

So many distractions exist today that many people are unable to acquaint themselves with some of the timely truths about economic, civic, and other important issues of the day; this is why *eccentric* and *eccentricities* find it so easy to win power, position, and/or graft.

Red Cross Needs Package Expert

Red Cross workers urgently need the services of one particular type of person—someone who likes to organize “things” and is an expert at packing.

According to Mrs. Bradlee Pruden, vice chairman representing volunteers, the work of the blood bank units has increased to the point that from one to five banks are handled each week in the county.

This means a great deal of equipment to be moved about, and the process is becoming increasingly difficult.

“We have an electric coffee urn, hot plate, paper cups, food, fruit juice, milk, coffee and so on to move from place to place,” Mrs. Pruden said. “The work is done mostly by women, so packages must be kept as light as possible.”

“AT PRESENT we have boxes of all sizes and conditions and are in constant danger of something being lost.

“What we want is a volunteer who can design light-weight, compact containers for us, small enough to be handled easily by one woman. Any suggestions which will help us to solve this problem will be deeply appreciated.”



TREES ALONG W. MAPLE ARE REMOVED TO PERMIT STREET WIDENING
From this angle, trees used to hide side of Baldwin elementary school, now exposed.



HALF OF OVERHEAD LEAFY ARCH WAS GONE THURSDAY AFTERNOON
By the weekend, the trees at right were cut down, too. (Eccentric Staff Photos)

EARLY NEWS AND ADVERTISING COPY NEXT WEEK, PLEASE

Because of the Memorial Day Holiday The Birmingham Eccentric will be closed both Friday and Saturday, May 30 and 31.

News sources and advertisers are urged to advance the submission of their copy accordingly.

Old Cars, Keystone Cops To Be Featured in Rally

There will be a hot time in the old town on June 12, when an old fashioned political parade, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, goes down Birmingham streets.

Mrs. B. F. Magruder, parade chairman, and her committee have been searching the town and countryside for appropriate parade material and have put together the makings of one evening of fun and excitement.

Starring in the parade will be 11 or more old time cars in which candidates for the August primary election will ride. The owners of the autos will be the drivers and will be dressed in appropriate linen dusters and goggles.

Fred Davis of Franklin, an old car enthusiast and collector, has been responsible for obtaining co-operation of the owners of these antique autos.

There will be music, too, with our own Birmingham high school band, playing under the direction of Arnold Bernd, and a drum and bugle corps from Wayne County. The committee hopes to have a calypso with which all parades should end.

PRE-PARADE activity will feature the Dean Coffin family as Keystone Cops doing something about stuffed ballot boxes. Also participating will be the Robert Perry's goat and little red wagon. Hundreds of LWV members, often called the “auxiliary”, will be parade marshals and will see to it that the parade starts on time and that the units are properly spaced.

The parade will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Chester and Martin streets, go east on Martin to Bates, south on Bates to the Community House to pick up the candidates who will be gathered there, east on Brown street to Woodward, north on Woodward to Maple, west on Maple to Chester, south on Chester to the rear of the Hill school where the Candidates Rally will begin at 8:15 p.m.

COLOR GUARDS from the girl scouts, boy scouts, Troop B-4, and American Legion will be marching in the parade and there will be many banners and signs carried by the boy scouts to identify the candidates.

No parade would be complete without floats—so Mrs. Richard Van Dusen and Mrs. William Brooks, chairman of this activity, are lining up floats depicting the themes of “The Suffragettes”, “The Absentee Ballot”, “First Time Voters” and “Democracy.”

Mayor Dean Beier, who will be the master of ceremonies at the candidate rally following the parade,

To Address Auxiliary Mrs. Theodore Wedel of Washington, D. C., will be the speaker at the Diocesan Women Auxiliary at Christ Church Cranbrook on May 26. Prior to her 2 o'clock address, which will be open to the public, the auxiliary will hold a business meeting and luncheon.

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'Progress' Demands More Tree Removals

By KAY REED

There weren't many people around last week when West Maple avenue lost more of its maples. This time trees were taken down from Chester to Southfield where the road will be strengthened for the new Maple bridge.

Re-routed traffic scurried around the detour signs, and only the few that came on foot watched the trees go, first the branches and crowns, then the trunks.

Among those who were there, there was a feeling of genuine regret. They didn't come to criticize the men swinging axes and saws, but rather to fix in their minds for the last time a well-loved picture, the tall trees that have always lined the route.

Over the din of branches crashing to the street a few anonymous remarks were heard. One man, more vehement than most of the onlookers, muttered that he “would like to wrap that saw around someone's neck.”

Others commented on the large supply of firewood being accumulated.

Someone remarked that if a ghost were seen among the denuded trunks, “it would be Mattie Baldwin, for she wouldn't have let anyone touch a leaf on these trees.”

THE PREDOMINANT feeling among the spectators, mostly long-time residents, was that an era was passing.

Mrs. Scott Hersey, 460 Maple road, stated that the trees were full grown in 1892 when she came to live in Birmingham.

“It's a shame we can't have beauty and progress, too,” Mrs. Hersey said. “The trees in front of our home have become a part of our lives and here they are, being chopped down in a few hours.”

“But we have to give way to progress. If in the better judgment of the authorities, the street constitutes a danger, then the trees are worth nothing compared to a life.”

“Feelings of regret are natural. First the automobile drove away the squirrels and now the trees. But since we are no longer a village but are becoming a city we must acquire a city aspect.”

MR. HERSEY ASKED if he were absolutely necessary. He raised the question of whether “a few feet less might have sufficed and spared the trees.”

Robert Brown, another sidewalk

viewer, was sorry to see them go. He felt “it won't be Maple road without the maples.”

Mrs. J. C. Dickson, 911 Chestnut, said “It's a shame. The trees made such a lovely entrance to Birmingham. When I was away at college I always knew I was home when I came to these trees in full foliage. But the street does need widening.”

AS THE AFTERNOON wore on the crew worked almost alone. The trees alongside of Baldwin Elementary School were gone, and the building looked strangely bare.

Then there were a few more onlookers.

Clyde Babcock, 407 Townsend, remarked that he “didn't think much of it, but it's done now. I suppose that the street does need widening, but it destroys the beauty of the town. Traffic could have slowed down for these few blocks.”

Mrs. Harry Allen, 556 West Maple road, remembers Birmingham when her family built on Southfield in 1894.

“The population then was officially 360, counting the cats and dogs. We then lived on the ‘outskirts’ of town. Now it is to become the business section.”

“THEY HAD TO do it,” Mrs. Allen said, “after putting the new bridge in the wrong place. The curve is a bottleneck, but there have been very few accidents. The new bridge is needed, but it could have been put just north of the old one, and kept the same right-of-way.”

“The village disappeared when the trees were taken down. Some of the maples were decaying, but the trees were good for years. If the city replants it should help.”

“Old Birmingham is passing, but we have to get used to it. Change is inevitable.”

Mrs. Harry Rainey, 424 West Maple road, was the last person interviewed. She felt that “it had to be done. The traffic is terrible and it is such a narrow street. We must go along with the times.”

BY NOW THE workmen were almost finished. The branches were being picked up and thrown on waiting trucks. As it turned to go, I realized that there had been no vehement protest, no drastic reaction such as the had occurred at nearby Oxford when the irate citizens fought against the removal of the trees lining their main street.

Just then one of the crew came up and pointed to a lone branch lying on an adjacent lawn. There were my “irate citizens.”

Looking down a hole in the branch, all one could see were four open mouths clamoring in indignation.

For the citizens who will miss the maples most are these young robins to whom the trees not only meant home—but were home.

Don't Sign Any Paper Presented by Strangers, Veterans Are Warned

Veterans in the Birmingham area who are behind in payments on GI home loans are warned to carefully check any offers by strangers to make these delinquent payments for them if veterans don't “sign on the dotted line.”

The warning comes from Guy F. Palmer, Detroit manager of the VA office, who said veterans should check with the office before signing any papers.

The racket, called “milking” or “equity skinning”, is to have the veteran sign what is actually a deed. He can get his property back only by signing a land sales contract at a much higher price, Palmer warned.

Walter J. Simons Gets Chrysler Promotion

Walter J. Simons, 784 Wooddale road, director of pensions and group insurance for the Chrysler Corp., has been named assistant treasurer of the corporation.

An accountant and lawyer, Simons is since Chrysler in 1943. Since 1950 he has been in charge of the firm's program on pensions and group insurance plans.

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