

# This Story's for the Birds!

## Homing Pigeon Gets Radar Jammed, Puzzles Area

By JULIE CANDLER

Like they say when they introduce one of the soap operas, this is a story that asks a question. The query in this case is: "Will Homer ever go home?"

Somehow the homeless homing pigeon's radar system has gotten fouled up. He flew into the North Adams area last week, and is still puzzling its residents. Particularly Mrs. John D. Atkinson. She and her neighbors figure someone must be looking for Homer. He might have a message for them.

When Homer (that may not be his name, but we like to call him that) is approached by people who want to read the inscription on the metal band around his leg, he pulls up his brown-speckled white chest and stalks away. As fast as his pigeon-toed legs can carry him.

HE DROPPED IN for dinner at Mrs. Atkinson's

bird feeding station early last week, then stayed on, nesting himself in the Atkinson garage at 2901 Hylane drive.

His "hostless" turned to others for advice, got lots of it. But no help.

"Call the police," said a neighbor. But Troy police Sgt. Willard Schwandt, who answered the call, didn't know what to do with a homing pigeon. He offered to catch and destroy him, or turn him loose somewhere.

"But he might be valuable," said Mrs. Atkinson. "Someone may be looking for him."

THEN SHE CALLED Cranbrook Institute of Science, talked to Naturalist Walter Nickel.

He said Homer might be a racing pigeon. He told her of a group that raced the birds, but said they were not interested in lost pigeons.

Next Mrs. Atkinson tried the humane society. They listened sympathetically, then in a humane way said they didn't know what to do with a

homeless homing pigeon.

MRS. ATKINSON'S next query was to The Birmingham Eclectic. "Let us know what happens," was all we could say.

Meanwhile, we have several theories? He may have run away from some cute little girl pigeon, the squab!

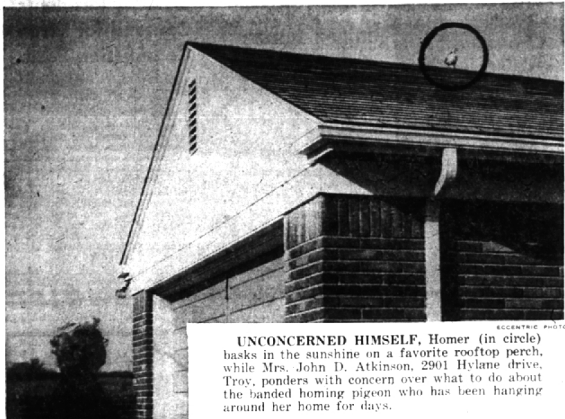
He may have made a forced landing in Birmingham with his radar jammed.

Or maybe he's lost because he's a bird-brain. Whatever he is, he's homeless again. He left his garage home by request of Mrs. Atkinson's husband, who didn't like Homer's housekeeping.

But he's still around the house, usually perched on the roof.

If Homer lets a neighborhood resident get close enough to read the word on his metal band, it might not clear up a thing.

The reader won't understand the message if it's written in pigeon English.



**UNCONCERNED HIMSELF**, Homer (in circle) basks in the sunshine on a favorite rooftop perch, while Mrs. John D. Atkinson, 2901 Hylane drive, Troy, ponders with concern over what to do about the banded homing pigeon who has been hanging around her home for days.

Hunger is a condition that responds to natural law. One gets hungry without any apparent conscious effort. Within most of us are deep needs, such as the inherent desire to eat, to rest, to laugh and to be joyful, to love all babies, to applaud the virtuous, or the hero. We are, more than we are conscious of,

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BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly SEVEN CENTS

## B of E To Spend \$300,000 Tonight

Consider Salary Boosts in Wake Of 'Yes' Vote

How an additional \$300,000 will be apportioned to teachers' salaries in the Birmingham school system may be decided tonight at a special board of education meeting at Hill school.

The additional funds were made available by the school electorate Monday which in a turnout of only 12 per cent of the registered voters, approved a new 6-mill operating levy by a 5 to 3 majority.

The vote was 2,254 yes, 1,250 no. A total of 3,267 voters went to the polls.

THE MEETING tonight will see the official vote canvassed made. It is expected the board members and school administrative officers then will jump into the matter of teachers' salaries, since 1957-58 contracts are being prepared.

School Supt. Dwight B. Ireland said yesterday morning he plans to make some salary recommendations to the board tonight.

Birmingham beginning teaching salaries start at \$4,200, and it is known that several neighboring school districts are going to offer their new teachers \$4,500 or \$4,600 next year.

Monday was the fourth time in 15 years that the school district has voted this special operating millage.

Last December, the most recent 3.5-mill levy expired. In February, a special citizens committee on education, after an exhaustive 8-month study, recommended that not only the 3.5 mills be continued another five years, but that an additional 2.5 mills for total of 6 mills be approved from 1957 through 1961.

IN ADDITION to approximately \$300,000 to bolster the Birmingham system's competitive position for teachers in the Detroit metropolitan area, the additional 2.5 mills will permit the board to:

Hire a new assistant superintendent of schools to take charge of personnel. (See SALARIES, Page 2-A)

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## These Three Will be Waiting to See Which One of This Pair Makes the Trio a Winning Quartet



WILLIAM ROBERTS



FLORENCE WILLETT



WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

## Fast Teenagers Catch Suspect Near Supermarket

When three teenage youths spotted in pursuit of a 21-year-old suspected check passer Friday, the "old" man was caught, completely exhausted, some blocks later. He turned out to be Charles E. Metcalf, 21, of Pinckney, wanted by Hazel Park police for breaking and entering in the night time.

The chase began at Wrigley's supermarket, 855 S. Hunter boulevard, Birmingham Police Lt. Henry Timm was in the store in plain clothes at the time.

Metcalf presented a check for \$125.19 to Manager Herman Ziolkowski, who became suspicious and talked to Lt. Timm about the check on Sun-Day corporation of Hazel Park.

Realizing he was suspected, Metcalf grabbed for the check, missed, then ran off in track style. Timm yelled, "Stop that man!"

Three carry-out boys near the door responded. They are J. Carnowski, 18, of 3311 Fernleigh, Troy; Dave Frasure, 16, of 15145 Beverly road, and Gerald Schick, 17, of Royal Oak.

They caught Metcalf on Webster street, where Timm placed him in a car and drove him to the station.

ST. JAMES IS the mother church for St. Anne's mission in Oakley Park and St. James parochial mission, Berkeley, both of which were initiated during Mr. Towne's ministry.

Mr. Towne assumes his new position July 1. He said the past 11 1/2 years have seen him complete his work of strengthening the Birmingham parish.

He added, "The parish to which I am now going presents me with a similar opportunity to strengthen it."

The chapel is a suburb located northeast of Pittsburgh.

What many motorists regard as Birmingham's busiest road is to be smoothed out this year. Birmingham city commissioners plan to discuss with property owners and city engineers next Monday the details involved in repaving and widening Maple avenue between Hunter and Adams roads.

The city tentatively is scheduled to begin the \$80,000 project. This would consist of repaving the present 23-foot width. The city and abutting property probably would divide the remainder of the widening and new drainage costs on a city 25-1 property 75-1 basis.

## Rev. Towne To Leave St. James

Mr. Towne came to St. James as rector in December, 1946, from St. Bartholomew's church, New York city. Under his leadership the congregation has grown to 3600 members, one of the largest parishes in the Diocese of Michigan.

A completely new church, parish house and office section were completed two years ago.

CC Announces Friday Night Shop Campaign

Friday night is going to become a special night for shoppers around Birmingham.

Taking strides to meet the stiff competition of large centralized shopping centers, the Birmingham chamber of commerce is sponsoring a program to attract local shoppers to their own business area.

Shoppers in the participating stores, from 6-9 p.m., will receive a ticket to be dropped in a drawing box within the store.

Drawings will be each Monday, the winner receiving \$100 worth of gift certificates.

"It will be a good thing for all the city," says Aaron Kershbaum, of Kay Baum, Inc., a member of the merchants' committee. "The whole family has an opportunity to take advantage of the program."

Another committee member, James McSweeney, owner of McSweeney's fine footwear, thinks the promotional program will have a "very good" effect in stimulating business. He points out that parking is adequate on Friday night.

REV. HAROLD E. TOWNE

## Dog Poisoned, Suspect Second Case on Chester

Raw meat powdered with strychnine found on his and another of the suspects of Bruce Uwin, of 672 Chester, Birmingham, that his dog was poisoned Saturday.

Uwin said the veterinary to whom he rushed the convulsive Irish setter, "Terry," immediately diagnosed the condition as strychnine poisoning. Prompt treatment saved the dog's life, and Terry was returned home Monday.

ANOTHER NEIGHBORHOOD net, a puppy belonging to the Glen W. Gilberts, of 698 W. Chester, died under suspicious conditions a week before Gilbert found the raw meat wrapped in paper when he raked the yard later.

A second package of poisoned meat was found in the Uwin front yard after the dog's symptoms developed.

Birmingham Dog Warden Al Surovell has posted signs in the neighborhood, offering a reward for information leading to the arrest of the culprit. Penalty for the offense is 90 days in jail, or \$100 fine, or both, police said.

"I just can't imagine a boy being capable of doing a thing like that," Uwin said.

## Local Voters' Interest Focuses on State Races

When Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham voters visit the polls next Monday, they will choose 10 state office holders and elect token voters for their local city officials, with one exception.

In Birmingham, the electorate will find a local contest between Charles F. Delbridge, Jr., and Arthur W. Land for a one-year vacancy on the city commission.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Incumbent commissioners Florence Willett and William Roberts, together with newcomer William Hutchinson, were the only three candidates to file for reelection to the three full three-year commission terms.

Mrs. Willett was elected to the commission in 1955, and Roberts in 1954.

IN BLOOMFIELD Hills, three incumbents will be returned to two-year terms on the city commission. They are John S. Bugas, Lynn J. Craig, and Dominick Vettramano.

Bugas went on the commission in 1953, Craig and Vettramano both in 1954.

BIRMINGHAM'S public library board also will see a no-contest race. Harry Allen, former village president and city mayor, will win his fifth three-year term as a board member. Mrs. Oliver (Dorothy W.) Rodgers will be elected to her first term.

Sally Hanson, 17, of 5643 Putnam, Birmingham, tied as first place winner in the senior division of the contest in which thousands of students competed.

Another Birmingham high school student, Warren Hardy, a senior, received a key award in the journalism category for his feature story on a recent candy sale staged by sophomore students. His story was published in The Birmingham Eclectic.

BHS eleventh grader Bill O'Toole won honorable mention for feature story. A commendation went to Mike Conroy, BHS senior at Birmingham high school, for a sports story entered in the journalism category.

CRANBROOK STUDENTS won 141 prizes, including 20 key awards. Lou Potter won seven awards, including two key awards for winning two key awards were Clark (See WINNERS, Page 2-A)



ARTHUR LAND

CHARLES DELBRIDGE

## Local Voters' Interest Focuses on State Races

Three political parties have put up candidates for the six state offices at this biennial spring election.

The candidates, their offices, and party are:

UNIVERSITY of Michigan board of regents—Alfred B. Connable and Birmingham's Ethel J. Watt, both Republican (R); Carl Burchley and Birmingham's Irene Murphy, both Democrats (D); and Ralph C. March and Helen B. Lowell, both Progressives (P).

State superintendent of public instruction—Edgar L. Harden (R), Lynn M. Bartlett (D), and Oscar C. Griswold (P).

State board of education—George W. Dean (R), Chris H. Magnusson (D), and Otto Jennings (P).

STATE BOARD of agriculture—Frank Morrison and Frederick H. Mueller (R), Don Stevens and Jay R. Vanderpool (D), and Paul H. Kyburz and William J. Persons (P).

State highway commissioner—George M. Foster (R), and John C. Mackie (D).

Two of these four supreme court justice candidates will be named to eight year terms—Robert E. Childs, Thomas M. Kavanagh, Michael D. O'Hara, and Talbot Smith.

For the single supreme court vacancy expiring in 1959, these two men will compete—Joseph A. Mayhew and John D. Voelker.

Souvenir Gavel Given to Mayor

A "going-away gavel," souvenir of his three years on the Birmingham city commission—the third as mayor, was presented to James C. Allen Monday night by his fellow commissioners.

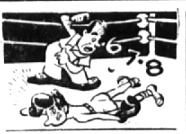
He promised his "valedictory message" would be written this week for presentation next Monday evening, the last meeting he will preside over.

Weeks ago, Allen declined to seek reelection in next Monday's annual city election, explaining he must spend more time with his law practice.

Many people drive as if they're out to prove they have no insurance.

Then there's the girl who wondered what type antifreeze is used in a convertible.

Jungle cannibals have nothing on cocktail party back-biters.



Some fighters take so many dives they should wear bathing trunks.

## This and That

by George R. Averill  
They Raise Cane on Island of Antigua

ANTIGUA, BRITISH WEST INDIES: March 14. Four days ago, in company with Middle editor Phil Rich, I left Miami via Pan American World Airways, arriving in San Juan, Puerto Rico four hours later, or 1040 air miles.

After a night's rest there we flew on another FAA ship to this 108 square mile Caribbean gem of an island, about 450 miles south of San Juan.

Rich and I will leave here tomorrow for another Caribbean island, Grenada, down in the general direction of Barbados, which then will be our second stop.

Our subsequent journey will take us back to San Juan and the Virgin Isles, thence to New York and home.

THIS ISLAND of Antigua has a population of about 45,000 people, only 1,500 of whom are white.

Its chief industries are the raising of sugarcane and sea island cotton, practically all of which goes to England. Beyond any question of doubt in my mind, Antigua's third largest industry is destined to be catering to tourists...

New hotels and beach resorts are being constructed rapidly. Prices, incidentally, are very reasonable. Most places follow the American plan, and the meals are good.

BRITAIN'S monetary system is used on all these islands, the American dollar now worth \$1.70 British exchange. For example, our per person rate at the Antigua Beach Hotel is \$13.50, U. S. value, with good meals included and accommodations within 90 feet of the beautiful Caribbean Sea, it's not unreasonable.

The farther south one goes the less expensive it will be. At Grenada, the per person rate will be only \$2.25 per day. American plan. However, if you ever plan to come down this way be sure that you not only have all transportation. (See THIS & THAT, Page 2-A)

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