

It is as essential for youngsters to be vigorous and active as it is for leaves to flutter in the wind. Direction of youth's energies in healthful recreational activities is as valuable as providing them with other social knowledge. Indeed, playtime is synonymous with the state of youth.

79TH YEAR—NO. 8

# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1956

44 PAGES SECTION ONE

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly SEVEN CENTS

## 3.25-Inch Saturday Night for Area



**RIGHT THROUGH DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM** the normally shallow Rouge river climbed its banks. Here it is roaring by within a few inches of the back doors of several stores. The whole Rouge valley was flooded as water in the estuary trickle became a torrent. It also provided many unusual opportunities for local amateur photographers.

### Many Basements Become Flooded

A near record 24-hour rainfall of 3.25 inches this weekend caused several hundred families to spend Sunday in their basements trying to protect household goods and furnishings and flushing out evidences of backed up sewer water that ranged from several inches to several feet deep.

Thousands of other families observed flooded yards, swollen streams, and temporary private lakes to and from their worship services.

A GROUND-SATURATING rain Saturday caused Sunday's early downpour to head immediately for sewers, streets, or other low-lying places, flooding many of them.

At Birmingham's rain gauging station, Russell Grinnell reported 1.58 inches of rain fell Saturday, another 1.67 on Sunday. Friday saw 84 inches.

Detroit's Saturday-Sunday total according to the weather bureau there, was 2.94 inches.

Weather records show the Detroit area on Oct. 4-5, 1954, got 3.72 inches of rain; 3.55 inches on Oct. 11-12, 1949; and one-day totals of 4.75 in 1925 and 4.51 inches in 1926.

### In Birmingham:

Birmingham DPW Supt. Robert Kenning attributed an extensive two-year sewer cleaning program as the primary reason why not more than 60-75 Birmingham basements were flooded by the wet weekend.

Most of them were east of a north-south line through Quorton lake, Kenning said.

He said the cleaning program has been discontinued because of ahead of anticipated trouble spots, rather than following in behind the trouble calls.

There were no street floodings, he said. River Rouge spread out in all low spots, and came close to flooding a home and several stores near Woodbury and Ravine.

AT SPRINGDALE wolf courses, several footings were washed out by water spilled several feet over two bank-side greens.

Kenning said the water after waters had receded to the main channel.

Several other adjoining homes were affected, too, Kenning said, adding that steps have been taken to restrict the catchbasin opening.

Local consumers Power and Light agents Arthur Blakely said his company received 18 Birmingham calls caused by flooded heaters and furnaces.

Those residents along the Cathedral (See FLOOD, Page 8, Sec. 1)

### In Lathrup:

Estimates on the number of flooded basements in Lathrup during three days of heavy rainfall over the weekend ran as high as 100.

Harden's hit was the usual area bounded by Rainbow Circle, Ham-burg, Hackham Blvd., and Red River.

About a dozen petitions appeared at the adjourned council meeting held Monday night to protest the conditions which have been petitioned in other parts of the city as well as two roads, Somerset at San Rosa and Bungalow west of Santa Barbara.

COUNCIL TOLD residents that they could do nothing to relieve conditions until Claude Stevens cleared up the legal question of who owns the sewer lateral within the city.

If the answer is Oakland county, the city is discontinuing downtown connections into the sewers as advised by Main. This same question came up last year but council took no action.

If the city owns the sewers, then it would be empowered to raise money on special or general assessment to clear up the problem.

Council is also toying with the idea of discontinuing downtown connections into the sewers as advised by Main. This same question came up last year but council took no action.

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Major James Allen and Commissioner Carl Ingraham seemed to speak for other commissioners in voicing a desire for public discussion before further action was taken.

THEY ASKED Ebert to see when "fluoridation experts" could be present. It will be at least a month before the hearing is held, the discussion indicated.

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He said his reputable scientific and health organizations have endorsed it, that the American Dental Association's health committee recently reported that 1154 U. S. communities in 43 states are using it. Fifty-three of these are in Michigan, he said.

HE BRIEFLY traced the history of the research into fluoridation. He said tests have shown that dental decay is reduced by two-thirds in children who drink fluoridated water. This protection lasts throughout their lives, he said, adding that proof is inconclusive regarding protection to adults who are on the program.

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He said the city's legal responsibility, according to an attorney general's opinion, was no greater or less than it now has to assure a healthful supply.

Operators are carefully tested and certified, water is examined daily to assure proper proportion, which can be controlled easily to within one-tenth part per million, he said.

It will be at least a year before this several hundred thousand dollar plant will be in operation, the manager added.

BECAUSE Detroit water will cost more than that brought out of the ground here, water rates are being to have to go up, the city commission admitted some time ago.

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### THIS and THAT

Perhaps you are an old Time. If you can remember when babies used to give customers egg shampoos. It has been many years since I've had one, or seen one administered.

I don't know, however, that egg shampoo were able to do more for the hair and scalp than they do for, say, the heated surface of a summer pavement.

Perhaps, though, barbers failed to use the right kind of egg. Maybe they used Plymouth Rocks, or potential baby Rhode Island Reds, or some other egg not suited by nature to the domes of mankind.

Anyway, who was it who introduced eggs into barber shops?

Adlai Stevenson, in his frenzied efforts to become a "Give-em-hell-Harry" type of campaigner, seized upon many fringe issues—as well as lambasting Ike's administration for about everything.

In this, it seems to me, Adlai is like a Mr. Milquetoast trying to act and look like a brutal giant of the Paleozoic age. Poor Adlai—nice chap, too, in his own way.

(But imagine him, were he President, trying to play the (See THIS & THAT, Page 8, Sec. 1)

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### Must Teenagers Steal, Drink to Be Part of Crowd Here? Parents Ask

"What's wrong with this community that boys think it smart to brag about 'stealing cars'?" This question from a Birmingham newcomer, along with other questions equally provocative, will be asked of Dr. Frank V. Slutz, nationally-known counselor at the May 8 Birmingham high school PTA meeting.

In preparation for this program, the PTA board gave parents (via the postman) a "Notice to ask questions" which Dr. Slutz will answer.

Response to the PTA offer indicates Birmingham parents have plenty of questions about teenage problems and "teenage pretty tough ones," Mrs. Harry Altick, PTA program chairman said.

THE MEETING, started at 8 p.m. in the high school's little theater, Slutz will start the program with some introductory background remarks, then tackle the maelstrom questions, which will be presented by Mrs. Floyd Doherty, Herbert Hunter and high school students.

"How can a student be induced to enter into extra-curricular activities at school and so broaden friendships and interests?"

"At what age should teenagers be allowed to double date, date, and what hours should one expect to be home if they are merely to a neighborhood show of a party at a friend's home?"

"With regard to the late law prohibiting secret societies in public high school, we would like to know what moral gain, if any, exists in permitting certain social clubs which apparently carry on in the same secret manner?"

"When the standards of the home conflict with the group in which the student is seeking recognition, what do parents do? What does the student do?"

"How would you suggest replying to the stock phrase 'all the other kids can stay out—or do it—or have it?'"

"There is not enough activity for teenagers in the evening—especially weekends. Suggestions please?"

"How should one handle the teenage drinking problem when one disapproves and yet so many parents condone drinking plus driving after drinking?"

"How can a student be induced to enter into extra-curricular activities at school and so broaden friendships and interests?"

"OTHER QUESTIONS ARE: 'How does one teach a 10th grade boy to accept responsibility for his behavior?' (See PARENTS, Page 8, Sec. 1)

### 3rd District Race Gets Second Entry

Former Oakland county assistant prosecuting attorney Farrell E. Roberts, W. Bloomfield township resident has entered the Republican race for nomination as 3rd district state representative.

He is an Annapolis Naval Academy graduate and a World War II combat veteran. Following release from active duty, he attended and graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. In 1950 he was recalled to active duty in the Korean area.

Roberts is 31, married and has one son, is active in Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis affairs, and is a member of the Oakland County, Michigan and American Bar associations.

HARVEY BEGGS of Bloomfield Hills also is in this race for the spot being vacated by Richard C. Van Dusen of Birmingham.

Another possible entry is Ralph A. Main of Birmingham, county drain commissioner and, ex-Birmingham mayor and commissioner. He has said he will not run again for the drain post.

### Next Week Is Annual Clean-Up, Fix-Up Time

Been wondering how to dispose of that old mouse hole? Or that old stuffed sword fish Uncle Henry left you? Perhaps an unused bird bath? Even a burned out washing machine? Simply place it at the curb in front of your house on regular pickup day next week (May 7-14) and the city will haul it away.

For next week has been proclaimed by Mayor James Allen as annual clean-up, paint-up, fix-up week for Birmingham householders. The Birmingham DPW is ready to haul away the unnecessary accumulations when placed at the curb in proper permanent or expendable containers.

PAPERS and other materials should be tied together in bundles not to exceed 23 in. by 42 in. Regular rubbish-collection schedules will be followed.

Large metal objects should be kept separate, and the department should be called to pick up items such as bed springs, discarded furniture, water tanks, etc. Trucks will be dispatched for these large items as early as possible.

Rubbish collection services offered during clean-up week are substantially the same as offered throughout the year, except that bulky items normally are picked up only once a week.

girl to survive last week's Detroit Times contest in which four district winners were asked to participate Tuesday in the Detroit area high school finals.

Older sister, Ruth sophomore at the University of Michigan, may be on the same platform that night, if she wins this week's contest.

RUTH RANKED FIRST in the freshman-sophomore division at U. M., and a victory over her orators at the Eastern Michigan colleges would place her in the college finals scheduled to follow her sister Helen's high school tourney.

"Ruth and I took up speech,"

she said with a smile, "so that we could learn to make the best use of the few words we can utter in this talkative family."

Real reason for the teenagers' interest in oratory lies in their parents' contagious enthusiasm for the subject.

DOES DR. CORTRIGHT coach the girls on their oratory? "No," he says, "I listen to them and make some suggestions, but their real coaches are the speech instructors at their schools."

As for helping them to write their material, Dr. Cortright, who is a professor of speech at Wayne University, says he leaves that entirely to them. (See HOME, Page 8, Sec. 1)



WOW! WHAT A WATER HAZARD! In fact, you'd need a putt-putt to putt from Sunday noon on the first and third greens at Birmingham's municipal Springdale Park course. The water spread over several hundred yards across the south end of the course, came within a foot of inundating 16 Mile road.

### Fluoridation Hearings Are Being Planned Here

Before any steps are taken to fluoridate Birmingham's water supply, the public will be given ample opportunity to discuss the pros and cons in public hearings. Advantages to fluoridation of municipal water supplies were outlined to Birmingham city commissioners Monday night by two representatives from the Michigan state health department.

They were Dr. Fred Werthimer, chief of the dentistry section, and T. L. Vander Velde, chief of the water section, engineering division.

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### Detroit Water Expected Here In June or July

Detroit water will start feeding into Birmingham's system in June, perhaps even in June, City Manager D. C. Ebert said this week.

Ultimately, he said, the water mixture will be 60 per cent from Detroit, 40 per cent from Birmingham's wells.

"All will go through the Birmingham treatment plant except during high demand summer days, when we won't be able to treat some of it," he said.

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### STRICTLY FRESH

Bronze razor, dating back to the eighteenth century, B. C., was found recently in Ancona, Italy. Needed sharpening. Our barber's got one to match it in dullness, if not in antiquity.

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