

You are very, very wise if you have learned never to impose your will upon another, even to give good advice. Much harm has been, is being done today by well-intentioned men and women who have not learned to let others live alone.

79TH YEAR—NO. 14

# The Birmingham Eccentric

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SECTION ONE

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

The Nation's Top Selling Newspaper SEVEN CENTS

# News are in the Eccentric - Regular Operat

## HS and THAT

George R. Averill  
**Demolished Democracy Not Easily Reconstructed**

Famed author Daniel Webster once paid unlimited and glorious tribute to the unique document we know as the Constitution of the United States. Speaking in Washington, D. C., 120 years ago, he closed an eulogy on George Washington with these thoughts: "It were but a trifle even if the walls of yonder Capitol were to crumble, if its lofty pillars should fall, and its gorgeous decorations be all covered by the dust of the valley. All this shall be rebuilt; BUT WHO SHALL RECONSTRUCT THE FABRIC OF DEMOLISHED GOVERNMENT?" Who shall reframe together the skillful architecture which unites national sovereignty with State rights, individual security and public liberty? "No, if these columns fall, they will be raised not again, like the Coliseum and the Parthenon, they will be destined to a mournful and melancholy immortality. Bitter years, however, will flow over them; they will be overgrown by the monuments of a more glorious edifice than Greece ever saw; the ruins of the constitutional American liberty."

Wonder why those 26 zoo keepers in Manchester, England, are striking for higher wages? They have learned about the relative environments of quadrupeds and bipeds. The peaceful one. Seems that only mankind's world is filled with confusion and trouble.

We are glad that Adlai beat Estes in California. After all, wisecracker that he is, Adlai appears to be more sincere, honest, political candidate than Estes. Adlai would promise much less of Santa Claus' magic than the overly ambitious Kentucky Senator does.

More and more churches are being built and/or added to in the United States. Just as more churches are merged, so are they being light. Perhaps the next thing to look for are more God-like and more intelligent human beings.

It must delight American Indians to know that one of their own kind is top ballerina dancer in this country. She is Maria Tallchief, recently married for the third time. An Osage Indian, she certainly is catching on to modern American matrimonial adventures.

Being a friendly people, we Americans can understand why our nation accepted Russia's invitation to invite the dirty Soviets over here, and on the other we try to tell the entire world that communism is a false doctrine, supported by hate and the menace of war?

## 14 Mile Widening Starts in a Week

Widening of 14 mile road, from Greenfield east to Crooks, is expected to get under way within the next week, Birmingham City Manager D. C. Egbert said. City of Royal Oak has let the contract for this work, while Birmingham will contribute its share of the cost. The widening will be paid by the city of Royal Oak.

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## Eccentric Wins More Honors

Two more top national journalism honors came to The Birmingham Eccentric last Thursday. At the National Editorial Association's awards dinner in Louisville, Ky., the annual convention learned that the contest winners, included The Eccentric, which won: First place for typographical excellence among newspaper of over 6,000 circulation, and First honorable mention for weekly papers in the sweepstakes contest, a competition limited exclusively to general excellence winners of the Eccentric won this general excellence award last year. Business manager Paul N. Averill is in Louisville to accept the honors for The Eccentric.

TYPOGRAPHY judging is based on selection and effective use of headline, readability, use of type and illustrations in advertising, presswork, and general makeup throughout the paper. Sweepstakes winners were rated on promotion of community interests, pictures, general appearance of makeup and style, editorial page, advertising enterprise, general appearance of the paper, and mechanical excellence.

Five out of the six national typography contests winners were from the Detroit metropolitan area. Close behind The Eccentric was second runner, Wynantown Tribune, with the Dearborn Guide in third position.

HONORABLE mentions went to the Hollywood (Fla.) Sun-Tattler, Detroit Courier, and Plymouth (Mich.) Mail. Weekly sweepstakes winner was the New Canaan (Conn.) Advertiser.

Pontiac Press came away with three first places in daily newspaper contests for excellence, typographical excellence, and sweepstakes.

Other winners of weekly newspaper winners were the Itasca Grant County Herald (Ist. special issue), the New York Times (typographical excellence and 3rd. best use of photographs, both for papers of less than 2,000 circulation).

The Royal Oak Daily Tribune was first in typographical excellence in the daily division.

## Tax Rate Reduced 1/10-Mill

The saving's not important, but the principle is, Birmingham city commissioners must have decided in confirming next year's city expenses to the extent of the additional amount of taxes which will come from new commercial and residential building during 1955.

At Monday's budget hearing, the commission approved a \$1,535,854.12 expenditure next year and set the tax rate at \$12.60 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This year's rate was \$12.70.

The budget, which is \$113,577.24 more than this year's operating costs, includes appropriations for additional policemen for downtown patrol, two more firemen, an additional school crossing guard, and an approximate three per cent salary increase for employees.

(See TAX RATE, Page 3, Sec. 1)

## Egbert to Run 2nd Term as SOC Authorities; Starts Job Aug. 1

Birmingham City Manager Donald C. Egbert has accepted the engineer-managership of the Southeastern Oakland County garbage and rubbish authority and the SEOC water authority. Boards of both authorities, at a combined meeting Wednesday noon, offered the job to him and he immediately accepted. He will start over Aug. 1 from George Schmidt, who on that date becomes director of public services for the city of Grand Rapids. Schmidt will work two days a week with Egbert to facilitate the changeover.

Egbert's decision to head the two municipal authorities means he will leave Birmingham's top administrative job about nine months earlier than the deadline he set for himself in January of this year.

HE SAID he would retire by April 1, 1957, after 28 years with the city. 20 of them as city manager. But several weeks ago, he unofficially asked for his release about July first.

The accelerated city commission's search for Egbert's successor was completed last Wednesday morning has narrowed itself to six candidates, including two men now with the city.

OF THE four, one is from New York state, two from Illinois, and one from Michigan, Allen said. "The commission will have completed its interviews by the middle of July, and we believe we will be able to select our new manager from one of these applicants," the mayor explained.

Egbert said he will be able to participate in the historic service at 4 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, Sunday, June 18.

"Just when the new man would be getting a great extent will depend on how much notice he would have to give his present community," Allen added.

## Legislature Good Practice Area for Decision Making

This is the second and concluding article by retiring State Representative Richard D. Van Dusen, who is convinced that business and industry should let junior executives serve or enter into legislative terms to gain knowledge of the firm, the executive, and the state, Van Dusen contends.

By RICHARD C. VAN DUSEN  
Representative, 3rd District, Oakland County

The ability to persuade other people to agree with him is presumably a valuable attribute in an executive. So is the ability to make decisions. Nevertheless, the Michigan Legislature, which annually spends a few concentrated months practicing persuasion and making countless vital decisions, includes very few representatives of business management.

Membership in the legislature, which acts as the board of directors for the state and which spends over \$700,000,000 annually to run it, for the legislature is a business school. When asked about their non-participation, they usually say they can't spare the time or can't afford the financial sacrifice.

## High School Graduations Slated Today

First class to be graduated from Bloomfield Hills high school and the largest group ever to graduate from Birmingham high school will receive their diplomas in ceremonies today. At Birmingham high school, 356 seniors will participate in a commencement program at 10 a.m. Bloomfield Hills commencement will be tonight at 8 p.m. at the school.

Although the initial class to graduate at Bloomfield Hills numbers only 57, School Supt. Eugene L. Johnson estimates the size of the senior class will be 75 or 80 by next year. The next two classes are expected to reach 100 and 130 respectively.

The same pattern continues at Birmingham high school, where the class of 1956 is larger by 64 students than the 1955 group of 292, while in 1957 the total is expected to reach 400.

## Birmingham High School

Speaker at today's commencement program will be Dr. Clifford E. Erickson, nationally known educator and guidance authority, who is dean of the college of education at Michigan State university.

In addition to the numerous artists in the field of education, Dean Erickson has written or co-authored 11 books.

"Your Stake in America's Future" will be his next. He is presenting a gift of 113 books to the school library as his class gift, to be accepted by the school by Donald Thacker, Student Congress president.

Other speakers include: Judge Collins, president; Edmund Leavenworth, vice-president; Helen Colwell, secretary; and John Fairbank, treasurer.

HEADING THE list of honors are the class valedictorian and salutatorian, Ellen Coutlee and Sharon Egan.

Cum laude students include Ellen and Sharon, Delores Domes, Karen Fogarty, Paul Corlick, Carlisle Johnson, Marie Joyn, Ann Kightley, Sharon Lewis, Donald McMillan, and Robert Frickens.

The highest honor to go to a graduating senior, that of a valedictorian, was presented to Ann Gardner and Bob Hohmeyer at Swing-Out Friday. Each received a watch, the German silver plique-a-jour diploma, and a certificate in memory of the former Birmingham high school student who died soon after her graduation in 1952.

AT BACCALAUREATE services at the Rev. Theodor Wuggager, pastor of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, spoke on "The Receding Years."



OUT GOES the class of 1956 at Bloomfield Hills high school, who will receive their diplomas in ceremonies tonight. Here leading the way are (from left) Sally Boyd, Phyllis Steele, Virginia Dowling and Doug Woyt. There is the first class to graduate from the new high school.

## May Place Iron Horse In Eton Park Pasture

A real steam locomotive in Eton park! "Why not?" Dike Baldwin, 915 Forest, Birmingham, asked himself a couple of weeks ago.

"Wonderful idea! We'll give you the engine and get it into the park," the Grand Truck Western railroad has offered. "Glad to reserve a spot for it," volunteered the Birmingham parks and forestry department.

"I'll take it up with the city commission next Monday night," eagerly responded City Manager D. C. Egbert.

"WE'LL CONDUCT a campaign for the necessary expenses to lay the permanent roadbed, put in the fence and landscaping," the Birmingham Exchange club said this week. (Baldwin is a club member.)

"I've always been interested in steam locomotives," Baldwin explained. "I'd like to see Birmingham get one now while they still are available. Then in years to come, the kids can go over and see the kind of engine that pulled the trains that Grandpa rode in."

## School Personnel To Get Appraisal

Comprehensive appraisal of the Birmingham school district's personnel program—with the aim of determining whether its excellent reputation can be improved in any way—is the subject of a new study by the Citizens' Committee on Education.

A steering committee will make recommendations for improvement. "The study of personnel does not necessarily imply adverse criticism of existing policies," said Louis A. DeBorja, chairman of the Citizens' Committee on Education.

The class of 1956 will be the first group to have completed their entire four years of high school in the new structure.

THE STUDY represents the second phase of a three-part program undertaken by the committee when it was organized in 1954 under sponsorship of the PTA council. All schools in the sprawling district are represented.

THE SCHOOL board placed the proposal before the voters and it was approved overwhelmingly. The third principal study area, curriculum—will be undertaken at a later date, perhaps to be begun this year.

## Wabeek, Nat'l Bank Affected

At a special meeting of the board of directors of the Birmingham National Bank Tuesday afternoon plans were accepted to accept the merger offer from The Detroit Bank, recommending and referring the ultimate decision to the local bank's stockholders at a meeting to be held Aug. 15.

Similar action was taken by the Fidelity National Bank and the Detroit Wabeek Bank and Trust Co. which latter institution has branches in Birmingham and Ferndale.

If each bank's stockholders concur in the merger in August, it will result in a new consolidated bank to be known as The Detroit Bank and Trust Co., with capital funds in excess of sixty million dollars and total resources over one billion dollars.

THIS PROPOSED merger, which has been under discussion for many months, will create a single bank for the Detroit metropolitan area. The Detroit Bank and Trust Co., with capital funds in excess of sixty million dollars and total resources over one billion dollars.

The basis on which shares of the consolidated bank stock will be exchanged is: one share for one share of the Detroit Wabeek Bank and Trust Co., one share for each share of the Fidelity National Bank, nine-tenths of a share for each share of the Fidelity National Bank, and one share for each share of The Detroit Bank.

PRINCIPAL officers of the consolidated bank will be: Joseph M. Dodge, chairman of the board; Selten B. Daune, vice chairman; Charles H. Fisher, president; Milton J. Drake, senior vice president; Herbert H. Gardner, senior vice president and chairman; Clarence J. Huddleston, senior vice president; William J. Thomas, senior vice president.

Twenty men will constitute the Board of Directors, of whom 12 are from the Detroit area and eight from the Detroit Wabeek Bank and Trust Co., and Herbert H. Gardner from Birmingham and Ferndale National Banks.

THEY ARE: Captain P. Bentley, Walker L. Crier, William M. Cornelius, Selten B. Daune, Joseph M. Dodge, Frank D. Eaman, William A. Fisher, Herbert H. Gardner, Leddie H. Green, Charles H. Hault, Hubert, Frederick C. Matthaei, James McMillan, H. Gray Muzzey, William J. Thomas, Harry L. Pierson, Cleveland Thurber, Herbert B. Trix, C. David Wideman.

The merger will unite organizations having a long history of operation in this area. The Detroit Bank, established in 1849, has provided banking services for Detroit continuously since that time.

Keeping pace with fast-growing Detroit, it now operates 42 offices in this area. The Detroit Bank is the oldest bank in Michigan, and the oldest bank west of the Alleghenies. Although offering complete commercial and savings banking, until this time it has not had a trust department.

THE DETROIT Wabeek Bank and Trust Company is the result of the merger of the Detroit Trust Company and the Wabeek State Bank, which occurred on August 1, 1955.

The Detroit Trust Company, Detroit, Mich., was established in 1900. Prior to merging with the Wabeek State Bank, it had exclusively been a trust business. It was one of the largest independent trust operations in the country.

The Wabeek State Bank was established in 1854 in Ferndale in 1934, and in 1938 transferred its main office to Detroit.

STRICTLY FRESH  
Times change. The frost is on the pumpkin all year around.

Well proportioned young women aren't likely to enter fly politics. Who ever heard of a pretty girl organizing a whistle-stopping campaign?

A poor sport is the fellow who always bets on the wrong horse. You don't hear of the wolf heaping at the door of the sheep. He's been lured inside and skinned for pelt money by the head of the house. Late harvest this year. All the house.