

In an ordinary day's activities of observing people, are you not impressed with their lack of happy and smiling expressions? ... and a sad state of human affairs that, too much to be thankful for, too many of us are not joyous enough?

77TH YEAR—NO. 44

# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1955

36 PAGES SECTION ONE



SEVEN CENTS

## Aims at Keeping...

## THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

In 1954 there were 20,115 marriages in Wayne county, while at the same time there were 7,449 divorces granted. In 1953 the divorce totalled 21,791 and the divorces 7,998. All of which is proof that Dan Cupid may shoot arrows with too many of them missing the mark.

Ten years ago World War II ended; with France than a "prisoner" of Hitler's Germany. A few days ago France approved the re-arming of Western Germany, thus strengthening the western nations in their opposition to the threat of Soviet aggression. Time changes all human things, even international hatreds.

A four-man evaluation team has left for Spain to determine just how much aid the United States Foreign Operations Administration has given that country. Thus, you see, there is no agency charged with the continental U.S.A. that knows what we have done in and for Spain... and if this isn't typical bureaucratic method, then what is?

That Arkansas pastor continues to enlist the support of public officials in several other States, including Michigan. This week was passed to prohibit the existence and practice of nudism in nudist camps. It is reported that Mather about saving souls—also skins, even if he has to put clothes on 'em.

Girls under 25 years of age are declared safer automobile drivers than young men of the same age—by the nation's largest tort insurance company.

"Girls simply don't take the chances on the highways that boys do," said the insurance official.

Now, ladies, how about somebody coming in the rescue of girls over 25?

For the first time in mankind's long history, more people traveled across the oceans by air travel than by sea during 1954. The modest affair—outside a hog pen—I ever saw," commented a retired farmer here the other day.

"In fact, as I recall some of my own pigs, I doubt if even they'd have wallowed in that mired bog that day."

## Ask Information About Amendment

A charter amendment to enable the city to approve contracts for the construction and operation of the proposed Evergreen drainage district's interceptor sewer will appear on the city's April 4 ballot.

City commissioners Monday night instructed the Oakland County drain commission to supply the costs of the sewer to the city prior to February 21 so that commissioners could estimate the cost of the contract to the electorate.

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## Report Recommends Youth Committee

After eight months of investigation of the juvenile delinquency problem in this area, the youth study committee of the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin Council of Community Services this week issued a 14-page progress report. Now in the hands of CCS board members, the report advises that the council create "a youth committee to be responsible for analyzing the specific youth problems, recommending special help in correlating the activities of all groups working with youth."

Award of this problem, which is nationwide in its scope, the committee, consisting of nine local and national members, is making professional consultant service available to the youth committee.

Charles R. Kees, 1928 Chestnut, is chairman of the Council and will be in charge of the organization to be held in the Community House Wednesday evening, Jan. 19, at 8 o'clock.

"At this meeting it is expected that the council will appoint a permanent youth committee to continue study of the entire problem of juvenile delinquency, with suggested solutions from time to time."

The report proposes that action be taken to combat the ever-increasing problem on three fronts: 1) the community front, 2) the special services front, and 3) the family circle.

Specifically, this report states that the ratio of local and nearby youth that gets into serious trouble represents only two per cent. Eight per cent, with lesser problems, need special help in the process of growing up.

The remaining 90 per cent are able to adjust to present conditions of living without exhibiting outward signs of maladjustment or experiencing unusual difficulty, concludes one part of the committee's report.

SUMMARIZING the three fronts through which to attack the juvenile delinquency problem, the committee's report has the following to say about:

(1) "The Community Front, or the normal climate required in any community for the normal growth and development of youth. This includes pre-arranged facilities, both public and private, for all young people, adequate in variety and accommodations.

"It includes hobbies, discussion groups for young people, adequate schools with broad programs which meet the needs of all young people. To this front might be added the dissemination of information regarding the local community's responsibilities for the normal needs and behavior of youth so that they will grow up in an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding.

IT ALSO would include a well-informed community in respect to services and resources available to them.

Relative to the Special Services Front, "or the services needed in any community to help young people and their families with problems that they cannot work out alone, this would include adequate counseling services for families and youth, psychiatric facilities, and other specialized help for those with more serious problems."

The report stresses the Family Plan, or the family living in a long-range means of preventing the development of problems.

"It would include education of parents, particularly those mothers and fathers of young children, as to what constitutes normal behavior of children and youth, how parents can foster their own attitudes and those of their children, and how better to anticipate and handle the inevitable problems of emancipation and independence which are so essential in the growing-up process."

THE YOUTH study committee admits it has not yet investigated or obtained complete data from all the local and nearby sources related to the subject. That is why it attacks the word "progress" to its first report.

"Sources thus far contacted include Birmingham Police Dept., special Birmingham community and recreation surveys brought up by the Birmingham Police Dept., Birmingham Public Schools, the Birmingham Community House, and the Birmingham Police Dept."

FURTHER STUDY, suggests the report, should be made by a special youth committee which should report the Bloomfield Hills Police Dept. Board system. (See REPORT, Page 8, Sec. 1)

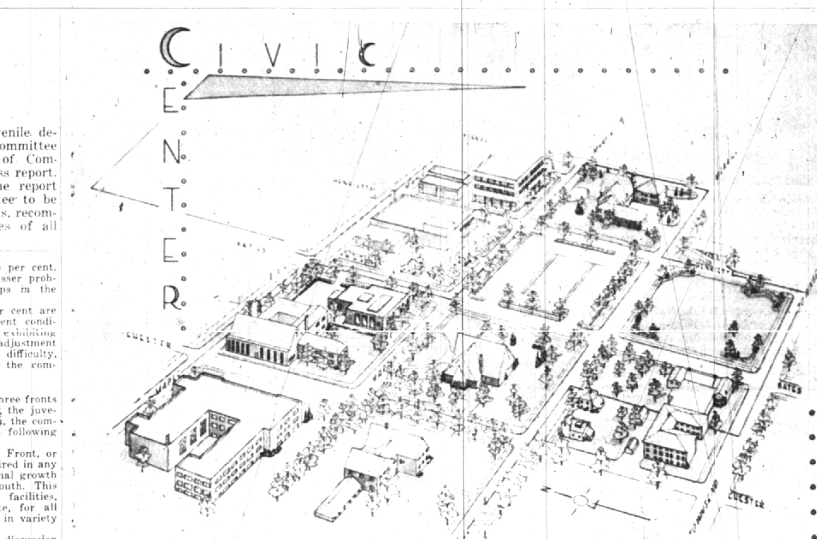
Secy. McKay Is Oakland Lincoln Day Speaker

Oakland County Republicans will hold their annual Day banquet in Pontiac Wednesday evening, Feb. 9.

They will attract the usual quota of local and nearby Republicans who will hear Secretary of the Inter-House League speaker, Congressman George A. Borden, of Royal Oak, who obtained McKay's reports to the Eccentric. "It will be a long time, within my memory, in more than half a century that we Republicans have been honored in Oakland County by a cabinet member as speaker."

All makes of inner spring mattresses are available at the new TRUSS COMPANY, Dial "0" and ask for "0" only.

## City Licensing Law Is 'Illegal'



WHAT CIVIC CENTER WOULD LOOK LIKE IF SHAIN PARK WERE MOVED BACK A BLOCK. Park at center right; proposed parking lot to north and between Municipal Building, Public Library.

## No Barriers to 2nd Parking Lot

Assured there is no legal barrier to relocating Shain park so a 142-car parking lot may be constructed on the present park site, Birmingham city commissioners moved forward this week with three parallel moves to accomplish their objective.

They ordered:

- 1) Resolution drawn which would set up a necessity hearing on financing of the proposed parking lot in Pierce street, between Brown and Merrill.
- 2) City Manager D. C. Egbert to get appraisals of the block bounded by Merrill, Bates, Townsend and Henrietta, where the park would be shifted.
- 3) City Attorney Forbes S. Haasell to prepare an April 4 ballot proposition so electors could indicate their desires regarding moving of the park.

THEY AGREED to pay Mrs. Judson Broadway \$41,500 for the Merrill-Pierce corner, and thus the total cost of acquiring the parking lot is \$243,000.

These successful negotiations will permit the city to cancel condemnation proceedings already instituted in the event certain parcels could not be purchased.

Plans are proceeding for the sale of \$200,000 in revenue bonds to finance cost and improvement of the lot, Egbert said.

"We started taking down some trees Monday," he announced.

Half of the lot's cost will be paid back out of assessments upon benefited business properties. These assessments have yet to be finalized by a hearing on their confirmation.

THIS LATTER move only would be advisory if the light of Haasell's opinion this week that there is no legal restriction on the use of the present park property and no requirement for a vote before it could be sold.

However, commissioners have made it clear they do not wish to relocate the park unless a majority of their townsmen so wish to provide parking that much closer to the highest valued business property in Birmingham.

According to Egbert, the block south of the present park probably can be acquired for between \$125,000 to \$150,000.

HE BELIEVES the present site at the southwest corner of Bates and Merrill streets, City Manager D. C. Egbert told city commissioners this week.

He said the Birmingham Community House has just purchased the vacant property adjacent to it on the north, and may request the city to operate it.

## May Ask City to Operate Lot

The city may be asked to operate a parking lot at the southwest corner of Bates and Merrill streets, City Manager D. C. Egbert told city commissioners this week.

He said the Birmingham Community House has just purchased the vacant property adjacent to it on the north, and may request the city to operate it.

## Alley Cost May Be Near \$60,000

It may cost as much as \$60,000 to provide an alley to serve properties in the business block on the southeast corner of Bates and W. Maple.

City Manager D. C. Egbert predicted this week.

It would be a T-shaped facility, 20 feet wide, with entrance from Martin street.

A resident of the business property owners have petitioned for the alley, and they now ask that the ordinance would be drafted for making it L-shaped with an exit on Bates.

THIS WOULD cut through an individual holding, and thus be more expensive to acquire, Egbert said.

He said the new appraisals would be reported back in two weeks.

Opposing the L-shaped alley is the P. Siegel lot, which holds options on the western portion of the block where it intends to construct a woman's shop and store.

Benefited property owners

## Blaze Extinguished

Firemen Wednesday were called by Mary Buick, 205 Adams, to extinguish a blaze near a home being constructed next door. Workmen at the house had started the blaze to keep warm, and flames ignited nearby trees.

## Parking Required Of New Business

All new businesses, or additions to existing business of 1,000 square feet or more, now must provide at least one square foot of off-street parking facilities for each square foot of sales or office space.

That is the newest provision adopted Monday night in the city's attack on its off-street parking problem.

But the measure passed by the council's majority 4 to 2 and over the energetic protests of downtown business leaders.

Commissioners William Roberts, Vincent B. Watkins and James Alford voted against the measure as being unnecessary in the light of recent and successful negotiations on a parking program for the downtown area.

CONTENDING that the new amendment (which becomes part of the city zoning ordinance) places the initiative on the business property owners for obtaining parking, were Mayor Charles Rowley and Commissioners Robert Patterson, Dean G. Boer, and Robert Navin.

In a two-hour, 20-minute discussion during which the businessmen did most of the talking, they contended that the ordinance would not do the job which the commission desired.

Various persons made these points:

- 1) That it only would result in postage-stamp parking.
- 2) That there were so few downtown undeveloped parcels that the ordinance amendment discriminated against them.
- 3) That it was uneconomical for the merchant in the highly valued area to obtain nearby parking or to provide it on his own property.
- 4) Upon petition to the city commission for creation of a parking facility financed by assessment on benefited businesses.

TYPICAL and representative comments from the businessmen were:

Max H. Fritsch, representing Holly Acres, "It is up to the city to lead and provide the way. The property owners will follow cheerfully. But it is discriminatory to permit present business development to remain unhampered and not have to provide parking on the same terms as undeveloped business."

George E. Averill, editor and publisher of The Birmingham Eccentric, "The main benefit will all have seen in the last year is the (See PARKING, Page 8, Sec. 1)

## To Direct Community House

Named director of the Birmingham Community House Monday was Mrs. M. E. Schaffer, who takes over the position left vacant in November by the death of Mrs. action Haley.

In revealing her choice, House board members said Mrs. Schaffer showed "a fine sense of patronage."

"Ethel" had been filling the post since early spring when Mrs. Haley was taken ill.

A resident of the area since 1937, she has been affiliated with the House in several capacities for several years.

Before coming to Birmingham, Mrs. Schaffer worked for several Detroit companies.

SHE WAS secretary to the assistant principal of Western high school, Mrs. G. S. Schaffer, and boys' and girls' counselors there.

As a member of the National Parent-Teacher Association, she was an officer on numerous committees including work among young people, Girl Scouts, Community Council, PTA, and civic and social groups in the community also have been among her interests and activities since she came to Birmingham in 1937.

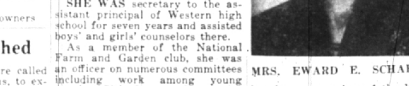
## STRICTLY FRESH

During the Col. postmaster wants to see that his move away from its site near the post office because too many people mail letters there in 2000 square ft. "This and Circulation Only."

Canadian doctor, fishermen who catch blue whales 70 feet long must throw them back, according to a new regulation in the Gulf of Mexico. With an airplane catapult?

Follow in Vista, Calif., wearing red reflectors on his hat, coat and cane, was arrested for

MRS. EDWARD E. SCHAFER has been a member of the board, Roll Call worker, director of adult education and was assistant to Mrs. Haley from October 1951 to last June.



MRS. EDWARD E. SCHAFER

## Excessive Expense Is Cited

By WILLIAM F. ZACK

The City of Birmingham may find itself defending in court its right to force paving and drainage of private parking lots, a business executive intimated this week.

John Calvert, owner of the Minta Electric Company at 1300 South Woodward, reported that the cost of complying with the law would be in the order of \$6,000 for the property at his store.

He said: "The ordinance is unconstitutional and can and will be defended in court. What a man owns is his private property, and even city officials cannot enter without proper authority."

UNDER provisions of the ordinance, which was adopted last fall but not applied until the past few weeks, Calvert and other businessmen, as well as schools and churches within two years will have to blacktop parking lots used by the public.

Calvert stated that he does not make any charge for parking in his lot, and stressed that it is not being exclusively by his customers.

"Several people have formed the habit of bringing their cars to the lot in the morning, and leaving them all day while they are at work. In the afternoon, shoppers at other nearby stores are welcome to use the lot."

THE PROPERTY, he said, always has been kept in good repair, and there is no dust nuisance, he said.

City Building Inspector T. C. Brief said there presently are 45 lots in the city which require paving and resurfacing. Only four of them so far have complied, he said, although several other applications are pending.

The law requires licenses to be applied for by the first of December of each year. Penalties provide a maximum fine of \$100 or a sentence of 30 days in the Oak Lake county jail.

NO violation tickets have been issued yet, Brief said.

OWNERS of lots accommodating 20 cars or less pay a \$5 license, 21 to 40 cars \$10, 41 to 100 cars \$15, and 100 cars or less, \$25.

Calvert stressed he has no objection to the law, but he is against regular inspection of the lot. He said he believes many businessmen would be unwilling to have their lots, however, to escape the prohibitive cost of resurfacing the parking areas and providing drains.

"Should existing lots be closed, it would be a tragedy," he said, "a person's parking shortage which now exists. Along with the new law, the city has provided parking space without charge to shoppers. Should the ordinance be amended, these arrangements, where will motorists park? Certainly it is hard enough to find a place as it is now."

INSURE For Brian pointed out that the city is paying a license fee on the lot it operates in back of the Krige store at Martin and Henrietta streets. He said he would go right back into city coffers.

Birmingham high school also will be affected by the ordinance, Brian said, as well as all of the city's churches and fraternal organizations which maintain any parking facilities.

Only exemptions are lots which are used for the storage of automobiles, Brian said.

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