

Forever, within the human race, there is fought the fight between good and evil, love and hate; forever, too, the light favors the good, the lovely... even though at times the enemy seems on top. What can triumph over evil?

# The Birmingham Eccentric

PART 2

Thursday, January 24, 1952

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## BITS OF BIRMINGHAM.

Probably most former students at Birmingham high school remember W. S. Toothacker who taught here from 1917 to 1944. Since his retirement he has resided in St. Petersburg, Fla. This week he sent The Eccentric staff a copy of St. Petersburg Times, in which there was a photo of a record snow fall in Toledo, Ohio. Underneath is a picture of a sunny beach in Florida. Both photos were circled by Mr. Toothacker which was probably meant as a gentle joshing of our weather. His son Foster reports that last year was the first he stayed down for a full year. He is anxious to receive mail from his many friends in the Birmingham area and lives at 6748 Darrough Avenue north, St. Petersburg 6, Fla.

City Commissioner Milton F. Mallender officially—and briefly—came out with the fact that he will not run for re-election to the city commission in April. It happened last week in one of the evening's discussions when he injected the comment: "I won't be around this time next April." He will be winding up nine years of service on the commission. For two of those years he was mayor.

After being with The Detroit News for almost 40 years, the past 18 years as public relations director and chief librarian of the state's largest daily, Lee A. White leaves this week on a month's vacation in Mexico. He will return to Birmingham where he will start on a survey for Cranbrook Foundation. If you have ever seen White's signature, you may have

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noticed that the "A" in his name is a letter, not an initial. An initial is an abbreviation, and as such is followed by a period. The "A" is White's entire middle name. But the other night this Wanderer looked at the little brass identification tag at the bottom of White's picture in the city commission room (White was a Birmingham commissioner from 1928-31) and the letter "A" is followed by a period.

We've heard quite a bit of comment around the city this winter concerning the absence of birds. In other years, there always seemed to be a plentiful supply of sparrows at least around this time of year. Probably the heavy December snow falls caused most birds to head southward. Too, perhaps there aren't as many bird feeding stations maintained as there used to be.

When a military man goes "beyond the call of duty" in his activities, he receives a medal. When a civilian performs a duty which is only a moral obligation and not a true part of his daily job, he, too, is cited. The case which arose at the Jan. 16 meeting of the Birmingham board of education was almost in that category. W. L. Groves presented a motion, seconded by William Spence, that the board approve the purchase of new gas ranges for homecoming classes in the new high school. Groves and Spence are good, loyal employees of Detroit Edison.

Rex Millage of Beverly Hills will be among the Western Michigan College students whose pictures will appear in the Jan. 27 rotogravure section of the Chicago Sunday Tribune. The college will also be the subject of an article in the Tribune's "Youth on the Campus" series.

Al Watrous, Sr., professional at Birmingham's Oakland Hills country club, captured the PGA National Senior Open golf tournament at Dunedin, Fla., by a large margin last week. His total was an eight under par 208 for 84 holes. Two weeks ago, Al was runnerup for the PGA Senior title.

Police Lieutenant Henry Timm is already making plans to entertain Birmingham's patrol boys with a trip to the 1952 Shrine circus. His guests will be patrol captains and lieutenants and those boys who have won special honors during the year for the outstanding performance of their duties. The lieutenant said about 60 boys would claim the reserve seat tickets he is providing and handle their share of candy and popcorn during the evening's show.

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## Water System Improvements Cost \$257,727.79

The city notified the Municipal Finance Commission this week that improvements in the city's water system, financed by the issuance of \$250,000 in revenue bonds, exceeded the original estimate by only 3%.

In addition, all of the work contemplated under the bond issue has been completed. Estimated cost was \$250,000 and the actual cost came to \$257,727.79.

Commissioner Frank Rising stated Monday evening, "To get within the 3% of the actual cost and do the job in a little over a year shows we have a good estimator."

He was referring to City Engineer L. R. Gare.

The improvements included construction of the \$97,000 elevated water storage tank and seven arterial water mains.

## Cole Ave. Water Main Hearing Set for Feb. 28

A preliminary hearing on installation of a water main on Cole avenue has been set for Feb. 18. Birmingham's fire chief, Y. W. Griffith, requests the installation because industrial developments in the area have increased fire hazards.

News copy submitted early necessarily is given preference over late items. So the "Early Bird" usually gets the space.

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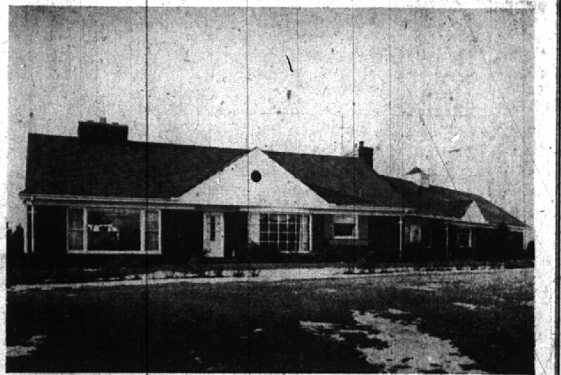
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