The Birmingham Eccentric

36 PAGES
THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1959

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly
TEN CENTS

82nd YEAR—NO. 21

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

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This and That

by George R. Averill

"Nothing keeps a family together as much as owning just one car", quoth a contemporary wit . . . while another adds that "the popularity of the automatic dishwasher is due to the fact that most husbands would rather buy than be one."

Way back in July, 1861, Congress authorized the issuance of first paper money by the U. S. government. Since then, soliloquized a Birmingham resident, "a strange paradox has taken place in the U.S.A.—while the cost of paper has gone up tremendously, the value of some of it has gone down prodigiously."

"Lucille, darling," the prospective groom said, kissing her neck. "Now that we're going to be married you should give up your $40 a week job." "Certainly sweetheart," she replied ecstatically, "Of course I will." "The way I figure it," he said. "You're gonna have to make at least $60 a week."

A Kentucky professor of hypnosis has put some buxom women in a trance, resulting in their loss of weight. When in a trance, they hear him argue that they don't need to eat between meals, or so much at meals; when the girls wake up to the world of gastronomy they subconsiously cut down on their calories. "The only complaint I hear from them is that soon their clothes are getting loose," smiled the prof. What next?

Our congratulations to those three Michigan Congressmen who, during the present session, have 100 per cent voting records. They were present at every roll call. They include Oakland County Cong. Wm. S. Broomfield, of Royal Oak. Several Democrats did come pretty close (98%) to perfect records in this respect, too.

Really, Taxpayers, isn't it wonderful to live in a nation whose "take in taxes" from your earnings is so much that it can raise your standard of living so high . . . that dish out so many of your dollars to so many other nations (some of them run by Communists and/or dictators) for to live in a land where inflation is detested, yet tolerated or nurtured by most everybody . . . where today's dollar is worth less than 100 cents tomorrow. Oh, ain't it grand to be alive in the midst of so much orderly confusion!

Fire Destroys Mulholland Awning

Fire destroyed half of an awning on the store front of the F. J. Mulholland Co., 238 N. Woodward, Tuesday evening.

It took firemen only 20 minutes to bring the flames under control after an unidentified pedestrian called the department at 9:33 p.m.

Fire department officials are still investigating the blaze, but believe it was started by a cigarette tossed into the folds.

Damage was estimated at $100.

All makes of home sewing machines repaired. Call ROYAL MAT TRESS COMPANY. Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6-3150.

When the people of a nation cease to pay homage and reverence to tried and true values and virtues, they inevitably deteriorate in their various abilities to achieve the happy life. A house of sand remains but for a moment, the granite house lasts for many generations. Society's composite environment is but the reflection—good or bad—of people.

Miss McGiffin Says 'Goodby' To Classroom

Bows Out Quietly to End Her 31-Year Career Here

By AL SANDNER
Staff Writer

Miss Vida B. McGiffin has been trying in the past few weeks to creep quietly out of the Birmingham school system, after 31 years here as a teacher.

But she found it harder than trying to tip-toe out of a marble-floored library with cleats on her shoes.

She has taught English, journalism, "a little history and civics" at Birmingham high school (now Seaholm high) since 1928.

NATIONALLY known as a yearbook editor and locally known, respected and loved as a teacher, developer of character and high school sports enthusiast, the shy, tant smile bowed out officially last tant smile bowed out officially last week when her resignation was ac-

VIDA B. McGIFFIN

cepted by the board of education.

One year short of retirement age, the announcement of her resignation will surprise and dismay those who knew her.

Her termination of service, the teacher-editor pointed out, is a resignation—not retirement. "I loathe that word, 'retirement'," she said.

THE RESIGNATION would give her a chance to do some of the things she felt she would like to do, or had to do—reading, writing, traveling.

"Or I just might take this chance to breathe after the schedule of the past few years," she said. PTA teen and 16-hour days have not been uncommon of late, she went on.

Publicity she the teacher didn't want.

"THE SCHOOL board's announcement that I have retired should be sufficient," she went on. "Why make a fuss over one resignation?" she asked. "After all, no one is indispensable; they'll go right on after I've left," she claimed.

Whether they will go on just as before is another question.

"The quality of her publications always has been excellent," said Dwight B. Ireland, Birmingham superintendent of schools. "I could always go to her and know I'd get a good job in public relations or publicity," he went on.

"MY 17 YEARS with her have been very, very pleasant," the administrator went on.

She has made a lasting mark on the school and the school system with her two publications—"The Hilander," the school newspaper, and the "Piper," BHS' year book.

She has made her reputation with the two publications.

FOUR OF her yearbooks since 1954 have been judged "Medalist" books by Columbia university. The National School Yearbook association at the University of Missouri has labled the last six "A-plus." The National Scholastic Press association has granted the "Piper" one "All-American" and one first place classification.

Her reputation has spread across the country. She has sat in as a yearbook judge for Columbia university "for a few years," she said.

As "visiting expert", she taught the journalism short course at the University of Missouri last summer.

SHE HAS BEEN acclaimed nationally as an authority on offset printing.

She "was always interested in journalism." Her interest materialized in the "Piper" in 1934 and the "Hilander" in 1939.

"We chose the Scotch name 'Piper' because of the frugality that was forced on us during the depression," she explained. 'Hilander' was chosen later to carry out the Scotch theme."

THE ENGLISH teacher-journalist has been the school's "unofficial historian for years," according to one student.

"Pick any athletic game in any year and she can tell you the score," one fellow-teacher remarked.

Her enthusiasm for sports took her to almost every athletic event at the school.

"I HAD TO miss some events in the past few years," she said, "because of a heavy schedule."

"I've loved sports for a hundred years," she smiled.

She was awarded a sterling silver "Forever pass" to all Birmingham high school athletic events in 1946 or 1947.

"I don't remember which," she said.

TRACK AND cross-country events were her favorites. One teacher recalls Miss McGiffin's practice of meeting the cross-country runners at the end of the course with a basket full of apples.

Miss McGiffin was the only woman ever to act as advisor to Birmingham high school's Varsity club.

"I'm not living with a lot of old memories," Miss McGiffin went on. "I see them every day when I'm out for a walk or in a store."

SHE HEARS from them and of them regularly — sees their by-lines often.

She corresponded with 200 former students during World War II. And, she proudly remembered, her letters were responsible for a large group of GI's meeting in the South Pacific.

The reaction of Mrs. Carol Darling, dean of students, mirrors that of many others.

"I'M SHOCKED yet," she said. "Miss McGiffin was a power in the school. There are hundreds of students who will be shocked to know she has left.

"I have worked with her since 1930, and I think she is probably the greatest teacher this high school ever has known," Mrs. Darling went on in the careful manner of a school teacher.

"I have loved Birmingham and my work," Miss McGiffin said in a letter to the school board.

"I HAVE FELT that my job (in publications) was well worth the hard work and long hours; that our school deserved publications

(See McGIFFIN, Page 2-A)

ECCENTRIC PHOTOS

Arraigned on Shooting

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Howard Beckman (left) and Robert Lamb (center) stand with Bloomfield Township Police Chief Norman Dehmke before being arraigned earlier this week for a shooting spree at the James B. Caldwell home on Joanne Court.

Bell Telephone Plans $2,000,000 Expansion

Michigan Bell Telephone Company plans to spend nearly $2 million for new construction to expand and improve service in its Birmingham and Mayfair exchanges during 1959 and 1960, the company announced today.

Albert H. Warner, Michigan Bell manager here, said the company will spend $966,000 this year and more than $1 million next year.

The outlays, when added to the 1956-through-1958 expenditures, will bring Birmingham's total to nearly $4.5 million, and Mayfair's total to $1.4 million for the five-year period.

The $2 million earmarked for these areas is part of the $171 million construction program Michigan Bell has planned throughout its territory for 1959 and 1960.

BREAKING DOWN the scheduled construction program for Birmingham and Mayfair during the 1959-60 period, Warner said the company plans to spend $765,000 for cable, wire, poles and outside plant; $567,000 for additional central office equipment; $637,000 for equipment on customers' premises; and the balance for miscellaneous facilities.

Warner said part of the money in the two-year program will go for expanding local calling areas in many parts of the state. He said the number of telephones — not counting extensions—in Birmingham's local calling area increased from 35,118 in 1948 to 147,730 at the beginning of this year, and in Mayfair's, from 43,266 in 1949 to 83,158.

Warner said one phase of the two-year construction program is to convert five more Michigan communities from the manual "number please" type of service to dial.

"Ninety-seven per cent of Michigan Bell's customers now have dial service," he said. "By the end of 1960, the company will be 98.5 per cent dial."

MORE CUSTOMERS also will be added to the nationwide Direct Distance Dialing network, enabling them to dial their own long distance calls direct to 46 million telephones in the United States and many others in Canada.

"Our ultimate goal is to expand Direct Distance Dialing to include all customers in Michigan," Warner said. "The speed with which this is done depends mainly on the company's financial ability to purchase the necessary equipment."

Warner pointed out that today's higher standard of living has brought about an increasing demand from residence customers for higher grades of service.

DURING THE postwar years, he said, the number of individual line customers has increased by nearly a half-million, and forecasts indicate that installations of this higher grade of service will continue. Facilities for fully meeting this demand will be provided in the 1959-60 construction program, he said.

Michigan Bell recently outlined the statewide program in general terms before the Public Service Commission in Lansing.

The company, in hearings on its application for a rate increase, said it planned to spend nearly $79 million in its territory this year and nearly $92 million next year.

The 1960 outlay will be second only to the company's record $106 million construction program in 1957.

"THE 1959-60 expenditures," Warner said, "represent the company's best estimate as to what will be required to fill customer demand for better grades of service, to place in effect many of the technological advances which have been developed to make telephone service more convenient and useful, and to provide service to customers when and where they want it.

"A program of this magnitude means much to the economy of Michigan."

B'ham Considers Leaving 12 Towns —But Will Stay

If Birmingham could get out of the 12 Towns drain program, now might just be the time to do it, city commissioners believe.

But they aren't going to withdraw—at least until they learn enough more facts that prove without a doubt it is impractical to stay a member of the sewage interceptor district.

Only two weeks ago the state supreme court ruled Troy and Southfield could not withdraw. These two communities had contended that they did not sign the drain petition, therefore should not be included.

BIRMINGHAM commissioners' concern involve the city's estimated $3 million share of the 12 Towns, which has been under discussion or litigation for more than a decade.

Commissioner Charles Renfrew says Birmingham now is beyond the "break even point".

"Somewhere along the line, this project may become most impractical economically," Renfrew warned.

BUT COMMISSIONERS some comments later decided it will be some time and considerable dollars later when the "most impractical point" would be reached.

Then they indicated they certainly would see what legal steps could be taken to get out of the project.

Their concern is over rising costs. The 12 Towns originally was estimated at $30 million. Latest figure mentioned is $44 million.

THE 12 TOWNS may be understood way before Birmingham commissioners' "impracticality point" is reached.

City Manager L. H. Gass talked with 12 Towns officials this week, and he believes the giant interceptor's initial contracts will be awarded early in 1960.

2 Youths Blast Township Home With Shotguns

(See other photos on page 1-E)

Week-long Party Halts Abruptly

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Two youths who riddled an expensive Bloomfield township home with shotguns were charged Saturday with malicious destruction of property over $100, before Bloomfield township Justice of the Peace Elmer Dieterlie.

Robert Lamb, 19, of 1166 Webster, Birmingham, and Howard F. Beckman, 22, of 544 Baker, Clawson, were arrested at 5:30 a.m. Saturday at the James B. Caldwell home, 1000 Joanne Court, Bloomfield township.

The Caldwell's 18-year-old son, Patrick, summoned police on an extension phone in a locked bedroom after Lamb ripped the kitchen phone from the wall.

Caldwell and Sharon Pavalka, 18, of 2060 Appoline, Walnut lake, were questioned as material witnesses.

LAMB AND BECKMAN, who stood mute on charges, were bound over to justice court in West Bloomfield. The trial is set at 10 a.m. Aug. 11. Bail for both youths is $1000.

The original charge was intent to do great bodily harm, one degree less than murder. The charge has been reduced, but is still a felony.

ACCORDING TO township police, Miss Pavalka had been staying in the Caldwell home while the boy's parents were on a cruise in Canada.

The couple told police they had invited Sharon and James H. Bernard of 708 Smith, Birmingham and 19-year-old Howard Sharp and his wife Marjorie, 22, of 1348 Humphrey to a party.

The Sharps brought Sandra Layce, 19, of 1960 Haines, Birmingham. James Williamson, 20, of 627 Wyndham, Rochester village, was also invited.

According to Sherman McDonald, attorney for Beckman and Lamb, the two boys told him the party had been going on since Monday, they had been in and out during that time and that they had stayed overnight Wednesday at the Caldwell home.

BECKMAN AND LAMB crashed the party at 1 a.m. and began drinking, Caldwell police. The two youths found his father's guns, began swinging them around and finally went outside to the yard, he said.

Caldwell locked the house. The rest of the group were sleeping, he said, except for Miss Pavalka, who was standing in the dining room adjacent to a screened porch.

BECKMAN AND LAMB broke into the porch and told the girl to open the glass door between the

(See PARTY, Page 2-A)

Scored in Safety, But B'ham Falls Short in Places

The City of Birmingham yesterday afternoon received a certificate of achievement from the National Safety council for its death-free traffic record in 1958 and for "noteworthy traffic safety activities."

It received at the same time a gentle wrist-slap for some of its shortcomings as listed in the council's "Inventory of Traffic Safety Activities" for 1958.

THE GREATEST failures, the national organization reported, were those involving civilian organizations and police-public relations.

Birmingham dropped to a scant six per cent of recommended performance in the organization for traffic safety improvement category.

The council recommended establishment of a coordinating committee of city officials and a citizens' organization.

"WE HAVE little more than our 'official family' working on traffic safety," Birmingham Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said.

More traffic safety posters, more public showings of safety films, more meetings of civic groups on the subject, more newspaper use, the distribution of more safety literature and more active cooperation by civic official and professional groups in safety projects, were some of the council's solutions to a low score in public safety education.

"We have to commend some of the service clubs, though," the chief said, "for their cooperation in our traffic safety projects."

BIRMINGHAM'S traffic court notched a high score—87 per cent of recommended performance.

Police traffic supervision scored only 71. The council recommended more refresher courses in traffic training for uniformed officers.

It proposed, further, that "pedestrians be held accountable for dangerous acts, as motorists are, by arrest and conviction for traffic law violations."

IT CALLED for a stricter policy on drinking drivers. Part of the city's present policy is set by the state, however, Moxley pointed out.

The pedestrian question may be cleared up by the adoption of a new traffic ordinance now being fashioned by the police department.

The new up-dated ordinance, formed after the state-recommended model, will be set before the city commission before the end of the year, the chief said.

IF ADOPTED it will replace the 1939 model now in effect.

The council's report called for

(See SAFETY, Page 2-A)

B'ham Perfectly Satisfied with Old Contracts

Birmingham is completely satisfied with its 12-year-old state highway department contract which calls for the city to pay only 25 per cent of operating costs of US-10 traffic signals.

A few weeks ago, the district highway representative presented Birmingham with new contracts which call for a 50-50 cost sharing.

"Let's notify the highway department we don't need any new contracts, that we are very well satisfied with our present ones," proposed Commissioner William Burgum.

That'll be the essence of the city's reply, other commissioners agreed.

FERNDALE city officials also have turned down the new state contracts.

According to police traffic counts, local traffic on Maple at Hunter—where use is the heaviest—amounts only to 25 per cent of traffic using the intersection, City Manager L. R. Gare said.

Mrs. W. O. Vogt Picked for B'ham Library Board

Mrs. W. Ogden Vogt has been selected by the board of the Baldwin public library to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Cassius Miller who resigned in June. Mrs. Vogt will serve until the April 1960 city election.

Mrs. Vogt who lives at 515 Puritan, has, for the past three years been a member of the Board of the Friends of the Library, is a member of the League of Women Voters, historian of the Village Woman's club and serves on the Council of the Birmingham Unitarian church.

She graduated, Phi Beta Kappa, from Denison University in 1935 and has five children, a son who is a senior at Williams College, a daughter at Mt. Holyoke, a daughter at Kingswood, and a son and daughter in Quarton school.

To Our Moscow Exhibition

Meet Suburbia USA's Representatives

The Ted Davis family of Short Hills, N. J., was chosen America's typical suburban family by the U.S. fashion industries and was invited to be part of this summer's United States national exhibition in Moscow, U.S.S.R.

At this moment, the Davises are in Russia, but just before they left we asked Mr. Davis to tell us all about his family, how they live, and how they were selected, so we might see why they are indeed well qualified to be the representatives of 47,000,000 fellow suburbanites.

Suburbia Today for August is practically bursting at the staples with features designed to inform and to amuse. There is a story about a group of people in a Houston suburb who combined their talent, gave freely of their time, split the costs, and wound up with a cooperative swimming pool center worth $12,500 that involved an investment of $96 per family.

AND THEN, from the terrace of his suburban home, we present Peter DeVries, best-selling humorist, satirist, and author of "Comfort Me With Apples" and "The Tunnel of Love," who presents his case FOR the suburbs in answer to last month's article by Jerome Weidman in which that eminent writer told us why he's moving back to the city.

There also is an amusing poem based on a news item which announced the development of a tranquilizer for plants. Just think of the possibilities—tension-less pansies and petunias, beans and berries without complexes, and on and on, in "The Dreamy Age Has Come."

On our August food pages there are eight tempting ways to keep cool—frosty, refreshing drinks made with fruit, coffee or tea, and the best ice-cream soda you'll ever make.

OUR UNUSUAL suburban home is Topline Farm, a house built when George Washington was president, and whose original quaint six rooms have been transformed into a twenty-room piece of suburban magic by its owner, Katherine Wheelan.

Our regular feature, "Books, Movies, and Records" sports some wonderful summer entertainment possibilities—including a number of highly portable, packable paperbacks such as "Great Sea Stories", "Ben Hur," and the collected lyrics and sonnets of Edna St. Vincent Millay.

"Suburbia—Any Day" once again audaciously comments in cartoons about some of the typical situations in which any denizen of the suburbs could suddenly find himself. We conclude the August issue with Cross-Country Classified, that handy guide to what is useful, what is delightful, and where to find them. Among this month's array of 19 items—a portable incinerator, a magnetic shelf, old-fashioned calico, and a wine wheel.

Some Nude News from Paris

By JULIE CANDLER
Staff Writer

PARIS—Gay Paree is wildly joyous these days—Tom Marshard and Julie Candler are here.

"Take good care of my little boy in Paris," my friend Mary Lou (Mrs. Stephen) Marshard said to me one night in Bloomfield Hills just before I left.

She knew that Tom's tour of Europe would bring him to Paris when I was here. Tom and I already had talked it over at The Birmingham Eccentric, where the 23-year-old Tom regularly with his "Hi Life" cartoons and news from Bloomfield Hills high school. Tom won the Traub scholarship at the school this year, enabling him to make the trip to Europe to pursue his interest in art.

I bribed Tom. I told him that if he would call me when he got to Paris I would take him to dinner at Maxim's. He called.

We had a gay evening. After Maxim's divine soups and sauces and salad dressings, we went to a sultry spot called "Le Drap d'Or" which means "The Golden Drape." We didn't see any golden drape, but we saw plenty of shapes undraped. As we sat there sipping champagne and watching the zipper artists within arm's length of our table near the dance floor, I suddenly remembered Mary Lou and "Take good care . . ."

I've lost a friend.

Yesterday Tom and I took in the Louvre, lunched on the left bank and climbed to the top of the Arc de Triomphe.

He'll be going back again to spend more time amidst the Louvre's beautiful art treasures, for Tom has still another week to spend in Paris. Tomorrow morning I'll be on my way to Amsterdam and London.

A word about the trip-tease. The night after "Le Dray d'Or" Tom went somewhere with his tour group and I went on a conducted night club tour.

It ended with the Lido, where I saw the most spectacular night club show I have ever viewed—gorgeous girls and costumes, good dancing, all done in reasonably good taste. While there was some nudity, there was no strip tease.

I watched the faces of the tourists who were crammed into the strip teaseries. They looked more embarrassed than the nude girls with the dismal expressions on their faces.

But the strip is verboten in most American cities and most every Yankee tourist wants to be able to say he saw Paris's wicked night life. So there we sat.

They kept six stagehands busy picking up the pieces the girls peeled off. The strippers wear out zippers so fast the manufacturer has declared an extra dividend.

The girls seem to think they really are teasing. But the only thing a girl has me guessing is this: how many items have to come off before she gets down to what everybody knows they're going to see before she struts off?

It's especially dull to most of the women who comprise half the audience. After all, they can walk into the shower room of a ladies' gymnasium, any time.

"Shocking" was the come-on name for one of the strip joints I visited that night. I have a better name for it: "Revolting".

Meanwhile, back in Rome, where there are no strip teases, it's wonderful. The night life is in lovely garden spots where couples dance to beautiful music in the moonlight, where floor shows are wholesome.

I spent two evenings at the marvelous opera in Rome went swimming in the Mediterranean, visited the Vatican and all the other famous and lovely places to see, and decided Rome is my favorite city thus far.