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This and That

by George R. Averill

Stewart Alsop Is Able Observer of Public Affairs

You may recall the fact that Stewart Alsop, one of the two leading Washington, D.C. editors of the Saturday Evening Post, has been writing frequent articles in this paper, of course, an informed writer, and a fairly good public speaker. He certainly held the attention of his local audience.

After his speech, some of the audience lunched with him at the nearby Birmingham Country Club. It was his privilege to sit next to some of the luncheon, to get some of his political and economic ideas, and to respond to some of his queries to me on the subject of "Michigan politics."

ALSOP, TO BE SURE, was much interested in Gov. Williams at that time, was being widely mentioned as a possible contender in 1960 for the Democratic party's Presidential nomination. I filed Alsop in on some of the State's political background at the current happenings.

I did refer to the Governor as an amiable, personable chap... yet I was tied to tightly to the labor bosses that I did not believe him completely free from biased obligations to them, also lamented (in the name of all our readers) the fact that during his years as Governor, Alsop had not made a single outstanding executive achievement—except being elected five times to date, and then largely because of labor leaders' help. (This factor for the November election last year.)

WITHOUT ANY HESITATION, Alsop's comment simply was: "Well, Gov. Williams really has a good chance of being nominated, anyway."

In one of his Post articles recently Alsop repeated his belief that Williams had little chance to win that coveted nomination.

Alsop believes that there's nothing wrong in the public officialdom of any government unit in our country that intelligent, alert, watchful, citizen-concern and action cannot cure, or prevent. He admits that internal citizen apathy and indifference in public matters is the beginning of the decay of any so-called free, self-governing government. For then the tyranny of dictatorship takes over... whether it be a military coup d'etat, a small group, or the enthronement of a great bureaucracy. His organization grew up "neath the protecting (?) shelter of paternalistic self-government."

ON THE SUBJECT of Mr. Alsop doesn't believe a war possible between major powers such as the U.S. and Soviet Russia. "It might start out little, but it'll find become nuclear war, as an action will go down to defeat without letting loose very military weapons it has," believed Alsop.

Alsop has his hobbies, too. He likes fish (trout mostly) and hunt. He is taller than average, and according to the ladies (and any man) quite a handsome hunk of masculinity. He graduated from Groton in 1922 and from Yale in 1925. In World War II he was in both the British and U.S. armies. He married and the dad of a son.

All in all, Stewart Alsop is quite a person.

Emergency Polio Drive Is Tuesday

Mrs. Richard R. Galpin, 937 Henley, has been appointed Mothers' March Chairman for the Birmingham area "Emergency Appeal" of the March of Dimes.

The appointment was announced by Ernest Goldsborough, campaign director for the Oakland county chapter of the National Foundation. The Mothers' March will be held on Tuesday, August 25th, from 7 to 8 p.m.

The Emergency Appeal is necessary to care for local polio patients. "We need your help now," Mrs. Galpin said. "A polio emergency is a strange phrase in these days of the Salk vaccine, but the fact remains that this drive is needed because the burden of polio from past years is greater in this area."

"DURING LAST year's epidemic, one out of every five cases in the U.S. occurred in Michigan. Many of the cases in this county require expensive long-term rehabilitation."

"Local and national funds for this purpose have been exhausted." "Unfortunately, an increase in polio has been predicted for this season," she continued. "Funds must be available to provide care for these paralytic polio patients who require March of Dimes assistance."

"There are two good ways for every citizen to respond to this Emergency Appeal. Mrs. Galpin said—"give what you can to help those polio patients, and get your own and your family vaccinated against polio."

STANLEY COLBY, field director of the Oakland county chapter, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis said: "We have twice as many polio cases in Oakland county as we had last year at this time."

"And last year we had twice as many as we had the year before," Colby said. A twelve-year-old boy died of polio in Springfield township last week. The boy had not had Salk vaccine.

Two-thirds of the cases in Oakland county, he said, are children who have not had vaccine.

MOTHERS WHO will help in the door-to-door campaign are Mrs. Arthur Oris, 473 Puritan, Mrs. David Heins, 275 Greenwood, Mrs. Robert Nixon, 563 Lakewood, Mrs. W. Brinkman, 810 Tottemen, Mrs. E. W. Brinkman, 1463 Yorkshire.

Mrs. Burton Hodgson, 2488 Derby, Mrs. Leo Hakovitch, 217 Westchester Way, Mrs. Emma Swift, Love, 962 Abbey.

Mrs. John Sigler, 1356 Greenwood, Mrs. Edna Kruger, 976 Bird, Mrs. George Hill, 1880 Penstone, and Mrs. Joseph Wheeler, 440 Ravine.

BLOOMFIELD VILLAGE—We know where the corn is as high as an elephant's eye and it's not in Oklahoma.

It's in the backyard of a Bloomfield Village man whose hobby is corn and grandchildren.

Dr. Robert J. Mason, a local pediatrician, is an amateur gardener who reaps a sense of contentment from tilling his 40 x 40-foot vegetable patch at 604 Overhill.

"MY GARDEN is my golf," Dr. Mason said. "It is an ideal place to relax and still be at home with my wife and family."

Corn tops, Dr. Mason's list of vegetable favorites, but he also grows cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, beans, big lettuce and raspberries.

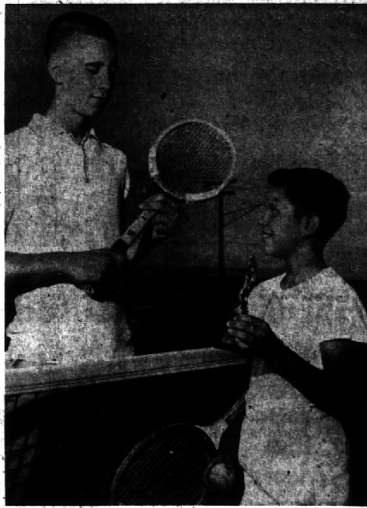
THE NINE MASON grandchildren find it fun, too. They pick mostly corn, beans, assorted insects, a few stones, sundry treasures from the earth, inhaling volumes of fresh air and a goodly amount of sunshine.

"They really know how to consume food, too," Dr. Mason jokingly commented.

THE MASON'S WORK together, he is in the garden and she is in the yard. Although Dr. Mason commented, his wife, Alice, has prepared many a salad, dinner and jam from the fruits of his labor.

"I enjoy this so much," he said seriously. "It is healthy, productive, creative, festive, nutritious and appealing. I am merely expressing my satisfaction with life and nature."

DR. MASON has tended plants for the past 19 years except when he was in the service during the war. Then, ironically, the victory garden became a necessity and the



Big Champ—Little Champ

John Sisson, who stands 6-3, admires the junior boys trophy won by little Mike Fischer in The Birmingham Eccentric Recreation department tennis tourney recently. Sisson won the mens singles title, was runner-up in the boys singles, mens doubles and boys doubles events. A record field of 150 players entered the tournament. (See page 8-D.)

Back-To-School Time Facts Told This Week

You'll want to save the special "Back to School" section included with this week's issue of The Birmingham Eccentric. It's packed with valuable information about the opening of area schools just three weeks from now.

Want to know where and when your child is due to report back to school? You'll find the facts in a page one story in the special section. You'll also find complete school calendars for the 1959-60 school year, listing vacation dates.

Other special features that will interest both pupils and parents are:

News of back-to-school fashions. College-bound young people from the Birmingham area Maps showing attendance areas for Birmingham senior and junior high school students.

Facts on the new Wylie E. Groves high school. New parochial schools and facilities to be open soon. PTA and PTO officers for the coming year. Athletic programs planned. New teachers in area schools.

Originally from Colorado, the green-thumbed physician lived in a small town in Missouri before coming to Detroit and then to Bloomfield Village.

"I SUPPOSE it was the influence of tender corn at a tender age that initiated my interest, but I find now that gardening is therapeutic," says Dr. Mason.

An informal prescription for health, contentment and satisfaction, the doctor recommends "raisin gardens"—transience.

On August 6, three Highland Park youths reported to Hills police they had seen a six-foot figure walking with a head wandering around Endicott lake.

Last week the police picked up a boy on Chesterfield road with a horse-blanket over his head. He was identified as Dave Hollis, of Highland Park. He stated he was trying to scare other boys who might be looking for the headless ghost.

Later that night police discovered two of his friends, Highland Parkers Burton Wilson and Douglas White.

Wilson was one of the youths who made the original report. Hills police said that neither Slusher, termed the entire incident "summer diversion."

Two signs showing traffic at Baldwin school hours are being purchased by the City of Birmingham. Created last week authorized Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley to spend \$300 for the large black and white signs.

The signs will be placed at the W. Maple curb just east and west of the school. Moxley said he hoped to have the signs installed before the beginning of school. They will warn motorists that the 25-mile-per-hour speed limit on W. Maple should be reduced to 20 near the school.

Oh, what a beautiful morning for Dr. Mason to measure the soaring corn.

Schools Hit By State Cash Crisis

A curtailment of the teaching staff in the Birmingham school district will mean larger classes this year, according to Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools.

Dr. Ireland told the school board Tuesday night the financial condition of the state will be reflected in Birmingham public schools.

"AN ANNUAL increase of 762 students to be provided for is not unusual in the Birmingham schools," Ireland said.

"However, in past years, an increase in classroom space and in the number of teachers to provide for population growth have accompanied the added pupils."

"This year, due to the failure of the Oakland county tax allocation board to allow any increase for school operation, the failure of the Michigan legislature to provide improved state aid and the lack of a substantial increase in the assessed valuations of the school district, the needed increase in funds for additional teaching staff will not be available."

HE SAID the citizens have already provided the needed classroom space in the form of the Wylie E. Groves junior-high school.

The new school will open this September.

Specifically, there should be 287 elementary teachers this year but only 243 will be available. In the junior-senior grades, there should be 226 teachers. Only 215 will be on the staff.

IN OTHER business before the board, members were shown the preliminary and alternate models and sketches of the new Westchester elementary school.

No action was taken on the proposed school.

The board discussed the bids on the sprinkler system for Barnum junior high and the drainage system for St. Albans high school.

The members also approved the hiring of Ed. Moxley as principal of the Seasham high school parking lot at a beginning salary of \$5,500 a year.

They heard reports from the treasurer and athletic director Frank Whitney.

Thursday, Aug. 13, proved an unlucky day for both Birmingham baseball teams who were seeking national honors.

The Pioneer League All Stars were state Babe Ruth champions in the regional tournament in Ypsilanti in the first game.

Thursday, the Illinois team defeated them in the final inning, 2-1.

Lock was not with the Little League All Stars, either. The Americans were defending state, district, and regional champions. Harper Woods ended their championship dreams, 8-2.

For story and picture, see page 8-D.

Modern Icabod Sees 'Ghost' Walk Headless in Hills

Bloomfield Hills police are really having their troubles. After finding a "ghost" last week who had lived in the area for over 90 days, their attention has been turned to a headless vision.

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Silver Cache Found On Franklin Estate



Ernest, the Bair chauffeur, searches the ground near where the treasure was discovered.



Franklin Police Officer Ken Bristol examines one of the coins found close to the Bair fence.

Contractor to Change Quarton Fill Operation

Following a torrent of complaints from residents of the area, the contractor hauling fill dirt to a gulley near Quarton lake dam agreed Tuesday to hold his trucks' speed to under 20 miles per hour, prevent mud from spilling from them, and cease early morning bull-dozing operations at the site.

The agreement was obtained from a Northeast construction company job superintendent Tuesday morning by Birmingham City Manager L. Richard Gage and City Engineer Grover Serenbent.

The two contractors at the Quarton lake area residents appeared at the Birmingham city commission's Monday night meeting to protest what they termed a disturbance to the neighborhood.

A petition signed by 48 adults representing 24 homes in the neighborhood requested the city to "use the authority to call for an immediate and at least temporary cessation of the operation."

The petition was presented by Mrs. Wallace J. Terry, 350 Lakewood. Following the reading of a statement by Albert Ribbling, 574 Lakeside group spokesman.

THE FILL dirt is being brought from the Oakland county DPW's Evergreen sewer work site north of the area in the region of Erick V. Henkel, 607 Baldwin court, who owns the land in the gulley. Henkel has told area residents he plans to subdivide the land into approximately five lots and sell them after he secures 31,000 yards of fill dirt.

Protesting that the fill operation was now in its third week and that 3,000 more truck loads would be dumped in the area, residents of the street, the residents asked the city to assure that:

1. Later starting hours are enforced (bull-dozing now awakens the neighborhood between 6 and 7 a.m., said spokesman Ribbling).

2. Filling is done to stop the All kinds of sewer water from the area. (The city is now using a pump-out station.)

3. Trucks are to be equipped with mud flaps.

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FRANKLIN—All that glitters is not gold in the little town that time forgot, but it might well be some of a silver hoard discovered at a lonely Franklin estate.

"The money was discovered by the chauffeur-house man, Ernest," Franklin Police Officer Ken Bristol told a Birmingham Eccentric staff member Tuesday night.

"The Franklin police department was summoned Aug. 1 by the widow of the late Clarence W. Bair, owner of a prosperous Detroit Varnish concern."

Mrs. Bair, who had returned from a vacation in Maryland to her home at 25360 Devon, reported to police that some of the discovered cache had been stolen, probably during her absence.

"ERNEST THOUGHT he saw milk bottle caps on the ground but found they were silver dollars. There were only five lying around the yard," Officer Bristol said.

When police arrived they found a can containing an estimated \$500 to \$600 and a glass jar with about \$200 in quarters, halves and dimes. They were found buried in a large hole near the tool shed.

From the size of the hole, and the number of additional cans it could have contained, Franklin police estimate that if any money was stolen it would be approximately \$500 to \$700.

OFFICER BRISTOL said he answered the initial call from Mrs. Bair but returned later with Police Chief Richard Biederich.

After questioning Mrs. Bair for a total of four hours, Bristol said, the matter was turned over to the state police.

She told The Birmingham Eccentric staff that accounts of the story in Detroit papers are not true.

IT IS THOUGHT that the treasure was buried by Bair in 1940. Bair, who died April 28 last year, was termed "a little eccentric." He was 75.

Springdale's New Building Bids Rejected

Bids were rejected for the proposed new building at Springdale park by the Birmingham city commission Monday.

The \$46,500 on a building for which the commission had planned to spend about \$25,000 prompted rejection.

Architect Carl B. Marr and city officials will review the plans and possibly cut down on the size of the building. They expect to arrive at what City Manager L. Richard Gage called "a building which would be useful and practical, serve the needs of Springdale, and fall within the price range discussed."

A number of "what-if" bids to the plans made the bids run much higher than first anticipated, Marr said.

Originally, he said, the building was to provide a rest, toilet facilities, utility room, and car and storage, a service area for storing and dispensing meals, a large plate glass entrance, a sloping roof and a heating plant.

When finally submitted for bids, the plans called for such extra items as non-payment of electricity, an activities room for meetings, a fireplace, a large plate glass entrance, a sloping roof and a heating plant.

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Lakeside Drain Cave-in Hurts Detroit Worker

A Detroit laborer was seriously injured yesterday morning in a drain excavation cave-in at 1205 Lakeside, Birmingham, near Quarton lake.

Taken to Beaumont hospital with a fractured pelvis bone was Chester Diecio, 50, of 1488 Linhurst. He also suffered injuries to his left shoulder, hip and back.

HE WAS STRUCK by pieces of a huge chunk of clay that had fallen from the side of the drain trench that was 25 feet deep.

Fellow workers said that Diecio was in the bottom of the trench guiding a big cement pipe into place when the chunk of clay, weighing over 500 pounds, slipped from underneath the sidewalk.

The clay struck the pipe, shattered into smaller pieces, some of which struck Diecio who was partially buried.

He was removed from the trench and taken to the hospital.

His condition was listed as temporarily serious.

City Begins Second Cutting of Weeds

The second cutting of weeds on lots where owners have neglected ordinances has begun, the Birmingham department of forestry and parks advised.

The department reminded property owners that the city's ordinance requires them to keep weeds cut below a height of ten inches. Owners will be billed at a charge of \$10 per lot for the moving done by the city department.