If you reflect God's image (and the Good Book states that you should) then why not claim for yourself more of God's wonderful attributes? If one strives for this end he thus pays great homage and tribute to those virtues that correctly belong to him. Having thus exalted himself above earthiness, is he not "born again?"

79TH YEAR—NO. 52

# The Birmingham Eccentric

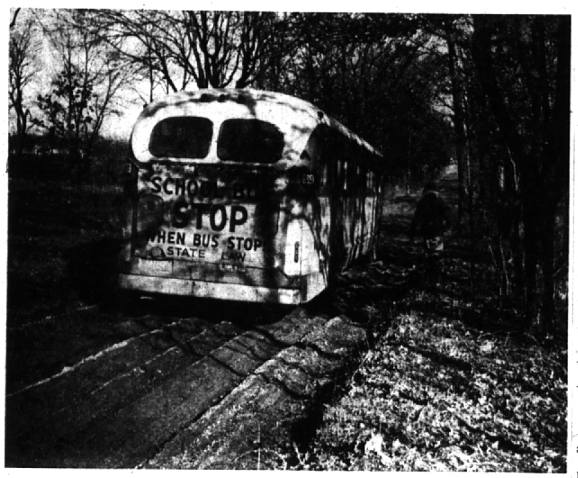
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1957
38 PAGES

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

*Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area*

The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly
SEVEN CENTS



ECCENTRIC PHOTO

**AN OVERNIGHT FROST** last week was just enough to keep this school bus from sinking too far into the mud on Westview road as it proceeded to Eastover school. The day before the bus couldn't get through. Taking no chances, a boy walks along the road's high (and comparatively dry) shoulder.

# Block's Zoning May Decide NE B'ham's Future

## Muddled Commission Is in the Middle as Owners Want Business, Neighborhood Objects

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

The last thing Birmingham city officials need right now is another lawsuit over rezoning.

But if they are going to get another one, they want to figure out the best defense in advance.

At stake, they are convinced, is the future of the northeast section of the city.

Monday night the full city commission postponed for another two weeks its decision on a petition to rezone a small block at the northeast corner of Hunter and Oakland.

This will permit a special meeting with the city plan board next Wednesday night regarding the city's official position on the zoning of this 25,550 square feet which now is in single family classification.

THE BLOCK is bounded by Oakland, Hunter, Madison and Lawndale.

Owners Esther G. Barton, and Mr. and Mrs. James P. Cummiskey, Jr., through their attorney George Cram, have asked that the five lots be zoned to business A.

Nearly 300 people north of Ridgedale and east of Hunter have petitioned the city to make no zoning change.

CITIZENS and city officials both fear that if the small block is converted to business use, it soon will lead the way to rezoning other lots east along Oakland, threatening the residential character of the neighborhood.

Until just recently, commissioners were about ready to make a change to business C zone (offices for professional use). This follows the most recent recommendation of the city plan board.

Then several weeks ago at the public hearing, Clark Hallock, owner of the 50x135-foot lot at the southeast corner of Oakland and Lawndale, admitted to the commission any business rezoning of the Cummisky-Barton property would be the signal for him to request the same zoning for his single family property across the street.

AND MONDAY night, Cram strongly intimated that if the zoning weren't changed to business A, it was possible a law suit would be started.

Cram also said some courts might hold illegal Birmingham's assessment method for obtaining off-street parking.

Faced with these two "possible" law suits, the city commission postponed the hearing until March 18. They expect to decide—with the plan board's advice—which is the best way to move:

MAINTAIN single family zoning on that corner and thus preserve present neighborhood character (in spite of any lawsuit), or

Rezone to multiple family as a "buffer use", or

Downgrade to business C as a buffer, or

Perhaps find a basis for city acquisition of the property, by negotiation or even condemnation.

This latter point is considered least likely. But next Wednesday's "brainstorming session" between the city commission and the plan board, just might see a valid legal reason emerge—all possibilities are going to be explored, it is understood.

IT ALSO is reported that the northeast area is being scoured for legal talent which can help City Attorney Richard Adams and former city attorney Forbes S. Hascall (he lives on Oakland to the east of the controversial property) counsel the two city groups at their Wednesday meeting.

George Cram will know what moves the city is going to make. With the commission's consent, he will be in the audience which will be permitted only to listen to the discussion.

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

**HOME AT LAST.** Birmingham high school teacher George L. Miller gets plenty of attention from Lindsay, 3, and Laura, 5, who were only able to visit their father at William Beaumont hospital about once a month during his long stay there. His wife, Marjorie, (right), is currently giving attention to preparing some of her husband's favorite meals, by special request after his 15 months away.

# This and That

by George R. Averill

Wherever evil exists, it is bound to be exposed—"For the mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine." Whether that evil be in some very high, or low, public official's office . . . in a large or small business . . . in a labor union . . . in the thoughts of a man or a woman. For evil exists only to be destroyed by the pattern within itself. Truth does not destroy itself, but often is temporarily overcome by evil . . . only to rise again by its own eternal and inexorable laws.

**In a recent publication of the Georgia State Dept. of Education this ancient but grim joke appeared: "In some schools they could have studied geography through the floor, forestry through the walls, and astronomy through the roof."**

The trouble with people these days is that they want to get to the promised land without going through the wilderness.—(Tit-Bits.)

**The heart of President Eisenhower is a great repository of this world's troubles. He really wants his country to dis-enslave all nations held in the bondage of want and ignorance. Too, he would like to see it done economically and efficiently. However, necessarily he must depend upon facts and advice from a legion of aides and counsels and well-wishers—and their voices are so many that any man is bound to become confused. Ike's (or any other President's) best footsteps toward the Mount of Wisdom would be to fire some aides and hire others — but, alas! he doesn't have time to do so, it appears.**

Remember those leaves you raked from your yard last fall? It won't be long, now, until their descendants will bird forth and let you know that they were there on the trees all the time—only you couldn't see them! (So don't lose or mislay your rake.)

**Our neighbor, Charles E. Wilson, "on loan" to Uncle Sam as Secretary of Defense, again has won the criticism of a lot of political opponents, including some intellectual egg-heads. He made a reference to the National Guard that, to be sure, sounded discordant-like . . . his words were broadcast into something akin to a world calamity by his critics. Boy, I want to be around when he (and his loval wife) depart from Washington, D.C. The blast he justifiably could make would rattle the teeth of plenty of those who now are weeping and wailing.**

## Sale of Land Nets $65,861 for City

An extra $65,861.96 revenue has been realized this year, Birmingham City Finance Director James Purkiss reports.

It is the net proceeds from the city's sale of unneeded property on Hunter blvd. and at the east end of Lincoln. Commissioners put $10,000 into its share-of-special-assessments fund, the rest into reserves for capital improvements.

MOREY'S ARE OPEN



# Cost-Sharing Plan Suggested to Fix Muddy School Road

A five-man committee to work with Bloomfield Hills board of education in seeking road improvements was named Thursday night when more than 60 irate parents met to protest Eastover school road conditions.

Oscar Loomis of the Oakland county road commission answered questions at the meeting which was called after Eastover school closed last Tuesday when it was impossible to get cars or buses down the quarter-mile of Westview road from Adams road to the school.

An Oakland county road commission crew gave the road leading from Adams road to Eastover school a "routine grading" Monday. Road Commissioner Oscar Loomis said yesterday that the grading was done "because the road needed it and was already scheduled for it."

He denied that the work was done as a result of the parents' protest meeting but pointed out that his office "certainly has not refused to try to help improve the condition of the road."

Willard B. Stouffer made the motion to appoint a committee to "explore temporary actions to be taken to the limit of present budgets and to seek improvements of present roads and to give adequate roads in years to come."

STOUFFER was named to the committee with Tony J. Spina, who presided at the protest meeting, Thomas M. Rasmussen, Lael P. Simmons, Jr., and Rodney F. Ackerman. All are Bloomfield township residents.

"We are not concerned with being mud heroes, but we are concerned that a bus could slide into a ditch and endanger the safety of school children," Spina told Loomis as he asked what the road commission planned to do to make the road passable.

Pointing out that Eastover was not the only school in the area with a mud road problem, Loomis said that the best the commission would be able to do probably would be to spread limestone "in the worst places." He warned that this measure would bring only temporary relief as the worst spring weather was still ahead.

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# James Couzens Named Young Man of Year

A young father of five who averages 20 hours of voluntary service monthly as a Birmingham auxiliary police sergeant, along with fulfilling other civic responsibilities, was honored last week by the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce.

He is James Couzens II, of 2815 Amberly, who received the JC's distinguished service award as the group's outstanding member in 1956. The presentation was made at a Devon Gables banquet by Arthur Blakeslee, 1954 winner of the award.

AMONG COUZENS' activities during 1956, aside from the presidency of the McBride Hardware company, was his chairmanship of the Lions club Ground Observer corps committee. Other 1956 accomplishments which brought him the citation were a captaincy in the United Foundation drive, active YMCA participation, membership in the Holy Name church Ushers' club, chairmanship of the off-street parking committee, his work with the auxiliary police, and past presidency of Birmingham JC's.

The group also cited Richard Ernst, who received the Key Man award for his contribution as chairman of Birmingham's civil defense week observance.

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

**IN HIS OFFICE at McBride Hardware company,** James Couzens II gets ready to hang the plaque presented to him last week by Junior Chamber of Commerce members, who honored him with their distinguished service award for 1956. Couzens is a grandson of the famous Michigan senator.

## Heart Surgery Performed Tuesday, Brother's Today

After heart surgery Tuesday, eight-year-old JoAnn Middleton is reported by a Henry Ford hospital spokesman as progressing satisfactorily at noon Wednesday.

Her 15-month-old brother, Danny, is slated for more extensive heart surgery today which will involve use of a mechanical heart.

The children's parents, the Arthur Middletons, of 1910 Holland, Birmingham, said they had many calls after last week's story about the youngsters appeared in The Birmingham Eccentric.

One woman who called to reassure them, they said, told the family she herself had undergone the same rare operation.

## STRICTLY FRESH

**Aid Conditioner: noise keeps you awake all night so you can enjoy the cool air.**

**People who kick furniture when angry probably couldn't out-argue anything smarter.**

**Intelligent Conversationalist: one who nods in agreement while you talk.**

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6310.

# Art Group Formally Organized

A nine-man board of trustees, articles of incorporation and by-laws, officers, scheduling of three classes, setting the date of the first exhibition and first lecturer, were among the accomplishments of the Bloomfield Art Association at its formal organization Tuesday night.

Officers for the association are Robert A. Thom, president; Peter Duenas, first vice president; Mrs. Ralph Williams, second vice president; Paul Neal Averill, treasurer; Mrs. George Cutter, recording secretary and Mrs. Carl Moyer, corresponding secretary.

John Hoppin, Marshall Fredericks and Max Tunnicliff are members of the board.

FIRST LECTURER to appear on the BAA program will be the noted mural painter, Dean Cornwell, who will speak March 14 at Baldwin library auditorium, Clifford West, program chairman announced.

An exhibition of Cornwell's paintings is scheduled for March 25 in the Bloomfield Art Association.

(See GROUP, Page 2-A)

# Community Rallies To Assist Teacher

Sparked by a group of citizens concerned over the urgent problem of a popular Birmingham high school teacher, a concerted community drive to aid the young family will begin soon. Planners have scheduled a kick-off dinner March 20 and a city-wide "George Miller Day" March 23.

Meanwhile, the father of two young children returned to his Royal Oak home two weeks ago.

He still displayed the good humor that made him so well-liked by his students, despite an unsuccessful battle to save his left leg. It was crushed in an automobile accident Nov. 12, 1955 as he was returning from a Michigan education association meeting in Battle Creek.

Repeated bone and skin grafting failed to clear an infection in the leg bone, and after 13 months of agony, Miller again underwent surgery, this time for the amputation of the leg.

BY THE TIME HE is fitted with an artificial leg and returns to work teaching civics and international relations, Miller, 32, will have lost almost two years' earnings. He is faced with enormous surgical and medical expenses (including 100 days of hospitalization, at an average of $30 per day). Insurance fell far short of the staggering total.

In announcing the campaign in which the community will come to Miller's assistance, a committee member said, "We have a splendid opportunity to partially repay George Miller for the outstanding job he has done with our young people. The best we can do will not compensate him for the physical anguish he has experienced and hardships he still faces."

The dinner on Miller's behalf begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, at Birmingham Community House, its sole purpose to elicit contributions. Tickets for the $2 dinner should be picked up from Mrs. Warren Small at Birmingham Community House not later than March 18.

SECOND OF THREE activities planned in the campaign is a telephone "grapevine". Callers this week began asking contributions either through the dinner or directly to the George L. Miller fund.

Direct contributions to a special George L. Miller, Jr. fund can be sent care of the Woodward-Hamilton office, Detroit Bank and Trust company, Birmingham.

Miniature newspapers will be sold throughout the school district during the third scheduled effort, "George Miller Day", planned for Saturday, March 23.

# Candidates Also Must Keep Households Running Smoothly

By JEAN DAY

How does a woman political candidate juggle home duties and state-wide campaign chores?

If she's either of Birmingham's two candidates for the University of Michigan regent post, she does so with efficiency and ease that already have brought forth surprised comments of admiration from seasoned male campaigners.

Although this is a first-time political venture for both Mrs. Ethel Jocelyn Watt, Republican candidate, and Mrs. Irene Ellis Murphy, Democratic contender, each has years of business or volunteer experience to draw upon. In addition, both admit they are aided by such grocery timesavers as frozen foods.

When Mrs. Murphy left Saturday on a five-day campaign tour of the upper peninsula, she left a home freezer full of cooked meats as well as baked goods. Mrs. Murphy and her sister, Mrs. Helen Ellis, a Detroit librarian, live together at 444 Bonnie Briar.

THE HOUSEHOLD at present also consists of Kojo Ohashi, a Japanese student who is studying toward a master's degree in political science at Wayne State university. Mrs. Murphy pays his expenses to this country and back to his home as well as a salary for helping at her home and with her business of importing Asiatic crafts.

He is the second student she has helped in this manner. Three years ago she brought a student home from the Philippines. She already has Kojo's successor, an engineer from Hong Kong, picked out. While they are here, Mrs. Murphy includes a sightseeing trip to New York City in their experiences.

To insure that Kojo and Miss Ellis eat well even if she's not on hand, Mrs. Murphy has a woman she terms "a stewardess" taffer head housekeeper on a ship) come in each Saturday.

This helper, Mrs. Ollie Barnett, of Berkley, spends the day shopping and then cooking food for the week, including roasts as well as pies.

SHE ALSO serves of Mrs. M

(See CANDIDATES, Page 2-A)

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

**"HAVE YOU EVER TRIED** this variety of soup?" said Democrat Mrs. Irene E. Murphy (right) to Republican Mrs. Ethel Watt as the two ran into each other at a local supermarket last week. The two Birmingham housewives are their parties' nominees for a place on the University of Michigan board of regents. Conversation was mostly on soup, not soliciting votes, as they went about their marketing task.