

**Deadline Monday For Registering To Vote April 2**

Deadline for registering and transferring registrations for the

April 2 city election is at 8 p.m. next Monday, Birmingham City Clerk Irene Hanley warned yesterday.

She said her office also will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday to accommodate last-minute registrations.

MASONIC AUDITORIUM—WED. MARCH 14—8:20 P.M.

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**Saturday's Ice And Sleet Blamed In Car Accidents**

Nine accidents, many of them attributed to poor visibility and icy streets, were among the 50 calls and complaints received by Birmingham police during the 24-hour period from midnight Friday to midnight Saturday.

Three accidents resulted in personal injuries, all minor.

Alexander Leschkevich, 17, of 16260 Ambler, suffered a fractured left leg when a bakery truck driven by Francis J. Seguin, 33, of Detroit, skidded on Lincoln road near Latham.

The youth had left his car to check damage after a collision with another vehicle driven by David R. Stiles, 16, of 16208 13 Mile.

TWO TEEN-AGE girls were treated for minor injuries at St. Joseph Mercy hospital and released following a two-car collision at Woodward and Harpox.

Cynthia Adams, 15, of 410 Fairfax, and Judy Wood, 16, of Lode Pine road, Bloomfield Hills, were riding in a car driven by Dr. Burr Frederickson, 16, of 515 Puritan.

Miss Frederickson was ticketed by police for failure to have her car under control when it struck the rear of another car driven by Mrs. Robert Stanton, 31, of 1075 Oxford.

A FOUR-CAR pile-up occurred at Hunter and Wimbleson, with drivers of the first two cars receiving minor cuts and abrasions. They were David C. Campbell, 16, of Pleasant Ridge, and Mary E. Robert, 63, of Pontiac.

Woodward avenue near 14 Mile road was the scene of a collision involving J. C. White, 44, of Pontiac, and Alvin Thomas Riggs, 46, of Hamtramck. Minnie Riggs, 38,

**Files Suit to Break Zoning on 4 Lots On Southfield Road**

Rezoning of his four lots to professional office use last week is the subject of a Federal court suit filed in circuit court this week declared.

Owner of property 'on Southfield just above 14 Mile, Graf for several years has contended he should be permitted to use it for retail stores.

His complaint said the rezoning "is a tacit acknowledgment" that his property is not good for development as a single residence.

He charged that the city "deliberately shamed, connived and conspired" to rezone the property without consulting him, and "deliberately and intentionally" did rezone to prevent him from obtaining the correct classification which he claims is business A.

was treated at Beaumont hospital in the chest and neck.

OTHER accidents reported to police were:

A Hunt and Maple, involving Roger W. Minfield, 45, of Coorse, and Steven W. Patrick, 20, of Fernside.

Richard C. Jones, 22, of Detroit, skidded into a guardrail and tree just west of the Maple avenue bridge.

John Clair Finf, 38, of 32805 Elmwood, and James J. Westwood, 195 Catalpa, involved in a two-car collision at Lincoln and Southfield.

At Hunter and Wimbleson, involving Neil Nelson, 18, of Detroit, and Lyman Jones, 62, of Detroit.

Oris L. Walker, 17, of 1666 Pierce and Earl W. Hines, 41, of 764 W. Lincoln, collision on Maple road near Baldwin school.

Mrs. Marguerite L. Gramer, 1283 Melton, struck a bicyclist, owned by Judy Gorton, 1756 Villa street, while the vehicle into the path of her car on Eton road near Palmer.

**YMCA Membership Passes 2000 Mark As Campaign Ends**

With the Birmingham YMCA membership enrollment moving into the thousands for the first time, Robert Graham and Dave Curry could count 862 members on a goal of 700, and have had \$5310 turned in on a dollar goal of \$5,000.

Outstanding workers in the campaign were Arthur Blakelock, chairman of the Y membership committee, Ernest Robinson, Tom Appel, John Slater, George Darius Wayne Mortimer, and the Y staff supported by the committee of management.

Total Y membership has passed 2,000 and it is hoped will be close to 3,000 at the end of 1956.

**Valued at \$700, Silverware Taken From Local Home**

Silverware valued at approximately \$700 last week was reported stolen from her home by Mrs. R. S. Peterson, 518 Westwood.

Mrs. Peterson told Birmingham police Det. L. Merlin Holmquist only a maid and two children were sleeping in the house at the time the robbery occurred.

Missing, she said, were a number of Reppose's pattern pieces, monogrammed "RSP" Flatware, including a dozen silver-plated spoon spoons, bearing the initials "R", was also taken, she said.

**Landino Graduates From Central Mich.**

George G. Landino, 688 Smith, Birmingham, was a January graduate of Central Michigan College. Landino received a bachelor of science degree.

**May Build Restaurant In Turnpike's Path**

By WILLIAM H. THOMAS

Howard Johnson officials are not convinced that the Michigan Tollroad will become an eventuality, and have tentatively decided to begin construction of a restaurant on the northwestern corner of Maple and Telegraph, on the edge of the turnpike's proposed right-of-way.

Erwin Cohen, Detroit, who is planning a shopping center on the southwest corner of the same intersection, said he would go ahead this summer if Turnpike plans were not more solidified.

"I don't feel it's (the tollroad) ever going to go through," said Cohen, owner of 17 acres on which he hopes to build Wrigley and Cunningham outlets as well as several other retail stores.

THIS information came to light when Boks requested a building permit from Bloomfield township and asked David E. Anderson, supervisor, if the property could be included in the EI district.

"It would appear to me that this is a very desirable thing to do, as septic tanks and fields in this area are not good," said Anderson in a letter to Donald C. Egbert, Birmingham city manager, and fellow member of the Evergreen sewer authority.

Higgins, questioned about whether Johnson was given a franchise for the turnpike, said he wanted to know whether owners of the first chance on the road, and already had asked local proprietors to take up applications.

Higgins also made it clear that no monopolies would exist on the road, then there will be eight different gas companies represented," said Higgins.

Both Boks and Cohen indicated they were positive that they would be reimbursed should the turnpike finally become a reality, even though they had improved their property.

"I don't propose to wait," said Boks. "We've had that site for some time and we've waited two years now. I don't believe it (the turnpike) will ever become a reality."

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**Hickory Grove School Contract Gets Board Okay**

Hickory Grove school board Saturday awarded contracts for the construction of an elementary school on Lahser road, between Hickory Grove and Square Lake roads.

General contract went to Bundy Construction Co. for \$259,000; mechanical contract to Great Lakes Power Piping Co. for \$80,500; electrical contract to Darwish Bros. Electric Co. for \$39,255 and kitchen equipment to Gold Star Products, Inc. for \$74,555.

The building will contain nine classrooms, kindergarten, library, multi-purpose room, kitchen, clinic, teachers lounge and administrative offices. Linn Smith of Birmingham is the architect.

**Beverly Harris Hurt In Outstate Crash**

Beverly Harris, 19, of 1848 Humphrey, Birmingham, is convalescing at home from injuries suffered recently in an auto accident near Davison.

Miss Harris, on her way north to ski with two Royal Oak youths, suffered a separation of her sacroiliac and is expected to be at home four to six weeks.

Cerald Petat, 19, driver of the car, was not injured when he swerved his car to avoid another on M-15, ran over an eight-foot embankment and struck a tree. His brother, Ronald, 17, received a fractured pelvis.

Miss Harris and Ronald were taken first to a Flint hospital, then transferred to Pontiac General hospital before coming home this week.

**\$1300 in Rings Stolen from Display Of Local Jeweler.**

Birmingham police making their rounds at 1:50 a.m. Saturday discovered a hole broken in the display window at Kincaid's Jeweler, 213 E. Maple. Four sets of diamond rings valued at \$1300 were found missing.

Det. L. Merlin Holmquist said he believes thieves who broke a window at Meyer Jewelry company, Royal Oak, that same night were responsible for the Birmingham robbery.

Approximately \$1,000 in rings were taken in Royal Oak.

HOLMQUIST said no other items in the Kincaid window were touched. The burglar alarm, which operated in a later test, failed to go off when thieves shattered the window Saturday with an unknown instrument.

The break-in was discovered immediately, as heavy rains had not entered the broken window by the time police passed that window on their regular rounds.

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**Two Editorials on Michigan Blue Cross**

Featured below are the full texts of two editorials which appeared in The DETROIT TIMES on February 26, 1956 and in The DETROIT FREE PRESS on February 27, 1956. Because they present the considered editorial judgment of two of Michigan's great newspapers, we are reprinting them in full as a public service for the information of our 3,600,000 Blue Cross members and all the people of Michigan.

**From The Detroit Times, February 26**

**BLUE CROSS FUSS**

We didn't suspect a week ago today, when we started a series of articles on Blue Cross, that the fuss over hospital prepayment would attain the intensity it has now reached.

The amount of hullabaloo, frankly, is getting out of hand.

Rep. Allison Green has a bill for the Legislature, which he fondly hopes will solve everything. It won't.

Insurance Commissioner Joseph A. Navarre has been quoted with some remarks which we suspect he will regret when he begins to realize what he has said.

A group of unions in Detroit and Flint is proposing to set up a rival "Blue Cross plan," which is entirely within their rights, even though we doubt it will look as simple to them once they have gotten into what is a very complicated problem.

Of the three—Rep. Allison, Commissioner Navarre, and the unions—we think the unions are behaving most reasonably. We differ with them only in our opinion as to whether they CAN produce what they think they can.

But of the whole lot, we think Blue Cross and its present managers are the most capable of providing what we want. We think Blue Cross is getting a vicious and needless pushing around.

In our news stories we have tried to tell what was happening without letting our opinions sway us.

But this is the editorial page, and this is our opinion, and we are saying what we think.

But it makes a rather sensational subject to write about—and some people talk too much about it. This "over-utilization" while it does happen, is not occurring to the extent that it makes any vast difference in premium payments.

And that is the most important issue in this whole problem.

Why do we think "over-utilization" is not as great as some people try to suggest?

First, because a Blue Cross study group itself was the first to dig into the matter. No attempt to hide anything. Just an effort to correct the situation, since chiseling by one subscriber is paid for by all the honest ones.

Second, Blue Cross, by subsequent and continuous inquiry, thinks that the evil cannot be got control, even though there is still an occasional violation.

Third, because Michigan isn't the only Blue Cross plan. The same general plan exists in all the states, each under its own laws and its own management.

If the plan here happened to be at fault, in some way, it is hardly possible that all the states would be at fault in the same way.

Somewhere in the country we would find that Blue Cross rates were markedly lower—we would find it, that is, if Michigan's Blue Cross were letting the customers get away with murder.

Somebody would have found a solution, and would be bragging about it. But no, rates are pretty comparable anywhere you go.

Therefore, we suspect this "over-utilization" has been publicized into a bigger fault than it really is. We don't think very many people get much fun out of going to, or staying in, a hospital.

Now Rep. Green thinks he could bring about lower rates, and thwart all the chisellers (such as there are—most people are honest) by a law making Blue Cross change its policy.

He would make anyone who uses Blue Cross pay the whole cost of the first day in the hospital (the cost of the rest of the day of hospitalization) and 15 per cent of the cost after the seventh day. Of course that would reduce the premium you pay for Blue Cross—but you'd soon find it didn't save any money. Furthermore, it would put the biggest burden

on the people who are most seriously ill. Who wants that?

Rep. Green, with the best of intentions, has oversimplified the situation. Besides, he wants to make this compulsory for everybody—doesn't even want to give subscribers a choice of which they'd rather do it.

Commissioner Navarre, for reasons which escape us, has endorsed Rep. Green's notion. We suspect some politics somewhere, because we think Navarre ought to know better.

We wonder, too, why Navarre has questioned the sincerity of the Blue Cross in offering a so-called "deductible" policy.

People have been able, if they chose, to buy such a policy from Blue Cross for upwards of the last year. Blue Cross made no secret of the fact that such a policy was being offered. People could have it, at a lower price, if they wanted it. They didn't want it. To get back to the unions, now. They'd like a policy which gives more benefits at lower cost. Who doesn't like the idea? Who doesn't want the good five-cent cigar box, or the \$700 automobile, or the three-cent newspaper, for that matter? We'd like them all!

But you can't slap economics in the face. You can't legislate Utopia.

And so far as we are concerned, you can't say that Blue Cross hasn't been doing a good job.

Its prices haven't gone up any more than factory workers' wages. And that it now has 3,600,000 people, or half of the whole state, using Blue Cross and liking it.

Trying to make out, all of a sudden, that something is "wrong," or that some simple little bill in the Legislature can turn time backward and make things cost less—that's idiotic.

We don't think this union group can do it, either, but we'll concede their right to try. At least they aren't trying to tell everybody else how to do it. They're undertaking to show how to do it.

We think that, that Blue Cross is a fine thing, and we hope all the noise won't fool the people and unduly alarm them.

Blue Cross is merely a victim of our rising economy just as everybody else is.

the remainder of the hospital stay. The saving of but 16 per cent in premiums does not seem adequate, considering that the average stay is seven days. Blue Cross also is rendering a "catastrophes" policy, but if the savings are no greater than offered under the year-old deductible plan it too probably will not be widely popular.

One additional thought stands out prominently. Physicians, through their dealings with patients and because they control both the hospitals and the Blue Cross organization, have failed, in our estimation, to take an active public stand on the abuses under the voluntary hospitalization insurance plans.

Because they are so closely involved in the abuses and because voluntary plans were their answer in a period when socialized medicine appeared around the corner, they should be available to counsel the public. The public wholeheartedly accepted the voluntary plans and should have the wise advice of doctors.

Since Blue Cross is a \$100,000,000-a-year business, the entire problem should be thoroughly examined, calmly, circumspectly and publicly.

**From The Detroit Free Press, February 27**

**Hospital Insurance Costs TRYING TO SPOT THE REAL VILLAIN**

Old melodramas had their advantages. It was easy to identify the villain. This is not so in the current uproar about hospitalization insurance. Rates have skyrocketed. Many think Blue Cross has thrust its hand too deeply into the pockets of its 3,600,000 Michigan subscribers. Investigations are being made, bills are being submitted to the legislature, and the air is blue with charges.

Much is still being learned, but we think some observations can be made now.

The public's demand in the last decade for better medical and hospital care has been great. Therefore, on top of inflation must be added the cost of this improved care. An increase in Blue Cross rates might, then, be considered automatic.

The question is: Do the allegedly excessive rates reflect only inflation and improved care?

Ample proof to the contrary appears in surveys of hospital costs covered by hospitalization insurance. The studies indicated clearly that alarming abuses have cropped up. These take the form of unnecessary hospitalization, prolonged stays for convenience or comfort, and excessive use of drugs and laboratory facilities.

The problem remains the same. Whom do we hit and how?

Is it hospitals for operating inefficiently? Is it physicians who find it convenient to group patients in hospitals for quick and lucrative rounds of call that require only an hour or so each morning? Is it patients who unnecessarily demand and get from their doctors a hospital bed and costly care? Is it Blue Cross for permitting such known abuses to continue?

Frankly, we suspect the answer to all such questions may be "Yes!"

At least one offered solution appears to be precipitous and short-sighted. A bill introduced in the Michigan Legislature suggests a deductible plan similar to auto insurance. The proposal to make subscribers pay for the first day of hospitalization and 15 per cent after seven days no doubt would cut rates. It also would greatly reduce the value of the service. It would not, we believe, strike hard enough at the abuses.

It would, however, seem logical to offer optional plans. Blue Cross has such a plan, in which the patient pays the cost of the first two days and \$2 a day for

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