In these modern days of so much distraction, the art of reading is fast disappearing; if you can, therefore, influence children to enjoy the art of good reading, you will add immeasurably to the joy and richness of their whole lives.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

75TH YEAR—NO. 17 | BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1952 | 24 PAGES FIVE CENTS

May Put Controls On Use of Water

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Millions Already Shackled

Both speakers had reached the end of their TV debate on the question: "Is Socialism versus Liberty a Real Issue in America?"

The moderator concluded with: "So long as we are given the opportunity for discussions like this, our liberty is not threatened."

Such a statement, on its surface, sounds well. But consider the manner in which advocates of Socialism steer their country into such an "ism", and ponder the drift of the U.S.A. along that road thus far, and the moderator's conclusion is only a petty and trite wisecrack.

It is like saying: "So long as I stay out of the rain, I will not get wet", or "If I keep my shoes on I'll not be walking in my bare feet."

But people do get wet in the rain, and some walk barefoot. And mankind's history is that, when central government assumes too much power, exacts too much from people via taxes, adds more and more controls over them, that those nations do go totalitarian, one phase of it being Socialism.

WITH ALL THE money it now has at its disposal, with all the ability to grant monetary subsidies to various groups, to individuals through numerous welfare plans, etc., etc., the federal government already is on the threshhold of Socialistic bureaucracy.

Already it has shackled by its benefactions, the minds and mouths of millions of our citizens and countless thousands of its big and little businesses.

When oppression comes, in whatever form it may be, the oppressors do not herald their coming with the true nature of their ideas and plans for reform. But slowly, they take over . . . and when they make the final last thrust against the gates of liberty and freedom, already they have practically silenced the people and made them incapable and/or unwilling to oppose the oppressors.

Yes, people get wet in the rain and walk barefoot . . . and many nations and many peoples have lost their right to free and open discussion . . . and who says "it cannot happen here?"

. . .

Now that Our Harry has publicly denounced his old friend, Joe Stalin, do you suppose the old Kremlin Kodger lies awake all night and cries about the loss of this friendship? Or do you suppose that some of the pro-Commie U. S. federal officials make up for it in other ways?

. . .

Congress consists of 96 Senators and 435 Representatives, and they represent the legislative branch of the federal government. We have only one President . . . yet he, Harry S. Truman, time and time again castigates, criticizes, lambastes and otherwise condemns Congress for what it does or does not do to please or displease him. What a lot of gall and conceit can (human nature being what it is) reside within the temper and temperament of a bankrupt ex-haberdasher!

. . .

Countless billions of flees have arrived with flood waters in South Rhodesia and everybody scratches without fear of violating social rules. After all, why should one remain immobile when a flea is trying to burrow into some part of one!

. . .

It is reported from Chicago that 4,962 press, radio, TV, movie and photo men and women will cover the Republican convention, and no doubt as many will be present when the Democrats meet there July 21. In true American style, these communications media people will help to keep the American voters confused. (The politicians, naturally, help most in this respect.)

. . .

One of the most wonderful of human paradoxes is that people, in spite of people, quite often survive people. Nations may rise and fall, types of government may come and go, but people go on indefinitely just like people.

WHITE ELEPHANTS? Not Necessarily!

For you, perhaps. But among the thousands of Eccentric Want Ad readers you'll certainly find many anxious to purchase said objects.

PHONE MI 4-1100

Ask for the Want Ad Desk

TENNIS HAS PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR sports among Birmingham youth participating in the summer recreation program. Some 75 youngsters have turned out to gain instruction and play so far this summer. Here Instructor Patricia Price shows Jim May, Robin Reed and Midge Taup the correct way to gauge a tennis net's height. The tennis class is given mornings daily at the Hill school. (Eccentric Staff Photo).

Little Leaguers Near Half-Way Mark In Season

As the Little League season nears the half-way mark, the Pirates seem to be making a runaway of the National division and boasts the best record of both leagues with a perfect slate of five wins.

The Red Sox are on top in the American division with a four win-two loss record.

Tuesday night's games in both leagues will mark the end of the season's first half when the teams will switch fields.

In last week's National division competition, the Giants outlasted the Braves, 5-4, with Hurley the winning pitcher. The Pirates scored at will against the Cubs, smothering them 24-2 for the season's largest run margin. Graff was the winning pitcher.

. . .

THE CUBS eked out a 14-13 win over the Giants in a free-slugging affair behind the pitching of Whaley. The Pirates and Cubs were rained out in their game Thursday.

In the American division, the Red Sox bombed the Tigers, 18-4 with Clooman the winning hurler. The Yankees fell to the Indians 5-4 with the win going to Littleson. Again the Indians repeated a 5-4 score over the hapless Tigers with Dixon gaining the victory.

In another slugging contest the Red Sox swamped the Yankees, 23-8 with Madonna the winning pitcher.

Standings

American Division	Won	Lost
Red Sox	4	1
Indians	3	2
Yankees	2	3
Tigers	1	4
National Division	**Won**	**Lost**
Pirates	5	0
Braves	3	2
Cubs	2	4
Giants	1	5

Schedule:

National Division

Thurs., July 10—Giants vs. Braves, Torry field

Mon., July 14—Cubs vs. Giants, Luthuran field

Tues., July 15—Pirates vs. Braves, Lutheran field

Mon., July 16—Cubs vs. Braves, Harmon field.

American Division

Thurs., July 10—Tigers vs. Red Sox Harmon field

Mon., July 14—Indians vs. Tigers, Harmon field

Tues., July 15—Yankees vs. Red Sox, Harmon field

Wed., July 16—Indians vs. Red Sox, Torry field.

June's Accidents Highest for Year

Laxity and carelessness on the part of drivers is cited by Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley as the probable reason for the sharp increase in accidents here during the past month.

June set the year's worst record of 35 street mishaps, in which nine persons were injured and property damages amounted to $9,595.

Disregarding traffic signals and driving with the car not under control were contributing factors in 10 accidents each, Moxley reported.

. . .

OTHER ACCIDENT causes were listed as improper starting from parked position, four; right of way violations, improper passing and improper turns, three each.

Moxley said the report, compared to June 1951, when four persons were injured in a total of 20 accidents, is very unfavorable.

B'ham Rated High In Buying Power

(SPECIAL to THE ECCENTRIC)

NEW YORK, July 5—What is the average income of Birmingham families? How much is available to them for spending, after taxes? How do they spend it?

Answers to these questions, much sought after for commercial reasons, are contained in the new copyrighted survey of buying power, covering the entire United States, prepared by Sales Management.

The figures show that higher income and a better standard of living prevails locally. Birmingham families recorded net earnings in 1951, after deduction for all taxes, of $44,401,000. This was a gain over the $39,279,000 net income of the previous year.

Divided by the 5,100 families in the city, it represented earnings of $8,706 per family, which was greater than the $4,929 earned per family, on the average throughout the nation, and than the $5,449 per family in the East North Central States. Michigan families recorded earnings of $5,655.

. . .

THE FIGURES, it is pointed out, are arithmetical averages, obtained by dividing total income by total number of families.

The better earnings locally led to bigger spending. Birmingham stores registered a sales volume in the year of $30,712,000, which was well over the amount expected for a city of the size.

On the basis of population, the retail business locally should have been only .0107 percent of the national. Actually, however, local merchants accounted for .0203 percent.

This sales total represented a considerable gain over 1950, when the retail business amounted to $27,427,000.

DESPITE THE large volume of retail business recorded in the year, a considerable reservoir of potential spending, in the form of savings and investments, remained untapped locally. This is indicated by the fact that only 69 cents of each spendable dollar went into retail purchases.

A measure of the purchasing ability of each city and county, as compared with the nation, is given in the survey by a "quality of market" index. This takes into consideration income, sales, population and other factors. For Birmingham the index rating is placed at 171 or .71 percent over the national average.

District Head to Visit Birmingham Rotary Club

Alan P. Brander of Wallaceburg, Ont., Rotary district governor, will be the guest of the Birmingham group at its July 14 meeting. He will meet with the various committee chairman for a discussion one hour before the regular meeting time.

At Monday's session, City Assessor Elmer C. Hauck spoke on city taxes, what they are and how they are determined.

LEE J. SHOWALTER INSPECTS CALAMANDIN tree which seems to be only thing that hopes the heat spell continues. The tree is similar to the orange tree and is native to tropical Florida. Showalter brought the tree from Florida this winter. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

'52 School Census Has 1,085 Rise

Birmingham area consists of a good-sized community if only its children are counted.

The recently completed school district census showed a total of 10,457 pre-school and school age children residing within the school district limits. Of these 3,615 are under five years of age with 6,842 under 20.

An increase of 684 was noted in the pre-school group and 1,085 for those who will be enrolled in school during the coming term.

Mrs. Irene Stevens, clerk, in releasing the figures, said that a slight difference might be evidenced when classes actually start in the fall, due to the shifting of families.

. . .

"THE ENROLLMENT, by September, can go in either direction," she said. "It can take a drop because of families moving from Birmingham to other communities.

"However, our experience has taught us that the reverse is more likely. Summer building programs usually bring more families into Birmingham and we find our actual enrollment higher than the anticipated figure."

Divided into age groups, the figures are: five-year olds, 792; six, 607; seven, 578; eight, 567; nine, 600; ten, 545, eleven, 443; twelve, 443; thirteen, 404; fourteen, 366; fifteen, 350; sixteen, 337; seventeen, 297; eighteen, 261 and nineteen, 255.

Figures on the adult population of the Birmingham school district will be released next week, Mrs. Stevens said.

City To Pay Sewage Bonds By Next Year

The city commission Monday night authorized City Manager Donald C. Egbert to make payment of $6,000 on the 1954 sewage treatment finance bonds to clear all outstanding bonds on the issue by April 1, 1953.

The necessity of constructing additions to the present sewage disposal plant will call for the issuance of additional revenue bonds next year, Egbert indicated.

Egbert stated that the best foreseeable plan to ease the sewage disposal problems of the City of Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township while at the same time incurring savings to the city by operation of a larger plant, would be in enlarging the present plant.

The original issue of sewage disposal revenue bonds did not provide for the issuance of any more bonds of equal standing. The city has already attempted to purchase the 1953 and 1954 maturities without success and will have to pay the interest on the 1954 bonds even though they will be recalled a year ahead of schedule.

. . .

THE INTEREST, however, will be covered by the interest the 1954 maturities now are drawing in Series "A" Government notes.

Improvement and additions to the disposal plant are in the planning stage, and the plans must be submitted to the state's Water Resources Commission before Aug. 1, 1953.

As a result of the commission's study into pollution of the upper Rouge river, members decided to call for plans abating the pollution by the 1953 date from Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield township.

Abatement plans may also call for the city's membership in the proposed Southeastern Oakland County Sewage Disposal district which would take the sewage from the city's east side through the southern part of the county into Detroit sewage treating plants.

Commissioner Ralph A. Main figured that the city of Detroit could dispose of sewage for about six cents per thousand gallons, while it cost Birmingham 10 cents per thousand gallons to treat and transport the sewage.

By placing the east side of the city within the SOC sewage district, thereby pumping of that section's waste to the present city disposal plant would be ended and the city would realize nearly $15,000 a year in savings, it is estimated.

Egbert also pointed out that under Birmingham's plan to completely treat its sewage, the process would more satisfactorily and economically be carried out in a larger plant.

12,342 Voters Register Here

City officials wonder whether there is an unregistered, eligible voter left in Birmingham.

City Clerk Irene Hanley, closest to the registration picture, had estimated that about 11,500 persons were eligible to register. But when the 9 p.m. Monday deadline came, the 436 persons who had signed up that last day had boosted the total to 12,342.

City hall corridors were filled Monday evening as residents crowded in to become eligible to vote at the Aug. 5th primary election.

The probable few who have not registered for the primaries will get a later chance to cast their ballot at the November voting, however. Registration again will be open from Aug. 6 through Oct. 6, Miss Irene Hanley pointed out.

. . .

THE ADJUSTED FIGURE will probably be somewhat lower, she explained, by the time the primary vote rolls around, due to cancellations from persons who are now carried on the Birmingham rolls but have moved to other communities.

"We are getting a few of these cancellations," Miss Hanley said, "but do not expect that they will make any great difference in our present figure."

She declined to hazard a guess as to how many more registrations may be expected during the next period.

"All we can say at this time is that never in the history of the city have the people of Birmingham shown such an intense interest in any election. The increase the August-October period will give us will probably off-set these current cancellations, however."

. . .

MISS HANLEY POINTED OUT that the past ten years has seen a doubling of registration figures. In 1942 there were 6,026 registered voters in Birmingham. The last presidential year, 1948, saw only 7,139 eligible to vote. There were 9,437 registered for the April 1952 city election.

During the past several weeks members of the local Republican committee and the League of Women Voters have conducted wide-spread campaigns to register all potential voters in the city. It has included the LWV Torchlight parade and personal contact among residents.

Land Annexation Question Referred To Troy Township

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night were faced again with the possibility of annexing more land to the city.

Commissioners, after hearing the proposed plans of developer Arthur Nechman, 32321 Arlington, suggested that he gain Troy township's approval to the annexation of the area to Birmingham before the city sanctions such a move.

Nechman has asked for city utilities in a planned 43½ acres in the area north of Derby, east of the Grand Trunk railroad right-of-way and West of Eton. He proposes to annex the property to the city of Birmingham and promises to construct at his own expense all facilities such as sewer, water, street paving and sidewalks.

. . .

NECHMAN STATED THAT a 10-acre site in the property he owns is under study by the Birmingham board of education as a future school site. No action has been taken by Nechman on the site as yet.

The development would contain 128 three bedroom face brick ranch type homes.

He told commissioners that he would take the matter before the Troy board at its July 14 meeting.

Should Troy agree to the annexation, the matter would then be turned over to City Manager Donald C. Egbert and the city engineering office for study and then referred to the plan board for recommendation to the city commission.

Two Are Injured In Maple Crash

Dr. and Mrs. Chauncey G. Burke, 1123 Glengary Circle, Bloomfield township, were injured Saturday when the car in which they were riding was in collision at Middlebelt and West Maple with a car driven by Peter Vetroff, of Dearborn.

Mrs. Burke was admitted to Pontiac General hospital suffering from concussions, cuts and bruises. Hospital authorities said that Mrs. Burke was expected to be released from the hospital Tuesday.

Burke was treated for facial cuts and leg abrasions and released.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. PHONE ENterprise 6318.

STRICTLY FRESH

TWO Omaha doctors advise motorists to wear safety belts to avoid crashing through windshields. Girls will welcome the plan as a way to keep front-seat Romeos in check.

. . .

A Chicago man was arrested for filling up holes in a badly battered street. Gee, judge, he was only trying to cure his car's "spring" fever.

. . .

Premier Antoine Pinay appears to be getting France out of the "Red" in two different but unrelated ways.

. . .

A Hollywood executive predicts that movies soon will be televised into private homes right from the movie studios. No doubt they'll be featuring "Lassie Comes Home."

Emergency Final Plea To Be Made

By NORMAN DOUGLAS

Birmingham's water situation is serious.

City Manager Donald C. Egbert stated that one more attempt is being made to ask the public's assistance in saving water, and that if this fails, an ordinance restricting the use of water will be ready for city commission action next Monday night.

City officials, alarmed at the lack of cooperation they are receiving from residents and businesses, intend to protect a safe supply of water for public health even if it means strict controls.

The city Tuesday began to send post cards to every water customer in the city, repeating the request that residents on the east side of the city do their lawn sprinkling only on the even days and those on the west side hold to the odd days.

. . .

THEY ALSO have repeated the fact that requested controls hold

It is suggested you clip this and post it for easy reference:

If you live EAST of Woodward Sprinkle lawns only ON THE EVEN DAYS of the month

If you live WEST of Woodward Sprinkle lawns only ON THE ODD DAYS of the month

in the evenings after 8 p.m. Many people have been watering lawns and gardens during the late evening hours regardless of the date.

If no appreciable let-up of the water demand is seen by the weekend, the city will move to regulate water usage.

Controls would mean the restriction of water for air conditioning units and the limitation of lawn sprinkling to a few hours a day in off-peak times.

Egbert explained that Birmingham's sole supply of water is from underground formations. Only a one inch of rainfall during the month of June and early July has been added to the ground water supply, making it "impractical to gamble any further with the precious and only supply," he emphasized.

. . .

REQUESTED CONTROLS or approved regulations will be continued after the city enjoys its first normal rainfall, city officials contend. Every attempt must be made to replenish diminishing ground water levels, they say.

Egbert pointed out that while the city itself is not using considerable amounts over pumpage 10 years ago, outlying areas surrounding Birmingham have been drawing a tremendous amount of water from the same ground water table that Birmingham pumps from.

"The city has realized that the ground water table has been ever-lowering and has been seeking a Detroit supply for the past three years," Egbert said. "And although the outlook seems bright in gaining an agreement with Detroit, it will be at least a year before any such water system could operate."

. . .

THE CITY is advertising for bids this week on another well to augment Birmingham's supply.

The city commission Monday night also voted to advance the Southeastern Oakland County water authority $2,500 to initiate engineering work for the Detroit water project.

No Action on Funds

Birmingham city commissioners have tabled action on a request for more memorial day funds from veterans' organizations in the city. The plea was made last week, but commissioners asked that a report of expenses be presented for study. The matter will not be decided until City Clerk Irene Hanley receives reports from the units of 1952 expenses involved in the purchase of flags and other memorial day observances.