The Birmingham Eccentric

Local Happenings from July to Dec., 1956

meeting factionalism between volunteer and paid police was aired as council heard a first reading of an ordinance to establish a permanent police force.

Senior girl scouts from Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Walnut Lake area took up residence in camp tents at the first national senior scout Roundup at the Highland state recreation area.

Semon E. Knudsen, 31500 Bingham, Bingham Farms, became general manager of the Pontiac division of General Motors. Succeeding Knudsen as general manager of the Detroit Diesel engine division was Clyde W. Truxell, 31750 Brandingham, Franklin. Edward A. Knaegi, of 707 Waddington, Bloomfield township, became general manager

of the GM Brown-Lipe-Chapin division in Syracuse, N. Y.

Death took David E. Anderson, 63, Bloomfield township supervisor since 1950. Arno L. Hulet, township treasurer, was named as his successor.

Issue of July 12

Named to succeed former Birmingham City Manager Donald C. Egbert was Harold K. Schone, 42-year-old city manager of Oak Park. His appointment by the Birmingham city commission ended a six-month search. He will receive $14,000 a year.

Significant business gains in Birmingham were reported, in a study of business released by Sales Management magazine. A buying power survey revealed the city's 1955 retail business added up to

$76,518,000, compared with $44,405,000 the previous year.

An adequate air-raid-warning system was cited as the most urgent of Birmingham's future civil defense needs in a progress report by Dana Whitman, Jr., director of the city's office of civil defense.

LATHRUP—Mayor John G. Campbell answered newly-resigned Judge Leonard V. Pylkas' charge that the council interfered with City Administrator Leonard A. Watchowski's performance of his duties.

"If the council believes that any city employee is not functioning according to regulations, it is the established duty of the council to make inquiries."

Rev. Dr. Emil Kontz, minister of First Baptist church, was elected

chairman of the American Baptist convention's Council on Missionary Cooperation at its national meeting in Seattle. Dr. Kontz will chairman a national board of over 100 denominational executives, pastors and laymen.

Members of the Royal Danish Ballet committee held a tea at the home of the Robert C. Vander-Klots to discuss plans for the Oct. 12 performance of the ballet to benefit the Save the Children Federation.
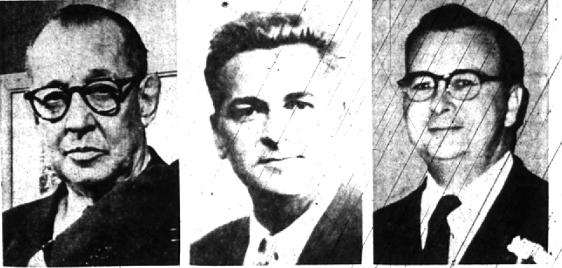
Issue of July 19

Recommendations for reducing traffic congestion in Birmingham, backed by Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley, were handed to Birmingham city commissioners. They included eliminating left turns from Maple between Woodward and Chester, and making portions of four streets, Pierce, Henrietta, Merrill and Brown, one-way.

William C. Newberg, 45, of 975 Fairfax, president of the Dodge division and a Chrysler corporation vice president, was assigned to the newly-created corporation post of group vice president-automotive. R. S. Bright, 44, of Cranbrook court, Bloomfield Hills, was named Chrysler group vice president-basic manufacturing. William J. Bird, 46, of 1120 Lyonhurst, was named to Newberg's staff, and Jack W. Minor, 36, of 1556 Dorchester, was named Plymouth division vice president in charge of sales.

Dr. Ned B. Kalder, 43, of 18270 Kirkshire, chief of staff at Mt. Carmel Mercy hospital, was killed when his car collided with another auto at 12 Mile and Evergreen road.

A syndicate headed by Fred Knorr, of Vaughan road, Bloomfield Hills, became new owners of the Detroit Tigers in a $5,500,000 deal.

LATHRUP—Most of a six-hour city council meeting was spent on the subject of Lathrup's police force. Council passed Police Force Ordinance 32 as emergency legislation, and requested that Judge Leonard V. Pylkas reconsider his resignation of two weeks previous.

First services were held in the new Franklin Community church on the Village Green. Rev. Robert Searls cut the ribbon at opening ceremonies, and Grant Sivier, building chairman, officially opened the doors.

Issue of July 26

Tentative location of the proposed south Oakland "free-way" express route will probably be west of Southfield road and Lathrup Village, and east of Telegraph road, Michigan Deputy Highway Commissioner J. Carl McMonagle said.

LATHRUP—Loren B. Cross, 18819 Sunnybrook, was appointed to replace Judge Leonard V. Pylkas. Kenneth M. Farnham, who has headed the city's small volunteer police force for three years, was appointed police chief.

SOUTHFIELD — Southfield charter commissioners adopted the charter they had written on the 89th day, one day before the deadline. Oct. 22 was set as a tentative date for election on Southfield's second city charter.

Birmingham's entry in the Babe Ruth All-Star Tournament defeated Berkley, Port Huron and Southfield and gained a berth in the semi - finals. The Birmingham Americans opened Little League tournament play in Michigan with a victory at Milford.

Mrs. D. H. St. John, 2280 Dorchester, Birmingham, began duties as supervisor of Birmingham's around Observer Corps. Ten local women pledged to act as "skywatchers" at the city's re-activated post on E. Maple road.

Issue of August 2

More than 300 friends of Birmingham's retiring city manager, Donald C. Egbert, gathered at a reception and dinner honoring him for his 27 years' service here. 19 of them as city manager. Following the dinner, Mayor James C. Allen, acting on behalf of the city and its commission, presented Egbert with a replica of a 35-foot Norway spruce to be placed in Shain Park. The tree will replace the present tree in the park's center, and will be marked "The Don Egbert Community Tree."

Birmingham's justice court will become a municipal court Aug. 11, in accordance with new state legislation designed to make municipal courts more uniform throughout the state.

While Birmingham city commmissioners debated with his attorney over the sales price of his home, Arthur J. Dubuc, 58, suffered an asthma attack that ended in his death 45 minutes later in St. Joseph's Mercy hospital. Dubuc lived at 448 Hamilton, on property being acquired by the city for a 55-car parking lot.

SOUTHFIELD — Tax limitation in City of Southfield's second charter was raised from three to five mills as commissioners began to revise the charter they completed a week ago.

Sally Sharp, of 144 Fairfax, Birmingham, won the Michigan Women's amateur golf championship. Birmingham's Babe Ruth representative lost to Escanaba in the semifinals of the Michigan Babe Ruth League tournament. Birmingham Americans defeated Walled Lake and Harper Woods to reach Little League semifinals.
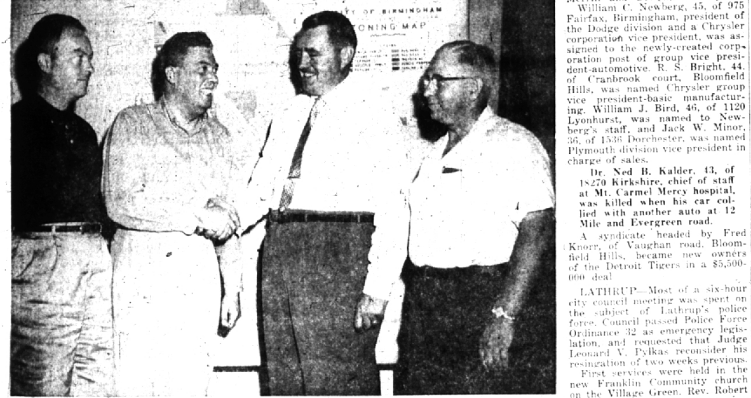
Issue of Aug. 9

Acquisition of 1700 acres, almost three square miles, of farm land in Troy was announced by Chrysler corporation. President L. L. Colbert said the site was being acquired for future expansion of its engineering and research facilities.

William S. Broomfield defeated George N. Higgins by a 1482-vote margin to win Republican nomination for 18th District's Congressional representative. Paul Sutton won the Democratic party nomination for the same office.

Bad weather conditions were blamed for the air crash which killed Frederick W. Wagner, 41, of 3181 Morningview Terrace, Birmingham. Wagner was flying his private plane near Bay City when the accident occurred.

LATHRUP — Attempts were made to fire City Administrator

HAROLD K. SCHONE, (second from right) Birmingham's new city manager receives official greeting from Mayor James Allen as Mayor Pro Tem Harry Denyes (left) and retiring city manager Don Egbert look on.

ON AUG. 1 the Grand Trunk station marked its 25th birthday and to celebrate the event when No. 5634 steamed into the station. Superintendent T. D. Ash (center) was on hand to shake hands with Engineer Milo Baird and Fireman Vincent Duncan. At left Birmingham Ticket Agent H. J. Wichman hands orders to Conductor John Irwin.

BIRMINGHAM'S 175-CAR municipal off-street parking lot was officially opened Dec. 1. Third of its kind, the lot is located between Hamilton and Oakland and from Park to Ferndale streets. With the new lot came an extension of Ferndale street southward so it now connects with Hamilton.

THREE MEN FROM the Birmingham area were among 128 killed in history's worst commercial airline crash when two super-liners crashed into the Grand Canyon after a mid-air collision. Victims were: Carl J. Snyder, 59, of Pembrook, Bloomfield Hills, director and vice president of Chrysler Corp.; Ted M. Kubiniec, 37, of 388 N. Glengary, Bloomfield township, Ford Motor Co. senior staff attorney; and John J. Muldoon, 57, of 21468 Stahelin, Southfield township, sales engineer for Cogsdill Twist Drill Co. and president of Motorama Engineernig, Inc. of Dearborn. Also killed was Weslau G. Wright, 59, former Birmingham resident en route to Chicago from the west coast.
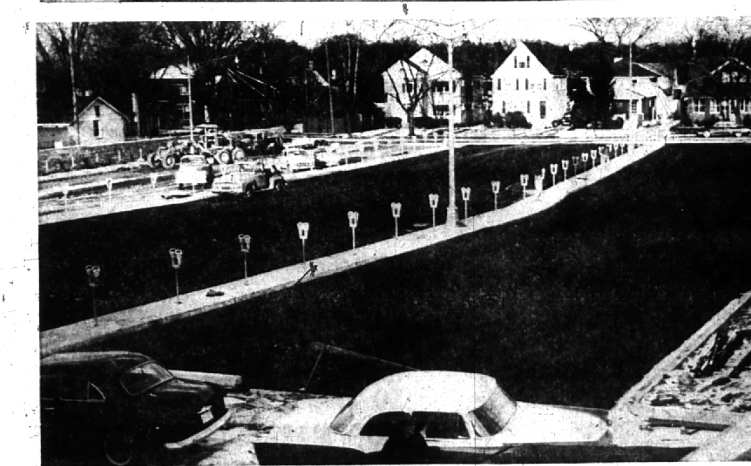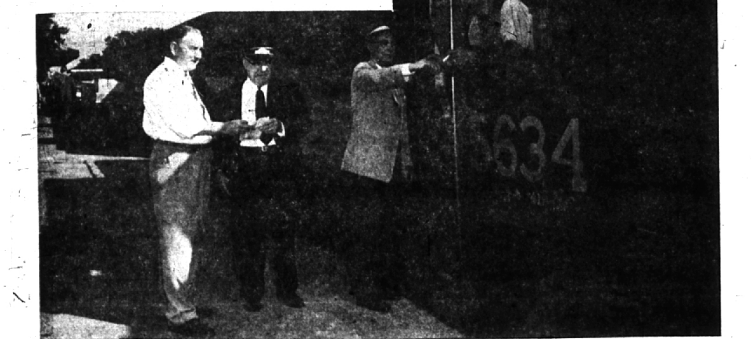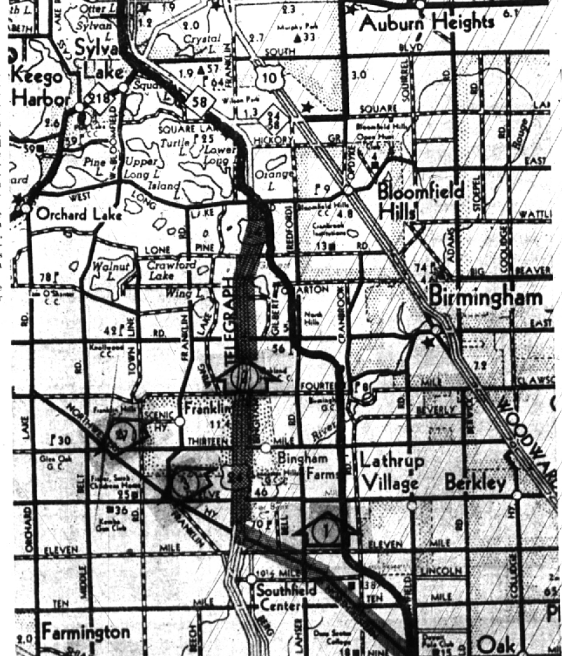

FLUORIDIZATION treatments were inaugurated at Birmingham schools this fall by board of education after parents indicated they wanted the program. Here Dental Hygienist Mrs. Eunice Van Dyke begins fluoride education as students Tom Andersen, Linda Buchanan, Eric Pedersen and Jan Upward listen.

SINCE THIS MAP of possible freeway routes was published the State highway department has claimed that they abandoned plans to run their freeway along the route indicated by arrow No. 1. Other three arrows are possible routes of the freeway. Arrow No. 2 takes the freeway along Northwestern to Telegraph where it joins the all-but-dead turnpike route north to Pontiac. Since the present freeway ends at Eight Mile and Southfield roads and it is known that it will begin again at square Lake and Franklin roads south of Pontiac, it would seem most probable that either the route indicated by the arrow No. 1 or arrow No. 2 (above) will have to act as the connecting link unless the freeway is to make a wide detour circle to the west of Franklin Village.