Have you remembered a kindness done you by someone in the near or distant past? Would it not be fine for you, in person, by telephone, or by note, to contact this friend and repeat to him your gratitude for that not-forgotten kindness?

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION ONE

77TH YEAR—NO. 3 BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1954 44 PAGES SEVEN CENTS

Voters Decide Monday on New City Commissioners

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

"I SPEAK FOR DEMOCRACY"

You adults who read this column will be willing, I am certain, to ponder the thoughts expressed by Elizabeth Ellen Evans, a 16-year-old Akron, Ohio, school girl who has just won a national prize by writing an essay entitled: "I Speak For Democracy."

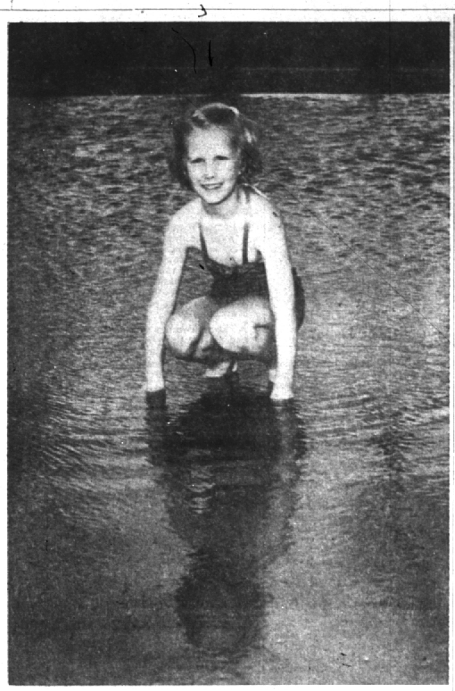
This contest, sponsored by the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., brought forth many thousands of essays by high school students all over the United States. When you have finished reading this, why not ask your teen-age children to read it, too? Here it is:

I am an American.
Listen to my words, Fascist, Communist.
Listen well, for my country is a strong country, and my message is a strong message.
I am an American, and I speak for Democracy.
My ancestors have left their blood on the green at Lexington and the snow at Valley Forge
...on the walls of Fort Sumter and the fields at Gettysburg
...on the waters of the River Marne and in the shadows of the Argonne Forest
...on the beachheads of Salerno and Normandy and the sands of Okinawa
...on the bare, bleak hills called Pork Chop and Old Baldy and Heartbreak Ridge
A million and more of my countrymen have died for freedom.
My country is their eternal monument.
They live on in the laughter of a small boy as he watches a circus clown's antics
...and in the sweet, delicious coldness of the first bite of peppermint ice cream on the Fourth of July
...in the little tenseness of a baseball crowd as the umpire calls "Batter up!"
...and in the high school band's rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever" in the Memorial Day parade
...in the clear, sharp ring of a school bell on a fall morning
...and in the triumph of a six-year-old as he reads aloud for the first time.
They live on in the eyes of an Ohio farmer surveying his acres of corn and potatoes and pasture
...and in the brilliant gold of hundreds of acres of wheat stretching across the flat miles of Kansas
...in the milling of cattle in the stockyards of Chicago
...the precision of an assembly line in an automobile factory in Detroit
...and the perpetual red glow of the nocturnal skylines of Pittsburgh and Birmingham and Gary.
They live on in the voice of a young Jewish boy saying the sacred words from the Torah: "Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy might."
...and in the voice of a Catholic girl praying: "Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee . . ."
...and in the voice of a Protestant boy singing: "A mighty Fortress is our God, A Bulwark never failing . . ."
An American named Carl Sandburg wrote these words:
"I know a Jew fishcrier down on Maxwell Street with a voice like a north wind blowing over corn stubble in January.
He dangles herring before

(See THIS & THAT, Page 6)

Starting With This Issue—
Two New Correspondent Columns:
NORTH ADAMS
Written by
Elizabeth B. Smith
See Page 3, Sect. 2
and
TROY TOWNSHIP
Written by
Ruth M. Sanders
See Page 2, Sect. 5

March Mermaid



RUSHING THE OUTDOOR swimming season by a good two months is this little six-year-old young lady who took advantage of Thursday morning's downpour and unseasonably warm weather to test her bright blue swim suit. Sandra Johnson, who said she lives on Elm street, found her "ole' swimming hole" in a flooded field on Adams road between Landon and Haynes. The same inviting pond was covered with a more seasonable precipitation Monday when a near-blizzard hit the city. (Eccentric Photo)

Weather Outside Was Far from Delightful

More pictures on Page One, Section Three

By GIL HERMAN

Rain and snow ganged up to give Birmingham residents a rough time during the past seven days.

An intense downpour of rain last Thursday morning flooded a number of basements and streets throughout the city, and on Monday a four and a half inch snow fall piled streets with slippery slush.

During the Thursday deluge, three telephone lines to the DPW were swamped by 125 calls from citizens asking that something be done to relieve their flooded basements.

Street flooding resulted in traffic tie-ups at the Grand Trunk underpasses at both E. Maple and 14-Mile. Water was 40 inches deep in the 14 Mile underpass at one time.

FULL DPW crews were kept busy clearing catchbasins, and by Thursday afternoon the water had begun to recede.

"Most basement flooding was caused by the intensity of rainfall which overtaxed sewers and drains for a short time. The water had no place else to go, so it started backing up into basements," said Robert Kenning, DPW superintendant.

Most troublesome area was the northeast corner of Birmingham where water from Troy township land poured into the city.

SCARCELY having finished dealing with flood-waters, DPW crews began Monday noon to limber up snow plows to try and keep city streets clear.

Working until 6 p.m. Monday night, drivers of four plows went back into action at 3:30 a.m. Tuesday. Thirty tons of salt were spread by Tuesday noon.

At 7 a.m. Tuesday, snow removal operations were started, but at 8 a.m. the snow removal equipment broke down.

THE WOLVERINE Tractor and Equipment company recently had offered to demonstrate a new type snow removal machine to city engineers, so Kenning called the company and within a short time the "demonstration" was underway.

"We are grateful to the company for cooperating with us in this emergency, and we were glad for the chance to see their machine in

(See WEATHER, Page 6)

City Skier

WATER AND snow both fell in abundance during the past week here and hardly five days after Sandra Johnson (pictured above) took to swimming in a Birmingham vacant lot, Knut Erichsen, 684 Lakeview, found plenty of snow on which to ski to his sales job at Harold Turner, Inc., 464 So. Woodward, Tuesday morning. Erichsen, a native of Oslo, Norway, laughingly told fellow salesmen that he would ski to work the next morning while watching the heavy snowfall Monday afternoon. A bet followed, and Tuesday morning the expert skier slid into the firm's used car lot suitably attired. He said that his father, who lives in Oslo, still thinks nothing of going on 15-mile cross-country ski hikes. (Eccentric Photo)

Set Parking Zone Hearing; 12-Ft. Screens Protested

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Land north of "Willets and west of Woodward, acquired at a cost which exceeds $337,000, is "too expensive" to have any of it used for a 12-foot wide landscaped screen, a representative of Wabeek Corp. and Jacobson's, Inc., charged before the Birmingham city commission Monday night.

"That property is too expensive to use for anything but parking, for which it was purchased," declared C. J. Huddleston, as he opposed a city plan board-sponsored zoning amendment which was intended to apply to the area.

Commissioners seemed to agree with Huddleston, for they spent considerable time trying to find a parking district definition that would permit the greatest number of parked automobiles.

It was decided, finally the city would hold a hearing April 26 on the amendment, as proposed by the plan board, in the meantime trying to meet jointly with the board for further discussions, possibly on April 13.

IT WAS emphasized that at the April 26 hearing, any provisions in the amendment could be deleted, modified or expanded.

As offered to the city commission for action, the proposed amendment to establish a parking district-B zone is practically the same as the one now on city's books. Principle difference is that in the A district, no parking fee can be charged. In the B area, fees could be collected.

Further development of the Wabeek-Jacobson lot, intended ultimately to hold in excess of 1,600 cars, has been stymied until the city adopts provisions permitting the collection of parking fees.

IF THE NEW district were adopted with the screening requirements as proposed by the plan board, Huddleston said car spaces in one lot area would be cut by 20 per cent, another area by 33 per cent.

"That just isn't the practical answer to our downtown parking problem," he emphasized.

They hesitated to seriously consider rezoning to business A classification, fearing what some future owner (if any or all of the lot were re-sold by Wabeek of Jacobson's) might re-use it for.

HUDDLESTON said that if the area were rezoned to business, the property would be restricted with an automatic clause which would require us immediately to petition for rezoning to its previous classification if the area ever ceased to be used for parking."

City Plan Technician Robert Boatman explained the plan board felt Wabeek-Jacobson could have the zoning board of appeals make exceptions to the screenings if it was felt advisable.

Huddleston asked the commission: "That would be fine, but can you gentlemen guarantee to me that the appeal board would make those exceptions?"

Commissioners said they could not.

Added Commissioner V. B. Watkins, "I agree with Huddleston. Going to the board of appeals is not a very businesslike method on which to project their parking operation."

Suggests Further Study Be Given Water Treatment

Study of costs in treating well water for a possible combined supply of city of Detroit and Birmingham well water as reported by City Manager Donald C. Egbert to the city commission Monday night led Egbert to suggest that further studies for the combined supply be made.

In investigating costs in Ann Arbor and proposed costs in the City of Berkley, also contemplating an additional supply of water from Detroit under the South Oakland Water Authority, Egbert found that treatment seems to result in a much cheaper rate than Detroit water is anticipated to cost.

Chemicals present in the city's well water would necessitate treating the water before mixing it with water from the Detroit system.

EGBERT EARLIER estimated that Detroit would charge between 25 and 30 cents per 1,000 gallons of water to Birmingham while the city's well water could probably be treated for near eight cents per 1,000 gallons.

Birmingham could continue to use well water and buy additional water from Detroit as the city needed.

Woman Killed, 2 Men Injured On Telegraph

One woman was killed and two men were seriously injured in a two-car head-on collision Monday morning in the southbound lane of Telegraph just north of 14 Mile road.

Dead on arrival at St. Joseph Mercy hospital, Pontiac, was Mrs. Georgia M. Claus, 50, of 3330 Nineteenth, Wyandotte. Her husband, the Rev. Carolton Claus, pastor of the Christian Missionary Alliance church, Wyandotte, suffered multiple fractures of the left leg and concussion. He is reported in fair condition at the hospital.

Bloomfield township police said it is not known which of the Clauses was driving.

Also at the hospital is John Lewis, 58, of 6355 E. Surrey, Bloomfield township, driver of the other car, who suffered a fractured ankle and possible concussion. His condition is described as good.

Police said no witnesses to the accident were found, and it is not known exactly what happened to cause the accident.

Postmaster's Job Still A Mystery

Still no confirmation has been received here on who is the city's new postmaster.

Latest information from the U. S. Civil Service Commission in Washington, D. C. is that the commission has received an appeal from Bernard E. Fowler, ousted Birmingham post office head whose appeal to the Seventh Regional office of the commission failed recently.

The Washington board gave no indication that Fowler's second appeal has been acted upon.

IN DETROIT, Postal Inspector W. E. Birdsall Wednesday morning stated that he had heard no further word on the appeal or of the pending appointment of Rollie Reese, 1847 Webster, named by Rep. George A. Dondero (R-Royal Oak) to replace Fowler.

Reese explained that he has not yet been contacted officially about the appointment.

April 21 Date For C of C's Annual Meeting

Annual meeting for the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce will be held April 21 at the Birmingham Community House, C of C Secretary Charles Mortenson said this week.

The evening meeting, which has been staged in December in past years, will see the election of three new board members to replace Rollie Reese, William Breech and Dr. Thomas Watson.

Mortenson said he is attempting to obtain a prominent speaker for the meeting.

One by-law revision which members will be asked to approve is a change in the chamber's fiscal year to May 1-April 30. Business now is conducted on a calendar year.

Maple Widening Hearing Called

A hearing of necessity for the widening and resurfacing of West Maple from Linden to Westchester may was set for April 19 by city commissioners Monday night.

The action followed a report by City Attorney Forbes Hascall that an agreement could be entered into with the Oakland County road commission whereby the city could advance the county's share of the paving funds and be paid back later in the year from gas and weight tax returns due the county.

THIS PROCEDURE would permit the improvement to the street in the coming paving season.

According to tentative assessment plans, the county would pay 40 percent of the improvement, businesses would pay 75 per cent of half of the improvement directly in front of their properties and the city would assume the remainder of costs.

City Turns Down Petition Asking Parking District

Extension of the present off-street parking lot on the north side of Maple, between Hunter and Poppleton, to provide an additional 72 car spaces was turned down Monday night by the Birmingham city commission.

Four colleagues voted with Commissioner Charles Renfrew, who said the advantages of the additional parking were not great enough to outweight the disadvantages to the abutting residential properties.

COMMISSIONER V. B. Watkins voted against Renfrew's motion that a petition for the parking lot be denied. Commissioner Dean Beier was absent.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Barton, owners of the property, had requested the rezoning of the area from residential to a parking district classification.

Under terms of a nine-month-old city ordinance, such parking districts must be adequately screened from adjoining residences, properly policed, and would revert to original zoning if parking was discontinued as the only use.

NEIGHBORING residents were present to protest the proposed rezoning.

Declared J. Rodger Brown, 712 Ridgedale: "There already are many residents on record as opposing any extension of parking in that area. We want to know if the city is interested in protecting our residential properties, or in expanding a business development."

After the petition had been denied, Milton F. Mallender, former Birmingham mayor and city commissioner, who was representing the Bartons, presented the commission with a quit claim deed to an additional 34-foot strip along the Barton's Maple street frontage.

"This is being deeded to the city so it never will have to condemn or pay for additional right-of-way in the event E. Maple is widened," Mallender explained.

Hearings Near on New Hills Zone Ordinance

Details of a new zoning ordinance for the city of Bloomfield Hills are presently being worked on by City Attorney William B. Hartman, according to John Graham, chairman of the city's planning commission.

Under study by planners for the past several months, the proposed ordinance may be ready for presentation at special public meetings within a few weeks, Graham said. Such public meetings are prerequisite to adoption of zoning changes by the city commission.

City Manager Elmer Kephart said it still is too early to say just what the proposed ordinance will include. He added, however, that planners presently seem to be in agreement that there should be increased restrictions on lot and house sizes in some areas zoned for single family residences.

HE SAID AREAS ZONED for multiple dwelling units may be reduced somewhat and the number of dwelling units per acre in multiple dwellings may also be reduced.

Property presently zoned for multiple dwellings is located mainly around the business district of the city and on both sides of Woodward Avenue.

Kephart said no expansion or reduction of the area zoned for business seems to be in the offing. Business zoned property is concentrated around the intersection of Woodward and Long Lake road.

Both Kephart and Graham said that because of the variable nature of planning, and the many problems involved, no definite dates could be given as to when the proposed ordinance could be expected to be approved by the planning commission.

Fire Halls Await 2nd Verdict

For more detailed information on candidates and questions on the April 5 ballot, see Page 1, Section 4 of this issue of The Eccentric.

By NORMAN DOUGLAS

Birmingham electors will have to select three men from one of the longest slates of candidates in recent years when city commissioners are voted on at the annual city election Monday, April 5.

Nine men are seeking election to three seats on the city's legislative body as the terms of Mayor Ralph A. Main and Commissioners Lance Minor and James C. Allen expire.

This number of candidates has only been topped recently by the 1951 election when 10 men vied for city office.

CITY OFFICIALS look for a fairly heavy vote in this election as a full slate of candidates gives promise of a spirited contest. The three proposals also are expected to draw out those voters usually apathetic to annual city elections.

City Clerk Irene Hanley reported that nearly 11,700 residents now are registered. The new voting precincts will be used. The locations of these 11 precincts are listed on page one of part four in this issue. All precincts will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Miss Hanley states that 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon, April 3, is the deadline for filing written applications for absentee voter's ballots.

VOTERS also will be asked to decide on three proposals, elect two Baldwin Public Library board members and one city constable.

Of the nine commission candidates, only one has had previous experience as a commissioner. Allen, elected in last April's election to fill the one-year vacancy left by the resignation of Frank Rising, seeks reelection to his seat. Main and Minor both have rejected reelection bids.

CANDIDATES besides Allen, are James Cousins, Gilbert C. Goode, Jr., Harry J. McGowan, Jr., George W. Mullin, Robert E. Navin, Robert S. Owen, William E. Roberts and Harry D. Wise, Jr.

Most of the commission candidates are characterized by both their youth and by their first appearance in the political picture.

Candidates for the library board are Harry Allen and Josephine Shinnick, both encumbents.

No person has filed for the constable's post.

The three proposals on the ballot include the annexation of the Porritt property on Adams road to the City of Birmingham from Troy township, a $225,000 bond proposition to enable the city to construct two new fire stations, and a charter amendment to modernize the city's employee retirement system.

ANNEXATION of the 46-acre Porritt property, entirely surrounded by the city of Birmingham, would enable the owners, W. E. Reid Development company, to construct duplex homes and single residences on the land through the use of city water and sewage disposal facilities.

The fire hall proposal seeks to increase fire protection facilities in the city, place fire stations in more

(See VOTERS, Page 2)

STRICTLY FRESH

In Dallas, Tex., a drunk walked out of his second-floor hotel room by way of a telephone cable. Trying to make an outside fall?

Taxes are paid, and soon golfers will join the many of us who will miss the green.

The Air Force is exploring powerful, mysterious air currents. If they'd read the speeches originating in Congress they'd discover it's no mystery.

We hear Americans are using 10 per cent less wool than former-

ly. And most of that, we fear, is being pulled over their eyes.

Two can live as cheaply as one, but who wants to live cheaply?

ALLEN-WOOD COTTAGE. BOARDING home, ladies. Special diet service. 3 private rooms. Experienced nurse. $50 per week. References required. Milford. Mutual 2-9844, collect. (5)

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. Dial 5-[illegible] and ask for ENterprise 6319.