

One of childhood's precious memories carried into maturity is the recollection of "the wonderful food that Mother used to prepare for us. Perhaps this attitude is based upon a child's ravenous appetite, plus the loving care a good Mother bestows.

77TH YEAR—NO. 20

# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1954

SECTION ONE

36 PAGES SEVEN CENTS

## County, Bham and THAT Proposals

By G. R. A.

### BLAIR MOODY, REPORTER-CRUSADER, PASSES FROM REGISTERED EARTH

Last week's sudden and wholly unexpected passing of Blair Moody, former Democratic U. S. Senator from Michigan, is a distinct loss to his family and friends. Equally, it is a great loss to those causes which for years utilized his personal talents and efforts.

Only 62 years old, yet he had made his busy newspaper reporter and Senatorial life more active than ordinarily come to those years. His passing, which occurred in the midst of the current political campaign as a Democratic candidate for Senator, creates a considerable void in party's 1954 program.

I had known Blair a good many years as a fellow newspaper reporter and Senatorial life more active than ordinarily come to those years. His passing, which occurred in the midst of the current political campaign as a Democratic candidate for Senator, creates a considerable void in party's 1954 program.

Running for re-election in 1952, he would spend five days a week in Washington, then fly to Michigan for weekends, and his letter was filled with speaking engagements all over the state.

DURING ONE of his trips back here, he stopped in to visit with me. I remember well a comment I made to him at that time which was: "Blair, you are working too hard for your own good. I just want to caution you against the mental and physical burden you are carrying. Why not take it a little easier?"

His reply and smile were typical of his nature: "Maybe you are right, George... but there are no ifs, ands or buts about it. But I'll try to remember your advice."

Of course, he didn't "take it easier." Had Blair Moody lived, his continuing life would have been filled with tremendous activity. There is no gainsaying this fact.

He had always been average life. As a reporter covering the U. S. Congress for many years, he and the first and only newspaperman to go directly from the press-box to the Senate floor. He became the Birmingham area's most active body about which he had reported; he finally made news for the Birmingham area, too.

He had many staunch friends in the Birmingham area, too. He was known to his own family and to his legion of members who he tried to serve in public office, his memory will live on.

### Condemnation Verdict Accepted By School Board

The Birmingham board of education, at a special meeting Wednesday night, approved a condemnation suit to obtain 22 acres of property for a new junior high school.

The area is bounded by Derby, Adams and Buckingham streets and the Grand Trunk railroad tracks. The board set aside \$86,252.20, the amount awarded by the jury.

The board also voted to borrow an estimated \$400,000 in the fall for operational purposes in the district. A specified sum is borrowed annually as tax collections are received from the school district, until Jan. 1 the following year.

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### Faulty Wiring Believed Cause Of Hospital Fire

Faulty wiring as the possible cause for the \$600,000 fire which swept the six-story Bloomfield hospital last week was being speculated upon Monday by Detective Glen Turner of the Bedford State Police post.

The 75-year-old building was believed to contain some of the original wiring.

Tanner said after talking with Clyde Marshbanks, hospital director and the owner, that old wiring below and on a water chiller—and also the roof, was the "probable cause."

He earlier stated he definitely was satisfied the fire was not a case of arson.

DAMAGES totaling \$600,000 were estimated by Marshbanks. The 44 patients, who were removed from the hospital when the fire broke out in the upper section of the 215-story structure at Woodward Avenue and Square Lake road, were returned to the wards after they were cleaned of water and smoke deposits less than 12 hours after the fire was extinguished.

Hospital handyman Roosevelt Head, 45, of Detroit, who admitted having used a blow-torch to remove a general alarm, was in the vicinity of the building a week prior to the fire was freed of all suspicion.

FIRE EQUIPMENT from nine surrounding departments assisted Bloomfield Township Fire Chief Ralph W. Hemmerly and his department in fighting the fire.

Sunday about midnight, the Bloomfield firemen were called to the hospital again when smoke began seeping upward from the basement, a boiler room, had burned out in a refrigerator.

### 1/4 Million in Terraces Planned Along Eton Road

A Hunting Woods contractor sought the approval Tuesday night of the Birmingham plan board for \$250,000 worth of brick-veneer terrace-type dwellings he wants to build on a 280-foot strip he owns on Eton road.

To do this, his property must be reclassified from single family to terrace dwellings.

The board advised him to specify the terrace type dwellings in his petition. He said he would present his request to the city Thursday.

BECAUSE HIS property faces industrial development across the street, Eton, the contractor, E. M. Rader, representing Oakwood Builders, Inc., maintained he was unable to get anything by private financing for the planned construction. Both single housing and duplexes would be financed by FHA and others because of the property's close proximity to the industrial development, he declared.

His property includes five blocks and two half-blocks all fronting on Eton road, from Lincoln north to Hazel.

He plans to build 6 or 8 units independently heated, for monthly rentals of about \$110.

He believes his proposed construction would make a nice buffer screening the residential area behind from the Eton road industrial development.

### Any One of Three Ways Seems Right

By ALICE E. MORGAN

"My middle name is Willits," the man said. "My grandfather was Elijah Willits . . . before the man could say more, we began rubbing our hands, and remarked that "Now we can learn the correct way to spell the name of that poor street!"

We explained to the man that it is a controversial subject in Birmingham with regard to the Woodward intersection says "Willits," the phone book says "Willits," and a city map and the city directory.

A 1947 issue of the directory carried both spellings.

### Water Meter Much in Demand; Huge New Terminal Ordered

5,404,000 Gallons is New Record

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Saturday began a five-day period which has brought Birmingham as close as it ever has to a water shortage—and as late as yesterday showed no signs of abating for possibly several more days.

For the first time in many years, the city was forced to sound a general alarm—12 swells of fire siren—when city wells struggled but could not keep pace with water demand that set a new record of 5,404,000 gallons pumped out of the ground that day.

When pressure on city mains fell to only 36 pounds, the alarm went out into the air at 6:20 p.m. Saturday, toll households to cease for two hours all unnecessary use of water.

SUNDAY THE same high demand for water dropped the pressure to 24 pounds—and the alarm was sounded.

The same procedure took place Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night, about the same time.

In all instances, the city's elevated storage of 1,300,000 gallons was down to only an emergency fire reserve of about 250,000 gallons which were valued off each night in the Hunter Blvd. tank.

Monday's pumping produced 5,341,000 gallons and Tuesday's to a kept pace with city wells pushed to supply 5,340,000 gallons.

NORMAL WATER main pressure, said Asst. Fire Chief Fred Smith, is 42 pounds.

Whenever pressure falls below 40 pounds, which is 25 pounds, the general water alarm is sounded.

The nearly 5 1/2 million gallons (See RECORD, Page 6, Part 1)

### This Reciprocal Trade Ruled NG

When asked to halt their sprinkling laws during the daily two-hour emergencies, some people came up with the most unusual alibis, according to Jack Walker, city administrative assistant.

"One man," said Walker, "whom we found watering his lawn on an odd-numbered day—although his house number was even—told us, 'I's okay—I've traded days with my neighbor across the street.'"

"And another told us Saturday night, 'Why, yes, I heard the siren. But I came out of the house, looked around and didn't see any smoke—so I figured I could still go ahead and sprinkle.'"

With Mrs. Lee, he was visiting in Ann Arbor for a few days and came to Birmingham Tuesday morning so Mrs. Lee could meet old friends for lunch.

"My great-grandmother," he explained, "was Rachel, daughter of John Harmon of Southfield. She married Elijah and so did old Birmingham. I used to visit the family here and the tales Grandma told me about her and so did old Birmingham. She remembered the Indians who once raided this section."

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When this cute three-year-old girl walked onto a dock at Big Crooked lake, near Grand Rapids, that Thursday afternoon—two weeks ago, Steven Richard Erwin of Birmingham was dangling a fishing line into the water trying to catch a pretty perch—or maybe a shimmering blughead.

But the fish were forgotten the moment he heard a splash and saw the girl disappearing below the surface of the water.

The fact that he had learned to swim only the summer before didn't cause the 10-year-old boy to hesitate a moment as he jumped into the water after the girl.

HE FOUND IT a bit more difficult to get her safely to shore because his clothes and shoes hampered him. But he made it.

When he went back to the cottage where he and his parents were staying that week, Steven didn't immediately tell his mother, Mrs. John L. Erwin, 498 Smith,

why his clothes happened to be so dry.

So his mother, like most mothers would, criticized him for getting them wet. It wasn't until after a fourth grader at the Pteris school, Steven has a dog that he calls "Sunday."

STICKING AT the job until it's well done must be Steven's motto. "Steven was discouraged about swimming at first," said Mrs. Ernest Pohlmann, 460 Smith, the next door neighbor.

Steven doesn't feel his adventure is worth too much attention. Maybe it's because he's a cub scout and figures the rescue really was merely his day's good turn.

He takes pride in earning credit extra spending money by cutting grass.

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The group will spend four days in this area, leaving Sunday. Accompanying them will be a Chilean Army sergeant.

Entertainment plans include tours of GM Tech, Greenfield Village, the Detroit zoo, a dance at the Birmingham Community House, Thursday evening given by the squadron and a picnic at the Lakeside home of a local cadet.

Birmingham has had a verbal agreement with Pontiac and Royal Oak for several years, but recent action by fire chiefs in the cities under consideration has brought recommendations that the contracts between cities should be written.

A QUESTION of liability insurance should equipment of one city be damaged while traveling in another city has yet to be answered by insurance attorneys.

Under terms of the contract, a senior city also could be called upon as a stand-by department while the first city's equipment was engaged in fire-fighting.

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OUT! Jack Outlaw has been appointed to the Grand Trunk railroad station here Friday afternoon, but no damage was reported. Local railroad officials stated that engine 6035 was too heavy for the yards and just eased off the tracks.

mayor because he didn't order summer uniforms for the city's sweltering patrolmen. Hinzoner was pretty hot under the collar himself.

All babies of four spring mattresses repaired. Obituary. ROYAL MAIL. Enterprises 6311. Dial "9" and ask for Enterprises 6311.