

The Birmingham Eccentric

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BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly
TEN CENTS

Michigan State's All-American Quarterback

teaching at Birmingham high. See Page 8-E.

Watch Out for a Knight
... on a White Horse Who Sees Red. Page 6-E.

Safety First
... pays off at Adams school. See photo on Page 6-C.

School Costs Cut
... in Utica, Mich., that is. See Page 7-B.

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This and That

by George R. Averill

It is reported that President Eisenhower once said: "Government is far more stupid than the people." Does the president mean to imply that the people themselves are so stupid that the kind of public official they elect can be more stupid? It certainly is no secret to most voters to learn that they consistently create governments that are more stupid than the people are. We are willing to admit that too often the voters are ignorant of the public issues of the moment and how to solve them; they are also ignorant of the real characters of many of the men and women whom they must consider for public posts. Voters, however, generally respond to the promises made them by candidates, if such promises are made dishonestly, if voters have been led into a kind of civic trap. If most public officials in this State and federal officials performing half of the promises they made during campaigns, we no doubt would have less than good government.

THE BEIER's four children are: Kathy, L. David, 10, Bob, 7, and Bruce, 2.

Mrs. Beier will serve on the board until the June elections, at which time she said she would run for a district to fill the remaining year of the four year term.

She has a B.S. Degree in Home Economics from North Dakota Agricultural College, and before her marriage interned for a year as a dietitian at Ford hospital, Detroit.

A former secretary of the League of Women Voters, she has also served as a membership chairman and has worked on the local government study committee.

SHE HAS WORKED on various Adams P.T.A. committees on various P.T.A. committees of the P.T.A. Council.

Her husband is presently a member of the firm of Hewlett, Hartman and Jones, Pontiac, which represents Birmingham in legal matters.

Most men believe that it would benefit them if they could get little from those who HAVE more. How much more it would benefit them if they could get a little from those who KNOW more. (Wm. Boetcker, Forbes.)

During 1955, the Soviet Union was 47 per cent richer than the United States used only four per cent. (Talk is cheap.) Who said:

Never fails that every dollar that comes from any unit of government, whether it be on a local basis or from Washington, D.C., paid through taxation. The closer a governmental unit is to the people the more economical it tends to operate. This is because its taxpayers know more intimately what it is doing and its officials are easier to contact. When the unit reaches the State level it is more difficult to manage, for the voters' standpoint. When it gets to Washington, D.C., the average voter has very little opportunity to make his voice felt in the halls of Congress. Those Congressmen who are always yapping for more money with which to subsidize the State are the ones who reach into your pocketsbooks and take more and more of your wages, basic pay, and retirement money. The frapper — yet its rise to riches comes not from holding out the tin to collect your coins, but instead it makes demands on your purse in the form of inescapable deductions from your income.

He who corrects uses the laws of mathematics will arrive at right answers... be a man, science of a housewife adding up the grocery bill. Failure to apply these laws brings the penalties of errors. Likewise, failure to discover by wise men and women over the centuries; failure to apply them brings penalties, too.

FBI Investigating \$11,500 Theft

Birmingham police and the FBI are working together to solve the \$11,500 weekend burglary of the R. W. Scripps home, 140 N. Glenhurst drive.

The newspaper executive's home was broken into sometime between 6:30 p.m. Saturday and 3:50 p.m. Sunday. Eleven valuable pieces of jewelry and approximately \$100 cash were taken.

Hirmingham Det. Lt. Merlin Holmquist said the job appeared to have been done by professionals who knew good jewelry, because several pieces of costume jewelry were left untouched.

In their thorough search, the burglars moved pictures, apparently looking for a safe, and removed wall fixtures concealing plumbing. The jewelry was taken from the Scripps' bedroom.

Scripps said his two domestic workers, Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Barta, lived at the house, but had been away visiting friends for the weekend.

Holmquist gave this description of the stolen items: gemstone star sapphire ring, \$300; lady's solid gold bracelet watch containing 10 matched bracelets, \$500; one pair diamond, ruby earrings, \$750; two ruby and diamond ring, \$2,500; star ruby ring, \$977; Audemars Piguet wrist watch, \$385; platinum bracelet watch, \$1,200; gold and platinum brooch, \$1,200; emerald pin with diamonds and rubies, \$600; diamond and platinum bracelet, \$2,900.

HE POINTED out that there have been several similar burglaries in the Detroit News and he said that anyone noticing unusual or any suspicious looking person in their neighborhood should call police immediately.

"We would rather investigate a person than a burglary," he said.

Fire Loss Goes Up In B'ham

Birmingham suffered its second highest fire loss in 20 years in 1958—and most of the damage was attributed to services.

Fire Chief Park Smith, in his annual report, said that \$15 million was lost through fires in Birmingham last year, a per capita loss of \$14.42.

FOUR LOCAL fires alone totaled \$17,500, Smith said. Chicago in an art gallery, 219 N. Woodward, a home at 1339 S. Eton, one at 383 Henrietta, and another at 1010 S. Eton, were accounted for the largest losses.

The Loretta Sydney, 1339 S. Eton, was killed in that fire; a fire in which she died.

That's where the so-called exclusive schools in the East done in the past ten years to overcome the reputation that they are one for the privileged and wealthy? We asked him.

"I SERIOUSLY question whether the schools in the East have been 'exclusive,'" he said. "At Skidmore, for example, we have many girls who are not from upper middle class or wealthy homes, by any means. We want to see a good cross-section of modern society among our students."

THE EASTERN schools accomplish this by providing financial aid to students. He estimates about 20 per cent of Skidmore's first-year students and colleges in what he calls the "elite" group.

Area Exceeds UF Quota 10th Consecutive Year

Birmingham, Bloomfield, and Franklin residents and small businesses gave \$191,690 to volunteer solicitors during the Tenth Annual Torch Drive, Mrs. Victor Marsh of Royal Oak, Oakland County chairman, disclosed today.

This figure was \$7,186 more than the quota assigned to this region as its part of the amount to be raised in residential and small business solicitation.

It helped Oakland county to raise \$308,835, or \$29,256 over its quota, Oakland was one of five "counties" in the \$1,992,825, or \$68,583 over the quota, was credited through local volunteer workers.

Birmingham area drive has exceeded its quota each year since the UF campaign was established 10 years ago.

The house-to-house canvass was conducted by the Community Campaigns Unit, one of six Torch Drive fund-raising units, which altogether obtained a total of \$1,900,000.

THIS WAS \$600,000 over quota for the 1959 budgets of 195 health care.

Mrs. Clyde C. Bennett, 889 S. Field, Birmingham, regional chairman, attributed success of the drive to the untiring efforts of devoted

Dr. and Mrs. Val H. Wilson visit with Skidmore alum Mrs. Robert A. Green (center) of 1030 Covington, Birmingham, the Quorton road home of Mrs. George W. McCormick, one of the many who met their alma mater's president on a recent visit here.

College Girls Are His Very Favorite Subject

By JULIE CANDLER Staff Writer

It costs \$2200 a year to send a girl there, but Skidmore and other Eastern women's colleges are not "exclusive."

College girls today are not as career-minded as they were 20 years ago, yet they are going into every field from mathematical technician to fashion artist once they graduate.

These paradoxical statements come from a man who knows what he's talking about. He's Dr. Val H. Wilson, now president of Skidmore college, who began a seven-year presidency at Colorado Woman's college at age 34.

HE AND his wife, Ruth, stopped for a visit with Skidmore alum Mrs. Robert A. Green recently.

The young-looking couple had left their six children and a dog back home in Saratoga Springs, N. Y., with two baby-sitters operating in shifts.

We met them at the home of Skidmore alum Mrs. George W. McCormick, Jr., 1633 Quorton, Birmingham, where we talked about his favorite subject: the education of women, especially the 1238 women at Skidmore.

That's where the paradoxes come in. Like the one that says an Eastern women's college like Skidmore is not exclusive, despite the high cost of giving a girl an education there.

"Behind these outstanding leaders were the many devoted volunteers who called on their neighbors for the purpose of giving each an opportunity to help the Torch Drive agencies continue their splendid work," Mrs. Bennett said.

B'ham's New Fire Prevention Code In Today's Issue

The new Birmingham fire ordinance, which incorporates the latest fire prevention methods, is being published by The Birmingham Eccentric in six special pages today.

To insure the public's welfare Michigan law requires the text of all municipal ordinances to be published in a newspaper of general circulation serving the area where the ordinance will apply.

An up-to-date revision of fire regulations, the new ordinance envisions 10 years' work by the local fire department.

ONE OF THE biggest changes gives the fire department more authority in enforcing the ordinance.

It appears in Section D, pages 3-8.

The new fire prevention ordinance appeal named by the city commission will consist of:

WINSTON J. Kellogg, 1876 Northlawn, will serve five years as the registered professional engineer on the board.

Robert L. O'Connell, 2352 Dorchester, four-year term as a citizen member.

Carl B. Marr, 455 Fairfax, three years, registered architect member.

Charles B. Kaas, 1028 Chestnut, two years, citizen member, and Edward C. Faulkner, 1611 Yorkshire, one year, building construction member.



ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Engineer Sues for \$250,000

A German engineer, now employed by a Birmingham firm, will file a \$250,000 suit in Wayne county circuit court today against the Evening News association (The Detroit News), Reader's Digest association, Inc., and the National Broadcasting company.

Franc J. Weeren, 36, of 31661 Lincoln, Oak Park, an engineer for Everhot Heater division of Tempire products, Birmingham, claims a reader's Digest magazine article about him contained "basic untruths."

He DESCRIBED by other commissioners his reaction to MML Director John H. Huss' presentation of the citizens' advisory committee tax revision plan at last week's annual meeting in the Ferndale of the South Oakland league members.

"We asked Huss what we can do about local municipal revenue problems we have now. He had absolutely no answer," Roberts declared.

He and Mayor Carl F. Ingraham and commissioner Harry Denyes represented Birmingham at the Jan. 14 dinner meeting.

BIRMINGHAM commissioners, however, agreed with the MML's opposition to any tax revisions which would reduce the local property tax base, and take away intangibles tax revenues.

His colleagues accepted commissioner Charles W. Renfrew's offer to draft a resolution of opposition to be sent to Birmingham's representatives in the legislature.

City assessor Clark Hargstrom said Birmingham could lose up to \$100,000, depending on how much personal property tax base might be taken away.

"This would seriously handicap Birmingham's operation," Renfrew observed.

Felt Best Way to Keep Ambulance Firm May Get Subsidy From Birmingham

To guarantee emergency ambulance service for the city, Birmingham municipal officials this week took the first step toward what might become partial subsidization of a private company.

They felt this would be much less expensive than if the city had to set up its own emergency service.

Alarmed by the news that Birmingham's only ambulance company's financial plight has reached the acute stage, city officials Monday night tentatively agreed to subsidize ambulance companies to bid the amount the city must pay for its emergency service.

IN A NOV. 21 story, The Birmingham Eccentric disclosed the financial problems owner Michael O'Hara was having in collecting money patients owed his Birmingham Ambulance Service.

At that time, O'Hara said he didn't know how long he could continue to operate.

ASSISTANT CITY Manager Robert Kenning this week in an eight-page report listed three best ways the city could insure emergency service.

1) Have the city operate its own emergency service.

2) Provide the service through the police or fire departments.

3) Let ambulance companies bid on providing the city with service.

KENNING ESTIMATES it would cost the city more than \$30,000 a year to provide its own service. This would pay for a seven-man emergency team to cover the entire 24-hour period. Equipment cost would be additional.

Unless additional police or firemen were added under plan No. 2, the department's service would be handicapped considerably, Kenning commented.

He recommends the third alternative—ambulance companies to submit bids for the service.

OTHER CITIES, Kenning reported, have adopted this method and find it satisfactory. Livonia, closest one to Birmingham, pays \$300 a year for private ambulance service. Birmingham's commissioners endorsed a first suggestion, and asked City Manager L. Roy Ferguson to prepare minimum specifications for emergency service.

If the commission approves a fare's recommendations, bids will be sought.

COMMISSIONERS speculated on who would bid, how much bids probably would be, what one it was advisable to have, a new company try to establish itself and what would be "excellent." Calls have been answered in an average of five minutes.

THIS CONTRASTS sharply with the considerably longer average of the city experienced when the company that preceded O'Hara's was in operation.

Kenning reported about 40 per cent of Birmingham's ambulance calls each month come from within the city. About nine of these are called in by the police department because of personal injury accidents or by city streets.

STRICTLY FRESH

It won't be long before the sap begins to stir and, when he does, we'll retrieve the cushion for our chair.

Spring is now a state of mind than a condition of weather, in these parts.

A cynic is an optimist with a realistic outlook.

Fellow across the desk from us says he's the unluckiest man in the world. He won a five-pound box of caramels the same day he got his letter.

All makes of buses spring mattresses and cushions. Call for more information. TRUSS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for Enterprise 6316.



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AT THE REGION'S annual meeting, mayors, village presidents, councilmen, and other elected and appointed officials from league member cities and villages also heard sessions on municipal insurance programs, liability for negligence, and a round table discussion on municipal problems.

Regional officers were elected for 1959-1960—Southfield Mayor Donald L. Swanson, chairman; Division Manager Roy Ferguson, vice-chairman; and St. Clair Shores Assessor LaVern Crouchman, secretary.

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High Twelve Founder

Looking over his notes before speaking at the Birmingham High Twelve club meeting at the Community House Monday night, is Dr. E. C. Wolcott (left), High Twelve founder. With him is Thomas E. Campbell, 1st vice president of the Michigan Association of High Twelve. Dr. Wolcott spoke on "This Is My Task" at the 11 a.m. service Sunday at the Birmingham Congregational church. Monday he talked to the Pontiac High Twelve club before his evening speech at the Community House. Following the meeting he left for St. Louis, Mo., to resume his duties as executive director of High Twelve International.

mark, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Bennett said she was especially appreciative of the work of Mrs. James E. Charbonnet, Mrs. Thomas A. Stacey for Wing Lake, Mrs. Ellis Preme for Franklin, and Mrs. John N. Canavan for Beverly Hills.

"Behind these outstanding leaders were the many devoted volunteers who called on their neighbors for the purpose of giving each an opportunity to help the Torch Drive agencies continue their splendid work," Mrs. Bennett said.