

During the month of February two birthdays occur that commemorate the memories of two Americans whose lives have had a great influence on the course of American history has meant so much to us today. They are, of course, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

76TH YEAR—NO. 47

# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1954

SECTION ONE

34 PAGES SEVEN CENTS

## HIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

### YOUR PRECIOUS LIBERTIES

In a weekly column he titles "The Back Yard", Paul Talbot Babson, of Wellesley, Mass., president of United Business Service, writes pungent and currently appropriate comment.

In a recent issue, he discussed American liberties, and they are worth reading and pondering. Because Mr. Babson happens to be the dad-in-law of my daughter, Susan, I know he won't sue me for plagiarism . . . and now here are his ideas:

Are our essential civil liberties in danger? Have we forgotten—our side-stepped—many of the eternal virtues that constitute our great heritage of American liberty?

Well, let's call a few qualified witnesses and see what they have had to say about the essential qualities of our liberty—and what it takes to keep that liberty.

Said Benjamin Franklin back before 1775—  
"They that give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Said Patrick Henry on March 23, 1775—  
"In life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased by the chains and slavery . . . as for me; give me liberty, or give me death!"

Said Thomas Jefferson on March 4, 1801—  
"Government should restrain men from injuring one another, but let them otherwise be left to follow their own pursuits of industry and employment."

Said Daniel Webster on June 3, 1834—  
"God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to lose it."

Said Abraham Lincoln on December 3, 1861—"Political power, if exercised, will surely be used to close the door of advancement and to fix new disabilities and burdens until all of liberty shall be lost."

Said Grover Cleveland on March 4, 1893—  
"Lessons of paternalism ought to be unlearned and the better lesson taught, that while the people should patriotically and cheerfully support their government, its functions do not include the support of its people."

Said Woodrow Wilson on September 9, 1912—  
"Liberty has never come from the government alone. The history of liberty is the history of the limitations of governmental power, not the increase of it."

Can we question the validity of such testimony? Must we not all accept these statements as defining the essential qualities of personal and political liberty—the sine qua non of the American way of life?

Yet how far we have strayed away from those precepts! How valiant an effort it will take to bring us back onto the high road again!

## Harry D. Wise, Jr. Seeks Comm. Post

The Eccentric learned Wednesday morning from Harry D. Wise, Jr., 36, 534 No. Glenhurst, that he has entered the race for one of the three city commissions seat-up for election in the April 5 city election.

Wise, who becomes the second announced candidate, is an attorney with nine years of practice in Detroit. He is a graduate of Baldwin High School and the University of Michigan Law School. He has been a Birmingham resident since 1922.

Petitions are now being circulated for him.

Deadline for petitions bearing between 25 and 50 names is 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27.

Commissioner James C. Allen has already announced his candidacy for election to the commission.

## Quarton's 4th Graders Like Their New Rooms

Recently moved to new classrooms in the Quarton school addition, members of a fourth grade class were so pleased with their new surroundings that they decided to write letters to the board of education and Supt. Dwight B. Ireland expressing their approval.

The letters were received and posted on a bulletin board in the school board's meeting room at Hill school.

THE FOLLOWING TWO LETTERS are representative:  
"Dear Friends,  
"We love it sincerely we know it was hard for the work men  
"Here's a poem  
"I would love to live in here, for all the twelve months of a year. But I fear only six months a year."  
(signed) Bob Stresen-Reuter."

"Dear friend,  
"I don't see why you could have done it. I like the counter the best, I mean the formica counter. The mustard yellow is beautiful on the door."  
"We call it the sunshine room. Well, Mr. Murphy (the teacher) dose. We our so happy with it."  
Sincerely, John Arnold."

# News Being Made on Civil Defense Program

## The Eccentric Sets the Pace For State's Weekly Papers

The leader among Michigan's pace-setting metropolitan weekly newspapers. That is the honor bestowed on The Birmingham Eccentric by the Michigan Press Association on its 86th anniversary convention held Jan. 29-30 at Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

The award for 1954 names The Eccentric first among the state's metropolitan weeklies for general excellence. Considered in the judging are all aspects which enter into the publication of a newspaper—quality of writing, extent of news and pictorial coverage, advertising enterprise, typography, and presswork.

A certificate of this honor was presented to Managing Editor George Wm. Averill at the convention's climactic dinner Saturday night.

THIS WAS THE SECOND such high award received by The Eccentric within the past seven months. In June the National Editorial Assn. named The Eccentric the second place national general excellence winner among the metropolitan weekly press in a judging which was termed "very close" among all three top places.

Since 1949, a total of nine national and state awards for excellence and community service have been won by The Eccentric.

At last week's MPA meeting, Averill was a member of two panels which discussed various problems of editors and publishers.

Friday afternoon he outlined how The Eccentric published its record-breaking 252-page 75th Anniversary Edition last May. Saturday afternoon he participated in a discussion of the merits and problems of plastic engravings, a process The Eccentric has used for almost two years.

NEW PRESIDENT OF Michigan Press Association, Inc., is Louis J. Berman, publisher and editor of the Whitehall Forum, a small weekly newspaper in West Michigan.

Other officers are F. Granger Well, executive vice-president, Port Huron Times-Herald, first vice-president; Frank Worthington, publisher, Wyandotte Tribune, second vice-president; Robert S. Marshall, publisher, Ogemaw County Herald at West Branch, treasurer.

Elected as directors are Nelson D. Brown, co-publisher, Ingham County News at Mason; Duane DeLoach, publisher, Blissfield Advance; Earl T. Huckle, publisher, Cadillac Evening News; Leo R. Larson, publisher, Romeo Observer-Press, and Almon W. McCall, editor, Grand Haven Daily Tribune.



FRED NOYES OSCAR PETERSON ED KIRBERT ART BLAKESLEE  
Dinner speaker compares notes with drive chairman (Eccentric Staff Photo)

## New Finance Director Starts Here Feb. 16

See Picture on Page 2, Part 1

Birmingham's new city director of finance—35-year-old James H. Purkiss—will assume his municipal building duties on Feb. 16, City Manager D. C. Egbert disclosed Tuesday afternoon.

Replacing William Johnson, who resigned Jan. 8 to go into private business, Purkiss has been with the accounting section of the GM Truck and Coach division for the past 10 years.

HE IS A PONTIAC RESIDENT, was graduated from high school there, and attended Detroit Institute of Technology. Married and the father of two children, he will start his job at a salary of \$7,200 per year.

Regarding Purkiss' appointment, Egbert said: "In my opinion, he is well qualified for the job as director of finance."

In a committee session immediately following Monday night's regular commission meeting, Egbert presented and discussed Purkiss' qualifications with commissioners, who instructed him to immediately offer the job to Purkiss.

## 'Freedom Periled', Speaker Tells Rotary Meeting

"Who in the entire world was freedom born?" Birmingham Rotarians were asked this question by Frederick W. Overesch, advertising executive of Mason, Inc., Detroit, at their luncheon meeting Monday.

Overesch is an active campaigner in what he calls a fight against "America's race toward European Statism." In an address to the Rotarians, he outlined activities of the United States government that he feels are a threat to freedom.

He pointed out that the United States is "committed either directly by treaty or pact, or morally by implication of its foreign policy . . . to defend 40 countries, in contrast with a total population of one billion people."

THE CITIZENS of these countries in many instances do not even understand freedom, let alone have any, and many of these countries are dominated by dictatorial governments, Overesch said.

Pointing out that the doctrine of the Declaration of Independence was that governments are instituted solely for the protection of the God given rights of its citizens, Overesch said: "Today, so-called liberals have so strongly advocated a return to old-fashioned European ideas of government that most Americans now accept those foreign ideas as 'instruments of democracy.'"

He urged a return to moral standards as a guide for conduct, rather than so much dependence on government.

Overesch illustrated his talk with display advertisements he prepared recently for the Small Business Economic Foundation of Chicago that urge moral standards in government.

## More Local Activity Called For

First steps in reorganizing and revitalizing Birmingham's civil defense set-up will take place at a meeting tonight of the Civil Defense Council at 8 p.m. in the commission chambers of the City municipal building.

Expected to be present for the meeting are these members of the council: Mayor Ralph A. Main; director; Roland Reese, deputy director; Donald C. Egbert, city manager; Jack Walker, city administrator; Dave B. Ireland, superintendent of schools; John T. Spenser, Rev. Robert Graham; Glenn C. Emery; Ralph W. Moxley, chief of police; Vern Griffith, fire chief; Robert Kenning, DPW superintendent; Miss Ann Gillette, city nurse, and Dr. Ralph Weasler.

REESE SAID a reorganization of civil defense in Birmingham is necessary to bring the city's defense organization up to par with surrounding municipalities.

Tonight's meeting will be to arrange for directors of the various phases of defense.

Reese stressed that a strong civil defense was necessary to the community for a reason he brought on by storms as well as warfare.

## 'Y' Enrollment Drive Would Add 425 New Members

At the first meeting of its workers in the 1954 membership enrollment of the Birmingham YMCA, a total of 141 members were reported enrolled on campaign goal of 425. The total Birmingham YMCA goal is 1500 members by March 1.

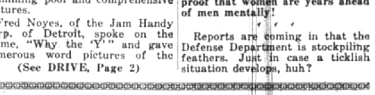
Four teams under the general chairmanship of Oscar Peterson are competing in a mythical tour of Michigan's Water Wonderland to see which of four cars complete the distance first. A point score of 5 miles for each member and one mile for each dollar moves the cars Y—M—C—and A around the state.

Working on the various teams are: Frank Hardy, Oscar Peterson, Tom Ward, Charles Ruby, Raymond Zook, Jim Baldwin, Morgan Barstow, Charles Thurston, Arthur Blakeslee, D. E. Ingram, Bob Graham, Dave Gurry, William Dwayne, John Nell, Bill Roberts, Wayne Stethbacher, Ed Falberg, Paul Vanderbrock, Everett W. Allen.

JERRE R. MAYNARD, Lewis Gilbert, H. R. Meier, T. Appel, Frank Allen, Harold M. Kalbfleisch, Don Gault, John Slater, Colin Campbell, Wayne Mortimer, Ralph T. Cowan, and Ed Kirbert.

At the kick-off dinner Monday evening, Birmingham Police Chief Henry Sims talked briefly of his work with juveniles and cited many cases to support the need for a permanent YMCA building with a swimming pool and comprehensive features.

Fred Noyes, of the Jam Handy Corp. of Detroit, spoke on the theme, "Why the Y?" and gave numerous "snap pictures" of the situation (See DRIVE, Page 2)



## P.S.: No More Orders Are Being Accepted

SEEMS AS THOUGH the Cranbrook Institute of Science Christmas Gift Shop is faced with a supply and demand problem of unanswerable proportions. Institute officials also are puzzled about the selection of news published by the nation's newspapers.

In a release from the Cranbrook public relations office before Christmas, came the story of rare gifts the Institute's Christmas Gift Shop was offering to the Yuletide buyer stymied with the problem of buying a gift for the man or woman "who had everything."

MOUNTED RATTLESNAKE HEADS were among the gifts enumerated and the purchase price was included in the news release.

The shop actually had only a few dozen of the unusual gifts to sell to members but The Eccentric as well as 43 other newspapers in 17 states across the nation published the story of the snake heads.

The Institute soon found itself with orders for far more heads than it can hope to fill—orders sent in by the more than 2,000,000 people counted in the combined readership of the 43 papers.

EVEN WORSE IS the fact that the supply has left the market until spring as all Michigan rattlesnakes have gone into hibernation for the winter months.

What is particularly perplexing to the Institute is that throughout the years, newspapers regularly disregard scientific findings being made at Cranbrook and publish items such as the gift guide for Christmas shoppers.

## Little League Names Officers For 1954 Season

William R. Barrett, 1177 Chesterfield, will head the Birmingham Little League this coming year. League officials decided this week as new officers were elected.

Newly elected officers are: Ronald Perry, 975 Madison, vice-president; Keith Alcorn, 1691 Oak, treasurer; and Boyd Simmons, 1460 So. Bates, publicity. C. J. Scheerer, 1056 Pilgrim, was elected to the Board.

OTHERS on the board are Malcolm G. Adam, Watson Spoolstra and Glenn M. Emery, league secretary.

Plans are now underway to strengthen the baseball program for Birmingham's 8-to-12 year olds and to bring more fathers into active participation.

Nearly 500 boys played on the various Little League teams last year.

The program in 1954 will again include two major leagues of four teams each and two minor (farm) leagues of eight teams each. Play will be limited to the months of June and July.

THE NATIONAL League will be headed by C. J. Scheerer who managed the Braves in 1953. Coach E. Nickel will again direct the American League.

The retiring board members are Dan B. Elliott, last year's president; J. C. O'Connor, R. D. Squiers and the Rev. Theodore Wug-gazer, Jr.

The new managers in the American League are Bradford Springer, Tigers; Roland B. Walton, Yankees; Bob Kirby, Red Sox, and the Cardinals.

Al Robertson, Pirates; Leo S. McGuire, Cubs; Don Porteous, Giants; and the model thrower, Braves will manage National League teams.

Springer, Walton, Robertson and Porteous were coaches last year of the teams they now manage. Kirby and McGuire managed the Steelers and the Cardinals respectively in the minor leagues. The Cardinals were undefeated.

Glenn C. Jensen, who managed the champion Eagles in the American farm league, is the new director of the minor leagues.

COMPLETE INJURY insurance will cover boys and coaching staffs in all leagues.

Two changes are planned in the farm team program. The schedule is being increased from seven to nine games to permit more inter-league competition. This year those boys who fail to make a major team will rejoin the farm team this year with in 1953. New boys will fill the gaps.

Each minor league team this year will have its own equipment. A father-son rally for everyone interested in the Little League will be held at the Community House at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 14.

## Receive Bids For Wells

Bids for drilling wells on the site of Bloomfield Hills School district's proposed new high school were received Monday night at a meeting of the board of education.

Bids were turned over to the architects, for study.

## TINY ROBERT BLAKE LINDSEY

hasn't shown too much interest in his new home as yet, but it doesn't seem to bother proud parents Ted and Pat Lindsey of Oakland Drive, Bloomfield township. The baby was born Jan. 23 in Detroit and mother and baby arrived home Monday. Lindsey, captain of the league leading Detroit Red Wings, is very happy with the world right now, all except the Ted, Jr., nickname that has been tagged on the baby. "His name is BLAKE," says Ted, very emphatically. (Eccentric Staff Photo)



TINY ROBERT BLAKE LINDSEY