

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1956

50 PAGES SECTION ONE

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly Seven Cents

Your average school teacher wants to be best to bring the values of education to your children. The teacher gets pupils who are the products of home; the character and inherent abilities of children are fashioned to a considerable extent before the teacher gets them. So, if parents want to be, they can help so much!

79TH YEAR—NO. 40

This and That

by George R. Averill

Time was when cartoonists placed fat cigars only in the hands of politicians and men of great wealth. Now-a-days they have added cigars to corpulent labor leaders.

It's about time to correct an old saying that is not true. It never was, and may not always be able to cause a woman to listen to sense—but by changing the spelling of that last word to "cents," they get plenty of attention.

Our early colonists started a war against England when they boarded some English vessels off Boston and dumped a lot of tea into the water. They were opposing the high tax on tea imposed by King George III. Viewing today's U. S. Taxes, one wonders what has become of the Spirit of '76.

Many men and women have publicly uttered their great concern over the future of "my children and great grandchildren," etc. etc. Actually, most of them were concerned with their own times—and, indeed, what's wrong with that?

Two cents will buy a lot of things—especially, for example, if you add a dollar ninety eight cents.

Long ago it was said: "Without vision, a nation shall perish." Perhaps today it may be revised as: "Without vision, a nation may perish . . . but, with television added, it may see itself perishing."

Just as flaring trousers create enmities between two persons, so they can bring about international wars. No doubt the U. S. A. today is very fortunate to have as its Chief Executive a man who, in tight international situations, is able to control his temper.

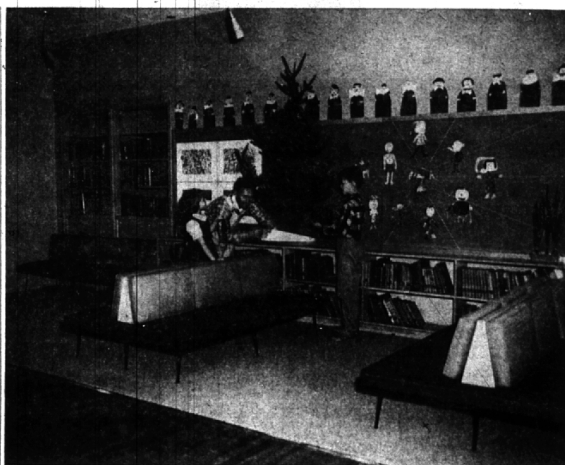
Your modern automobile, driven at excess speeds in average traffic, is a potentially dangerous instrument. If you were to remove its wheels, and were it possible to go through the air at great speeds, it would be like riding a flying bombshell. Ever consider it this way?

It is, agree philosophers, remarkable how much more a person can learn after he thinks he knows it all.

Only when the Republican Party of Michigan develops a statewide organization that, through local groups, contacts every sympathetic voter during and between election campaigns, can it hope to regain its share of citizen support. For this type of efficient organization, the Democratic Party chairman, Neil Steaher, has set an excellent pattern to follow.

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GETTING A PREVIEW of the new "resource room" which will be formally presented to Baldwin school students Monday, third graders Holly Anderson (left) and Jim Lougee get ready to hang ornaments on the Christmas tree being readied by Omer Tremblay. At its preview showing Tuesday night, city PTA and school officials voiced enthusiastic approval of the completely remodeled room 217, which represents an entirely new concept in school planning. The huge room is equipped with TV, a little theatre, library, science and auto materials. Its colorful decorating scheme was planned and carried out by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur T. Lougee, of 324 Greenwood.

Plan Saturday Program For Handicapped Kids

Beginning Jan. 5 the Birmingham Association for Handicapped Children will inaugurate a recreational and educational program for handicapped children who are not now in a regular school program.

Classes will be held Saturdays from 9 to 12 a.m. at Pierce school, Pierce and 14 Mile road through the first Saturday in June. The program will give handicapped children, who are not in regular school, the fun and benefit of group work and play with other children. The Birmingham board of education, through Capt. Dwight J. Ireland, has given permission for the use of a classroom in Pierce school.

CLASS WILL BE under the direct supervision of Miss Tony Hirst of Detroit, a trained professional therapist who has done extensive work with handicapped children. She is donating her time. Assistant Miss Hirst will be members of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Under chairmanship of Mrs. H. P. Sharpe the sorority is donating its services and funds to this project.

The school program is free—there is no charge for enrolling a child. A volunteer corps will furnish free transportation for children if parents wish. Since a child need not be accompanied by a parent, it is hoped the program will incidentally, for a few hours each week, give parents of handicapped children a few hours "vacation" from the job of parenthood.

Will Accept State Judgment on Phone Rate Increase

Whether the recently submitted Michigan Bell rate increase is justified will be left to the determination of the Michigan public service commission Birmingham Monday night. They declined to join with a number of other South Oakland communities in going before the MSFC to protest the increase and in hiring an expert to analyze rate data for the hearing presentation.

COMMISSIONERS agreed with Charles Renfrew, who said: "I prefer to leave it to the MSFC's hands to determine, there seems little justification in spending money for a rate expert. It is extremely doubtful whether the communities have any basis for an objection Adams said."

Wins City Praise For 7-Year Job On SOC Committee

His seven years as Birmingham's representative to the South Oakland transportation committee have been a special commendation for retired educator Clarence Vliet, 414 Vliet resigned this week from the committee for personal reasons, and Asst. City Manager Robert Kenning was named as replacement by the city commission.

Fire Chief Urges Extra Precaution With Yule Tree

Safe handling of that annual fire hazard, the Christmas tree, was urged on area residents this week by Birmingham Fire Chief P. H. Smith. At the same time Smith listed precautions which would help insure a non-incendiary Christmas.

Smith said, "Fires across the nation have killed 23 persons, most of them children, on the eve of the Christmas holiday celebration. All but 10 of the fire victims were children eagerly awaiting the excitement and gifts of Christmas."

"THAT WAS LAST YEAR. Will it happen again this year?" The reason the tree burns so fast and fiercely is because it's filled with pitch and resin—among the most combustible substances known. What do you do about the tree?

"First of all, the national board of fire underwriters suggests that you select a small one. Keep the tree outside until a few days before setting it up. When you bring the tree inside, cut the butt slantwise to open the pores, then stand it in a tub of water. In placing the tree, avoid 'hot spots' such as those near the fireplace, stove, television, radiators or electric bulbs."

"NEVER USE UNTREATED paper ornaments or untreated cotton batting or gauze for decoration. Cotton and gauze can be made flame resistant by dipping in a gallon of water mixed with nine ounces of borax and four ounces of boric acid. Be sure, too, that wires are in good condition. Frayed electric cords are a fire hazard."

The switch for turning on the tree lights should be placed some distance from the tree. Never use an outlet or plug under the tree or run electric trains around the base.

To Tighten Rules on Off-Street Parking

Church Extension Will Meet Present Requirements

Some tightening up of Birmingham's off-street parking requirements appeared certain this week when city commissioners instructed the city attorney to look over carefully the entire ordinance.

They ordered this review made after councilman Richard Adams advised its provisions seemed loose enough to permit schools, churches, or other public assembly buildings to be extended or enlarged without necessity of providing parking if such building existed at the time the ordinance was adopted several years ago.

His decision cleared the way for an enlarged program for the First Church of Christ Scientist, at Chester and Willets streets.

THE CHURCH several weeks ago applied for a building permit for an addition, but it was turned down by the building department on the basis that no parking was being provided.

The board of appeals sustained the church's appeal to meet the board of appeals to meet the church representatives then appeared a week ago before the commission to point out that business properties in the immediate area had given verbal permission to use their large lots on Sundays.

THIS WEEK Adams said this verbal permission seemed to meet ordinance requirements that the board of appeals do not have power to grant exceptions, that some other certain building might be evaded, and that the ordinance would be amended so that it applies to non-business areas.

Second B'ham Woman Rumored Regent Candidate

Mrs. Irene E. Murphy, 444 Bonnie Briae, Birmingham, "no comment" this week on rumors that she is a possible candidate for Democratic nomination as regent of the University of Michigan in the spring elections.

Everything is just conversation until the Democratic convention in February, she said, adding that she will be "up to the party" then. She is planning no campaigning.

CANDIDACY of another Birmingham woman, Mrs. Robert F. Lauderdale, Southfield, was reported for regent on the Republican ticket, was announced last week.

Mrs. Murphy is well known as a speaker, talking recently on her radio, which included such items as she served during 1954 as a cottage industries advisor of the Mutual Securities Agency in a United Nations project to boost lagging Philippine economy.

Health Director Issuing Bulletin On Diphtheria

Birmingham school children are receiving notices this week advising parents of recommended immunization schedules against diphtheria and other communicable diseases.

The recent increase in diphtheria cases in Detroit prompted Oakland county health department director Dr. John D. Monroe to urge through the notices that parents check their children's immunization and obtain any needed booster shots through private physicians or one of the county's clinics.

Mrs. Anne Gillette, supervisor of the Oakland county health department's Birmingham office, said no diphtheria cases had been reported in Oakland county, and that a shortage of vaccine is expected to ease by next week.



WAITING FOR SANTA when he entered the door Monday at the "Santa's Shopper Stop" were (left) Mike and Bill Sennett, of 3748 Thornbrier way, Bloomfield township. Starting tomorrow, Santa will be on hand from 2 to 8 p.m. daily at the shopper stop at 243-247 W. Maple, next to the S.S. Kresge store. For adults, Santa will have refreshments and a place to relax while youngsters are giving him their orders for toys from his North Pole shop. The shopper stop is co-sponsored by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Retail Merchants' association.

B'ham Police Chief Warns Pedestrians Of December Danger

Though Birmingham's accident total shows a slight decrease over last year's toll to this time, Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley warned that the improved record could be crossed off in the dangerous month of December.

Pedestrian accidents reach an all-time high in December," Moxley said. "Pedestrians too often wear dark clothing, making it difficult for drivers to see them in the early darkness. Often, pedestrians get pre-occupied with shopping and step thoughtlessly into the street."

Last month 57 accidents in the city cost an estimated \$11,625 compared with 68 accidents and \$14,202 property damage in November, 1955, Moxley said.

Mrs. Ruth Parshall Resigning Oakland County Polio Post

The Oakland county chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis announced this week that Mrs. Ruth Parshall, who has served as executive secretary of the chapter for over six years, has resigned.

The Rev. G. Burton Hodgson of 710 S. Bates, Birmingham, chapter chairman, stated that Mrs. Parshall has done an excellent job of patient care and has built up a fine county-wide organization for fund raising through the March of Dimes.

Mrs. Parshall stated that she is resigning in order to have more time for her family. Mr. Hodgson also announced that Miss Rosalind Wildgen will succeed Mrs. Parshall.

Crash Injures 50th Anniversary Honorees

A Birmingham woman was hospitalized and two other persons were treated at St. Joseph Mercy hospital for injuries suffered last Thursday in an auto collision at Telegraph and West Maple roads.

Mrs. John Riley, 78, of 656 Purdy, was admitted to the hospital with a fractured collarbone. Her husband, John, 73, suffered chest contusions and Dennis Mountford, 13, of 16928 Lauderdale, Southfield, was treated for forehead and knee injuries.

Mr. and Mrs. Riley and their grandson, Dennis, had just left a 50th wedding anniversary party given in the Rileys' honor by their daughter, Mrs. George Mountford, 16928 Lauderdale, Southfield township.

Dinner guests had included friends from Birmingham, Detroit, Riverside, Ontario, and Minneapolis, Minn.

EDWARD DORE, JR., 35, of 4225 Sandy lane, Bloomfield, told township police he saw Riley's car starting to turn left in front of him and sounded his horn in warning. Riley said he saw Dore approaching but thought he had time to make his turn.

B'ham May Use U. S. Surpluses

If there's anything the federal government is giving away that can be used in a local civil defense program, Birmingham's CD Director Robert Kenning plans to get some of it.

This week he was authorized to request and pay transportation charges on desirable federal used items which include such items as public address systems, floodlights, helmets, hoses, masks, and bedding.

B'ham Asks Troy Meet On Mutual Problems

1st Such Meeting In April, 1953, Saw Some Solutions

By George WM. AVERILL

Three-and-a-half years ago in a special meeting at the municipal building here, top Birmingham and Troy officials met across the table to try and resolve about a half dozen mutual border problems.

The ensuing 45 months have seen the solution to several of these problems, but one big one still persists. And at least a couple of new ones have just shown themselves.

So Birmingham's Mayor James C. Allen is going to arrange a second meeting with the two groups to see what can be worked out on today's difficulties.

THREE MUTUAL problems will head the list:

- 1) Can a Troy triangle between the railroad and Adams road be annexed to Birmingham, and would this solve a king-sized Troy-Birmingham zoning and development headache?
- 2) Can an industrial parcel on the south side of East Maple and adjoining Birmingham be annexed to Birmingham, and would this solve a king-sized Troy-Birmingham zoning and development headache?
- 3) What is the latest word on proposed development of the largely undeveloped area at the northeast corner of Maple and Coolidge roads?

THE ADAMS-Railroad triangle is the hot issue from the meeting of April 1, 1953. Currently it has been declared unzoned in a recent Oakland circuit case, and there are reports that it may be developed to business use.

Birmingham's board of education also figures at this controversial spot because of its new Derby Junior High school case, and there are agreements and proposals have gotten mixed up in all this.

The industrial annexation of B.W. Controller on E. Maple is under way as the best means of providing municipal sewer and water to the plant. It admittedly would be too expensive for Troy to bring these two services from their present terminations quite a distance to the east.

WHAT WAS happening at the Coolidge-Maple corner came up as Birmingham commissioners Monday night discussed contract terms on sale to Troy of water from Birmingham's Walker well midway between Coolidge and Crooks roads.

Several of the contract terms were referred back to Birmingham city attorney Richard Adams.

He was asked to answer these questions: Can Birmingham terminate the agreement? Can resale be limited to certain areas or customers in Birmingham? Greater demand is not placed on the supply? If Troy defaults on payments, can Birmingham legally shut off the water?

COMMISSIONERS indicated there was a definite rift between Troy's use of the well and the development in these problem areas.

Birmingham City Commissioner Charles Renfrew will be the only official who will be sitting in on the two discussions.

Technically, Mayor Allen had just been elected to the commission, but not sworn in yet. Troy City Commissioner George W. Ford was on the township board at the time, but did not attend that first meeting.

STRICTLY FRESH

Easiest way to get snow off your front walk is to move to Florida.

Bachelorhood is like a chess game: one bad move and you're mated.

This is the season that misses dressing to the hilt. Mrs. switch to correct mistakes.

Secret of a banjo player's success is probably in the strings he pulls.

Elvis Presley would make a poor football player. Look at all those positions for backfield in motion.