

# The Birmingham Eccentric

Wednesday, December 31, 1952

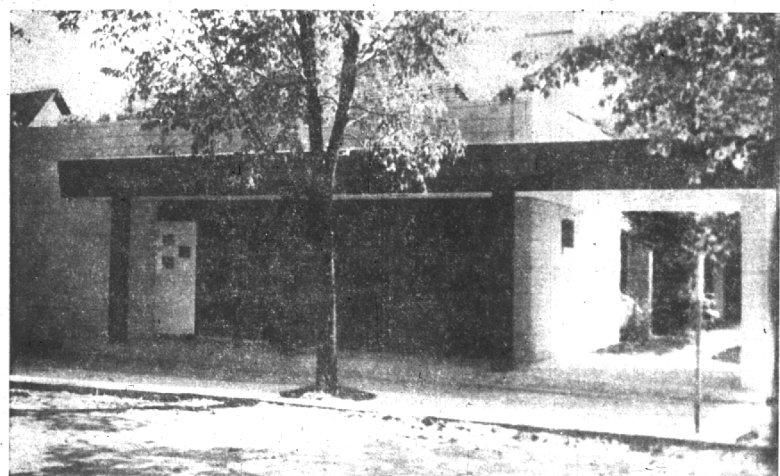
SECTION 3

The average dog is a very friendly human companion. He doesn't ask for much, beyond food, shelter, and kindly treatment. Yet with only these necessities he is not more faithful and loyal to his family than many humans who get more from us.



PLANS WERE ANNOUNCED FOR THE PROJECTED Barton shopping center on the northeast corner of Maple and Hunter. Later in the year construction was started on

the Kroger market, first unit in the block-long line of retail stores. Three of the city's oldest homes were razed to make room for the commercial development.



MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE PLAYERS held an open house celebration Sept. 18 in their modernized playhouse on Chestnut St. Both the interior and exterior were given

a face-lifting to be ready for the opening of the 1952-53 season. A new lobby, cloak rooms and rest rooms were added to the building.



WORKMEN HURRIED COMPLETION OF THE WEST MAPLE widening and residents praised the straightening of the roadway to cross the new four-lane bridge which re-

placed the narrow span over the Rouge river. Resident opposition to the removal of trees was softened when people got a glimpse of the new roadway.



ELECTION WAS heavy in Birmingham this year, as this building, Precinct 6, it depicts a situation which in previous photo clearly shows. Taken at 9:30 a.m. at the new YMCA elections has been seen only after the dinner hour and shortly

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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thority to assure itself of an adequate supply of Detroit water. Disappointment over the failure of the SOC Garbage and Rubbish Authority to gain a site for its incinerator was suddenly changed to hope when Royal Oak township offered a suitable location for the Authority.

The \$150,000 West Maple widening was completed, bringing the sharp curve down to an even turn over the new bridge.

First in the area were Troy township's police department, Birmingham's Ground Observers Corps, Troy township's acquisition of public park property and Rotary Club's peace memorial dedication.

Issue of July 3

Merritt D. Hill, campaign chairman of the Oakland County hospital fund drive, announced the successful completion of the fund-raising drive for the construction of

the hospital. To gain a \$3,500,000 allocation from the Greater Detroit Hospital fund, the board of trustees had to raise \$100,000.

Administrative officials of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and the townships of Bloomfield and Troy met with members of the Michigan Water Resources Commission to air sewage disposal problems of the individual areas. Troy proved its slate was clean but the other communities were ordered to prepare plans to prevent further pollution of the upper Rouge River.

The city felt the pinch of the increased population on the water supply. A record 3,256,000 gallons were pumped on a Sunday in June and water levels were dropping steadily. City commissioners continued restrictions on the use of water as the dry, hot weather refused to break.

William J. Johnson, former comptroller for the City of Grosse

Pointe Park, was named Birmingham's director of finance. The department was created to coordinate financial matters in the city.

City plan board members instructed City Attorney Forbes S. Hascall to prepare a new ordinance covering the establishment of privately operated parking lots to ease street parking in the city.

Issue of July 10

As interest in the August 5 primary election increased, registration lists closed with a record 12,342 names in the city.

City commissioners, approached by Arthur Nechman, 32321 Arlington, to annex a 43-acre tract of land in Troy township, referred the question to Troy township officials for their actions. Nechman proposed to build 128 homes on the property but needed Birmingham water and sewage facilities.

Western Electric workers were busy completing installation of equipment at the Michigan Bell Telephone company's building to accommodate the new Midwest 6 exchange being added to the Birmingham office.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs

church held cornerstone laying ceremonies on its new site on South Pierce. Bishop Alexander M. Zaleski, auxiliary bishop of the Detroit Archdiocese, handled the trowel during the program with the assistance of the pastor, the Rev. Lucian Hebert.

Robert S. Boatman began his duties as planning director for the city as the first paid planner. Employed to serve both the plan board and the city, Boatman found himself immediately faced with the city's parking problems.

Issue of July 17

Troy township officials created the township's first police department, naming David Grattopp, 1076 East Square Lake, and Willard H. Schwandt, 870 Big Beaver, as chief and patrolman, respectively. Township residents demanded police protection of their own.

City officials called for a study on the Woodward avenue parking situation to determine whether annexation of a portion of the street should be eliminated. Prior to this action the commission had the street parking stopped between Haynes and Forest on the east side of Woodward and between George and Brown on the west side of the street.

The Ground Observers Corps, in their first week of 21-hour-a-day duty were faced with losing their rooftop shelter on top of the municipal building when a rain was discovered that women were not allowed to work above the second story of the city hall. The GOC asked for city funds to erect a shelter on the roof of any other building that they might be allowed to use.

Dr. John P. Wood, Birmingham's delegate-at-large to the Republican National Convention in Chicago, reported on his impressions on the convention and described the shift to Eisenhower among the delegations.

Issue of July 21

The \$150,000 widening of Maple avenue was opened to traffic this week. The new pavement decreased the sharpness of the curve and brought the roadway over the new bridge. The street was closed to traffic during much of the summer while construction crews cleared trees and poured new concrete.

Birmingham city officials began publicizing the need for membership in the South Oakland County Sewage District to ease the burden carried by the city's disposal plant. Commissioners of the district, in the eastern portion of the city lie geographically in the SOC district and could be entered economically.

Mr. Alice Hagerman Thurber, 824 Oak street, a life-long resident of Birmingham and nationally known artist, died in the Detroit Osteopathic hospital July 17 after a long illness.

Mary Agnes Wall defeated Margaret Russell of Oakland Hills, 7 and 5, for the Michigan women's amateur title at Birmingham Country Club.

Issue of July 31

Southfield township board members elected to join the South Oakland County water authority but admitted that they failed to see where the money would come from to finance the project.

Birmingham Little Leaguers fell short of the mark in pre-district Little League tournament play at St. James field when they were ousted by a Farmington nine who defeated the national league team and Livonia conquered American league boys.

As delegate-at-large to the Democratic national convention Murray D. Van Wagoner, 175 Ashbee, was conservative in his thoughts about Adlai Stevenson's chances of winning the presidency. Van Wagoner did reveal that the Stevenson-Sparkman team was as good a selection as could have been made to unite the north and south and added that "Stevenson will be a good candidate; his sincerity will appeal to the voters."

Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of the Birmingham public schools, foresaw every school facility in use when school opened in September. "After this fall," Ireland said, "Something must be done to increase present facilities."

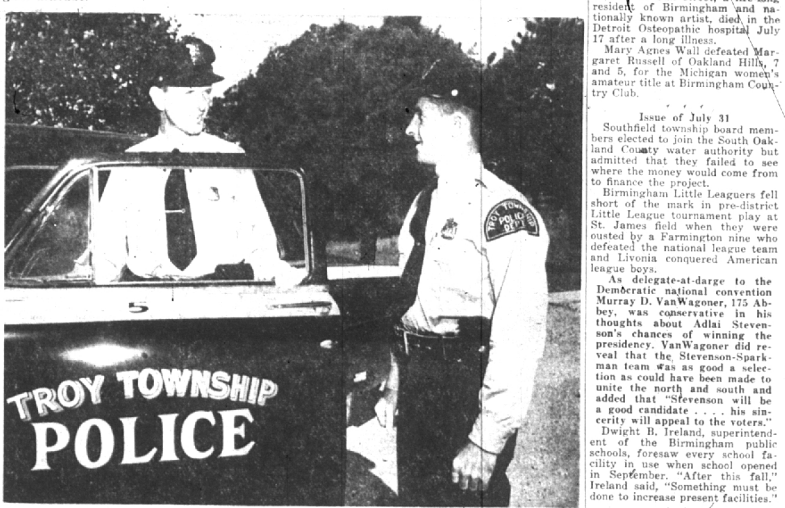
Issue of August 7

The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce joined the city in at-

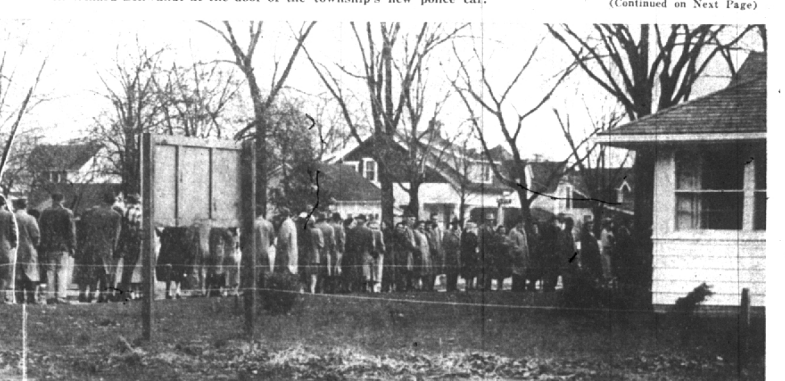
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TWO MEN WERE KILLED in the crash of this light plane in an open field near Coolidge and Sixteen Mile road, Troy township, August 17. Victims were Gordon H. Anderson, age 33, of 565 West Long Lake, Bloomfield township, and Richard Corning, age 35, of Pleasant Ridge. Witnesses said that the low-flying plane's engine stalled as the pilot attempted to gain altitude.



TROY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS DEMANDED more local police protection and a town department was created in the township. Here Chief David Grattopp confers with Patrolman Willard Schwandt at the door of the township's new police car.



TO GIVE their overwhelming support to Republican candidates. The scene was repeated in each of the city's eight precincts as more than 11,000 voters turned out