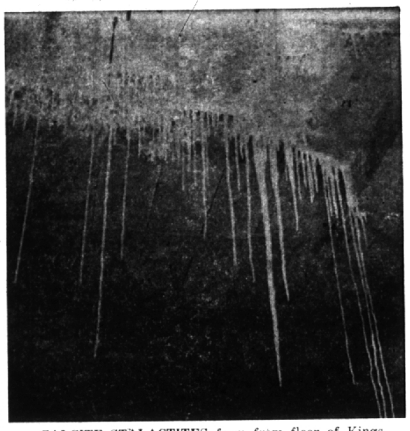
Discovery of 25-Year-Old 'Cave' Provides Scientific Data



CALCITE STALACTITES form from floor of Kingswood school terrace.

Baby Stalactites, Stalagmites Are Formed Underneath Terrace

To the maintenance men who discovered it, the stalactites and stalagmites recently found under the big east terrace at Kingswood School Cranbrook, were a nuisance to be removed immediately, but to the scientists at Cranbrook Institute of Science, they were interesting and important.

For one thing, it has never been easy to gauge the time it takes for a stalactite to form. But at Kingswood, it was easy for Floyd Cooley, maintenance superintendent since the school was built, to remember that the white drip began below the terrace about two years after the building was completed. This means that the longest of the "drinking straw" stalactites under the terrace grew to 32 inches in approximately 25 years.

Walter F. Nickell, that insatiable seeker after the facts of nature, hearing of the cave discovery, rushed to Kingswood with his camera just in time to take a few pictures of the floor and ceiling before the hammers came crashing down to dislodge the phenomenon, making way for more storage and classrooms.

CAREFULLY, slowly, he cut the stalactities from the ceiling and the stalagmites from the earthen floor. White and glistening, the stalactities are especially delicate, being formed of calcite and hollow like a drinking straw.

He explains their formation like this:

"The floor of Kingswood's east terrace is made of concrete slabs, cemented together. The artificial cave under the terrace measures nine feet from floor to ceiling, and the floor is composed of gravels, boulders and clay.

OVER THE years, rain (which picks up carbon dioxide from the air as it descends, to form a weak carbonic acid) seeps through the cement between the blocks, picking up lime, to form calcium carbonate.

Dripping slowly into the space below, air currents evaporate the water from the droplets, leaving the white calcite hanging from the ceiling in hollow drinking straw stalactites.

"These of course become longer and longer as time goes on, while the calcite which drips off and falls to the floor forms a drip cup as well as stalactites, almost exactly as these are formed in a natural cave."

THESE DRIP CUPS are uncommon enough to be interesting in several ways. Some of them look like a bird's nest filled with large white round eggs loose in the nest, called "pearls."

A few like this were found at Kingswood, but most of the floor formations looked like poached eggs, with a yellow center showing through a thin coating of calcite.

"The yellow color," Nickell explained, "comes from the iron in the pebbles beneath. Chemical analysis showed no iron in the ceiling stalactites."

(See DISCOVERY, Page 2, Sec. 1)

"CAVE" FLOOR looked like a mass of poached eggs. These two photos show the interesting formations from opposite directions.

In a self-governing State, such as the U.S.A., the mere forces of organized political strength may win at the polls . . . but if the victory is not for the enthronement of basic Truth in society, it will be short-lived, of no enduring help.

The Birmingham Eccentric

79TH YEAR—NO. 21 | BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN | THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1956 | 40 PAGES | SECTION ONE

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly

SEVEN CENTS

THIS and THAT

By George R. Averill

Harold Stassen's recent suggestion that Massachusetts' Governor Herter should replace Vice-President Nixon as Ike's running mate again proves the stupid audaciousness of Minnesota's former Governor.

Stassen is perhaps the boldest, most aggressive "I-want-to-be-President-myself" individual on the national scene. In 1952 he "assured" everybody that he would get the Presidential nomination.

He is so hungry for political recognition that he will push his way into every flicker of public limelight possible. As President Ike's adviser on international disarmament, as a member of Ike's cabinet, he ought to be loyal to Ike's approval of V.P. Nixon.

In my opinion, Stassen should be relegated to the cellar levels of national politics.

Hurrah for those nine Detroit pipefitters who have rebelled against the dictatorial tactics of the leaders of their local.

Seeking to learn what happened to some of their money invested in a union-sponsored project, the nine were fined more than $1,000 each — which the union bosses insist must be paid before the men can return to work.

This type of abuse smacks of the worst elements in human behaviorism, and ought to be banished.

When Michigan Republicans hold their state convention in a few weeks it may be that Richard

(See THIS & THAT, Pg. 2, Sec. 1)

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Explains New Municipal Court System

State Law Improves Justice Court Plan

By JULIE CANDLER

Birmingham's justice court will officially be "Municipal Court of the City of Birmingham" after Senate Bill 1024, passed by the last session of the Michigan state legislature, goes into effect Aug. 11.

Little change will be seen at first as the law becomes effective, except for procedural modifications.

There will definitely be some physical changes in the court's setup. The physical alterations are not dictated by law, but will provide for the city's increased load of court traffic violation cases and facilitates handling of other violation tickets.

IN DISCUSSING the operational changes under the new municipal court law, City Attorney Forbes S. Hascall said the new law's purpose is to make municipal courts more uniform throughout the state.

It specifies that justice courts with salaried justices in cities with over 15,000 population shall become municipal courts, and that their justices and associate justices of the peace shall become municipal judges.

The new act provides that the Birmingham court's present $500 limitation on jurisdiction in civil actions may be extended to $1,000 by a charter amendment.

THE ACT'S stipulation that municipal judges must be attorneys does not affect the Birmingham court, as both Justice John J. Gafill and Associate Justice John C. Emery, Jr., meet the qualifications.

No member of any judge's firm may appear before a municipal court session at which that judge is presiding, according to the new law.

Birmingham jury trials will see some change under the new bill, which states that the judge shall instruct the jury as to the law. The municipal judge can even go so far as to direct a jury's verdict.

Under the justice court, the jury itself is the judge of the law.

OTHER FEATURES of the new law give the municipal judges the right to adopt rules concerning the form of summonses, writs, and other processes, and provide for judges from other municipal courts to substitute when a judge is not available.

Though the new act does not provide for jury selection by panel, Hascall has recommended that the city consider a change in its present system of summoning juries.

"Under the present jury selection system," Hascall said, "it's very difficult to secure jurors when they are needed. They sometimes even have to go out and pick up a needed juror off the street."

ASSISTANT CITY Manager Dana Whitman agreed that at present "when it's decided to have a jury trial, you run around and try to get jurors."

Hascall said that a smoother operation could be effected by the selection of panels for certain times of the year when jury trials are scheduled. From those panels, jurors could then be selected and summoned well in advance.

As a result of Hascall's recommendation, Mayor James C. Allen is appointing a committee of

(See SYSTEM, Page 2, Sec. 1)

Changes Seen As GTRR Station Marks 25 Years

Yesterday marked the beginning of the 25th year of operation at the station from which many a "man in a grey flannel suit" commutes to Detroit daily via the Grand Trunk railroad.

Since estimates are that less than 10 per cent of Birmingham's population has lived here over 10 years, many of those flannel-clad commuters are probably unaware of what things were like on the Grand Trunk 25 years ago.

Before the present Birmingham station was opened on August 1, 1931, the Grand Trunk trains chugged along where Hunter boulevard now runs. The station stood where a gas station is now located at Hunter and Maple.

WHEN THE BIG operation of moving the tracks to their present site and building the new station was completed, the late C. G. Bowker, former general manager of the railroad, made a prediction.

Speaking to the crowd of nearly 1,000 who gathered for elaborate opening day ceremonies, Bowker gazed out over the 50-car concrete parking lot immediately in front of the station.

"There should be ample parking space here at this station," Bowker said, "for at least 50 years."

Probably no one doubted that his prediction would come true.

BUT TODAY, AS every com-

(See STATION, Page 8, Sec. 1)

NO signs! NO sound trucks! But experience and constructive work
ROBERT W. HODGE
for State Senator—Republican
(19-20-21)

Schone Due Here Week of Aug. 13; Gare Acting Mgr.

Public Works Director L. R. Gare hopes the next 10 days or two weeks go by with a rush.

Because until new City Manager Harold Schone arrives sometime during the week of Aug. 13, Gare will serve as Birmingham's acting manager.

"Schone said he definitely would be here for our Aug. 20 commission meeting, and arrive in the office sometime the previous week," Mayor James Allen told his colleagues Monday night.

RETIRING Manager D. C. Egbert officially left Tuesday, although he will be around to help Schone into his new routine.

Yesterday Egbert took over as engineer-manager of two South Oakland authorities, water and garbage and rubbish. He will continue to represent Birmingham on the N. Evergreen sewage authority until Oct. 1 unless the date is extended at Schone's request.

Disposal Site To Be Sold for $4,250 an Acre

The ground beneath Birmingham's sewage disposal plant will be sold to the North Evergreen sewage authority for $4,250 an acre, Birmingham city commission determined this week.

Since the authority intends to buy seven acres, this will mean another $29,750 added to the original $520,000 both the city and the authority have agreed tentatively is the sale price of the plant.

Commission also placed in its sales agreement that half the total amount will be paid over by Jan. 1, 1957, with an additional $5,000 each Jan. 1 through 1962, then $10,000 each year through 1967, when $19,987.50 will be due each year until it is all paid off.

BLOOMFIELD township, which has participated in recent plant additions, will get $86,500.

Prior to next Jan. 1, the four participating municipalities would owe the authority these amounts as their share of the first payment: Birmingham, $98,638.89; Bloomfield Hills, $18,413.88; Troy, $39,455.56, and Bloomfield township, $118,366.67.

Financing of a large portion over later years will enable future users of the plant to participate materially in the cost of the project, it is pointed out.

This N. Evergreen authority can be abandoned any time up to next Dec. 15 if arrangements have been finalized for Detroit to treat the sewage via extension of the sewer through Southfield to Detroit.

TWO OTHER area sewer problems drew commission action. A resolution was adopted that the county drain commissioner consider the advisability of the larger Evergreen project rather than permit a small treatment plant to be constructed in the 13½ Mile-Evergreen road area to handle Acacia drain problems (the western Beverly Hills area).

At the suggestion of Commissioner Charles Renfrew, final approval of the city's part in the 12 towns drain was postponed a week until the commission can look at some construction drawings and maps.

The 12 towns is designed to relieve South Oakland communities, including of Birmingham, of most

(See SITE, Page 2, Sec. 1)

15 years a municipal officer
25 years legal practice
ROBERT W. HODGE
for State Senator—Republican
(19-20-21)

Dies as His Home Is Sold to City For Parking Lot

While Birmingham city commissioners debated with his attorney over the sales price for his home, Arthur J. Dubuc, 58, stepped into the hallway where he suffered an asthma attack that ended in his death about 45 minutes later in St. Joseph's Mercy hospital, Pontiac.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. today in Holy Name church, where he is a member. Burial and graveside services will be in Hull, Quebec, on Saturday. Rosary was Wednesday at Manley Bailey funeral home.

This was the second such attack occasioned by discussion over the city's acquisition of his home at 448 Hamilton as part of a 55-car municipal parking lot.

Following an April 2 discussion, Dubuc also had an attack in the municipal building, was revived by a fire department emergency squad and taken to William Beaumont hospital, Royal Oak.

ATTORNEY Lawrence J. Moloney Monday night had asked commissioners to increase the amount the city had offered Dubuc. The city had had his house and lot appraised at $18,800. Original offer to Dubuc (and the other three owners involved) was the appraisal plus 10 per cent. In Dubuc's instance, this was $20,680.

But in June, a circuit court condemnation jury, on a nearby parking lot, approved awards that averaged better than 20 percent above city appraisals. So on Dubuc's property, the city Monday night was offering $22,560.

Dubuc sat quietly while Moloney outlined the reasons why the city should give more. Dubuc had gone into the hallway when Moloney said his client would accept $1,000 more, or a total of $23,560.

COMMISSIONERS a few minutes later approved the new amount. Meanwhile, the fire department emergency squad and an ambulance had been called in to help Dubuc.

Firemen administered oxygen for some minutes before he was placed in the ambulance. He died at 10:45 p.m. shortly after he reached the hospital.

Cause of death was an acute heart attack, hospital authorities said.

Mrs. Dubuc herself accepted the city's offer Tuesday, thus permitting the city to proceed on its parking lot development. The property was jointly held by Mrs. Dubuc and her husband.

PROPRIETOR of the Dubuc Sales Service, he came to the United States from Canada in 1924. He was born April 9, 1898, in Montreal, Quebec, and married Marie Lauraine in E. Aldfield, Quebec, May 24, 1921.

Surviving him are his widow, Marie, a sister, Mrs. Eddie White, of Flint, and two brothers, John, of Flint, and Antoine, of Chicago.

STRICTLY FRESH

Necessity is the mother of inventions. Politics is the mother of conventions.

Twenty-one: that which girls younger than try to look as old as, and women older than try to look as young as.

Wives whose husbands have ever had to walk the picket line know that too often it's only one strike and you're out.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6319.

Parliamentary Move Maintains Anti-Handbill Hope

Birmingham's proposed anti-handbill ordinance was saved from a legal death by a parliamentary maneuver Monday night.

Commissioner Manley Bailey, who originally opposed its passage on July 27, now doubts whether he should have voted that way.

So he moved to reconsider the commission's previous action, which must be done at the following meeting.

Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham, originator of the proposal, quickly tabled that motion because Commissioner Florence Willett was absent. She is anti-handbill, according to her July 23 vote.

COMMISSIONER William Roberts, another original anti-handbiller, was absent from the July 23 vote, but present at this week's meeting.

So it would have been another 3-3 tie vote on the reconsideration, and that would have ended matters then and there.

Next week the anti-handbill faction hopes to get its regulations passed.

They claim the only way to keep handbills and other advertising matter off or out of cars in the Pierce-Merrill municipal parking lot is to legislate against it.

On the other hand, Commissioners Charles Renfrew and Harry Denyes feel legislation is unnecessary.

'Y' Management Committee Head, Aides Chosen

Recently elected chairman of the Birmingham YMCA committee of management, Del Ingram, of Royal Oak, will succeed William C. Gordon, of 2552 Pembroke, Birmingham.

Vice chairmen elected to serve in the fiscal year starting August 1 were Arthur Blakeslee, Mrs. John C. L. Cowen, and Colonel Leslie Fletcher, all of Birmingham.

Along with Edwin F. Kirbert, the new and retired chairmen and newly-elected vice chairmen make up the executive committee.

The "Y" committee of management consists of 34 residents from the area served by the local branch, who formulate policies on program and membership.

B'HAM CITY MANAGER

Don Egbert attended his last city commission meeting Monday night. He retired yesterday after 27 years with the city. He was honored at a reception and dinner Sunday.

(See pictures on page 2 of this section.)

3 Contests May Lead to Heavier Vote

Spotlight on GOP Races For Governor, Congress

Only one out of four of Birmingham's elegible voters would normally be expected at the polls Tuesday, but the entrance of Albert E. Cobo in the gubernatorial race, and the absence of George A. Dondero and Richard Van Dusen's names on the ballot may mean a larger turnout in the primary election.

Over 18 thousand voters in the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills-City of Troy area have registered and are eligible to vote.

Information concerning elections in Southfield and Bloomfield townships may be found in Section 5, Page 1. Biographical sketches, platforms and pictures of candidates are in section 4. The Birmingham Eccentric's evaluation of most primary candidates is on its editorial page.

VOTING WILL begin at 7 a.m. in Birmingham's 11 precincts, continuing until 8 p.m. Signed requests must be filed in the city clerk's office before 2 p.m. Saturday by persons out of town or ill who wish to vote by absentee ballot.

It is not possible to sign for another member of the family, and reasons must be included in the absentee ballot request.

Voters formerly voting at the Lutheran church will vote Tuesday at the Chesterfield fire station. Those who voted at the Department of Public Works garage now will vote at the Adams fire station.

Tuesday holds little excitement for Governor G. Mennen Williams and his running mate, Lt. Gov. Philip Hart, who have no competition.

But the entrance of Albert E. Cobo in the Republican gubernatorial race gives GOP voters a choice between Cobo and Donald S. Leonard. Clarence A. Reid is unopposed as Republican candidate for Lt. Governor.

VOTERS MUST vote a straight party ticket in primary elections. Split tickets are legal in the November election, however.

George A. Dondero's decision not to seek another term as the 18th district's congressman, leaves Republicans with a choice of William S. Broomfield, George N. Higgins, and Claude E. Sadler for this office. Five Democratic candidates, Jack L. Ward, Marc Williams, Gilbert H. Davis, Zigmund John Niparko, and Paul Sutton, are vieing for their party's favor.

Background of Candidates in Section 4, Page 1

For state senator there are three Democrats and seven Republicans on the ballot.

Democratic hopefuls are: Daniel J. Connolly, Fred Elias, and Philip E. Rowston. Republicans are: Richard D. Kuhn, L. Harvey Lodge, Edward Morey, Clarence A. Reid Jr., Stanley M. Brown, Robert W. Hodge, and William R. Judy.

IN THE STATE legislature it was Richard Van Dusen, Republican representative from the 3rd district who decided not to seek re-election.

H. V. Beggs, James C. Foster, and Farrell E. Roberts are the Republican hopefuls; P. T. Smith Jr. is the lone candidate on the Democratic slate.

County offices up for election include prosecuting attorney, sheriff, county clerk, county treasurer, register of deeds, drain commissioner, and county surveyor.

There are no Birmingham or Bloomfield Hills proposals on the ballot.

Schaule Promoted To Sergeant

Promotion of Detective Robert Schaule to sergeant was made recently by Birmingham Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley.

Schaule joined the Birmingham police force August 16, 1943 as a patrolman. He was transferred to the detective bureau September 1, 1954.

He lives at 1623 Webster, Birmingham.

★ To Congress: Zigmund John Niparko, Democrat.
★ Education: M.S.N.C. Wayne U.
★ Experience: Mayor, teacher, county supervisor.
★ Naval Officer World War II & Korea.