

St. Valentine's Day affords menfolk an annual opportunity when they are entitled to being sentimental. They are here's hoping that every man who reads this will not forget to give his love to inform his beloved why that she's his "Valentine!"

76TH YEAR—NO. 48

## THIS and THAT

By G. R. AINE

**CAN YOU DEFINE "FREEDOM"?**

Down at Harding College, in Searcy, Arkansas, there is a man heading that institution of learning the name of George B. Benning.

He is quite an American citizen, a strong advocate of personal freedom, a great advocate of the independence of Americans from dependence upon or subservience to either a State or federal branch of government.

Frequently I receive brief essays from Dr. Benning's class. One of the provocative in stirring up one's thoughts on basic subjects.

Here is one of his expressions, upon the subject of "American Freedom." I suggest that you read it.

To really know America and what it's made of, we need frequently to take a refresher course in American history. Before any citizen approves of any shifting responsibility and political and economic power from the hands of the people to the hands of the government bureaucracy, he should be reminded especially of the purposes and the conditions out of which they emerged.

**TWO DOCUMENTS** stand out among all those adopted by the people of this nation, the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. They were written, why were they needed?

In this column let's apply that question to the Declaration of Independence and look back upon the struggling colonies. Then, next week, we can follow through with the Constitution.

By and large the American colonists of the early 1700's felt a strong allegiance to Great Britain and the Crown. For a time Britain encouraged this allegiance by permitting the colonists great liberties—in foreign trade and in their domestic affairs.

**BUT AFTER 1763**, when the French were driven out of America, the British, England began to apply harsh and restrictive measures to the colonies. The Stamp Act, the Declaratory Act, which declared that the King, by and with consent of Parliament, had authority to make laws "to bind the colonies in all respects." It became clear that England would enforce the proposition that the colonies existed for the good of the mother country.

**AN REBELLION** against loss of personal liberty began to be fanned, England clamped on even more burdensome restrictions.

Some were designed as punishment. Government became the master of the people in the first world. Patrick Henry, Jefferson, Franklin—the powerful voices of the oppressed people spoke out. The flame of freedom gathered in intensity.

After another incident flared, British soldiers were sent and began to march threateningly about the countryside. In 1775 the fighting began at Concord, Massachusetts.

**IN THE MIDDLE** of war, the leaders of the embattled colonies gathered at Philadelphia in the first Continental Congress. They appointed a committee of five to draft a declaration of independence.

The committee asked Thomas Jefferson to write it. Then Franklin and John Adams later penned a few minor revisions, and Jefferson then presented the final document to the Congress. It was adopted, as nearly everyone knows, on July 4, 1776.

The purpose of this historic declaration was set forth clearly: "When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for (See THIS & THAT, Page 6)

## STRICTLY FRESH

An airline company recently announced that its stewardesses now wear unmarred uniforms during World War II years. Little too tight for the average man nowadays, we guess.

If some persons spoke only their minds there'd be a lot less noise in this world.

A group of German leishyologists contend that fish have spoken language. Sounds fishy.

The nation's brewers met in Los Angeles recently and predicted that 1954 would bring record beer sales. High expectations.

Before man can solve the question of world peace, he must first answer the age-old puzzle, "How do you get a pig to eat?"

# Recreation Lack Resulting in Juvenile Delinquency

**Pollution Solution Maples Grid Coach To Enter Business**

Head coach at Birmingham high school for the past seven years, Vincent Secontine, 32, announced last week that he will resign from coaching and will enter private business sometime in mid-April.

In addition to his coaching duties Secontine teaches classes in social studies. Ireland said Monday that a replacement for the social studies classes has been arranged for and that a coach will be signed before the close of the school year.

While leaving organized athletics, Secontine will not be entirely out of the sporting scene. He announced Saturday that he has arranged to open a sporting goods store at Merrill and Pierce.

**Should state legislators fail during the present session to pass some provisions to enable township governments to levy special assessments for disposal of sewage, the City of Birmingham may proceed without its township neighbors in sewage disposal matters.**

City commissioners learned Monday night that House Bill 30, introduced in the state house of representatives by Walter T. McMahon of Hazel Park, may fail to pass the House.

This bill would enable townships to levy more than the presently restricted 15 percent assessment per year, thus allowing township municipalities to finance their share of the sewage interceptors as the only real hope to end sewage pollution of the River Rouge.

It is rumored that State Senator George W. Higgins is not in complete agreement with the House bill and proposes to submit a similar piece of legislation through the Senate.

**BIRMINGHAM** city officials see the controversy in Lansing as resulting in a delay that would free the city, as well as neighboring communities, falling behind the May, 1954 deadline set by the Michigan Water Resources Commission for submission of plans to share present pollution of the Rouge.

Management of the city reported Monday night to commissioners that the city should have no state legislation to pass.

Under the recommended plan the city would obtain all cost estimates in bringing the city's sewage plant operations up to state standards and be sure of its own financial protection before inviting outside agencies to join in Birmingham's treatment system.

**COMMISSIONER** R. B. Watkins remarked that the city "seemed to be in the middle in having to provide services to areas that should become cities yet still remain in the township. I can't see any equitable way to apportion the Rouge interceptors," Watkins stated.

When the question of the so-called "illegal Bloomington drains" came up, Egbert answered that the city "could prove beyond reasonable doubt what share of city sewage is treated from these drains and some arrangement could be made in intercepting these drains at the disposal plant that would cause the plant only to treat that percentage (See POLLUTION, Page 6)

**TO BRIGHTEN TROY HALL**

Spring cleaning at the Troy township hall will start early this year. Board members agreed Monday night to advertise for bids on a contract basis to paint the interior of the offices.

**TO DEVELOP MASTER DEFENSE PLAN**

That could be thrown into the moment a disaster struck, he added.

Reuse announced that a recent poll taken in the city showed a surprising amount of equipment. Another project currently under study by the council is an inventory of buildings within the city that could be used for emergency defense purposes. The council is searching out buildings that are strategically located for use as command and communication centers, and for hospital and shelter use, Reese said.

**ALSO SOON** to be studied are ways and means of informing the public on the fundamentals of what to do in case of an emergency. Reese reported.

He added that instruction notices could be set up in local stores along with information as to the nearest places to take cover.

Defense headquarters for the city will be located in Mayor Main's office in the city municipal building.

**"HANG ON TIGHT, Sis, I'll help you control the critter!"** Jerry King, 1821 Holland, lays a protective hand on the shoulder of sister Kathy as the latter prepared for a gallop across the snowy landscape on Minerva the Seal. The brother and sister team made the sturdy mount after school Monday as rising temperatures made the snow ideal for sculpturing. Shortly after the picture was taken, two cannons were fired and mounted as guards on either side of the snowy white seal. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

**SEVENTH** grade coaching at St. Thomas school in Ann Arbor in 1948 while still a student at the University of Michigan.

During the 1946-47 season, he coached the team at Kiski Prep at Salsburg, Penn.

He came to Birmingham in 1947, and during his seven years here he compiled a record of 38 wins, losses and six ties.

His teams placed second four times in the Eastern Michigan League. Best team records under Secontine were posted in 1941 with seven wins and two losses (each by one point) and in 1931 with eight wins and one loss.

**UNLESS** Third District state representative candidates Richard Van Dusen, Birmingham Republican, and John C. Westerdale, Democratic opponent from Commegre township, during the past few weeks have created any real interest in today's special election, municipal clerks in this area are looking for a light vote.

Performance of the poor attendance at ballot boxes throughout the district was the case in the January 21 special primary election.

**APATHY TOWARDS** filling the vacant state representative's seat in the district was announced by Howard R. Estes, Birmingham Republican, who probably also is pointed to represent the district in the next election. It is felt that, as in past elections, will result in a wide margin of victory for the Republican party.

Westerdale has refused to go along with such ideas as he has filled the past three weeks with public appearances in the district. He will promote the district which includes the cities of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington, Rochester and Southfield, as well as the townships of Bloomfield, Troy, West Bloomfield, Commerce, Milford, Lyons and Farmington will be open until 8 tonight.

**Naming of City Postmaster Delay Blamed on Board**

In answering an inquiry from The Birmingham Eccentric concerning the U. S. Post office department would come to a decision in naming a permanent postmaster for the city, Rep. George A. Dondero Tuesday explained that the delay was in the board of appeals and review department of the Civil Service Commission.

The board, which is reviewing the appeal of Bernard E. Fowler, Birmingham board member Monday night will end a suit brought to restrain the township against closing the pool.

Clare and Rita Evans, owners of the pool, was the center of the appeals board on his part have been frequent critics, according to Dondero. He said he would make another Monday, Feb. 8.

**Swimming Pool Permit Granted**

Granting of a 1954 permit for the operation of the Clarita Swimming Pool, East Long Lake, by Troy township board members Monday night will end a suit brought to restrain the township against closing the pool.

Clare and Rita Evans, owners of the pool, was the center of the appeals board on his part have been frequent critics, according to Dondero. He said he would make another Monday, Feb. 8.

Board members continued certain restrictions on the pool's operation that were continued last year in a compromise with neighboring residents.

**IN THIS** week, The Eccentric will contact for information and interviews a number of police, school and city officials, religious leaders, and social welfare agencies who are misguided and run them afraid of the law.

Realizing the importance of this situation to the community, The Eccentric this week has begun preparation of a series of articles designed to bring the two related problems to public attention with the hope that once recognized, the situation can be successfully and properly handled.

**THE SECOND** aspect of the situation is forcing more and more children to leave their homes to obtain attention and recognition of their individual importance.

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**ALL** makes of new spring mattresses are available at the new store, COOPER FANF, Dual 107 and ask for Enterprise Dept.

**MRS. H. F. DOTY**      **MRS. JAMES J. NANCE**  
**MRS. GEORGE A. MAXTED**      **MRS. RUSSELL E. ZOLLAR**

Prepares kits for Roll Call solicitors (Eccentric Staff Photo)

## Roll Call Starts Monday

Today marks the final preparation for the 1954 Community House Roll Call which starts Monday to collect \$5,000 for operational expenses during the coming year.

Roll Call officials again remind residents that, due to a new ruling, these annual donations to the House are tax deductible.

Walter Skinner, president of the Community House association, said the decision was issued from Washington, D. C., on Jan. 25, following the efforts of Stanley Fulton and Fraser Pomroy, board members, and Robert Surridge.

"We feel," Skinner said, "that this new ruling may have some influence on the amount of the donations the Roll Call receives." Our supporters have always been loyal to us but at the same time they mind since practically every other donation they made came under the deductible classification.

**ALL ARE** members of the association board. They were assisted by Mrs. Charles K. King, Mrs. Richard Brown and Mrs. Kathy Dally.

In commenting on the Roll Call, Mrs. Berrien Ketchum, drive director, said the overall picture of the House in the Community should be considered.

"People who feel they have grown away from using the House personally," she said, "should consider the importance it has in Birmingham."

Agencies such as the Red Cross and its bloodmobiles use it. The March of Dimes makes use of its facilities, along with several other agencies of local and county-wide importance.

"In this way, even though some persons do not get into the House at all, they are still reaping the benefits of its existence."

**"IN ADDITION** to these things, can truthfully be said that the House is the civic, cultural and educational center of Birmingham and has earned its nickname, "The Heart of Birmingham."

Mrs. Ketchum pointed out that during the past year about 175,000 persons used House facilities in these many activities.

"The \$45,000 goal we have this year is brought about largely through the continued growth of the community," Mrs. Ketchum explained.

She added that this growth was considered one of the factors creating greater demands on the House and, therefore, could reason-

**TO FINANCE PARKING**

Birmingham city commissioners Tuesday night agreed to attack ways.

When they learned it, probably legislation could be gained to finance parking lots on a fee-directed City Manager Donald C. Egbert to study the possibility of purchasing parking areas on a special assessment basis.

Meanwhile the city will continue studies on this new special type of revenue bond financing.

Commissioners asked Egbert to find out how the cities of East Detroit and Kalamazoo arrived at equitable special assessment rates in establishing their respective off-street parking lots.

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## Facilities Needed for Teen Group

By GEORGE W. AVERILL

What to do about Birmingham's lack of teen-age recreational facilities, which is contributing to a steadily increasing local law enforcement problem, was taken under advisement this week by the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin Council of Social Agencies (CSA).

At a meeting Monday afternoon by the municipal building, Charles Kean, president of the CSA, and the Birmingham Community House, acting on behalf of the CSA, the immediate assignment to study and recommend what can and should be done to solve the law enforcement problem, was taken under advisement this week by the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin Council of Social Agencies (CSA).

Present in Birmingham's gathering were about a dozen and a half representatives of Birmingham service clubs and women's organizations. This was the second such meeting the group has held to discuss the city's recreational problem.

**THE FIRST** was held two weeks ago, and was initiated by the Birmingham Community House's youth activities committee, headed by Paul Wilson.

The Community House had run head-on into this lack of youth recreation in connection with its Ranch Room program.

As explained by Wilson, the Ranch Room was faced with the great problem of being a teen-age element which was not desirable. A new, stringent policy was adopted by the Ranch Room together with other supervision, is being worked out by House officials.

Realizing that the Ranch Room quite amount of completely inadequate for teen-age youth, Wilson and his committee have organized a service club, women's and church group representatives to see what can be done.

**SEVERAL** organizations' representatives have suggested that the teen-age recreation problem is not the complete answer to Birmingham's problem.

They believe any study should be expanded to include solving family situations which make youngsters feel less secure and often result in being brought involved with the police department.

Seriousness of the juvenile problem has been stressed by Mayor L. Henry "Dime" Moxley, Jr., Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley, Jr., and a number of other officials.

**BOTH** of these police officers have been hitting the streets for information in the group seeking to find an answer to the problem.

Both Moxley and Timm believe more adequate recreational facilities will solve these two related problems' increasing problem with juveniles. (See PROBLEM, Page 6)

## Eccentric Plans Special Articles On Teen Problem

Birmingham today finds itself with a twofold problem regarding its teen-age youth.

First, almost a total lack of wholesome recreational opportunities for teenagers, and

Second, many parents are falling down in providing the secure family climate which is so essential to the emotional, moral and spiritual development of these adolescent children as they approach adulthood.

The first problem being recognized in the Birmingham police department's alarmingly increasing arrests of boys and girls who are getting into trouble because they have nothing else worthwhile to do.

**THE SECOND** aspect of the situation is forcing more and more children to leave their homes to obtain attention and recognition of their individual importance.

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