

Newly Elected Seven Begin Their Service to Public

For the next 104 weeks, Florence Willett will be loaning her time and talents in considerable degree to the citizens of Birmingham.

And for an additional 52 weeks, so will Manley Bailey and Harry Denyes, Jr. These three last week were elected to seats on the Birmingham city commission. In Bloomfield Hills, two other men won election to that community's legislative body—Lyman J. Craig and Dominick Vetrano.

In Lathrup Village, Richard N. Cogger and Lantz L. Mackey will assume a voice in that city's affairs as a result of voters' action last week.

THESE SEVEN NEWCOMERS to local politics replace an equal number of former councilmen, some who had served their communities for many years, others who served only a short time.

Clarence Otter declined to run for reelection to the Hills commission after being a member of it for 25 years.

Birmingham Commissioner Richard Patterson declined to run after better than four years' tenure. Patterson's colleague,

Robert Navin, resigned to accept a job in another state.

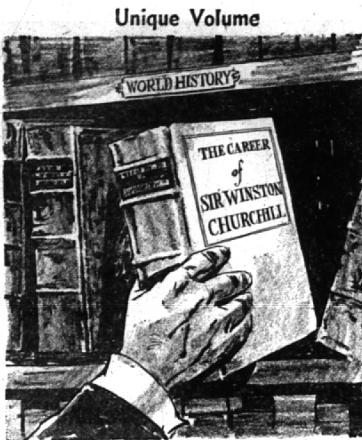
Four others were defeated in their bids for reelection.

Harry Klingler had served 18 years in the Hills, Vincent B. Watkins was on the Birmingham commission for three years, in Lathrup Village, David R. Redwood and Thomas N. Reed each had served for one year.

DURING THEIR TERMS, these commissioners performed valuable services in taking their turn caring for the welfare of their respective communities. They received only token payment, but obtained valuable experience in democratic processes of government.

This experience lies ahead of the new commissioners. To them, we say only, "Give enough of your time so your job will be done well."

To those seven who no longer will be serving, we say appreciatively, "Thank you for the time and the talent you devoted to your community's interests on behalf of those neighbors who didn't have the talent or the time."



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

We remember a story from our childhood which began with a man walking down the street, wearing a very heavy cloak.

Something about his garb annoyed the elements and they set about to make him remove it.

The rain, a great gruff fellow, said he would do it easily, he'd soak it, and make the cloak so heavy the man would have to remove it because of its weight.

No matter how hard it rained, the man kept the cloak on as he trudged along.

THEN THE WIND, bigger and gruffer, took over. He blew great gusts against the man and his objectionable cloak, only to have the garment clutched firmly and wrapped tighter about the hurray-jingling figure.

As the two argued back and forth about their abilities, the sun came along and in a mild voice, asked for a chance to try.

The two "bullies" scoffed at the idea but finally agreed, knowing in their own minds that nothing so gentle could possibly get the cloak removed.

THE SUN shone brightly and soon the man unfastened the cloak as he trode on. A short distance down the road and he stopped to remove it. The gentle sun had succeeded in a chance to try.

Of course this had a moral for us youngsters, that gentleness was often stronger than brute force. Whether the point was made or not we're not sure, but each spring the story comes back to mind.

Right now, after a winter spent indoors away from the harsh winds, the sun is once again drawing people of all ages out into the open, just as it drew the cloak from the walker's back.

HOUSEWIVES find more excuses to get into the yard these days. They pop out for just a moment or two at a time to see how the bulbs are coming or to admire

the swelling buds on the shrubs. The children daily going home from school so they may revel in the sunshine after spending the day in classrooms.

Workers hurry home and often delay the family dinner while they walk around the yard admiring this bit of growth and lamenting that that bush seems not to be doing so well.

This pull of the sun doesn't confine itself to mankind, by any means.

ALREADY it has coaxed millions of plants from their winter beds and brings them into full growth and a promise of later beauty.

It has brought the birds and hibernating animals into the open Swamps ring with the songs of the "peepers" that are responding to the gentle warmth of spring.

Domesticated animals, too, are aware of it. The family dog takes additional pleasure in romping in the yard. He sprawls on the sprouting grass rather than crouching against the door out of the gentle warmth of spring.

On the farm, horses and cows forget their placid dignity and cavort around foolishly when they are let out of the barns.

Of the farm animals, sheep, especially, seem to become frivolous under the warm sun. Even beavers, sheared of their heavy wools, they take on an air of gay idleness, and kick up their heels.

Whether the moral should be learned anew every year, we do not know, but we do know that these first sunny spring days are drawing cards that any show promoter should envy.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Proposed incorporation of practically all of Troy township undoubtedly will lead soon to a renewal of discussions between Birmingham and Troy officials regarding annexation to the city of certain parcels in the township.

For some years, city officials have been concerned particularly about several Troy "islands" squeezed between the city and the Grand Trunk railroad.

Difficulty of the township to provide municipal services to these tiny areas has been admitted, but in the past the township still has been reluctant to let go of the "islands".

From the air, the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Southfield-Troy area holds no mystery about where the post-war building activity has been concentrated, nor where the remaining vacant lands are.

But to convert it to a word-picture virtually is impossible.

Aloft a week or so ago with local builder Carlton W. Scott in his maroon-colored monoplane, the expansion and development pattern was easy for me to see.

Only generalization I believe I can make is that compared to the presently built-up ground, it appears there still is considerable vacant property between Coolidge road in Troy township and Franklin road in Southfield and Bloomfield townships.

Last week's election of Harry M. Denyes, Jr., to the Birmingham city commission may not necessarily mean he will leave the city plan commission.

City commissioners have evidenced their concern over the two groups' apparent lack of effective communication on important city policies and proposed projects.

There is some thought being given to having at least Denyes serve in a dual capacity, if possible and advisable.

Whether it concerns fish or fowl, commercial traffic or trade, the "big ones" didn't get big because they were thoughtless and stupid.

Are you fond of pomelo or shaddock? You may be without knowing it, for these are the names given in semi-tropical regions to our old friend the grapefruit.

The United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association of New York City has just been delving into its history.

Grapefruit as a commercial product is hardly 75 years old. The first shipments to New York were received between 1880 and 1885. The fruit has since become increasingly popular.

In 1930 the national crop was 10,000,000 boxes. The estimate of the Department of Agriculture for 1934-35 is 44,000,000. The fruit has been getting better all the time, as those who testify who tried it in their early youth, and thought it exceedingly sour.

Though more than half our supply comes from Florida, grapefruit did not originate there. It was grown in India 2,000 years ago, and was brought to Florida by the Spaniards in the 16th century. This casual introduction of a popular fruit may have been the most important episode in Florida's history.

Old Seaport Being Restored

Of the many interesting restorations of the early years of this country, of which Williamsburg, Va., is the best known, not the least worthy of attention is the old-time port being reconstructed as Mystic, Connecticut.

Since 1929 a waterfront community has been created, with such old-time buildings as shops of ship-model makers and figure-head carvers, a shipsmith's place of business, a sail loft, and, in the harbor, an old whaling vessel and other ships.

Now an old church is being moved from another location in Mystic to the waterfront, because its architecture is in keeping with that of its new neighbors.

A tower known to have been there once but long since vanished is to be restored from contemporary pictures. Still other additions are planned.

Lovers of the past, especially those who care for the ocean and its life in clipper ship days, will find Mystic an attractive spot to visit. These efforts to make history come alive are more than welcome, and all over the country are spots equally worthy of the same kind of historic attention.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

If the rumor about the execution of Georgi Malenkov is true then the word should come through almost any day about the start of his trial.

Let us be charitable toward the sport-loving hockey fans of Montreal. Certainly they were not responsible for that riot of a couple of weeks ago. The facts reveal that only a small bunch of hoodlums started and carried on the trouble that resulted. Admittedly, those French-Canadians were upset over the loss of Richard on their

emergency and temporary revenue device. This was to have expired at midnight, March 15.

We prophesy that when the Dec. 31 date arrives it will be extended again, unless the legislature enacts a new source of taxation in its place.

Hungry government never goes on a diet!

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GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager
GEORGE W. M. AVERILL
Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BURGE
Advertising Manager

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The "Ordinary" Americans

AMERICA IS MADE OF PEOPLE—
GOOD PEOPLE—
HARDWORKING PEOPLE—
PEOPLE LIKE
THE
UNKNOWN HERO.

IT COULD BE YOU—OR
THAT FRAIL STRANGER—
NOBODY CAN TELL A POSSIBLE
HERO BY HIS OR HER LOOKS.
IF HE NEVER HAPPENS
TO BE 'ROUND WHEN
A DISASTER OCCURS,
A POTENTIAL HERO
COULD GO ALL
HIS LIFE WITHOUT
EVEN HIMSELF
GUESSING IT—



EVERY MAN-CAUSED
OR NATURAL DISASTER
REVEALS ITS HEROES
TAKE ANOTHER LOOK
AT THAT "ORDINARY"
LOOKING PERSON NEXT
TO YOU — IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY THAT MAY BE THE
ONE WHO SAVES YOUR
LIFE — OR VICE-VERSA.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—
The Items That Make Up
The Historical Background
Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO

April 14, 1935

"Ed Lamb is reread over at the gas plant and expresses himself in

no doubtful terms as to the fact that they furnish light for our entire town and do not have a light in front of their own plant."

"Walter McBride has gone to Cassopolis, Mich., where he has secured a very lucrative position in a dentist office."

"Mr. and Mrs. John H. Bishop, of Maple avenue, have been entertaining a bridal couple on their honeymoon, Mr. and Mrs. C. Six from Bryan, Ohio. The bride's name was Mrs. Tora Rhodes and a sister of Mrs. Bishop."

30 YEARS AGO

April 10, 1925

"Like an only child of an indulgent family, on his second birthday, the community house, as the offspring of Birmingham and vicinity will be the scene of an elaborate celebration on Tuesday, April 28, which will mark the second anniversary of the founding of the community house."

"Most important of the results obtained when the ballots were counted at the close of the annual state, county and township elections Monday of this week was overwhelming majority of favorable votes cast by Oakland County electors for the three-quarter Mill tax. The passage of this measure will allow the County Board of Supervisors to carry out its much needed program of providing institutions in Oakland County for the care of the sick and indigent."

15 YEARS AGO

April 11, 1940

"David Levinson, a life-long resident of Birmingham, became a power in county affairs Tuesday when he was unanimously elected chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, one of the most important public posts in the county."

"For the third year, John S. Lambie, 289 Aspen road, was elected president of the Baldwin Library board at its annual organization meeting held Tuesday night."

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