The Birmingham Eccentric

The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly
TEN CENTS

82nd YEAR—NO. 37 | 40 PAGES | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1959 | BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN | SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

Behind Our Front Page

Archbishop Dearden

. . . officiates at blessing of St. Regis. See photo on page 6-B.

Away They Went

. . . to the new League of Women Voters headquarters. For the story and photo see page 1-C.

Alice In Birmingham

. . . slated at 8 p.m. Nov. 19 at Seaholm High. See page 7-D.

Pinsetter Pointers?

. . . See page 8-E.

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This and That

by George R. Averill

Most music critics assert that many of today's top-earning male and female popular songsters have little real musical talent. By diverting a listener's attention from the voice to the swinging and swaying of the hips, bending of knees, grimacing of face, jerky gesticulations of arms and hands, many of these entertainers attract large followings . . . not to overlook larger bank balances. So much for that. But if the above-mentioned calisthenics are appealing, why not encourage preachers, "school marms and school mens" and others whose salaries need boosting, to engage in similar physical exercises in order to increase their "appeal"? For certainly our society (especially many youngsters) need the sage aids of the pulpit and the classroom.

. . .

"Little Girl, what will you do when you're as big as your mother?"

"Diet."

. . .

Unpleasant smoke that sometimes arises when cooking hot cakes can be avoided by tying some salt in a bag and rubbing the griddle with this instead of greasing it.—Charlotte (N. C.) News.

. . .

Every enlisted man in the U. S. Navy has thirteen buttons on his trousers. Each button represents one of the original thirteen states. But with all the accelerated tempo in our nation today, with all its zest and zip . . . well, haven't you guessed that we favor the zipper?

. . .

It is reliably reported that during the recent session of Congress the Senate was in operation a total of 1,009 hours and 48 minutes. If the federal budget amounted to, say, 80 billions, then each hour of the Senate's talk-fest cost American taxpayers $79,209,000. Of course, the House was co-equal with the Senate in making this budget. And, last but not least, The Chief Executive must also assume his responsibility for the budget. Anyway you view the situation, however, that budget represents a considerable portion of the income of U. S. workers.

Charity Newspapers

Annual Birmingham Rotary club newspaper sale will be held Friday, Dec. 18. City approval has been received for this project which will benefit Oakland county crippled children.

Our Special Toy Section Comes Out Next Week

In the next week's issue of the Birmingham Eccentric, you will find the annual Toy Section published every year at this time.

It is recommended that you keep this special section for reference during your shopping expeditions for Christmas gifts.

The 16-page tabloid will be filled with shopping tips if you're temporarily stumped on what to get little Johnny or Janie.

There also will be stories, features and pictures on the latest in toys, games and educational toys and —on some of the old favorites, too.

Don't miss it!

Many have said that the best way to "lose one's-self" is in the unselfish service of ourselves to others. This is not to say that one need lose all thought to provide for his own needs and responsibilities. But, like the heaven of the Galilean woman, the giving of a portion of our time and efforts in service can, and does, enrich the whole of living.

Demery's B'ham Highly Praised By Townspeople

Officials, Merchants, Shoppers All Pleased

Announcement of Demery's building a new $2,500,000 basement, two-story department store on the site now occupied by The Birmingham Eccentric last week brought favorable comments from city officials, businessmen and shoppers in the Birmingham area.

All were extremely pleased over the prospect of having Demery's in the heart of the city.

. . .

THE NEW department store is expected to bring a new surge of business to the downtown shopping area, contribute to the tax base of the city and offer the Birmingham shopper everything but furniture, appliances and floor coverings.

. . .

Mayor Harry M. Denyes, Jr., called the announcement "healthy and significant" for Birmingham.

. . .

SAID MAYOR Denyes: "I think I share the feeling of most everyone that this is a healthy move and a significant one for Birmingham.

"We're all pleased to see Demery's has shown faith in our community's future to make such a sizable investment here. We hope it sets an example for more top-flight concerns to locate out here.

"It also is apparent that we now be alert and anticipate any future traffic and parking problems which this — and similar projects — will generate in the business district.

"We'll also miss The Birmingham Eccentric from its familiar downtown location. But we are pleased to be part of The Eccentric's new plant expansion plans."

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DEMERY'S NEW store will be a "boon to Birmingham" in the estimation of Wilbur Mason, chairman of Birmingham Central business area development committee.

Mason, who is manager of Jacobson's stores here, said: "This is good for the town. From the central business development angle, it'll be a boon to Birmingham. It will add to the completeness of this city's shopping facilities."

. . .

Auto Dealer Richard A. Fischer, president of Birmingham's chamber of commerce, enthused over the announcement.

"It's a real wonderful thing!" Fischer exclaimed. It's great for Birmingham from every standpoint. We're delighted to have Demery's join our business community. Too, Demery's will find they've located in a fine business community. We can do with more stores of this type."

. . .

CHAMBER OF Commerce Executive Secretary Charles Mortensen pointed out that Demery's Birmingham should pull shoppers here from long distances away.

"Everyone generally agrees Demery's will be good for Birmingham," Mortensen commented. "It should pull shoppers from long distances to shop here and at our other downtown shops. It also will contribute substantially to the downtown business tax base—and that should bring favorable reaction from all our residential property owners."

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BIRMINGHAM'S east-side business section will receive "an immediate boost" when Demery's opens, according to Druggist Foster Toothacker, who also is chairman of the chamber of commerce's retail merchants' committee.

Said Toothacker: "I think this will be a real shot in the arm for B'ham's business section. It will also be an immediate boost to the east side of the business area."

One of Birmingham's long established east-side merchants agreed with Toothacker.

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HE IS GROCER Sam Bruni, who for many years has urged municipal development of parking lots particularly on the east side.

Declared Bruni: "All of our 20 years of effort to get parking areas in the northeast section have paid off. I believe that without the more than 200 off-street parking spaces which the city built there in the past couple of years, that Demery's wouldn't have been interested at all in that Birmingham location. They'll be a boon to the east side and an asset to the entire city. I feel there'll be

(See DEMERY'S, Page 8-A)

(Photo by Harvey Cross)

The warmth and friendliness of India is reflected in the smile with which Mme. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit greeted Birmingham people last Thursday and Friday.

Aid, Not Guns, Can Save Asia, Mme. Pandit Says

Peace: Subject, Manner Of India's Stateswoman

By JULIE CANDLER
Staff Writer

One of the world's great leaders said in Birmingham this week that unless the hungry nations of Asia are industrialized quickly, the entire continent will succumb to Communism.

Mme. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit called for free world to stop preparing for a possible war. Instead, she said, resources should be devoted to proving to hungry people that democracy can better their plight.

The program fits into India's policy of non-violence, a policy that is reflected in its peoples' manner.

You walk away from a conversation with Mme. Pandit wishing that some of her peaceful, serene manner could rub off on the world.

She is a Hindu. And Hinduism, she explains, is a philosophy, not a religion. It is a way of life. It teaches non-violence and patience.

As she told her Birmingham Town Hall audiences last Thursday and Friday, the people of India have lived by that philosophy for centuries. They still live by it.

. . .

IT GAVE Mme. Pandit the patience and strength to keep fighting for India's freedom from British rule, despite repeated imprisonments.

It gave her the courage to go on, though her daughters suffered by not having a real home — though her husband died as the result of his imprisonment by the British.

Gandhi, too, was a Hindu. His policy of non-violence achieved liberation for the people of India.

The same policy keeps India from taking up arms against the Chinese now at their border. And that policy can bring peace to the world, Mme. Pandit believes.

. . .

PART OF that important message was not really heard by at least one member of her Town Hall audience.

"To tell you the truth," this listener told me, "I was so fascinated with her, that I wasn't always listening."

I could understand what happened—how a person could become so completely absorbed with this striking-looking little woman.

She is 59 years old. She is mother of three, grandmother of eight. She belongs to the famous Nehru family, and along with her father, husband and brothers she went through imprisonment and hardships with Gandhi to gain India's freedom.

. . .

SHE IS also: first woman president of the United Nations general assembly; a member of the Indian parliament, and her government's high commissioner in London.

Amazing is the word for her. No wonder that in her presence, it might be hard to concentrate fully on what she says.

She speaks with British-tinged eloquence. Her words are a plea for Indian - American understanding. It can bring world peace, she believes.

"Your country has given India money and technical assistance—these things form links of understanding," she said.

"Two or three years ago, the people of the West began to feel suspicious about our foreign policy," she said. "They interpreted our policy of non-violence and no entangling alliances as a rejection of democracy."

It happened at a time when India was embarked on its second five-year plan, one to raise the low standard of living through industrializing.

. . .

"THE PLAN demanded more money than we were able to spend," she said.

Factories were half - finished, when money ran out, and help was needed from the West.

And this need for development of the poorer, non-industrialized nations—like India—is the most important challenge of the world today, believes Mme. Pandit.

The world cannot exist half-prosperous and half-undeveloped—the undeveloped will drag down the prosperous. To the extent that the gap between undeveloped nations and prosperous nations is bridged, will democracy succeed in the world.

. . .

"IF THIS gap is not bridged in a reasonably short time, I think there is no hope of saving Asia from Communism," she said.

"Communism with its glittering promises of a better world makes an appeal to hungry people because they have nothing to lose.

India is attempting to translate the benefits of its newly-achieved democracy (since 1947) into the lives of the people—to prove to them that the free way is best.

"We are doing the job in Asia that you are doing in the West," she said.

. . .

THE GOVERNMENT of India hopes that at the end of the present five-year plan they will have achieved the degree of development which will prove the benefits of the free, democratic way to the peoples of Asia.

"We have to decide today whether to keep on equipping ourselves for some possible war or whether to use our resources for building up backward nations through whom peace may become a permanent reality."

Fear, she believes, is channeling American resources into equipping for a possible war.

But, she said, as she concluded her talk, "America CAN give a lead to the world. We are looking to that lead—we can join hands with you in leadership and move forward to something that is more secure and more fulfilling than anything we have had in the past."

'No Pool— Sorry,' Says Commission

The "no swimming" sign has been posted between Manor road, the Grand Trunk railroad right-of-way, and Shepherdbush.

Bound by its own zoning restrictions, the city decided at Monday night's commission meeting that it could not allow the construction of a swimming pool by a private club on the property owned by the City of Birmingham.

. . .

NOT THAT it wouldn't like to see the project carried out.

The Forest Hills Swim Club, Inc. requested recently that the city sell the land to the club to provide private swimming facilities.

City Attorney James L. Howlett examined property restrictions in the subdivision, and said only single residences are permitted.

. . .

COMMISSIONERS indicated that the city would appreciate the relief to the recreation program afforded by such a project, but found itself bound by the zoning restrictions.

The city can condemn the restrictions, Howlett pointed out, but only in a regular eminent domain proceedings in connection with a public improvement project.

Condemnation could also come about if all parties with a right to enforce the restrictions waived it.

. . .

"THIS WOULD require agreement of all property owners in the subdivision," he said.

A petition to Oakland county circuit court could change restrictions if the character of the neighborhood changed substantially and the restrictions were determined to be unenforceable.

None of the necessary conditions are present, Howlett said. And no private pool could be permitted, the commission decided.

Another Move In Birmingham

A $225,000 office bldg., containing 12,000 sq. feet of space, 8,000 of which is for offices, was started at 800 S. Adams, this week. It is being built for W. E. Reid Development Co., and completion is set for next June.

The front of the edifice will face Adams, and run through to Worth, where space for parking 68 cars is to be provided. Dimensions of the building are 96 by 57 feet, the wider portion fronting Adams.

Alfred Smith Const. Co., of Ferndale, is doing the building for the owners. Linn Smith Associates are the architects.

W. E. Reid Development Co. has been active in the planning and construction of many business and residential projects since coming to Birmingham in 1946.

Strange Sound Alarms Area

Anxious residents of the Birmingham-Royal Oak-Clawson area called police last Friday night about a strange sound many interpreted as a low-flying plane.

The "low-flying" sound came from a Consumers Power company regulator station on Coolidge just north of 14 Mile road. The noise was caused by a sudden increase in gas consumption, which built up pressure in gas lines. Work crews were sent to the scene.

Dec. 1 Dystrophy Drive Leaders Are Appointed

Birmingham sectional leaders for the Dec. 1 porchlight drive for muscular dystrophy contributions were announced this week by co-chairmen Mrs. Jay White and Mrs. Charles W. Lewis.

Section leaders are Mesdames N. Collins, Earl Fernelius, Herbert Fisher, F. J. McMillen, Richard Simons, Fred Swider, E. E. Willson, Harry Winston, Jr., George Woolfenden and William Zabriskie.

A volunteer worker will call at each Birmingham home between 7 and 9 p.m. that Tuesday night "to receive a contribution toward research on one of today's most pressing childhood needs—muscular dystrophy," Mrs. Lewis said.

B'ham Retail Sales Rise 30.3 Per Cent

NEW YORK, Nov. 19—Just how much the Birmingham economy has grown in the last four years is brought out clearly in new data released in Washington.

It shows a 30.3 per cent rise in retail activity locally between the end of 1954 and the end af 1958. The gain was made despite the fact that the nation was in the midst of a depression during one-fourth of that time.

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THE FIGURES come from the Bureau of the Census, which has just made public the first tabulated results of its 1958 Census of Business. The previous survey of this type, for communities of 2,500 and up, was in 1954.

In Birmingham, it is shown, purchases in retail establishments added up to $80,276,000 in the past year, a 30.3 per cent gain over the $61,575,000 shown previously.

By way of comparison, it was a bigger increase than was made at the retail level in most parts of the United States, the average being 14.0 per cent. In the East North Central States, there was a 10.7 per cent increase.

. . .

THE OFFICIAL figures show, for Birmingham, a total of 299 retail establishments in operation near the close of the year. Their employees and the size of their payrolls kept pace with their business expansion.

Locally, store payrolls rose from $5,909,000 a year, in 1954, to $8,872,000 in the past year.

The rise, amounting to 50.1 per cent, was greater than that found in other sections of the United States, an average of 16.3 per cent. In the East North Central States, there was a 11.1 per cent increase.

. . .

THE GAINS chalked up by retail stores locally and elsewhere are based on several factors, all related to consumer optimism, confidence and security.

One of them is family income, which has been on an upward curve, subject to periodic dips, during the four-year period. Another is the growing feeling of security that people have acquired.

Today's working man is equipped with built-in protection in the form of welfare funds, retirement benefits and social security.

This economic strength he expresses in the market place by buying that better car, that larger home, that finer suit and those various luxuries that he has always craved.

Dec. 14 Hearing On Alley Closings

At the request of abutting property owners, Birmingham city commission has set Dec. 14 as hearing dates for closing three alleys in the Merrill-Brown area east of Southfield road.

Hearing notices are being sent out on three of the eight north-south alleys in that two-block area. Several weeks ago, closing of a fourth alley was denied when all property owners would not agree on its vacation.

B'ham Man Stands Mute In Hit-Run

A 28-year-old Birmingham man was released on a $3,000 bond Friday after standing mute on a manslaughter charge before Bruce Township Justice Francis Castelluccci.

Eric F. Kerry, was the driver of a car involved in a hit-run accident last week that killed a 16-year-old motor scooter driver and injured a passenger.

Frank Bono of Clinton township died Thursday in Detroit osteopathic hospital. Daniel R. Rank, 15, of St. Clair Shores was hospitalized in Mount Clemens general hospital.

The accident occurred on Groesbeck highway north of Metropolitan beach parkway.

Teachers' Pay? 'We'll Try,' Says Ireland

"We'll try" was the strongest statement a cautious Superintendent of Birmingham schools could muster on the question of paying teachers' salaries for December.

Payment, Dr. Dwight B. Ireland said, depends on several factors—the reception of state primary funds, and the speed with which Birmingham district residents pay their county and school taxes (payable Dec. 1).

. . .

THE STATE funds should be on their way—the state wrote a $22,000,000 check Tuesday to pay its school obligations.

"If the city has collected a sizeable amount by mid-December, we should be able to get an advance check from them," Ireland went on.

"I don't want to be an alarmist," he said. "But I have to tell these facts.

. . .

THE BALANCE on hand in the school district's general fund, as of Nov. 17, was $604,854.44; the accounts payable as of Nov. 19, came to $57,293.

It left an uncomfortable margin of $100 and some-odd thousand dollars for salaries was deducted, he said.

"If nothing unforeseen happens, we should be able to meet salaries," he said, "but we aren't in a comfortable position."

Our Thanksgiving Issue Will Be Published a Day Early — Wednesday, Nov. 25

Please Help Us by Getting Your News, Your Want Ads, or Your Display Ads in a Day Earlier Than Usual . . .

Final Deadlines Are Monday, Nov. 23

What? More 'No Parking'?

Residents on Wellesley and Berwyn in Birmingham will get their "no parking" signs sometime during the next week following action by the Birmingham city commission Monday night.

The signs will be placed on the two streets between Midvale and Radnor and are designed to prevent students attending Seaholm high school from parking their cars on the residential streets.

. . .

WELLESLEY DRIVE area residents presented a petition to the commission several weeks ago asking for the no parking signs in order to keep many cars off the streets north of the school parking lot.

Most of the people were upset because there were from 15 to 20 parking spaces left in the school lot every day and there were usually that many cars parked on the street.

Seaholm high school Principal Ross Wagner said that all students who have applied for parking permits have received them.

Students who park their cars in the school lot are not permitted to leave during the day, Wagner said, and many parked on the streets in order to get an early start.

THE PARKING signs which will prevent cars from being on the street between 8 and 10 a.m. will be installed on Wellesley and Berwyn roads first.

In the event that students start parking their cars on other streets in the area, the police department has been authorized to install signs on Bryn Mawr, between Cranbrook and Devon lane and on Argyle between Midvale and Golfview if the problem occurs there.

Parking on Midvale will continue since police doubt if there are enough spaces in the school parking lot to handle all of the students' cars.

No More Dirt Tracks on OUR Streets!

If you don't drive a "clean" car or truck, better take to the hills—and not go driving around Birmingham!

City commissioners Monday night launched the city's "big cleanup" with a nuisance ordinance amendment which prohibits cars and trucks from "depositing" in any public place "dirt, grease, sticky substances or foreign matter".

This measure is designed primarily to keep contractor's trucks and equipment from getting our streets all dirty with mud.

THE PROPOSED amendment, however, was softened in its final form. It had started out with permission for police o impound vehicles violating the ordinance and hold them until owners had posted $100 bonds.

Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham objected strenuously to this provision.

"We could catch anyone under this ordinance and impound his or her car," Ingraham said, "I don't think we should impound cars and make motorists assume the burden of proving their innocence and have to fight to get their cars back!

. . .

"THIS GIVES the police department too much power! We don't have to have it this strong."

Commissioner Florence Willett was the only one to disagree with Ingraham's argument. She voted against the modified amendment's adoption. She favored the stronger version.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6310.