# The Birmingham Eccentric

To make illusory Fame one's dominating objective is trying to chase and hold forever captive the beauty and promise of a rainbow. Fame is created by the plaudits of others who, for the moment, loudly praise your success. Those plaudits remain only so long as you stay on Fame's precarious pinnacle . . . and few living people achieve that permanence.

81ST YEAR—NO. 18 | 38 PAGES THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1958 | BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN | SECTION A

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

The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly — TEN CENTS


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by Westwood police save the life of a baby who had gotten into arsenic ant poison. See page 1-E.

### An area newcomer . . .

. . . and his Oakland Hills teammate are the ones they say to watch in next week's Birmingham golf meet. See page 8-E.

### Blankets and Cushions . . .

used by concert goers Sunday afternoon. See page 1-C.


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ECCENTRIC PHOTO

## *Rainy Day Traffic Victim*

Lying injured after an accident on Woodward near Hamilton last Thursday, Mrs. Ernest F. (Margaret Jane) Scherer, 32, of 1652 Apple Lane, Bloomfield Hills, was rushed by ambulance to William Beaumont Hospital after the rainy day mishap. A hospital spokesman said Mrs. Scherer was admitted with a broken leg and ankle and a finger laceration. Her condition is described as "good." Police said Mrs. Scherer was crossing Woodward on foot at the crosswalk in a heavy downpour. A bus had halted to permit her to cross, obscuring the view of the crosswalk to Robert L. Smith, 18, of 685 Southfield, Birmingham, driving in the middle lane. Police said Mrs. Scherer ran into the side of Smith's car. Smith was not ticketed.

# Mrs. Loomis 1st Woman To Head B'ham B of E

MRS. PETER B. LOOMIS

The Birmingham board of education elected its first woman president at a reorganizational meeting Monday night.

She is Mrs. Peter B. Loomis, 1648 Dorchester, Birmingham, elected to her first four-year term on the board in June, 1955.

The board also elected its first vice president, naming William Spence to the new post, now required by state regulation. Spence has been a member of the board since 1948.

Amos F. Gregory was re-elected to the position of secretary, which he has held since 1947.

**BENNETT ROOT** was elected treasurer, replacing former board member Richard A. Sauerbrun.

Officially taking their seats on the board for the first time at Monday's session were Malcolm Lovell and Richard P. Barnard, elected last month.

Mrs. Loomis first served on the school board from 1946 to 1948, when she was appointed to fill a vacancy, then elected to fill a one-year unexpired term.

In 1948 she was unsuccessful in her bid for election to a four-year term.

**ACTIVE IN** local civic groups, Mrs. Loomis was formerly chairman of the city plan commission.

She is not only the first woman president in the school board's history, but one of only six women to ever become Birmingham school board members. Mrs. Donald Parry is the only other woman currently serving on the board.

Wylie E. Groves, school board president until July 1, did not seek re-election to another term.

## This and That

by George R. Averill

### Hail to Alaska! Our 49th U. S. State

**NOW THAT THE** U.S. Congress has voted to admit Alaska to the United States, all that still is required is that Alaskans, this fall, vote to come in—at the same time adopting their own State Constitution, electing various State officials, including a Governor, two U. S. Senators, one U. S. Representative, and others.

Thus, you see, Alaska, with but 210,000 residents (over 30,000 of them members of the U. S. military) will gain tremendous importance in the U. S. Senate—Oakland County, with approximately 715,000 people, has far, far less influence in that branch of Congress than will Alaska, with its two Senators.

Imagine the political, and thus economic, value of those two Senators to Alaska!

**ALL PRESENT SIGNS** point to the fact that they will be ultra-liberal Senators, perhaps quite well along on the mental drift toward Socialism . . . for Alaska certainly will seek the maximum of federal handouts. To be sure, from the point of its own interest, Alaska cannot be condemned for following the example of many other states, in this respect.

I do not criticise the act of making Alaska "One of the 49". Way back in 1837 when Michigan was admitted to the Union, she had slightly over 80,000 citizens. Most of the present "48", one recalls, also had fewer people than Alaska has now.

Times have changed mightily since the turn of this century. State and federal govenments have acquired additional tremendous powers over the political and economic lives of Americans. Indeed, these tax powers alone have made the federal govenment's treasury a veritable "grab bag", into which most States have and still do dip their lean and hungry fingers. Which makes it nice for those States that get more than they pay in. Alaska, of course, will be one of such.

**HOWEVER, ADMITTANCE** to the Union will do much to increase

(See THIS & THAT, Page 8-A)


## 160 Calls!

were received on this ad which ran in our paper June 19th . . .

You too, can get good results . . . try it with an Eccentric Want Ad!

MOVING—ALL ITEMS PRICED FAR below real value. 7-piece mahogany dining set, $125.00. Coffee table, eatinwood, glass top, $25.00. Mahogany commode, 4 drawers, $35.00. Mahogany table, drop leaf, $20.00. Love seat, red slipcover, $35.00. Antique upholstered settee, $30.00. Commode and mirror, "Sorroca," collector's item, $125.00. Custom made French bed, upholstered headboard, 2 tall chests, vanity & chair, all for $160.00. 1 bedroom chair, $15.00. Table and floor lamps, miscdishes, glassware, pictures and bric-a-brac. Borg bathroom scale, $2.00. Winter toboggan, $2.00. Outdoor metal folding chaise lounge, $5.00 each. Folding outdoor chairs, $2.50 each. Metal closet, 5 ft. high, holds ten suits, $8. Small circulating fan, $2. Hand lawnmower, $2.00. Plastic hose, $1.00. Outdoor white metal table, $2.00. Golf cart, $8.00. Midwest 0-9000.


## '58 Building Tops $2 Million Mark

Valuation of building permits totaled $343,130 in June in Birmingham, boosting the total for the first six months of 1958 over the $2 million mark.

Forty-two permits were issued during the month by city building inspector Andrew F. Butt. Three were for new single family homes, totaling $27,800, while one was for a new business, valued at $22,000.

**THE 221 PERMITS** issued so far this year total $2,059,298 in valuation.

## No More 'D' Average Grads, Schools Say

No longer will students get by with "E's" in regard courses at Birmingham high school, and no longer will a "D" average be sufficient for graduation from the school.

Changes have been made in the high school graduation requirements by the Birmingham board of education. The changes will become effective with the incoming tenth grade class this fall.

The new requirements no longer include the one year of homemaking formerly specified for every girl student to obtain a degree.

New rules specify that students must obtain a passing mark of at least a "D" in each of the six courses required for graduation. Previously a failing grade was accepted, as long as the student had taken the course for the required period of time.

**STUDENTS** failing the courses, however, were required to make up for the failure with a passing mark for credit in some other subject.

The measure adopted by the board states: "Each graduate shall have passed and have earned credit in the following required courses in grades nine through 12."

Required are four years of English, one year of general science in the ninth grade, one year of ninth grade mathematics, one year of world history, one year of U. S. history, and one semester of civics.

**WHILE FOUR** years of English are listed, the new rules permits students to graduate if they have earned a minimum of three units of credit in the four years, permitting one year of "E" work in English.

Of the minimum scholastic average permissable for graduation, school Curriculum Director Daniel A. Nesbitt said, "We have up to this year graduated students with a 'D' average. A bare 'D' is a passing grade, but it is not acceptable work. We feel that between a 'D' and 'C' should pertain. It means some of our students are going to have to bear down and do more work."

Nesbitt said "a few" students graduate each year with the "D" average. Required now is a 1.50 minimum quality point scholastic average. A "C" marks constitutes 2 qualities points, and a "D" means 1 quality point.

## *He's Glad He Took Advice —Thieves Aren't So Happy*

"**Monogramming**" is practical when it comes to hub caps, John T. Keegan of 1450 Edgewood, Birmingham, is convinced. Last week he praised Birmingham police for the efficiency of their hub cap engraving program.

Because he followed police advice and had the serial number of his car engraved on his hub caps, Keegan today has his $60 hub caps back.

He was sleeping when two Pontiac youths slipped the fancy spinner discs from his 1957 car parked outside his home June 25. But a neighbor heard the youths, saw them drive away at 1:20 a.m. and phoned police with a description of their car.

**PATROLMAN** Donald Rolph and Sgt. Charles Blashfield spotted the car in another section of town at 3 a.m.

They questioned its occupants, who admitted locking the hub caps in the trunk of a car in Pontiac. The police officers recovered the hub caps, positively identifying their ownership through the serial numbers.

Birmingham Municipal Judge John C. Emery pronounced fines of $25 and $5 court costs against the two youths, who pleaded guilty July 2 to simple larceny.

## Birmingham Police Get Third Award For Traffic Control

For the third consecutive year, Birmingham police have been cited by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for their outstanding police traffic supervision activity in 1957.

Birmingham Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley was advised last week by IACP President John D. Holstrom that Birmingham was one of 55 American cities awarded a certificate achievement. It was one of only four American cities in the 25,000 to 50,000 population category to receive the award.

Formal presentation of a plaque denoting the award, made in cooperation with the National Safety Council, will be made at a later date.

## Money Guides School Plan Proposals

Some possible money-saving was the object of most of the recommendations a citizens' plans review committee has made for the proposed junior-senior high school at 13 Mile and Evergreen.

The eight-member body, appointed by the Birmingham PTA council, made a formal report on its studies to the board of education Monday night. Spokesman for the group was its chairman, Ernest Seaholm.

While the committee said they were "very happy with the design," they made the following recommendations, which the board adopted after discussion:

1) THAT the architects consider taking alternate bids on ten additional classrooms to be included in the original structure. The additional classrooms would give the school a capacity of 2000 instead of 1500 students.

The recommendation was made with the thinking that the current business slump might make possible a lower cost for the additional classrooms, which would be needed eventually. Savings would also be achieved by avoiding "undoing" some of the site development and construction in the future.

2) That the proposed top lighting be eliminated as unnecessary, since top lighting is more costly and almost always must be supplemented in classrooms by artificial light.

3) That a laundry be added to the physical education plant, so that all towels used in Birmingham junior and senior high schools could be laundered there. Studies indicate the laundry would result in long-term savings.

4) THAT THE site plans incor-

(See MONEY, Page 8-A)

## *Eccentric Wins Photography 1st*

The Birmingham Eccentric has won first place in the best use of photographs category of the 1958 National Better Newspaper contests, it was learned yesterday. The National Editorial assn. sponsored the competition.

The Eccentric competed in the category with all papers, daily and weekly, over 2,000 circulation. Judging was based on three consecutive issues of the paper.

**READER INTEREST**, technical quality, relevancy and quantity of pictures was considered in awarding points.

"Loaded with pictures of local interest" was one of the comments of the judges, who complimented The Eccentric on its press work, quality of photos and the reader interest of its illustrative material. The number of pictures in relation to the number of pages on which art could be used rated well above those of many other entries, stated the judges, who ranked The Eccentric high in every standard used in selecting the best entry.

**THE AWARD** is the first national photography honor won by The Eccentric. Three Eccentric staff photographers won state awards earlier this year in competition sponsored by the Michigan Press association and Michigan State university.

George R. Averill, editor and publisher of The Eccentric, received the award Wednesday night at the NEA's annual convention awards banquet in Detroit. The convention will continue through this weekend.

## City Awaits 1st Court Decision On B-1 Zone

City officials await with interest the pending decision of Oakland county circuit Judge Clark J. Adams on Birmingham's first test of its non-retail business zoning.

Last week lawyers completed their cases in the trial before Judge Adams at which Mrs. Fred Lambert charged that the City of Birmingham's zoning of her property was "unreasonable and confiscatory."

The Lambert property on 14 Mile road just east of Woodward is currently zoned B-1, a non-retail zoning established by the Birmingham city commission in 1955. The zoning was classified business "C" under the city's previous zoning ordinance.

**THE PROPERTY** owner's request for B-2, or neighborhood business zoning, was refused by the Birmingham city commission on the recommendation of the planning board.

Mrs. Lambert, through her attorneys, said the retail business classification was requested for posible construction on the property of either a super-market, a motel or funeral home. A gas station is now on the corner nearest the property.

The present zoning is reasonable for the "highest and best use" of the acre and a half of land which abuts residences to the north, city representatives maintained.

**A DECISION** on the case is not expected for a month or two, to permit attorneys to file final briefs, City Planner Herbert Herzberg said Monday.

A witness who testified during presentation of Mrs. Lambert's case estimated the value of the B-1 zoned land, on which two homes now stand, at $65,000. The same witness predicted that with the B-2 retail zoning, the property would be worth as much as $170,000.

Testifying in the city's behalf, J. Warner Wolfston, real estate appraiser, estimated the value of the property under B-1 as approximately $97,000. Wolfston said either office or multiple family zoning was most reasonable for the property.

**THE LAMBERT** case attempted to show that the general area was consistent with a neighborhood retail business classification.

City Planner Herzberg said the non-retail business classification, B-1, was established by the city to allow reasonable uses for businesses which are more compatible with residential uses. He said the non-retail business acts as a buffer where property is near residences, but still is questionable for residential use.

Representing the city was its attorney, Dean Beier, who called Herzberg, Wolfston, and Assistant City Manager Robert Kenning to testify.

## 'Hemingway' Appearance Awes an English Class

By GEORGE R. AVERILL
B'ham Eccentric Publisher

'Tis not every group of young people that is given the privilege of hearing, on close terms, the inner workings of a great contemporary author . . . such, for example, as Ernest Hemingway.

To hear such a literary discourse from the hirsute-adorned lips, chin and cheeks, if so illustrious a man recently was the pleasure (?) of the English class of the University School of Grosse Pointe.

Wanta read more about this? Then proceed.

Seems as though one of Birmingham's versatile millionaires, who has come the resemble Hemingway, was in attendance at a meeting in Detroit of some Brown University alumni. Object: to get new students for Brown.

**AMONG THEM WAS** this wealthy chap who lives at 5420 Lanelake, Bloomfield Hills. His name, by the way, is W. Carleton Scott. His be-whiskered countenance is alternately, (according to his unpredictable whim) a la Hemingway, or something akin to Yule Brynner . . . maybe Socrates, too.

Let's get back to that Detroit meeting.

One of the young Grosse Pointe students there approached our hero; his walk was funereal, his mien was solemn, even awed.

"Mr. Hemingway," he began," I wonder, as I saw you here this evening, if you would be so gracious as to appear before our English class, and tell us about your great success in the literary field. It would, Sir, be the highlight of our entire academic life, thus far."

**"HEMINGWAY"** keenly observed the youngster. Slowly his eyes twinkled in true Hemingwayesque manner.

"Here," he thought, "is my great opportunity to do something for literature, for English as she is spoke. Here is my epochal time to inspire the next generation of adults to eclipsing—even out-sputnicking—the world's most illustrious authors, to date, thus far, and into the past."

"Yes," answered "Hemingway" to the youth, "I will be glad to speak before your English class. It won't cost you anything. That's why it won't cost me anything, either, in the way of adding to my stupendous income tax."

Ernest Hemingway, the author, you probably know, has writ a lotta books. Obviously, Scott couldn't tell all about all of them—at least in detail.

**SO HE DIDN'T.** But he did tell 'em plenty, too. That's the way he is—generous to a fault . . . especially with repartee. Also brilliant and scintillating conversation.

"Boys", he began before the English class, "it's a great thing to be able to write successful books. They bring pleasure, humor, tragedy, enlightenment and also education, to those who read them. That's why I so emphatically support the schools; makes people able to read.

"Now, boys, don't any of you fail to learn how to read," "Hemingway continued, brandishing his long cigarette holder like the twinkling legs of a ballet dancer. "Naturally, you'll have to learn to read, if you want to learn to write. Both go hand in hand, especially if you use a modern typewriter.

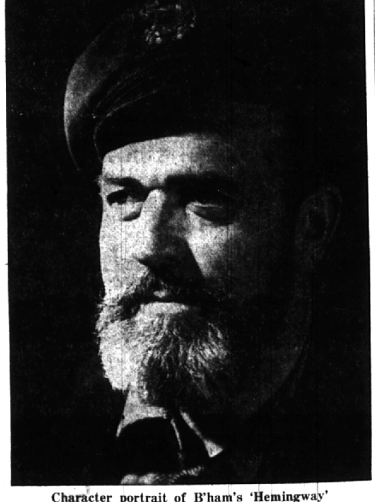
**"I NEVER WILL** forget one of my books, how I developed it from a mere figment of imagination to a set of provable facts, interspersed, of course, with a bit of fiction. My first book title was intended to be the story of mankind's long trek from caves and cliffs to 20th Century residences, flats, apartments and other types of mortgaged property.

"It was, I hoped, to reveal the dedicated conviction that man, despite up-and-downs, should never forsake his determination to crawl away from caves and cliffs . . . and to be certain to drag his spouse and kids along with him."

"Hemingway," of course, here revealed his deep understanding of human nature. He prophetically foresaw that future society would have legalized marriage, and required that the male head of a family must provide shelter for his own. Or else go to the hoosegow.

"**OTHERWISE,**" sighed the

(See HEMINGWAY, Page 8-A)



Character portrait of B'ham's 'Hemingway'

## STRICTLY FRESH

One way to fix a loud speaker is not to attend the dinner in the first place.

Fellow across the desk from us says he's going to spend one-third of his vacation pay at the track, one-third in night clubs and the rest foolishly.

There's nothing like a cold shower to discourage bathing except when absolutely necessary.

Folk who wake up with a smile are usually impossible in other ways, too.

A perfect husband—or wife—is one whose faults aren't known outside the immediate family.


All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6319.