

Clean-Up Campaign Luncheon Monday

Edward H. Laird, Birmingham landscape architect, and widely known for his work in the Civic Center development program here since 1933, will be guest speaker at the Birmingham Garden club's kick-off luncheon Monday, April 5, at the Community House.

This gathering of City officials, representatives of local clubs for both men and women, churches and schools and Scouts as well as special guests will start the "ball rolling" for the "Beautification—Clean Up, Pick-Up and Plant-Up" campaign sponsored by the Birmingham Garden club.

"A Quarter of a Century of Birmingham's Beauty Development" is Laird's topic. He was consulting landscape architect for the Initial Beautification of Birmingham's Flowering Tree program and coordinator for the placement unit. He has supervised the plantings of our parks, high schools, Baldwin and other schools stretching out as far as Walnut Lake.

ONE OF THE chief aims of the campaign is extermination of the "Litter Bug", a real pest in and around this area. As spring advances you will see his tricks along streets, parks and even about private homes and families within miles around.

As he walks along he tosses candy wrappings, paper bags, peels and even cans along the highways. He must be sought out and persuaded that he has a responsibility to keep the town not only beautiful but safe from flies, mice and all destructive animals.

There is serious duty on the part of the town to free the community, too. Mrs. Howell says, from unhealthy and destructive smoke. "Cities like Pittsburgh and Hammond, Ind. can get rid of thick black smoke which is most unhealthy for folks to breathe, so can Birmingham," Mrs. Howell states.

"Other towns are going to know what we are doing or not doing. Get into this nation-wide campaign. Give your thoughts to this community move and it follows as night the day that Birmingham will be at the top of safe, healthy and safe towns," Mrs. Howell concludes.

THE CITY HAS real competition these days because this nation-wide movement has attracted attention and cooperation down across southern borders and away to the north. Inquiries have come and advice sought from places as far away as South American Rio.

The Birmingham Branch of Woman's Farm and Garden association is sponsoring this city-wide campaign under leadership of Mrs. William S. Howell, Beautification chairman. The City officials, Board of Commerce members, schools, clubs, Girl and Boy scouts are all cooperating.

Just a few years back the Clean-Up Campaign had a very small beginning—now it's a gigantic national institution. Ten days are set aside for turning every unsightly spot in Birmingham into beauty by clearing away all debris strewn around our streets. That means from your own back door to the back door of every public building and store, shop and corner in town. Not only



MRS. FRANK WEBB MRS. J. C. ROBERTS MRS. FRED LINES
Farm and Garden club officers distribute litter bug signs (Eccentric Photo)

Voters

(Continued from Page One)

strategic locations, and relieve space in the city hall to other administrative purposes.

Free transportation to the polls will be available to those voters who have no other way of reaching their precinct booths.

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"In addition," Gardner continued, "a citizen-at-large is appointed by the mayor and commissioners to represent the taxpayers' interest in the system."

Gardner, president of the Birmingham National Bank has held this citizen-at-large post since the retirement system went into effect.

In conclusion, he said, "These amendments have been under consideration for many months. In my opinion they represent a sound and reasonable approach to the establishment of a fair and equitable arrangement with the city employees."

LWV to Distribute Voter's Guide Here

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week, League of Women Voters members will distribute their voter's guide, a tabloid-size sheet containing information on the candidates, dates and proposals and a brief background of the City of Birmingham.

Some 60 members will distribute the guide personally in city supermarkets on those days while copies also will be available in the city's banks, drug stores, barber and beauty shops, doctor and dentist offices and at public utility branches.

The guides are non-partisan and merely present statements of the candidates to public questions the League feels are important to city government.

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Sentence Date Set For Man Convicted Of Fox-Hounds Raid

Sentence date has been set for April 5 for Theodore Sullivan, Detroit, who was found guilty March 16 in Oakland County circuit court of participating in the Nov. 30 armed robbery of the Fox and Hounds Inn, Bloomfield Hills.

Another suspect in the case, John Wesley Graham, 37, also of Detroit, is awaiting examination Friday in court, according to I. C. Banks, Bloomfield Hills police chief.

Banks said a third man, Charles Clark, 39, of Detroit, is being held by Detroit police in connection with the raid of a Detroit shop-keeper in a holdup which followed the Fox and Hounds robbery.

Clark will appear as a police witness at Graham's examination, Banks said.

A fourth man involved in the case still is being sought.

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Fire Chief Hopes for Large Vote

Chief Vern Griffith, on behalf of the entire Birmingham fire department, asked that enough votes be cast in the Monday election to give a true expression of what citizens actually desire regarding increased fire fighting facilities.

Griffith stated that immediately following the spring election of 1952, when the original fire station bond issue was voted by only 69 votes, approximately 100 citizens (who had always supported the fire department) said that if they had realized the bond issue would not have carried, they would have made a special effort to have gone out and voted for it.

"This coming election of April 5, 1954, Griffith said, "should give everyone an opportunity to express their wishes as to what they want for fire protection in the City of Birmingham."

"This present bond issue in the amount of \$225,000 has been established for the most economical housing facilities, that is practical and feasible enough to accommodate only fire equipment and personnel for this city, when the city is fully developed and populated within its present city limits."

"We in the fire department, feel that if the citizens in the city of Birmingham approve this bond issue, we can provide them with better and more efficient fire protection, primarily because on the average large fire, there will be some apparatus and men left in one of the two stations to respond in cases of second alarms of fire within the city."

"If the people choose not to approve this bond issue, we will, as we have attended in the past, give the best service possible with what equipment we have and can house in the present station."

"Discussions with its actuarial committee have resulted in proposed amendments to bring the system to a position comparing more favorably with other sound municipal systems in our area," Gardner declared. "Such amendments, if accepted by the electorate, will represent the first major improvement in the system since its inception."

"The need for establishing an equitable basis is all the more important, because city employees do not participate in the national Social Security Act."

HE POINTED OUT that currently 22 retired employees are receiving benefits from the retirement system, along with the widow and minor child of an employee killed in the performance of his duties.

Pensions now average \$68.27 a month, Gardner said, and the system is financed by contributions from its employee members in the amount of five per cent of their annual salaries.

The city of Birmingham's contributions are based on 67 actuarial average of the system, computed annually by an actuarial consultant.

At present these contributions amount to 7.63 per cent of the annual payroll.

GARDNER explained that the adoption of the proposed amendment will increase the contributions to 8.66 per cent of the annual payroll, or approximately \$7,000, based on the annual evaluation as of June 30, 1953.

One interesting feature mentioned by Gardner is that since the retirement system was established in 1944, annual contributions from the city have averaged 8.62 per cent of annual payroll.

He explained that retirement funds have been invested in a well diversified list of first class securities, with the account standing at \$484,036.00 on Jan. 31, 1954. The average yield on the investments has been 3.28 per cent, a figure higher than the returns of other comparable systems.

"A return of three per cent is necessary to implement the purpose of the system," Gardner said.

"THE CHARTER under which the system operated provides a board of trustees to include the incumbent mayor of the City of Birmingham, a city commissioner who is a signor that responsibility, the city manager and a representative

of the police, fire and general city departments.

"The last three representatives are elected by their fellow workers in the department where they are serving."

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HARRY D. WISE, Jr. Says . . .

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