

The Birmingham Eccentric

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PART ONE

News Happenings At Least Two Gas Safety Bills for January

Estes Says New Bills Ready Soon

The tragic explosion and fire which wrecked the Antine shop and caused the deaths of five persons in Birmingham in December, 1949, coupled with other explosions throughout the state, will result in the submission of two or more bills to the 1952 Michigan legislature. The bills are aimed at preventing such accidents in the future.

Attorneys from the Public Service Commission have been at work for some time preparing one of the bills to be submitted. Legislative service bureau members and attorneys for the state fire marshal are preparing an amendment to Article 207 of Public Acts of 1941, which will probably be offered in a separate bill.

This was announced this week by Rep. Howard R. Estes, of Birmingham.

Estes continued, "The bills will probably be introduced in the House and will probably be sponsored and signed by all members of the House who served on the committees."

"NEITHER BILL is in shape at this time to warrant an analysis of its contents." Estes has promised to forward copies of the bills to The Eccentric when they have been received from the official state printer. The bills probably will be introduced early in the session, Estes said.

Eight members of the Michigan Legislature have served on the two interim committees which have also in the histories of the disasters in Michigan. The two committees, working between legislative sessions in 1950-51, were formulated after the passage of formal resolutions introduced by Estes.

Estes has served as a committee member, is chairman of one group and has been in constant attendance at committee meetings held in the various places where disasters have occurred.

STATE, CITY and county officials have been called on to assist the university. You wouldn't exist for long without a flow of trained personnel back into the community," he declared.

"Through Wayne's training and research programs, we hope to be able to return great benefits to the communities." Wayne has applied for an FCC permit on behalf of the various educational facilities in the metropolitan Detroit area in order to bring education right into your home if you want to tune in," Dr. Henry disclosed.

"The economic success of our country pretty much has been built on our opportunity to grow, to develop, and to succeed or to fail," he pointed out.

"Our social mobility has been built around this opportunity to grow and develop, and education has been the machine which has provided this mobility."

MENTIONING THAT while Wayne university started as a city of Detroit institution, Dr. Henry said it had a general interest because of their children attending it. He said state tax monies which are used to support some of its programs.

"You think of a school or university as a custodian of your child for a time. Only recently have people come to realize the



MRS. G. E. PETERSON, 1921 Graefield, was no exception to the general rule in Birmingham most of last week, as hundreds of drivers shoveled and shoveled to get cars out of snow banks. Before the end of the week drivers who could honestly say they had not been stuck at least once a day could have formed a very exclusive club. The commonest sights in the residential areas included a tow car or an energetic group of neighbors helping another motorist on his or her way. (Joe Wheeler Photo)

Three Little Girls Show True Christmas Spirit Comes by Helping Others Sees TV as Great Aid to Education

Educational techniques still are geared to the teacher-audience type of instruction and still are a long way from the ultimate in mass educational possibilities, Wayne University President Dr. David D. Henry charged last week at the annual Birmingham Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting in the Community House.

He said television holds great possibilities for mass education.

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A backward glance at the news events of Birmingham and vicinity for the 1951 year reveal the signs of a growing area.

This week The Eccentric presents the happenings for the first six months of 1951. Events in the last half of the year will be published next week.

Several local churches started construction projects during the year. In addition, the new Terry elementary school was completed and work continued on the new Birmingham high school building, at Cranbrook and Lincoln.

The books were closed on one of the most controversial issues in recent years when city commissioners rejected the proposed off-street parking proposal.

THE PAST YEAR also saw new supervisors voted into office in neighboring Troy and Southfield townships.

After many hours of discussion and months of planning, definite steps were taken to clear Country Lake of weeded growth as Dr. Bernard Domogala, of Butler, Wis., was engaged to chemically treat the lake.

Birmingham became the temporary "capital" of the golfing world in June when Oakland Hills Country Club was host to the National Open golf tournament.

Little Ben Hogan capped the coveted championship by coming from behind the final day.

During the first six months of the year, death claims to two men, long prominent in local activities.

Melvin C. Hart, former Baldwin high school principal and later manager of the Pontiac office of the Michigan Unemployment Compensation commission died from a heart attack in January.

In May, Charles J. Shain, well-known Birmingham business man and civic leader, passed away after a long illness.

Major happenings for the first six months follow:

Issue of January 4 The First Methodist Church property at West Maple and Henrietta has been purchased by the S. S. Kresge Co. church officials disclosed this week. Kresge Co. said \$125,000 for the parcel which has a 90-foot Maple frontage, 204 on Henrietta, and 120 on Martin.

The welcome mat will be out Sunday, Jan. 7 at the new Rose-

Legion TV Open House Charles Edwards Post, American Legion, is planning an open house for Saturday, Dec. 29, and Tuesday, Jan. 1, at the Legion hall on South Woodward. On Saturday the East-West Shrine hospital benefit football game will be the center of attraction with the Rose Bowl TV program the Tuesday highlight. Refreshments will be served both days.

During the past few weeks Birmingham youngsters have been pretty conscious of Christmas.

There have been letters to Santa Claus, signs of excitement around the house and at school, and an air of mystery everywhere.

Three little fifth grade girls from Pierce school came to the conclusion that the real Santa Claus dwells in the hearts of everyone, and wanted to have a share in the kindness the good old gentleman spreads over the world every year at this time.

After due consideration on how they could help, they decided on the old-fashioned Christmas Carol as their medium.

MARCIA KEMP, Diane Thurston and Barbara Ecker started out one day last week, and went around their Pierce school neighborhood singing carols and accepting small gifts of money from residents who had enjoyed hearing them.

When it was time to go home, the little girls found they had collected \$2.70. Forgetting that hands, feet and noses were cold from that severe winter weather, the trio rushed over to the residential district to deposit their funds in one of the salvation Army kettles.

General Theme Chosen For Community Institute Plans for the annual Community Institute are being built around the general theme of "Individual Liberties, USA," according to Mrs. Anne Garrison, Community Council president.

Although no definite topic has yet been selected, Mrs. Garrison said such items as freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of worship and freedom to assemble for public meetings are being considered.

The 1952 Institute will be held the latter part of February or early March, Mrs. Garrison said.

All makes of inner spring mattresses re-stored. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. PHONE ENTERTAINMENT 6318.

THREE YOUNGSTERS put the finishing touches on the snowman their parents built the night before at the corner of Smith and Edgewood. Mike Case (on ladder) inserts buttons under the supervision of Linda Jo and Diana Lynn Hallett. The "masterpiece" was made Thursday night by Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Case, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ludwig, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Oswald, Mrs. Richard Hallett and Mrs. Michael Carlund. "We stayed out here until about one o'clock finding around with that wet snow and acting like a lot of kids," Mrs. Hallett said as she glanced over her shoulder at the eight-foot snowman. (Joe Wheeler Photo)

There are many people, who can be very kind, in a sort of distant way to other people, especially when such kindness is heralded to the public. But he is a man who considers acts for others, in the quiet of his own life, in the best of the Samaritans.

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THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

The Battle of Blair vs. Arnie

As one newspaperman who, while former Gov. Kim Sigler's executive secretary for two years in Lansing, has been able to observe practical politics from both sides of the divide, the recent verbal battle between the U. S. Senator Blair Moody and Michigan Republican Party leaders interests me.

More specifically, I am interested in the clash between Sen. Moody and Arnold J. Levin, former Lansing correspondent of The Detroit News, (the same journal that employed Moody for a score of years).

Levin, you may recall, some months ago was named by the Michigan Republican State Central Committee as chief of its publicity bureau.

IN A RECENT speech in Jackson, Mich., Sen. Moody declared: "The Michigan Republican Party has hired a professional spy-ape, a garrulous ghost whose assignment is to discredit the actions and words of the Governor (Williams) and myself in quest of disreputable commas and statements of policy which may be distorted to suit the fancy of his employers."

"The party has many losses but a single pen. The output of this Party penman is marked by less scruple than fact."

Well, Arnie, how do you, now a practical working politician, like being kicked around?

AND YOU, Blair, are now finding out how much of the good and the bad, the truth and the untruth, the good writing and the bad writing, the objectivity and the objectivity and the infestation of personal bias can be used to portray the life and actions of a man in public office.

I, too, although not an elected official, was close enough to a chap who was elected to know how you must feel, Blair.

On the other hand, my friend, you know from long personal experience that, on the whole, reporters treat public figures about as good as can be expected.

But, Blair, why demean yourself by making a personal attack on a former newspaper colleague who (in spite of my many talks with him on staying out of politics) now gets \$15,000 per annum for trying to put brave words in the mouth of the GOP elephant?

LEAVE OUR Arnie alone. There maybe he'll have time to help Michigan's Republicans find the ideas with which to develop themselves . . . to develop a program sound enough in popular appeal to do something for the civic good of this State.

Or, Blair, do you want to keep Arnie and Pat, and . . . so they won't have time to do this job?

Goah, to think that I'd ever live to see the day when, returned to private life again, two of my old newspaper friends would engage in a royal battle verbal in the fragile and ephemeral world of politics!

But go to it, boys. There's plenty of good diggins in them that Michigan Republican hits, Blair . . . so grabstake yourself and hit into 'em with the pickaxe and shovel of the crusade! . . . but don't let your Senatorial toga drag into the mud.

AND YOU, Arnie . . . why son, why don't you lay off Blair's commas and copy with some good ideas for the Republicans . . . the kind of civic ideas that will vote in an election?

Honest, Arnie, while most folks enjoy a scrap, that's only the entertainment part of politics. What the voters really want is to know what your Party can do for them in the areas of food, clothing and shelter . . . including how government can operate better at less than the present high costs.

Come on now, fellahs, shake hands for the sake of old times and start scarping on civic leeches higher than mere carrying criticism.

Listed as Prisoners By Chinese Reds

Three Southfield township residents are included among the prisoners of war listed last week by the Chinese Communists.

They are PEC Clifford Ayotte, 19341 Midway; Cpl. Richard A. Caverty, 28220, 16 1/2 Mile road; and Pvt. Robert T. Wiegler, 29221 Southfield.