

Behind Our Front Page

Episcopal Church

... of the Advent, completed. See Page 6-B.

March 'Madness'

... Begins with district cage tournaments. Page 8-E.

Transient Town?

... Are you coming or going? See Page 1-C.

Plenty of issues

... will be decided by voters this week. Page 1-E.

Four-night stand

... slates third performance. Page 1-D.

INSIDE THE ECCENTRIC

Amusements	6-C
Books & Reviews	3-A
Business Briefs	3-B
Campus News	4-B
Church	2-B
Correspondents	6-B
Bloomfield Village	2-C
Crawford Derby	2-C
North Adams	4-C
Down to Earth	1-B
Editorials	8-B
Entertainment	2-A
Nature Now	8-B
Obituaries	4-A
Recreation Roundup	7-E
Round the Towns	7-E
Sports	7-E
Theaters	6-C
Woman's News	4-C
Want Ads	4-A
Youth	D

This and That

by George R. Averill

The other day, down in Washington, D. C., a group of educators called for bigger school staffs, smaller classes, more vocational school boards, and a more concerned public in order to raise the quality of the nation's schools. The educators failed, however, to discuss two most important factors of the school system. One is money and the other is how to get parents to provide the kind of home environment that will allow the schools to do a better job on the "raw material" which is accepted into their educational facilities.

Leaders of the Michigan Republican party have announced a drive to get 50 thousand financial backers for party activity in Michigan. They want a dollar a month as a sort of sustaining contribution plus a \$5 check wherever they can get it. Contributions, say the leaders, will be split 50-50 between the state and county political organizations. This money certainly will be forthcoming if the party leaders develop enough valuable human merchandise and acceptable party policies. We hereby nominate Paul D. Hagwood to lead them in this worthwhile endeavor.

One of the objectives of man's eventual ability to transport himself into outer space is the hope man has to control the weather. If man ever is able to control the weather, it is reported that he may create drought where little or no rainfall occurs, and bring much rain to areas where little or no rainfall takes place annually. If an enemy nation, for example, were to solve this problem and be able to change weather conditions over the Western hemisphere, untold harm could come to most of our people. The possibility of such a thing happening is sending the top scientists of most of the great nations today in pursuit of the means to accomplish this weather control.

A dapper salesman was much impressed by the pretty blonde elevator girl and during his trips on the elevator tried his best to get her attention. She ignored him until finally, standing close to her, he said:

"I'll bet the stops and starts make you mighty tired."

"No," the lovely replied sweetly. "I really don't mind the stops and starts. It's the jerks that bother me."

Not too many years ago, no numerous American cities put on al-

(See THIS & THAT, Page 6-A)

Far better than mere words are the example acts of people... and when they are good acts, they serve as the best of all helps for others to achieve the good life. Billions of words of advice have been written and have been given out by sage men, but the greatest maxim is best found in the total record of a good man.

81ST YEAR—NO. 52

The Birmingham Eccentric

34 PAGES AND SUPPLEMENT
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1959

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



The Nation's Top
Suburban Weekly
TEN CENTS

\$151,000 Cost Is Double Available Funds

Library Addition Will Go to Public Vote

Contest for Short Term, Judgeships

Two incumbent Birmingham city commissioners will be returned to office on April 6, but a third commissioner will face a contest.

Birmingham's two municipal judges also will have opposition, but library board members and a lone candidate for constable will ride in on a no-contest basis.

Mayor Carl F. Ingraham and City Commissioner Charles W. Renfrew will be returned for their second and third full terms (three years) respectively.

2 Women May Visit Alaska

By W. J. ARTHUR

Staff Writer

Two Birmingham housewives may take a three-week trip to Alaska if their hopes come true.

Mrs. Nancy Keogh, 565 Catalpa and Mrs. Currie Butters, 576 Catalpa, are waiting for a phone call when The Birmingham Eccentric went to press, that would enable them to make the three-week, 1,400-mile trip to Homer, Alaska.

A long caravan of cars and trucks carrying numerous Detroit area families was to leave Telegraph and Chicago roads at 7 a.m. this morning.

Mrs. Keogh, who has three children, had hopes of joining with them today.

"They were to make the trip with the 'Fifty-Niners' and then return home by plane," Mrs. Keogh, who has three children, Allen Jr., 9; Linda, 5; and Shelley, 3, and Mrs. Butters, who has 14-month-old Betsy, first planned the trip when they heard about the "Fifty-Niners."

THEY approached one of the automobile manufacturing companies with the idea that they could test-run a production line car on the Alcan highway to Alaska for both the test and publicity purposes.

"After talking to our husbands (who tried to discourage us at first), we went to the company to see if they would provide us with a car and some of the expenses," Mrs. Keogh said. "We are still waiting word from them. There's an awful lot to do," she said.

IF THEY make the trip, the children would be tended by a full-time baby-sitter during the day and the husbands would handle the chores at night.

For Mrs. Keogh and Mrs. Butters, the trip would be a "fantastic adventure."

"We don't like the idea of leaving our families for three weeks," said Mrs. Butters, "but our husbands finally agreed to let us go because we wanted to go so badly."

"We both tried to talk them out of it," said Allen Keogh, nodding toward Thomas Butters, "but they wanted to go, so we said okay."

With any luck at all, Mrs. Keogh and Mrs. Butters are now on their way to Homer, Alaska.

Voter Registration Deadline Monday

Want to cast your ballot in the April 6 general election? Be sure you are registered with your city, village or Birmingham township clerk by Monday night, March 9.

If you have not voted in an election during the past four years, you must register again if you expect to vote this April.

Mackie to Speak At OCES Meeting

The Oakland county engineering society will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday March 10 at the Birmingham Community House at 8 p.m. The speaker will be John C. Mackie, commissioner, Michigan State highway department.

All makes of longer spring motorcycles. One-day service, ROYAL, MATHEWSON, and others. Call and ask for Enterprise 6216.

Town Hall Signs 2 More Speakers For Next Season

Before presenting Stewart Alsop, last speaker of this year's series at Birmingham Town Hall, Mrs. George Cary, Town Hall president, today will announce the last two speakers signed to complete next year's program.

Dr. Arthur Larson, director of the U. S. Information Agency, special consultant to President Eisenhower, former under-secretary of labor, and winner of the 1952 Pulitzer Prize, will be the first speaker. Larson will open the series on Sept. 24-25. With his finger on the 1960 political pulse of the nation, and experience in its administration, he has a constructive message in, "What Are We For?"

Completing the series will be John Jay, adventurer, photographer, who will show his color films of skiing around the world on February 14-15, 1960. Great-grandson of John Jay, first U. S. Supreme Court Chief Justice, Jay has been a Rhodes scholar, a major in the U. S. mountain troops, CBS official Olympic photographer and Hollywood film award winner.

Dates for the other speakers already announced for next year's series, which was completely sold out ten days after tickets were offered, are as follows: Vincent Price, Oct. 13-14; Madame Tsvetkov, Nov. 12-13; Ogden Nash, Jan. 14-15 and Barbara Ward, Feb. 24-25.

New Buildings Boost Tax Roll Over 65 Million

Birmingham City Assessor Clark Hagstrom will hold the review hearings in his office Monday and Tuesday to complete the estimated \$65,293,420 tax roll for 1959.

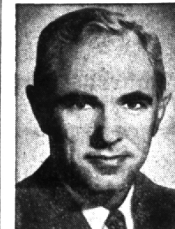
The estimated figure for 1959 is \$1,800,000 more than the tax assessment of \$51,485,480 set by the assessor in 1958.

PUBLIC HEARINGS will be held from 9 a. m. to 12 noon and from 1 to 4 p. m. on both days, according to Hagstrom.

New buildings were mainly responsible for the rise in tax revenues, Hagstrom revealed.

There have been five new apartment buildings, three new industrial buildings, partial construction of a motel and a number of new homes, Hagstrom said.

There have been no major land adjustments and only a few added business units.



Young Republicans To Hear Martin

John Martin, Republican National Committee member, will be the guest speaker when the Oakland county Young Republicans hold their meeting March 10 at 8 p. m. at the Republican headquarters, 351 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

Following Martin's talk a question and answer period and a social hour will be held to give new members a chance to get acquainted. The meeting is open to anyone between the ages of 18 and 35.

MARTIN has a broad background in politics and government. In 1948 he was elected senator from Grand Rapids and Kent counties and served in the Michigan senate until his election as Auditor general in 1950.

He held a staff office for four years and in 1958 he was the Republican candidate for secretary of state. He was elected Republican national committee member in 1957 to serve until 1960.

He was married in 1944, has four children and presently lives in Grand Rapids.

City Commissioners, Plan Board, C of C To Meet Jointly

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night agreed to a joint meeting with the plan board and Chamber of Commerce to hear economic consultant Dennis Durkin discuss the central business district.

Commissioners set March 25 as a tentative date for the meeting. Durkin, a representative of the Larry Smith & Co., will confirm the date with City Planner Herbert Herzberg this week.

Durkin is expected to outline what a comprehensive plan could do for the central business district.

The meeting was requested by the plan board, which board Durkin discussed comprehensive planning in September of 1958.

Community House Facilities Explained

The friendliest, entertainingest house in Birmingham is the large white building at 380 S. Bates.

Last year, more than 150,000 of the area's residents visited this home to see their friends, develop and carry out community service programs and participate in recreational and educational pursuits.

The building is the Birmingham Community House, which last week launched a drive to obtain funds which support its year's program of service to the area.

Ralph E. Hunt, chairman of the finance drive, reports that approximately one-third of the funds to maintain the operation of the Community House have now been pledged. The year's goal is \$60,000, he said, and the contributions to date total \$19,745.25.

Few persons realize the wide scope of services and facilities offered by this unique community project, according to Hunt.

To the 150,000 visitors, of whom 21,000 are youngsters, perhaps only one, or at best a few, of the aspects of the Community House's total program are known, he said.

THE MANY SERVICE clubs which hold their luncheon or dinner meetings there may think of the facility as a pleasant and low-cost place for meals. The Newcomers Club members may know it as a social center.

But the "Community House," Hunt said, "is far more than this. It is the 'heart' of Birmingham's community life, providing facilities and programs for a wide variety of interests."

"Some 200 'senior citizens' of the area have their enthusiasm rekindled by the programs which they conduct here."

"The House's craft and hobby classes are attended by some 1300 persons a year."

"THE FREE EMPLOYMENT service rendered by the House is used by 4000 residents to find capable workers of all kinds."

"Its program for lending sick room supplies, ranging from hospital beds and wheel chairs, to crutches, was used by over 400 persons last year."

"Similarly, entertainment supplies such as banquet tables, punch bowls, and large coffee urns can be rented at nominal rates."

"Ten different rooms, with facilities for large or small groups, give the facility flexibility for everything from small committee meetings to mass dinners or wedding receptions. Six hundred persons may be accommodated within the House at one time," he added.

"WE, who are familiar with the Community House, are sure that unique services to this area, invite all residents to become better acquainted with its facilities and its efforts."

"We also ask for continued financial support by area residents so its program can be maintained for the benefit of all."

The Community House is operated as a non-profit institution, with contributions deductible as a charitable donation. It receives its funds only from such contributions and from the nominal rate charges for some of its services and meals.

"This is a 'community house' in the fullest sense of the word," Hunt said. "Its support also is a community-wide project. Your contribution to this drive will give you a chance to help the financial 'blood', circulating through the 'heart' of Birmingham," he added.

STRICTLY FRESH

If you believe that the doctor's fee was exorbitant, consider: you're still walking around after you?

Fellow we know says that his boss's son budgets the time; the rest of the office gang are plain, everyday clock-watchers.

Fashion designers have "discovered" the feminine line. We've seen it.

Well, we know says that his boss's son budgets the time; the rest of the office gang are plain, everyday clock-watchers.

It takes no great courage to speak out on a subject when your views agree with the majority.

Old-timer is a fellow who remembers when collecting cigar bands was a popular hobby.

It takes no great courage to speak out on a subject when your views agree with the majority.

Will Need Help from Bond Issue

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL
Managing Editor

If they could get a public library addition for a maximum of \$75,000, Birmingham city commissioners would not hesitate an instant to buy it.

But \$152,000? City commissioners gulped when they heard that figure from the Baldwin public library board Saturday morning, then said, "It's all a matter of financing."

They have two financing methods available:

- 1) Through issuance of general obligation bonds which the public must approve at an election; or
- 2) By squeezing another \$75,000 from city operating and capital improvement funds.

IT'S ALMOST a forgone conclusion the matter will go to public election.

There can't be a vote at next month's election. It's too late to go on the ballot. A special election, commissioners and library board members feel, would be inadvisable.

And the city can't squeeze the additional \$75,000 from current or forthcoming tax levies.

It looks like a proposition for after the 1960 city ballot.

AFTER MONDAY night's commission meeting, City Manager L. R. Gare asked City Attorney James Howlett to check city charters provisions regarding bond issues.

In a letter Gare received yesterday morning, Howlett said the charter "precludes issuance of general obligation bonds without a vote of the people."

In commissioners' discussions Saturday morning and Monday night with library board members, no one mentioned that a bond election would be required.

It would be advisable as a means of getting public reaction.

IN THAT special Saturday morning meeting, library board members outlined their proposed addition.

They didn't question the need for more facilities, and last summer had added \$75,000 to the project.

They didn't question the need for more facilities, and last summer had added \$75,000 to the project.

THEY AGREED to take the matter up again two days later at the regular city commission meeting.

Gare also was to come up with more information on several aspects of the Saturday morning meeting brought out.

But Monday night the library board—through attorney member James Tobin—seemed to have made it easy for the city commission.

Tobin only that day found in the Michigan books a statute which seems to empower cities and villages to issue general obligation bonds for free public libraries and additions to them.

COMMISSIONERS took this bit of unexpected information with hardly a word. They obviously didn't want to make a decision that very moment.

They wanted at least a week to feel the public pulse on the question: "Will the public go for a \$150,000 addition to its public library at this time and have it added to its tax rate?"

So the law was referred to City Manager L. R. Gare. The surface reason was to enable him to check with the city's bond consultants to see what market conditions are for the sale of library bond issues.

GARE is to report to the commission next Monday night.

Commissioners are pretty well agreed there is no money in present or forthcoming budgets to provide additional library facilities. That is, other than the first \$75,000.

In the Saturday meeting, library board members (See LIBRARY, Page 6-A)