fire department's knowledge of authorities upon the prevention of fire in our community. I think we should take advantage of it."

Reid and James H. Sharpe of the executive committee of the association were here Tuesday afternoon conferring with Bingham and Fire Chief Griffith upon preliminary arrangements for the affair.

Members of the committee named to work on various phases of the project are Superintendent

#### Final City Action Due Sept. 10

Final plans for a much-needed and adequate ambulance service for Birmingham are rapidly being formulated and will be submitted to the city commission Sept. 10 for action, according to City Manager D. C. Egbert.

In a preliminary report submitted to the commission Monday night by City Administrative Assistant Earl P. Sandquist, it was learned that the city might soon have an ambulance service attached to the police or fire department, or jointly, like several neighboring cities.

Sandquist estimates this new municipal function would cost about \$140,000 a year.

He suggests the addition of two firemen and one policeman to handle a big station wagon that would be equipped with two stretchers.

**EGBERT SAID** the additional personnel will have to be within the next few months, at least, because of the city's growing population. He figures will pass 20,000 by the end of this year.

"Ambulance calls would take up only about 10 per cent of the new city's emergency calls," he said.

He said the ambulance probably would be operated by a fireman, who would be assisted at the accident scene by a police scout car crew.

Since the two local municipalities discontinued ambulance service July 1, due to cost of equipment and stand-by personnel, Birmingham has relied upon private ambulance service from Royal Oak and Sterling.

In his report, Sandquist showed in an analysis that for seven months, from July 20 to August 16, it took as long as 15 minutes for the ambulance from Royal Oak to arrive at the scene of an accident, and this delay resulted in having the injured taken to the hospital in a police car.

**THE MEDIAN** wait for an ambulance was 15 minutes while the fastest was eight minutes. The analysis stressed that these runs were made during a summer month under the best of conditions.

In his report, which City Commissioner Lance Minor called "the most thorough and complete I have ever seen in a long while," Sandquist reported that "there seems to be a marked trend away from the operation of ambulance by general hospitals in favor of having police departments do the entire job."

**THE REPORT** showed that of 755 reporting cities of over 10,000 population, the municipal police departments are the emergency ambulance service for 184 cities. In 240 cities this service is provided by private agencies, including undertakers, and in 114 cities by fire departments.

Egbert is of the opinion that the best service could be provided by stationing the ambulance at the fire department and having it on call, with one driver, to be assisted at the scene of the accident by the police department.

**IN THE FACE** of the rapid increase in population the additional personnel to be added is well justified, according to the report submitted to the commission.

In reply to Commissioner Milton F. Mallender's request for an analysis as to how to appropriate money for the ambulance service, if hired and cost of equipment, Egbert said that the commission "can have the whole report by Sept. 10."

Two restrictions will exist if the considered ambulance service is adopted. It will only furnish service to Birmingham and will only be used in emergency cases.

**THE REPORT** shows that if the ambulance service is adopted, it will be un-expected to answer approximately 20 calls a week or 100 calls a year.

At this glance it would appear that the ambulance service would stand by while accident victims lie injured and dying immediately outside the city's borders.

"Conversely, emergency ambulance calls are not to be well justified. To be called out of the city, only to have an emergency arise at home, would defeat the very purpose for which the service was established."

Sandquist stated in his report. Emergency cases, heart cases, accident cases, heart cases, and any other type of cases in which there is no advanced warning.

**BASED ON** the brief tabulation of calls made during the last month and assuming that ambulance runs were confined to Birmingham and of a true emergency case, a rough estimate made by Sandquist would indicate that the new service if agreed upon could expect to answer approximately 20 calls a week or 100 calls a year.

At last April, in his first attempt to run for public office, LeMoynes was defeated by only a comparatively few votes.

#### LeMoynes Named To Zoning Board

Roy W. LeMoynes, 1380 Maryland, was appointed to the Birmingham zoning board of appeals by city commissioners Monday night. He succeeds Wm. Griffith, who resigned recently upon becoming a member of the city's reorganized planning commission.

LeMoynes came to Birmingham in 1938 from Oak Park, Ill. A native of Denver, Colo., he attended public schools there and for 18 years was employed by Dittie, Inc. of Chicago. He was named manager of the eastern Michigan area in 1938, especially assigned to coordinate all automotive activities in the light of the rearmament programs.

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ELMER HUSTON

#### Rites Held For Former Merchant

Elmer Huston, 71, founder of the Huston Hardware company, died at his home, 308 Williamsbury road on Aug. 24. He had been ill for several months.

Born on Aug. 29, 1879 in Plymouth, Mr. Huston attended the public schools there. He married Frances Mae Brooks at Warren on June 3, 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Huston came to Birmingham in October of that year when he purchased the Hops Hardware store at 205 S. Woodward and began his business career here.

The business was sold to Paul Kurth in 1940 and Mr. Huston retired. He returned to manage the store while Kurth was in the armed forces and again retired in 1946.

**MR. HUSTON** was a member of Birmingham Lodge, 4. F. & A. M., Pontiac Commandery, K. T., Moslem Shrine Temple, Detroit, Birmingham Y.M.C.A., Rotary Club, Michigan Hardware association and Oakland Hills country club.

Besides his wife Mr. Huston is survived by two brothers, Archer and Edson, both of Plymouth.

The body was taken from the Bell chapel of the William L. Hamilton company to the First Presbyterian church for services Tuesday morning. Burial was in Riverside cemetery, Plymouth.

#### Firemen Honor Memory Of Late Lee Carroll

A photograph of the late Lee Carroll, Birmingham fire marshal, was placed in department headquarters last week by members of the department.

Mr. Carroll died in a gas explosion and fire on Sunday, Dec. 1, 1949, in which four other men died.

**THE CORNERSTONE** of the city's new DPW building was laid last Thursday morning. In the above photo, Commissioner Ralph Main, Contractor C. T. Armbrust and City Engineer L. R. Gare look on as City Manager Donald E. Egbert lifts the stone for Mayor pro tem Dean Beier, who applies cement. A canister placed in the column bears the names of the DPW employees, city officials, administrative staff, and copies of resolutions approving the building bond proposition and awarding of the contract to the Smith-Andrews Construction Co. The new building is expected to be completed in 60 days. The foundation was laid and the first floor is under construction.

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