The Birmingham Eccentric

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1958
40 PAGES

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly
TEN CENTS

61ST YEAR—NO. 33

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

Behind Our Front Page

In these paragraphs I've often said that habit is stronger than reason. For example, one may desire to do something good for another, or speak kindly to another . . . then apparently forget to manifest these good intentions. That's why continual doing of good emerges into a habit—and what our world needs are more human habits of doing good!

Anniversary Trip . . .

Reported on by Presbyterian minister. See page 7-B.

They went Christmas Shopping

. . . in Europe, yet. Page 7-E.

'Sweater a Month' . . .

. . . membership requirement. See Danish women Page 1-C.

Six Facets Of a Woman

. . . What are they? Find out on Page 1-B.

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This and That

by George R. Averill

Two young California boys, playing with matches, started a brush fire near Monrovia, resulting in the burning of seven homes and over 8,000 acres of suburban trees. Had their parents sufficiently taught their offspring of the danger of playing with matches? Even had they done so, would normal childish curiosity have motivated the youngsters to do what they did? "From little acorns great oaks grow" . . . and from the flare of a single match great fires have occurred.

Some men like to treat their friends to refreshment; others like to treat and then re-treat; while others simply want to retreat from the treating.

A henpecked weatherman was describing his wife to an old friend. "She speaks 150 words a minute," he said, "with gusts up to 180."

Shades of Christopher Columbus! That ancient Genoanese navigator took three months, as I recall it, to reach the western hemisphere in 1492—and a few days ago British pilots flew the newest in jet airplanes from New York to Britain, 3,560 miles, in six hours and twelve minutes . . . and all this came about as the result of mankind's inventive genius, mankind's ability to discover all those physical laws that make possible the transformation of parts of our physical world into apparatus that frees man from being earth-bound, exceeding the speed of birds in flight. The same mental and spiritual processes, when eventually hitched to the inspired moral laws of our universe, will lift mankind up from earthy shackles and speed him on to an Utopia as far removed from the present as a jet airliner is from the horse and buggy.

Do you think that women are better handlers of money simply because they spend more of it?

Many families prize very greatly their ownership of a dog. They lavish much attention, lots of affection upon their canine. In some cases, isn't it too bad that the members of some families fail to show the same regard for one another that they do for their canine?

Politics, of the average practical type, certainly is far from being fundamentally honest. Both major parties, from time to time, have bitterly denounced each other. Each has claimed the other guilty of many wrongs — including acts that, among mere lay people, would send some of them to jail. At least into public disrepute. The art of politics, of course, is not the only area in which many human beings are dishonest, both in outright acts and in intellectual maneuvering. If promises, in both business, politics and private affairs were sincerely and honestly made and kept—well, many, many fewer of them would be made. Don't you agree?

Ad Agency's Pay is Peanuts to New Member

Hermanetta the chipmunk has become an unofficial member of the staff of MacManus, John & Adams Inc., Woodward at Long Lake road. During the summer, Hermanetta's pay has amounted to six pounds of peanuts and one pound of cookies. Hermanetta was discovered on a window sill at the advertising agency by Earl Gove, (shown above), who gets to work early. The chipmunk was originally dubbed Herman, but this name was changed after closer inspection. Gove started bringing peanuts to work everyday, and soon had his pet eating out of his hand. Robert Duffy, another staff member, made a table and chair for Hermanetta and now she is learning table manners. Hermanetta also has a miniature rug (not shown) on her dining room floor.

B'ham Officials To Make Lansing Trip Anyway

A delegation of Birmingham city officials, including Mayor Carl F. Ingraham and City Manager L. R. Gare, will go to Lansing next Tuesday morning to try and persuade the state highway department to change its mind regarding access drive construction along US-10.

Although the prospects aren't very good, Ingraham said the trip would be made anyway.

THE CITY finds itself in this dilemma:

A year and a half ago it notified all businesses along US-10 to install access drives or face a ban on parking on the state right-of-way.

The city has emphasized this access drive program was the highway department's idea, and has been used for several years. Birmingham officials cannot understand why the state has changed its mind.

INGRAHAM on Tuesday received a letter from Commissioner John C. Mackie, who supported the position of his engineering deputy, Howard E. Hill.

Hill in a letter to Gare last week said the highway department could not permit additional US-10 access drives until it had determined whether a fifth lane is needed for regular traffic movement.

Mackie's Oct. 17 letter backed up Hill. The commissioner said he could not be present at the Oct. 29 meeting in Lansing, but would have Hill and Harold G. Bauerle, rector of the traffic division, present Mackie's views.

Planning to make the trip with Ingraham and Gare are Commissioners William E. Roberts and John S. O'Gorman.

C of C Asks Ban On 'Temporary' Businesses Here

Birmingham needs an ordinance to protect its regular businesses from the 30 to 60-day Christmas temporary type, Chamber of Commerce Manager Charles Mortensen asked in a letter this week to city officials.

Commissioners asked City Manager L. R. Gare and City Attorney James Howlett to see what other municipalities have done about this problem.

Mortensen said other cities have such restrictions. He said these stores are set up shortly before Christmas, and close immediately afterward.

"They can do considerable harm to established local merchants who are in business the year around," Mortensen said.

Birmingham Triplet Dies at Hospital

Robert Kevin Siegesmund, the smallest of triplet boys born to Mr. and Mrs. John C. Siegesmund Jr., 815 Hupp Cross road, died last Friday at William Beaumont hospital.

Private funeral arrangements were made at the William Vasu funeral home.

The boys, born two months prematurely, Oct. 3, were the first triplets ever born to Birmingham residents and the first born in Beaumont hospital.

Robert was the smallest of the three. He weighed 3 pounds, 5½ ounces at birth.

A hospital spokesman said the other boys, James Jeffery and Thomas Eric, were doing fine and have started to gain weight. They are still in incubators, but are now being bottle fed.

Is It a Bird? A Plane? No, a Flying Executive!

BLOOMFIELD VILLAGE—A private plane circles high over Bloomfield village about dinnertime now and then. It attracts little notice, except from the Virgil LaMarre household at 237 Tilbury road.

The circling plane is ad executive LaMarre's signal to his family that he's back from another of his routine flying visits to a client.

After the LaMarres look skyward to see a white single-engine Cessna, they say, "Dad's home!" and somebody heads for Big Beaver airport to pick him up.

That's only when the air-minded ad man hasn't left the car at the airport. Often the fast-traveling account executive goes first to his office at MacManus, John and Adams in Bloomfield Hills, then drives his car to the airport later.

LaMARRE HAS added over 1400 hours to his flight log book since he got the Cessna six years ago. Every two weeks he flies to Elyria, O., where he's account executive for Bendix - Westinghouse automotive air brake company. Once a month he visits companies whose accounts he is "AE" for in Evansville, Ind., Fairmont, Minn., and Hamilton, O.

Why does he wing his way to his out-of-town contacts?

"It saves me a lot of time, and it saves a lot of wear and tear on me," says LaMarre.

"WHEN I go to Elyria, I can make that trip in an hour and a half, whereas it would be a hard five-hour drive down and back," he explained. "With my plane, I can take off early in the morning, and I'm back in the evening."

If he's going to stay overnight, he works in his office for half a day or more, then drives to the airport, and arrives at his destination about dusk.

That gives him most of the next day to spend with his client. It adds up to more time with the client, and more time with the family back home, too.

As far as weather problems go, LaMarre claims he only gets held up by poor flying conditions "once in a while."

"YOU WOULD be surprised how rarely weather interferes for any length of time," he says.

"If visibility gets poor, I either turn back, go around it, or go down," he adds.

"Going down" doesn't mean landing on the proverbial corn field, but at the nearest airport.

"If more people realized it, a single engine airplane is really a wonderful convenience. States and communities maintain so many nice fields nowadays that you can rarely be more than 15 minutes from a field."

CARRYING his briefcase by plane isn't even expensive, because LaMarre figures it costs no more than driving a good automobile. And the value of airplanes doesn't depreciate as rapidly, he says. (LaMarre paid $4500 for his Cessna, though he thinks it would cost more now.

As for safety . . . a man who has flown 3000 hours doesn't think much about it.

"I fly strictly VFR, visual flight rules. I never fly by instrument," he says.

When he flies to Minnesota, he wings his way along the shore of Lake Michigan instead of across it. He detours around Chicago, rather than risk flying over the thickly populated area where few landing places are available.

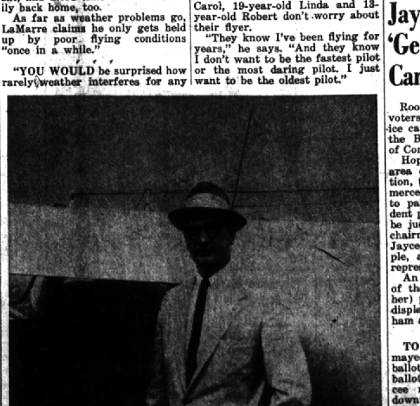
HE'S BEEN flying since he took glider training in his home town of Bay City, Mich. That was 30 years ago, though he says he hates to admit he's been flying that long.

"I sound like one of the Wright brothers," he jokes.

He has had a number of articles published in flying magazines, and is featured in this month's issue of "Skyways" magazine.

At the LaMarre home, Mrs. Katherine LaMarre, 17-year-old Carol, 19-year-old Linda and 13-year-old Robert don't worry about their flyer.

"They know I've been flying for years," he says. "And they know I don't want to be the fastest pilot or the most daring pilot. I just want to be the oldest pilot."



Briefcase in hand, Virgil LaMarre is ready to take off on another business trip in his private plane.

BHS Students Act After Complaints On Game Conduct

When Mayor Carl F. Ingraham told the city commission Sept. 29 that some Birmingham high school football fans were not at their best behavior, he started something!

The Eccentric printed it. The students read it. Now they're acting.

An eight-man problems committee of the Birmingham Student Congress was quickly formed to investigate behavior at the Royal Oak Dondero-Birmingham game in point.

They formed their conclusions, called an assembly at 2 p.m. Friday and presented the facts to the students.

JOHN Hutchinson, committee chairman, told them that the comments by the mayor and complaints from the parents were due to "horseplay and poor cheering habits."

He told the students that Birmingham has the highest state record of all-around sports participation and students should realize that they are as responsible for their actions as the team is.

He suggested students take their responsibility seriously and refrain from damaging Birmingham's reputation. He added that it would be a good plan to come to the game, find a seat, stay there and cheer the team.

ROGER Kissam, president of Congress, added, "Birmingham has been complimented on so many things . . . field day, sports and general appearance."

He asked students to help bring their football behavior up to this level.

The eight-man committee dealing with the matter is Ginny Huntoon, Carolyn Batey, Jim Lewis, Chuck Hartung, Chris Schad, Karen Smith, Jim Ruhly and John Hutchinson, chairman.

Jaycees to Stage 'Get Out Vote' Campaign Here

Rooting out lethargic off-year voters is a major community service campaign being undertaken by the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce this year.

Hoping to alert Birmingham area citizens to the Nov. 4 election, the Junior Chamber of Commerce has invited school children to participate in the Jaycee student poster competition, which will be judged by "Get Out the Vote" chairman Charles Chamberland, Jaycee Board member James Temple, and two board of education representatives to be named.

An award will go to the designer of the winning entry and his (or her) poster will be reproduced and displayed throughout the Birmingham area.

TO PROSPECTIVE voters dismayed by the usually unfamiliar ballots of unwieldly size, miniature ballots will be distributed by Jaycees members on the streets of downtown Birmingham. On these miniature ballots, citizens may select their candidates and practice X-ing.

Within the Jaycee membership, a chain letter campaign will be conducted so members can remind their friends of the Nov. 4 election and request their participation.

Above all, the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce is urging all eligible voters to "Exercise Your X . . . Vote November 4th," said Chamberland.

Torch Drive Needs Big Push to Goal

Trim Bids On Newest Hi School

To keep the cost of the new Birmingham junior - senior high school within the board of education's construction budget, architect Linn Smith, of Smith, Tarapata & MacMahon, Tuesday night was instructed to renegotiate and eliminate $370,000 worth of specifications from the original cost total of $3,731,950 which the low bidders have submitted.

This action will contain construction costs within the $3,361,950 the school board has budgeted.

Contracts were awarded to low bidders Tuesday night on the stipulation that renegotiations savings will total $370,000 or more.

THE BOARD voted 6-0 (Member Amos Gregory was absent) to award contracts to Pulte-Strang of Ferndale, general contractor at $2,589,800; Allen Briggs Co. of Detroit, mechanical contract at $698,250; and Smith Brothers Electrical, Inc., of Detroit, electrical contract at $443,900. It was stipulated that these contracts be negotiated downward a total of $370,000 or more.

The total of low bids was $370,000 higher than Smith's estimates.

Smith said the most important reason for the low estimate was his basic error in leaving out the cost of 16,000 square feet of overhangs, tunnels, etc., that were in the specifications and on which bids were made.

This alone amounts to $248,000 of the higher bid totals.

HE SAID most of the remaining $122,000 results from misjudging today's construction market cost conditions.

Smith's renegotiations will concern substitution of less costly materials, and modification of features to make them cost less.

"These changes will not lower the physical quality or utilitarian value of the new school," emphasized Smith.

SUPT. OF Schools Dwight B. Ireland said the new school, to go up in a site at 13 Mile and Greenfield in Westwood, must be ready for use next September. Otherwise, present buildings would have to go on a second shift, he warned.

"The present student population at Derby junior high now is 1,400 with a design load of 1,000 students," Ireland said.

THE PRESENT senior high at Lincoln and Cranbrook roads has 2,000 students, and was designed for 1600-1800.

"And we'll have a full year's growth to add to those figures," he reminded.

The September opening would only see this portion completed, Smith said: the 28 classrooms, 8 science rooms, 6 commercial rooms, and 3 study halls.

OFFICES, GYM, swimming pool and shops would be finished by Feb. 1, 1960.

Smith was asked by Board Member Mrs. Janet Barry, "What would your recommendation be if time were not so important?"

Smith admitted he would probably have recommended that all bids be rejected and readvertised.

"It would avoid the very situa-

(See BIDS, Page 3-A)

ALISTAIR COOKE

'Omnibus' Host Alistair Cooke Here for Series

A personality often seen on television screens will be seen in person in Birmingham today and tomorrow at Birmingham Town Hall's sold-out series. He is Alistair Cooke, of "Omnibus" fame, who will speak at 11 a.m. both days at the Birmingham theatre.

English-born Cooke received television's highest award for his Omnibus activities. He is chief American correspondent for the British newspaper, the Manchester Guardian.

He will be introduced here both days by the Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Gass, rector of St. James Episcopal church. Seated at the speaker's table at a celebrity luncheon at Birmingham country club today will be Mrs. Charles Renfrew, Dr. and Mrs. Gass, and Mrs. Charles B. Kass.

Friday's speaker's table guests will be Mrs. Morris M. Halsted, Mrs. James F. Abbott, Mrs. Sidney Patterson, and Dr. Gass.

UNESCO Head Discusses UN at Special Program

"The United Nations is not intended to be a world governmental agency and never will be."

This and other statements concerning the UN were made by William Frye, director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

FRYE spoke to more than 200 business, civic and club people, who attended the special observance of United Nations Day at the Community House Tuesday.

He said many people, including some working within the UN, believe that the eventual aim of the organization was to become a world governmental agency. Frye thinks this is a false notion.

"The United Nations is made up of 86 or 87 separate governments and I don't think that now, or at any time in the foreseeable future, any one of those governments would be willing to surrender its sovereign rights," Frye said.

He also stressed the importance of the UN as a means of communication between foreign countries. He pointed out that work done by UNESCO and its affiliated agencies provided a means of better understanding our foreign neighbors and their governments.

"IT IS important for us to understand the governmental systems of other countries in spite of the obvious advantages we have in America," he said.

Frye commented that the UN and its organizations were useful

(See PROGRAM, Page 3-A)

Capital Improvements Could Total $240,000

A quarter-million dollar capital improvement program is being considered by Birmingham for possible completion this year.

It could include an addition to Baldwin public library, two relief sewers, improvement of portions of five streets, widening of another, and rebuilding of two bridges.

The program's cost is estimated between $230,000 and $240,000.

City Finance Director James Purkiss told commissioners the city has slightly over $250,000 in its capital improvement and available surplus funds with which to finance any or all of the programs if started this fiscal year.

COMMISSIONERS indicated plans should be up-dated on all the projects. City Manager L. R. Gare said he also would bring in latest cost estimates.

Possible projects and estimated costs of the city's share are:

Public library expansion $72,000.

US-10 Lincoln intersection revamping $16,500.

W. Maple widening Argyle west $15,000.

Chester-Wallace-Lincoln interceptor $66,500.

Redding sewer (Chesterfield west) $2600

Landon, Ann, Purdy street improvement $15,000.

N. Woodward sidewalk, curb repairs $3000.

Haynes street paving $2200

Willets street bridge (new) $15,000-$20,000.

Northlawn bridge (new) $15,000 - $20,000.

Last Days Find Goal 50% Short

One big push—a day better than all the rest—that's what's needed to put the 1958 Torch Drive campaign over the hump.

Mrs. Clyde C. Bennett Jr., chairman of the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin (B-B-F) region says, "Everybody's help is needed on our final day tomorrow to meet or even come close to our goal."

Midnight is deadline and contributions are only half way to the mark.

AID FOR the needy, welfare for the young and aged, and financial support for the fight against disease will be operating in the red unless the annual drive gets the necessary last-ditch support.

Mrs. Margot Heib and some 500 Birmingham volunteer staff workers would like to see a few more days like Oct. 15 and Oct. 28.

In those two 24-hour periods, contributions hit over $30,000 each and reflected what would have been needed EVERY day in the 10-day campaign (Oct. 14-24) to spurt over the B-B-F goal of $184,504.

BUT AS the tally sheets show, the $30,000 days were not average. They are the big days—and only two of them at that—but a record day of double those amounts is needed.

The week between netted $30,000 altogether, fueling the torch flame to only $98,533.88. This was the collection figure reported as of noon yesterday with funds yet to be added from Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday collections. There is still nearly $90 thousand lacking for the regional quota.

While the drive ends at midnight for residential, local business, government workers, select prospects, schools, and communities, a separate drive in major industrial plants has a Nov. 6 deadline.

Unless the residential campaign reaches its quota, volunteer workers may be called upon to serve in a "mop-up" drive later this month.

Community reports showed Birmingham with a total of $24,561.21; Bloomfield Hills, $45,295.14; Bloomfield Village, $5,535.50; Oakland Hills, $5,413.85; Foxcroft, $273; Wing Lake, $2,064; Franklin, $2,413; and Beverly Hills, $4,819.45.

In addition, school contributions showed Birmingham with $2,500; Cranbrook Institutions, $557; City & Country schools, $48.25; and Country Day, $93.48.

As in the case of regional areas, Oakland County's foreign workers also are 50 per cent short of their $378,623 goal, having raised but $165,983.64 as of Wednesday.

The over-all Metropolitan United Fund Torch drive had approximately $4½ million raised of its $15,700,000 goal needed to support the 195 health and welfare agencies servicing the area.

Willy Ley to Talk On U. S. Moon Shot

Willy Ley, authority on rocket research and space travel, will discuss the recent moon shot attempt when he speaks in the auditorium of Cranbrook school tonight at 8:15.

Ley's lecture, "The Conquest of Nearby Space," is one of the Cranbrook forum series, established to bring speakers of timely importance to the community. The series is sponsored by the alumni association of Cranbrook school.

STRICTLY FRESH

Some girls look attractive in slacks. Others just attract looks.

It's about the time of year when bus windows suddenly open with ease—but don't close.

Parents whose grown children drop in unexpectedly with their whole tribe to spend a weekend must often wish for an heir-raid warning.

Fellow across the desk from us says that when his wife finishes shopping for winter clothes, he'll be wearing the new, wafer-thin wallet.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6318.