The Birmingham Eccentric

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SECTION A

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Behind Our Front Page

There are many who do not pretend to understand just how the attitude and habit of prayer is worthwhile . . . but praying folks know that being dedicated to prayer gives them an inner treasure not purchasable on any market or in any store on earth. They have experienced, many of them, deserved rewards from sincere prayer . . . for such prayers tune them to the Kingdom . . . and good things follow!

The trouble starts . . .

in childhood, says psychologist Dr. Harold F. Powell in discussing mental health problems. Read why he thinks every school should have a psychologist on Page 8-B.

It sure was a surprise . . .

when Birmingham high was switched to the U of D regional track meet. But it may mean an easy championship. Page 6-E.

Ever try to toss . . .

a 12-pound lead ball 54 feet? Chuck Gibson does it, and the sequence camera shows how on page 6-E.

Bird Brain? . . .

We should have it so good. See how Homer the non-homing pigeon outwitted Lathrup to arrange free room and board—page 1-E.

Shy Library . . .

peeps through a veil of intellectual dignity and honeysuckle at Franklin villagers. See page 1-E.

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This and That

by George R. Averill

The romantic play being enacted in the tiny European principality of Monaco, where former American actress Grace Kelly and her Prince Ranier are now raising a family, is a pleasant news-break in an otherwise tragic world. The twain did have a little girl over a year ago; now cometh the baby Prince to carry on the royal family name, etc. Reminds me of the fictional Grunstark stories I read as a youngster.

From countless pulpits, from thunderous orators, in books, magazines and some newspapers, admonitions are hurled at people in an effort to make them better citizens, better in their relations with every facet of life. There certainly is no dearth of such importunings. Some good, of course, results from all this . . . though each generation, like each season, adds but slight "good earth" to the development of the civilized processes.

A nearby daily reports that neither the Russian nor the Americans could hit the broad side of a barn, at a 5,000 mile range with one of those intercontinental ballistic missiles. **Reason: available maps are not accurate enough to go by. Well, be that as it may—suppose it does miss the barn door . . . maybe the accuracy is close enough to hit some nearby small building! (And if Grandpa is in it, then we won't see Grandpa any more.)**

How can a housewife make herself a better housewife if she spends all of her time making her husband a better husband?

There are some who believe that the world owes everybody a good living . . . this is wrong simply because there are many who fail to develop the skills and the ambition to collect what they believe the world owes them.

No doubt, when seeking something you desire, you are quite polite and courteous in making your requests to another, whether it be a merchant, professional man, or a friend. The same graces extended to a public official will also bring about the same desired reactions . . . for public officials (especially those in local units of government) are human, too.

STRICTLY FRESH

Note to space-age scientists: you lost the lunar race ages ago. If you recall, it is fairly well documented that a certain cow once jumped over the moon.

Many an amateur rocket is operated by a solid fool.

In the age of space travel, will hay fever victims find themselves allergic to stardust?

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6310.

Ceremony in a Sylvan Setting

What's more appropriate than a sylvan ballet to herald Birmingham's first annual Spring Arts Festival? These graceful students of the dance—all of them Birmingham belles—will perform at Saturday morning's ceremonies which usher in nine days of specially arranged events that demonstrate this area's artistic capabilities.

Spring Art Festival Starts Saturday

Nine-Day Schedule Of Events

Birmingham and Bloomfield certainly are not art colonies, as the public normally defines that expression.

But these two communities have the greatest concentration of artistic talent in Michigan.

You don't believe it?

See for yourself in Birmingham's first 9-day Spring Art Festival which starts Saturday morning at Waterfall park, on West Maple at the River Rouge.

Festival Events Listed on Page 2-A

THIS FESTIVAL will sweep over the community with artistic waves of painting, music, dancing, sculpture and the theater.

Pallets and canvasses will spring up like May flowers in Shain park.

Flowers will be displayed like paintings in Baldwin public library.

Art will glow from store windows all around the town.

There will be dancing on the green and square dancing under the stars.

Music will be in the air.

PEOPLE WILL RUSH around with drawings under their arms, lugging make-up kits and boxes of costumes, clutching musical instruments and scores. The whole exuberant talents of this richly gifted area are about to spill over into a display which for color will remind the traveller of Montmartre, though there is not an attic artist in sight.

There's music—music for long-hairs, music for short locks, even music for the pony tail set. Inspiring music, music of charm and warmth, along with the best of Broadway.

There's theater—five plays and two puppet shows are being specially staged for the Festival. And if all this living theater merely whets the appetite, devotees of the foreign art film will have a concentrated week of some of the finest available at nearby Clawson Playhouse.

THERE'S ART—fine art of every sort, painting in oils, in water color, drawing in every medium, sculpture, mosaics, photography.

There's crafts, ceramics, enamelling, jewelry, handiwork. Some of the exhibits will be for sale. Some will be created on the spot.

There's the dance, from ballet to square. And there's the art of flowers, gorgeously demonstrated throughout the entire week at the Baldwin Library which will be filled with the flower arrangements of the Birmingham branch of the national farm and garden association.

This club also is presenting a day and evening (from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.) of special lectures and discussions on this absorbing subject on Tuesday at the Birmingham Community House.

The thirsty will be soothed with tea at 3:45, and the evening program is of special interest to the male gardener.

Opening Ceremonies

The Festival will be officially opened by Mayor Ingraham at ceremonies at Quarton Lake Falls at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 17. A flower garland dance and Dance of the Maypole will set the atmosphere for the entire gala, as danced by students of Irene Mortenson and Sue Roseberry against the lovely wood and ravine setting of the park.

There's Music

Musical activities commence opening day when the Junior League choral group presents at 3 p.m. in Baldwin library auditorium a special program of favorites, from Bach's 5th Brandenburg Concerto to Victor Herbert and a folk singer with a guitar.

Music is quite concentrated on Wednesday and Thursday, beginning at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Birmingham high school gymnasium with the high school choir.

This is followed at 5 p.m. by the 20 accordions of the Accordion Band presenting a program at the Community House.

AT 8:30 Wednesday evening, the distinguished Chamber Music Group of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra will appear in concert at

(See ART FESTIVAL, Page 2-A)

$600,000 Motel At Maple, Hunter

A $600,000 two-story motel of 58 units is going to be built at the southeast corner of Hunter and Maple, it was revealed this week.

It is being constructed by the Tilchin-Aaron Builders, Inc., of Detroit, who built and operate the nationally famous Cranbrook House motel at 8 Mile and Northwestern highways. The new project will be called "Birmingham House". It is the city's first motel.

COMPANY SECRETARY Asher N. Tilchin said construction will start immediately, with completion expected by next spring.

Motel exterior will be primarily of brick. There will be parking for 60 cars.

Main entrance will be off Hunter. A second entrance will be on Maple. The units will form an L-shaped building around the south and east of a service station, which occupies the corner location.

Assign Downtown Development Study

A five-man committee has been picked by Mayor Carl F. Ingraham to study better utilization of all Birmingham municipal parking areas, as well as see what could be done to encourage proper commercial development of the downtown area.

His appointments followed commissioners' brief comment Monday night that business development has not anywhere near approached expectations as a result of the $800,000 worth of parking the city has spent in its four lots.

Committee members are Commissioner John S. O'Gorman, chairman, Commissioner Harry M. Denyes, City Manager L. R. Gare, Police Chief Ralph Moseley, and Chamber of Commerce representative Donald L. Cummings.

COMMISSIONERS had before them during their discussion a letter from local real estate man Fred C. Pew. He suggested the city restrict the lot at Merrill and Pierce for shopper parking. A considerable portion now is used by long-term or all-day parkers.

These latter parkers, Pew believes, could be directed to one or more of the other lots, which presently are little used in comparison.

He said this move would be welcomed by potential merchants who now hesitate to invest in properties near Merrill-Pierce.

THEY WANT to see more short term parking first, Pew said.

"In the absence of any considerable industrial area," his letter read in part, "Birmingham needs a sound, commercial tax base to supplement the considerable residential assessed valuation — else the residents will soon rebel against excessive home taxation.

"If potential downtown merchants are diverted to the areas outside the city limits because of parking limitations, then Birmingham's downtown areas will slowly wither and die on the vine as has happened to too many of our cities."

* * * *

Special Meet to View Planning for B'ham

What's going to happen to Birmingham?

Anything can happen, say planning experts, where communities do not look ahead and work out some kind of over-all plan.

That's why a special meeting on planning has been called by a subcommittee of the Birmingham planning board. They have invited community leaders and the public to the 8 p.m. session Tuesday, May 27, at Birmingham Community House.

There discussions will center on the two-fold problem of planning for Birmingham — (a) the downtown and (b) the city as a whole.

ELIOT ROBINSON and William H. Merrill, both Birmingham planning board members, make up the sub-committee organized to study an over-all plan for the city.

Robinson, chairman of the committee, said this week, "It is my fond hope that this meeting will generate enough enthusiasm to spark organization of a citizen's committee for planning for the future growth and development of Birmingham."

In 15-minute talks, representatives from Pontiac and Royal Oak will attend the meeting to explain action in their communities, and David Geer, planning consultant, will discuss planning from the professional consultant's point of view.

5 Quarton Area Streets Up for Resurfacing

Resurfacing of five streets in Birmingham's Quarton lake estates area has been set for necessity hearing June 2 before the city commission.

Streets involved are Lakeside, Randall to Midland; Midland, Lakepark to Lakeside; Lakepark, Oak to north of Midland; Willow lane, Midland to Redding, and Pine, Lakepark to Chesterfield.

Another problem street, Redding, is going to be torn out and repaved. Oak between Lakepark and Lakeview will be temporarily resurfaced at city expense.

The other projects will involve special assessments, totalling about $18,000.

CITY ENGINEER Grover Serenbetz said Redding must be rebuilt and widened to 29 feet for the block and a half west from Woodward. The city should not assume responsibility for trying to resurface the existing broken up pavement, he recommended.

The Quarton area street would receive a modified first layer of resurfacing, like that placed on most other streets in late 1954. A top layer would be applied when streets are widened and get storm drainage, the city has decided.

Hills Gets New Postal Chief

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — This city has a new postmaster.

Wayne N. Mortimer, 4791 Inkster, Bloomfield township, has received the appointment as acting Bloomfield Hills postmaster.

The 49-year-old Birmingham men's store owner replaces John J. Redmond, 42 E. Long Lake, Bloomfield Hills. Redmond is retiring after serving as the Hills postal chief for 17 years.

Judge Gafill Retires July 1

His plans to retire as Birmingham's municipal judge were announced this week by Judge John J. Gafill, of 661 Frank, Birmingham.

The judge said Wednesday that he had earlier notified the Birmingham city commission through City Manager L. Richard Gare. Announcement of his resignation, to be effective July 1, will be included on the commission agenda for Monday.

He has been judge for 12 years, since his appointment to the post by the city commission in July, 1946. He subsequently was elected to the post, with his present term expiring in spring, 1959. The judge said his retirement was on the recommendation of his physician.

A one-time Birmingham village attorney, Judge Gafill had retired as general attorney for the Grand Trunk Western Canadian National railroad, before becoming the municipal court's judge.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6310.

3 Seek Full Terms On B'ham B of E

Mrs. Donald Parry in June will be elected to another two years on the Birmingham board of education, but a second incumbent will have to face two newcomers in a contest for the two vacant four-year terms.

Richard A. Sauerbrun, 2789 Pembroke, Birmingham, filed petitions by Saturday's deadline as he goes out for his third full term on the Birmingham board. The election is June 9.

ALSO FILING were Malcolm Lovell, 37, of 2748 Amberly, Bloomfield Village. Lovell headed the list of five unsuccessful candidates who ran for the board last year.

Third entrant is Richard P. Barnard, 33, of 26580 Wellington, Franklin.

Mrs. Parry is the only one who filed for the remaining two-year portion of an unexpired term. She was named to the vacancy last fall.

A MONTH AGO Lovell joined American Motors Corp. as manager of industrial relations research and analysis. He is co-chairman of the steering committee of the school district's citizens committee on education. He is secretary of the Birmingham library area study committee.

Barnard is a patent attorney for General Motors. He is on the school district's citizens committee studying curriculum.

Mrs. Parry lives at 836 Mohegan, Birmingham.

Kephart Asks $4,313 Boost In Hills Budget

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — City commission Tuesday tentatively approved City Manager Elmer Kephart's proposed 1958-59 budget which would continue the present tax rate of $20 per $1,000 of assessed valuation.

Although property valuations have increased during the past year by $811,500 to a total of $10,056,000 and proposed expenditures of $249,000 are only $4,313 higher than last year, the tax rate would remain the same because miscellaneous non-tax revenues are expected to decline.

A SPECIAL MEETING for a public hearing of the proposed budget is set for 8 p.m. May 27.

The budget includes an across-the-board three per cent raise for city employees. This is reflected in

(See BUDGET, Page 3-A)

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Harlans Get Together for Dedication

It was a summery evening, perfect for enjoying a buffet on the beautiful lawns of the C. Allen Harlan home on Adams road Tuesday. Harlan talks with the guest of honor, his cousin Justice John Marshall Harlan (right) of the U. S. Supreme Court, the Justice's wife, and Michigan state university President John A. Hannah (left). Harlan entertained over 200 of his distinguished friends and associates in business and educational circles at the buffet dinner preceding Tuesday night's dedication of the school. Justice Harlan was dedication speaker at the school named for the local Harlan. Among distinguished guests at the buffet and dedication were Governor G. Mennen Williams, Mayor Louis Miriani of Detroit, Fr. Celestin J. Steiner, president of the University of Detroit, President Harlan Hatcher of the University of Michigan, President Clarence Hilberry of Wayne state university, and Lynn Bartlett, Michigan superintendent of public instruction.

Cranbrook House's 50 Years To Be Marked

A house full of important memories is 50 years old this year.

Sunday Cranbrook house's golden anniversary will be observed as the annual Founders Day is celebrated at Cranbrook. Events will culminate with a tea at the stately home of the late Mr. and Mrs. George G. Booth, Cranbrook founders.

It was in their home that ideas were developed for such important institutions as Birmingham Community House, Cranbrook school and the Christ church parish. Most of the dreams that changed a former run down farm to a cultural center originated in the house's big rooms.

THE TEA, from 4 to 7 p.m. follows the custom of the Booths of annually honoring the graduating groups of the Academy of Art and Kingswood, Cranbrook and Brookside schools.

At 5 p.m. Henry Scripps Booth, youngest son of the founders, will award two founders medals to men who have served the Cranbrook institutions since their inception.

Tea table hostesses Sunday will be Mrs. Elden J. Bemis, Mrs. Lester L. Dobyns, Mrs. Kenneth D. McGregor, Miss Grace Fry, Mrs. Hugh Davisson, Mrs. Henry L. Woolfenden.

Also Mrs. Russell Barnes, Miss Dorothy Inglis, Miss Joan McBride, Mrs. Charles McGee, Mrs. Edward A. Schirmer and Mrs. Howard B. Steggall.