

## THINGS THAT

By G. R. A.

### THINKS OVER

Do we really appreciate the comfort and security that are still part of the American life? Perhaps not, if we read the following letter from Mr. Donald La Clair, of Clinton Springs, N.Y., as it is, or if we read his message may cause one to ponder, to be grateful, he wrote:

"Last night, galled about the stove, I thought about the United States and what a wonderful country it is. When you are over here and think about the States it certainly makes you appreciate. If it had been said once, it's been said a billion times, but we certainly do take things for granted. As I was lying on my bunk, I began thinking what a thrill it would be just to take a simple walk down a good clean American street, to see the rough pavement, fresh houses, smell the fragrance in the good clean air, to say 'hello' to a smiling friendly American face. . . . I began to wish that all Americans could take a good look at this country here and perhaps feel as I do now. It strikes me to think that it might be too late to undo the blunders that have been made over here, and I hope with my heart that our President-elect can pull us through. . . ."

Our U. S. Declaration of Independence claims for us among other things, the right to be the pursuit of happiness. Unfortunately, some folks expect the government to provide for them the means of pursuing for them—while the practical and ambitious folks set about treating their own happiness by hard work.

We were much disappointed with the recent speech that Adlai E. Stevenson, Democratic opponent of Dwight D. Eisenhower, made at the White House job, made in New York City. Alternately serious and wise, the speech was not, in my opinion, as good as it could have been. Stevenson has become emotionally unstable to the end that this nation is in a very bad way. If the federal government, we had hoped Adlai would increase in stature during the past year, have repeatedly called attention to the city's need for additional fire protection, including an east side fire station, two more fire trucks, and several more men.

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But a bond issue to provide these needed important city additions was turned down, although by a narrow margin, at the city election in April last year.

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Now that former State Senator Clarence A. Reid, of Detroit, is in Michigan, he is not allowed to take the floor for debating; he is merely "presider." The personally 287-pounder really loves to argue and debate. . . . But now he's saying the penalty for "presiding" is like the little boy, he "may be seen but not heard."

### School Children Conduct Used Clothing Campaign

Students of Birmingham public schools are conducting a drive in connection with the state-wide Save-the-Children Bundle Week campaign.

Starting yesterday, local youngsters will continue their collection of used clothing through Friday. School Superintendent Dwight B. Ireland this week said wearable clothing of all types from babies' beanie shoes and bedding of all kinds also will be collected.

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## There Was Nothing Inside But Space For a 30-Minute Period on Feb. 14

Birmingham residents on Feb. 14 were handed a grim Valentine greeting in the form of the spectacular and worst fire this city has ever experienced—the \$2,000,000 conflagration which demolished the Lawson Lumber company's Forest avenue office and warehouse.

A corollary Valentine consisted of the above picture—the empty Birmingham fire station.

The Eclectic's photographer, Norman Douglas, took this picture at 8:05 p.m. on that fateful Saturday, 17 minutes after the city's fourth and last piece of fire equipment had responded to the first, and 13 minutes before a Pontiac fire department pumper arrived after being summoned by Birmingham Fire Chief Vern Griffith for emergency standby service.

BUT DURING THOSE 30 minutes, the City of Birmingham did not have another piece of fire apparatus to send to a second alarm had one come in during the Lawson fire.

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Birmingham may not be as fortunate next time. Therefore, city officials as expeditiously as possible should get the proposition before the electorate for another vote, we believe.

No longer can anyone say, "It can't happen here."

IT DID HAPPEN!

WE CANNOT ignore this comment without gratefully acknowledging, on behalf of the residents of Birmingham, the splendid cooperation and emergency service which surrounding fire departments lent Birmingham 12 days ago—Bloomfield Village, Pontiac, Royal Oak and Franklin.

Circumstances that day were such that they were able to lend assistance. However, that may not be the case in the future.

JUST AS BIRMINGHAM has grown rapidly in the past few years, thus requiring supplemental fire protection, so have our surrounding areas. They now have many more homes to protect, too, and the possibility is great that conditions soon may require them to stay at home for the protection of their respective areas.

This already was clearly indicated by the fact that the Bloomfield Village department that day already had fought one fire, and had just put out a second one before responding to Birmingham's emergency.

Adequate fire protection in Birmingham is just as essential as any other public service—so let's give our local fire department adequate facilities with which to protect both our lives and our property!

land - Woodward - Willis intersection. The commission received and filed a letter approving the creation of any off-street parking facilities west of Bates street, written by Dr. Loren C. Spademan. Dr. Spademan declared that the parking area would appreciate the value of Warren court property. Dr. Spademan lives at 844 Warren court.

### City Equipment Inventory Taken

Birmingham city officials, taking stock of what the city had on hand in the equipment pool, found that initial cap of all equipment has been \$239,512.61.

City Commissioners asked that the tabulation be made to bring them up to date on what the city had at present prior to approving the bond issue program.

### Southfield Annexation

A public meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m., March 4, to discuss the annexation by Berkeley of a portion of Southfield township. The meeting, sponsored by the Southfield Democratic party, will be held in the Southfield school, 28501 Pierce. Present candidates will make known their stand on the issue.

## ROD ISSUE TO GO TO SCHOOL DISTRICT 1/2%

## Fire Hall Group Ready To Meet

A group of 40 Birmingham residents has been named by Mayor Dean G. Beier to hold discussions on whether or not the city should move the present fire station.

First meeting of the group will be held on March 4 at 8 p.m. in the city commission room. Commissioners have invited all interested residents to this meeting even though they have not been named to the committee.

The committee will review what the city has attempted to do in the past to improve fire protection and whether methods are advanced which would be given further consideration.

A letter describing the need for modern fire protection from Albert M. MacClery, 1122 Yosemite, brought an invitation to MacClery to join the committee.

IN A LETTER To The Eclectic concerning last week's coverage of the Lawson Lumber company fire (Saturday, Feb. 14), Fire Chief Vern W. Griffith commented, "To have this particular fire occur during the year that the city is to consider strengthening its fire defenses is a sheer coincidence."

"The accuracy in the reporting of this story would certainly show the people of the city how it was necessary with the help of our neighboring cities to spread the apparatus, both their own and ours, to contain this fire," Griffith stated.

The letter continued, "Primarily, I did not write this letter to comment on the weakness or strength of our local fire defenses, but to state that I am forwarding a copy of last week's issue of The Eclectic to the National Board of Fire Underwriters, the National Fire Protection Association and the Fire Engineering Publication to ask their comments on the continuity of the picture and story."

GRIFFITH handed The Eclectic a personal pat on the back by writing, "Your staff covered the fire with such detail and continuity that I can truthfully say that I have never read an article in any publication to equal this in reporting."

"There is a fire department practice, or a cardinal rule, which has been followed in fire fighting for many years—that a building should never be vented or opened until the fire lines or hose are charged and ready for action. The pictures which you published show, in sequence," Griffith added.

Griffith and Fire Marshal George Scott are attending the National Fire Department Inspectors Conference this week in Memphis, Tenn.

## City to Learn Latest \$180,000 Church Remodeling Planned

According to the Rev. Harold E. Towne, rector of St. James Episcopal church, work of the \$180,000 remodeling and enlarging the church plan will start about April 20.

"A recent meeting of the congregation and church officials saw the approval of the proposed construction," Mr. Towne said this week. "We hope to have the entire project completed and the building ready for occupancy about the first of November."

The proposed change will mean the complete demolition of the old building. Walls will be extended about four feet to enlarge the present plant. The new nave will seat about 600 persons, Towne said, and will provide room for a side altar.

"WE WILL start a building fund campaign very shortly to raise the amount needed," the rector said. "Plans are being made by the building committee for this solicitation."

It stating the date on which the work will start, he explained that church activities would not permit an earlier beginning.

"We do not want to be without a proper church home for the balance of the Lenten season nor for the Easter services," he explained. "A few other church commitments will delay it another couple of weeks."

"The church officials have conferred with Birmingham Community House directors and we will start that building for summer services. The new section of the church, completed a couple of years ago, will remain in service throughout the remodeling program."

## Market Won't Take Lesser Rate

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Birmingham's school district will have the \$3,000,000 with which to build new schools and additions to several others, but only at a premium of \$66,000.

That is the extra—and unexpected—sum which board of education members, Wednesday morning, in order to obtain a 3 1/2 per cent interest rate over the 17-year period the bonds will be repaid.

Because of a continued market rise in interest rates demanded by bond purchasers, no bond broker had submitted a bid to the board when the Tuesday night 8 o'clock deadline rolled around.

They indicated an unwillingness to buy the Birmingham district's issue, but had had estimated that the market rate for a 3 1/2 per cent interest, and therefore had so advertised.

AFTER MORE than a half hour discussion between the board and bond broker representatives, a standby bid was submitted by Douglas Campbell on behalf of his company, Michigan City and Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc., of Chicago.

This would permit the face of the bonds to carry a 3 1/2 per cent interest rate, but the \$3,000,000 would be discounted 2 per cent, thus guaranteeing the bond broker their \$96,000 commission. They would accept the market rate of selling them for 3 1/2 per cent.

In effect, this procedure would mean the district would pay 3 1/2 per cent interest, but the \$66,000 commission.

This really means the school district would be offering 3 1/2 per cent to borrow \$2,934,000.

Board members adjourned their evening meeting until 9 a.m. Wednesday when they again took up the problem of the sale.

AFTER DISCUSSION with the board's bond attorney Claude Stevens, municipal bond expert Louis Halsey stated that his position would make the deadline.

Members of the library board, Mrs. Louis Halsey and Dr. Dwight Ireland, have taken out petitions for re-election.

John Emery, Jr., appointed to the associate justice post recently on the resignation of John W. Gaffin, is seeking election to that position.

Gardner advised the board to accept the First of Michigan-Halsey \$3,000,000 syndicate offer and that the \$66,000 and get the \$3,000,000, because you could pay more interest later."

HE ALSO TOLD the board it could recover perhaps \$40,000 of that amount by the public rate issue, partially unexpected portion of the (See BOND ISSUE, Page 2)

### STRICTLY FRESH

The sermon was interrupted by a discussion of the public rate issue. Probably tuned in a heavy-duty choir leader in an unguarded moment.

Residents of a Connecticut town are required by law to have windshield wipers on all cars. New law demands windshield. Every body sings "Rain-rain go away" instead.

Sherman Adams, assistant to the President, says the new Chief Executive will move to the left on social security, etc.; and to the right on things helping business. He is ambivalent.

A Massachusetts Moslem claims he divorced his wife in the Orient by yelling the word "Shibosh!" three times. Now living in America, she's suing for support money. Guess she thought "Shibosh" was just a lot of bosh!

British health authorities ordered a hospital board to discontinue buy the first of the year. The hospital was for money to hire two extra workers to look for ways to economize. If two cost work as cheap as one?

ARCHITECT SKETCH SHOWS PROPOSED CHURCH REMODELING Start \$180,000 program on St. James Church in April

