

The Birmingham Eccentric

One of the nicest methods of paying a compliment to another is to go to him or her and read advice on some subject which is of interest to both. This is especially true when you apply impracticable advice. Give you ... but won't the adviser feel flattered about it all?

These Candidates For Commissioners Give Viewpoints

City voters will have a full slate of candidates to choose from in the Monday, April 5, annual city election. They also will be asked to determine city action on three proposals. Out of a field of nine candidates for the city commission will be three successful aspirants who will fill the expired terms of Mayor Ralph A. Main and Commissioners Lance Minor and James C. Allen.

Annually, before election day, known candidates are polled on questions The Eccentric feels are important to the administration of city affairs. The candidates are asked to express their personal opinions on problems now confronting the city so that the voter will better know the thinking of the men seeking office.

Following the resume of the questions below are the statements of the candidates in answer to the queries. Their answers are numbered the same as the questions.

QUESTION 1
Do you favor an increased annual budget appropriation for the city recreation board to permit it to develop city recreational areas and facilities for our youth?

QUESTION 2
If elected, do you propose to take any steps to accelerate a local off-street parking program?

QUESTION 3
What do you believe is the most practical way to finance a parking program for Birmingham?

QUESTION 4
If elected, would you favor steps to relieve downtown traffic congestion by removing parking from Maple avenue and restoring parallel parking on Woodward avenue?

QUESTION 5
What other suggestions have you relative to improving the local parking situation?

QUESTION 6
Do you believe that any economic measures should be considered in operation of the city government? If so, where?

QUESTION 7
Any additional remarks?

QUESTION 1
Do you favor an increased annual budget appropriation for the city recreation board to permit it to develop city recreational areas and facilities for our youth?

SIX
I know of none at the present time. I believe members of the Commission should always be vigilant in this and every other respect.

QUESTION 2
If elected, do you propose to take any steps to accelerate a local off-street parking program?

SEVEN
The recent growth of Birmingham is more than enough reason for our City's elected officials to take more active steps in future planning for the basic needs of our city. Planning for such things as ample water supplies and sewage facilities is urgent. Immediate steps should be taken to promote liaison with adjacent cities and townships in these matters as well as in city planning, zoning and other problems caused by the influx of population. There are many qualified individuals who are well-versed in what I know would be glad to advise and participate in these projects. These people should be invited to present their views to the Commission. The successful solution of these problems needs the co-ordination and participation of all of us.

William E. Roberts

QUESTION 3
What do you believe is the most practical way to finance a parking program for Birmingham?

ONE
An annual budget appropriation of \$12,000 has proven to be inadequate in meeting the recreational needs of Birmingham. Increased recreational facilities are an absolute necessity to cope with the growing youth problem.

TWO
After seven years of study and procrastination, parking is now accepted as a serious problem in Birmingham. What we need now is action! Leadership and initiative should be provided by municipal government so that the development of off-street parking areas can be planned and controlled in advance. Financing of an off-street parking program should be the responsibility of the people benefiting from such parking areas, namely, the local merchants and business people using the parking area.

Harry D. Wise, Jr.

QUESTION 4
If elected, would you favor steps to relieve downtown traffic congestion by removing parking from Maple avenue and restoring parallel parking on Woodward avenue?

ONE
Birmingham needs to restudy the recreational and local facilities available to the young people of the City and to move forward with more workable and, frankly, more enticing program to make sure that Birmingham does not become the delinquent problem city it is becoming of our neighboring cities. Increased budget appropriation alone will not solve the problem. Immediate steps should be taken to promote liaison with adjacent cities, township and the school district as well as inviting the aid and counsel of the United Community Services, local service groups and business citizens to advise and participate in the prevention of juvenile and youth delinquency.

Robert S. Owen

QUESTION 5
What other suggestions have you relative to improving the local parking situation?

ONE
I BELIEVE that this problem requires the full cooperation of everyone and it is necessary for each individual to determine how they can best serve the community. Co-ordinated effort is required and every phase of the project must be in operation or it will fail. We believe that the best method to be used is to promote and foster the participation of service groups and individuals and inviting private funds for professional guidance if required. Municipal recreation areas and facilities may be a necessary part of the program but to utilize its full effectiveness the overall program must be formulated first.

TWO
After nine years of discussion "in committee" the important issue of off-street parking should be decided. I believe the procrastination on this subject has existed so long that the problem of off-street parking has become critical. The decision as to whether or not to have off-street parking should be based primarily on the question of the convenience and welfare of the residents of Birmingham. I have talked with many residents of the City and they have found the present situation most inconvenient.

QUESTION 6
Do you believe that any economic measures should be considered in operation of the city government? If so, where?

THREE
The present meter system in the City of Birmingham appears to be workable. It is of financial benefit to the City and requires nonresidents of the City as well as residents to pay their share of the program. I have examined off-street parking plans of neighboring municipalities and the parking meter system has had wide acceptance and does not place the whole burden on the local residents but requires the nonresident user to pay his share. I believe a special assessment against the property species by benefited could supplement the revenue if the meter revenue is proved to be insufficient.

QUESTION 7
Any additional remarks?

FOUR
Until the off-street parking problem is resolved, this question is premature.

FIVE
I believe the off-street parking program for new business and multiple buildings should be re-examined.

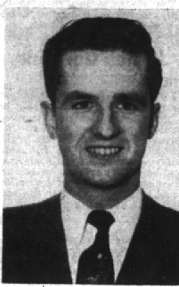


JAMES C. ALLEN

Allen, 34, 1108 W. Maple, has served on the city commission since April, 1953, when he was elected to fill the one-year unexpired term of Frank Rising.

He is head of the Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission and a member of the Detroit law firm of Allen, Haas and Scelander.

He is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law school and a life-long resident of this area. Allen has joined the family tradition of public service. His great-grandfather was once a trustee of the village, his grandfather was president of the village and his father served as the first mayor of the City of Birmingham.



JAMES COUZENS

The youngest candidate in the commission race, Couzens, 27, lives at 976 Suedfield. A World War II veteran, he attended the University of Detroit before becoming general manager of the Baldwin hardware five years ago.

He is a past president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, a director of the Birmingham Lions Club and past treasurer of the Holy Name Club. Couzens has been active in United Foundation drives and serves on the business and parking study committees of the Junior Chamber.

This is his first candidacy for public office. He is the son of the late Frank Couzens, once mayor of the City of Detroit, and the grandson of James Couzens, former United States Senator.



GEORGE W. MULLIN

Mullin is 58 and lives at 1420 Buckingham. He is a paint salesman for the Pontiac Vauxhall company and has been a resident of the city since 1933.

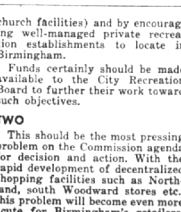
Long interested in city affairs, Mullin was a candidate for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Harvard Business School. He is a member of the First Presbyterian church and his candidacy marks his initial entrance into public life.



ROBERT E. NAVIN

Navin, born here in 1920, is assistant general manager of Detroit Bevel Gear company.

A graduate of Baldwin high school, he holds degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Harvard Business School. He is a member of the First Presbyterian church and his candidacy marks his initial entrance into public life.

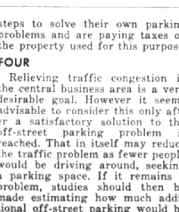


ROBERT S. OWEN

The April 5 election will see Owen in the city commission race for the fourth time, having previously run for the office in 1951-52 and '53.

The Plymouth division executive is a past director of the Detroit Sportsman Congress, past president of the Birmingham Taxpayers Protective association and has been active in the city's civil defense program and the fire hall study group.

A member of the Birmingham Lodge 44, F.A.M. of the First Presbyterian church, he is a University of Detroit graduate who has lived in the City for nine years. He lives at 303 Park.



WILLIAM E. ROBERTS

Roberts, 30, 1957 Derby, is an agent for the Hugh C. White insurance agency.

A graduate of Birmingham high school and the University of Michigan, he is vice-chairman of the Birmingham YMCA Committee of Management, chairman of the Y's permanent building committee, a director of the Birmingham Lions Club and active in the Little League baseball program.

He also has worked on the United Foundation drives and is a member of the Birmingham Village Players. He was selected as the winner of the Junior Chamber of Commerce distinguished service award for 1952. A resident since 1938, Roberts is making his first bid for city office.



GILBERT GOODE, JR.

Joining the ranks of first-time candidates in the city commission race, Goode is a Birmingham realtor who is now vice-president in charge of sales at Bestman & Stephens, Inc. Until recently he headed the Goode-Chiera realty firm with John Chiera.

A 28-year resident of the city, he attended Baldwin High school and Detroit Country Day school before serving with the U. S. Air Force during World War II. While in uniform he was held a prisoner of war in Germany for 15 months.

Goode is a member of the Birmingham Real Estate Board, married and lives at 647 Woodland. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert C. Goode, Sr., 625 Grandfield Ct.



HARRY MCGOWAN

McGowan, 42, 110 Aspen, has been a resident of the city since 1939. A senior technical representative of the Bakelite company, Detroit, plastics firm, he attended the University of Notre Dame and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh.

He is a past president of the National Society of Plastic Engineers and past president of the local organization. He is a past vice-president of the Holy Name school P.T.A. is married and has five children. He is a director of the Birmingham Park Improvement Association.

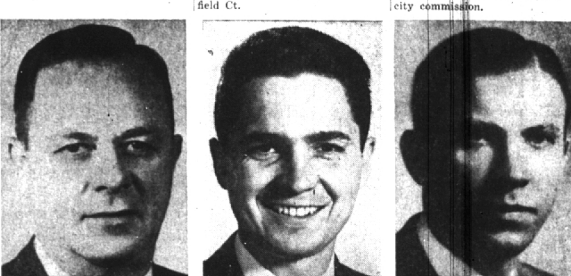
This is his first candidacy for the city commission.

These Are Your Nine Candidates For the Birmingham City Commission

VOTING PRECINCTS FOR THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Some voters may find that their polling place has changed since they last voted. Below are the new precincts and voting places.

- Precinct No. 1—** Polling Place at Lutheran Church, 1900 West Maple.
 - Boundaries north: city limits east: River Rouge, Quanton Lake south: West Maple west: city limits
- Precinct No. 2—** Polling Place at Holy Name School, Corner of Gorman and Greenwood, Greenwood Entrance.
 - north: city limits east: Woodward south: West Maple west: River Rouge, Quanton Lake
- Precinct No. 3—** Polling Place at Adams School, Corner Oakland and Worth.
 - north: city limits east: G.T.W.R.R., Adams Rd. south: East Maple west: Woodward
- Precinct No. 4—** Polling Place at Municipal Building, 151 Martin Street.
 - north: West Maple east: Woodward south: Frank west: River Rouge
- Precinct No. 5—** Polling Place at Barrum School.
 - north: Frank east: Woodward south: Lincoln west: River Rouge
- Precinct No. 6—** Polling Place at D.P.W. Garage, 851 Eton Road.
 - north: East Maple east: city limits south: Eton west: Woodward
- Precinct No. 7—** Polling Place at Grand Trunk Station, 245 Eton Road.
 - north: city limits east: city limits south: East Maple west: Grand Trunk
- Precinct No. 8—** Polling Place at Birmingham High School, Corner West Lincoln and Cranbrook, Main Lobby Entrance on West Lincoln.
 - north: West Maple east: River Rouge south: city limits west: city limits
- Precinct No. 9—** Polling Place at Pierce School.
 - north: Lincoln east: Pierce south: Fourteen Mile west: River Rouge
- Precinct No. 10—** Polling Place at Y.M.C.A., 400 East Lincoln.
 - north: Lincoln east: Woodward south: Fourteen Mile west: Pierce
- Precinct No. 11—** Polling Place at Tarry School, 1658 E. Lincoln, Corner of Torry.
 - north: Lincoln east: city limits south: Fourteen Mile west: Woodward



HARRY D. WISE, JR.

A 36-year-old Detroit attorney, Wise is a graduate of Baldwin High school, Cranbrook school and the University of Michigan. He has practiced law for nine years and is a veteran of World War II. He is a member of the Birmingham Lodge 44, F.A.M., a past commander of the Birmingham VFW and a past president of the Young People's Association at Christ Church. Married and the father of one son, he lives at 834 No. Glenhurst.

He has lived in the city since 1929 and is making his first attempt in city politics.

Three Proposals Face Voters

Three proposals are to be decided by voters at the annual city election Monday, April 5.

Besides a special election question concerning the city's annexation of a 46-acre parcel of Troy township land on Adams road, voters also will find the submission of a charter amendment to raise employe benefits under the city's retirement system, and a bonding proposal to finance construction of two new fire stations in the city.

All questions are considered by city officials as important to the growth of Birmingham.

ANNEXATION
The annexation question was brought before the Oakland County Board of Supervisors after developers of the property, completely surrounded by the City of Birmingham, found that they could not construct proposed duplex housing units on the property without sewer and water facilities. Because the land is actually an island within the city, Troy officials were helpless to provide the land owners, the W. E. Ridd Development company, with these improvements.

A gentlemen's agreement was gained by the city and the developer over proposed zoning that would be given to the land if annexation is approved. The owners have submitted plans and sketches on both the layout of the property as it would be developed and the type of housing unit to be constructed on the land. These will be single residences and duplexes.

All major objections to the plan appear to be ironed out as far as the Birmingham city commission is concerned and both Troy and Birmingham residents will vote on which municipality will rate the land after April 5.

FIRE STATIONS
THE BONDING proposal places a question before voters of whether residents want the city to increase its fire fighting facilities. Under a plan prepared by both city officials and a fire hall study group the city would construct two fire stations on opposite sides of Birmingham with the bond issue not to exceed \$225,000.

Two years ago a bond issue in the amount of \$350,000 for the construction of a fire hall was rejected by voters. City officials believe that voters defeat of the proposed in 1952 was due to misunderstanding among voters and later named a fire hall study committee to study the city's fire protection needs.

AFTER MONTHS of study the committee passed on its recommendations of two new fire stations on opposite sides of the city. Functional building plans were developed and city heads state that the east and west side halls can be constructed without a raise in the tax millage rate.

Committee members believe that the city will be more adequately protected by placing stations near established neighborhoods while providing the space necessary to bring the city's new multi-purpose building. Construction of the stations would relieve needed city hall space for administrative purposes. The fire department would vacate their present location in the municipal building to give other city departments an opportunity to expand. The police department for one, city officials explain, is now hampered by the city's lack of space for its activities for want of needed space.

A PROPER reserve in fire fighting equipment could be maintained if the two stations were available, committee members urge. By placing the stations near established neighborhoods a fire truck at the east side hall and two pumps on the west side, the city would bring its equipment up to standards set for its population and valuation.

When the multi-purpose truck arrives this summer, other trucks will have to be stored outside if the bonding proposal is rejected by voters. Spoken for the group conducting the study is the fact that increase in fire protection has been

RETIREMENT

The third proposal appearing on the ballot concerns the modernization of the city's employe retirement system. Considerable study has been given to the retirement plan in the past two years. Certain modifications have been agreed on by both the city and the retirement board in meeting the demands of an up-to-date system. The plan is up to voters.

Many of the changes in the 10-year-old retirement program are minor ones of clarification. The major revisions, essentially, would raise the basic annual pension from \$100 to \$120 and set the city's participation at 1/10th of the annual wage. Presently this percentage is 1/15th.

PROPOSAL ASKS VOTERS TO APPROVE THE CHANGING OF SEVEN SECTIONS OF CHARTER 29 IN THE CITY'S CHARTER AND ADD A NEW AMENDMENT

All amendments would serve to better protect the employe and are of minor importance. Changes being made by other municipalities in ramping their retirement systems.

Actual cost to the city annually under the proposed changes would be \$75,000.

The system was started here in 1944 with the city's share of the pension fund and a new amendment in 1942 which had the amount of 8.64 percent of the annual payroll. The city's share under the desired changes would become 8.66 percent.

Actually the most important changes asked by city administrators and employe alike is the opportunity to bring the retirement plan up-to-date and increase the amount of employe protection.

Elected to AIA

Donald W. Upward, 10980 Beetham in Highgate, Birmingham, public accountant, has been elected a member of the American Institute of Accountants, national professional organization of CPAs. Upward is associated with the firm of Miller, Bailey & Company, Detroit.