

When a nation has come to worship vain materialism, that nation falls prey to the demagogue and the shambles, and soon drifts into the limbo of bureaucratic despotism. Careful observers of affairs today agree that the U.S.A. is drifting toward "personality rule."

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BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

SECTION A

The Nation's Top
Suburban Weekly
TEN CENTS



ECCENTRIC PHOTO BY A. E. APFELBAUGH

Birmingham again is in its annual fall fog, its yearly blue haze. This results from an irresistible combination of tree-filled streets and yards, cold nights, and pleasantly warm days. For some of us, it stimulates activity... like the attractive woman above who cannot resist raking and burning the fallen multi-colored leaves. To others, like the lad leaning against the tree, it results in a sluggishness of their bloodstream and a rationalization that this weather is for enjoyment, not work. And the light blue haze which drifts through the community announces once again that fall is back in town.

Fall Fires

This and That

by
George R. Averill

How Judge Doty Was Appointed in 1927

Recent commemoration of 30 years as an Oakland County Circuit Judge, by Frank L. Doty, recalled to my mind the circumstances surrounding his appointment by the late Governor Fred L. Green. It was back in 1927, as I recall it, in early spring. The legislature had created the third judgeship for Oakland county the previous winter. As is usual, there was a considerable scramble among some lawyers to receive the appointment. Green, a Republican, of course, didn't intend to appoint a Democrat. That narrowed the contest, some—but not too much since in those days, comparatively few Democrats lived in the county, especially among the legal fraternity. FRANK had been for several years Birmingham's village attorney. I got to know, and like, him very much. We were good friends. Along with many others, I had urged Governor Green to appoint Doty to the judgeship. But Green had delayed, for some months, his decision. So, one day when I was in Lansing, I called at the Governor's office. (Little did I realize then that, years later, in 1947-48, I would spend two years there as Gov. Kim Sigler's executive secretary.) We visited 15 or 20 minutes and, as I was about to depart, Gov. Green rose from his chair, smiled and asked: "George, how would you like to take Frank L. Doty's official designation document back to Oakland county with you, and present it to him?" I QUICKLY agreed that it would be to my liking. The day was a Friday. I returned to Birmingham and placed the document in my office safe. The next day, as I recall it, I telephoned to Glenn Gillespie, in Pontiac, and told him what the Governor had given me, pledged Glenn to visit, requested him to request him to invite Frank and several friends to his (Gillespie's) office on Monday late afternoon. I then would present newly appointed Judge Frank L. Doty with the constitutional right to preside on a Michigan circuit bench. That's exactly how it all worked. Frank was happy... but Birmingham had to go out and obtain another village attorney.

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Knife-Slayer Gets Life

A life sentence was handed down Tuesday morning in the case of James D. Shepherd, 38, Birmingham salesman who fatally stabbed his wife, Betty Hutton Shepherd, 32, in their home here. He was ordered to serve the sentence in Jackson prison. Oakland county circuit court Judge Clark J. Adams sentenced Shepherd after hearing his non-jury trial Oct. 9, 10 and 11. On the second day of the trial Adams accepted the defense attorney's motion to reduce the charge from first to second degree murder. Adams ruled there was reasonable doubt that the knife-slayer on May 27 in the Shepherd home at 1569 Pierce, Birmingham, was pre-meditated.

A LIFE TERM for second-degree murder makes parole possible after ten years. Though he did not testify at his trial, Shepherd maintained that he had blacked out at the time of the slaying and recalled nothing of it. He blamed a mixture of tranquilizer pills and intoxicants for the black-out.

Tax Methods Report Due Out Monday Nite

Two years in the making, a special report on Birmingham's tax assessing methods knowledge and made public Monday evening, it has been learned by The Birmingham

The report is said to endorse in most respects the present methods of the assessor's office, but does make some suggestions for relatively minor changes in some routines. The commission already has met and heard the three-man study committee give their findings. This was done in committee session some weeks ago.

THEN THE written report went to City Attorney Richard Adams and Assessor Clark Hagstrom for their comments. The report's final draft went Tuesday to the city commissioners for another look. Thus it is quite possible that the commission next Monday night could bring the report to pass under general business and discuss the findings of the special committee.

2 New Features in The Eccentric

For and About Today's Youth

A page of news, pictures and features of special interest to school students

It's on Page 4-B

2 LEND AN EAR

A new theater, music, movie commentary by Madeleine Harris

Read it on Page 5-A

Few Attend Zone Law Hearing

Birmingham residents showed little interest in the hearing established by city commissioners for last Monday for public review of the first portion of the city's proposed new zoning ordinance. Only a few people, mostly high school civics students, appeared at Monday's meeting, at which residential zones R-1, R-2 and R-3 were outlined. Not a question was asked after City Planner Herbert Herberg completed his explanation of the three single family residence classifications and their restrictions. Commissioners set next Monday for the second hearing on the proposed law, this time to review multiple family residential zones R-4, R-5, R-6 and R-7.

LESS THAN 100 persons attended an informal hearing last Wednesday at Birmingham Community House in which Herberg detailed the entire law and outlined the proposed zones on maps. Herberg said no objection to the proposed law were voiced at the meeting. The law sets up three single family districts instead of the one existing under present restrictions. An R-1, or highest classification, includes three areas of larger homes on larger lots. Greatest single area of the three is bounded by Southfield, Lakewood and goes west to the city limits.

SIX MAJOR AREAS are included in the R-2 classification for homes on lots with a minimum of 4,000 square feet. Third and lowest classification includes homes on lots 4,000 square feet and over, as the Lombach-Humphrey Woodward avenue subdivision. The R-3 zone district is comparable with the present income bungalow residence district. R-3 compares to the present terrace zoning, R-6 and R-7 are multiple family residence districts.

R-6 calls for a minimum lot area of 2,000 square feet per one bedroom dwelling unit. R-7 requires 1700 square feet in lot area for the same size unit. Possible construction of property which would rent at lower rates.

Contractors' Bids Asked by B'ham 'Y'

Calls for bids from contractors have been issued by the Birmingham YMCA, with the deadline for filing set for Nov. 20. YMCA Executive Secretary Edwin P. Kirbert said Tuesday that plans were to begin construction immediately after the contract is let, shortly after bids are in. Cost of the new YMCA building, to be located at 400 E. Lincoln, is estimated at \$144,000, including furnishings.

With only a week remaining before the November 7 deadline, United Foundation volunteers in the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area still need more than \$69,687 to reach their \$226,761 goal. Thus far, 70% of the total goal has been realized.

Charles F. Adams, general vice-chairman of the Torch Drive in this area, announced \$33,679 or 52% of the goal has been reported by workers in the industry, school and business groups since the drive opened Oct. 15.

Women in the residential group, headed by Mrs. Joseph C. Dodge, 843 Suffolk, have accounted for \$123,395 which represents more than 74% of the group's quota of \$161,922.

DURING THE final stages of the Drive, Adams said special emphasis will be placed on raising the percentage of contributors among retail stores.

While many of the stores have responded splendidly, the participation of others has not come up to expectation," he reported. In order that those stores who have contributed toward the Drive may be recognized for their cooperation, special stickers bearing the slogan "We Were Glad To Give" have been prepared and distributed.

Merchants who have received their stickers are urged to display them on their store windows. Solicitors who need additional

FOR SALE "NO HUNTING" AND "NO TRESPASSING" signs. Buy them at The Birmingham Real Estate Office, 210 N. Woodward, Birmingham. (51)

BOATS - MOTORS - SUPPLIES. Call Schaefer, 1255 S. Woodward, MI 7-1033 (120)



ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Over 700 prizes were purchased by two Birmingham AAUW members last week for tonight's Birmingham community Halloween party sponsored by Birmingham merchants. Here enjoying the task of assisting with the prizes is 11-year-old Gail Farinacci, whose mother, Mrs. Anthony Farinacci, hands her more toys to box, while Mrs. Lynn Townsend looks over a children's selection. Judges will award the prizes to wearers of the most outstanding costumes in tonight's downtown parade. More prizes will be distributed at parties at the city's junior high schools. AAUW members annually take charge of securing the prizes as their part in the community's Halloween party for children.

Board Will Consider School Site Tonight

The Birmingham board of education will consider purchase of a site for a new junior-senior high school and also select architects for the building program at a special meeting tonight.

A bond issue which includes money for construction of the new school was approved June 10. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools, said Wednesday he would recommend to the board the purchase of 50 acres of a 100-acre tract on the northwest corner of Thirteenth Mile and Evergreen. The tract is a flat farm site owned by R. K. Evans. The citizens' committee had recommended purchase of 40 acres, the same size as the present high school site.

THE BOARD is expected to approve a resolution making a purchase offer for the site at tonight's meeting.

Lawyers representing the board and the real estate agent will meet with the school officials. It will be the first full board discussion of the site matter.

Selection of architects will be made from 12 firms interviewed for the work.

B'ham '57 Accident Record Is Worst In City's History

With the city's third fatal accident of the year occurring last night, Birmingham's 1957 accident record is the worst in the city's history, according to Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley. In a report on September accidents, Moxley said the month's toll was considerably worse than the September, 1956 figure.

He warned drivers that two months of poor driving weather looms ahead. "One second of thoughtlessness or carelessness can make a very bad accident record even worse," he said.

Pumpkins Blasted

It was the Fourth of July at Halloween Sunday night in Birmingham. Three different families on Buckingham, Dorchester and Light roads heard explosions near their front doors about 9 p.m. Investigation revealed that someone had blown up their Halloween pumpkins by dropping firecrackers inside.

STRICTLY FRESH

We're not scared of the boss. We LIKE it sit here, under the desk. Some men suffer from extreme nervousness, and others are more fortunate in choosing a marriage partner. Big girls never get over one leg-girl habit; they like to go buy-buy.

It's time to let the lava now or until spring and get the snow shovel out of the neighbor's garage.

A chatty friend annoys us mostly if he talks too much; it's just that he doesn't keep his mouth shut very often.

All makes of lower spring mattresses available. Call 824-1141. TRESS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for Enterprise 6114.

BE GLAD YOU CAN GIVE... OUR GOAL \$226,761 Birmingham • Bloomfield • Franklin Areas

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