



**FANNED-OUT**, the 13 sections of the The Birmingham Eccentric's 24th Anniversary issue, published last May 21, gives a hint of the size of the project completed by staff members. The life of the community, from rural settle-

ment to busy city, was covered, including personalities, organizations, churches, commercial and the civic expansion to the present day.

## 1953 HIGHLIGHTS

(Continued from preceding page)

tion for a six month extension of time in submitting plans for the solution of the Rouge river pollution problem.

A meeting to discuss methods of financially backing the Junior Achievement efforts in Birmingham was called by officials of the Junior Achievement for Southeastern Michigan, Inc. Civic leaders were also to discuss a site for a business center to be used by the Birmingham JA group.

Plans seemed completion for the world seminar at Kingswood school that was to draw government representatives from Japan, Indonesia, Korea, Pakistan, India and the Philippines on April 30 and May 1.

**Issue of May 7**  
A work be to begin development on Troy township's first public park, Boulton Park, was scheduled for Saturday, May 9. The park land was deeded to the township by Richard Boulton, township resident.

David Bell, Birmingham High school senior who was preparing to graduate from the school in Mill Pond in Franklin while swimming with a group of friends, John S. Bugas of Bloomfield Hills, Ford Motor company vice-president, was elected president of the Metropolitan Detroit United Foundation at the Foundation's annual meeting last

**week.**  
Percy K. Load of Bloomfield Hills was recently elected chairman of the board of directors of the Geological Institute of America.

Carroll Brent Griffin, who lived at 18210 Kirkshire and was assistant mechanical research engineer for General Motors Corporation, died April 30 after a brief illness. The city commission refused to set any tentative zoning on the Forth property for owners of the property until annexation of the Troy township parcel to Birmingham has been realized. Rod Paterson, developers of the land, sought to gain assurance on land use before initiating any annexation procedure.

**Issue of May 14**  
Increases in personnel for a police and fire departments and a boost in appropriations for public works and debt service brought the proposed city's 1953-54 budget to \$1,183,340 and threatened to boost the tax rate a quarter mill.

Lathrop voters approved a move to incorporate their 2 1/2 square mile area at the polls Tuesday, May 12, by a 58 vote margin. Charter commissioners elected to form the city's rule book were John C. Campbell, William H. Harvie, Merle L. Baker, Robert A. Vought, Kenneth M. Farnham, Thomas A. Reed, Georgia E. Nelson, Thomas W. North and Richard H. Anderson.

Money for the 20 percent federal amusement tax on tickets sold by Will-O-Way Playhouse during the past four seasons was discovered missing by playhouse owners last week. Geoffrey J. Artz, accountant for the playhouse since 1948 was held by police pending investigation of the shortages.

The proposed off-street parking ordinance given its third and final public hearing this week and planners were expected to make the final draft of the controversial law for submission to the city commission early in June.

Members of the Ruth Shain International class reunion heard Dr. Nicholas Nyaradi, last minister of Finance of pre-satellite Hungary, discuss his native country's position prior to Communist domination.

**Issue of May 21**  
Culminating 75 years of Publication, The Eccentric this week published a 220 page tabloid anniversary issue. The history of the area and advertising that accompanied the editorial coverage took over eight months to gather and present. The first edition of The Eccentric was published in 1878 by George H. Mitchell and Almeron Whitehead.

A freak accident claimed the life of a young Utesa, Mich. truck driver on May 14 as he was unloading steel at the site of the new S. S. Kresge store at Maple and Henrietta. Harry L. Jackson was leaning on a power crane when the crane's boom struck high tension wires electrocuting the truck driver.

Bids were accepted for the construction of the Oakland County hospital this week. Hospital officers took the bids under advisement for the \$3 1/2 million dollar structure which will be built on Thirteen Mile near Coolidge. Completion date was set at a year and a half.

Dr. Leslie A. Hechtel, pastor of the Church of the Nazarene, prepared to deliver his final sermon in the Birmingham church Sunday, May 24. Rev. Ardrey accepted a new pastorate at the Wesleyan Church of the Nazarene in Providence, R. I.

Dr. Leslie A. Hechtel announced his plans to retire from the active leadership of Kirk-in-the-Hills Episcopal church after concluding his Sunday, May 17, sermon, "Forty Years in Religion." Rev. Hechtel and wife stated that they would move July 1 to a new home they have built in Northern Wisconsin.

**Issue of May 28**  
By whitening expenditures, figuring more on miscellaneous revenue and assist from a surplus in the 1952-53 budget, Birmingham city commissioners were able to cut 1/2 mill from the \$1,717,405 budget for 1953-54.

Eugene L. Johnson of Kankakee, Ill., was appointed superintendent of schools for the Bloomfield school district. Johnson replaced John Jacobs who announced his resignation effective on July 1.



**TENNIS COACH** Arthur W. Palmer, Jr., of Cranbrook school congratulates his star pupil, Shaw Emmons, 16. Emmons won the recent Class B singles championship of Michigan at the Kalamazoo tournament. A junior, he is also a letterman in soccer and basketball, and a member of the school glee club and rifle team.

Bids for the construction of the Oakland County hospital were awarded to the O. W. Burke company of Detroit this week. Construction of the hospital on Thirteen Mile road was expected to start immediately. Burke's bid was for \$2,283,000. Hospital officials reported that it would take another \$1,000,000 to equip

the building.

Jim LaPine and Nannette Hamilton won the boys and girls division in the first Teenage Road-race here sponsored by the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce. In all, 36 students competed in the driving safety tests after successfully completing written examinations.

Marilyn Davis, a 13-year-old sister, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Gordon, 1152 Buckingham, was credited with saving the lives of two children when fire broke out in the home of Paul Bowers, 1348 Buckingham. Marilyn guided the two Bower's children, age four and eight, from the house after fire had

(Continued on next page)

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