

There are many people who believe that the ability to outwit others to gain wealth and/or power is the basis of security. But this method is like leaving a house unguarded. Unless one leaves his actions with moral values he never will achieve a happy security.

74TH YEAR—NO. 34

HIS and THAT

A Relic of the Past
He rang the side door bell, and I answered. He was past middle age, rotund and smiling, needed a shave... and over his shoulder stretched a huge bundle of brooms, while hanging from a sort of belt were numerous small brushes. "Need any brooms or brushes today?" he asked.

As he strode off, following my negative answer, I watched him go down the street; he held to an easy gait, passed up two or three brooms and brushes, and then disappeared from sight as he tried another rear door.

My thoughts wandered back to a generation... to wandering merchants who used to catch small grindstones to sharpen the housewife's knives and scissors; to horse and buggy wandering sellers of dry goods... of loud shouting (and sometimes musical voiced) hucksters who belated their wares from the wagon seat.

IN THESE DAYS of super-merchandising, of day-service in many stores, of times when within one's reach are most of the things one buys, what a relic the broom and brush man is!

Yes, who knows but what my recent broom and brush caller may be happier than he who runs Wansmakers!

Yes, who knows!

Politics Has Two Phases
Basically, there are two chief phases of politics.

First, you must elect your man to office. This requires obtaining a good candidate as possible, and the worse he is, the more double-talk and hokum you must use to fool the public so you can get their votes.

Second, once in office your man must do a good job. If he does a fine piece of public service, and the public get to know it, it will help him to be re-elected—but if he does a poor job then more double-talk and hokum must be used, to fool and confuse the voters.

(The latter, you must always remember, are quite easily fooled, and their memory is very, very short. That's why so many bad and mediocre men can stay on the public payroll.)

MANY GOOD and able men, capable of doing excellent jobs for you, never get elected because they are not colorful, may refuse to resort to double-talk. By the same pattern in reverse, many dishonest, incompetent and rogues men, with political color, get into office—and while there they pile up your tax bills.

Actually, Dear Reader, the American public is less wise and discriminating in selecting many of its high public officials than it is in the selection of its brands of coffee, cigarettes, or chewing tobacco.

Strange, isn't it, why the human factor is so little interested, all the time, in perfecting an intelligent, honest, and fair type of self-government!

The other day President Truman wrote a letter to a religious group which was read at the group's convention. Mr. Truman urged the mustering of the world's moral forces to save freedom of religion from Communist aggression. Aside from writing the letter, just that has the President done to place himself in the vanguard of this moral muster?

Commissioners Reject Bids on E. Maple Lots
A misinterpretation of a city advertisement for bidders on two East Maple lots brought about the rejection of all bids at Monday's city commission meeting.

Elmer W. Haack, city assessor, said new sealed bids would be received and opened at a regular commission meeting. Persons wishing to bid on the property also may do so at the meeting, providing their offers conform with the required five per cent increase over the highest bid then before the commission.

High bidders, at the time of the rejection, were the Sun Oil company, who offered \$10,000 for the parcel extending from Maple to the alley, and Sam Bruvi who had bid \$110 for the property on the north side of the alley.

Ice Skating Planned
City Engineer L. R. Gare told city commissioners Monday evening that his department plans to place a frozen rink around the new Poppleton field ball diamond so that since the new fire station will be located on this street, immediate steps should be taken to improve it.

"We can get faster action from the county," he said, "if we can present a plan of the proposed improvements prior to requesting their participation in the project."

80% In As Of Deadline Needs

Suggest Central Site for Municipal Pool Committee Releases Survey

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

A centrally located, outdoor swimming pool, to be used primarily for general community recreation purposes, of adequate design and size to accommodate the population comfortably and permit competitive swimming events occasionally, if desired, with the pool to be designed by and construction supervised by an experienced and capable architect and construction engineer—these are the only general recommendations the city commission's municipal pool study committee would permit itself to make in a 21-page report released publicly by the commission Monday night.

Chairedman by City Commissioner Frank Rising, the nine-member committee spent nearly five months at the commission's request, obtaining information from many U. S. communities which operate municipal pools, sifting that data for the important items, then boiling it down into a concise comprehensive report for the city commission.

"OUR EFFORT has been directed toward the seeking of pertinent facts, and the exclusion of controversial matters which is not in our province to decide," Rising commented in presenting the report.

"We believe that with the help of this preliminary survey, should be easier to find the answers to such questions as: 'Does Birmingham need a municipal swimming pool?' 'Can we afford the cost of a modern pool?' 'Where should such a pool be situated; if built?' 'Should such a pool be part of a larger design, to include a recreation center, the recreation board, the city plan board and any other agencies or bodies interested in Birmingham's development and progress?'"

"CONSEQUENTLY, this report is informational and basic, but preliminary," Rising explained. "We respectfully suggest that the commission, the recreation board, the city plan board and any other agencies or bodies interested in Birmingham's development and progress..."

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Crooks-Maple to Remain Without Traffic Signal
Officials of the Oakland county road commission have notified Troy Township Supervisor Norman D. Barnard that there is insufficient traffic at the Crooks-Maple intersection to warrant a traffic control signal there.

However, stop signs will be placed at Maple and Crooks to be made a through street. At the present time, stop signs are on Crooks at this intersection.

Barnard sent a letter to the commission requesting that following a fatal accident at these streets a few months ago.

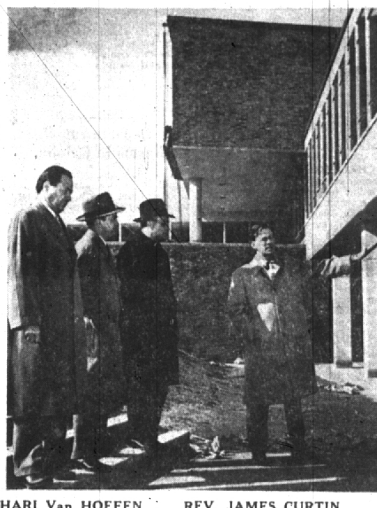
Earmark \$500 to Survey Adams Improvements
A \$500 appropriation has been approved by Birmingham commissioners for a preliminary survey of Adams road from Lincoln avenue north to the city limits.

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HARI Van HOEFEN REV. JAMES CURTIN JOSEPH MURPHY JOHN W. JICKLING Swanson architect guides guests around high school site. (Dick Shirk Photo)

Innovations Now Becoming Apparent

By ALICE E. MORGAN

Blackboards are not blackboards any more. They now are called "chalkboards" and are made of green glass. This is one of the many new features being incorporated into the new Birmingham high school building, now under construction at W. Lincoln and Cranbrook roads.

"Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools, pointed out this new educational development as he took Community Council, recreation board, junior and senior student congress, and press representatives on a special tour of the building last Thursday morning." (See INNOVATIONS, Page 2)

Now about 75 per cent completed, it is expected that the senior high school classes, now at Baldwin, will be able to start their second semester classes in February in the new building. (See NEEDS, Page 2)



BIRMINGHAM WITNESSED what was probably the fastest and surely the biggest Halloween party of its history last week Wednesday night. From the moment the whistle blew at 7:31 to start the marchers, until the last youngster passed the judges' stand was an exact half hour. Food lines, as shown above, moved with equal rapidity and the area between Hill and Baldwin schools was cleared quickly. Party officials estimate that nearly 5,000 children marched, many of whom did not go through the food lines, but instead headed quickly for warm homes. The prize committee was kept busy presenting the more than 400 awards at Hill school. Adults who saw the parade were not, this year, grouped on Maple, but spread along the entire line of march. An estimated 15,000 were on hand to witness the colorful parade of Birmingham school children. (Dick Shirk Photo)

BULLETIN

Friday evening's scheduled football game between Birmingham and Berkeley at Pierce field has been postponed until Tuesday night at 8 p.m. Athletic Director Frank Whitney announced Wednesday.

Postponement was made in fairness to coaches and players. He stated that heavy equipment would need to clear the field because the ground isn't hard enough now. If weather conditions still do not permit play Tuesday, the game will be cancelled and season ticket holders will receive a refund.

Police and Fire Needs Considered

The city commission will meet in committee session Saturday, Nov. 10 at 8 a.m. to discuss police and fire department personnel needs with City Manager Donald C. Egbert, Police Chief Ralph Moxley and Fire Chief Vernon Griffith.

At this week's commission meeting, reports outlining these needs were submitted by Moxley and Griffith.

Commissioner Lance Minor stated, "I have read these excellent reports, but feel this entire subject of such importance and raises so many questions in my mind that I'd like to discuss this matter in committee meeting before we act on it."

COMMISSIONER MILTON MALLENDER added, "Here's a whole policy that will affect us for years to come. We should understand these points completely and spend several hours on the matter."

Eleven recommendations submitted by the city manager and police and fire chiefs include: 1. Authorize the immediate addition of one fireman. 2. Authorize the addition of one fireman as of April 1, 1952. 3. Reemploy George Scott as a fire marshal upon his release from the armed forces. An additional (See NEEDS, Page 2)

Sidewalks in Center of City Due for Repairs

The center portion of the city will undergo sidewalk improvements next year as a result of a sidewalk repair program recommended by City Manager Donald C. Egbert and approved by the city commission Monday evening. Under the new arrangement, future sidewalk repairing will be covered by areas.

Egbert stated, "The engineering department has received numerous complaints in regard to our sidewalks, and it is our opinion that the sidewalk repair program in Birmingham hasn't been adequate for a period of several years, although substantially greater programs have been carried on in the past three years than in the several years prior to that."

"WE ARE ALL agreed that to make substantial progress on a repair program, that the city must select certain definite areas and repair all of the sidewalks in these areas during the year. It is the consensus that the first program should be carried out in the center portion of the city."

Egbert's program as approved includes: 1. That the center portion of the city be selected as the first area in which all sidewalks will be repaired within the 1952 construction period. (This area includes Adams, to the Rouge and Oak to Lincoln.) 2. That a survey be initiated immediately so that an estimate can be prepared of the probable cost to the city to enable the notices to be sent to property owners prior to Feb. 1, 1952. 3. That a contract be prepared to be awarded in March or April 1952. 4. THAT ONLY temporary repairs be performed in the other areas of the city until such time as the contract can be awarded for the repair of all sidewalks in that area. Only commissioner voting against the plan was Frank Rising. He stated that the first of the four sections should be amended to strike out "center portion of city."

Rising pointed out that a condensed report on the condition of sidewalks by areas or streets or parts of streets should be submitted to the city commission. He added that the whole town should be surveyed before the city can be justified in starting at the center of town.

Egbert stated that an appropriation of \$20,000 will probably have to be carried in next year's budget to provide for a program of the size and scope which will meet the needs of the city. He stated, "It will possibly require four or five years in which similar programs are carried out in order to repair all of our sidewalks."

Wounded in Korea By Hand Grenade
Capt. Francis G. Bridge, 675 Vinewood, is in an army hospital in Japan after being wounded in action in Korea on Oct. 14. Mrs. Bridge says her husband suffered hand grenade wounds in the left foot and leg and will possibly be hospitalized for some time. He has been on active duty in the past year and is a veteran of four and a half years service during World War II.

City Digs Out Wednesday After Record Snowfall
Birmingham residents began digging themselves out Wednesday morning after a record-breaking snowfall. According to state weather records, the past week has dumped more cold and more snow on the area than ever before.

Tuesday evening snow buses running behind schedule, taxicabs unable to meet half the calls and private cars traveling at a good fast crawl. Drivers' visibility was practically zero and skids were the fashion of the hour. (City-owned salt trucks patrolled areas most of the day, but were able to do little good because of the heavy snowfall.)

A DPW SPOKESMAN said snowplows were out at midnight and began work again at 2:30 Wednesday morning. Main streets especially through the business section, were cleaned first. Plows were getting into residential areas early in the morning and expected to have all streets cleaned by late afternoon.

Police reported only two minor property damage accidents. Police Chief Ralph Moxley attributed this to the fact that drivers were being extremely cautious.

Early in the afternoon the Eccentric office and a city office began receiving the first seasonal complaining of shoveled sidewalks.

A resident called The Eccentric office Wednesday morning and reported that the Shell Service Station at the corner of Hunter and Maple sent out its tow truck Tuesday evening and rescued motorists in distress "free of charge."

"The resident said that this action restores 'her faith in human nature.'"

THE STEEP hills in Bloomfield Hills near the Long Lake-Woodward intersection proved an obstacle to many motorists late Tuesday afternoon.

Observers reported trucks had a difficult time negotiating the hills. Traffic was tied up for approximately one-half mile in this area. Northbound traffic had the most difficulty in moving.

When slippery conditions prevail in Bloomfield Hills, the Woodward-Long Lake traffic signal, normally on "green" or "yellow" is changed to "caution" in all directions.

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