

Nature's elemental forces sometimes drastically affect human life and property. Yet all of Nature's negative injuries to mankind are small compared to the troubles and disasters that mankind, itself, brings upon its kind. . . in wars, epidemics, or individually to one another.

80TH YEAR—NO. 12

# The Birmingham Eccentric

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1957  
38 PAGES

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

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## Dressed for Jet Age

A bit apprehensive, Martin Weinrich, 15-year-old Birmingham high school student, settles in a National Guard jet plane at Wayne Major airport, Martin was given the jet ride Saturday in return for selling more toothbrushes than any other Civil Air Patrol cadet squadron during the Exchange club's recent street sale. Edwin S. Pipp arranged the half-hour jet trip for Martin, of 165 Vorn lane, Birmingham.



## Shadow Appearance

"Look! A shadow!" That was the uncomprehending reaction of Birmingham Eccentric reporter Les Line when the sun briefly appeared from behind the clouds one day last week. Les has hardly seen his shadow since. Newly arrived from Grand Rapids, Mich., Les claims sunshine and resulting shadows have been a rarity there, too.



## They'll Sign You Up

AS THEY SIGN UP donors, Junior league members Mrs. Clement Jensen (at left) and Mrs. Colin H. John parade downtown wearing large red posters representing blood drops. Mrs. Jensen is coordinator of the Red Cross blood bank sponsored by the league Wednesday, June 5, from 3 to 9 p.m. at the Community House.

# Us and Her in Wife Slaying

## This and That

by George R. Averill

Given the opportunity, most people will more than "walk the extra mile" to play the part of the Good Samaritan. This was revealed in the case of that Long Island youngster who fell 21 feet into a small well, resulting in 23 hours of heroic voluntary work by others to get him out. Some of those who reacted him themselves were in danger in the shifting sand into which they were digging. Indeed, there is considerable inherent heroism in most people—all they require is the opportunity to play such a role in a human life drama. Perhaps a very great example of this occurs on the field of battle itself. . . when men rush to the rescue of a fallen comrade, even though enemy fire practically envelops them.

Exchange of mayors during the annual "Michigan Week" is a pleasant and profitable bit of drama. We'll wager that Detroit's Al Cobo got a kick out of that "Mayoring" tony Potterville, less than 700 citizens. Detroit's Potterville's \$35 per year mayor was thrilled to take over Al's seat in Detroit. And Birmingham's Bill Roberts was enabled to enjoy the mayor's role in Battle Creek, too. (Rumor has it that Bill is thinking of serving bowls of corn flakes at each city council meeting from now on. . . for a while.)

Joseph M. Dodge, Detroit who has served in very important federal governmental posts under both Presidents Eisenhower and Truman, is convinced that a Communist Russia can never equal the peace-time industrial and agricultural production of our free United States. Dodge holds a proper opinion, that a nation whose controls are centralized (and especially when tyrants hold power) can never, never equal the productive efforts of free men and women.

Anyway, though Birmingham may never be able to hold a trout, pike, walleye, sail or, certainly, tuna or sardine fishing tournament, it can lay claim to having some first-class carp within its Quanton Lake. It is argued by some placards that carp can do as well as clean waters. . . but most hinterland folks know only that carp seem to flourish near sewer flowage. Anyway, local kids had some fun with the carp recently in a "Carp Carnival" staged here by the Recreation Commission.

Retirement of Ernest W. Seaborn as president of the Birmingham Board of Education, following 13 years of association with that body, has brought forth six candidates to vie for the vacancy. Seaborn, approaching the Biblical "youngster's youth," sincerely believes that others should assume civic responsibilities, too. In this, of course, he is perfectly right. Government cannot be any better or stronger than the experience and talents of its citizens. We suggest, when autumn comes, that a local committee be formed to commemorate Seaborn's service with an evening banquet program. (He probably won't like this suggestion. . . being a modest person. . . and will so inform Te Ed.)

## STRICTLY FRESH

Some people will have to work through their vacation periods this year to try and catch up on time payments for their previous vacations.

We enjoyed some castor oil the first time in our life the other day. Made into a flimsy, synthetic fabric, it appeared in the form of trousers worn by some pretty models.

I'M OUT OF STEP SOMEWHERE

Height of confusion: as mixed up as a centipede that's out of step with itself.

Fellow across the desk from us said he had a picnic last Sunday. He stayed home while the rest of the family went on one.

The only creatures who can get lit every night without suffering hangovers are fireflies.

All makes of home spring mattresses recommended. Call 3-1111 for more information. TRUSSARDI COMPANY, Dial "OP" and ask for Overseas 6218.

## River Rouge Residents Ruin Rattler

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ryden, 32605 Riverdale, W. Beverly, have enjoyed abundant wildlife on their property adjacent to the Rouge river since moving into the area March 22—but they would like to pass along a warning to nearby neighbors.

On a sunny day last week, daughters Sally and Alicia, 13 and 9-year-olds, were walking down the flagstone walk toward their swimming pool when Sally stooped over to pick up what she thought was a garden snake. It rattled. Dad came rushing to the scene and dispensed of the 28-inch Massasauga rattler. The girls were unharmed.

## Ralph Hunt Leads Important Torch Drive Division

Ralph E. Hunt of Bloomfield Hills has been named suburban chapter chairman for the 1957 Torch Drive from Oct. 15-Nov. 7. Hunt, general manufacturing manager of the tractor and implement division of Ford Motor Co., was suburban co-chairman of the 1956 Torch Drive, in which that unit raised approximately \$1,700,000 of the \$16,225,000 contributed towards 1957 budgets of 150 health and community services.

Under the new reorganization of the Torch Drive, the suburban unit will center its efforts on organizing United Foundation chapters in larger industries in the suburbs. Residents and business solicitation will be conducted by another unit, under the women's solicitation division.

HUNT WILL SERVE under campaign co-chairman Walker Williams, Ford Motor Co. vice president and Torch Drive co-chairman for chapter solicitation. His co-chairman will be John H. Sherf, administrative assistant to the vice president of Ford Motor Company in charge of manufacturing.

## Colombo Elected To Board of Nat'l Red Cross

Louis J. Colombo, Jr., chairman of the Detroit Red Cross chapter for the past two years, this week was elected to the 50-member board of governors of the American National Red Cross.

He lives at 3635 Lahser Road, Bloomfield Hills. The announcement was made by General Alfred M. Crumpler, president of the American National Red Cross, in Washington D. C., where the organization's national convention was held.

The board of governors makes the policies and generally supervises the activities of the more than 3700 Red Cross chapters throughout the country.

COLOMBO, an attorney with the local law firm of Colombo, Colombo, and Colombo, first was elected to the Detroit chapter's board of directors in 1948. Appointed to the executive committee in 1950, he became a chapter vice chairman in 1951. He was appointed chairman of the executive committee in 1954, and elected chapter chairman in 1955. A member of the state bar of Michigan and of the Detroit Bar Association, Colombo also serves as president of the University club and a director of the Bloomfield Hills country club.

# Police Question Shepherd



MRS. ELIZABETH SHEPHERD

## Police Question Shepherd

Wearing a tan camel hair coat in which she apparently was attempting to leave the house, Mrs. Elizabeth Shepherd, 41, was found lying near the entrance to her kitchen Monday night, fatally stabbed with a large hunting knife.

Her husband, James D. Shepherd, 36, was found in a dazed condition at the home at 1509 Pierre, Birmingham.

POLICE SAID SHEPHERD would make no admission, stating only that he had been in a daze. He refused to even accept the fact that his wife was dead.

He was released Tuesday from Beaumont hospital, where Birmingham police had kept him under guard. He is being questioned by detectives who have not yet decided on what charge he will be prosecuted.

Police said the school teacher's daughter had phoned Mrs. Shepherd's sister, Mrs. Robert R. Ferguson, of 514 N. Chesterfield, telling her that Shepherd had just stabbed her mother.

Mrs. Ferguson phoned police, who said Mrs. Shepherd was still alive when they arrived at 10:35 p.m. She was pronounced dead on arrival at William Beaumont hospital at 10:55 p.m.

Private funeral services will be conducted today at the Bell chapel of the Wm. R. Hamilton Co.

DET. LT. MERLIN Holmquist said he arrived on the scene a few minutes later to find Shepherd "in a slight daze, as though he had been drinking heavily."

Police said Shepherd was known as a heavy drinker, but told them he had taken a lot of pills.

Holmquist said, Shepherd emerged from the bathroom, wandered around the living room for a minute.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley asked Shepherd if he was all right, and stood staring for about 30 seconds, then collapsed on the living room floor.

WHEN EFFORTS TO revive him proved futile, Shepherd was taken to William Beaumont hospital, where he regained consciousness after his stomach was pumped.

Holmquist said Shepherd, a divorcee, had prescriptions from a local physician for two different types of tranquilizers.

Saturday Shepherd had lost his job as a salesman at Midwest Abrasive company, E. 7 Mile road, Detroit. Mrs. Shepherd also a divorcee, had taught homemaking at Birmingham high school from 1954 to 1956, when she was listed as Mrs. Hutton.

SHE MARRIED SHEPHERD January 26, 1957, and the same month returned to teaching, this time in the homecoming department at Bartram junior high school. Police said the couple had not gotten along well since their marriage.

Mrs. Shepherd had two daughters, Janet, 14, and Elizabeth, 10, both in bed upstairs at the time of the slaying. Det. Lt. Merlin Holmquist theorized that Mrs. Shepherd had been stopped as she tried (See SLAYING, Page 3-A)

## Let Maple Paving Contract

After a taste of two previous 60-minute meetings, Birmingham city commissioners wound up with a more normal 2 1/2-hour session on Monday night when several time-consuming matters were presented from the audience.

In regular agenda action, the commission approved the special assessment rolls for widening of E. Maple from Hunter to Adams.

The city bid of \$115,581.45 was approved. To be performed this summer, the job also includes widening of Southside between 14 Mile and Lincoln.

In determining that abutting Maple property would pay only 15 per cent of the cost to widen the present 8-foot surface, the commission emphasized this did not set a precedent.

COMMISSIONERS for several weeks have been studying a proposed formula by which the city would assume a greater share of any street paving cost if the width were greater than 22 feet on residential streets, or 37 feet on business streets.

In other action, the commission asked City Attorney Richard Adams to check state requirements on subdivision platting so the city can decide whether 10 new homes can be built between Grant and Edgewood. Tentative plans indicate the lots would be 100 feet wide, only 61 feet deep, with rear yards of 11 feet or 16 feet (which is the minimum) depending on how the law would apply.

SET A June 17 hearing for service two Lake Park properties north of Pine street.

Approved installation of a new automatic fire alarm in the DPW garage.

At the request of the purchaser-contract, Frank Newell, continuing enforcement for how the vacation of Buckingham between Eton and the railroad, Newell did not give a reason in his letter.

Mrs. James F. Murphy, Jr., 1319 Dorchester, asked for more dog license enforcement for her neighborhood. Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said he'd see what can be done to answer her complaint.

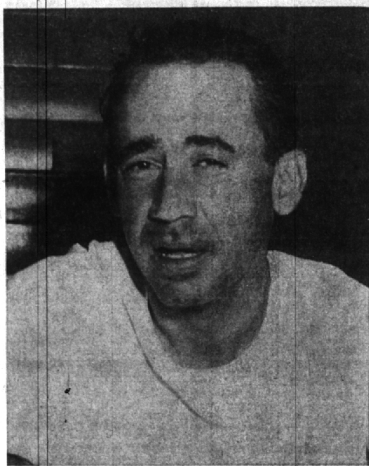
ROBERT J. EVANS, 1763 Dorchester, asked if something could be done to divert storm water from Derby junior high school area. It comes down Cambridge street now, Evans said, and ponds on Dorchester. City Engineer L. R. Gare said he'd investigate possibilities.

Robert McVittie, 1400 Haynes, was promised the police department would set a stop sign should be located at the Haynes-Bowers intersection. (See PAVING, Page 3-A)

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## At William Beaumont Hospital where he was taken by police after he collapsed at the scene of his wife's knife slaying, James D. Shepherd, 36, was held under Birmingham police guard for investigation of murder.



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## Advises Regular Reports on School Building Progress

An advisory panel to insure the most economical use of school building funds and regular reports to the public on building progress were recommended to the Birmingham district school board this week by the citizens committee on education.

The suggestions came in the form of two resolutions adopted by the independent fact-finding group.

That report be made at least monthly to the board ask voters to approve a \$6,800,000 building program to meet classroom needs through the 1959-60 school year. The program can be financed without increase in the present millage levy for school debt service, the committee said.

THE BOARD adopted the recommendations and has placed the proposal on the ballot for the June 10 election. It calls for a new junior-senior high school, a new 20-room elementary school, rehabilitation of the Baldwin school, and a new service building.

The board also is requesting authority to install a permanent drainage system to meet a critical water problem at the present Birmingham high school site. Its cost will be met within the \$6,800,000 authorization, the board said.

"We sincerely hope the board will accept these two supplementary suggestions for an advisory panel on building plans and for an informational program to keep taxpayers abreast of progress," said Louis A. Bauer, 3140 Broadway, committee chairman.

"DURING OUR studies we have been strongly impressed with the desire of many interested citizens for assurance that their tax dollars committed for school facilities

## Troy Gets Award For Highest Vote In 1956 Election

TROY—A "Voice of Citizens" award was presented to Troy Sunday by South Haven Chamber of Commerce.

The award, originated eight years ago, is given every four years to the Michigan community that has the highest percentage of voters at the polls during the presidential election.

Troy's percentage in 1956 was 91.84, according to City Clerk Lawson Lockhart.

## Tree-Climbing Susie Rescued By Firemen

Little Susan Sturz is only 2 1/2 years old, but she learns to do things quickly and efficiently—like climbing trees, for instance.

Friday afternoon Susan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Sturz, 385 Puritan, spied a pine tree near the corner of Pine and Puritan that she apparently thought climbing would present a new challenge.

The trouble was, once up in the branches of the lofty pine—about 30 feet up, as a matter of fact—Susan decided that coming back down might be a bit harder than going up.

It was the Birmingham fire department's Chesterfield station that came to the rescue of a somewhat scared Susan. Firemen quickly scaled the tree with the help of a ladder and brought the girl safely down.

MERCURY MOTORS  
Gil Schaeffer  
1255 S. Woodward, MI 7-0133

## Ford Promotions Include 3 Here

Three Birmingham area men were among six who received Ford Motor Co. promotions this week as the result of the retirement of L. D. Crusoe as executive vice president—car and truck divisions.

James O. Wright, 6100 Wing Lake, Bloomfield township, was elected vice president and general manager of Ford division, succeeding R. S. McNamara, who was named to Crusoe's position. Wright

formerly was Ford division assistant general manager.

John S. Bugas of Pembroke road, Bloomfield Hills, vice president—industrial relations, was elected a company group president. Ford international division now will report to him, too.

Earl G. Ward, 650 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills, was elected vice president—purchasing. He has been purchasing director since 1956.

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