All normal folks respond instinctively to humour. So isn't it a part of a well-rounded personality to develop the attribute of good humor . . . to be able to inject into conversation, now and then, ideas that cause people to smile and laugh?

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION ONE

77TH YEAR—NO. 2 | BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1954 | 40 PAGES | SEVEN CENTS

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

PROBATION IS LESS COSTLY

In an effort to cut down the cost of keeping law violators in our prisons in Michigan, various interested groups are studying the possibility of placing lesser and first offenders on probation, as against confinement in institutions.

It is estimated that it costs the people of Michigan an average of $1,000 per year to maintain a prisoner; $85 is the estimate of cost of maintaining probation-officer supervision of violators.

Beside the lesser cost of the probation method, it is argued by many informed authorities on the subject that probation removes the stigma of prison confinement, and this improves the morale of these unfortunates.

No doubt we shall hear more about this subject as continuing studies are carried on by the Legislature, Courts, and law enforcing agencies.

Vice-President Nixon, chairman of the Republican Party's Centennial Committee, recently declared that "the original flame of freedom was kindled at Ripon, Wisconsin, March 20, 1854". This, he goes on, was the birth of the Republican Party. Michigan, of course, will dispute this statement. We claim the Party was born in Jackson, Michigan. Why don't those Republican leaders get their information straight?

Here's my guess on what will happen to the TV censorship bill recently to beer advertising, recently passed by the Michigan House of Representatives and now in the Senate Judiciary Committee: with the session closing April 12, the Committee will not have time enough to complete its study of the subject, so it will appoint a "Study Committee" to look into it after the session has closed. This will take the entire legislature 'off the spot" in this election year, leaving this controversial subject for consideration in 1955.

An American army general is being criticized for spending $1,200 of the taxpayers' money to build a house for four of his pet dogs. Now the general is in the Congressional doghouse . . . . . where, incidentally, he ought to be. Will his Army bosses tell him off plenty, or just slap him on the wrist? (GI Joe never could get away with such an act.)

The U. S. Navy announces the building of new jet airplanes that can take off and land on their tails, going straight up or coming straight down, "on the space of a dime." Indeed, they include not only almost supersonic speed possibilities, but also helicopter aerial maneuvers. How wonderful is mankind's powers of materialistic invention!—How puny are mankind's abilities to fly on the wings of the Golden Rule!

Don't forget that a Democrat U. S. Senator named Estes Kefauver once was chairman of a Senate Committee investigation of crime and corruption . . . and then he became a candidate for the Presidency in 1952. Do you suppose that Joe McCarthy thinks he can be more successful in a like venture in 1956? (These Senators often get notions that they are pre-destined to preside at the White House dining table, please remember.)

Adlai Stevenson currently is hollering at the top of his lungs to have President Eisenhower "still the voice" of Senator Joe (See THIS AND THAT, Page 2)

School Board Begins Study On Bond Issue

A new bond issue " . . . from $3,000,000 to $4,000,000" for building expansion in the Birmingham school district is presently under study by the board of education.

The board revealed at its Monday night meeting that in the near future it will schedule talks with prospective architects for the project.

Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools, told the board recently that the new bond issue may possibly be undertaken without an increase in taxes.

HE POINTED OUT that indebtedness on the 1950 bond issue has been reduced to the point where the levy required to pay it off can be reduced by four mills. If voters would approve, the millage could be channelled toward a new bond issue.

A study recently completed indicates the assessed valuation of the school district has increased to a point where four mills could support at least a $3,000,000 bond issue, Ireland said.

Board President Ernest W. Seaholm said the bond issue will be sought to provide the district with another junior high school as well as addition of approximately 20 rooms to the high school.

It was suggested that possible expansion of elementary facilities also may be in the offing.

B'ham's Assessed Valuation Increased by $3¼ Millions

Combined assessed valuations of three area communities has jumped nearly $4½ million during the past year.

Completed totals of assessed valuations in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and Lathrup Village show an increase of $4,348,800 over the 1953 combined total of $56,362,465.

Assessments have not been completed in Bloomfield, Southfield and Troy townships, officials in these three municipalities said Wednesday.

BIRMINGHAM'S 1954 FIGURE is $48,812,600, an increase of $3,220,120 over last year's roll.

Bloomfield Hills added $561,150 to last year's total of $5,470,750.

Lathrup's first assessment as a city totaled $567,580 over the 1953 figure of $5,299,235, set by Southfield township. No changes in assessments were made this year in Lathrup and the increase covers only new construction in the city since the 1953 roll was prepared.

Since 1942, Birmingham's assessed valuation has increased to $48,812,600 from $13,346,980. Population has spurted to an estimated 20,000 from 11,196 in the 1940 census.

Fire Hall Vote May Answer Many Needs

By NORMAN DOUGLAS

Construction of two fire stations in Birmingham would answer a two-fold problem now facing city officials, according to Charles Mortensen, spokesman for the publicity committee of the fire hall study group.

Initially, the two stations would provide better protection for city property owners and provide housing for increased fire equipment and also would relieve space in the city hall for sorely needed administrative space, Mortensen said.

"The need for space to expand in the city hall is a little known matter," Mortensen said. "If voters approve construction of the fire halls on the April 5 city ballot, the police department is expected to take over a major part of the area vacated by the fire department."

THE DEPARTMENT has no room where juvenile problems can be aired in private, according to city officials. Other activities of the police department also are cramped because of lack of space.

City officers point out that the present city hall was constructed in 1928 when Birmingham's population was just one-third of what it is today, with fewer city services performed 25 years ago.

One significant reason promoted for the two fire stations is the need for space within the fire department itself.

The department now has three pumpers, a home-made areial truck and an emergency pickup truck and the present station is filled to the doors.

A second aerial truck has been ordered and room for its storage must be found by the time it is delivered in mid-summer.

BUT THE MOST important question that voters should consider, Mortensen states, is whether or not they want to bring fire protection up to 1954 standards.

"Fire protection in the city always has been good, and residents have had little chance to question the operation of this city service," Mortensen said.

"But the rapid growth in population since 1946 which has seen Birmingham population double has out-distanced the city's fire-fighting facilities," he explained.

In outlining plans for proposed fire protection, fire officials suggest that the new combined pumper-aerial truck be stationed at the west side station with two pump trucks kept at the east side hall where the fire risk is heavier.

ADEQUATE protection then could be given each section of the city with a satisfactory reserve equipment on hand for those times when two serious fires may break out simultaneously in different parts of the city.

Representatives of the fire hall committee have disclosed that no major additions to the fire department have been made since 1946 when the station was serving one-half as many homes and businesses in a built-up area one-half the size that now exists

"By abandoning its central district location, the fire department can get closer to other areas of Birmingham while still providing the business district with adequate protection," Mortensen concluded.

8 Year-Old Injured In Auto, Cycle Crash

Struck by a car Monday while riding a bicycle in front of his home, an 8-year-old Troy township boy was reported to be in good condition Tuesday in St. Joseph Mercy hospital, Pontiac.

Troy police said Gary Best, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Best, 2335 Big Beaver road, suffered a leg fracture when knocked from his bike by a car driven by Harry J. Zapinski, Jr. 21, of 2044 Virginia, Troy township.

Is Navy Lieutenant

James J. Carson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James K. Carson, of Yorkshire road, has recently been promoted to the rank of Lt. (jg). Lt. Carson and his wife, Carol Ann, reside in San Diego, Calif.

Recreation Board Holds Up Request For Skating Rink

A proposal to ask Birmingham's city commission for funds to build a $60,000 artificial skating rink has been held up by the city recreation board pending conferences with City Manager Donald C. Egbert on whether next year's city budget can afford such a venture.

Discussion on the proposed rink was held at last Thursday night's meeting of the recreation board.

Roland Reese, acting chairman, reported to the board on his study of costs involved in building such a rink.

Purchase and installation of the rink would come to $54,900, Reese reported.

IF IT WERE to be installed at Eton Park, as recommended by Reese, a building for shelter and toilet facilities would have to be added along with lighting. This would boost costs to $60,000.

Reese said tennis courts scheduled to be built at Eton could be modified to serve as a base for the rink.

He estimated that 40,000 skaters could be accommodated in a 17-week season. According to estimates, an average fee of 25c for use of the rink would yield sufficient revenue to pay for supervision and maintenance during operation with about $5,000 left over, Reese said.

Generally in agreement that the rink would be desirable, board members were divided as to how it could be financed.

Reese proposed that the city be asked to appropriate from current funds the money required.

A bond issue to be approved by voters was the suggestion of Frank Whitney, recreation director.

PUBLIC subscription also was offered as a possibility for financing the project.

Board member Coit Allee questioned whether it was advisable to ask for the rink now since funds are being sought for two new fire stations and a new building program for schools is in the offing.

"We should be sure our need for this rink is great enough to warrant its competing with these other items for public money," said Allee.

$2¼ Million Budget For B'ham Schools

1953 Crime Increase Laid To Juveniles

A sudden upswing in juvenile crime in Birmingham is to blame for a 15 percent increase in major crimes in the city during 1953, according to Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley.

Moxley in his annual report to the city commission pointed out that 163 juveniles from age 9 to 16 were arrested for crimes committed in 1953 as compared to 95 in 1952, an increase of 59 per cent.

A study of major crimes shows the greatest increase was made in auto thefts, which jumped from 12 in 1952 to 32 in 1954. Burglaries increased from 35 in 1952 to 45 in 1953.

Moxley said an increase in the number of crimes cleared by arrests indicates that the situation is being controlled.

FURTHER STUDY of the juvenile record shows 33 youngsters were arrested for being involved in auto thefts. Forty-one were arrested on larceny complaints.

The 16-year-old group contributed the greatest number of juvenile offenders with 50 of them arrested.

Of the 163 juveniles arrested, 92 were from Birmingham and 71 were classified as outsiders. A total of 44 juveniles were referred to juvenile court for action.

The department's auto accident summary shows 318 accidents occurred during the year.

ONE PERSON was killed and 58 others were injured in auto mishaps.

In 294 of the accidents, traffic violations were recorded. Right-of-way violations and following too closely accounted for 113 of violations noted.

Nineteen motorists were arrested for driving under the influence of liquor; 13 were convicted on the drunk charge while five others were convicted on lesser counts.

A total of 7,086 citations were issued for illegal parking. Drivers ticketed for moving offenses totaled 2,162.

MOXLEY REPORTED the police force had been increased by three officers during the year. Authorization for this increase was granted to bring the department to effective strength to operate on the 40-hour week.

In all, the department responded to 7,385 complaints, during the year, not counting traffic control.

City May Finance W. Maple Widening In 1954 Program

Widening and paving of West Maple from Linden to Glenhurst may be included in this summer's paving contracts if Oakland county road commissioners can legally enter into a contract with the city on an anticipated revenue basis.

City commissioners Monday night agreed with the recommendation of City Manager Donald C. Egbert that the paving be constructed as soon as possible, and admitted Egbert's plan to complete the program this year "was a wonderful idea."

Egbert reported that by advancing the county its share of the paving costs from the city's general fund money, the pavement could be completed and the county could pay the city back early in 1955 from state gas and weight tax returns.

EGBERT EXPLAINED that traffic congestion on Maple added by the construction of churches made this widening program immediately important. He also suggested that the paving would help traffic flow for fire trucks should voters approve the construction of the west side fire hall in the April 5 city election.

Commissioners instructed Egbert to learn whether the county could legally enter into such a contract with the city on this method of financing.

Troy Names Code Study Committee

Appointments to the Troy township building code study committee were made Monday night by Supervisor Norman R. Barnard.

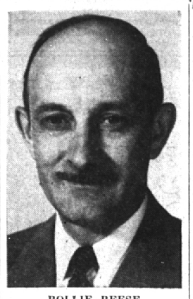
To review the code and make recommendations as to changes will be Arthur Arnold, Harry Godfrey, Alex Gow, Henry Hering and Gerald Scofield.

One of the problems the committee will face will be determining changes in the code necessary to permit the construction of prefabricated housing in the township.

Civic Control Day To Be Held May 3

Annual observance of Civic Control Day will be on May 3 this year, the Birmingham city commission decided at its meeting Monday night.

The date was set at the request of Birmingham high school's student congress. On Civic Control Day, high school students "take over" the operation of the city government for an 8-hour stint.



ROLLIE REESE

B'ham Postmaster Still A Question Of Who and When?

By NORMAN DOUGLAS

Who's who in the Birmingham post office is becoming a more confused question to everyone involved.

Bernard E. Fowler, former postmaster ousted in October of last year for alleged "irregularities" in the operation of the Birmingham post office, states that he has made an appeal to the U. S. Civil Service Commission in Washington, D.C. after postal authorities in the Commission's Seventh Region upheld action taken in October by the post office department.

Rep. George A. Dondero (R-Royal Oak), Saturday said that postal authorities have been directed to install Rollie Reese, 1847 Webster, as acting postmaster.

Detroit Postal Inspector W. E. Birdsall Tuesday stated he had received no word concerning the installation from Washington.

Finally, a wire sent by The Eccentric late Tuesday to the Civil Service Commission in Washington, asking whether Fowler's appeal had been received, had not been answered as of Wednesday afternoon.

BIRDSALL explained that if and when he receives official notice of Reese's appointment, he will contact both Reese and Fowler to find a date agreeable to both parties to place Reese in charge of the Birmingham office.

On that date Birdsall will take an audit of Birmingham books and turn this over to Reese who then will have full responsibility for the post office.

Reese, a long-time resident and local businessman, has served on the Birmingham school board, is a present member of the city's recreation board and past president of the Birmingham Lions club.

A GRADUATE of Greenville (Mich.) High school, he attended Michigan State Normal college and Western State Normal.

One of the organizers of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, he now serves as the Chamber's vice president and has been active in the city's Halloween party for the past 17 years.

He also has been active in YMCA work and Boy Scout activities.

Questioned earlier on the city's (See POSTMASTER, Page 8)

Ask Commissioners To 'Sound Off!'

Students in the Birmingham high school are having a difficult time reporting on city commission proceedings — they can hardly hear what the commissioners are talking about, according to John Bolton, a class member.

So on behalf of his classmates, Bolton—in a voice which was loud enough to be heard plainly throughout the commission room—asked the city's seven legislators to "please speak up or install an amplifying system.

"Each civics class member must attend at least one city commission meeting and turn in a report on what happened," Bolton explained. "But we haven't been able to hear very well what's going on."

Acting Mayor Lance Minor, in tones that reverberated around the room, declared:

"In the interest of the taxpayer, the audio system is out. But I believe the city commissioners can raise their voices so all can hear."

Spectators did note that Bolton's comment succeeded in raising the decibel average considerably for the remainder of the meeting.

'Teachers' Pay Raise Is Granted

A record 1954-55 budget request of $2,894,320.31 was approved Monday night by the Birmingham board of education, and it includes a raise in pay.

Salary hikes approved for teachers, administrators, custodial and clerical personnel accounted for the lion's share of the $442,279 budget hike over last year's $1,971,943; an increase of 22 percent.

Approximately 15 teachers were on hand at the meeting to hear the answer to their pay requests which they had made through representatives of the Teachers' club at the board's regular meeting last week.

TEACHERS had requested minimum salaries of $5,600 for bachelor degree teachers and $3,850 for master degree teachers. They also asked $250 yearly increments leading to maximum salaries of $6,100 for bachelor degrees and $6,350 for master degrees in 10 years.

The board approved minimum bachelor degree salaries of $3,700 and minimum master degree salaries of $3,900 with yearly increments of $150 leading to maximums of $5,200 and $5,700 in 12 years.

Generally, the teachers expressed satisfaction with the increases for the time being. However, they indicated that they would like to see greater improvement, especially in the matter of yearly increases.

THEY CONTEND the increases are stretched out over too long a time with the result that teachers' earnings over a period of years are less than in some neighboring districts where maximum salaries are realized in a shorter time.

The increases approved by the board represent pay hikes ranging from $350 to $650 to the individual teacher depending on his position on the salary schedule in respect to years of service.

Under the old salary schedule, minimum pay was $3,350 with annual increases of $100 to bachelor teachers and $120 to master degree teachers. Maximum salaries were not reached until after 15 years of service.

INCREASES to the teachers, plus the cost of 45 additional teachers, and cost of $25,000 for substitute teachers, result in a total $419,030 teacher payroll increase.

School principals were voted an increase comparable to that given the teachers.

Superintendent of Schools Dwight H. Ireland told the audience that there was a possibility of going to the people to ask for a tax increase for operating the schools that would provide more funds for teacher salary improvement.

Board President Ernest W. Sea-

(See RAISE, Page 8)

STRICTLY FRESH

The Avila, Spain, telephone directory erroneously lists a cemetery's number as that of a hotel's. Guess somebody figured a resting place is still a resting place.

Laws in some places protect monkeys from harm. Man hasn't evolved to that stage yet.

The Massachusetts legislature recently cleared the names of six women hanged as witches in 1692. They were just de-witched.

From Communist Albania comes a report that there was dancing in the streets while voters waited

to cast their ballots during a recent district election. Dancing to whose music?

Mars is known as the "Red Planet." And life there would be as difficult as it is in the Red countries on Earth.

These Editors Hit Right Formula:

No Deadline Pressure When 'Published Occasionally'

The Weekly Home, published occasionally, has just observed its first anniversary.

The little neighborhood newsheet published, printed and distributed by three young Birmingham residents, began when Bob Sneed, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Sneed, 848 Madison, got a small printing press and an assortment of rubber type as a Christmas present more than a year ago.

He enlisted the help of two other neighbors, Alan Dadd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Dadd, 883 Madison avenue and Jim Silbar, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Silbar, 808 Madison; ages 11, 10 and 14 respectively.

It wasn't long before a publication was in process and named by the three, "The Weekly Home." The young promoters and potential capitalists soon discovered that they were running into difficulty with such a demanding title.

SCHOOL WORK, scout activities, church and home responsibilities, playing and just plain loafing, was making such a dent in their available spare time that The Weekly Home wasn't being printed weekly.

Therefore a big contest was held last summer, asking that a new name be given to the neighborhood newspaper that came out occasionally.

Very few subscribers—there were about 25 at the time—took the trouble to send in their suggestions for a new name, but discussions, pro and con waged mightily by the neighborhood kids.

THE CONCENSUS seemed to be that since the newspaper was already known by its title "The Weekley Home," it should be continued under that heading.

The publisher, circulation department, advertising manager, managing editor, reporters and printers bowed to the public demand—in fact, all three kids agreed but added (apologetically, we think) "Published Occasionally."

Sneed's basement has been the scene of operations. Tucked neatly under the cellar stairs is the printing shop and office. A cardboard sign lettered in red, says so.

THE OFFICE is enclosed with heavy cardboard and whitewashed and a hinged door that hangs as straight as is necessary, leads into the establishment.

Mr. and Mrs. Sneed are patient parents. They endure without a murmur the pounding, lugging, thumping and bumping going on in their basement during the building period.

From all sorts of available scrap material, the three kids made the desk, type cases and other equipment necessary to their printing operations. They even strung up extension cords for electric lights—for as any one knows, it's rather a dark place—under the cellar stairs.

The office is complete and adequate and not at all in the way of Mrs. Sneed's laundry equipment. Remarkable as it may seem, the office has only been remodeled ONCE.

IN DUE TIME, however, considering the sprouting-up age of the three young men, the day will soon arrive when (1) the office will have to move to new quarters, or (2) only Allan Dadd, the youngest, will be able to work on The Weekly Home Published Occasionally, standing up.

The price of the newspaper is two cents a copy, thereby undercutting the Eccentric by a whole nickel. There are now 32 regular subscribers and the three young men should get 64 cents each time the paper comes out (about once every two weeks, depending).

However, the "take" is sometimes 83 cents or mayby 91. Once it went as high as $1.15.

THE SUBSCRIBERS get value received. Right now if the subscribers are on their toes, they can get in on the big contest sponsored by the W.H.P.O. and win the prize of a "beautiful new Chevrolet bank donated by Mr. R. W. Miller. Details in next issue."

The newspaper contains newsy little neighborhood bits such as: "Mr. and Mrs. Roy Saul returned from Wisconsin Friday."

Or, "Lea, the Sneeds' dog was 5 years old Feb. 28."

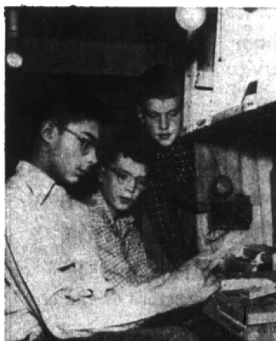
Astounding FACTS are printed in the Weekly Home Published Occasionally: "Not all icebergs are white"; or "Ocean waves are sometimes 10 stories high"; or, "A humming bird can fly backwards."

HUMOR IS always included in the Weekly etc., etc., etc. It is generally lifted from other publications (mostly from Boy's Life) and seems to run in this vein: Definitions. Horse Doctor: Any horse that graduated from medical school.

The publishers of the neighborhood newspaper also are alert to what goes on city-wise, as this item illustrates: "Big Fire? If you wondered what the fire sirens at 1:30 Sat. were for, you weren't the only one. The firemen wondered too. It was a false alarm."

Subscribers get special considerations from the publishers, too. Last Christmas each one got two pieces of chocolate candy, tied together and with a tag attached reading "Merry Xmas. Compliments of the Weekly Home." Very few newspapers treat their customers so good.

Bob Sneed is manager and the Boss since he owns the printing press. Jim Silbar is primarily the printer and Allan Dadd, a reporter. Distributing papers, getting ads and other duties are shared enthusiastically by all three.



WHPO STAFF GETTING READY TO PUBLISH
Jim Silbar Bob Sneed Alan Dadd (Eccentric Photo)

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