

While it is human to become irritated over certain situations that touch us from day to day, these circumstances are a part of this world in which we live. Our happiness is not in the direct ratio to the amount of irritations to meet and overcome irritations.

77TH YEAR—NO. 8

The Birmingham Eccentric

New \$3 1/2 Million Bond Issue Seen on June Ballot

SECTION ONE

40 PAGES SEVEN CENTS

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

SERENITY
"I am in love with this world," wrote John Burroughs, "great American literary naturalist." By my constitution I have nestled lovingly in it. It has been home, I have not bruised myself against it. I have tilted its soil, I have gathered its harvests, I have loved its seasons, and always I have reaped what I have sown. While I gathered its bread and meat for my body, I did not neglect to gather its meat and bread for my soul.

OUR "WORD OF DAMOCLES"
In 50 downtown business city blocks of Spokane, Washington, an "atomic bomb" was synthetically dropped as part of a test to get people to walk out. They were alerted an hour in advance by sirens. The test was pronounced a success, with no one injured. Such is the world we live in today. Atomic bombs and hydrogen bombs are stockpiled in the hands of the free and the Communist world, ready to be flown and dropped in case of war. This modern "word of Damocles" hangs over the heads of millions of human beings. Will these bombs ever be "triggered" into action? The answer is simple: it is intelligence to overcome ignorance, love to defeat hatred, charity to win over greed!

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN READY TO AID IN HOUSE OF CAMPUS COMMUNISTS
As you probably know, Rep. Kit Clark is holding public hearings on behalf of the House Un-American Activities Committee, seeking to discover evidence and prove Communist membership or aid to Communist membership among certain of this State's higher educational institutions. Already Clark, who represents Michigan and Grand Rapids in Congress, is looking into Wayne University. He will move his committee hearings to Lansing. While I do not know if he is going to subpoena any of the faculty of Michigan State College, I do know that more than one University of Michigan faculty member is expected to be served notice to appear to answer certain pointed questions. Administrative officers of the U of M long have known that this committee intends to interest itself in affairs at Ann Arbor, and through President Harlan Hatch, has told the Committee fully in the investigation.

PERSONALLY, having met several times during the past year with some of the U of M Regents, President Hatch, and other officers, I am aware of the impending committee hearings. At this writing, I am quite willing to assert that I believe the U of M is intensely sincere in their desire to work with Rep. Clark's committee. They are, they have set up a faculty senate, which in turn has selected four members who, together with members appointed by President Hatch, constitute a joint committee to hear and review all charges that Clark's committee may levy at anybody who is on the U of M payroll.

THIS U of M joint committee has agreed upon the following preamble: "Faculty members, like all citizens, have a duty to testify fully and freely when subpoenaed by legal authorities. There is no general right of silence. Refusal to testify, either on constitutional ground or possible (See THIS & THAT, Page 8)

Cornelia Skinner Leads Off Bham Town Hall Series

Cornelia Otis Skinner, said to be the "greatest single attraction of the American theater" will open the Birmingham Town Hall series this fall. Other noted speakers, writers and scientists in the series include Lydia Kirk, John Mason Brown, Commander Dwight Long, Marguerite Higgins and Dr. Ralph E. Lapp. On Oct. 22, Miss Skinner's unique and varied talents will be displayed to fullest advantage in the full length drama, "Mansion on the Hudson" which has been chosen for the inaugural program.

IN SIX SCENES, she will interpret the meaning of a family and a house and the manner of American living over a period of 50 years. The entire action takes place at "Tall Trees", a large estate on the Hudson and the characters, all played by Miss Skinner, include its succeeding mistresses. On November 12, Lydia Kirk, wife of Admiral Alan G. Kirk, former ambassador to Russia, will tell of her life abroad. She has spent many years in the capitals of the world and from 1949-1951 in the key city of the Communist world.

Mrs. Kirk will not present a political talk, but a close-up of the Russian people and their every day life. She has written many articles for the Ladies Home Journal and recently had a four-page article in Life magazine, appraising Russian garments and Soviet styles.

JOHN MASON BROWN, who appears on Birmingham Town Hall Dec. 10, has been called "America's Minister of Cultural Affairs." Title of his lecture, "Seeing Things" is the same as the column which Brown contributes to the Saturday Review of Literature. He is a familiar figure on television and long has been noted as a dramatic critic and author. Commander Dwight Long will present his documentary film "Pacific Adventures" on Jan. 14. Commander Long is regarded as one of the leading camera historians. The Academy Award winning documentary film, "The Fighting Lady", was filmed by him. The series of colored films he will present at Birmingham's Town Hall program are primarily of life on the South Pacific Islands, but best excerpts from "The Fighting Lady", "Tanga Tika" and "Seven Seas on a Shoestring" also are included.

ON JANUARY 28, Marguerite Higgins, famous war reporter, will speak on "The Middle East." In World War II, Miss Higgins reported her way through England, France and Austria to become head of the New York Herald Tribune's Berlin office at the age of 24. In the early days of the Korean War, she was the first woman to join the Marines in the beachhead invasion at Inchon. She twice has toured the Middle East extensively and has interviewed many Middle East personalities currently in the news.

Last series lecturer will be Dr. Ralph E. Lapp, atomic scientist, who will speak Feb. 11 on "The Promise of Atomic Power." Although his topic of nuclear physics is intricate, Dr. Lapp is said to have an exceptional ability to express in clearly understandable terms the part the atom will play in our everyday lives.

ALL PROGRAMS of Birmingham Town Hall will be held Friday mornings at 11 a.m. at the Birmingham Theater. Following the programs a "Celebrity" luncheon will be held at which the speaker will answer questions informally. The first two luncheons will be held at Bloomfield Hills country club and subsequent arrangements will be made at other nearby clubs.

Several lunch and tea rooms have announced their plans for offering a special Town Hall luncheon on program days. More information will be sent to all Town Hall ticket holders. Town Hall tickets may be obtained by writing P. O. Box 3, Birmingham. Sponsoring organization of Birmingham Town Hall is St. Anne's Guild of St. James church.

Lathrup Village city councilmen are battling the question of the city's fire department right down to the wire. The council Monday night failed to agree on the acceptance of a three-year contract for continued service from Southfield township and voted down a plan to form their own department.

Thus the city has elected to wait at least another week to decide whether to pay the premium price for a one-year contract with Southfield or accept a three-year package deal from the township. Actually the first year of fire protection for the new city will start on May 22, the legal date of Lathrup's separation from Southfield. Southfield has already asked the city to draw up a three-year contract at an average yearly cost of \$18,280. This would include the present year's service.

IF LATHRUP elects to buy a one-year extended contract, Southfield has stated that the service will cost \$19,900. Councilmen split over creation of the city's own combined fire and police department. Councilmen Thomas Reed and John G. Campbell supported an estimated \$24,000 appropriation in the 1954-55 budget to establish the department. Mayor William H. Harvey, David Redwood and Katherine Feyereisen voted the proposal down. Campbell and Reed contended that by an earlier council resolution further negotiations, with

Debt Levy To Remain Budget Sessions Start Saturday

A proposal to transfer a portion of present debt revenue to finance a new building bond issue, estimated roughly at slightly under \$3,500,000, will be presented to Birmingham school district voters at the school board election June 14.

At a special meeting Friday night, the board of education set May 11 as the day it will meet to adopt a resolution placing the proposal on the ballot.

The board believes that by diverting 4 mills from the 1950 bond issue to apply to the proposed new issue, enough money will be raised to carry out another building program without an increase in taxation.

OBJECTIVE of the bond issue is to finance construction of a new junior high school, a 20-room addition to the high school, and two sites for future elementary schools.

Under this proposal, the present school debt levy would remain at 11 mills. The new issue would be repaid at a rate of 6 1/2 mills, and 1949 at a rate of 6 1/2 mills, and 1950 at a rate of 6 1/2 mills. Based on last year's equalized valuation of \$88,000,000, the new issue would finance an issue of \$3,100,000, Claude H. Stevens, school board consultant, told the board Friday night.

THIS YEAR'S equalized valuations now under study by the Oak and Lake county allocation board, have been tentatively estimated in excess of \$95,000,000. Stevens said if the allocation board confirms this estimate, the district will be able to finance an issue close to \$3,000,000.

Board president Ernest W. Seasholtz said the largest bond issue that can be financed within the 4 mills will be sought. At the same time, the board is trying to cut building cost estimates to fit them into the amount that can be financed. The board is also looking for large enough margin for contingencies.

THE BOARD said diversion of the 4 mills from the 1950 issue is possible because the district has received \$16th issue bonds in payments as well as having kept up the regular payments. Also, a refund fund of \$20,000, Stevens said, has been built up, according to Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools.

Rising property valuations have placed the district in a position where it now can continue to finance the 1950 issue on 2 1/2 mills, which would be a reduction of 4 mills from the 6 1/2 mills under which the 1950 issue was originally set up.

Among the costs of the proposed bond issue is the cost of the exchange of a site for the junior high school.

THE PROPERTY desired by the board is a 22-acre plot on Adams (See BOND ISSUE, Page 8)

New Parking District B Is Approved

A new parking district classification which permits commercial parking lots adjacent to residential areas went into the city's zoning ordinance this week.

Passage by the city commission Monday night of the long-discussed amendment paves the way for Wabek Corp. and Jacobson's, Inc. to provide an estimated 400 car off-street parking facility north of Willets and west of Woodward.

A spokesman for Wabek said the improvement would be done in a certain order, beginning with the east side of Bates. He added that petitions will be prepared asking for the area's zoning to parking district B, the new zoning classification.

IT REQUIRES certain screening, yard area, lighting, and maintenance designed to protect abutting residential properties. Commissioners adopted the new provision after determining that yard requirements would not be necessary where such parking lots were located next to or across the street from residential lots being used for non-residential purposes. This means along side of or across from churches, schools, public or semi-public buildings, etc.

This latter exception was a compromise by the commission on a stronger proposal that was objected to by the Wabek-Jacobson interests. The Wabek group said its property was too valuable to use for screening purposes. A majority of the commission felt at least residences should be protected by some additional setbacks of parking facilities.

Stony Croft Ace Scored By Boy, 13

Dick Kast, 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Kast, 115 E. Square Lake road, proved his golfing prowess to the older folks Saturday, May 1, when he scored first hole-in-one on Stony Croft Golf Club's 140-yard ninth hole. The 5-iron was the lucky club for Dick who has been golfing for two years.

The feat was the first ace for the course this season.

To Submit Budget

Tentative 1954-55 budget for the city of Bloomfield Hills will be submitted to the city commission Tuesday night, May 11, said City Manager Elmer Kephart.

Cranbrook Plans 1st Planetarium In Detroit Area

The first planetarium available to the public in metropolitan Detroit is scheduled to be open next winter at Cranbrook Institute of Science, according to an announcement by Dr. Robert T. Hatt, director of the Institute.

The stars visible under normal circumstances, as well as the constellations as seen from any point in the northern hemisphere and much of the southern hemisphere, can be projected by the instruments.

The position of the sun, moon and major planets as shown by an accessory projector. The instrument, a Spitz Model A.1, and its accessories, were donated to Cranbrook by the Detroit Edison Company.

Demonstrations will be offered to the public on weekends throughout the year and to groups, by appointment, at other times.

FINAL specifications of the planetarium building will not be made until a current fund drive has been completed, but the minimum size structure planned will have a 30-foot dome and seating for about 100 people.

Plans for the building are being prepared by William Edward Kapp, architect of the Detroit Historical Museum and other notable structures.

Already available to the public are the Institute's observatory with its six-inch telescope, and the largest natural history museum in the Detroit area, open daily from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. without charge.

Expect Word Soon On Football Coach

The long delay in selecting a football coach to replace Vince Scorttine at Birmingham High school has been necessitated both by the number of applicants for the position and by the school district's desire to have each applicant personally become acquainted with the duties of the job, according to Athletic Director Frank Whitney.

Whitney explained Monday that the list of over 100 applicants had been narrowed to six men and final interviews will be held with these men Wednesday.

Whitney's recommendations on final interviews should be forwarded to the board of education for its approval.

1 1/4 Million Requested By Manager

By GEORGE W. M. AVERILL

In a closed committee session beginning at 8:30 Saturday morning, Birmingham city commissioners will make their first close inspection of a proposed \$1,269,740 city budget for 1954-55, described by City Manager D. C. Egbert as "perhaps the tightest one we've had for years."

He explained his proposals were based on the assumption that the city would maintain its present 19-mill tax rate.

"This suggested budget is based on merely a continuation of this year's services," the manager said. "The only alternative to more facilities, better, lies in an increase of the tax levy."

As outlined by Egbert, the budget proposal is about six per cent higher than the current year's, and is only \$9,000 below total anticipated revenues.

EGBERT emphasized that this tentative budget does not take into account any departmental increases that are desired to meet the needs resulting from increased population.

"This preliminary draft could be described as a bare minimum subsistence budget," he informed the commission.

One of the commission's first tasks will be to determine how salaries and wages can be boosted over last year's appropriation, whichever is the larger amount, to keep pace with proposed municipal increases claimed by other South Oakland communities.

ANOTHER MAJOR deliberation will be what to do with a library board request for \$65,449.44, which is a two-thirds of a mill increase over last year's appropriation. Egbert has proposed \$53,687.98, practically the same as last year's budget item.

Library board President Mrs. John S. Lambie personally asked the commission to increase the amount to meet with the board to see if the 1954-55 figures couldn't be increased.

Commissioners promised here such a meeting would be held. Following Saturday morning's committee session, Egbert will rework the tentative budget as commissioners wish. He is expected to bring it to the May 17 regular meeting.

IT IS EXPECTED the commission then will set formal hearing on the budget for June 15 with the expectation of final adoption on June 7. June 14 is the deadline for the budget resolutions, but commissioners were given a week to prepare the event any late-minute snags may develop.

This year the city has been working within a budget of \$1,171,405, obtained primarily from a 19-mill tax rate. The assessed valuation of 445,687.40.

IF THE CITY tax millage attempts to hold at 19-mill tax levy for the coming fiscal year. (See BUDGET, Page 8)

STRICTLY FRESH

In Rome, Italy, a cow was arrested on charges of throwing a grenade at a woman who ignored his wooing. Loveless men, eh?

Most men agree: against marriage. They're up against it. The FBI reports that Communists rotate their underground press.

And from Oklahoma, City, Okla., comes a report that a woman passenger fainted when a man gave her a chair. Upon recovering, she thanked him, and he fainted. Yes, strange things are happening!

All monkeys in the Havana, Cuba, Zoo are being fingerprinted. Sounds like evolution in reverse.

City, Country Mingled in Mayor Swap

By GIL HERMAN

Wednesday night Birmingham City Commissioner James C. Allen was getting an education in agrarian life as village president of Emmett, Mich., the real president of Emmett, Edsel E. Dunn, was getting a taste of city life as Mayor of Birmingham.

It was a part of the major exchange celebration which was the highlight of this week's observance of Michigan Week.

Dunn arrived at Birmingham's municipal building at 10:30 a.m. to begin his one-day tenure as mayor here.

FIRST ON the itinerary was a tour of the Ford Motor Company, Tractor Division plant on E. Maple. City Manager D. C. Egbert, accompanied by City Commissioner Allen, was shown around the plant by B. A. Brown, divisional controller.

At noon, he was taken to dinner at Northwood Inn with visiting mayors and city officials of several Southeast Oklahoma county communities. Then, an hour long discussion on mutual problems of the various cities represented, took place.

During the afternoon Dunn was introduced to Birmingham city department heads and inspected various city facilities.

IN THE evening Egbert and Dunn toured areas surrounding Birmingham and had dinner.

In Emmett, Allen was received by a committee of citizens, men and merchants. He was presented with the keys to the village and feted at a luncheon given at noon at Richert's restaurant. (See SWAP, Page 8)

B. A. BEST, EDESEL DUNN, AND D. C. EGBERT CHECK FORD TRACTOR

Rural village president finds in Birmingham an item of mutual interest (Eccentric Photo)

INSIDE THE ECCENTRIC	
HOW Dr. William Beaumont (after whom South Oakland's new hospital was re-named last week) became an important figure in medical history is told on Page One, Section Four.	
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