



ROY WRAGBY of Henley drive, is shown signing the register at the Veteran's Memorial building in Mexico City. Wragby was one of a group of about 75 who returned to the states last week after spending two weeks in Mexico with the Travelrama, sponsored by a Detroit paper. A number of area travel agencies, including the Birmingham Travel Service, cooperated in arranging details of the trip. Wragby said he was pleased and surprised at the receptions given the Americans in Mexico. "We were all 'Vip's,'" he commented.

City's Population Exceeds Guesses Of Forecasters

By **NORMAN DOUGLAS**
Home building in Birmingham has out-distanced all predictions. The city's fabulous home and population growth since the end of World War II has nearly exhausted all available building sites in the city and threatens to bring maximum development within the city's corporate limits in a very few years.
Reviewing stories written nearly six years ago in The Eccentric, it was noted that City Manager Donald C. Ebert forecasted a population of 20,000 in the year 1955. This figure has long been passed. The estimated population of Birmingham now has been set at 22,500 by city officials who based this figure on the 1950 Federal census and corrected it by the addition of water meter installations during the past three years and three months.

WHEN REMINDED of his 1948 prediction, Ebert admitted that home building had surpassed all expectations and added that a similar population study conducted by a public utility in 1948 in this area was more conservative than even his forecast.

He further predicted in 1948 that 400 persons a year would move into the city. Added to the 1955 estimate the total figure looked for in 1959 would be 22,000—still behind today's present population.

Between 1940 and 1945, . . . the war years . . . an average of 71 homes were built here annually. The rise in home construction began in 1946 and reached nearly 800 home permits in 1950.

Two reasons can be given for the city manager's low estimate. At the time of his prediction, mortgage money was scarce on custom home building. This situation quickly was remedied in 1949 and residential building began its climb.

THE SECOND reason for the spurt was the city's first experience with production home building, also occurring in 1949.

Areas such as Pembroke Manor, West Lincoln and the southeast section of the city, mere fields be-

Rezoning Petition Is Surprise to City Officials

A surprise element entered current attempts of city officials to permit commercial off-street parking in a lot north of Willets and west of Woodward.
It was a petition submitted this week to the city by William Yaw, president of the Wabsek Corp., asking that the northeast corner of Willets and N. Bates be rezoned for business use.
Representatives of the Wabsek Corp., and Jacobson's, Inc., who have purchased in excess of 8377-9000 in property in that area, and city commissioners have been working for some months on a proposed zoning amendment that would permit such use adjacent to the central business section without having to have it zoned as business.

TO THIS END, the commission two weeks ago set April 25 as the date of a public hearing on the zoning amendment, and will meet April 21 with plan board members to see if minor areas of disagreement can be ironed out prior to the public hearing.
City officials this week were unable to understand why Yaw has presented this petition for business zoning in the Chamberlain hotel at Old Point Comfort Easter Sunday.

Yaw was unavailable for comment Wednesday when The Eccentric attempted to reach him for an explanation.

Travelling Seniors To Observe Easter Sunrise Service

According to tradition, the Birmingham high school Washington group will hold its Easter Sunrise service in the Chamberlain hotel at Old Point Comfort Easter Sunday.

The service will consist of the Prelude and Postlude played by the choir. The call to worship by Robin Reed; Scripture reading, Kitty Schoonmaker; prayer, Dick Thibauter; and the Lord's Prayer by the congregation.

Indian Dancing

A program of Indian dancing by the Heoka Wapiti Society, Boy Scouts of America, will be presented by the Cub Scout packs of the Parker school in Royal Oak at the Jane Adams school, Royal Oak, April 22, 8:30 p.m. Members of Birmingham Pierce school cub packs are selling tickets for this event.

Seek Radio License

Lathrup Village city councilmen Saturday afternoon instructed City Administrator Leonard Watchowski to make application with the Federal Communications Commission for a short wave radio license. The license would enable the city to purchase and use police and fire radio equipment.

News copy submitted early is necessarily given preference, so the "early bird" usually gets the space.

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They've Read 2,924 Issues of The Eccentric At Least

By **ALICE E. MORGAN**

If one goes along with the theory of "you can't get too much of a good thing", there are some residents of this fair city who apparently consider The Birmingham Eccentric "a good thing".
A search of subscription records revealed two cards, each dated 1920. Since each bore a small figure "2" in one corner, a suspicion was aroused that quite possibly a previous card had been filled.

Consequently, the family of Mrs. F. Evans, 455 West Frank, and Mrs. Evans informed us that she had been a subscriber since 1898, and has every intention of continuing her subscription, too.

MRS. COOK checked. "Oh my goodness! We've taken it a lot longer than that. It's been coming to us for forty years, and our folks took it before that. We're going to keep right on getting it just as long as we can!"
Mrs. Cook said she did not know exactly how long The Eccentric had been a part of her life, so for the sake of statistics, let us assume the Cook and Evans subscriptions started in the same year. That means that for 56 years, The Eccentric has made its weekly trip to these two families—a grand total of 2,924 issues to each!

Other subscriber cards in The Eccentric's files bore this same figure "2," some the figure "01." Just how far back these would carry

Fox and Hounds Robbery Suspect In Police Custody

A 23-year-old woman, being held in Oakland county jail by Ferndale police on armed robbery charges, will be questioned concerning last November's \$5,500 hold-up of the Fox and Hounds Inn, Bloomfield Hills, according to Police Chief L. C. Banks.
The woman, Carrell Carver, was arrested this week in Evanston, Ill. She waived extradition to Michigan.
According to Guy Bannister, head of the Chicago FBI office, Miss Carver admitted receiving part of the loot from the Bloomfield Hills robbery.

BANKS SAID he will attempt to get Miss Carver to testify against John Wesley Graham, 37, Detroit, who will be examined Friday in circuit court on charges of

armed robbery arising from the hold-up.
One suspect in the case, Theodore Sullivan, Detroit, recently was found guilty in the case and sentenced to 15 to 20 years in prison.
A fourth suspect is being held for trial by Detroit authorities in the murder of a Detroit merchant in a robbery following the Fox and Hounds hold-up.

Troy OKs Budget Of \$143,500
A township budget for the 1953-54 fiscal year totaling \$143,500 was formally approved by Troy board members Monday night. The budget had previously been approved by township electors at the annual meeting last week.

The budget includes \$59,350 for general township expenses, \$22,250 for police protection, \$15,500 for the building department, \$14,300 for fire protection, \$14,800 for drainage, and \$4,000 for cemetery upkeep.

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BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

CHRISTMAS LASTED a long time at the Earl K. Farmer home on Benaville, where Mrs. Farmer sets up a complete rural scene of buildings and people each year. Ready for the holiday season, Mrs. Farmer kept putting off the storage of the hundreds of pieces, awaiting the arrival of her sister from Canada. A week ago she gave up and began the painstaking task. Just as she was scrubbing up the area where the scene had stood, she received the telegram announcing that the long awaited sister would arrive the next day.

Rotary Anns Meet on at 1 p.m. April 19, with Mrs. J. H. Ashton, 32065 Telegraph road. On the luncheon committee are Mrs. Susan Peterson, Mrs. E. E. Cason, Mrs. Lloyd Lake and Mrs. Walter Frazer.

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