

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

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Some of the most vicious and... of human beings are those who have more of this world's wealth than they can ever spend. Indeed, they are often... by these negative desires that burdenn them from living joyously.

74TH YEAR—NO. 50

HIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Secret Meetings Control MSC and U of M

Within the past few weeks you no doubt have read in the newspapers that efforts are being made by the Michigan Press Association to gain admittance to official meetings of the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan and the Board of Agriculture of Michigan State College.

For many, many years, both these educational governing bodies have conducted their affairs behind closed doors. No taxpayer, be he or she a member of the press or just a plain citizen, has been welcome.

Yet these two institutions, being the most part publicly supported, spend in the neighborhood of 30 millions of your dollars each year. They also control, through administrative and faculty groups, the education of many thousands of our youth... including, perhaps, your own offspring.

AT ITS annual convention a few weeks ago, the Michigan Press Association conducted a panel discussion on "Freedom of Information." Discussion leader was Thas L. "Stuffy" Walters, executive of the Knight Newspapers group.

Walters pointed out how, over the years, many public officials, in all branches of government, from time to time tried to prevent the public, through the press, from getting information about "what goes on," including how public money is spent.

You recall that President Truman, a few months ago, issued an executive order that tried to close access to news in every federal department... all done in the name of national defense. A fiction spawned from the illegitimate pollen of politics.

SO THE newspapers, and radio, too, are always on the alert to get news, not from these personal interest in the matter as reporters, but as representatives of the people whose taxes support government.

And, vigorously, as one member of the seven-man committee appointed by the MP, to contact and question officials, that we do not question, ever, the honesty and integrity of the Regents of the Board of Agriculture. These men and women, while they are not in the same responsibilities, are not even "salary for the time they spend, in the travel expenses they incur monthly and special meetings, few, if any, of them accept such expense money.

ALTHOUGH FOR the most part these members and their predecessors have been loyal and courageous proponents of the public interest, with its guaranteed freedom of speech, press, right to assemble, etc., yet they have often carried on the practice of holding non-public meetings. After such meetings they have publicly "handouts" to the press.

Why? Largely because of tradition. The tradition of the subjects they handle involve faculty personalities; largely because of the expense of the educational treatment at the hands of the press and the public, were their children the educational people that wander into the notion that perhaps they can operate the public schools best with a minimum of interference from the public. Run it sort of like a personal, closed corporation.

ANYWAY, OUR MPA committee has had one meeting with the Michigan State College officials, and some progress was made toward "ironing out" the problem. A similar meeting will be held with the Regents at Ann Arbor in the near future.

In the interest of all concerned, it is expected that both MSC and U of M officials will be opened to the public, including the press. The newspapers have that considerable understanding co-operation will be given in handling news from both institutions, so that no unnecessary harm shall come to anybody.

On the other hand, the newspapers in pressing for the elimination of secret official meetings are merely measuring up to the professional responsibilities on behalf of the public.

Educators Obtain Cross-Section View On School Systems

A favorable opinion of modern schools and education is held by parents in the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills district, according to answers filed on a questionnaire distributed through the two school districts last November.

More than a total of 2000 parents in both districts returned the form, on which many added comments of their own on subjects not listed in the Michigan Department of Public Instruction questionnaire.

In both districts a large majority expressed satisfaction with prevailing school methods and with the training and ability of teachers involved.

Birmingham answers showed that 81.4 per cent of the parents answering feel teachers are well trained and up to date as compared to 77.5 who do not.

TEACHERS' salaries brought no comment from Hills parents, while in Birmingham 69.1 per cent said they did not feel they were high enough to attract well-prepared, conscientious men and women. Only 26 per cent of the local parents feel teaching salaries are adequate.

Want No Part Of Federal CD Money

If Birmingham needs new fire equipment, the city will find the means to pay for it—there will be no running to Washington, D. C. for assistance, city commissioners defiantly decided Monday night.

City Manager D. C. Egbert's statement that he had been approached by some federal civil defense representative to ask for a new fire truck brought strong comment from commissioners, especially Frank Rising.

RISING SAID "I will defend officials tell you how to build bomb shelters but not how to organize guerrilla bands to fight an invading enemy, how to store hand grenades but not how to get arms and ammunition to resist a potential conqueror."

Commissioner Milton F. Mallerender said, "There's no doubt that we need fire equipment but let's buy it ourselves without all these federal strings."

Deadline on Dog Tags Extended to Monday

Every dog has his day but this year Fido gets an extra day—two of them, in fact.

He gets Feb. 29 tossed in for free just because it's Leap Year. Then, the city is giving him an extra day's leeway in having his owner obtain a dog tag for him.

Because city officials will be on a Saturday, City Clerk Irene Hanley said dog owners may obtain 1952 licenses for their pets any time during the regular business hours on Monday, Mar. 3.

A certificate of rabies inoculation must be presented when tags are applied for.

Commission Considering Jitney Service for City



THIS IS THE ARCHITECTS DRAWING OF THE proposed new Birmingham east side fire station. Whether or not it will be constructed will be decided April 7, when a \$300,000 bond issue will appear on the ballot. Estimated cost of the building is \$300,000 and \$50,000 will be spent for equipment. The station would be used to house fire apparatus serving the east side area, a training center for all fire personnel, and a repair center for fire department apparatus, well pumping and construction.

Moxley to Report on Possibility

Does Birmingham need jitney service? The city commission, seeking the answer to this question, Monday evening requested a report on the advisability of establishing jitney service in the city.

This decision was reached after Police Chief Ralph Moxley reported on a survey of local taxi service.

Mike Janis, 1444 Benaville, who early in December requested permission to form a third cab company, stated an interest in starting jitney service here.

THE COMMISSION hasn't yet acted on Janis' request for an additional cab company and probable service they could give within the jitney report has been studied.

At the present time two cab companies are operating in the city and 14 taxis are available. Monday evening the commission would hold the parking problem in the downtown area.

It was pointed out that four jitneys could be in operation and travel on semi-arterial streets. Passengers would walk to the route to be picked up.

The Mayor said, "Perhaps persons who wish to form a jitney company should be looking into their routes, fares and stand locations and he can analyze them and forward the information to the commission."

Commissioner Milton Mallerender said, "It's a question of similar service was started here. It lasted about six months. Perhaps now the town is large enough to support the service, but we can't afford to increase facilities beyond what can be supported by us."

REFFERING TO the possibility of adding a third cab company, both Mallerender and Commissioner Richard Patterson felt the city has better service with two companies than it had with three and in addition, better equipment.

In his report Chief Moxley said that a study of jitney service in Pontiac was made.

He said, "We found the Pontiac jitneys are owned by private individuals and regulated under city ordinance. They have a stand in the business section of the city and pick up passengers at this location. They have no telephone and must rely on patrons from their stand or along the route."

"The jitney caters to the shopper who enters the store home and has plenty of time to get (See JITNEYS, Page 2)

Assessor Predicts 5 1/2 Million Boost In Valuation

Birmingham's 1952 assessed valuation will be in the neighborhood of \$41,000,000, City Assessor Elmer W. Haack predicted Wednesday morning.

"We still have a bit more work to do before the assessment roll is completely spread and the final total added up, but I would venture a guess that the final result will be about 5 1/2 million more assessed valuation this year compared to last year," Haack said.

Last year's assessed valuation for the city was \$35,503,320.

PRINCIPAL ITEMS accounting for the increase, Haack said, were the mounting value of vacant residential property in the outlying areas, the value of new residential buildings constructed the past year, and some increase on Woodward properties south of Lincoln where there has been considerable commercial building.

"We've had a pretty good amount of new homes and terraces and a little bit of industry added during 1951," he explained. There has been no overall increase for either business or residential, he emphasized.

Haack's final roll and assessment figures will be looked over by the board of review on March 4 and 5, then final adjustments, if any, will be made on March 10 and 11 when the public may appear to examine the roll and petition for increases or decreases.

Brand Names Play Role in Robbery

Apparently "purchasers" are not the only persons who have become conscious of "brand names" during the past few months.

Police are investigating the theft of 120 pairs of nylon hose, all the same brand, from the F. J. Mulholland store early Friday morning. About \$187 in cash, \$20 of it in currency, also was taken.

The entry was discovered about 12:55 a.m. when Sgt. Malcolm Ross and Patrolman Anthony Blasfield made their regular check and noticed a small window in the rear of the store had been smashed.

A door into a storage room for the Huston hardware company had been forced open but nothing had been taken, police reported.

Bham. Voters Must Register by Set Up Spectral Schedule

Birmingham residents wishing to vote in the April 7 city election must be registered on or before March 10, according to City Clerk Irene Hanley.

Registration may be made in person during regular office hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays.

Special hours for registration will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 1 and 8, and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, March 7. Mrs. Hanley added.

Address changes within the city should be recorded at the clerk's office and may be made by mail. The addressee is asked to give both the old and new address and the moving date. These transfers, like initial registration, must be made before 9 p.m. March 10.

Five Announce Plans to Run For Commission

With the deadline for filing petitions for city commission positions Saturday, March 1, at 4 p.m., four residents have announced plans to run for the two three-year terms and one for the one-year post. Election is April 7.

By Wednesday morning the only petition filed was for Carl F. Ingraham, 940 Harmon, for the three-year term.

Others who have announced plans to seek a three-year spot are incumbent Richard Patterson, 1622 Bates, and Vincent B. Watkins, 587 Henley, and Robert S. Owen, 303 Ponce.

BOTH WATKINS and Owen ran for the commission last year and were defeated.

Incumbent Charles Renfrew, 319 Henley, appointed to the commission last August to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Chad Ritchie, announced this week he will try for the one-year term.

The city clerk's office pointed out that petitions for commission positions must have the signatures of at least 25 registered voters.

Legion Post to Approve Explorer Scout Charter

The Explorer Scout charter of the unit to be sponsored by Birmingham's Post, American Legion, will be approved when the Post meets at 8 o'clock tomorrow evening in the Legion home on South Woodward.

Architecture of the new office is not classical, but instead is of contemporary American design. It will be of Colonial brick with limestone trim, of fireproof construction.

THE CHURCH'S financial campaign, which was begun a number of months ago and still is underway, will speak on when toward the second half of the final goal, Seaholm said.

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Vandals Fail to Open School Safe

Prowlers made an unsuccessful attempt early Sunday morning to break open the wall safe at the new Troy high school.

Entering the building through an outside window, the invaders hammered through a cinder block partition adjacent to the safe. They then pounded away on the receptacle but were unable to open it.

Topic Selected for Mar. 21 Institute

Birmingham's Community Council will hold its annual Institute on March 21 and will feature three speakers who will talk on the subject of individual liberties in the U. S. Mrs. F. G. Garrison, Council president, announced this week.

The institute will be held in the First Baptist church since the community house is unavailable for that date. Dinner will be served prior to the discussion.

"Because 'Individual Liberties' is such a broad topic and we can't possibly touch on all of its aspects, we are concentrating on freedom of the press, freedom from government control and academic freedom," Allan Lutz, council program chairman, stated.

TWO FOREIGN journalists—one from Lebanon, the other from Holland, who are now doing post-graduate work at the University of Michigan—will speak on when liberty in the U.S. means to them, as one part of the program, Lutz said.

Other speakers on the program will be announced later, he said.

THE CHAPEL, which will seat 120 persons, will extend out from the left front of the sanctuary, which is designed to accommodate 450 persons.

Monday the congregation authorized the construction of the new church to proceed. Construction will start first with the educational unit, to be followed by the formal sanctuary, chapel and administrative offices.

Seaholm also disclosed that the new church's design has been slightly altered.

New Presbyterian Church Approved by Gov't

Birmingham's First Presbyterian Church was notified by telegram Monday morning that the federal government has approved construction of its new million-dollar facilities on W. Maple between Pleasant and Larchlea.

Construction will begin as soon as formal written approval is received from the government and construction contracts can be arranged. Ernest W. Seaholm, building plans committee chairman, said Monday afternoon.

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Hi-ho for a Wondrous Harvest

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