Soon the doors of schools will open and the youth of this nation will sit at the feet of teachers, to gain education. How wonderful it would be if more youngsters went back to school with an enormous hunger for learning! Teachers would love that.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION ONE

76TH YEAR—NO. 24 BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1953 32 PAGES SEVEN CENTS

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

A GREAT MICHIGAN EDITOR WRITES "36" TO HIS COLUMN

During the past two weeks there has occurred the passing of a great Michigan newspaperman whom I knew for more than 30 years. He is Malcolm W. Bingay, editorial director of the Detroit Free Press, who was stricken while at his desk Friday, Aug. 21.

It is natural, of course, for one to inventory the environment of his association with people who no longer walk among us . . . and in the personal loss of this man numerous memory-pictures are recalled to me.

Many columns of words have been written about "Bing", who spent 50 years of his long life working on The Detroit News, at first, then The Free Press. Most of you already know how he started in on the News as an office boy (with less than a grade school education), and rose to become its managing editor at the youthful age of 29.

SO, IN SPITE of his lack of formal education, he never-the-less had the inherent talents that emerged him into one of the best informed newspapermen in America. His prodigious memory retained much of what he read and observed . . . and so he was able to work into his daily copy that sort of reading matter that won him countless readers.

Too, his ability to inject humor into his writings provided him with a type of literary "seasoning" that held the interest of those who daily looked forward to "what is Bing saying today?"

Over the years, at various conventions and banquets, I had been asked to introduce him as the main speaker. Once, at the convention of the Michigan Association of County Road Commissioners in Ann Arbor, Bing was to speak at the closing session. Having been requested to introduce him, in advance I contacted poet Edgar A. Guest, asking him to write a special verse for the introduction.

EDDIE COMPLIED with a splendid bit of eulogy for his editorial colleague, which I surprised Bing by reading at the banquet; he really was touched by its contents, and asked me for the copy for his scrap book.

Another time I introduced him at a Royal Oak Rotary meeting. Sitting beside him I said: "Bing, what is your topic for today?" "Haven't got one made up yet, George", he replied, cryptically. Five minutes later he turned to me and said: "I've decided to use you as my topic. You are about to go to Lansing to act as executive secretary to our new Governor, Kim Sigler. Long have I held that no working newspaperman should accept a public office, and I want to talk about the danger, as a newspaperman, that might come to you by getting into practical politics."

And that is what he did. Interspersed with humor, Bing spent a half hour talking about newspapers, politics and politicians . . . now and then turning my way with fatherly warnings "about the pitfalls ahead." But he did conclude by admitting that "maybe George is old enough and experienced enough to come through without too much bloodshed."

IN THE PASSING of Bing a great void in the Michigan editorial world has been created. Whether you agreed with much of his thinking or not, you probably credited him with making a good current impact upon your own convictions about many things.

Bingay's rise to top heights in the profession he loved so well is eloquent evidence that the old axiom, "What one likes to do one can do best", is correct.

Scores of today's capable newspaper men and women came up through the guidance of Bing; some of them grew to love him, while others railed against the "toughness" of his mentorship . . . but all agreed that he knew his business; that the pattern of imagination and industry he set for them would, if emulated, bring them somewhere near the top of the reportorial heap.

Yes, the passing of Malcolm W. Bingay is a distinct loss to his many friends and countless readers. Somehow, we all agree, we'll have to start each day without perusing his famous column that saluted each sunrise with an editorial "Good Morning."

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FRED TRIS BILL HOWARD DEAN COFFIN

Two sets of Coffin twins (Howard and Tris, Bill and Fred) went bathless.

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Avail yourself of the opportunity to take a cool refreshing bath—free—through the courtesy of Martha Baldwin, an energetic and visionary Birmingham woman of an earlier era.

While research was being done for The Eccentric's 75th Anniversary edition, one of the interesting facts uncovered was the provision in Martha Baldwin's will which provided for public bath facilities in the school named for her.

Will or no will, today's seeker for a public bath at the former high school just won't get in.

Dean Coffin and his family, prominent Birmingham residents, arrayed in bathrobes and carrying soap and towels, rattled the public bath room door vigorously last week, only to meet a strong silence from the custodian. The door was locked—definitely and positively locked.

Information regarding the will of Martha Baldwin, drawn up Jan. 4, 1912, almost a year and a half before she died, came from The Birmingham Eccentric's files of June, 1913.

AFTER CERTAIN bequests were made, the will stated that the residue of the estate was to go to the construction of a new school to be named Baldwin school (This was done.)

The money for the school must be used within ten years or revert to the estate. (This was done, Baldwin school being built in 1918 at a cost of almost $180,000.)

Miss Baldwin also stipulated that the school shall have an auditorium, (it has) and "at least two free public baths, one for men and one for women."

At the time of her death in 1913, it was estimated that her estate consisted of $10,000 in real estate and $5,000 in personal property.

IN A RECENT communication The Birmingham Eccentric received from W. C. Harris, school board member from 1915-1920, now living in California, Harris said, "When I was on the school board we had to consider the will of Mattie Baldwin.

"She left most of her little property to the school district, providing that it should be improved by a building where the people of Birmingham could meet and which must contain a bath where they could bathe.

"We wanted to accept this gift, of course. So when the Baldwin school was built, we provided a full bathroom, entirely disconnected from the school baths, but with a door on Maple avenue, that was to be kept unlocked until 7:30 p. m. each day.

"I ASKED the janitor when I left Birmingham, if many persons availed themselves of this bath. He said, 'No one to my knowledge.'

"I have always remembered the peculiar thought that must have been in Miss Baldwin's mind when she made that will. Probably some people close to her needed frequent baths!"

Clarence Vliet, 416 W. Brown, who was a superintendent of Birmingham schools during this period, provides The Eccentric with the full details of the building of Baldwin school and the fullfilment of the provisions of the will.

"In 1917 when the building was proposed," Vliet said, "There was a great deal of puzzlement as to how money could ever be obtained to get such an ornate building.

"BEFORE FINAL plans were approved for Baldwin school, three sets of plans were submitted.

"I remember very well that school board meeting when the third set of plans were discussed. The board adjourned for a short time to decide just what to do.

"The men on the board paced back and forth, talking it over, wondering if the school district would ever pass a bond issue of that amount of money to build the school.

"Finally the late Charlie Shain said, 'We've got to have that school! Let's try it!'"

AN OFFICIAL booklet issued by the school board of 1917 described the proposed Baldwin school and auditorium. Under the heading "Proposed New High School," there was printed the following description:

"The building will stand at the corner of Maple and Chester streets with a frontage of 160 feet on Maple and 162 feet on Chester.

"In general it is an L-shaped building which can easily be enlarged to prepare for the future growth of the high school and has been planned so as to satisfy the conditions of the bequest of the estate of Martha Baldwin" (It was enlarged in 1923).

"In the final plans," Vliet said, "was a provision for an auditorium that could be used as a gymnasium. The auditorium would serve as a general meeting place for 900 people as there was no meeting place of any size in the city at that time that could accomodate a large group of people.

PROVISION was made for a good sized stage at one end of the auditorium. Below the auditorium were the domestic science rooms and the lunch room—novelties in those days.

"Under the stage were the showers and locker rooms," Vliet explained, "one for boys and one for girls. Outside doors were provided to the shower rooms and that took care of the provisions of the will."

Vliet said that the total sum of all of Martha Baldwin's estate when liquidated which was willed to the school district brought in about $30,000 which was used to furnish the Baldwin school.

THE GREAT MANY people who used the gym during the day and evening, used the showers, and in this interpretation, the showers are "free public baths."

No one as far as The Eccentric has been able to determine, has ever gone over to Baldwin school with the express purpose of taking a bath until Dean Coffin tried it last week.

The Saturday night bath in the wooden wash tub has passed from the Birmingham scene. Now, 40 years after Martha Baldwin's time, every home has at least one bath. People take baths or showers whenever they want to—sometimes even five times a week.

However, the door to Birmingham's one and only public bath remains locked.

Makes Hole In One

Mickey Hartkopf, one of the city's persistant junior golfers, fired the shot of his short golfing career on the fourth hole at Springdale Park last Wednesday, Aug. 19. The tees were set at about 200 yards and Mickey sent a three wood shot straight into the cup for a hole-in-one. Mickey, who is 16 years old, will be a Junior at Birmingham high school this fall. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Hartkopf of 1411 East Lincoln. Jerry White, another local high school student, was his playing companion on the round.

Restricts Water Use For Lawns

"The water shortage is back with us again," city commissioners learned Monday night.

To protect an adequate supply of water within the city, the commission reactivated the emergency water-use regulations created by ordinance last summer, with alterations.

Until further notice is given by the city, residents living in even numbered houses will be allowed to sprinkle lawns only on even numbered days and those in odd numbered houses on odd numbered days.

All use of lawn sprinklers must be discontinued for a two hour period after sounding of the twelve alarm fire siren.

Fire Chief V. W. Griffith explained to commissioners that all elevated water tanks were dangerously low Saturday and Sunday as residents sought to save their lawns from the continued dry spell.

"The present situation is of such a serious nature that police have been ordered by the mayor to be on the alert for offenders of the water restrictions," said Fire Chief V. W. Griffith.

He stated that approximately 20 days have passed without an appreciable amount of rainfall and that while the city's wells are producing at a normal rate their water levels are falling off. Without rainfall in the very near future the situation could become very critical.

"This present threatened shortage of water justifies consideration on everybody's part. If everyone will cooperate there will be sufficient water for all," Chief Griffith continued.

He further urged that residents refrain from watering their lawns during the daytime, pointing out that water sprayed during the daytime is quickly evaporated by the sun. Lawns actually suffer from daytime waterings since the sun, magnified by water drops will burn the grass.

Passage of the water use regulation last year was deemed necessary by the city to provide, at all times, an adequate supply of water for fire protection.

Summer Salt For Winter Slips

Even though the August sun is melting the pavements, city commissioners are looking ahead to the months when the same streets will be covered with a glare of ice.

Commissioners Monday night approved a contract with the Morton Salt company to furnish the city with 400 tons of rock salt for the coming winter at a cost of $3,080.

Civitan, New Men's Service Club, Formed Here Tuesday

Initial steps toward the formation of Civitan International, one of the well known men's service clubs, were taken Tuesday night when 25 Birmingham business and professional men met in the American legion Hall, and voted to petition for a charter.

Western Grizzard, field secretary, of Clarksville, Tenn., is responsible for getting the charter members together here.

Hugh McGuckin, of Harold Turner, Inc., local Ford dealer, was elected temporary president, and Bernard Bogue, 1846 Pembroke, is serving as temporary secretary-treasurer.

THE GROUP ALSO formally requested that Ernest A. Moore, of Toronto, president of Civitan International, be invited to present the charter, probably late in September. The next club meeting will be held in the Legion Hall next Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

The motto of Civitan is "Builders of good citizenship."

Following are the charter members of the club: W. Weston Myer, 871 N. Eton; Hugh McGuckin, 464 S. Woodward; Douglass L. Witters, 18181 Kirkshire; Jack R. Deo, 1963 Cole; Richard J. Sclucki, Birmingham Theater; Walter V. Allison, Woods Boot Shop.

William M. Monahan, 880 W. 14 Mile Rd.; Edwin P. Dowd, 257 Briggs Bldg.; Alvin Barsuhn, 341 S. Woodward; Jack Coleman, 217 S. Woodward; Everett Farr, 391 S. Woodward; Earl J. Schmitt, 2044 Oakshire; Wayne Lentz, Bloomfield Theater.

THOMAS SKINNER, 984 Cambridge Rd.; Edward A. Perry, 130 W. Maple; Claude E. Walker, 1767 Sheffield; Carl F. Ingram, 940 Harmon; Amos Battenfield, 1825 Earlmount; Bernard M. Bogue, 1846 Pembroke.

Carl O. Voorheis, 671 Smith; H. Otto Racette, 141 E. Maple; John R. Little, 70 Devon Rd; Ralph F. Schwarze, 1104 S. Woodward; Cramer R. Wilson, 1023 W. Ward; William N. Carroll, 2144 Buckingham.

BIRMINGHAM'S CHIEF of police, Ralph W. Moxley, (center) looks on as Mayor Ralph A. Main accepts a bronze plaque commemorating Birmingham's citation of Honorable Mention in the 1952 national traffic safety competition. The presentation was made Tuesday afternoon by Michigan State Police Corporal Joseph Chaput, who represented the National Safety Council, sponsor of the competition. Mayor Main received the plaque on behalf of the city at a meeting in the commission room, municipal building, in which city officials gathered to hear the National Safety Council's report and recommendations on traffic safety in the city. Corporal Chaput delivered the report and commented that Birmingham's traffic record is one of the best he has encountered in his work with the National Safety Council. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

County Government Fair Planned Here By L.W.V.

"As a mark of respect and tribute to Walter B. Fauser and his outstanding career as a businessman, now therefore be it resolved by the Birmingham City Commission this 24th day of August, 1953, that this resolution be spread at length upon the journal of this day's proceedings, and as a further expression of sympathy extended by us, that a suitable copy of this resolution be transmitted to the family of the deceased and to the President of the Michigan Bell Telephone Company."

WALTER B. FAUSER

Local 'Phone Manager Heart Attack Victim

Walter B. Fauser, 53, Birmingham area manager of Michigan Bell Telephone company, died suddenly on Monday, Aug. 24, following a heart attack. With Mrs. Fauser, he was visiting relatives in Elyria, Ohio.

Mr. Fauser had been associated with the telephone company since Sept. 16, 1918, when he became coin collector for the Detroit commercial office.

He transferred to Flint in 1932 and a year later was named office manager at Pontiac.

His promotion to commercial manager in 1934 took him to Rochester and to the Birmingham office the following year.

During his 18 years in this office Mr. Fauser saw many changes in the telephone service to the area and was instrumental in bringing about many of the improvements here.

DURING THE construction of the new building and Birmingham's change-over to the dial system Mr. Fauser took great pride in acquainting the people of Birmingham with what the company was planning and accomplishing.

Perhaps one of the most fitting tributes and one which best showed his influence in the city came from a little boy who, this week overhearing a conversation about Mr. Fauser's death said, "Mommy, won't we have telephones any more?" He made countless friends during his 18 years here.

MR. FAUSER was born in Detroit on Aug. 10, 1900, and had spent his entire life in this area. He made his home at 132 Woodward in Rochester.

He was a member of the First Congregational church of Rochester, Rochester Lodge 5, F. & A. M., the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Birmingham Rotary club.

Surviving besides his widow, Mildred L., are two children, Mrs. Marlene Pfaff of Detroit and Walter B. Fauser, Jr., of Detroit. Three brothers, Arthur of Detroit, George of Rochester, and Alfred of Wyandotte and five grandchildren also survive.

Services are to be at 1:30 this afternoon from the Nichols-Pixley funeral home in Rochester, with the Rev. E. John Yuells officiating. Burial will be in Forest Lawn cemetery, Detroit.

City commissioners, saddened by the death of Mr. Fauser, Monday night endorsed the following resolution offered by Commissioner Richard M. Patterson:

"We, the Members of the Birmingham City Commission, with heartfelt sadness now wish to memorialize the death of one of our most highly regarded and respected businessmen, Walter B. Fauser.

"His thirty-five years of service with the Michigan Bell Telephone Company, including eighteen years as Manager of the Birmingham office, have made him well-known to the City government and to the public at large. His cooperation in civic matters, his genial personality, will long be remembered by those who knew him. Particularly during the stress of the recent growth of our City, Mr. Fauser guided the Telephone Company's tremendous expansion with dispatch.

Incinerator Bond Sale Brings High Interest Rate

Financing of the Southeastern Oakland County Garbage and Rubbish Authority's incinerator was assured Friday, Aug. 21, when a group of 16 investors purchased the authority's $1,800,000 bond issue at par and 4½ per cent interest. This project will serve Birmingham.

Failure to sell the bonds last month has caused a delay in the construction schedule of the 450 ton-per-day incinerator which is now expected to be completed by January, 1955.

The brokers, headed by the First of Michigan Corporation, entered the standby bid of 4½ per cent interest last month when the authority was unable to secure a purchaser. Bids had to be readvertised at a higher interest rate to make the standby bid accessible to the authority.

Meanwhile, five low bidders for the contract of the incinerator construction have been asked to hold their bids firm until the bond sale is completed.

After contracts are signed for the building in Royal Oak township, the 11 members of the authority will vote on the application of Troy township to become a member community. Favorable action on the Troy application is expected.

B'ham Teachers Will Hold 4-Day Pre-School Meet

Birmingham public school teachers will meet at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1, for the beginning of a four day pre-school conference, according to Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, school superintendent.

The conference will be conducted to familiarize the teachers with the program for the coming year and to give new-coming teachers a chance to become acquainted with other members of the faculty.

Highlights of the conference include a welcoming luncheon at the high school cafeteria followed by a general assembly of teachers in the high school's Little Theater.

AT THE ASSEMBLY teachers will hear a welcoming address by Ernest W. Seaholm, school board president, an introduction of new teachers by Dr. Ireland, and an address by S. M. Davidian, lecturer and traveler.

On Thursday the entire faculty will get together from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a family style picnic at Springdale park.

Dr. Ireland reports that since their inception these pre-school conferences have proven to be very beneficial in establishing an efficient beginning of the school year.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6319.

Project Is First Held In Michigan

To acquaint Birmingham citizens with the workings of county government, a County Government Fair will be held at the Birmingham High School gymnasium, Saturday, Sept. 19.

The Fair is sponsored by the Birmingham League of Women Voters.

County officials, elected and appointed, will be on hand to greet guests and answer questions concerning their respective department and its functions.

Charts, graphs and other information on the county will be distributed, free, to any one who desires the factual material. A huge graph of Oakland County, made by Ford Motor Co., will be exhibited on the aluminum screen in the high school gymnasium as a visual aid.

IT IS THE HOPE of the LWV that the crowd attending the event will gain a general understanding of the Oakland County's government, its services and its importance.

Cooperating with the LWV in this venture, the first of its kind in Oakland County, are various men's service clubs and women's organizations in the city.

Mrs. Bernard Magruder, Voters Service Chairman of the LWV, is general chairman of the event. She is assisted by Otis Thompson, a representative of the men's organizations.

On Mrs. Magruder's planning committee is Mrs. Peter Loomis, Mrs. Dayton Slater, Mrs. Garvin Bawden, Mrs. Robert G. Silbar and Mrs. Brooks Marshall.

Others are Mrs. James Allen, Mrs. Donald Howarth, Mrs. Albert Reibling, Mrs. Robert Stacey, Mrs. Henry Jackson, Mrs. Harvey Greene, Mrs. Harner Selvidge, Mrs. Wilbur Johnstone, Mrs. Donald Neill and Mrs. Duncan Hamner.

CONTRIBUTING TO the Fair atmosphere, various county departments will be separated into gaily decorated booths. Free movies relating to the county will be shown throughout the day and soft drinks, coffee and doughnuts will be available.

It is expected that the Sheriff's posse will be there and displays of county road equipment, various machines and devices used by the county will be exhibited and demonstrated.

A "check" from the county will be available for the asking, given out by the county treasurer from his office's new check writing machine—for the amount of $0.00.

The County Government Fair is scheduled between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Visitors may come at any time during this period and stay as long as they like.

TWO COUNTY OFFICIALS will speak during the day's proceedings and a noon luncheon, with all the county officials present will be served in the high school cafeteria.

"Since this is an off-election year," Mrs. Magruder said, "We want as many people as possible to come out to meet the county officials they elected last fall.

"We want to stimulate an interest in county government and make people aware of government at the county level, which so directly affects us as individuals and as property owners."

OK Forget-Me-Not Sale

City commissioners Monday night approved the request of the Disabled American Veterans to hold their annual Forget-Me-Not sale on either September 18 or 19.

STRICTLY FRESH

Liquor is something for which many drivers don't mind paying twice—once in cash and once in crash.

Scientists predict that the cigaret of the future will come with built-in matches. From longer butts to "lighter" ones, huh?

The Charleroi, Pa., Chamber of Commerce says that it had women in mind when it built extra-large

stalls in the new municipal parking lot. So who hasn't.

Two heads are better than one, if they're both filled.

The constant complianer probably hasn't anything else to talk about.