

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1952

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Your home is, should be, more than a shelter. It ought to be a place in which you spend most of your happy days—especially if you have a family. It should be a warm, comfortable abode, as close to heaven as one can get on earth.

74TH YEAR—NO. 51

And Breaks in Friden at Scene of RO Gas Explosion

THS and THAT

By G. R. A.

"Playing Down" to Voters

Did you ever hear one of those anti-Jefferson Democrats talk something like this: "Our party is the friend of the common man. We enact social legislation that a majority of our people favor. That's why we are re-elected so often. We give the people what they want."

That is exactly the kind of reasoning that brings individuals and nations to ultimate grief and disaster.

Any politician who argues that his job is to give the people what they want might as well go home and sleep with the economic hogwash he hands out, offer them things that appeal to their lusts.

With all due respect to the masses as human beings, they are not stupid. They are intelligent and analyzing the complex nature of many of today's problems. . . but they are entitled to have leaders who can and will take them out of the mud and mire to higher and more enduringly secure ground.

Your Are Victimized

Have you ever tried to figure out why a young nation like the United States, dedicated to individual freedom, having developed the world's highest standard of living for its people, should drift so easily into the welfare and dependency state?

Do you realize that organized minorities, anywhere on earth, can overthrow unorganized majorities?

And that this is being done by groups of people here. One of them consists of politicians who want jobs and power and personal financial gain. Another is those who also believe that the masses of people are too dumb to govern and regulate themselves so they, the planners, want to "take over."

Finally, these leaders, do you realize that this greater concentration of control is being done with YOUR MONEY, taken away from you? Is it by the average American wage-earner, who is being penalized and victimized in your pocketbook and in your freedom?

Indeed, it is YOU who are the prey. The politician and the planner.

"Cleanup" Demanded By Rising

Birmingham city commissioners—Frank Rising in particular—believe the city needs some housecleaning.

Just before Monday evening's meeting got under way, Rising used a paper towel and some soap to show just what he meant.

When he got through, there were two clean spots on the east wall of the commission room.

"It is evident that this room could stand a good wall-washing," said Mr. Robert S. Owen, 103, a few early members of the audience.

When he went to a window and pulled down one of the shades that normally stay half way up, the top half was cream-colored, the bottom portion very gray, approaching black.

"And we could use some new shades, too," Rising commented.

Maples Meet Fitzgerald in District Tourney

Birmingham and Fitzgerald high schools meet at 7:30 p.m. Friday evening in the Class B district basketball tournament at Ferriday high school.

Another Class B game Friday night at 8:30. Winner of this tilt meets the Birmingham-Fitzgerald winner in a Class B final at 9:10 p.m. for the district title.

Fitzgerald finished second in the Class B "B" league with a 6-4 record.

Fire Chief Estimates February Loss at \$600

Estimated fire damage to buildings and contents in Birmingham last month totaled \$600, according to the report of Fire Chief V. W. Griffith.

The department answered 21 calls for fires during the month. There were three first aid calls, five for gas investigations and one miscellaneous. For the first time in several months no false alarms were received.

Oakland Hospital Plans Completed by Architect

Architect's plans and perspective for the new 200-bed Oakland Hospital, to be erected at Woodward Avenue and Thirteenth Mile Road, have been approved and were released for publication today by the Oakland Hospital board of trustees at a press conference called by E. A. Tomlinson, President.

The building plans, developed by the architectural firm of Ellerbe and Company in conjunction with Dr. Christopher G. Parrall, the Oakland Hospital consultant, are for a four-story, cross-shaped structure to rise on the site originally intended for the Woodward General Hospital.

At the same time, the trustees announced that a one-month campaign to raise \$200,000 for the Greater Detroit Hospital Fund from industry and business plus key individuals in South Oakland county will begin March 14.

Chairman of the drive will be Merritt D. Hill, vice president of Dearborn Motors, Birmingham.

To Proceed With Oak Widening

The city commission Monday evening informally gave the "go-ahead signal" to the widening of Oak street and the Oak street bridge.

The city engineer's department was described by Hill as will provide for a total width of 23 feet from back to back of the curbs. Consideration of assessment plans were deferred until such time as formal public hearings can be called.

City Engineer L. R. Gare's recommendation was, "I'd like to see at least 22 feet face to face of the curb and with curbs it will be 23 feet back to back. I'd like more curbs to get it, but this will handle the present traffic. It would mean taking down seven trees."

UNDER THE BANNER

"Let's Finish the Job," the Oak street drive was described by Hill as the "final financial step taken to assure 100 per cent financing for the new hospital."

The Greater Detroit Hospital Fund had its stamping in 1949-51 to raise \$19,720,000 for 14 hospitals in Metropolitan Detroit. Hill pointed out that since that time, he agreed that there would be no solicitation in Oakland County until the city had completed its own plan and other details of Oakland Hospital.

Now that all details have been completed, and the hospital plans are finalized, South Oakland business and industry will have an opportunity to meet its obligations to the Greater Detroit Hospital Fund.

The practical aspect of the hospital drive was pointed out by Hill in a review of South Oakland County Hospital matters.

THE EMPHASIZED

that, while the Greater Detroit Hospital Fund has received over \$3,000,000 to Oakland Hospital, this amount is contingent upon the Greater Detroit Fund's success in raising its overall goal of \$19,720,000. It is now about \$300,000 short.

At an evening statement, Tomlinson described the projected health center as one "representing the united action of a broad cross-section of Southern Oakland County residents."

"All hospital programs in the area have now been consolidated in Oakland Hospital," he said. "Participating in the financing are the Greater Detroit Hospital Fund, Woodward General Hospital, Bloomfield Medical Center and Oakland Hospital."

Five Candidates In Race for City Commission

Of the five candidates running for city commission positions in Birmingham, the race is now a few days away from being decided.

Renfrew, who was appointed last August to the commission, is the only candidate running for the one-year term.

Those who filed petitions before the Saturday afternoon deadline for the two three-year positions are: Robert S. Owen, 103 Park; Vincent B. Watkins, 587 Henley; Carl S. Ingraham, 940 Parkway; and Robert S. Patterson, 1622 Bates.

2,238 Take Part In Troy Blood Typing Program

The blood typing program sponsored by Troy township schools Feb. 25-27 went far beyond the scope of the program as figures released this week indicated.

Both students and parents took part in the program which was held at 1,500. While the program concluded Wednesday evening, 2,238 persons had been typed.

Totals by days are Monday, 518 at the high school; Tuesday, 524 at the high school; Wednesday, 524 at the high school, 674 and Log Cabin school, 525.

Superintendent Stuart Baker stated that plastic dog tags will be sent to participants in about two months. These tags state the blood type, RH factor, name and address.



STRETCHER BEARING FRIDEN (in circle) IS LIFTED OUT OF BASEMENT Trapped under debris, Birmingham man died 2½ hours later in hospital. (Joe Wheeler Photo)



PARMALEE EXPLAINS PRECISION SIGHT SETTING TO TOM SEGAL, 12, OF BIRMINGHAM This picture, taken 2 weeks ago, probably is last taken of victim while alive. (Joe Wheeler Photo)

Parmelee Taught Gun Safety To Many Local Youngsters

By RAY DENNIS

Claude Parmelee, who was fatally injured as a result of the explosion at his sporting goods store Friday evening, had long experience as a professional shooter for a large gun and ammunition firm. He also wrote two books on gunmanship and was a combat instructor to troops during World War II.

Because he knew guns and realized how dangerous they can be with inexperienced handling, he imparted his knowledge to those who wanted instruction and training.

He claimed that unfamiliarity with firearms accounts for approximately 97 per cent of all gun accidents.

BELIEVING THAT youngsters should be taught how to shoot straight and handle guns safely, Parmelee organized a shooting school about a year ago at his store.

Practically all youngsters who attended in his school never previously fired a shot. Average age of the trainees was 12 and most were from Birmingham. His individual instruction stressed both safety and expert marksmanship.

There was no charge for the school and the boys and girls either brought their own rifles or were furnished them. Classes were held each Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday and in addition, Sunday mornings. Approximately 50 boys and girls were currently receiving training.

Not all his students were youngsters. He recently stated, "They are as well-trained law enforcement officers as I have seen."

Local Man Is One of 2 Victims

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL and RAY DENNIS

Investigators inquiring into the cause of the Friday evening gas explosion at Parm's sporting goods store on Woodward, just below 14 Mile road, in which two men were fatally injured, revealed Monday that a second break had been discovered in the main serving the store.

It was located just north of the point where the store's gas service line crosses the 2-inch main in the basement to the rear.

Royal Oak city officials and Consumers Power Co. representatives still are searching for the exact circumstances by which gas entered the ill-fated store and the manner in which the explosion was set off.

MEANWHILE, Royal Oak Chief Inspector Owen C. Perkins has signed a complaint against Law-

Explosion Should Hasten Passage of Gas Bill—Estes

Friday evening's explosion at Parm's Sporting Goods Store should add impetus to the Michigan Senate's passage of the bill to require the public service commission to establish adequate safety standards for gas transmission lines, Birmingham Representative Howard R. Estes said Monday afternoon.

"That tragic explosion brings home again that something must be done to reduce or eliminate these accidents," he said.

Estes is chairman of an Interim legislative committee on consumer legislation summoned from the Dec. 11, 1949, explosion in Birmingham.

THE COMMITTEE introduced an amendment to the public utility commission act which recently passed the house 75 to 1. The bill now is before the senate for consideration.

"I think there'll be some serious action on it in about 10 days," Estes stated.

rene and Hugh Cavelly, excavating contractors, 2307 Fern One-Half Mile road, Southfield township, for digging a sewer venting a pipe. Under Royal Oak city ordinance, the charge is a misdemeanor.

The Cavelly Construction Co. caused the original break in the gas main behind Parm's store.

A Birmingham man, Norman E. Friden, 48, 247 First street, and Claude E. Parmelee, 4309 Hampton, Royal Oak, died in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital on Monday, a few hours after they were pulled out of the grim wreckage.

Parmelee was the first victim to be freed and was taken out shortly after 7 p.m. Friden was the second victim. He was unconscious when he was pulled out at 8:20.

Parmelee was the resident crew leader and before he could be rescued, a crane had to be rushed from the city to the site. The Cavelly Construction Co. on Eight Mile road.

The crane was at the scene at 7:45 and Friden who was unconscious was pulled out at 8:20.

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"WE WERE CALLED at 4:57 p.m. with the report that a gas main was broken." The address was given as 4814 Parkway. A street repair crew was immediately dispatched.

At 5:10 call came in from the Wright Tool Co. reporting that no gas was coming through their gas line. At 5:15 a service man was sent to the tool company.

"Meanwhile, the resident crew had reported that they couldn't find 4814 Parkway. They were directed to the tool company and arrived there before the service man did, and found the break in the main.

LEE SAID the Consumers crew found the break in the gas main at 4:57 p.m. They were directed to the tool company and arrived there before the service man did, and found the break in the main.

(See EXPLOSION, Page 2)