No normal man or woman was ever justified in heaping wholesale critical indictment upon the opposite sex. Truly normal and loving men and women ought complement each other within the magic encirclement of the marriage relationship.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION ONE

76TH YEAR—NO. 49 | BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1954 | 34 PAGES | SEVEN CENTS

8-Member Committee Will Tackle Teen Problem

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Our "Constitutional Republic"

Here is another brief essay on the subject of why and how we citizens of the United States operate as a Constitutional Republic.

It most certainly is worth the few moments required for you to read it—even to discuss this evening with your own family.

It was written by Dr. George S. Benson, president of Harding College, in Searcy, Arkansas. Here it is:

MILESTONE
IN HUMAN HISTORY

It would be wonderful if all the adults in the nation could take time to refresh themselves in the facts of American history. It isn't a dull subject.

On the contrary the discovery of this new world and the formation of the United States of America were the most moving events since the days of Christ on earth.

Every school child, every college student and every adult should be intimately acquainted with these events and should be constantly reminded of them throughout life. Our nation would be far stronger in every way if this could be done.

The writing, adoption and ratification of the United States Constitution was, I think, mankind's greatest step forward in the field of government.

THIS MADE possible, for the first time, a structure of laws and governmental institutions establishing the sacredness of the individual and safeguarding human liberty.

With the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776, the colonies had announced the philosophy of individual liberty. With ratification of the Articles of Confederation 18 months later they had joined themselves together as "The United States of America."

But they still had no central form of government. The colonies weren't truly a nation, and they were beset with grave problems which threatened destruction of the very ideals they sought to achieve in their new land of the free.

THUS THE primary purpose of the Constitutional Convention which assembled in Philadelphia, in May 1787, was to form the framework for a national government, which would "establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity . . ."

George Washington, who has led the American armies in the war to establish individual freedom and national independence, held the first meeting to discuss a constitution, at his Mount Vernon home.

To it were invited outstanding citizens from all the colonies. For two years informal talks were carried on. Then the Constitutional Convention was called.

UPON REACHING the convention, delegate James Wilson, noted lawyer, said: "For the first time in six thousand years of human history men have come together to deliberate and peacefully resolve what their government shall be."

Seventy-three delegates had been chosen. Only 55 came. They were truly great men, selected by their people for outstanding intellect, integrity, leadership.

There were 25 college men, 34 lawyers, eight financiers or merchants, six planters, three doctors, and two ministers.

Forty-two had been delegates to the Continental Congress, eight had signed the Declaration, six the Articles of Confederation: and seven were governors of states.

THEY WERE moderate men. George Washington was unanimously made convention president, and he played a tremendous part in shaping the Constitution. James Madison, of Virginia; James Wilson, and Benjamin Franklin, who was 81 at the time, also played vital roles.

Franklin, one of the keenest minds of all, was crippled and had to be carried in and out of Conventional Hall in his wheel chair.

The living spirit of the U. S. Constitution cannot be passed along in a single newspaper column. It is to be found, however, in any good history of the Convention.

THE DOCUMENT itself has seven parts. The first establishes the legislative body, the second the executive branch, and the third the judiciary.

The fourth section states that full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts and records and judicial proceedings of other states. The fifth provides a method of amending the Constitution.

The sixth and seventh provide for payment of debts under the articles of Confederation, and make the Constitution the supreme law of the land. Later the Bill of Rights was attached.

THE U. S. Convention thus provided the framework and foundation for the government of laws under which we live. The form of our national government is a Constitutional Republic.

The word "democracy" doesn't appear in either the Declaration or the Constitution. It is an American citizen's primary responsibility to know the history of the Constitution and how it works "to secure the blessings of liberty" for each of us.

Prominent Druggist, Ralph Wilson, Dies

One of Birmingham's leading business men and civic figures, Ralph A. Wilson, 52, died Sunday at his home, 19370 Riverside drive. He was owner of the Wilson Drug Co., 101 North Woodward avenue.

RALPH A. WILSON

He had been in ill health for the past year, but was able to direct his business affairs until a few months before his passing.

Born Oct. 27, 1901, in Thedford, Ont., Mr. Wilson began his business career after graduating from Warner Institute in Sandusky, Mich.

In March 1923, he purchased the James W. Cobb drug store here, which then was located at 104 S. Woodward. Two years later he moved his business to 165 N. Woodward.

IN JUNE 1935, he moved it into its present location at the northwest corner of Woodward and Maple. He also purchased the building, which at one time was where the old First State Savings Bank used to be. In the ensuing 18 years, its quarters were enlarged several times.

This year's president of the Michigan State Pharmaceutical Association, he was a member of the First Presbyterian church, past president of the Oakland County Pharmaceutical club, member of the National Assn. of Retail Druggists, Detroit Retail Druggists' Assn., Michigan Academy of Pharmacy and American Pharmaceutical Assn.

INFLUENTIAL in the founding of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce in 1947, he served as its vice president for the first three years.

He was a charter member and past president of the Birmingham Exchange club and Birmingham Country club, director of Birmingham National Bank and a member of Birmingham lodge 44, F & AM.

Mr. Wilson was past president of the Birmingham Retail Merchants Association, helped organize the United Foundation in the Birmingham area, served on the board and helped in organizing to raise funds for the Woodward General (Oakland) hospital. His most recent activity was serving on the merchants parking committee.

Mr. Wilson was active in forming the Birmingham Credit Bureau and served as president for a number of years.

IN 1953 he was named "Pharmacist of the Year" by the Oakland County Pharmaceutical Assn.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred, and two sons, Richard J. and Ensign Donald R.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Bell chapel of the William R. Hamilton company. Burial was in White Chapel Memorial Park cemetery.

Active pallbearers were Robert Chissus, Edward Kurth, Arthur Zebedee, Donald Cummings, George R. Averill, John J. McKeighan, Edward Richardson and Harold Keifer.

Among the honorary pallbearers were local business associates, members of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham National Bank board of directors and members of the Michigan State Pharmaceutical Association.

The Rev. W. Glen Harris, Ph. D., officiated.

Review Boards Schedule Dates

With municipal assessors winding up property valuations for the 1954 tax rolls, area boards of review will go into action in March to provide the public with the adjusted rolls and hear any appeals made by property owners on assessments.

The Birmingham board will meet at the city hall on March 8 and 9 with office hours between 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on both days.

In the City of Bloomfield Hills residents may meet with the review board on the second and third Saturday mornings March 14 and 21, in the month between 9 and 12 a.m. These hours may be extended if necessary.

The new City of Lathrup Village will keep the doors open for taxpayers on Tuesday, March 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and also on Monday, March 8, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

IN BLOOMFIELD township, the board will meet on Monday and Tuesday, March 8 and 9, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Southfield township dates will be on March 2, 3, 8 and 9 with hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and also from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, March 8.

Troy township will also provide four dates for review. On March 2, 3 and 8 hours will be between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Two nights will be offered for taxpayers on March 2 and March 9 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Once these dates have passed, it is impossible for property owners to appeal the assessment roll.

Nearly $3 Million Increase Seen in City's Valuation

An approximate $2,900,000 boost in Birmingham's assessed valuation for 1954 was estimated Tuesday afternoon by City Assessor Elmer W. Haack.

With final adjustments still to be made in the tax roll, Haack believes the new figure will be in the neighborhood of $48,300,000. Last year it was $45,453,000.

Haack said the increase primarily was based on new commercial and residential construction during 1953.

WITHIN THE next 10 days Birmingham Mayor Ralph A. Main must come up with the names of two residents for appointment to the city board of tax review.

The board meets March 2 and March 8-9 to go over City Assessor Elmer Haack's 1954 tax roll.

Last year's board members were Merrill Adams and S. L. Lameasure.

Continue Hearing

A public hearing called to approve the road oiling of eight streets in the Sheffield Estates subdivision was continued until March 1 by Birmingham city commissioners Monday night when only four commissioners were present at the meeting. Five members are required to approve an assessment hearing.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6319.

VanDusen Wins Third District Seat

By a two-to-one margin, Birmingham Republican Richard VanDusen was voted into the third district's vacant state representative's seat in last Thursday's special election.

With a total vote of 1,782 to 838 for his opponent John C. Westerdale, Van Dusen will take the state legislator's seat vacated by Howard R. Estes, Republican from Birmingham, as soon as the official canvass of the balloting is made.

A margin of 779 votes given the young Birmingham resident in the city's balloting was nearly his margin of victory while Democratic votes in this area doubled the party's primary efforts and quadrupled Westerdale's backing in the primary.

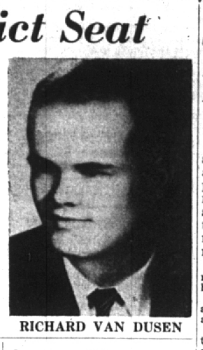
Birmingham residents supported the Detroit attorney and active leader in county Republican activities by a 907 to 128 vote.

IN THE CITY of Bloomfield Hills only three votes went to Westerdale with 75 being counted for VanDusen. Bloomfield township residents registered 137 votes for VanDusen with 14 for Westerdale. In Troy the results were much closer with a 119 to 80 victory for VanDusen.

Besides Troy, Westerdale's greatest backing came from Commerce township, his home grounds, and West Bloomfield township.

VanDusen, who is 28 years old and lives at 1722 Pine, has been chairman of the Birmingham Republican Club until recently and has been chairman of the third district's Republican organization and the Oakland County Republican group since 1952.

He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and a Navy veteran.



RICHARD VAN DUSEN

Mercier Property Sold To Dearborn Building Company

Development of the Mercier farm property on the southwest corner of Maple and Cranbrook road again seems imminent.

A purchase agreement has been signed and backed by a "substantial down payment" by the Garling Construction company of Dearborn, according to Louis Savage, representative of the Cranbrook Development company, present owners of the property.

When questioned about the future use of the 320 acres, a spokesman for the Garling firm stated that while plans are not completed for the property, "the company plans for one of the finest residential devolpments there that can be found in the area."

He also stated that a timetable for land development was also uncertain at this time but believed that a model home would be constructed on the site within 60 days.

DEVELOPMENT of the property first came under fire in the fall of 1952 when company officials sought to rezone a 30-acre parcel across from the Birmingham high school for a shopping center and planned from 400 to 500 homes on the remainder of the land.

Firm officials abandoned their plans for development when the controversy involved city and township officials, civic groups and the Birmingham school district.

Construction of homes recently on the corner of Maple and Chestnfield is now being halted by Birmingham city officials who claim that the development will use an illegal Bloomfield drain that is burdening the city's sewage disposal plant.

It is believed the new owners may develop the land by using septic tanks because Bloomfield township has stopped issuance of any more home building permits until the sewage disposal question under consideration of the water Resources Commission has been answered.

Fowler Appeal Hearing Today

The appeal of Bernard E. Fowler, Birmingham postmaster facing ouster by the post office department for alleged "operational irregularities", is slated to come before the seventh district United States Civil Service Commission's office in Detroit today.

Fowler some months ago stated that he will carry his appeal to the Commission's office in Washington, D.C., if his appeal is denied at the regional branch.

The Birmingham postmaster first learned of his impending dismissal on October 8 of last year and began proceedings for his appeal later that month.

Annexation Vote Moved to April 5

April 5, city election day, will also be the day to vote on annexation of the Porritt property to the City of Birmingham from Troy township, the Oakland County Board of Supervisors decided Tuesday in a special meeting.

The date had first been set for August 3 by the board but the date was changed on the developer's request. Owners of the property, the W. E. Reid Development company, contended that they would lose this building season if they had to wait for the August 3 date.

The firm intends to develop the 44 acres with terraces.

$45,000 Roll Call Is Now Underway

Coffee sessions were held in 61 Birmingham area homes Monday morning as Community House Roll Call captains met with the more than 600 volunteers who will combine their efforts to raise $45,000 between now and March 1.

The meetings are planned so captains may give final instructions to volunteers and answer last minute questions of drive procedure.

"We cannot over-emphasize the important role these women play in house-to-house solicitations," said Mrs. Berrien Ketchum, drive chairman. "Furthermore, so much depends on them that House officials can never fully express their gratitude for the job they do."

AT A captains' luncheon last week, Dexter Horton, chairman of business solicitations, asked section heads to stress to volunteers the need to remind all donors that House gifts now are tax-deductible.

Speaking before the same group, Mrs. Ketchum said, "Your solicitors should be prepared to answer any questions about the House and volunteer information which might be of interest.

"Point out to the residents that when they give money to the Community House, it stays in Birmingham. It is spent right here, among our local merchants and businessmen. That, in itself, means the House is performing a double function—it not only answers a social need in the community, but contributes a good share toward the business done here.

"SOLICITORS can point out that though a family may not use the House, personally, chances are they receive some indirect benefit from it.

"Though a family may not realize it, the House is the social center of Birmingham and performs many more functions, as well. It is headquarters for practically every activity in Birmingham, even sports, because many of these events are planned by committees meeting there.

"Its entire scope is social, recreational, educational, civic and cultural."

Mrs. Carlton Isley, director, spoke to the captains on the financial aspects of the House.

"NO RENTAL fee," she told them, "is ever charged a local group unless it is planning an affair for which tickets will be sold, or which in some other way will bring a profit to the group.

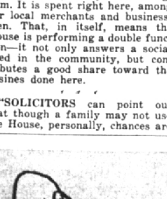
"Small service charges are necessary when food is involved, although all meals are served on a cost basis. The House does not make money on its food department.

"A rental fee," Mrs. Isley said, "is charged for private parties held here, such as wedding receptions."

Commenting on the Ranch Room closing, Mrs. Isley assured all it was temporary.

"IT NEEDS reorganizing and better supervision," she said. "We are trying now to find the right

(See ROLL CALL, Page 6)



MANY LUCKY PUPPIES escaped the needle at the Oakland County vaccination clinic in Troy township Sunday. Veterinarians were swamped at the three-hour clinic as dogs lined up for their immunization shots. After 443 dogs had been given the vaccine necessary for licensing, the supply was exhausted and several happy dogs trotted home feeling neither pain nor embarrassment. Township Treasurer Fred Hildebrandt explained that far more "out-of-town" dog owners visited the Troy clinic than had been anticipated and stated that a second clinic might be necessary to assure all Troy residents of the service. In Southfield township, the county's vaccination clinic was open both Saturday and Sunday in an effort to treat every dog in the rabies-conscious township. Southfield is under a 90-day quarantine after an outbreak of the dreaded disease struck in the southern part of the township last December.

County Disaster Institute Here February 23-25

Disaster can neither be foreseen nor forestalled but much of the suffering and misery can be alleviated through thoroughly trained groups who can go into action immediately after the blow has fallen.

With this in mind, and with the Flint tornado of last summer a vivid reminder of the need, Oakland county's American Red Cross chapter is preparing to take major strides in having this disaster relief group trained, equipped and ready for instant action.

Headed by Bradlee Pruden, 491 Hanna, a disaster preparedness committee has been formed and has spent long hours in formulating plans should disaster strike in this area.

A "Disaster Preparedness Institute" to be held Feb. 23-25, will see Red Cross committeemen, city, county, township and civil defense officials gather to study every phase of the work and set up a system of operation.

"Out of the series of sessions will come a written, detailed disaster plan," a Red Cross official said. "We hope to have it so well arranged that it will tell exactly who does what, how and when, should destructive storms or air raids hit the county."

PRUDEN IS heading the organization of thousands of volunteer workers who will be on call, day or night, to work in the midst of confusion and disorganization, in mud and rubble, to give aid to victims of the calamity and to assist those who have survived unhurt, but homeless.

"These workers," he said, "will know they face working until exhaustion claims them, and then going on to work some more. They did it in Flint, and would do it in any other place where their need was apparent."

He pointed out that many factors point to the need of a well organized disaster committee.

"War, storms, large fires, explosions, all are possibilities. All call for a plan—a loose flexible plan that can be shifted to fit the event, but one which is so well known and so well rehearsed that no man need hesitate about what his job is.

"Such a plan is the aim of the committee. With the wonderful volunteer service we know we will get, we can operate it. It is up to the committee to form it, teach it and make it workable."

THE RED CROSS responsibility, he explained, would be to set up field hospitals in schools, churches or other large buildings, and staff them with well trained first aiders. This would provide the care for the injured who might overflow regular hospital facilities.

Working with the Red Cross shelters for the homeless would be either set up or found. The job of providing clothing would also be handled by the committee.

Registration centers would be established to keep records of the dead, injured and homeless. It would list family members so scattered groups could be reunited more easily.

"Men and women, trained and untrained, would be listed by the general committee to staff these buildings. They would be ready to provide transportation, either for victims of the disaster or to bring other workers or equipment into the area."

HAROLD R. EULER, chapter chairman, said there are about 4,000 trained volunteers now registered with the Red Cross.

This includes an approximate 2,550 adult first aiders; 400 nurses' aides; 300 home nursing graduates and some 600 Gray Ladies. There are staff aides, social welfare aides, canteen workers and motor service drivers, as well.

This entire group would be under the direction of Mrs. Sheldon Noble, service groups chairman, and ready for immediate response.

Birmingham radio "hams", with others throughout the county, stand by to take over communi-

(See INSTITUTE, Page 6)

CCS Agrees To Assume Leadership

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

An immediate start toward solving Birmingham's teenage recreational and social problems was made Tuesday night in the appointment of an 8-member special committee of the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin Council on Community Services (CCS).

The committee's specific assignment is to recommend to the CCS board of directors:

1) What social welfare services and recreational facilities are available for use in this area;

2) What can and should be done to coordinate these agencies in a combined effort to solve this teen problem; and

3) What new social services, if any, should be established in the community to assist in the solution of the present situation, and to help prevent future ones.

THE CCS BOARD'S unanimous acceptance of the leadership on this community problem was made at a special meeting Tuesday night at the Birmingham Community House.

At the same time, the special committee's objectives were decided upon and CCS President Charles B. Kass was instructed to select the members.

He has named these persons to the committee:

Mrs. Carlton Isley, director of the Birmingham Community House, who will serve as committee chairman;

Miss Estelle Martin, executive secretary of the Family Service of Oakland County;

And Carl F. Ingraham, who is associated with several social welfare services.

THE REMAINING five members will be contacted this week regarding appointment to the committee, Kass said.

In the three-hour meeting, the CCS board heard Kass, Moxley, Asst. School Supt. Paul Carter, and Community House Youth Committee Chairman Paul Wilson outline many reasons why the teenage situation had been brought to the group's attention.

Kass told how in the past few weeks an informal group of local service club, civic and social groups had met several times to discuss a teenage problem arising out of the Community House Ranch Room.

"LEARNING OF the existence of our group, they decided perhaps we would supply the organized adult leadership the problem needs," Kass said.

(The CCS constitution, adopted last summer, specifically calls for the group to aid the community:

("By studying social conditions and discovering basic social problems and helping to remedy these problems.

("By initiating new phases of social service if there are no agencies capable of providing for unmet needs.")

WILSON THEN detailed why the Ranch Room had to be closed recently until a new program had been worked out that would more adequately control the group which had become more and more rowdy.

"We have received wonderful cooperation from this group of youngsters—they really are ashamed that conditions became as bad as they did, and themselves have come up with some strict rules governing future conduct," Wilson explained.

The Ranch Room will be reopened as soon as an adult supervisor is obtained, he concluded.

(See PROBLEM, Page 6)

STRICTLY FRESH

In Portland, Ore., a deer head fell from a tavern wall, injuring a passing patron. Which goes to show it never pays to pass the buck.

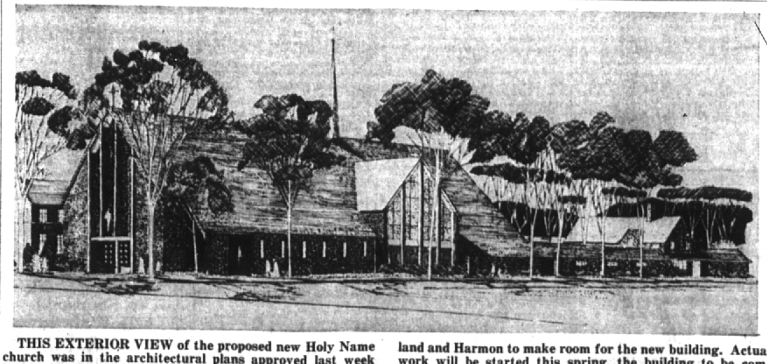
It's always greener on the other side of the fence, especially if there is no sprinkling ban on the other side.

There's a lot of dirt in the air of most big cities. Much it is circulated by gossips.

A highway consultant says that "curves ahead can cause strange reactions in drivers." That, we

might add, is especially true if the driver is a male.

What goes up must come down, says an old maxim. But this needn't be the case with one's chin.



THIS EXTERIOR VIEW of the proposed new Holy Name church was in the architectural plans approved last week by the church. First step toward construction was taken Monday when a house was moved from the site at Woodland and Harmon to make room for the new building. Actual work will be started this spring, the building to be completed within a year. For further details, see story on Page 7, Part 4.