

76TH YEAR—NO. 9

THIS and THAT

By G.R.A.

It is reported that Gen. Omar Bradley, our top military man today, is upset because "if for morale is mighty low these days, because of widespread criticism." Gen. Bradley, however, is not faulting himself within the officer corps.

Not being an astronomer, I didn't see on Dark Star at the recent Kentucky Derby. (Come to think of it, I didn't even bet on Native Dancer... or any other of those strutting steeds. I'm really too stupid to risk two dollars on any running horse, with a hope of winning. That manner of livelihood no profession never thoroughly learned by any one, I am told.)

News dispatches from England state that Queen Elizabeth II maintains her girlish figure by sticking close to a rigid diet, almost free from liquids. Well, all is not well fed that sparkles and glistens, as the saying goes.

Little bitter criticism from the Democrats in Congress has been directed at President Eisenhower since the latter took office. No Democrats in Congress have been Democratic leadership must like the change from "taxing and spending money" to "taxing and saving money." It is pointed out that the present pattern of government frugality is the endeavor to impose a "taxing and saving" pattern that the next election is too far away for the critical segment of Democrats to waste "political ammunition" on at this time.

A Tonawanda, N. Y. chap drove from a picnic, held six miles away, and found a glass of beer still on the fender of his car. It had been placed there by some one at the picnic. The name of the car was not mentioned. It is simply further reason why the car is steeper than the horse and buggy.

Twenty British soldiers, repatriated from Korean combat camps, had some very harsh words to say about the United States. Some of them, after listening to Communist "lectures," felt that the U. S. really is the Korean war "for profit." How difficult it is to achieve a common meeting of international minds is sometimes as difficult as to get the members of a family to refrain from harsh words following misunderstandings.

Argentina's dictator Peron is having his troubles these days... just as other dictators have preceded him in other parts of the earth. His latest persecutions are directed at the American press wire services. Peron declares they "print lies disguised as truths," so he proposes to cut them out. Ever since his late wife, Evita, passed on to her questionable reward, Peron has been in "needing degrees of hot water. Wonder if he ever wakes up in the night, recalling the upside-down hanging of his late wife when his hot water was lost, fell to the hands and passions of the mob.

When a legislator becomes convinced that a new piece of legislation is necessary to keep a unit of government's treasury sound, you can bet your jaw that he will find ways to get part of it for banks. After all, of course government must be kept from bankruptcy... even though at times the manner and amount it takes in... somebody may figure out a way to finance a bridge to reach it via motor car.

If Hawaii is given the status of a statehood, it will be the only one of the 49 requiring a boat or airplane to get to and from continental United States. But don't give up hope... somebody may figure out a way to finance a bridge to reach it via motor car.

1 1/2 H.P. or 35 footer

The season's on. Canoes, rowboats, inboards, outboards, sailboats, launches and yachts... water transportation is now in full swing. So when you're searching for a sailing boat, \$500 salesmen represented in the ECCENTRIC WANT ADS they get RESULTS! Phone MI 4-1100 Ask for the Want Ad Desk

Plan Board Set to Act on Parking

The proposed off-street parking ordinance was given its third and final spirited public hearing Tuesday night by the city plan board and now members will draw up the final draft in order to submit it to the city commission early in June.

Again planners found that their efforts were not in line with a majority of merchants who charged that the overall parking requirements of the ordinance were not equitable and asked that they be allowed to meet their own provisions on a merchant-by-merchant basis.

Planners were surprised to find that dropping the central business district in requiring parking was not to the businessmen's liking.

Chamber of Commerce President Jack Ball questioned why the plan board had dropped the central business district idea and then enlarged the off-street parking requirements to cover the entire city's business zones.

PLAN BOARD Chairman Harry Denyes answered that planners felt that the inequities pointed to in the first two public hearings on the ordinance could be overcome by requiring parking in all business zones.

Denyes then for both the Chamber and the Junior Chamber stated that their groups sought an off-street parking ordinance that would enable small businesses to park a parking zone for adjacent streets. The ordinance would require additional parking for additional parking for new buildings.

Junior Chamber President James Cousins said that merchants wanted all land now zoned business A or B exempted from the ordinance could be used for parking. He questioned where they were going to get additional parking space in the already developed central business area.

DENYES claimed that under the terms of the ordinance there were four methods that could be used to provide parking facilities on the same site as your building: provide parking within 200 feet of the building; provide parking for other merchants to purchase; or joint use of parking spaces.

Most merchants felt that it was not in their own best interests to have a minimum amount of parking at the city commission. Denyes said that their own and stated that the city should provide the lots and assess the cost of the parking facilities. They then develop and maintain the lots.

Comments of this plan board that such a project would be slow in that the city could not finance the whole program at any one time.

SUGGESTIONS that the city should not obligate itself to finance these lots were rejected by those who stated the city voters would not be asked to pay a debt.

Despite all attempts by planners to keep discussion within the words of the ordinance, the proposed Wabek Jacobson lot in the north-west quadrant was rejected time and time again when his arguments went to the merchants' problems.

Plan board members stated that the plan board taken into their considerations but it was believed that the lot would not serve everyone in Birmingham to the areas outside of the downtown section. Planners agreed that this meeting at least made the merchants' wishes known. They charged that before this the only comments that they had gained from the business people referred to was that they did not want and no concrete evidence was given as to what methods the merchants sought to solve parking problems.

The plan board will act on the ordinance at their regular monthly meeting May 26 when they will make their recommendation to the city commission.

Washington Photo Winners named

Winner of the Washington group photo contest conducted in Birmingham high school by John Hickman, is senior Bob Teed who snapped adviser Harold Newcomb in a candid moment at the outside Washington station the first day of the trip.

Selection of the best photo of Washington group members having fun taken by a member was also made by Teed. His picture of Dana's hobby shop which offered the prize.

First prize was an Argus 75 outfit and merchandise.

Township Fire Chief Denied Pension Request

Fire Chief Alfred Krak of the Southfield township department, who has been denied a pension, was included in the township's fire department pension plan.

Because considerably more time will be required to assemble next week's special 75th ANNIVERSARY EDITION of The Eccentric all deadlines for news copy, display and classified advertising copy must be advanced one day to MONDAY at 5 p.m.

The Birmingham post office and The Eccentric also ask your cooperation on Thursday, the day of delivery. It will be necessary for the post office to bundle a number of the editions into individual packs and leave them on a few porches in each neighborhood. The resident is in no way responsible for the papers left on his porch while they await pickup by a postal employee for distribution.

We will appreciate your help in both instances.

Lathrup Approves Incorporation by 58-Vote Margin

Lathrup township residents, at a special election Tuesday, voted to withdraw from the Southfield township government and become an incorporated city.

By a vote of 598 to 513, the wheels were set in motion to create a city of government for an area bounded on the south by 10 1/2 Mile, west by Evergreen; north by 12 Mile and east by a line a short distance east of Southfield road.

Commissioners appointed to draw up a charter for the new municipality are headed by Col. William H. Harvey, chairman. The group is composed of F. L. Baker, secretary and Kenneth M. Farham, Robert A. Vaght, Georgia B. Nelson, Richard H. Anderson, John G. Campbell, Thomas A. Reed and T. M. White.

Playhouse Fraud Comes to Light in U.S. Tax Suit

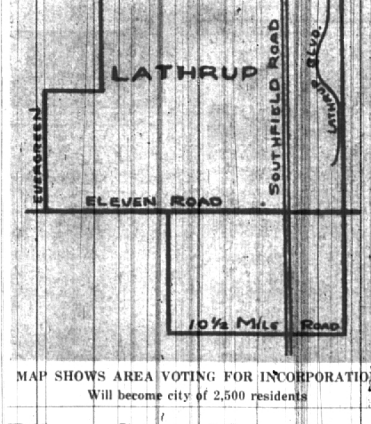
Money for the 20 per cent federal amusement tax on tickets sold by Will-O-Way Playhouse during the past four seasons was discovered missing by playhouse owners last week.

Godfrey J. Arts, 72, is held in Oakland County jail pending examination of embezzling \$3,766 in U. S. tax money. Oakland County Prosecutor Fred C. Ziem said Arts, an admitted tax collector, had admitted taking an unknown sum of money from the tax receipts to help pay personal debts. His office is in the Birmingham Theatre building but he lives in Detroit.

The first of G. J. Arts and Associates has handled the accounting of the playhouse since 1948.

The first notice owners of the playhouse had of the shortage was when they read a tax suit being filed against them by the federal government.

Merrill and his son, William W., are negotiating with the U. S. government for the payment of the tax and will open the summer season as scheduled on June 8.



B'ham Spent More, Got More in 1951 Than Average City Its Size

(Special to The Birmingham Eccentric)

NEW YORK, May 8—A special survey of the municipal finances of 684 cities in the under 25,000 population group shows Birmingham to be spending relatively more than most of the others and taking in greater revenue than the average. The data, gathered and published by the International City Managers Association, supplements data for larger cities, covering the year 1951, just released by the Commerce Department.

Many of the cities have been subjected to severe financial pressures because inflation has forced salaries up and required larger budgets for materials and supplies. In Birmingham, the expenditures for 1951 totaled \$1,079,000, amounting to \$73 per citizen, a 10 per cent increase over 1950. This was more than the cost of municipal activities in most cities in the 10,000 to 25,000 size group, which was \$58 per capita.

FOR THE CITIES generally, nearly 10 per cent of the spending was for principal and interest payments on city debt. Birmingham it was 7 per cent.

The figures are for municipal governments only and do not reflect the finances of counties, school districts and other local governments.

Proposed Budget Asks More Police, Firemen



● CICADA AND THIS IS A GRASSHOPPER. Cicada is a gigantic nation-stripping grasshopper.

Cicadas' June Groundbreaking To Be Well-Documented Event

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Out in Bloomfield Hills, plans are being made for the biggest coming out party seen there in the past 17 years. Preparations are being made and details are being worked out at the Cranbrook Institute of Science for the emergence, this year, of the 17-year cicadas (pronounced "sick-ay-dah") and commonly and mistakenly referred to as "kissbugs."

The site of this unusual occurrence is somewhere in "Bloomfield Hills" and there is reason for reluctance to name the spot.

"We don't want to pin point the area," said Walter P. Nickell, naturalist at the Institute, "because we want to have the plans all complete before people come into the area."

"We are afraid that some curious people will start digging up the ground and the resulting feet of a great many people may disturb the emergence."

"When everything is worked out, we will give a public showing so that all who wish will have the opportunity to witness the cicada emergence."

The time and place will be announced later, Nickell said.

THERE ARE 17 broods of the 17-year cicada, one brood coming out each year, but only three of those 17 broods show up in Michigan and at different years, Nickell stated.

The brood due to emerge in southern Michigan this year is known to scientists as Brood 10 and is the most extensive of all the 17 broods.

Nineteen other spots, extending from Illinois to New Jersey and from Vermont and Michigan to the north to northern Alabama and Georgia, the study will witness the same emergence at a greater or lesser degree, Nickell said.

THE SPOT "somewhere" in Bloomfield has been known to scientists for years as one place in Michigan for the cicada brood. Other sections in Michigan—near Kalamazoo and the others in the Upper Peninsula—are known for the emergence of other broods.

When the 17-year cicadas of this area are ready to emerge about the first of June, scientists and naturalists will be on hand to greet them with flash bulbs, plane light, motion picture cameras and photographs aplenty.

THE SILENT females live a few days before and deposit their eggs in the twigs of trees and shrubs. After the eggs are hatched, the small white nymphs drop to the ground, burrow into the soil and attach themselves to small roots.

Here underground the ground they suck the sap from roots of trees and plants and slowly grow through the soil.

"During their period of growth underground the ground, the cicada nymphs shed its outer skin, growing three to four years at a time before it is ready to emerge. It is almost a finished model of the adult cicada an inch to an inch and a half long."

IT IS THOUGHT that the full growth of the cicada nymphs is completed on the surface about a month before the actual emergence occurs. "By means of powerful front feet adapted to digging, these insects move toward the surface from wherever they are, and then they dig up to the surface several days or weeks before conditions are suitable for their emergence and may be found under fallen logs on similar situations."

"Others are known to erect chimneys above the ground and remain in them until conditions are suitable. After emergence, the life cycle of the 17-year cicada begins anew."

"CICADAS DO NOT strip the trees of foliage as do the locusts," Nickell said, "because they have no chewing mouth." "The locusts, known since Biblical times, are really mighty grasshoppers and are capable of eating most kinds of greenery."

"Cicada damage to vegetation seems to be negligible."

Increases in personnel for the police and fire department and a boost in appropriations for the department of public works and debt service bring the proposed city budget for the 1953-54 year to \$1,150,000, city commissioners learned Monday night.

The present year's approved budget totaled \$1,089,425, or \$93,915 less than the proposed budget for next year.

City administrators to receive the most for the proposed budget submitted by City Manager Donald Egbert, approval was asked to hire five additional firemen and three policemen.

To keep pace with wages and salaries paid employees in neighboring cities, Egbert has recommended that hourly rated workers be raised seven cents an hour with minor adjustments for the most skilled groups, increased employees be granted a minimum increase of \$100 and that those receiving \$400 or less be given a 3 1/2 per cent raise.

POLICE AND fire personnel were recommended to receive an increase of \$198 per year.

The city commission will meet Wednesday for the third budget session. They have set Monday, May 23, as the date for the public hearing on the proposed budget. The city commission will meet Wednesday for the third budget session. They have set Monday, May 23, as the date for the public hearing on the proposed budget. The city commission will meet Wednesday for the third budget session. They have set Monday, May 23, as the date for the public hearing on the proposed budget.

Other increases in the proposed budget over last year's appropriations include \$4,700 added with the engineer's office to catch up with back work and \$150 added for the newly reworked legal account and \$21,695 to the public works department.

The fire department budget as proposed would add \$33,610 to the city's fire department would gain \$25,125 more than this year.

Police department \$41,603 is asked to be added to the commission account to cover the annual audit that is ordered by the administration but has in the past been taken from the general administration budget. The total police department is asking for an increase of \$11,201 and an increase of \$20,275 is asked for the job service.

UNDER THE proposed budget the plan board would receive \$2,000 more and the recreation board would get \$1,000. Liability insurance is up \$2,575.

But no all accounts are proposed for an increase. With no major elections in the coming year, the electric department is down \$3,280 from last year. The street lighting account is down \$1,000, and the general administration account, stripped of the annual audit costs, is estimated to be \$5,100 less.

Other appropriation drops proposed are in the park insurance, continuing care, traffic light, fire equipment, park improvement, and pavement resurfacing.

The miscellaneous revenue is expected to be \$295,925 in the coming year as opposed to \$307,425 during the present fiscal year; a decrease of \$12,100.

O Windsor, Ontario, civil defense "raid" was real. It was a "raid" on a stolen wallet and \$27 to a Washington man. Mailed all the way from Texas, it arrived in time to pay medical bills. Money was a bad man for a good cause, eh?

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