

It is revealed to mankind that most of these men and women who have given the world great thoughts and inspiring examples have been people of humility, who depended not too much on material possessions. For it is not true that he who makes a fetish of acquiring things seldom finds time to gather thoughts?

BOTH YEAR—NO. 5

The Birmingham Eccentric

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1957
44 PAGES

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

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This and That

by
George R. Averill

British Customs, Traditions Make 'Little England' of Barbados

BARBADOS, BRITISH WEST INDIES: This is being written on the eve of my departure for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, after 13 days of living on three of these British possessions. Transportation has been provided by Pan American World Airways and the British West Indian Airways, both operating up-to-date two and four-engine planes.

Barbados is the most eastern of these islands, and dates back to 1626 in the white man's exploring adventures in this Caribbean area. England has possessed it without break since.

This comparatively low and pretty flat piece of land (although a portion of its northeast area is quite hilly, barren and often resembling an English moor) covers 166 square miles. Next to Haiti, Barbados' 200,000 people (mostly colored) present the densest concentration of population on earth.

WHEN THE white man arrived, a tribe of Arawak Indians lived here. In other of these West Indies the Carib Indians dominated the scene.

Historians say that the Arawaks reached Barbados via South America... during the migration of the Arawaks from the northern coast of South America, some of them crossed the North Atlantic Ocean, entering the Straits, these journeyed southward—leaving some to become the Guianas, Indians of North, Central and South America.

But to get back to Barbados... this busy little place depends chiefly on growing sugar cane to make the sugar and rum for export. It is referred to as "Little England" for many of the Mother Country's traditions and customs are imbedded in the life of both colored and white.

PHIL RICH, Midland publisher with whom I am making this trip, and I agree that, while Barbados has many attractions, among which are its wonderful white sand beaches, nevertheless, we still feel that the Grenadas, where we last stayed, offers more lush vegetation and beautiful mountain scenery.

In both Grenada and Antigua we stayed at hotels that were in the same way as those of Barbados. As I write these lines late in the afternoon, I am surprised to find, because our location is on the island's west, or lee side. The breeze less breeze to combat the sun's very warm tropical rays.

Many large ships, all over the earth, put into Barbados, to take on or remove cargo merchandise.

COMING from the airport to this delightful Barbados Country Club (entirely owned and operated by Cmdr. Bill Dolphin) we drove over miles and miles of narrow two-lane highway which reminded me of Miami Beach's Collins Avenue, with both houses and many small hotels and clubs fronting the ocean side.

Barbados, this island has enjoyed its greatest tourist season... a condition we found wherever we stopped. I was told that again suggests that I remind all who plan to visit this delightful climate... and the net at this point has been dropped over a school of fish.

Observing the colored natives on these islands reveals interesting habits and customs. One evening, while swimming in the Caribbean, I saw a young colored native carefully walking along the very rocky near-shore reefs. He was carrying a Pichard net over his shoulders. He was looking for the very clear water for fish that might be passing.

ALL OF A sudden he threw the net in such a fashion that it opened into a crude circle, plugging over an area of water about 25 feet in diameter. Attached to the bottom of the net are many small lead weights which immediately send the lower part of the net to the bottom of the sea. My net at this point has been dropped over a school of fish.

The native immediately began pulling on a single cord which caused other smaller cords to act like a draw-string, thus closing the bottom of the net, and holding the fish captive.

He finally brought the net to the shore and dumped several hundred "perchers" from five to seven inches long. He said he would sell

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READY TO SERVE YOU with a Smile, Ann Bosworth reports she is doing a land-office business in Birmingham's new violations bureau. Ann, of 1090 W. 14 Mile road, is on hand to serve recipients of police tickets from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Saturday. New bureau is located in room 212, on the second floor of the municipal building, adjacent to court office.

Birmingham to Battle Creek For Mayor's Exchange Day

Special to The Birmingham Eccentric
Mayors of Battle Creek and Birmingham will exchange places on Monday, May 20, of Michigan Week. It was announced by Anthony J. Balice, mayor of Ionia and chairman of the state mayors exchange committee, following the withdrawal of two small communities.

In the drawing Battle Creek was paired with Copper City in the Upper Peninsula, and Birmingham was lined up with Pellston in Cheboygan county. Both Copper City and Pellston informed the state committee they would be unable to participate.

IN A RE-PAIRING at Lansing Battle Creek was matched with Birmingham. Although more communities than ever before will take part in the exchange of mayors and village presidents this year, circumstances prevent a number from taking part and this necessitates a re-pairing between communities that lose their original exchange city.

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John Bugas Is Hills' New Mayor

John S. Bugas was elected mayor of Bloomfield Hills unanimously by the Hills city commission Tuesday night. Bugas, vice president of Ford Motor Company in charge of industrial relations, was re-elected to the commission in the April 1 election along with Commissioners Robert J. Craig and Donnick Vetrano.

Bugas thanked the commission for its vote of confidence and announced, "I will do my best to serve faithfully until the next election."

VETRANO was named mayor pro-tem, retiring Mayor C. G. Eden was absent as he is in the hospital for treatment. Robert J. Sluder was re-elected clerk-treasurer. City Manager Elmer Kephart was renamed associate and deputy clerk-treasurer. Craig and Robert Anderson were re-elected board of review members.

After trying out the plan of having commissioners serve at-large during the past year, the commission voted to revert to the previous system of assigning specific commissioners responsibility for information on roads, police and fire departments.

Saturday Mail Deliveries, Window Service to Cease

Homer Still A Mystery, Band Is Read

Homer is still around. Far a while we thought he had disappeared, but he turned up Monday when Mrs. Russell Link, of 2825 Hyland drive, called. Only he's still a mystery.

Just before The Birmingham Eccentric recently published the story of the lost homing pigeon who had perished miserably at the home of the J. D. Atkinsons on Hyland, Homer's host and hostess left on a two-day trip.

A later check with neighbors revealed that Homer vanished several days after the Atkinsons left.

WHEN THE ATKINSONS returned late last week, Mrs. A. called to ask if The Birmingham Eccentric had received any message from Homer.

"No word," we said. "To which she replied, 'I kind of miss him.'"

But Homer was not only learned that Monday had taken up a new job down the block in the Link's garage, but we also learned what it says on his metal band.

"It's looking for somebody who wants him," says Mrs. Link, who is too fond of Homer to take him for a long ride and turn him loose, but weary of his antics.

When told that Mrs. Atkinson missed Homer, Mrs. Link responded, "Well, she can have him."

Advised of this development later, Mrs. Atkinson was non-committal.

SHE DIDN'T SAY, however, that recent scientific reports claim homing pigeons become drowsy from fatigue of radiation. She added that Homer might be a victim of the atomic age, because he seems drowsy.

Mrs. Link's maid had a good suggestion about a future home for Homer.

"Send him to the city hall," she said. "Pigeons always like city halls."



BIRMINGHAM'S NEW MAYOR and the youngest it has ever had—is William E. Roberts, (above), who checks an agenda item with City Clerk Irene Hanley, Roberts, at 57 1/2 years old, won his second city commission term only a week before in the April 1 annual city election. Mayor pro tem is Carl F. Ingraham. Previous holder of the "youngest mayor" title was Dean G. Beier, who had just turned 31 years old when he assumed the position in September 1951.

Face Parking Ban If No Access Drive

A two-year deadline was set this week by Birmingham city commissioners for the construction of all remaining access drives along US-10 between 14 Mile road and Oakland avenue.

After that date, they decreed that all parking would be prohibited along the right-of-way where there are no such drives.

Under discussion for some months, the commission Monday night went on record that traffic problems have increased so that the remaining drives must be installed very shortly.

COMMISSIONERS cited as an additional reason for accelerating the program the state highway department's agreement to pay half the cost of these drives.

With a change in highway commissioners later this week, the city feels it should get as many formal commitments as it can now.

One of the prime factors for access drives, the commission argues, is that it eliminates the present interminable pulling into and out of US-10.

The commission promised the city's cooperation in working with property owners in developing access drive plans.

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To Begin Cutback This Week

Even if Postmaster General Summerfield should rescind his order to halt Saturday postal service, the reversal probably will come too late for Birmingham's post office to re-schedule service for the day.

So speculated Postmaster Rolf Reese Tuesday, who said the local postal facility had made plans to comply with its directive from Summerfield to eliminate Saturday mail deliveries and window service beginning this week.

Reese said other cutbacks would include reducing the present ten hours of public window service daily to 8 1/2 hours, and refusal to accept third class mail, except medical supplies, after April 29. He said new window hours were tentatively scheduled for 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

ABOUT 20 TEMPORARY employees would have to be laid off, according to Reese. He added that the two-day backlog of mail awaiting carriers on Monday would put the local post office "a day to two days behind all the time."

"We would only be able to take part of the mail out on Monday," he said.

Some second class matter, such as magazines, might be delayed several days, he added.

State GOP Boss To Speak Here

Lawrence Lindsey, newly elected chairman of the Republican state central committee, will speak at a meeting for all Republican workers in Oakland county, Tuesday, April 18, 8:30 p.m. at the Birmingham Community House.

He will give an analysis of the spring election and outline a program for revitalizing the Republican party in Michigan.

The 18th Congressional district Young Republicans are sponsoring this meeting. It is a county-wide membership and organizational drive.

The purpose of the drive is to encourage and enlist young Republican men and women in all county areas to begin working now for a complete Republican victory in 1958. All people interested in actively participating in party affairs are urged to attend this meeting.

Plan Joint Meeting With Supervisors

Mrs. Hope Lewis, David Levinson, Luther Heacock and City Manager Harold Sehohe have been re-appointed to the Oakland county board of supervisors. City commission renamed them Monday night.

Commissioners plan to meet with these four to discuss county plans which may affect the city in the next year.

Award Contract For Birmingham's 4th Parking Lot

Low bid of \$21,920 from Edward K. White has been accepted by the Birmingham city commission for constructing the fourth municipal parking lot at Rossell and Forest.

White also started last fall on two other lots on Hamilton.

Building Valuation

The estimated valuation on new construction in the city of Birmingham for the month of March is \$92,425, reports the building inspection department. The valuation for March, 1956 was \$128,185.

Sunrise Services Near Waterfall

Junior and senior high school Baptist youth fellowship has received city permission to hold an Easter sunrise service in the W. Maple park near the Quanton lake waterfall.

According to Assistant Pastor E. A. Macauley, the 45-minute service would start at 7 a.m., and include a couple of hymns, Scripture reading, prayer and brief devotional messages.

Funeral Saturday For James Vernor

Funeral Services for James Vernor, Jr., of 207 West Long Lake road, Bloomfield township, will be at 11 a.m. Saturday from Christ Church, Cranbrook. Rev. Robert DeWitt will be assisted by Canon Wellington Hughes, Vernor's Army chaplain in conducting the service.

The 30-year-old grandson of the founder of the James Vernor Co., a ginger-ale firm, succumbed early Tuesday in a New York City hospital, where he had been a patient since March 21. Vernor and his third wife, the former Shirley Chewley, were in New York on a combined business and pleasure trip.

BOBS in Detroit, Vernor attended Cranbrook school and Culver Military Academy, where he was a member of the famed Black Horse Troop. His interest in horses continued over the years, and he spent some time as a professional three-level rider with a rodeo show.

His entry into the family business came in the late 1930's, when he served his apprenticeship in nearly every department of the firm, even as a delivery truck driver.

In 1940, he was made director of advertising and sales promotion just prior to being called into the Army, as a lieutenant, when the Michigan National Guard was federally mobilized. His regiment was sent to the Aleutians during World War II, and Vernor was awarded the Purple Heart.

(See VERNOR, Page 2-A)

STRICTLY FRESH

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