Birmingham's $1,800,000 Junior High

Birmingham will have nearly outgrown the classrooms facilities of the new junior high school at Adams and Derby by the time it is completed, according to Richard Featherstone, Torry school principal who also is supervising the school district's building program.

Featherstone pointed out that the new structure will accommodate 1,000 students as it is presently designed, with possible modifications to make it possible to enroll 250 more.

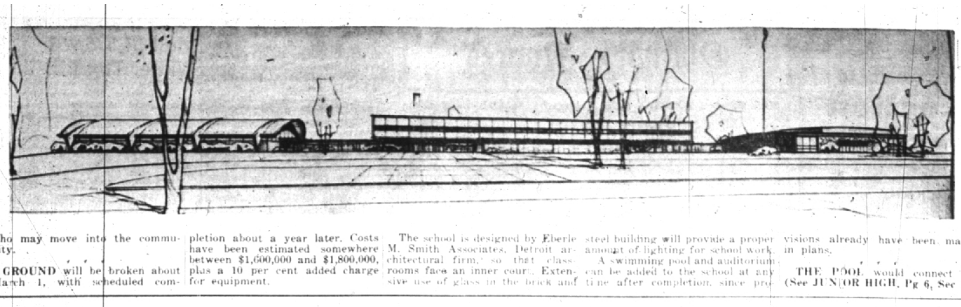
Present Birmingham junior high school enrollment, he said, will increase to 2800 by 1960. Present capacity at Barnum is 900, so that even with the new school, the system will be overloaded. He stressed that the above figures apply only to present enrollment, without the addition of any children who may move into the community.

GROUND will be broken about March 1, with scheduled completion about a year later. Costs have been estimated somewhere between $1,600,000 and $1,800,000, plus a 10 per cent added charge for equipment.

The school is designed by Eberle M. Smith Associates, Detroit architectural firm, so that classrooms face an inner court. Extensive use of glass in the brick and steel building will provide a proper amount of lighting for school work.

A swimming pool and auditorium can be added to the school at any time after completion, since provisions already have been made in plans.

THE POOL would connect to (See JUNIOR HIGH, Pg 6, Sec 1)



CLASSROOMS Are in the first and second floor of the center section of the building.

GYM With provision for a future swimming pool is at left. A new type of concrete arch and roof is to be used.

MUSIC ROOMS are at right. Plans allow future construction of an auditorium at their rear.

A great book, a great song, a great picture . . . or a great leader has done much to inspire and lead mankind from the jungle to more civilized areas of living. What our nation needs today are leaders who stand for the best in human thought; men and women who cannot be swayed from the course of intellectual honesty.

77TH YEAR—NO. 38

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN — THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1954 — 40 PAGES — SECTION ONE — SEVEN CENTS

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

$400,000 in Revenue Bonds for Parking

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Pattern of College Campus Masculinity Same Everywhere

One of our subscribers, who signed himself "M.S.C. Grad", was distressed, two weeks ago because, in this column, I commented on the fact that some MSC boys "splattered green and white paint on the U of M campus at Ann Arbor."

I mentioned that such behavior reveals a pattern that goes back to the caves and cliffs, connecting today's civilization with something of mankind's "barbarian past". I failed, lamentably, to mention that the U of M boys had previously applied paint to certain areas of the MSC campus, for which "MSC Grad" rebuked me.

My comment anent this painting episode was not intended to reflect on either student body, anymore than would accrue to youthful pranks committed at Hallowe'en or other comparable occasions.

I HAVE BEEN professionally related to MSC for more than 30 years, and my only daughter was graduated from its halls of learning . . . I think it a great institution . . . in spite of occasions when some of its students prove themselves normal human beings by enthusiastically applying paint to places where paint was never intended.

In this, of course, MSC youth only proves its brotherhood to most of the campus masculinity in these United States.

Soviet delegate Andrei Vishinsky, for the past eight years his country's UN representative, died last week. Among those who paid tribute to his memory was U. S. Delegate Henry Cabot Lodge . . . but Lodge only complimented Vishinsky's forensic talents just as one honestly could compliment the devil for some of his talents, at the same time commending him to his real superheated abode.

During the past week the American turkey gobbler became the late but unlamented gobbled turkey. (Not to overlook mashed potatoes and gravy, Hubbard squash, a variety of condiments, pumpkin pie and that wonderful dressing that somehow comes from a turkey's innards.)

After all, it is less what the manufacturers put into an automobile that makes its dangerous—the real danger arises from what the driver places behind the steering wheel. Of themselves, motor cars do not start, run, stop, speed, crash; they merely respond to human control . . . or lack of it.

In 46 years the General Motors Corp. has made and sold 50 million automobiles. Last week, all over this nation, GM celebrated the production of its 50 millionth car. Nobody ever will detail the complete impact of the internal combustion engine on Twentieth (See THIS & THAT, Pg 6, Sec 1)

Male Shoppers Have Own Night Monday

Men's Night, the third annual observance of the shopping night for the area's menfolk, will be held Monday night, Dec. 6.

With some 73 stores throwing open their doors to the "head" of the family, local merchants are anticipating another highly-successful evening featuring male customers only.

From 7 to 10 p.m. the male animal will have full reign in city stores where he can chat with his neighbors and browse in the relaxed absence of the ladies.

And at his fingertips will be every sales service.

Store clerks will be alerted to be informative and helpful to the man seeking something different for his wife, or gifts for the rest of the family and friends.

AND THE variety of gifts will be great.

Every type of merchandise will be available as the long list of participating merchants include women's, men's and boys' apparel, hardware, furniture stores, jewelers, appliance stores, drug stores, camera shops, sporting goods stores, toy shops, florists, car dealers and office supply stores.

The man can buy gifts to add to the little lady's wardrobe to outfit her from head to toe, spruce up the house with new furniture and occasional pieces, buy her the luxury appliances that operate under her white-gloved fingertips, or add jewelry pieces to those fingers, wrists or necklines.

FOR HER there will be furs, music, books, floral gifts, perfumes and cosmetics, housewares, lingerie, sporting equipment, items for entertaining or dressmaking equipment.

And his men friends or the youngsters will not be forgotten as every item of male merchandise and clothes and toys for the kiddies will be available. The night is another planned venture of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

Many stores will serve refreshments and offer gift-wrapping services for their patrons.

Voting Machines No Puzzle Here

Birmingham residents evidently found no difficulty in using voting machines during the recent election, City Clerk Irene Hanley reported this week.

Commenting on reports by Detroit councilmen that the machines were confused some voters, Miss Hanley pointed out that well over 80 per cent of Birmingham electors who voted for a gubernatorial choice also voted on the four state amendments.

Her figures indicate that 85 per cent voted on amendment one, regarding registration; 82.8 per cent cast ballots on the second proposed amendment, regarding sales tax; 88.3 per cent voted on the third amendment, on the Korean veteran bonus, and 90.4 per cent indicated their opinion on the legalized lottery question.

LOCAL ISSUES, however, seemed to hold less interest to the electorate, since only 77.3 per cent cast ballots on the proposal for the county building, and 75.4 per cent voted on the proposed sale of Birmingham city land.

In view of Birmingham's percentages, and Detroit's, which were considerably lower in many instances, it appears that it is the voter, and not the machine, which determines the final voting totals, Miss Hanley concludes.

"Birmingham voters, at least, don't need to feel they were disfranchised," she said.

Detroit Receives Water Authority's Final Contracts

Contracts for purchase of water from the City of Detroit by the South Oakland county water authority are in the hands of Detroit's water board, according to Claude H. Stevens, authority attorney.

All contracts with the seven member communities have been signed and all rights-of-way gained by the authority to start construction next year on the proposed $6 million plus system.

IT WOULD serve Birmingham, Royal Oak, Southfield township, Berkley, Clawson, Pleasant Ridge and Huntington Woods.

The main, once connected with the North Woodward water system, is seen as the only immediate answer to water shortages that have plagued our cities the past few years.

Bids for the bonds, scheduled to be taken January 26, 1955, will be in two series. One would amount to some $5 million for construction of the new main from Detroit on Greenfield.

The second, in the amount of $770,000, would be issued to purchase the North Woodward system from Royal Oak.

Construction bids for the project are expected to be taken Jan. 19.

Village Planners Seeking Opinions

FRANKLIN — Village planners are open to any and all suggestions of how the newly-incorporated area is to be developed and have invited interested residents to make their ideas known to the plan board by letter.

The board is now considering a master plan of the village and hopes to come up with a plan acceptable to all. Members have asked that all communications be mailed to Chairman of the Planning Commission, Box 507, Franklin, Mich.

To Burn Mortgage On Disposal Plant

It's official now—Birmingham's $122,000 sewage disposal plant, constructed in 1938 on Cranbrook road near 14 Mile, is all paid for.

Informed that all bond and coupon obligations have been discharged according to law, city commissioners this week authorized the cremation of the bonds, plus $46,440 in interest coupons.

To be burned up at the same time are $140,000 in general obligation bonds, plus $23,027,788 in coupons, of issues refunded in 1935. At that date, the refunded issues totalled $1,291,507.94, said City Treasurer Russell T. Berger. He added that the remaining $333,000 in refunding bonds will be paid off by October 1964.

ALTHOUGH THE disposal plant now is debt free, it may find itself financing a bond issue for plant additions if the proposed Evergreen Interceptor to Detroit does not go through because of disagreements between participating municipalities on how to finance interceptor costs.

Required to attend the bond burning besides Berger are Mayor Charles Renfrew, City Clerk Irene Hanley, and a member of the firm which audits the city's books. The scene will be the basement furnace room of the Municipal Building.

Emily Kimbrough's European Capers Amuse Capacity Crowd

By ALICE E. MORGAN

A straight-faced Emily Kimbrough kept a capacity audience roaring with laughter when she spoke at the Birmingham high school little theater Monday evening under the sponsorship of the Friends of Baldwin Library.

Relating some of her hilarious experiences of the past, Miss Kimbrough, with no change of expression, casually dropped serious seeds of thought into her audience —things they will remember for a long time.

The smartly gowned grandmother said she had been asked many times whether or not the things she writes of really happen. If they do, why?

"They do and I don't know why," Miss Kimbrough stated, and launched into a recounting of one of her earliest adventures.

EARLY IN her public speaking career, Miss Kimbrough was in New Orleans, bound for Orlando and Jacksonville, Fla.

Enjoying the sights and hospitality of the southern city, she suddenly remembered she was about a day late for her Orlando engagement. After something of an argument, she persuaded railway officials to honor her day-old ticket, and with the aid of two of them, was "galloped on tiptoe across intervening tracks and with my luggage, heaved aboard just as the train left."

She entered the first car, the club car, and found herself facing one other passenger—a man.

MEMORIES of warnings of the fate of young women who talked to strange men, she sat silent, while he grunted "Some getaway!"

Without further incident, the trip to Orlando was made, and to while away the time, the young woman seated herself on the sunny platform and began to read mail which had followed her and been stuffed into a huge purse.

Just as the train again began to move, she found one message which informed her the Orlando engagement had been cancelled, and ordered her to Jacksonville.

ALMOST move-for-move, her first boarding was repeated. Again she found herself in the club car, again facing the man. This time he said nothing.

Some time later she learned he had been arrested for bank robbing, kidnapping and other affairs frowned upon by the law-abiding.

Speaking in Albany, N. Y., recently, Miss Kimbrough related this experience. After her talk she was approached by an FBI man who said her tale had connected the "gentleman" with a bank robbery, and destroyed his alibi that he had been in another state when it happened.

"You see, things happen to me everywhere I go," she commented.

IN 1949 she took her twin daughters to Europe. At the same time her very close friend, Cornelia Otis Skinner was making a similar visit with her son, Dick.

As the two women relived their own first visit to Europe, which resulted in their book, "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay", their children were being thrilled by the same magic that is France.

"Out of this," Miss Kimbrough declared, "we found a great gap in the education of our children. Each had had about fourteen years of schoolroom French, but not one of the three could talk to the people they met. Read, write, translate, yes, but speak it, no!

IT'S A terrible gap in what our children are learning. It is, in my opinion, something which should be corrected. Why, I ask, should we depend on every foreigner to come all the way and meet us in our language? We certainly should make an effort to learn the rudiments of his."

Miss Kimbrough, associated with CBS at the time of the Coronation of Britain's queen, was sent to cover that event from the woman's angle.

Her "moment of horror" came when she was attending one of the many ceremonies, a Coronation Concert, and later was presented to the Princess Royal, aunt of Queen Elizabeth.

EMILY KIMBROUGH

(Eccentric Photo)

"AS I FOLLOWED the butler to her presence," "I remembered I hadn't curtsied since I took dancing lessons as a girl. I came into the room, Her Highness extended her hand and I went down.

"My left knee cracked so loudly that everyone near me winced. Her Highness, with a deft turn of her wrist and a gentle tug, got me on my feet again. Then she invited me to sit and chat with her.

"We talked about the ceremonies that had been and those that were to come. Her Highness spoke of the ceremony that would take place when the new queen stood in her church, and one by one was presented with the symbols of her office.

"'YOU WILL see her,' Her Highness said, 'receive these tokens of power and religion, one by one, and then see them placed again upon the altar.

"'She will stand in royal garb, and slowly, one by one, be divested of these garments until she is wearing only a home-spun shift. A woman, standing alone before her countrymen and before her God.

"'I'm old. I've seen this happen four times, but this one is so young'." Her Highness continued to Miss Kimbrough.

"She spoke of the obligations of this slim young girl, of the life she would have as the Empire's leader. She stressed that henceforth Elizabeth's life would not be her own—it would belong to the millions under her rule, but more greatly, to God.

"SHE ASKED me to tell this, when I came back to America. To tell my people of the part of the ceremony, and let them understand what it meant."

Miss Kimbrough hesitated a moment.

"I told her I would," she said in conclusion.

Action Dec. 13 Would Finance 264 Car Spaces

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

A $400,000 municipal bite into Birmingham's off-street parking program will be taken a week from Monday night when the city commissioners are expected to approve a resolution calling for a revenue bond issue in that amount.

At this week's meeting, Mayor Pro-Tem Vincent B. Watkins told City Manager D. C. Egbert to have the resolution ready for action on Dec. 13.

Of this nearly half a million in bonds—to be secured from present on-street parking meter revenues—$130,000 has been earmarked for the city's share of a $260,000 parking lot for 223 cars on Pierce, between Merrill and Brown.

AND THIS week, the commission tentatively set aside another $50,000 as its half share of a 41-car parking lot at the northeast corner of Martin and Bates.

Although city officials in private discussions have been eyeing the advantages to this second facility, they now find themselves facing a decision because of an alley request which was submitted this week.

The alley would run along the north edge of the lot, behind the stores fronting on Maple (with the exception of the S. S. Kresge store on the east side of the block).

EGBERT believes the alley and the parking lot could be constructed at the same time. He was advised by the commission to contact property owners about alley location, costs, and participation in an assessment district for the parking lot.

Although it plans to spend only $180,000 on these two lots, the city would advance an equal amount to the two assessment districts so the lots could be constructed immediately.

Commissioners are talking about a five-year spread of assessments, on benefited business properties, and as these are paid in, they would be used to retire half of the bond issue, Egbert explained yesterday.

Thus, we are not excluding future parking lots by this contemplated action and bond issue," the manager emphasized.

"HOWEVER, it seems any city parking lots in the northeast or southeast business quadrants still are a year or two away. Nevertheless, we propose to include in the provisions of the bond issue such terms as will allow us either to enlarge the amount of the issue, or call in the old issue, and float a new, larger one.

The city proposes to negotiate equitably for the acquisition of all necessary property, but will condemn if a stalemate is reached. Condemnation proceedings already have been instituted in circuit court on the Pierce-Merrill-Brown parking property.

BECAUSE Hamilton avenue property owners have been active recently in discussions on future commercial development, Egbert was asked to contact them and get a committee formed which could consult with the city on future off-street parking for the northeast area.

B'ham Preparing for Safety Day

Birmingham city officials and police will cooperate in observance of Safe Driving Day, which has been proclaimed by President Eisenhower for Dec. 15.

Douglas Brown, local AAA official who is heading the drive in the area, appealed to drivers to make the day successful by cutting accidents to a minimum.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said his force was intensively working to reduce traffic accidents through strict law enforcement.

Judge John J. Gaffill, of the municipal court, warned that offending drivers would meet stiff fines and possible jail sentences on conviction.

President Eisenhower, in his proclamation, said:

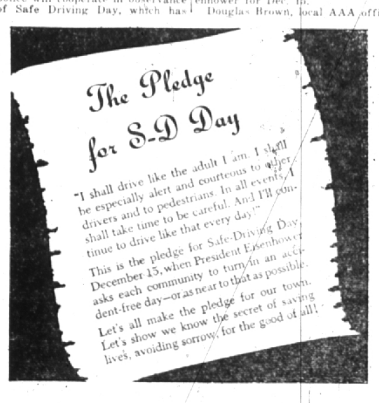
"All of us agree with the purpose of Safe Driving Day. It is to save lives and prevent injuries. No endeavor could be more worthy of our universal cooperation. None is more urgent.

"How can we best do this? Three things are essential.

"First, let's each of us make sure that we obey traffic regulations.

"Second, let's follow commonsense rules of good sportsmanship.

"Third, let's each one of us resolve that, either as drivers or pedestrians, we will stay careful and alert, mindful of the constant possibility of accidents caused by negligence."



STRICTLY FRESH

Student poll at the University of Toronto indicates that the average coed drinks 12 pints of beer a week, the average male student seven. Just another instance disproving the adage that it's always the woman who pays.

Teacher in Bay Village, Ohio, cautioned her charges against too much attention to comic books. At least one sprout's non-interest

has been converted into a full-time comic-reading project. She should, use a new approach—forbid him to read his history book.

TAKE A PIANO LESSON TODAY. PLAY a song tonight. See Page 5.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6319.

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