

Use Some Paint, Beautify City, Asks Ex-Resident

The Birmingham Eccentric
Birmingham, Michigan
To the Editor:

When I left Birmingham a little more than 40 years ago, it was still a pretty small town with its small town hospitality, and its small town conveniences.

The first editor of The Eccentric, Mr. George Mitchell, and I were very good friends. In fact, George was a former student of mine when I taught at the school house now named Hill school.

When he became the publisher of the newspaper we worked together on a lot of projects to make Birmingham a better, cleaner village in which to live.

Now that I am back for a visit, I have been going around to see the changes that have come about.

ONE OF THE FIRST PLACES I visited was the Hunter Blvd. cut-off where the railroad used to run through town. It is a wide beautiful road with its trees and greenery and I hope it will stay that way.

Every once in a while I fly over Dort highway which is a cut-off around Flint and an uglier, dirtier highway I have never seen.

The business places are set so close to the road and the traffic hazards are so bad that eventually a cut-off around the cut-off will have to be built.

Birmingham's city fathers will have to watch very closely to see that Hunter Blvd. does not turn into another Dort highway.

I LOOKED PARTICULARLY at the business establishments that are already along Hunter. The ground around the Dairy Queen was cleaned up the morning I saw it, but people are careless, and perhaps another trash basket might help them remember not to throw the containers on the ground.

Farther on down the road is an old, unpainted frame building used as a blacksmith shop. It is, I believe, a nuisance to the city. The owners should be made to clean it up.

Next, I visited the new (to me) railroad station. When the Grand Trunk built the depot on the west side of the tracks in 1890, we all thought they outdid themselves and every one said that it was the best depot on the line.

BUT THIS STATION! It's wonderful and kept so clean. One thing bothers me however, and that is the traffic at train times. Mr. Editor, were you ever at the station at 6 p.m.?

The cars are lined up on all available streets for about two blocks in all directions except east, with wives and children waiting to pick up father.

Wouldn't it be convenient and better if the city or the Grand Trunk or both could by the vacant property just west, across from the station, for a parking lot?

And speaking of parking is anything ever going to be done about a municipal off-street parking lot? I mean something more than reports, and studies and reports and studies on the reports and studies.

THE PEOPLE WANT IT REALLY, but "what this town needs", as George Mitchell used to say, is concerted action by the people to let the city fathers know they want it.

I had the occasion to go to Midland this summer and they were in the process of building another municipal parking lot. I think that makes three for them.

Birmingham isn't my home town any more but if it were, I'd be glad to get the movement started.

I, along with others, worked to get the merchants to put out more hitching posts in the old days and the desired hitching posts (set back from the board walks) came because of the concerted action of a group of citizens called the Village Improvement Society.

OF COURSE I VISITED the public library, one of my pet projects in the old days.

Lovely building and well kept up but they need better lighting. Perhaps that will come in time, but they need that more than they need anything else.

One of the loveliest homes in the village in the old days was the Ford mansion on Woodward avenue. It was surrounded by a beautiful lawn and trees and had an iron grided fence all around it.

It is now the Masonic Temple and look what "progress" has done to it.

The Masons would do well to paint the exterior of the building white so that the glaring white gas station right next to it won't jump out so much.

Maybe George Mitchell knows, but his old home, which is now the American Legion, could stand a coat of paint.

IF SOME GENEROUS, big hearted hardware dealer would sell the American Legion the paint at cost and if all the Legionnaires would get together on a painting "bee", couldn't that place be painted in double quick time?

It would look so much better and reflect to the credit of the American Legion.

I went to the cemetery and everything looks neat and tidy. Some of the old flat grave stones are sunk pretty deep into the ground and should be raised, and my bench needs painting again.

Certainly the town has changed in many ways in all these years, but improvements—big and little—can still be made.

WELL, I MUST GET ALONG as I am very busy as usual. I have been superintending the job of putting out trees of Heaven along our avenues and with the help of the Celestial Clean-up Committee (which I organized) we have been trying to take the tarnish off our streets.

I have been delegated to look for some new type of chemical cleaner for cleaning gold (my reason for going to Midland). In my opinion, our streets haven't been shining as much as they should.

Yours for civic betterment,

THE SPIRIT OF MARTHA BALDWIN

If you want a nice yard and garden you must spend time ridding it of weeds. It seems to be the law of Nature, and human nature, to grow weeds unless flowers or thoughts which suggest, indeed demand, that we rid his mind of the weeds of negativism to be happy.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Thursday, September 24, 1953

SECTION 4



AT LEFT, "And the band played on—". The story of Casey and the strawberry blonde was portrayed by Mrs. J. L. Dostal as Casey and Mrs. A. A. Shantz as the blonde.

OHCC Has Annual Costumed Fun Day

Gay Nineties through modern-day television were all represented at Oakland Hills Country club Friday afternoon. Club members gathered together for their annual "Fun Day" in costumes of all periods. The day began with a few holes of golf in the morning (in costume), followed by luncheon at mid-afternoon. Mrs. Dave R. Jones, Jr., chairmaned the affair, but each individual or group invented its own costume.

ABOVE (from left to right) hairnets attached to their trouser legs gave the clue to Mrs. Chester A. Cahn's identification as Sgt. Friday on Dragnet. Others in the TV mystery program quartet were Mrs. E. F. Cornish as Boston Bhekke Mrs. William E. Johnston as Bob Cannon on foreign intrigue, and Mrs. Dave R. Jones, Jr. as Capt. Braddock on Racket Squad.

AT RIGHT (standing), Mrs. T. Curtis McKenzie and (seated) Mrs. Fred E. Sheldon, Jr., don some rubber heads found in an attic and formerly used for old-time masquerade parties.

AT LEFT (from left to right) "Out of this world golfers," were illustrated by Mrs. L. Dale Kinney, Mrs. John C. Palmer, Mrs. William H. Cartwright and Mrs. Harry B. Stillman.

BELOW (from left to right) Mrs. C. A. Brinke, Mrs. C. Hix Jones, Mrs. Edmund H. Wilcox and Mrs. Jack J. Hayes get in a huddle in their football costumes worn at Fun Day.

(Eccentric Staff Photos)

List Officers Of Garden Club For Coming Year

"Creating Pictures in the Garden and Home" is the current topic of the Birmingham branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden association.

Board members will meet Sept. 28, at 11 a.m., at the home of the president, Mrs. Frank D. Webb, 924 Arlington, for a discussion of the topic. Serving with Mrs. Webb this year are Mrs. Seth B. Slawson and Mrs. May Tunnicliffe, first and second vice presidents; Mrs. Mark Kraus, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Thom, corresponding secretary and Mrs. Robert Chissus, treasurer.

COMMITTEE chairmen for the year include Mrs. Lloyd Linton, bulletins; Mrs. W. S. Howell, civic improvement; Mrs. W. L. Lowrie, conservation; Mrs. Harvey Bushell, education; Mrs. C. R. Obermeyer, exhibits; Mrs. Craig Biehly, flower show and Mrs. G. A. Weinhold, finance.

Mrs. Lloyd Southard will head the garden center work; Mrs. William Hyland, horticultural therapy; Mrs. J. Reed Alexander, horticulture; Mrs. John Maynard, hospitality; Mrs. L. A. Hyland, international cooperation; Mrs. Donovan Gray, junior gardening; and Mrs. E. C. Hoenicke, marketing.

COMPLETING the list are Mrs. C. V. DiPietro, membership; Mrs. Carman Adams, publicity; Mrs. B. F. Magruder, revisions; Mrs. Robert Mason, social; Mrs. Hammond Baker, speakers bureau; and Mrs. Ernest Meininger, ways and means.

Order Two Buses For School Dist.

A new bus for the Birmingham school district has been ordered purchased by board of education members after hearing a report on enrollment growth by Superintendent Dwight B. Ireland.

The board also authorized Ireland to advertise for bids on a second bus as the school population has jumped from 5,797 last year to 6,100 at the close of the first week of school this term.

Ireland reported that many of the district's 15 buses were overloaded and presented a serious hazard.

The new bus will be purchased from North Chevrolet company at a cost of \$4,107.

Road Seeks Public Rank

Residents of private Epping road in Bloomfield Hills asked the city at its meeting last week to take over maintenance of the street. Commissioners told residents that the city will do so if the residents will bring the road up to minimum city requirements.



PLAY IT SAFE!

Leaf Burning Need Not Be Dangerous

The burning of leaves during the fall season always presents quite a problem, and very often many questions are asked the fire department on the best way of burning. To answer these questions we will list a few simple rules to follow:

1. Never burn leaves on the curb or on any hard surface street, concrete pavement or black top. City ordinances prohibit it and people doing so subject themselves to penalty.
2. Never burn leaves or other refuse, outside of home on a windy day.
3. Never burn leaves when the smoke from the fire will settle over the street in front of your home, for it can obstruct traffic and endanger lives.
4. Never burn close to a building, (stay 15 to 20 feet from them) particularly one with wood shingles.

ONE OF THE safest places to burn leaves around the home is in a wire incinerator. If no incinerator is available, burn on a gravel driveway or in a burning area which is out in the open with a cleared area all around it. Be sure

that this area is not located where grass fires will start in dry vegetation.

If you burn leaves, never leave the fire unattended. Keep small children away from the fire and be considerate of the smoke entering your neighbor's house.

IF NO PLACE is available to burn the leaves you can put them into a compost pile for use the following year as fertilizer or put them in the proper container and the dept. of public works will take them on their routine weekly pickup. The containers should have handles and need to exceed 60 pounds when filled with leaves.

A permit to burn leaves on your own property is not necessary; however, if you burn on other people's property, a permit is required and can be obtained by appearing at the fire department to sign for same.

In any event, if you burn leaves, PLAY IT SAFE, burn them with consideration for the safety of your home and family and that of your neighbors.

Prepared as a public service by members of the BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Enters Wayne U.

Another Birmingham student enrolled at Wayne university in Detroit is Harold VanDeusen, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold VanDeusen, Sr., 410 Catalpa. A June graduate of Little Flower high school, he enrolled in the college of liberal arts.

