

The Birmingham Eccentric

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SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

new



Most people, including youth, react to the immediate environment in which they, at the moment, find themselves. Place average people in an atmosphere of decency, of opportunity, to encourage motherly distrust, and they do respond to such. They do exemplify Good Samaritanism. Good always seeks an outlet.

1957 YEAR—NO. 37

Whis and That

by George R. Averill

Historians declare that Emperor Napoleon averaged the use of 54 bottles of cologne on himself every month—the dirty stinker!

Michigan Attorney - General Kavanaugh reveals that Republicans spent three times as much money in last year's elections, but lost every state office they sought. Well, as has so often been said before, money can't buy everything.

Reports, semi-identical (if that's possible) state that next year's Congress probably will investigate the NAACP. It is argued that too many top officials and workers in this organization on behalf of the Negro are not far enough removed from the pro-Commie front. The hand of the Kremlin, report has it, is too firmly imbedded in NAACP.

"The Life & Love of Ingrid Bergman" some day may find its colorful and extraordinary way into filmland... for what she did, and what has happened to her, recalls a verse in Isaiah and plot that has a world-wide appeal. Her tragic story... in no small part of her own making... spells out the answer to a problem as old as human being.

The U. S. State Dept. still is heavily infested with people who want to give away plenty of U. S. taxpayers' money. These holdovers from the Ford-Truman administrations are having their spendthrift way, despite the fact that the country is in a dire financial straits. It is incredible how these career bureaucrats are able to wage opposition to their Big Bosses... or how the Big Bosses won't be won over to their extravagances?

President Eisenhower recently seemed something about the faith in God when he said that, had he not such great faith, the tremendous responsibilities and problems of his office would have placed him in a mental hospital. He recites a verse in Isaiah (9:5) that in part says "... and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

That dog Russia placed in her Sputnik II traveled several million miles through inter-planetary space before the Kremlin acknowledges that she had passed to her eternal reward. It was claimed that radio messages were sent back to Russia's scientists, revealing the physical condition of the pup. What a wonderful thing it would be, now if those scientists could place Nikita Khrushchev in one of those satellites... what a tremendous piece of scientific information he could relay to millions of living Earth-Asians who, with Khrushchev off the earth, might otherwise continue to live in greater peace and abundance! Alas! though, according to some religionists, men like Khrushchev are presumed to make their final voyage downward.

Organize Cancer Chapter Here

A Birmingham chapter of the American cancer society will be organized today, with Mrs. B. D. Mills of Bloomfield Village general chairman of the group.

Mrs. Dan Adams of Bloomfield Village will head the service committee. Other committee chairmen are Mrs. William Simpson of Birmingham, public education; Mrs. George Webb, Bloomfield Village, public information, and Mrs. Joan Collins, Bloomfield Village, crusade chairman.

Mrs. Peter Marshall Here For Town Hall

A BLOOMFIELD Hills woman, Mrs. C. J. Thomas, has been elected secretary of the south Oakland unit of the society.

INSIDE THE ECCENTRIC

- Amusements 4, 5-F
- Bits of Birmingham 3-E
- Books and Reviews 2-D
- Business Briefs 3, 4, 5-D
- Church 3-F
- Community House Calendar 4-A
- Correspondents 4-B
- Bloomfield Village 3-F
- Greenfield Derby 5-C
- North Adams 3-C
- All Other Areas Section E
- Down Earth 8-D
- Editorials 6-F
- Lend an Ear 8-D
- Nature Now 8-D
- Obituaries 8-A
- Recreation Roundup 5-A
- Rounding the Towns 2-B
- School 2, 3-B
- Sports 6, 7-E
- Theater 4-F
- Today's Youth 4, 5-B
- Today's News Section B, C, F
- Want Ads 6, 7-A



Kontzes Honored For Decade of Service

Wearing the orchid presented to her by members of the church, Mrs. Emil Kontz cuts the special cake commemorating the tenth anniversary of her husband's ministry at First Baptist church, Birmingham. Other local ministers who offered congratulations at the reception following. The congregation presented the couple with a gift of crystal goblets. Said Dr. Kontz, "We'll be careful what we put in them!"

Cans Burn, Bottles, Too; But Leaves, Grass Too?

Birmingham city commissioners learned something about thermodynamics this week. Such as: leaves will not burn, but grass clippings will. But cans and bottles are considered combustible. This interesting information came up during the commission discussion on garbage and rubbish authority requests to further segregate burnable and non-burnable materials.

THE AUTHORITY wants member communities to put leaves and grass clippings with the non-burnable material. They smother incinerator fires and hamper operation, the authority points out.

Cans and bottles, however, can be melted down and sold for salvage.

Commissioners asked Asst. City Manager Robert Kenning to obtain more information on proposed collection changes before Birmingham decides whether to accept them.

"Nothing Can Defeat You!" the subject on which Mrs. Peter Marshall speaks today at Birmingham Town Hall, might seem to her "words to live by."

When her life as active editorial social partner to her husband, Dr. Peter Marshall, crashed about her feet at his untimely death, Catherine Marshall turned to the writing skill that had so often helped her cope with the world "A Man Called Peter."

THIS YEAR, Mrs. Marshall has a new best-selling film, "The Agony," about which she spoke last week on the "Tex and Dixie" show.

Mrs. Marshall will be introduced at the Birmingham theatre at 11 a.m. by the Rev. Kenneth H. Laas, of St. James church, Birmingham. She will be honor guest at the celebration luncheon following Town Hall at Birmingham country club, where she will answer audience questions.

Other guests at her table on Thursday will be her personal

Merchants Seek Four Zoning Revisions

Liveliest of 4 Hearings to Date

At a lively session which viewed the B-1, B-2 and B-3 classifications of city's proposed new zoning ordinance Monday night, businessmen and homeowners voiced to Birmingham city commissioners four main recommendations:

- 1) The maximum building height of four stories or 50 feet is too restrictive, since several local buildings have been built with foundations designed to support additional stories in the future.
- 2) Department stores should be permitted in the proposed neighborhood type business zone, since it already permits many small stores which, if combined, would be the same as a department store.
- 3) MANY USES to be permitted in B-1 (the replacement for the present business C buffer zone between residential and business areas) are undesirable near homes.
- 4) The 20-foot minimum setback required at the rear buildings in all four business zones is too great.

City commissioners set next Monday as the date for the final hearing on the proposed ordinance amendment. At that time miscellaneous regulations on such things as fences, loading zones, and smoke will be considered. Recommendations and points brought out at the hearing are now being reconsidered by the planning board, and formal hearings must be held before final adoption of the law.

IN OUTLINING the business zones at Monday night's hearing, City Planner Herbert Herzberg said the present 98 single family residential in business zones would be permitted to remain as non-conforming uses.

Herzberg predicted the number would drop in the near future as the demand for them as residences decreases. He said the new ordinance prohibiting construction of new homes in such areas.

Herzberg outlined the law's requirements for screening parking areas abutting residences. Residents from Adams village subdivision near Bowers and Adams requested the zoning of property at the Bowers-Adams corner from B-2 to residential of the limited business classification, B-1.

HERZBERG TOLD the homeowners that no major zoning changes will be incorporated in the law. Its primary purpose, he said, is to modernize and update an ordinance.

Zoning change requests would have to be made through the usual channels, Herzberg said.

Plan to Pave Derby Street Next Spring

TROY-A special assessment to pave Derby street from the Grand Trunk railroad tracks west to Adams road was approved Monday night by city council.

Work on the street, which will be paved with concrete, is expected to begin next spring. Property owners will be assessed \$4,476.19 as their share of the paving cost. The remaining \$16,523.81 will be paid by Troy through the city.

Born in Stratford, Tom Patterson 37, is the founder and director of planning of the new world-famous Shakespearean Festival.

Early in 1952 he broached the idea to the Stratford City Council and from then on never looked back. Within 18 months he had achieved an international reputation when the famous tent-theatre opened at the Guinness and Irene Worth in July, 1953.

Will Dump Rubbish On Site In Troy

Troy Delegate Only Dissenter

The Southeastern Oakland county garbage and rubbish authority voted Wednesday to go ahead with its plans for a landfill operation in Troy despite the city's opposition.

The entire board, with the exception of the Troy representative, voted for the plan which was set forth by Donald C. Egbert, authority engineer-manager.

THE BOARD also approved Egbert's continuing negotiations with Troy on an earlier proposal which would give Troy part of the site for use as a park and permit the city to purchase the entire site after it is filled.

Egbert told the authority that it should "continue its efforts to establish a plan of operation that will conform as nearly as practicable to the plan of the City of Troy for the ultimate use of this property, and that the authority cooperate with the city to as great an extent as possible, while still fulfilling the responsibility of the authority in accomplishing the purpose for which the authority was formed."

A PROPOSAL to sell the controversial 164-acre site to the authority for \$160,000 was rejected earlier this month by Troy city council after a citizens' group appeared before the commission to protest such a sale.

The authority already had given tentative approval to the purchase plan which stipulated that after the site was filled, Troy would be given an opportunity to buy the land as well as be given 49 acres immediately for use as a park.

The site, owned by Lyle J. Water, is a gravel pit on Square Lake road between Rochester and John R.

EGBERT SAID the site would take care of the city's garbage and fill operations for some 25 years. He said the authority would pay \$500 a month rent which would be applied toward the purchase price.

He said Troy's rejection of the plan led him to adopt the latest plan. "A search of the state law and inquiry into the city offices of Troy," Egbert said, "revealed no ordinance or regulation which would prevent such a sale."

"There are many locations throughout Troy where landfills are presently being constructed and there appears to be no legal requirement in any city law to how these fills should be made."

"It is anticipated that any landfill made by the authority would be conducted in an orderly manner to avoid any possible nuisance or damage to surrounding property."

Egbert pointed out that because of Troy's failure to answer the authority's latest request, "this issue can apparently only be solved by court action."

"The present situation," he said, "offers an excellent opportunity for the authority to determine the right to establish and conduct a land fill operation which is essential to the fulfillment of its obligation to its member municipalities."

STRICTLY FRESH

Skeletons in the closet often provide bones for contention.

Some folks never turn on their television sets and others can afford to get the things done.

Teetotaler we know gets pie-eyed every time he passes a bakery.

People who buy things they can't afford do so usually on the lay-away plan.

What Is It?

This creature inspecting its toes is one of four Ubangis who invaded a recent dance at Southfield high school. The four, all with pillow-stuffed middles, propped their bay windows on a railing and watched the dancers from a stairway overlooking the school gym. All senior girls, the creatures were "on strike" at the senior sock-hop, in protest against the many senior boys who invited sophomore and junior girls to the dance. Though they didn't speak at the event, their appearance seemed to say to the boys, "What do you think we are—Ubangis?"

Detroit Water Everywhere Now

Like the taste of that water you drank yesterday and today? It's 100 per cent Detroit stuff now. Birmingham city commission Monday night agreed with City Manager L. R. Gare's recommendation that the city purchase all its water from Detroit starting immediately.

GARE SAID the city has been using about 800 million gallons annually, with only half coming from Detroit.

UNTIL YESTERDAY, your water was half and half—half Detroit and half Birmingham. Detroit water will be bought at less cost than building a treatment plant to mix the two naturally incompatible waters, Gare said several weeks ago. Water rates will not go up because of Monday night's action, the manager emphasized.

Consulting engineers agreed that for some time to come, Birmingham would save money by using all-Detroit water.

Thieves Loot 3 Churches, Get Pickles

Close on the heels of a series of church lootings in Detroit, culprits ransacked three downtown Birmingham churches Tuesday night, then passed for refreshments. They took a total of approximately \$60. The churches were First Baptist, Christian Science, and St. James Episcopal.

The thief or thieves broke into the churches through rear or side windows hidden from street view. Evidence showed they took milk and pickles from a kitchen refrigerator at St. James church, sat down and consumed them.

At First Baptist church they broke a panel of stained glass to gain entrance to the pastor's study. They took approximately \$40 from a cash box and desk in an upstairs office there.

Robert W. Peden Named Chairman

Robert W. Peden was elected chairman pro tem at the Monday night meeting of the American association of the United Nations.

Dr. Burrows Smith of the French department of Wayne State university spoke on the problems of French North Africa. Mrs. Warren B. Cooksey, president of the greater Detroit chapter, discussed the organization of the local chapter.