

The Birmingham Eccentric

38 PAGES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1959

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



High Jinks On the Links

... see service clubbers with clubs. Picture page golf antics on page 1-B.

Operation Friendship

... rolls into high gear. See page 1-C.

Cartoons, Comments

... on European youth by an American teenager. See page 1-D.

Politics, Post Offices

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Gridders To Grind

... out work at first practice sessions next week. See page 8-E.

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This and That

by George R. Averill

Romney Disavows Ambition To Win Political Office

Announcement over the past weekend that he has no intention to become a candidate for any political office in Michigan has settled rumors that George Romney's current civic activities are preparations for later political preference—even as a candidate for Governor.

You recall that Romney, president of American Motors Corp., some weeks ago headed up a movement resulting in the formation of "Citizens for Michigan" organization, its objective being to bring about better and more economical State government. This organization is open to interested men and women from every section of Michigan, regardless of political party.

As a newspaperman of more than 40 years experience, I heartily praise Romney's disavowal of complete impartiality in his leadership of "Citizens for Michigan," by remaining a private citizen like Romney, or any other similarly minded person achieve the maximum hoped-for improvements in the area of any unit of government, I firmly believe.

TO ALLOW HIMSELF to be "tarred" with the partialities and prejudices of any single political party is to acquire the stigma (unfortunately) that accrues to such political affiliation.

After all, a citizen-crusader in the realm of politics must be Caesar's wife, "be above suspicion." He must realize that the public will follow an old, man on a white horse—but nevertheless a man who is possessed of the virtue of self-sabotage, renunciation of any personal ambitions to "cash in" on his civic efforts.

The moment that Romney allows himself to acknowledge (even secretly to himself) ambitions to run for political office—that very moment he will cease to have the universal appeal that now appears to be his.

LIKE A BASEBALL UMPIRE, George Romney must show complete impartiality in his leadership of "Citizens for Michigan." While some of his statements may be supported by unanimous approval by Michigan citizens, certainly he can retain their respect—and, without respect, no leader can achieve much in any field of human endeavor.

Finally, I believe that the citizen-program Romney now heads up, and should, be of value to our State. Both major political parties have reached weary stalemate in their civic efforts. The study and actions of a non-partisan "Citizens for Michigan" organization may help to clear the "atmosphere," now so thickly laden with political bickering.

There never was an emergency between nations, or within a nation, that was not first built upon wrong actions. Be it an individual, or a hundred millions of them, the degree that each is capable of personifying Good is revealed in the status of each. The real source of trouble among nations always has been the people themselves. Social, political, economic environment merely reflects people.

82nd YEAR—NO. 25

Jane-Anne Floats Good-Like a Houseboat Should

By DENI SCANLON
Staff Writer

WALNUT LAKE—She weighs 2000 pounds. But Jane-Anne is in love, too—with her three crew members, with her skipper and his wife and with water.

Swaying gently to the tune of "Anchors Aweigh" and bowing graciously to well-wishers, Jane-Anne was launched and christened Sunday at a gala celebration. Now she is a happy houseboat.

Claire Miller and family, 5980 Inland, Walnut Lake, are equally as happy with their creation, one that took Miller two and a half years to complete.

THE 22-FOOT houseboat first appeared in Miller's mind in the winter of 1956, when he began planning and designing, sifting the best ideas for his boat. He wants a ship for family outings in area lakes. In the summer of 1958, wood, saws and blisters heeded his call. The three Miller youngsters, Alan, 12; Jane, 7; and Anne, 6, even joined in the busy task of "Operation Jane-Anne."

MILLER, an appliance repair man for the J. L. Hudson company, undertook the construction with no less than a craftsman's touch.

He fashioned the hull of plywood, shaped and fastened it to a laminated oak keel. Over the hull was applied a breglass, making it a homogeneous watertight unit. He

designed the bridge himself even to the manufacturing of the helmsman's wheel.

EQUIPPED with a push-button gear shift for the outboard motor, the Jane-Anne is also the epitome of femininity. She has a textile-covered working area in her galley, stainless steel sinks, a complete head and clothes locker space, inlaid linoleum in the main living salon and Jalousie windows of safety glass.

Incorporated in the final product is 25 gross of screws, 352 square feet of fibreglass, one quart of plastic wood, two quarts of seam compound, 712 square feet of plywood—all highlighted by 24 quarts of paint.

AS HER adolescent period

hummed along with normal growth and development, Jane-Anne began to get admiring glances. Friends, neighbors and relatives took an immediate liking to the blooming miss and inaugurated plans for a festive launching.

Headed by W. G. Calder, 2101 Walnut road, the fan club took action. A mere bottle of champagne smashed on her bow with a wave goodbye and good luck didn't seem enough for Jane-Anne. So Calder set out to make the festive occasion a unique one.

HE wrote for samples from growth and development. Good wishes and water came from Lake St. Clair, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Superior, Lake Ontario, the Ottawa river, the St. Lawrence Seaway, Chesapeake Bay, the Ohio River, Tennessee River, Mississippi river, Gulf of Mexico, San Francisco Bay, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and the River Thames, London, England.

It was loaded into two squirt guns, manned by Jane and Anne, the two Miller daughters and namebearers of the houseboat. The liquid from

near and far jutting from the squirt served as a more appropriate spray for the launching.

THE LAUNCHING was last Sunday afternoon at the beach headquarters of Mrs. Miller's brother, Gordon Cook of Long Lake.

Following a prayer, a salute to the United States Coast Guard and the national anthem, the crowd watched as guest of honor, Mrs. Charles Cook of Rushville, England (Mrs. Miller's mother) accepted the traditional bouquet

of flowers. All stood quiet as the "British national anthem, 'God Save the Queen,' was played.

AND SO, Claire Miller launched his houseboat, while his wife, Jackie, and son, Alan, stood at attention. Daughters Jane and Anne sprayed the houseboat from the baptismal fountains. The crowd cheered. Earlier in the afternoon the celebrators drank the champagne that might otherwise have floated onto the lake with the happy houseboat—Jane-Anne.

Fund OK'd B of E Answers Protesters To Hurry In High School Name Hasse

People's Column

Another Name Change? So What? Asks a Grad

Money collected by Birmingham's newly formed central business district development committee will soon be used by the city to step up studies aimed at creating a better and more convenient shopping area.

The city commission Monday night gave its approval to a request that Birmingham accept a \$17,500 fund to be collected by the development committee. The funds are to be used to hire one additional full-time employee for the city's planning department, plus the part-time services of a planning consultant, both for two years.

The consultant would work with City Planner Herbert Herzberg on the proposed comprehensive planning project which includes the central business district planning. The consultant's fees would be approximately \$100 per month.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A flood of letters to the editor of The Birmingham Eccentric has reached this office in recent weeks. All of them have protested the school board's changing of the Birmingham high school name. This week we present the first letter to be received here voicing a different point of view. It was written by a graduate of Baldwin high school, before its name was changed.

To the Editor: Friends ask me whether, as a product of the Birmingham schools, I am not exercised over the change in the name of the principal high school, now that there are to be two.

I have read this letter-writing plan with interest. But I remained quiet until I read the opinion of Miss Carol Gregory, a high school junior, in last week's Eccentric.

"MISS GREGORY, I am old enough to have graduated not from Birmingham High School, but from Baldwin High. My diploma shows it. There are a lot of us around town. Your school, which I have visited and admire and help pay for and will send my son to, is a newcomer. It isn't the first."

"When I was in high school, the 'B' stood for 'Baldwin' as well as 'Birmingham.' My classmate John Shepard designed the maroon and white flag which I see on your windshields, and he wrote the words to the song you quote 'Oh here's a cheer for Birmingham.'"

"Baldwin" wouldn't fit the meter, but anyone who has heard the music has no significance. Ask Mr. Berndt; it's a well-known march called 'New Colonial,' and at least Stanford University uses it also, or used to.

UNDER THE skillful direction of Miss McGiffin (she retired heartily) we put out more than one issue of the Maroon and White and the Baldwinian. The names Highlander and Piper are

and wrote what Sue calls, 'great huge epistles' to theatrical foundations. I got to go for Grant, Joshua Logan donated \$500. Rodgers and Hammerstein sent \$500, and Katherine Cornell sent \$250.

THEN THEY formed a subsidiary organization, 'Friends of the Omnibus Players.' They printed cards entitling members to attend any performance, anywhere. At \$1 per card, 800 Omnibus Friends brought funds to nearly \$2000.

THEY estimated the tour would be a success. (See SHOW, page 2-A)

Two bad audiences didn't get a glimpse behind the scenes this summer when they saw Omnibus Players, Inc., present Moliere's "The Doctor in Spite of Himself."

The playgoers would have enjoyed seeing five vivacious Skidmore college girls and their equally vivacious dramatics instructor handling everything from costumes and make-up to setting up the scenery.

THEY were having the time of their lives, spending the summer driving their show from town to town in a yellow school bus. Two-month theatrical venture took them 8,000 miles, from New Jersey to Kansas and back.

THEIR CAST of characters lists Miss Susan Tabor, 30-year-old, home-bred daughter of the Lawrence C. Tabor, 18280 Devonshire, Beverly Hills.

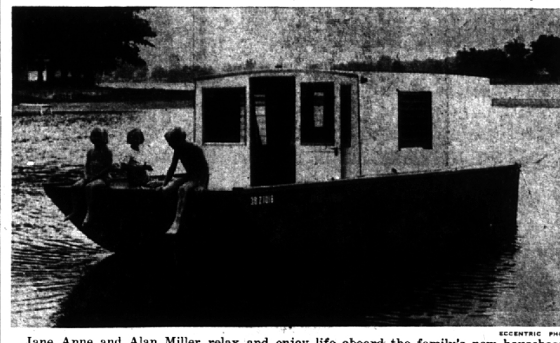
Sue was sitting in on a "conclave with other Skidmore dramatic majors last January at the Saratoga Springs, N. Y. college for women."

That's where "the whole thing evolved," as Sue puts it. "First someone day-dreamed aloud, maybe the dramatics students could work their way around Europe this summer by touring with a show. Then a down-to-earth suggestion was made that the college tour the United States with half the profits."

THE PRACTICAL voice was that of Gail Ryan, of Mountain Lakes, N. J. The exotic-looking brunette eventually acquired that big truck that transported the group, through her father's college.

Five others quickly put in their bid for a bunk on the touring bus. They more than made a reasonable walking budget. (See BOARD, page 2-A)

Better friends than ever after a summer. Helen Dewell, Nancy Fell and Paula Rosen. The girls attribute their peaceful co-existence to the fact that any complaints were Anderson, Susan Tabor, of Beverly Hills, aired immediately and frankly.



Jane Anne and Alan Miller relax and enjoy life aboard the family's new houseboat.

It's Readin', Writin', Parkin', Board Finds

By AL SANDNER

The Birmingham board of education this month found itself at a walking distance from the classroom—busy in the parking lot, spending more time and money there than it cared to.

The board decided at its regular August meeting to hire patrol sergeant Malcolm Ross at \$5,300 per year to patrol the Seaholm high school parking lot.

THE EDUCATORS, turned parking lot attendants despite a money shortage, are meeting the problem of students and cars and parking space with "what seems to be the only solution that has worked elsewhere," according to School Superintendent Dr. Dwight B. Ireland.

"We have been grappling with a problem in this area for the last three or four years," he said. "We've had a committee studying the problem of student and faculty parking."

THE COMMITTEE—which included representatives of the Oakland Child Guidance Clinic, the Birmingham Board of Education, the Birmingham Police Department, represented by Chief Ralph W. Moxley—came up with the present solution.

"They checked other school districts to see if Birmingham's problems were unique," Ireland said. "It wasn't, and the solution there was the same one we are now using."

The problem is many-sided, the superintendent explained. "There has been much serious damage done in the high school parking lot," he said. "The asphalt, badly scratched finishes. Vandalism has been rampant—done mostly by non-student gangs."

TRAFFIC FLOW and the movement of school buses is another problem, according to Ireland. "Students from other schools as well as adolescents in the school drive into the lot and wait for buses, blocking traffic," he explained.

"We also have been getting very serious complaints from parents of the Birmingham school district. The parking lot is near the north entrance to the parking lot and the heavy traffic presents a real hazard to the youngsters," he went on.

A GATE at the north end of the lot would solve the problem, Ireland said. "This gate would be used for extra, curricular events—when Midvale is not in session."

"We have a student body of nearly 2,000," Ireland continued, "and only 400 parking spaces, 80 of which must be used by teachers."

"We simply must cut down on the excessive driving to school that has been the practice for the last few years," he demanded. "Parkin' will be by permit only, and permits will be issued only to students who really need them—those not served by buses who live more than a reasonable walking distance from the school."

"WITH a dedicated man to police the lot we can do these things," (See BOARD, page 2-A)

Maybe They're Still Swimming Down There

The search may go underwater as the Birmingham police department looks for the man who rented five aqua lungs Friday from the Divers' Dock, 1893 S. Woodward.

The men never returned with the equipment. When the store tried to track them down, it was learned that they had given phony names and identification.

They got away with \$500 in merchandise for the bargain price of \$52, the police said.

State Favors Traffic Light

"It is anticipated that favorable action will be taken by the state highway department to install a light on the Oakland County highway intersection," City Manager L. R. Gare told city commissioners this week.

It was for this reason, Wilson (See FUND, page 2-A)

Show Goes On—For 8,000 Miles

By JULIE CANDLER

Too bad the audiences didn't get a glimpse behind the scenes this summer when they saw Omnibus Players, Inc., present Moliere's "The Doctor in Spite of Himself."

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"Name-calling" is still going full-till in the Birmingham school district as the opening of school draws near.

Traditional—now over 400 strong—continue to make their plea for the retention of the grand old Birmingham high school, while the Board of Education apparently is bent on changing the name. Points out that the grand old tradition is only seven years of age.

THE BOARD made its point in a letter addressed to "students of Birmingham high school" and sent to Wells Chapin, 942 Ardmore Lane, Birmingham.

Chapin is spokesman for a group of students and other citizens who want to keep the old name.

Chapin presented the board with a petition signed by more than 90 persons. A second petition garnered over 400 signatures in the fight to keep Birmingham high Birmingham high.

CHAPIN in his last letter to the board, claimed that the suggestion to name the school Birmingham high school "does not solve the basic problems" involved in the name change.

"The board is inconsistent," Chapin went on. "On the one hand they say they must re-name the school for the man who has done outstanding things—on the other hand they say the name is the worst most highly respected name that is known and well-liked and can never be equaled by any one man as it represents the work of many men."

"What you are saying," he went on, "is that the name Birmingham has no significance and has meant nothing to the community."

CHAPIN suggested that "the person who has done the most for Birmingham" be named after him. He asked to pay the bill for the necessary changes in records, name on buildings, etc.

"It is not fair," he said, "to use the people's money to placate the whims of a few men. The explanation of the problems that dictated the change is the best answer."

THE BOARD answered with an explanation of the problems that dictated the change.

BEGINNING in the fall of this year, Birmingham high school first time have two high schools," the letter said. Although one precedes the other by seven years, they are both Birmingham high schools and neither should be considered junior in any way to the other.

To have one school named "The Birmingham high school" we felt would not only be inaccurate, but decidedly unfair to the students of the new high school," the board went on.

The change would show that both schools were "well-fledged Birmingham institutions," the board claimed.

BOARD MEMBERS foresaw the concern to students and graduates in its action.

"However," the letter continued, "the name 'Birmingham high school' has been used only seven years (the high school before that was called 'Birmingham high school'), we felt that any name change was more essentially imbedded in the history of the city than these schools than in any particular one of the three names used."

"Northern Birmingham high" and "Southern Birmingham high" "Oakland County high" or "Lincoln high" or "Thirteen Mile high" were some of the alternatives considered and rejected by the board.

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