

Average decent people play a mighty important part in the structure of our civilization. Like the many stones that go into the making of a great cathedral, which is held together by one or more keystones, they give support to this earth's great personalities.

1953 HIGHLIGHTS

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should be appointed to study the city's fire protection facilities and take their findings to Birmingham residents.

Albert G. Sloss, a Birmingham resident for 11 years, died New Year's Day in St. Joseph Mercy hospital, Pontiac, after an illness of one month. A leading cattle breeder in this area, Mr. Sloss traveled throughout the United States handling prize stock but always returned to his home in the city.

Two charter proposals expected to be included on the April city ballot were under the drafting stage by city officials. The first would call for asking voters' approval of the city joining the South Oakland County Sewage Disposal District for transmission of the city's east side city sewage south to the Detroit treatment plant. The second proposal would seek a 1 1/2 mill increase in millage for the library operating fund.

Issue of January 15
The city was gradually pulling out of one of the season's worst ice and sleet storms as the city's department of public works estimated that employees had spread 50 tons of salt on slippery streets over the weekend.

The Oakland County Board of Supervisors approved the city's membership in the Southeastern Oakland County Sewage Disposal District and city fathers turned their attention to a city-wide vote on the contract called for April 6.

The Charles E. Wilson family prepared to leave for Washington and the presidential inauguration which would see Wilson

seated in the president's cabinet as Secretary of Defense.

William E. Roberts, 1957 Derby, was selected as Birmingham's most outstanding young businessman and awarded the distinguished service award by the city's Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Over 5,000 letters were sent to past contributors as the Community House Roll Call sent out its annual appeal for funds. The 1953 goal was set at \$40,000 to cover operating expenditures for the year.

John C. Emery, Jr., 424 Baldwin, was appointed the city's new associate justice to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of John W. Gail.

Issue of January 22
Jacobson's, Inc. and the Wabek Corporation came to the front in the city's attempt to provide residents with more off-street parking facilities in the business district.

The two businesses came up with moral and financial support as they agreed to purchase and clear a 4 1/2 acre site in the northwest section of the city for a parking lot, provided the city would resurface the area and maintain it.

Birmingham Board of Education members signed architectural contracts for school facilities to Torry, Bloomfield Village, Franklin and Barkum Junior high.

Backers of incorporation for Lathrup township submitted \$1,500 to the Oakland County Clerk to cover expenditures necessary in calling a special election on municipal rule in the area.

Col. Henry H. Burdick, 74, 1015 N. Woodward, real estate editor of

the Detroit Free Press and Spanish American was veteran died in a Detroit hospital Sunday morning, Jan. 18.

Dr. E. W. Wilcox, director of the Congressional Association of Detroit headed a meeting at the First Presbyterian church to discuss the possibilities of forming a Congressional church here.

Issue of January 29
Southfield township officials set February 29 as the date for a public meeting on the creation of a township planning commission to incorporate the workings of the zoning board with a planning group.

Birmingham plan board members approved two changes in the zoning amendment to bring the reality of large off-street parking lots nearer. The proposed changes were recommended to the city commission.

City commissioners voted to join other South Oakland County communities in establishment of a joint telephone network in cooperation with county.

J. V. Walker, Birmingham building inspector, reported that during 1953 he issued 813 building permits issued through the city covering \$7,232,955 in new construction and alterations.

City commissioners appropriated \$2,600 to complete grading and seeding of Eton Park as the city recreation board submitted plans for the development of the city's newest park.

Bloomfield township police awaiting installation of equipment that would enable the township to operate a 60 watt radio station in the township hall. Calls presently received at the hall must be relayed through the Bloomfield Hills station.

Issue of February 5
A 26-year-old Torry Oak township man lost his life in a flash fire at the Dynamic Manufacturing company, Troy township, last week.

Fire damage to the entire rear end of the factory totaled \$60,000 according to officials of the firm. Birmingham's part in the March of Dimes drive for polio funds totaled \$14,800. The drive netted almost double the amount collected here in 1952.

Philip J. Monaghan, 1013 Westwood, was named to succeed Roger M. Kyes as general manager of the General Motors Truck and Coach Division in Pontiac. Kyes resigned his post to become deputy secretary of defense under Defense Director Charles E. Wilson.

Owners of business property in the southwest portion of the city's business district proposed the city's attempt at additional off-street parking facilities. They asked the city to make appraisals of vacant land in their area.

The Birmingham AAUW sponsored the services of Mrs. David McMillan of Detroit who is to conduct classes of area school children through the Cranbrook Institute of Science on a two-day-a-week basis.

Issue of February 12
The Bloomfield Hills Board of Education voted to submit a \$1,390,000 school expansion bond issue to district voters in a special election March 10. The bond issue would be used to construct in addition to the Wing Lake school, a new high school, and for the purchase of two school sites.

A 19 year record of weekly meetings was broken by the city commission when only three of the seven members were present to answer roll call. This was the first time in 961 that a quorum was not present to do city business for an entire week.

Petitions for Dean C. Beier and Foeter Toubacker were the first taken out at the city clerk's office for the April 6 city election.

The Southfield United Presbyterian church announced plans for a five-day program to raise \$100,000 for church expansion construction. The church has been in use since the Civil War period.

Birmingham's Ground Observer Corps members met to map plans for improving the sky-watch program here. Meeting with Louis C. Jarrendt, Oakland County Civil Defense Director, members agreed that complacency was the biggest enemy to a war run observation post and stated the need for additional observers.

Issue of February 19
Birmingham's most disastrous fire, a \$200,000 blaze at the Lawson & Son Lumber company Saturday, Feb. 14, was blamed on faulty wiring on a power saw. The fire, which necessitated the help of neighboring fire departments, raged for two hours before it was brought under control.

Incumbents were given the nod in the primary township elections in Bloomfield, Southfield and Troy. Nominated for another term were Supervisor David E. Anderson of Bloomfield, Supervisor William Roeser of Southfield and Supervisor Norman R. Barnard of Torry. Following a state-wide pattern the vote was light in this area.

City commissioners signed an agreement with the Oakland County road department to widen and resurface Adams road between Lincoln and the Grand Trunk viaduct. The project was estimated to cost over \$100,000.

John D. Maynard, 919 Mehegan, was elected chairman of the State YMCA Committee at the annual convention at the University of Michigan.

Issue of February 26
Church officials of St. James Episcopal church announced a program of remodeling and enlarging the church on Maple and Chester which would start early in the spring and cost about \$180,000. The new structure which would force the destruction of the old church building would seat over 500 upon completion it was stated.

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THE FIRST STEP OUT OF THE city's sewage disposal problems was taken in mid-April as City Clerk Irene Henley and City Commissioner Lance C. Minor inked contracts with the Southeastern Oakland County Sewage Disposal District to release the city's east side sewage to the Detroit disposal plant. The move was approved by city voters in the special elections.



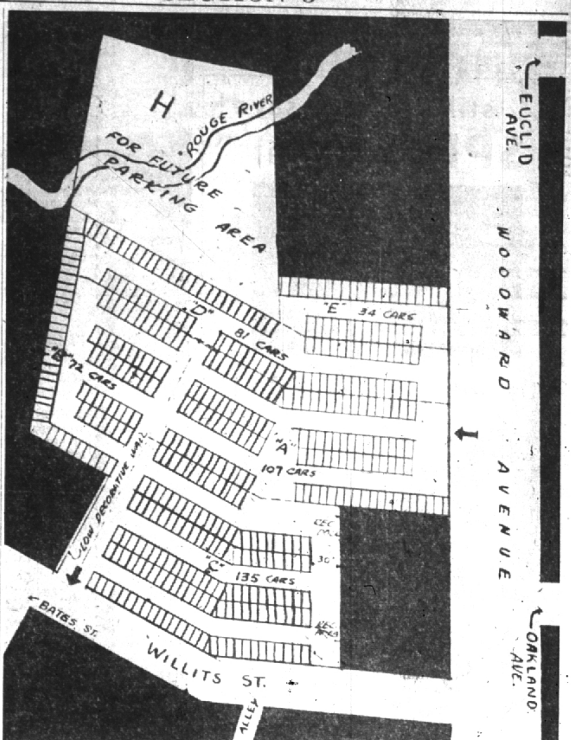
FIRE-RAVAGED FACTORY in Troy township is the Dynamic Manufacturing company's building that was nearly destroyed in a blaze early in February. A Royal Oak workman lost his life when trapped by the explosion that touched off the blaze.



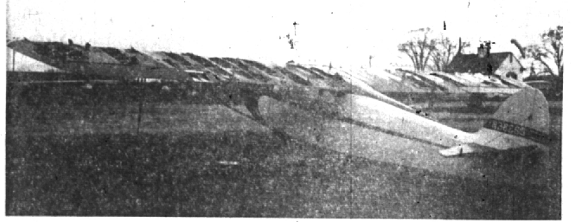
A 19-YEAR-OLD RECORD of holding regular Monday night meetings was halted for the Birmingham city commission, February 9, when only three members of the seven-man commission were present to conduct city business.



TWO STUFFED PUPS were feature news late in January as Sheherazade, left, Great Dane puppy of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Robinson, Bloomfield Hills, made life magazine after devouring a six pound ham and living to tell of her story. Randolph, meanwhile, was probably envious of the publicity given the Dane offspring and gathered for himself three discarded frozen turkeys and began the delightful chore of feeding his face when discovered by his master, Mrs. Hans Schjolin of Cambridge road.



BIRMINGHAM MERCHANTS were heartened by the prospect of a 429 off-street parking lot proposed by the Wabek Corporation and Jacobson's, Inc. The lot, as outlined in the map above, would be east of Woodward and north of Willets.



A FREAK HAILSTORM that struck the city in mid-April caused minor property damages but Berz airport officials were able to get all but the above-pictured plane under cover to escape the near golf-ball-sized hail stones.

LOCAL MERCHANTS

ASK YOUR CO-OPERATION

If it is necessary for you to exchange a Christmas Gift in any store, please do so by January 4th.

In some cases because givers did not have correct information as to size or some other detail, exchange may be necessary.

Please note that no exchanges of Christmas Gifts can be made after January 4th, 1954

Abuse of the exchange and return privilege can cause a great deal of unwarranted expense. Therefore, as a matter of assistance to the merchants of Birmingham who wish to continue to make this service available to you, we ask your co-operation.

Birmingham Chamber of Commerce