

The longer I live the more I realize the value of "counting" before allowing myself to get into with the thoughts others may in anger express to me. The old axiom that "it is better to carry an argument well than to win it." is worth its weight in gold.

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# The Birmingham Eccentric

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42 PAGES SECTION ONE

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

## ing Assessments Formula Rejected

### THIS AND THAT

OUR U. S. SENATE REALLY DOESN'T LIKE TO "SPANK" ITS MEMBERS

Long have I respected and approved the program of ridding the United States of Communism, and of keeping them and their sympathizers out of all governmental places. In this, of course, I'm only joining with most Americans.

In keeping with this belief, I have paid various compliments to Senator Joe McCarthy in the past. His voice, raucous and of late unfair in certain phases, has been heard in this land to aid in rousing our leaders to "do something about it."

Some weeks ago I joined millions of our people in agreeing that McCarthy's methods had become a bit nauseating. That he was revealing himself as anything but a gentleman, and thus no longer a name to bring distinction to the U. S. Senate.

Now, Dear Reader, don't ever get the notion that the U. S. Senate is peopled by men. They are women with alabaster feet. Indeed, many a nasty and wrong scheme has been hatched in that area of the federal government, and by Senators from all political parties.

THESE SENATORS are, however, quite mindful of their places in the nation's capital. They know they represent "the greatest deliberative body on earth," and they are very, very jealous of this distinction.

So more times than not, they are distinguished from their political (at least publicly) for-give mistakes of their members. Even though, as a senator, they are almost evenly divided in politics, and in speeches throughout the country they are equally partisan, they do observe Senate decorum by referring to "the distinguished senator" rather than "even though privately to me they may almost hate the distinguished senator" they speak of. Such is the hypocrisy of high politics.

AND NOW cometh forth the Watkins committee's report on censuring Senator Joe McCarthy. One of the five charges against McCarthy that they were investigating, the committee recommended censure proceedings, for the other three charges, they merely admit that Joe ought to be re-elected in some nice way, and that they didn't argue that their august body do a bit of academic corporal punishment to the junior senator from Wisconsin.

You, of course, have learned about this report, and no doubt have your own reaction to it.

MY REASON for using part of this column today to touch on the McCarthy situation is to point out that the U. S. Senate is a great without feet of clay, and now and then a few of them (and we thank Providence there never are more than a few in any session of Congress) aren't capable of being as good as Peter how to operate his gates.

It's nice that McCarthy is being "spanked" in the way he is coming and let's hope it helps to make him a better Senator.

British Socialist leader Clement Attlee, former Prime Minister, tells the world he is a Fascist to be given to the Chinese Reds, and also to let the Reds take over the seat in the United Nations now held by Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalist Gov.

Can you imagine what will happen if Attlee, or Aneurin Bevan, ever becomes Prime Minister? Our own nation-opposed the Attlee plan, holding that no Communist nation should ever be able "to shoot its way into the world."

Can the so-called few western world really depend upon Britain, or on any other, when chaps like Attlee and Bevan are supported by so many of England's citizens?



**THIS LITTLE KITTY WENT TO MARKET** but the driver of the car pictured above wished it would have stayed home. The motorist, John McKinney, display advertising salesman for The Eccentric, was surprised Friday actually harbored a cat, and a rather stubborn cat, at that. The unannounced hitch-hiker is believed to have seated himself at the rear of the car's radiator while the car was parked at the uptown Service station, 261 N. Woodward, early Friday morning. That afternoon John made several stops before turning in at Sternal's Auto Supply, 108 S. Woodward, for gasoline. The service station attendant, Don Hooper, opened the hood of the car and discovered the wayward feline. The cat was removed and when McKinney went into the station to make a phone call, friend KITTY crawled back into the car and crouched beneath the heater fan and battery. The cat was extricated a second time and when last seen was contentedly stalking about Sternal's store. (Eccentric Photo)

### Veteran Police Sgt. to Retire

Sgt. Leo A. Stiers—a police sergeant who has been eligible for retirement since January 30, 1950—will leave the Birmingham police department October 27 after more than 25 years of service.

Stiers joined the department August 2, 1929.

In 1940 he and his wife Beatrice bought their home at 1053 Hazel where they reside. The Stiers plan to keep their home here. They plan a trip to Oregon in May to the farm of a relative.

UNTIL COMING to Birmingham, Stiers was a lifelong resident of Detroit, where he was employed by the Flint division of the Detroit United Railway. He was a motorist on the old time electric trolley that ran from Detroit to Bay City. He was with the D.U.R. 10 years, 1929 when he joined the city police force.

When Stiers joined it, the department had only a few members. Those were the days when patrolmen worked a 10-hour day, six days a week and rode around in an open touring car in winter weather.

ONCE A staunch member of the SPEARHEAD, Stiers was one of four old favorite barbershop quartets, popularly known back in the 20's in Birmingham's Variety Four.

Stiers served 14 months with Michigan's famed Polar Bear division of the U.S. Coast Guard. He was a sergeant of the machine gun corps of the 339 Infantry, one of the 6000 men detailed to Anchorage, the stronghold on the White Sea. There was no trench warfare, but "All the fighting was done from blockhouses made of solid wood. Dynamite was the only thing that

### Committee Starts Planning Annual Halloween Party

At a preliminary meeting of the city-wide Halloween party committee Tuesday, it was said that plans for the event would remain basically the same as last year.

Roland W. Reese and Mrs. William H. Jackson, co-chairmen, said the parade would form in the Hill-Baldwin school area, with the line of march following Maple to Woodward and south to the food lines on Woodward.

AN OUTDOOR ACT and the prize booth will be located in the Briggs parking lot. Reese said, but changes were planned for smoother operation of both features.

The customary entertainments for the various age groups are being planned, with final announcements as to type and place to be made later.

### 10-Woman Team Begins Training Campaign Workers

Hundreds of women began meeting in homes throughout the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area this week to train for their record-breaking Torch Drive job which gets under way Oct. 19.

A team of 10 training leaders under the direction of Mrs. Donovan J. Gray, chairman of the training committee, are working a morning, noon and evening schedule of meetings in the homes of captains.

More than a thousand volunteers who will bear a major share of the annual give-ance-for-all campaign will attend the special training sessions.

Members of the training committee are Mrs. Charles Renfrew, Mrs. Bethel Kelley, Mrs. Carl Binkie, Mrs. Joseph Dodge, Mrs. Robert House, Mrs. Hattie F. Walmley, Mrs. Cassius H. Miller, and Mrs. Robert Wells.

RESERVATIONS are being accepted for the big block of luncheon for volunteers on Oct. 18, according to Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn, campaign director.

General Chairman John K. Stevenson is continuing his heavy round of speaking engagements. He told members of the Exchange Club Tuesday that inclusion of the Red Cross in the campaign this year for the first time makes the realistic goal of \$1,000,000, but it makes our drive truly a give-ance-for-all program.

To be used for a special Red-Cross drive next spring is eliminated by the combined approach, he pointed out.

### Boy's Leg Broken When Car Hits Bike

A seven-year-old Birmingham youth was treated at St. Joseph Mercy hospital after fracturing right leg Saturday after he was struck by a car near his home.

Donald Bell, 1419 Melton, was struck when he rode his bike from between parked cars into the path of an auto driven by Mrs. Pauline Pillars, 38, of 1068 Eton road. She was released after staying in the police hospital.

Lost Their Heads BLOOMFIELD—An Inaite township judge complained that the township police Saturday afternoon that someone had looted his garden of five heads of cabbage. Police admit they are concerned about the "heft."

### Safe Containing \$229 Cash Stolen

Burglars Sunday morning carted away a safe containing \$229 cash from a service station belonging to a former Birmingham police officer.

Removal of a 24-inch black and green safe from Pinter's Service station, 1595 N. Woodward ave., was termed the work of a professional burglar, Detective Lt. Martin Holmquist.

The safe also contained two checks totaling \$100 and \$50.

### Fire Investigation Costs City \$1,360

Expenses for the city's investigation into the June 14 flash fire which killed a motorist and her two sons will total about \$1,360, city commissioners learned this week.

The sum covers expenses for photographers, consultant services and printing of the 26-page report of the special board of inquiry.

A \$1,000 expense fund was established soon after the board was appointed, and this week commissioners appropriated the remaining amount.

### \$541 Looted in Night Breakins

Birmingham police suspect adults who were acquainted with the places they burglarized—Wednesday night of breaking into an auto agency and a service station, and attempting to break into a second service station.

Police said \$536 was taken from the Bob Frost, Inc., an auto agency at 650 S. Woodward and about \$5 from the candy and cigarette machines at the Neighborhood service station.

Entry into the auto agency was gained through a window, which had a faulty latch. A file cabinet had been broken and a cash register smashed.

Police also observe the same person unsuccessfully pried two door locks at the Bond Service station at Woodward and George.

### Kiwanis To Honor Former Educator

When the "Flowers for the Living" program is noted by Birmingham's Kiwanis club on Oct. 19, Clarence Vliet will be the recipient of the verbal "bouquet."

Vliet, former school superintendent, will be the guest of honor at a dinner and program.

### Open Maple Oct. 11

Formal opening of the newly paved and widened stretch of West Maple between Linden and Glenhurst will be made Thursday morning, Oct. 14, according to the city's engineering department. Motorists already are using the center lanes of the street and city officials expect the entire project to be ready by the Oct. 14 date.

### Simpler Method Is Sought

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Birmingham may have a 200-car municipal parking lot by mid-December—but may not be able to use it.

This appeared possible as city commissioners this week refused to accept an equitable and fair, an assessment formula developed by City Assessor Elmer W. Haack and endorsed by business area representatives.

ACCORDING to Mayor Charles Renfrew, he and three other commissioners at a three-hour closed-door meeting last Thursday night returned the formula to Haack with the suggestion it be made less complicated.

At our meeting, there was no mutual agreement on a new formula to be used against benefited business properties, but several suggestions were advanced and Haack was asked to try them all out. Renfrew explained that the municipal bond—on Erie street south of Metcalf—would be legally created by mid-November and the revenue bonds sold.

HOWEVER, he did admit that one or more businessmen might take the city into court because of objections over the method of assessment which is now being completed.

Before the parking project would be finalized, the city must hold a hearing on the assessments. If they are confirmed, then the city would issue revenue bonds of upwards of \$10,000, which would finance the city's share of the cost.

It has been tentatively agreed that the city would pay 50 percent of the lot's cost, with the business area west of Woodward and south of Maple paying the remaining half.

MONDAY NIGHT at their regular meeting, commissioners authorized realtor John W. Knecht to negotiate with the Metropolitan Property Owners for the sale of their properties.

Commissioners have emphasized the city will attempt to reach a negotiated sale in every case, but will not hesitate to use condemnation proceedings if necessary to keep prices reasonable.

Haack's formula includes about 100 factors which would determine each business property's assessment.

Renfrew said a Thursday night example of this formula showed the A&P property—practically adjacent to the proposed lot—would pay a \$7,000 assessment, while the S. S. Kresge Co. two blocks away would be handed a bill for \$5,000.

THURSDAY night's meeting was the businessmen's first analysis of Haack's proposed assessment method, "and we are far from accepting it," Renfrew emphasized.

At that meeting were Commissioner W. B. Watkins, Mayor Charles Renfrew, Robert Harris and Dean Herr. Absent were Richard Patterson, Robert Savin and James Allen.

The city commissioners again will be meeting in a closed room (See PARKING, Page 6, this Sec.)

STRICTLY FRESH

Vancouver, B. C., weatherman recently said of his latest forecast: "It's kind of hard to say." Don't get stuck out your lantern.

Boston university professor says that if you have trouble talking to the boss, it may be because HE feels nervous. And you probably don't feel as solid a Gibraltar, either.

Fellow in Buffalo, N. Y., tired of waiting for the city to fix the street, filled the hole himself, and dedicated it with flowers. Subtle way of telling the city fathers they're dead on their feet.

New York City buses are being equipped with transparent nylon fare boxes so drivers can spot them. Now they'll have to buy fare passengers' opaque nylon stockings so the drivers will keep their eyes on the fare boxes.

Man in Denver, Colo., calmly walked up to a 700-numbered car that was being pursued by 10 police, and tied the critter to a parking meter. He must have recently been given a ticket.

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