

Bombers Experiences Tornado Jitters, The Sends Aid To Flint

By ALICE E. MORGAN
A nervous, storm-jittery Birmingham was jerked from a fitful sleep shortly after midnight Monday by the screaming of sirens. A check at local police headquarters revealed it was a convoy of about 80 Detroit police rushing to the Flint area, hard hit by the tornado which by-passed Birmingham earlier in the evening.

Fire Chief V. W. Griffith was alerted to tornado dangers by state police at 8:15 p.m. The storm, at that time, was in the Millford area, and believed

City commissioners, holding their weekly meeting, were informed of the danger and the meeting recessed in the middle of the Haynes street paving hearing. It was recessed half an hour later, just as a severe, but brief, rain storm lashed the city.

While police toured Birmingham's streets, broadcasting warnings and urging residents to take shelter in basements, city officials busied themselves calling families and friends with the news, asking them to relay the message through their neighbors.

State Senator Donald Gilbert, a Republican from Saginaw, for months has been trying to get himself appointed to head a legislative committee to investigate flooding at the State Capitol. Seldom has he missed an opportunity to lambast them from the floor. Although to date he has failed to produce any evidence of wrongdoing, the Senator, apparently, has a "prosecutor" complex. He once headed a Saginaw County grand jury that never returned an indictment.

Newspapers recently carried a picture of Vice-President Richard Nixon striking a live lion while being initiated into the P. O. B. Bismarck Tent of the Circus (Saints & Sinners Club) in a Washington, D.C., hotel. The lion was smiling, of course, in the picture. His countenance naturally changes when he considers terror to stroke a Russian bear.

British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill has a superior sense of humor. He has never been any such thing as a symbol of human dignity, hard work, and qualities of leadership. Maybe when he passes on, the British will enshrine him along with the famous lion as a symbol of the nation's great influence on mankind.

Age, we long have been told, does not have learned partly from personal experience, in reality a state of mind. As the years roll along one does realize that he cannot perform all the heavy physical work he once did, but his thinking need not deteriorate into somnambulism. One can maintain his lively interests and enter into life's closing hours with a vigor that truly brings enrichment.

Here are a few facts in military economics that may give you a better idea of where some of your money goes. The cost of a heavy bomber equals the cost of more than 30 schools or two hospitals; the cost of a transport plane equals a half million bushels of wheat; the cost of a destroyer equals the cost of homes for 4,000 people.

Ah, what a blessing this modern mechanical age is! But not to the Wisconsin farmer whose electrical system was knocked out when a severe storm broke down his power line. He found that nobody on the farm knew how to milk a cow by hand.

How lacking in intelligence hundreds of thousands of men are! They will court a girl and then, after a few weeks, they will propose to her a light so feeble that they wouldn't think of using it to determine the color of the fabrics in a new suit they were about to buy.

Additional land is sought for the East Hill, Lathrop and McKinley schools.

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By 8:30 nearly every street was filled with residents who sheltered in basements or stood in doorways watching the ominous cloud formation in the southwest. The huge pillar, laced with almost continuous lightning, was seen by many to shimmer and glow. The storm struck the central main boiler and churned.

Birmingham police and fire departments in constant contact with the storm by phone and radio, were operating on an emergency basis, ready to go into action immediately should the storm strike this vicinity.

After the immediate danger had passed, an emergency call came from Flint asking for portable lighting equipment to guide bulldozer crews as they cleared

paths for rescue workers and ambulances.

FIREMAN Alvin Larsen, of duty at the time, volunteered to take the unit to the stricken city and worked there from about 1 a.m. until two to report for duty late at 7 o'clock.

"I saw only a small area," Larsen said, "but it was awful. Bulldozers blew down by anything like that. They were pulverized."

"The area I was in was at Courtland and Chapman roads, nearly all residential. The homes were all medium size, and the whole section was in a state of confusion."

"The WJR mobile studio was parked there, near the school, a gas station and drive-in theater.

The other part of the school was smoldering, but the whole interior was torn apart. Books and papers were scattered all over the place.

"OTHERS HAD BEEN torn loose from wheels and axles, some crushed by debris. They were smashed into all shapes and one was stretched until you'd hardly recognize it as a car."

"The people were wandering around dazed, looking at the houses and I suppose looking for members of their families. I guess they were all suffering from shock because the thing that struck me most was the silence."

"There was no crying or sobbing, no moans, no screams. Just a lot of people walking around as though they were asleep."

Larsen returned to Birmingham before the rescue work actually got underway, although some had gone on during the entire night. He said he knew these were dead and injured in his immediate area, but had seen none of them.

"I NEVER SAW so much fire apparatus in one place before," Larsen commented. "There were trucks all over the place, but not many of them were needed. There were only a few small fires, showing that most of the damage was done by wind."

"When I left early Tuesday morning, there were policemen there from Detroit, Livonia, Pontiac and several other towns. It seemed as though every state policeman in Michigan must have been there. The National Guard units, called out by Governor Williams about midnight, were guarding all roads into the city."

Early Tuesday morning the Manly family home and the William R. Hamilton company received emergency calls for ambulances, ambulance equipment, Bailey and two assistants, William Hall and Louise Hall, with Stanley Munson from the Hamilton company responded.

Officials at the Pontiac and Royal Oak offices, said Red Cross crews were on emergency duty supplying workers for the stricken area and handling messages for the families and friends of Flint residents.

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1953

Commissioners Get Sewage Disposal Contract Awaits Detroit Action

City commissioners Monday night approved an agreement with the city of Detroit to send the city's sewage disposal contract with the Southeastern Oakland County Sewage Disposal District into the final stages before adoption.

Michigan Bell Asks Rate Boost

The Michigan Bell Telephone Company has asked for a general rate increase throughout its territory which would boost about 3 cents a day in Birmingham.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Education, held at the University of Michigan, Dr. Harold E. Towrie will give the sermon. The high school girls' club will sing "The Lord's Prayer," and "Hail, Thine Eyes."

PRIZES UP TO \$1,000 cash will be awarded in some of the major events. Entries will include jumpers, hunters, saddle and walking horses, fine harness horses and Western breeds.

THE DETROIT HORSE SHOW is a member of the American Horse Shows Association and is ranked as a Class A event. Winners in the show are awarded points toward the National Horse Show finals at Madison Square Garden in New York.

THE NEW PASTOR will be the Rev. Eugene Paddock, who comes to Holy Name from St. Alfred's church in Taylor Center (Inkster), where he had been for eight years.

THE TWO-STORY addition, which was started almost exactly a year ago, cost more than \$600,000, including the equipment, and enabled the company to bring service to some 3,000 more subscribers in Birmingham.

THE PLAN BOARD'S recommendation is not binding on the city. (See PARKING, Page 2)

STRICTLY FRESH
A book of poems was returned to a small-town library after being checked out since 1895. Probably by a slow reader who was not a detective.

Like Some Extra 75th Anniversary Edition Copies?
If you'd like extra copies of The Eccentric's 75th Anniversary Edition—perhaps for relatives or former Birmingham residents—you may be interested in the 35 cents each at The Eccentric's business office, 230 N. Woodward. Free wrappers also are available if you wish to mail the edition.

Plenty Of Water For City, If . . .
With water restrictions being enforced in communities to the south, Birmingham's water supply seems in better shape this summer than in recent years.

Car Stolen From Lot
A two-tone green Mercury owned by Robert Chambers, 1150 Puritan, was stolen from the Tom McManus at Jun 8. Police have broadcast an alarm on the car bearing Michigan license AY-50-02.

Fire Department Made 25 Runs During Month
The Birmingham fire department responded to 25 calls during May. The report of Fire Chief V. W. Griffith shows a first fire loss of \$800 for the month.

3rd Floor for Bell Bldg.
Work was started this week on expanding the Birmingham office of the Michigan Bell Telephone Company. The project, which will complete the adding of a third floor to the telephone building's addition on Martin street, is the second major expansion of the company since it was founded in 1877.

Juveniles Suspected In Car Theft, Robbery Of Two Local Churches
Three juveniles are being investigated in connection with the robbery of two Birmingham churches this past weekend. Along with the theft of a car believed to have been taken at the same time.

Summer Program In Full Swing

Word from the Birmingham YMCA would indicate that its summer Day-Y Program is appearing very attractive to Birmingham YMCA boys and girls. A total of 70 youngsters have registered for one or more of the 30 special features.