When you accept favors of another, you immediately place yourself under some degree of obligation. When you accept economic aid, or special privilege, from government, you also come under obligation to it. You no longer are completely free from bondage to it. Politicians are quick to find this out . . . they thus forge your shackles.

80TH YEAR—NO. 36

The Birmingham Eccentric

42 PAGES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1957

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

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

The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly

TEN CENTS

This and That

by George R. Averill

One day, a particularly trying one, a student at a girls' school arose and said to Alice Freeman Palmer, who was conducting a discussion, "Mrs. Palmer, you are always so cheerful. Will you tell us the secret?"

"I will," said Mrs. Palmer. "I will give you three very simple rules.

"The first is this: Commit something to memory every day—something good. It need not be much. Three of four words will do—just a pretty bit of a poem or motto.

"The second rule is this: Look for something pretty every day, and do not miss a day or it will not work.

"My third rule is this: Do something for somebody every day—every day. This is all there is to it—try it."

It is said these rules will work always—everywhere.

Of every 100 students entering the University of Michigan, 55 earn a bachelor's degree; 25 enter professional schools of medicine, law, business, etc.; 7 withdraw for reasons of health, finance, or personal problems; 5 drop out at end of freshman year because of scholastic difficulty; and 8 drop out during next three years because of scholastic difficulty.

Here's a bit of whimsy that may be uttered by millions and millions of parents, when they admit: "He's the laziest guy we know, won't pay taxes, refuses to vote, shows he's crazy about another man's wife. He won't go to church, he's bored with good music, he raises a howl if the conversation is intellectual. Even on the controversial liquid question no one knows where he stands, one minute he's dry and the next he's wet. In spite of all his faults he's a pretty important fellow. He's our new baby."

When you reflect on the wide variety of mistakes and even outright blunders that numerous world leaders have made while in office, you must be convinced that they are not infallible. Post mortem reflections, of course, are of no immediate benefit to a situation that must be dealt with at the time. Yet one in public office, as in private affairs, ought to remember that his actions always should be open to inspection and either praise or criticism, or a mixture of both.

Revelations by the Senate Committee investigating illegal union and management relations are destined to bring about some improved changes when Congress meets next year, it is widely believed. Current findings about how certain big corporations have admitted their guilt in conniving against certain union efforts to organize them shows that not all of management (as likewise not all of labor unions) are above-board in their dealings.

Among projects much needed in Birmingham is that of a program for the improvement of numerous local streets. Hard surfacing of many of them would result in a better general appearance, plus the usual tendency to be reflected in higher real estate values for abutting properties. The city can instigate a wide-spread paving program, or it can wait for property owners themselves, through petitions, to request street improvements.

Juvenile Officers Review B'ham Court

On the special invitation of the Southeastern Michigan Juvenile court officer's association, Detective Sgt. Robert Schaule spoke to the group last week at Pine Lake.

Schaule, Birmingham police juvenile officer, discussed the operation of Birmingham's newly inaugurated juvenile traffic court, patterned after one in Flint.

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State Plans X-Ways Thru Troy, Lathrup

Would Parallel 11 Mile, US-10

See Map on Page 1-E

The exact routes of several expressways scheduled to run through parts of Oakland county apparently are known to only State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie and his staff.

Mackie revealed the broad outline of a 10-year expressway program for the Detroit metropolitan area last Thursday at the opening of the Davison interchange of the John C. Lodge expressway in Detroit.

According to the map accompanying Mackie's announcement, the state plans a north-south expressway from the vicinity of 11 Mile and Stephenson highway in Royal Oak, north and westerly through Royal Oak, perhaps Clawson, the southwest part of Troy near Birmingham, then northeast corner of Bloomfield Hills to the southeast corner of Pontiac, then northerly around Pontiac.

The map also shows an expressway near 11 Mile road, which would mean it would go through the southern portion of Lathrup, and the northern portion of the proposed city of Southfield.

THE MAP contained no lines which would indicate Southfield would continue as an expressway north of the Eight Mile road, nor anything that would indicate a turnpike up through Southfield and Bloomfield townships.

Former highway commissioner Charles M. Ziegler had caused considerable concern in these two townships when he admitted his administration was planning an expressway up Southfield.

It would have run west and north from 11 Mile road around Lathrup, up through the Berkshires, Westchester Village, Bloomfield township to join Telegraph road in the vicinity of Long Lake road.

THE MICHIGAN turnpike authority, which still is in existence, has proposed a toll road through this area. It would parallel Telegraph to Long Lake, then cross to the east and up around Pontiac's eastern limits to Bay City.

Ziegler's proposals imperilled the financing of the toll road. What Mackie's projections will do has yet to be determined.

Mackie said his program called for the expenditure of some $632,000,000 in state and federal funds on expressways and highway improvements in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties during the next 10 years.

HOWEVER, a check of officials of several of the areas to be affected by the routes revealed that none has been contacted by the highway department nor let in on the details of the plans.

"The only thing we know about it is what we read in the newspapers," Royal Oak City Manager Edward M. Shafter commented.

"We have had no conferences with the highway department nor has the department given us the details of these proposed expressways. You can be sure that we plan to look into this very carefully."

TROY CITY Manager C. R. Lukens told much the same story. "We have not been contacted by the highway department," Lukens said, "but if they don't contact us soon, we will contact them."

That Mackie does intend to contact area officials as to these proposed routes was revealed in his speech.

He said then that "contingent on agreement on one location with affected communities and contingent on agreement with local communities on cost participation, the department proposes to make some $632,000,000 in state and federal funds available to the Detroit

(See PLANS, Page 2-A)

Post Office To Host District Meet

The Birmingham post office will be host to a meeting of the sixth district postal area, encompassing 337 post offices, Saturday at the Community House.

It will be the first time the local post office has acted as host to the meeting, conducted twice annually under the joint sponsorship of the National Association of Postmasters and the National Association of Postal Supervisors.

The meetings in past have been held in cities much larger than Birmingham.

According to Postmaster Roland W. Reese, purpose of the meeting is education in that it informs postmasters and supervisors of new developments and procedures. The meeting also coordinates the movement of Christmas mail.

ALL POSTMASTERS and supervisors in the district are invited. Three hundred are expected to attend, Reese reports.

Reese will serve as toastmaster and chairman, while Eugene E. Beers, assistant postmaster, will act as co-chairman. The staff of local supervisors — Ken Allison, Alton Haack, Otto Leipold, Lester Kempfer, Clifford Hunt and John Clemons—are committeemen.

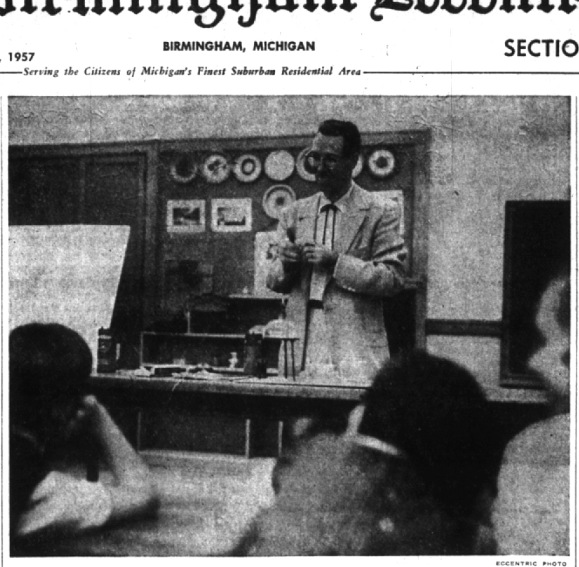
They will be assisted by Margaret Haack and Polly Pound, who will conduct activities in the hospitality room.

A REPRESENTATIVE from the office of Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield will be present. Edward L. Baker, Detroit postmaster and newly-elected national president of the National Association of Postmasters may also attend.

Regional Director Robert R. Justuse and Regional Operations Manager Earl A. Barnhart will deliver the principal speeches at the meeting.

Others to be heard include Col. C. S. Raymond, regional vehicle manager, and Donald MacCloskey, recruitment and placement officer, both of Chicago; Victor B. Galloway, district transportation manager from Detroit; John Howard of Chicago, regional cost officer; Donald F. Woodward, Pontiac, of the inspection service; Bruce W. Baughman, Detroit, district manager; Mrs. Adeline Phillippi, St. Louis, Mich., postmaster and state president of the National Association of Postmasters, and Hugh Burns of Detroit, president of the national association of postal supervisors.

(See POST OFFICE, Page 2-A)



ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Teacher Demonstrates 'Hot Subject'

Showing his sixth grade class how heat affects electricity, Adams school teacher Charles Welsh twists wires, uses batteries, a burner, and a doorbell to give his pupils a visual demonstration of the scientific principle. Welsh is representative of the Birmingham area teachers who devote themselves to the education of citizens of tomorrow. As American education week is celebrated nationally this week, every community recognizes the importance of its teachers. "An educated people moves freedom forward" is the slogan of this year's AEW observance. Marking the week here, parents attended open houses at Birmingham schools, and public open house was held Sunday in the school district's five new schools.

UF Raises $229,894; 101 Per Cent of Quota

By exceeding its quota, the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area again has met the challenge of contributing its share toward the Detroit United Foundation campaign.

William T. LaRue, 2525 Kentmoor road, Birmingham, area general chairman, announced Wednesday that a total of $229,894 was collected and pledged, representing more than 101% of the $226,761 local quota.

"As they have in the past, citizens in this area responded generously," LaRue stated. "I know the hundreds of UF volunteers who worked so conscientiously to keep intact this area's excellent record, feel their efforts were rewarded and wish to publicly thank everyone who contributed".

THE BIRMINGHAM-Bloomfield-Franklin area was one of four suburban areas which succeeded in meeting or surpassing their quotas, LaRue says. Only other similar areas reporting 100% success were Oakland county township region, North Macomb region and Down River region.

Although the $226,761 goal was met last Thursday, final day of the annual torch drive, LaRue explained that several thousand dollars since have been turned in by volunteers on a residential team, to surpass the quota.

LaRue paid special commendation for her group's part in the drive to Mrs. Joseph A. Dodge, chairman of the women's residential team.

She headed several hundred housewives who canvassed residential areas and small business establishments for funds. Charged with raising $161,922 of the overall $226,761, Mrs. Dodge's group reported $165,124 and the probability that "a little more" still is coming.

Teams of workers comprising the government, school, and business and industry groups matched their quota of $64,769, it was announced.

LaRue also praised a group of 10 businesses in the area which volunteered to contribute a second time during the late stages of the drive after making generous contributions early in the campaign. Their cooperation assured the UF volunteers that the local quota would be met by the Nov. 7 deadline, LaRue emphasized.

Joining in this cooperative effort were Great Lake Tractor and Equipment Co., Palmer Bee Co., Torrence Oil Co., Wilson Pontiac-Cadillac, Inc., Kingsley Inn, Inc., Brannon Publishing Co., Dearborn Motor Credit Corp., The Birmingham Eccentric, Aluminum Model Toy Inc., and McManus, John and Adams Inc.

Business Zones Hearing Monday, B-4 Gets Review

Only one suggestion was voiced Monday night as Birmingham city commissioners held their fourth informal public hearing on the city's proposed zoning law.

Under consideration were the proposed parking, B-4, and industrial districts. Hearings on additional proposed business zoned property, B-1, B-2, B-3, will be held at next Monday's meeting.

The single question raised on the classifications discussed last week came from Commissioner F. William Hutchinson. Since the B-4 zone classification is being set up solely to classify the "contractors' row" block bounded by Adams, Hunter, Bowers and Haynes, Hutchinson suggested this B-4 zone might be eliminated. The 3.75 acres of light industrial property could be considered a non-conforming use, Hutchinson advised.

City planners slated a review of the question for their meeting last night.

New City Attorney For Birmingham

Birmingham's new city attorney is James Howlett, 27, son of one of the principals in Howlett, Hartman & Beier law firm of Pontiac.

He succeeds Richard Adams, who leaves this week to join a general corporate law firm in San Francisco.

A University of Michigan law school graduate, Howlett worked for a time with his father's firm, saw military service, took some graduate work, and rejoined the firm last February.

Recreation Need Survey Begins Here

A survey of Birmingham area recreational facilities and future needs, sponsored jointly by the local YMCA and the adult education department of the University of Michigan, is underway here.

The check, to be completed late next spring, will serve as a guidepost for a comprehensive building program being considered by the Birmingham YMCA, according to Edwin F. Kirbert, local YMCA executive secretary.

THE U OF M SURVEY will consist of a check of what recreational facilities are now available and a sampling of 450-500 residents in the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills-Wing Lake-Troy area to determine what additional facilities and recreational activities are desired.

All schools in the area to be covered will be checked to determine what facilities they provide.

Kirbert stated that all types of YMCA sponsored individual and group activities will be included in the survey program.

B'ham Tax Assessments Are Sound

Special Committee Reports Findings

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Tax assessment procedures in Birmingham are basically sound, and result in fair and equitable assessments, a special three-man committee officially reported this week to the Birmingham city commission.

This two-year study substantiates assessing policies of former City Assessor Elmer W. Haack and present Assessor Clark Hagstrom.

The special committee made four suggestions it feels will further strenthen the city's assessing methods:

1) To provide more field inspection so there will be more complete discovery and recording of taxable property, particularly in the area of personal property assessments;

2) Revise the building cost schedule (used in determining assessments and which now employs the generally accepted 1941 base year) to a new base year of 1955;

3) REVIEW and revise depreciation rates so they will reflect variations in physical depreciation due to (a) age and quality of construction and (b) use and maintenance of buildings; and

4) Record on all assessment descriptions the reasons for deviation of individual buildings from standard cost schedules.

The city commission officially acknowledged receipt of the 14-page report, then declined to comment on it until the full commission could be present. Commissioners Charles Renfrew, Carl Ingraham and Charles Delbridge were absent Monday night.

RENFREW, when he was mayor two years ago, named the committee to study allegations from a former city resident that assessing policies appeared to result in different assessments on comparable properties.

Serving on the committee were Chairman V. B. Watkins, a former city commissioner; John D. Maynard, and E. B. Mason.

The committee said the commission several weeks ago met in executive session to hear the report's first draft.

IT WAS finalized by the committee, and submitted officially this week.

"We have not had an opportunity to discuss this report together," Mayor William E. Roberts said Tuesday morning.

At Monday's regular meeting, Commissioner Harry Denyes asked city officials to prepare cost estimates and detail what would be involved if the city determined that additional assessing field work is desirable.

The commission accepted the report and thanked the special committee for the job it did and the time it put into the investigation.

THE COMMITTEE suggested that additional auditing (or field checks) of personal property valuations would be desirable. It said those field checks made in the past have resulted in greater equity among assessments.

More auditing will further improve assessment rolls, the committee concluded.

The report said: "To assure uniformity of assessments on personal property, it would appear advisable that a detailed audit of all taxable units be made. After the master audit has been completed, annual reviews will become a simple procedure. Detailed audits would thereafter be necessary only on new taxable units."

REGARDING REAL property valuations, the report stated:

"In the development of assessed valuations on real land, the assessor strives to approximate true value as closely as possible. The primary factor governing land value is location and zoning regulations.

"Due to these factors, the comparative method of land value appraisal is employed—a method that is generally recognized by authorities as the most practical means available. Base values are established for key lots from current sales from which comparative values are placed on all other lots.

"Variations from average front foot values to reflect the influences previously described are made in accordance with accepted assessment procedure.

"NEVERTHELESS, the computations for such deviations were not generally recorded by the assessor due to the purported lack of personnel. Precise standards measuring the effect of each factor have not been established."

The committee then recommended that the assessor prepare a written statement of standards and rules, and any deviations from these rules "be fully and clearly documented in the assessor's records."

The committee appeared satisfied with present methods of determining value of buildings. Such valuation, the report showed, results from combining a number of factors, such as cubic content, type of building material, accessories and other physical characteristics of structures.

IN MAINTAINING records on these assessments, the committee also suggested considerable more field work would be of great value.

"The crux of building assessment is sound valuation based on reproduction," the report stated. "Annual appraisal and valuation of each parcel of improved real property is impractical and too expensive."

It said personal inspection every 10 years should be made and is an accepted practice of recognized assessment authorities.

THE COMMITTEE suggested that the Michigan tax commission's current labor and material cost schedules be used in determining Birmingham's valuation. These tax commission schedules are based on costs for the year 1955.

Most municipal assessors, including Birmingham's, have been using cost schedules for the year 1941.

In other words, buildings are valued at what they would have cost to build or replace in 1941 (minus depreciation of one per cent a year for the age of the building.

IN BIRMINGHAM, assessments average 80 per cent of this construction or replacement cost. This assessment averages between 33 and 36 per cent of the value which would result if the proposed 1955 base year were used.

For example, a home with a fair market value today of $22,500 would be on the city's assessment roll at $8,000 (minus depreciation) figuring from the 1941 base. This is 80 per cent of the base year.

If the 1955 base were used, the same $22,500 house also would be listed at $8,000, which is just under 36 per cent of the 1955 base year.

This merely would be a substitution of equal standards and in and of itself would not result in any greater or lesser taxes being paid by property owners.

Hills Students View Conduct

Here's the panel of student council members who presented to parents last week their preliminary views on what a teen conduct code should contain. The young panelists, seventh and eighth grade Bloomfield Hills junior high school students, are (from left) Diane Hubert, Sheryl Seaman, Kris Forrester, Karen McAlpine, Sandy Sarnes and Jim Scott. Not shown is Student Council President Martin Sloan and Secretary Barbara Stelzer, who sat at a separate table with the council's teacher advisor, Lloyd Eberly.

Panel Discusses Bedtime, Jobs at Home, and Money

About 175 parents heard a panel of their children's representatives present their view on behavior standards last Thursday. The students covered everything from a proper bedtime to allowances and jobs around the house.

The seventh and eighth grade panelists, members of the Bloomfield Hills junior high school student council, received suggestions in turn from a panel of their parents at the session in the school gymnasium.

Parents commended the children for making a good beginning on a proposed conduct code. The meeting indicated the code had the support of the majority of parents.

THE COUNCIL WILL now compare their suggested code with others successfully used in other states and areas. The code will be presented to parents again for their approval.

Among the recommendations made by the junior high school students:

That teen agers should be permitted to take part in family conferences, and that their views should be considered seriously as decisions are made.

That they should be permitted to watch a lot of television, as long as they had their homework completed. That bedtime for youngsters their age should be from 9 to 10 p.m.

That lipstick for girls was all right, "if worn lightly."

THAT CHILDREN their age should be given an allowance, and that they in turn had a responsibility to take care of certain tasks around the home, such as dishes for girls, lawn work for boys.

Participating on the parents' panel were Mrs. Charles DeVlieg, Earl J. Theobald, Charles Crouch, Mrs. Jack Hertzler and Mrs. Fred Gould.

Student council advisor Lloyd Eberly moderated the discussion. Panel members were introduced by Max Miller, Bloomfield Hills high school PTA president.

A group of parents sponsored the discussions on the conduct code. One parent said the young people were "stricter with themselves than their parents would be."

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STRICTLY FRESH

There most certainly is a Santa Claus. And we've got last year's bills coming in monthly to remind us of that fact.

Turkey dressing will never again taste as good to us as it did when, as youngsters, we snitched it from the platter while grace was being said.

With all the cars on the road at holiday time, how does anyone manage to find anyone at home?

Some folk think that there's nothing like turnips with a Thanksgiving dinner. We agree. Like nothing.

Were the snows that we remember so much greater, or is it that we were three feet shorter and 40 years younger?