

# New Chief, New Halls For B'ham Fire Dept.

By BRUNO L. KEARNS

Two new fire stations and a new fire chief mark the beginning of a new era for the Birmingham fire department. The city flame-fighters moved completely out of the municipal building this week into the modern station on Adams at Bowers, and Saturday will mark the official day of retirement for Chief Vernon W. Griffith.

SINCE THE opening of the new department, of which 24 years Chesterfield station three months were under Chief Griffith, ago, a segment of the department's apparatus and crew remained in the city hall quarters.

Monday the last item, the dinner ware which was part of the first fire truck in Birmingham, was moved into the Adams station. This closes a chapter which dates back to July 1, 1927 with the establishment of a paid fire department.

TAKING over his new office quarters at the Chesterfield fire station is Park Smith, who officially becomes the Birmingham Fire Chief with the retirement of Vern W. Griffith on Saturday.

THE DISPATCHING, however, where fire calls will be received, will be from the Bowers station, a two-story building with spacious facilities for apparatus and personnel.

Both stations have 20-bed dormitories, but Chesterfield is built on a single level. Kitchen, dining and lounge facilities are larger at the Bowers station, which features two elevators which come down into the fire truck section from the second level.

At the old city hall headquarters, the 16-bed dormitory was crowded to hold 18 beds, unlike the total of 40 beds at the two new stations.

OFFICES of First Assistant Chief Stanley Pepperell and Second Assistant Stanley Church will be at Bowers.

FIRST MEAL in the new Bowers fire station went to assistant chief Stanley Pepperell who also ate the first dinner when the department kitchen opened in city hall in 1928.

Fourteen men, seven in each unit plus the assistant chiefs, comprise the Bowers station. Pepperell has one distinction in regard to the Bowers station opening of which he can boast. Pepperell ate the first meal prepared by William McTigue in the Bowers dining hall.

WHAT GIVES it a historical bearing is the fact that Pepperell was first to eat a meal in the city hall station in November 1928. (Next week The Eccentric will feature the Bowers station opening of which he can boast. Pepperell ate the first meal prepared by William McTigue in the Bowers dining hall.)

ON the Picture Page will show the modern facilities at the Chesterfield and Bowers stations.

If we would look and, looking, see, there is ever before us scenery far more beautiful than ever was painted and hung in art galleries. The only requirement is that we must attain our minds to our viewing.

78TH YEAR—NO. 24

# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1955

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

40 PAGES SECTION ONE



The Nation's Top School System SEVEN CENTS

# State Red-Tags 50 Bad Fms Just Outside City

**THIS and THAT**  
By G.R.A.

**Log of a Western Trip**

BIRMINGHAM, MICH. With 8,702 miles in its speedometer, I drove into the driveway of my home here July 27 with an assortment of wonderful memories of a motor trip through much of Alberta, Province, Canada, Glacier National Park, portions of northern Idaho and Montana, across the central area of the State of Washington, to Vancouver and Vancouver Island.

No. 9  
Of A  
Series

then eastward through the northern tier of the U. S. A. to the Strait of Mackinac, and southward to home.

I have always started on a trip with enthusiasm and the anticipation of everything a trip includes; and when the time comes to start homeward I have always felt the "pull" of this home-town, with its many friends of mine, and my job on this newspaper.

ALTHOUGH I HAVE about 400 colored slides I took with my Leica, and Phil has nearly 8,000 color slides, in both our minds are pictures that will remain with us many years.

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**No Building Permit for Siegel Co.**  
By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

A proposed \$500,000 women's apparel shop won't be allowed to build in central Birmingham unless it provides at least 44 off-street parking spaces, city commissioners reaffirmed Monday night.

THIS, according to city officials, necessitates 44 spaces for the proposed Siegel store area.

Beier was referring to the special assessment districts for two parking lots in the downtown business area.

N. M. SHOSTAK, president of the Maple-Rates Corp., which will build and lease the store, expressed surprise at the commission's action.

"I have to check my files, but I am certain my attorneys told me the regulations would be met when the assessment was made, and the commission for months ago," he said.

ONE LARGE lot, at the corner of Merrill and Biere, is being assessed for the assessment.

Sounds Like A Good Idea

Since the public no longer will have to be qualified lip readers when they attend Birmingham city commission meetings.

**No Hunting No Trespassing SIGNS FOR SALE AT THE ECCENTRIC OFFICE**



Hilary Mails Her Letter

**Christmas Hints Help Cool Hilary**

Think it's hot? Tired of mopping your brow? Cheer up—Christmas is coming!

POSTMARKED Aug. 18, in Birmingham, and addressed to "Mr. Santa Claus, North Pole, Top of the World," the letter read:

"Dear Santa Claus: I love you. Would you please bring me the Bride Doll we saw this morning at the Cheer Shop. I promise to be a very good girl.

"Love, "Hilary."

**Calls City Hall Landscaping 'Messy'**

A \$10,000 facelift of the Birmingham municipal building was postponed for a while by city commissioners Monday night.

Commissioner Harry Denney, Jr., wanted more beauty, he said, favored waiting until the entire three-block civic center revamped landscaping plan was ready.

Commissioner William Roberts kind of sided with Mrs. Willett, but the front of the municipal building could stand some fixing up right now.

**City May Swing Hatchet at All The Dumb Clucks**

Further threat to Birmingham's "rural atmosphere" developed this week when city commissioners eyed a possible ordinance amendment which would prevent the raising or keeping of livestock or poultry within city limits.

MR. WALDON demanded that this commission enact an ordinance amendment which would prevent "such things" from going on in the city.

SHE RELATED how she obtained the chickens in December, 1953, but that it was only about a year ago.

Commissioners James Allen and Manley Bailey listened, but remained quiet.

Commissioner Harry Denney, Jr., said that the present ordinance was not disturbed for a while longer.

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**Good Trees In NE Area Threatened**

Neighbors within the Birmingham city limits at Eton and Derby are fighting a war of preservation for a few remaining healthy elm trees in the area.

THEIR FEARS stem from the fact that Dutch elm disease has taken the life of at least one tree on the properties of each of seven residents, and those who still have trees are fearful of the worst.

PENALTIES for failure to abide by the law is \$25 to \$100 in fines or 30 days in jail.

REGIONAL supervisor for the Detroit office, Hilbert Kendeigh, who is in charge of the spread of the Dutch elm disease in the Detroit area.

STRICTLY FRESH

There's such a thing as doing your job just right. Maurice Maxwell and Eud Budton, who operated a marriage bureau in Wolverhampton, Eng., are shutting up shop, getting married.

Frushauf Trailer To Build Further East in Troy Twp.

Frushauf Trailer Co.'s new \$2 million office and research building is going to be constructed further east in Troy township, architect Paul M. Troff announced Tuesday.

The new site, a 100-acre parcel at the southwest corner of Fifteenth Mile and Stephenson originally was sought by the company but only recently became available, according to Troff.

NEARBY SEWERS and water mains will make it cheaper for the company to secure these services, said Troff.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. On-duty service. ROYAL MATTRESS CO., 1015 W. 12th St., call for service.

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EDDIE GUEST