

### Russell Haeger Joins Five Others In Speech Finals

The Birmingham Toastmasters Club at its regular meeting of the YMCA Tuesday night selected Russell Haeger as the weekly winner in the current speech contest. Mr. Haeger's speech, "Let's Go Carpooling," was an interesting demonstration of the technique of in-camera over rapid and treacherous rivers.

The evening table topic in which all members participated was the subject of "McCarthyism—Good or Bad." Winner of the "Oratorical" trophy for the best treatment of the subject was Robert Haag.

Next Tuesday night the Birmingham Toastmasters Club will hold its finals in the club speech contest. The finalists include Russell Haeger, Atta Berker, Stuart Skelley, Vincent Kepler, Don Fleischmann and John Nelli. The winner next Tuesday will represent the club in the annual contest meeting competition from winners of the five clubs of the Oakland County area at the Oakland County area conference in March.

### Report on City's Past and Future Made by Egbert

A look into the city of Birmingham's past as well as a glimpse into its future was presented to city commissioners Monday night by city manager Donald C. Egbert. Studied in comparison with the conditions of other South Oakland County cities, it would appear that the city financially and factually was in pretty fair shape, according to the report. But problems exist in any municipal operation as they exist in any other business venture and Birmingham still has problems to overcome, the report explains.

Population-wise, 22,600 persons now live within the city limits which are projected to hold a maximum population of 26,000. Egbert referred to the city engineer's records which reveal a total of \$2,387,881 in projects completed by the engineer's office during the past five years to satisfy the needs of the city's ever-growing population.

IN REPORTING on the water supply, Egbert outlined improvements made to the water system in the past five years which total \$1,250,000. This, in part, was financed by a \$250,000 bond issue in 1951.

Realizing several years ago that the ground water supply which has been the city's source of water throughout the years would not be adequate for the city's maximum population, city officials are hastening the construction of the South Oakland County water authority's system to gain a permanent supply from the city of Detroit.

Sewage treatment loans as a greater problem for the city as well as surrounding communities. The city contemplates at this time certain improvements which will provide adequate treatment for sewage until some type of interceptor sewer to the city of Detroit is possible.

SINCE 1949 the city has paved over nine miles of streets and constructed asphaltic concrete surfacing on over eight miles of streets.

Egbert recommends that the city should continue a resurfacing program on a basis of approximately \$300,000 a year.

Rubbish disposal by incineration was reported to be a problem for city residents. While the Southeastern Oakland County garbage and rubbish-incinerator operation will be more expensive than methods used in the past, the incinerator is looked as the best solution for disposal of wastes, Egbert reported.

Twelve policemen and nine firemen have been added to the city's staff since 1949, bringing Birmingham's force up to a high level in both departments.

NEED for additional building space for a program of police departments has been cited by officials and solution of this need called for a bond issue to construct two fire stations and relieve the present city hall of the strain now taken by the fire department.

Egbert stated that the city is standing on a promising recreational facilities to its residents. He reported that small budget contributions for recreation playgrounds made progress on the recreational level very slow.

The city's financial situation is looked upon as good by the city manager. From a total general obligation debt of \$1,411,479.39 in 1953, the city has reduced its debt to \$733,000 with \$103,326.31 in cash and securities in the debt fund, leaving a net amount of \$629,672.99 at the present time.

Reasons behind the city's good credit rating and low debt, has been explained as a policy of the city in accumulating adequate reserves to continue operations within each annual budget.

By relying considerably on a "pay as you go" plan in recent years of the city's greatest growth has provided the necessary improvement and services while continuing to reduce the city's debt, Egbert revealed.

After reviewing the report Monday night, Birmingham city Commissioner Lance Minor commented, "The city manager has done a fine job in our financial picture. This should be explained to the people who always raise school taxes with city taxes."

"I think our debt picture is something to brag about," Minor continued. "I don't know of many Michigan cities with such a fine financial position as ours today, especially when you consider that the city has plowed back over \$2 1/2 million into capital improvements without bond issues."



THESE TWO BEAUTY QUEENS, selected by personnel of McManus, John & Adams, Inc., Bloomfield Hills advertising agency, will compete with others, February 25th, when "Queen of Detroit Advertising" is crowned during the first Spring meeting of the Michigan Council of the American Association of Advertising Agencies. Left is Arlyne Coubrough of Birmingham Woods, and right is Mimi Cummings, 471 Oakland avenue. The winner will be selected at the regular meeting in the Rackham Building from entrants selected by all participating agencies.

### Teachers in 2 Districts Granted Salary Increases

Boards of education in two school districts in the Birmingham area have reached a decision regarding teachers' salary schedules for the coming year.

Both the Bloomfield Hills and Southfield school boards announced new pay increases for teachers following special meetings held Monday night.

In Bloomfield Hills, the teachers' starting pay was increased from \$3,400 to \$5,600, according to Superintendent of Schools Eugene L. Johnson.

Maximum pay was increased from \$5,500 to \$6,000, Johnson said.

The Bloomfield Hills board also approved a salary schedule calling for a \$200 annual increment for teachers up to the \$6,500 maximum. This puts all teachers in a pay bracket in line with their years of employment in the district.

IT IS THE first time the Bloomfield Hills district has had such a system of salary adjustments for individual teachers will be necessary, Johnson said.

The adjustments no teacher's pay would be increased by more than \$500 a year.

A salary differential of \$100 between teachers holding master degrees and teachers holding bachelor degrees also was agreed on by the board, the master degree teachers receiving the larger amount.

Johnson said adoption of the schedule was approved unanimously by the board.

SOUTHFIELD teachers now in the district who return next year

er hinted the only possibility for increase this year would be a two or three mill voted tax increase for school operation.

"NO FORMAL discussion of teachers' salary schedules has been held at regular meetings of the Birmingham board of education as yet."

Supt. of Schools Dwight B. Ireland has indicated, however, that Birmingham teachers also are seeking salary adjustments.

**Approve Subdivision**

A 44-foot subdivision plan, to be known as Wiseman and Turco Crest Subdivision, was given final approval by the Southfield township circuit court, according to Elmer Kephart, city manager.

The plan, which divides a tract west of Lahser and south of Twelve Mile road.

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**Growing Firm Builds Addition**

Another business expansion was announced in Birmingham this week.

William F. Miller, of the William F. Miller-Gibbs The Lawn Equipment company, 1508 S. Woodward, said construction started Monday on a 20 by 120 foot addition to the north side of his store.

Miller said the expansion was necessary to handle the firm's increasing volume of business. He added that building should be completed by the end of March.

FOUNDED IN 1948 with Miller and one full time employee, the firm has increased to eight full time employees and handles seven major franchised lines of merchandise for Eastern Michigan distribution.

The firm handles power motors, gang mowers, tractors, rotary-tillers, chain saws and spraying equipment.

Miller attributes the growth of the business to the fact that each of his employees is an expert on garden and lawn equipment.

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### Bloomfield Twp. Police Request Citizens' Help

A plea to Bloomfield township residents to cooperate with their police department in combating a recent wave of burglaries and vandalism of private homes was issued Tuesday by Police Chief Clark Green.

Green reported that three houses had been broken into over the past weekend.

The home of Alfred Grann, 6700 Oakhill drive, was looted of \$100 Saturday night while the family was out to dinner. Of the money stolen, \$120 belonged to the Denmark federation, a society to combat children's tuberculosis in Denmark, Green said.

Chest and drawers in the home were emptied on the floor. Apparently thieves sought only money since other valuables were left unharmed.

Vandals raided a large house at Telegraph and Ward road sometime Sunday night. According to Green, 129 windows were broken out, light fixtures were smashed, plastered walls were punctured with a fireplace poker, and bathroom fixtures were broken up.

The house has been unoccupied for some time and has recently been undergoing repairs and remodeling, Green said.

GREEN URGED that to help police in this situation, residents should notify the department when they are leaving their houses empty for a period of time.

"Persons going on trips should let us know so we can watch houses," Green said.

He listed several precautions people should take when leaving their houses. All doors should be

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### Southfield Plans Plat

Preliminary approval of a six-lot subdivision east of Telegraph and South of Fourteen Mile road was tabled Tuesday night by Southfield township board members when it was discovered subdivision restrictions were lower than Southfield zoning on the property. Board members asked the plat of Springfield Estates No. 1 be returned to correct the minimum house size restrictions.

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**Bloomfield Hills Zoning Ordinance Upheld in Court**

Use of its zoning ordinance by the city of Bloomfield Hills to prevent the excessive removal of top soil from private property was upheld this week in Oakland county circuit court, according to Elmer Kephart, city manager.

Kephart said an application by a fill dirt contractor for an injunction to prevent the city from interfering with his contract to remove dirt from the 15-acre Phillips property on Quanton road was dismissed by Circuit Judge Frank L. Dost.

The city maintained that the fill removal operation on the Phillips property constituted a business operation in an area zoned for residential purposes, Kephart said.

**Show Color Film**

A 45-minute color film, "African Safari" will be shown at Farm's Sporting Goods store, 4819 N. Woodward, at 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 1. Admission is free.

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