

If you know that your good friend had but a brief time to live, would you not change upon him many kind wishes? If the business of life would cause you to be kind, is there a reason why the presence of life should prevent you from showering kindness every day?

76TH YEAR—NO. 43

THIS and THAT

By G.R.A.

We learn that one of the big objectives of the Soviet rulers is to print enough cook books so that one out of 50 Russian women will own one. Perhaps the next big objective will be to make it possible for one out of 50 Russian women to have enough food to go along with the cook book.

Scientists now assert that when man has developed a means of flying to the moon and other planets, there will be no danger of colliding with flying saucers. That sounds fine... but if interplanetary flying becomes as popular as motorizing, where will the traffic cops and lights be located?

Michigan women, regardless of political affiliations, ought to be proud of the splendid public service rendered by Martha W. Griffiths, now completing a short term as a Recorder's Court Judge in Detroit. This lady, once a Democratic Representative in the State Legislature, and an attorney by profession, was appointed to a vacancy one year ago to fill out a vacancy on that bench, by Gov. Williams. Possessed of much charm and real ability, Mrs. Griffiths has added another jewel in the crown of American womanhood in public affairs. This nation could use many more like her.

President Eisenhower is going to face many problems during the coming session of Congress. He will have to make legislative proposals and approval of his official program. With the close balance between Republicans and Democrats in Congress, it will require almost super-human maneuvering to win victory for his administration. This will be made all the more difficult because 1954 is an election year for most of Congress itself.

Screen actress Terry Moore recently received word that she had been offered a sum of \$100,000 in exchange of dollars of free publicity (even this item is worth something) when she was to do a picture with the American soldiers in Korea. We know Moore exactly, and her habits are finally switched into when threatened with "deportation." But her "ad" will probably prove that ermine belongs, still, only to royalty.

We'll wager that by the time President Eisenhower leaves the White House, he'll have more golf clubs than anybody on earth. But he'll be able to make the rounds on the golf course of good government at least with a par score... and if he does, that ought to splendid for the ideology of our Constitutional Republic.

To the question: "Should a husband ever be asked to wash the dishes?" we bodily make this reply: No! Instead, now and then he should volunteer to do it. As "the head of the house," he should always set the perfect example in domesticity.

Police See Red; Arrest Driver

The mystery of who knocked off the fire hydrant at Catalina and Pierce on Dec. 22 was solved last week by Detective Sgt. Merlin Holmquist of the Birmingham police department.

A check on local auto repair shops paid off Thursday when a car was brought in to Jenkins Auto Shop, 1304 S. Woodward, bearing some fine-ringed red marks on a front fender.

Driver of the car, Robert Egan, 18, of 1272 Edgewood, admitted that he had had bumped the plug. He agreed to make full restitution to the city for the costs of repairing the hydrant.

What the Community House Means To Me

A New Series of Articles by Bham Residents Starts This Week On Page 1, Part 5'

Court Action Ordered on New Fire Station Site

Bond Issue Planned for April Vote

Definite action to bolster Birmingham's firefighting defenses was taken this week when city commissioners:

Ordered City Attorney Forster S. Hasquill to immediately initiate a friendly court action to condemn property restrictions to permit construction of a fire station at the northeast corner of Chesterfield and W. Maple, and hired Civil Engineer W. Bradford Edwards of Pleasant Ridge to design and supervise construction of two new city fire stations.

The bond issue will be constructed at Adams and Bowers, and City Manager D. C. Egbert and a public hearing on the design and costs of this eastside station probably would be held before the commission in about three weeks.

Hasquill said the court action probably would not be completed before the April 5 city election, at which the city commission proposal would include any monies for purchase of equipment.

Monday night commissioners met with a handful of property owners from the Quanton Lake Estates subdivision (where the proposed restriction must be condemned) to explain in some detail what the city proposes for the westside station.

THESE FACTS were brought in the exchange of questions and answers: The city will condemn only the five lots family restriction on the five lots the city must use for the station.

The condemnation action will permit only the construction of a fire station on the lots.

The site will be properly and adequately screened and landscaped.

Equipment immediately placed there probably will be an all-terrain truck (both ladder and Blaine), a service car and chief's car. (Space will be provided for a second major truck.)

Twelve men will be stationed there at first, but accommodations provided for expansion to an ultimate of 20 men (10 on each shift).

NO ENLARGEMENT of the westside station is contemplated, only it is built.

The station is estimated at \$35,000, and it would be a one-story, contemporary design, of masonry and red brick.

The eastside station, it has been previously explained, would be somewhat larger and cost more because fire department training facilities, and probably administrative offices, would be located there.

COMMISSIONERS have declared the present central fire house will be vacated one and two new stations are up, and made (See BOND ISSUE, Page 5).



READY TO launch their sale of Fighting Dimes as a part of the 1954 battle against polio, members of the Birmingham Youth Council sold their first dime Monday evening to Mayor Ralph Mail. Showed with him are (left to right) Barbara Knoblock, sales manager; Howard Johnson, chairman, and Robin Reed, publicity director. The group received city permission to conduct a one-day sale of the "mounted" coins on Saturday, Jan. 16, or if barred by bad weather, on Jan. 23.

1954 Only 89 Minutes Old When 1st New Resident Born

Little Robin Michelle is really a New Year baby, having made her appearance in the world at 1:29 a.m. Jan. 1, 1954. Robin is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Stanley of 1704 Mansfield.

First engagement of the year is harder to single out, since three betrothals were announced on Jan. 1.

The Rev. and Mrs. Emil Kott, 501 Larchdale, announced the betrothal of their daughter Elaine to Leonard Grossnickle of South Bend, Ind.

Another bride-to-be is Nancy Howell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David A. Howell of 400 Lakeside drive. Her forthcoming marriage to Hastings K. Wright also was announced New Year's day.

THE THIRD engagement party which has come to the attention of The Eccentric is that of Mary Kraft, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kraft, 544 Oakland, who will become the bride of William S. Powell of Concordia, Kan.

So far as we have been able to learn, Cupid declared a brief holiday on wedding, with no Birmingham ceremonies having been performed so far this year.

At the Birmingham police department monitory marked the turning of the calendar. Routine assignments that brought 1953 to a close continued on as 1954 was ushered in.

An coincidence would have it, the last complaint filed on the 1953 blotter was identical to the one of a traffic signal.

FIRST MEN retained in 1954 were John F. Brimager and Peter Lujan both of Pontiac, who were picked up at 4:58 a.m. Jan. 1, for investigation of auto theft.

The men did not have proof of ownership of the car they were driving. A check of the car which bore Minnesota license plates cleared the men and they were released.

The year's first automobile accident was recorded at 5:42 a.m. Jan. 1, according to police. It was Gerald Black, 41, of 603 N. Main, who drove his car into the rear of another driver by John A. Parks, 30, of 692 W. Frank, as Parks waited for a red light in the northbound lane of Hunter at Oakland.

Black received the first traffic ticket of the year for not having his car under control, police said.

THE REMAINDER of the first day of 1954, comparatively speaking, was extremely quiet.

Charles Emite (Gus) Dorais, 62, of 19560 Middlesex, Southfield Township, the man who threw the first forward pass in football, died Sunday in his home following an illness of six months.

A lady reported finding an ermine fur piece on Woodward avenue. H. P. Low, 283 Northlawn, was cited for having no driver's license after being stopped for running a traffic light.

A car was reported to be blocking a driveway; some boys were scolded for throwing snowballs at passing cars.

Two dogs were reported missing, and one was reported dead. Police stood by following the report of a fire in a garage on Chesterfield near Raynolds.

ANOTHER MAN was ticketed for violation of a traffic signal. A family lift was ticketed, and police stood by to assist at a fire reported at 1051 Woodlea.

The garage fire was a false alarm, and the Woolens ran as the result of smoke from an overheated kerosene salamander.

Playful Parakeet Selects Man's Chapeau for Perch

Anybody lose a parakeet? When John Deans, 2324 Yorkshire, walked into his house Tuesday night he didn't know he had brought a parakeet home.

Obviously the bird had flown away from some nearby household and after a moment of freedom became more homesome for human companionship.

Deans called Mrs. Gerald Noyes, 2261 Windemere, who breeds parakeets as a hobby, to find out if she knew anything about the lost bird.

Mrs. Noyes called The Eccentric for assistance in finding the owners. The owners may retrieve their pet by calling Mr. Noyes and identifying the bird.

Dorais achieved his first fame as a football player for the University of Detroit. In 1927, after losing to Army and Notre Dame, Dorais' Titans went on to pile up a record of 19 consecutive wins that finally broke in 1927 by a tie with Marquette.

For a quarter of a century, Dorais was coach of sports at the University of Detroit.

HE ALSO served four terms on the Detroit City Council.

DORAIS LEFT the University of Detroit after 18 years as a college grid mentor and coach of the Detroit Lions.

Review of Local News Highlights During Past Year

Events during the last six months of 1953 saw tornado jittery Birmingham residents cast apprehensive eyes at glowering summer skies and flood municipal switchboards at the sound of every fire whistle. Officials urge residents to check by radio for climatic conditions in order that police and fire department lines could be kept clear for emergency calls.

On the sporting scene, Wally Burkemo, Franklin Hills pro, won the Professional Golfers association tournament at the Birmingham Country club, The All Stars of the American division of the Little League, missed going to the state finals tournament at Bay City when they lost the final game of an area tournament in Birmingham to a strong Hamtramck nine.

Off-street parking took a lot of time at city commission meetings. A proposal to require all new or expanding businesses to provide one square foot of parking space for each square foot of floor space was tabled under a storm of protest from 30 business property owners.

A TWICE DEFEATED proposal to expand the facilities of the Bloomfield Hills school district finally was accepted. A new high school plus an addition to an elementary school will be provided at a cost of \$1,750,000.

A new city was born in Oakland county. Lathrup Village became the first incorporated area in Oakland township by a slim margin of 59 votes over its opponents.

Franklin, "the town that time forgot," became a candidate for villagehood when voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of incorporation. Test of whether the area will actually become a village awaits approval of a charter presently being drawn up.

BIRMINGHAM became a little closer to other areas of the nation when the city's young people gathered in a good amount of Christmas cheer as the Chamber of Commerce and neighborhood associations held their annual parties for the small fry.

Many of the city's residents gathered at the Shrine Park early Christmas Eve to join in caroling before the city's Christmas tree.

The week-by-week news highlights of the past six months of 1953 follow:

Issue of July 2 of the PGM tournament at the Birmingham Country club began today to prevent the loss of a large sum of money on special elections such as this one.

Tornado jittery Birminghamites were shaken a week ago today when a severe summer storm accompanied by high winds wreaked havoc with trees and power lines across the city.

City Commissioners Monday night at July 27 as a special date for a public hearing into the advisability of the city taking (Continued on Page 1, Sec. 4)

Assess Unpaid Bills

Delinquent bills against 17 property owners totaling \$281.84 during 1953 were levied against the particular properties as special assessments by city commissioners Monday night with a 10 percent penalty added to each bill. The delinquent bills were for city services provided the properties.

FOUNDED his retirement from football, he and his son, William, sold his auto agency in Wash. Ind.

However, upon the advice of a friend, he purchased a home in the business several months ago, and purchased his Southfield township home as a rest measure.

Leon Moore, telegram delivery man for the local Western Union office, was in a hurry when he delivered a telegram to the advertising department of The Eccentric Monday.

"Between you folks and Mr. Moore, I've been kept busy today," he stated. He explained that day alone he had delivered 75 telegrams in accordance to the Dorais family from sports personalities from all over the nation.

Third Candidate Appears

By NORMAN DOUGLAS

Circulation of at least six petitions of candidates seeking the vacant state representative's seat for the third district indicates that a special primary election may be in the offing. If a primary is necessary it must be held January 21.

With the deadline nearing for filing petitions of candidates in the February 21 special election, at least one petition has met the closing time which is 4 p.m. today.

Richard Van Dusen, 1722 Pine, submitted his petitions to Oakland County Clerk Lynn D. Allen late Monday.

A second person yesterday revealed he also is a candidate for the post vacated by Republican Howard L. Bates who resigned in November to devote full time to his duties as manager of the Oakland County Infirmary and Convalescent Hospital.

The additional GOP hopeful is Lawrence McKay, Jr., 38, 1660 Yosemite, Birmingham. McKay is agent with offices in the Briggs building.

The third known person on whose behalf petitions are being circulated is Marvin Kuchinsky, 3630 Kilmartree township, Kuchinsky is a Democrat.

A 1938 graduate of the University of Michigan, McKay received his AB degree in pre-law.

McKay is a resident of Detroit, started in the insurance business in 1940, operating his office in Birmingham since 1946. The next year he moved here.

In 1940 he ran for the state's 15th Representative in the Republican ticket in Wayne County.

A veteran of World War II, he served in the army from 1942 until 1946, being from private to the rank of captain before his discharge. His tour of duty included overseas work in China with the U.S. Army in 1942 he was selected and served in the Office of Staff, G-2, Washington, D.C.

One thing that McKay would like to see tackled by the state representative is the insurance problem in the financial responsibility law.

"Too many people are suffering great losses and suffering daily," McKay stated. "The insurance industry has many irresponsible drivers who seem to be able to afford to drive a car but unable to provide protection for those they harm through their negligence."

McKAY ALSO thinks that in future situations where vacancies in elected offices occur later in the term of office, the state representative should appoint a man to fill the vacancy to prevent the loss of a large sum of money on special elections such as this one.

McKay said that if no Democratic candidate files for the post, he would withdraw his petitions, thereby preventing the calling of a special primary, at least on his part.

Should two or more petitions be accepted for candidates in either party, a special primary is a must. According to Allen, many persons have inquired as to the possibility of posting the \$100 bond in lieu of petitions to gain the candidacy.

STRICTLY FRESH

It's about time nations began shaking hands instead of arms!

From Akron, Ohio, comes a report that a girl swallowed her watch. What a waste of time!

The author of "Living Without Liquor" has charged recently with his 25th offense for drunkenness in Los Angeles, Calif. There's one man who swears that he writes about instead of what he writes.

Scarcely breath's desire. If you don't believe it, just observe any bad man.