

How often does a good thought come to you, one that you'd like to remember and use at some time—maybe tomorrow, yet by failing to note it on paper it often is forgotten. When you are confronted with a problem, seeking an answer, perhaps a prayerful attitude may bring you an answer, as it so often does in the experiences of millions. "Seek ye first the Kingdom, and all these things . . . shall be added unto you."

83rd Year—NO. 5

The Birmingham Eccentric

40 PAGES AND SUPPLEMENT
APRIL 7, 1960

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



The Nation's Top School Weekly
TEN CENTS

Faith, Space

... continue at Northminster Presbyterian. See page 6-B.

Tour?

Sure—by Bennington college alumni. See C, page 1.

Townships Convene

... for annual meetings. See page 1-E.

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B'ham Voters Return Four Incumbents

For an off-year Birmingham municipal election, it was a good turnout of voters who re-elected four incumbent city commissioners, approved four special propositions, and named three library board members.

Nineteen percent of the city's registered electors—2,418 out of 13,000—returned for three year terms Mrs. Florence Willett, William E. Roberts and William H. Burgum. They defeated former city commissioner Ralph A. Main and newcomer Robert B. Aikens.

Lance C. Minor won election to a one-year vacancy, 1,520 votes to 719 for opponent Claude Kidd.

MRS. FLORENCE WILLETT — who some insiders are predicting will become Birmingham's first woman mayor in a commission reorganizational meeting next week—led Monday's vote. She got 1,706 votes in winning her second term.

Roberts polled 1,427 to get his third term. Burgum, who was elected to a one-year term in 1959, received 1,301 votes.

Minor came up in fourth place with 1,184 followed by Aikens with 931 votes.

INCUMBENT James Tobin was returned to the library board with 1,211 votes. Mrs. Eileen Smith won a three-year term with 1,737 ballots. Unsuccessful in his bid for a board position was Arthur J. Underwood, Jr., who received 1,071 votes.

Mrs. Carolyn Vogt, unopposed for a two-year board vacancy, polled 2,041 votes.

Birmingham for the last time elected a constable—Jack Bailey, who was unopposed for re-election, 1,915.

ONE OF THE ballot propositions which passed will make the constables' job appointive. This also eliminates a justice of the peace for Birmingham. Instead, they now will be called municipal judges.

Voters also approved sale of property on Maple near Edgewood, 1,720 to 387. Requirement of two-year's residence for all Birmingham electors was endorsed, 2,042 to 133.

The public library will fill its own vacancies. The city was endorsed, 2,042 to 133.

Gov. Williams wants the Legislature to approve the issuance of \$150,000,000 in bonds to construct new buildings for universities, mental hospitals, prisons, etc. The Legislature then asks: "Where, Governor, do you suggest we get the extra money?"

Want your 'teen-age son or daughter regulated by a state-wide curfew law? One that requires children under 12 to be out of the streets by ten o'clock, and those under 16 home by midnight . . . if you do, contact your State Senator or Representative on the subject.

Newspaper headline writers these days, in publishing political news, often say that one candidate "rips, blasts, slams, accuses, smears," etc., etc., etc. opponent. My, what courtesy! What good manners! What decency! Just like the way some hoodlums show consideration and compassion (?) toward other hoodlums.

Goethe once said: "The highest cannot be spoken; the highest can only be felt." This is true of human love at its best. The love of a mother for a child cannot be spoken of. It is acted through the long years of affectionate and devoted care. (E. Guy Ramsey.)

Michigan Bell Telephone Company has expanded local manager Albert H. Warner's territory to include most of southern Oakland county.

In his new position, Warner will serve as manager of Michigan Bell's Royal Oak and Southfield zones in addition to the Birmingham, Mayfield, and Troy zones which already are under his management. He will maintain his office in Birmingham.

WARNER HAS served as Birmingham Mayfield zone manager since 1953. He joined Michigan Bell at Saginaw as an outside sales representative in 1942.

All makes of house-giving mattresses repaired. Quality repair. ROYAL MATRESS COMPANY, 2141 Oak and ask for Enterprise 9310.

VOTERS WENT to the polls March 28 in a special school district election which saw the defeat of the 4-11th school operating fund extension.

"Then Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield township held their elections seven days later, and too many people got mixed up," the commissioner charged.

Roberts said this sort of thing happens! People voted on March 28, then forgot to vote on April 4.

OTHERS GOT mixed up on where to vote, going to city precinct stations at the school election, then back to school voting stations for the municipal voting.

City Clerk Irene Hanley said she believes a combination election is held in some places. She does not know under what conditions or requirements.

City Manager L. R. Gare said his staff would investigate Roberts' suggestion and report their findings.



MRS. FLORENCE WILLETT



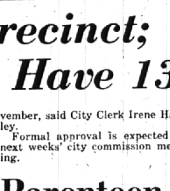
WILLIAM E. ROBERTS



WILLIAM H. BURGUM



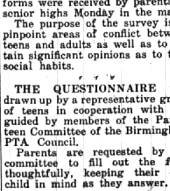
LANCE C. MINOR



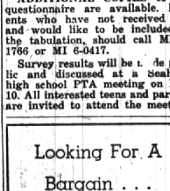
DWIGHT B. IRELAND



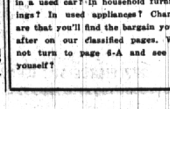
GEORGE F. GREENE



ROBERT B. AIKENS



ARTHUR J. UNDERWOOD, JR.



EILEEN SMITH

Ireland's Resignation Refused by B'ham B of E

\$24,423 To Go in Roll Call

The drive is three-quarters finished, but the Birmingham Community House roll call has rounded up a little better than half of its \$51,500 goal.

The \$27,075.71 collected to date, however, is ahead of the \$23,752 gathered by this time last year Ralph Hunt said.

THE MAIL responses have been disappointingly low he said. About seven per cent of local businesses have replied; about 11 per cent of the residents and 25 per cent of the local organizations have answered by mail call.

"Considering the numbers receiving privileges and benefits of the facilities, these figures hardly indicate respect and appreciation for the services rendered," the chairman said.

"Those new to the community," Hunt went on, "have an appreciation of the community house, because they are aware of the difficulties where such a place does not exist."

SAID MATTHEW F. MURPHY, recently returned to Birmingham after a 12 year absence: "Birmingham has to move away to appreciate the community house. The cultural and social values available are truly worthwhile and quickly make one at home in the community again."

"When one lives where there is not a community service of this kind, facilities have to be hunted and rented," he said.

MRS. C. L. BOUCHARD, chairman of the telephone committee, which the fund drive committee feels may become necessary, Hunt said, "If returns are not forthcoming, has tentative plans for going into operation."

"The committee will probably go into operation about April 15, although we would prefer not operating at all," he said.

Estimate \$1,025 Damage by Fire

A total of 27 fire runs were made in March by the Birmingham Fire Department, with a total estimated loss to buildings of \$1,025.00.

There were 17 fires, 11 fire alarms and fire investigations, and three of suspected gas. Five miscellaneous and two first aid calls were also answered.

Parents and teens are completing a questionnaire this week to survey opinions on parental responsibilities, driving, dating, drinking, parties and smoking.

Senior high students at Seaborn and Groves were given the questionnaire Monday during an extended homework period. The same forms were received by parents of senior highs Monday in the mail.

The purpose of the survey is to pinpoint areas of conflict between teens and adults as well as to obtain significant opinions as to teen social habits.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE was drawn up by a representative group of teens in cooperation with and guided by members of the Parent-Teen Committee of the Birmingham PTA Council.

Parents are requested by the committee to fill out the form thoughtfully, keeping their own child in mind as they answer.

ADDITIONAL COPIES of the questionnaire are available. Parents who have not received one and would like to be included in the tabulation, should call MI 4-1766 or MI 6-6417.

Survey results will be a public and discussed at a Seaborn school PTA meeting on May 10. All interested teens and parents are invited to attend the meeting.

Looking For A Bargain . . . in a used car? In household furnishings? In used appliances? Chances are that you'll find the bargain you're after on our classified pages. Why not turn to page 6-A and see for yourself?

Here's a Bus With Red Carpets

A charter group of Birmingham women are slated to make the maiden voyage of the "red carpet" Theater coach to Detroit next Wednesday.

A bus-load of matinee theatergoers leave the Birmingham women are slated to make the maiden voyage of the "red carpet" Theater coach to Detroit next Wednesday.

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Has Lost Board's Support, He Claims

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL
Managing Editor

Feeling that his constituents—and a majority of the board of education—have repudiated his 18-year devotion to making Birmingham public schools among the best in the nation, Dwight B. Ireland has submitted his resignation as superintendent of Birmingham public schools.

It has been refused by the board of education, with the suggestion that he reconsider.

Unless the board takes definite steps to reaffirm its confidence in him, he will be departing at the end of the school year.

His resignation contains no exact date except one "mutually agreeable." But it is highly unlikely he will remain longer than June.

Ireland's resignation was handed to Board President Mrs. Peter H. Loomis March 29—about 24 hours after the school district had turned down at a special election a recommendation to increase operating funds by 4 mills (or \$761,000) annually.

This money would have gone primarily for salary increases. He had listened for several hours during a special board meeting on curriculum, saying very little. He heard quite a few members of the large citizen-audience committee on the election, and list their reasons for voting as they did—pro and con.

He listened to statements which he felt should have been challenged by the board of education.

AFTER ADJOURNMENT last Tuesday evening, he decided he could not professionally reconcile himself to operating a school system under such conditions. He also felt that his accustomed administrative authority was being curtailed by the board.

The board subsequently met Sunday evening at the home of Mrs. Loomis for a confidential discussion of the situation.

Thursday morning Mrs. Loomis confirmed that Ireland had offered his resignation. He still has four years to go on a five-year contract.

MRS. LOOMIS issued this formal statement on behalf of the board:

"The board of education has unanimously voted, in executive session, not to accept the resignation. We have asked him to reconsider, and earnestly he will decide to stay."

"We have suggested that he try to get away during the Easter holiday, get away from the pressures in his office caused by the failure of the recent millage levy."

"Perhaps rest and a change of scene while he thinks over the situation will result in a favorable decision."

IRELAND CAME to Birmingham in the summer of 1942 as principal of Baldwin high school. But he didn't get a chance to perform in that job.

Before school started, the then superintendent—Herman L. Shiller—took a job as superintendent (See IRELAND, Page 5-A)

Should the Birmingham school district lose its dedicated superintendent, Dwight B. Ireland, today and in the face of developing conditions, the school district will be in for a number of years of difficult adjustments.

Here is why: In recent years, the American public has become more analytical of itself, its policies, its taxes, its social life and just about everything else.

There have been investigations by Congress, by state legislative committees, by pressure groups, by "taxpayer" groups.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield area is among the last to get into the "investigate" phase.

BUT IT HAS been slowly building up here. It arrived in the past two years with the election to the Birmingham school board of young, interested, aggressive members. They felt the public should exercise more control over school policies and programs.

In the past year particularly, when the case resulted in a "do-it-yourself" kind of control, rather than the "we-want-to-keep" kind of control.

This has been a direct challenge to—and interpreted as lack of confidence in—the administration by Ireland.

He and the board members obviously do not understand well enough each others' points of view. If they did, there would be no crisis in the July horizon.

SHOULD IRELAND leave so precipitously, the board will have (See SCHOOLS, Page 5-A)

B'ham Withholds Building Permit, So Owner Sues

Birmingham's zoning is "unreasonable" when it requires 9,000 square feet of property for an R-1 single family residence. It was charged in a suit filed this week in Oakland county circuit court.

An answer supporting the zoning provisions will be filed and then the case will be heard by Attorney James Howlett told city commissioners Monday night.

Plaintiff is Sam Duflois, who owns one of two 60-foot lots on the south side of Wilminton, east of Poppleton. Each lot has 9,000 square feet.

IN HIS COMPLAINT Duflois said he was turned down on Feb. 18 by the board of zoning appeals. He claims the board has never similar variances in other areas of the city.

City Building Inspector Andrew P. Butts explained that in the other instances, there was no way for the variance lot to be increased in size. Homes were on both sides.

Lending A Hand—Operation SOS

In answer to an SOS (store our stories) appeal by Baldwin Library, Susan Fosbush, 270 Sulfield, and Barry Bennett, 369 Henley, select a SOS bag full of books to read.

The library instigated the new program when it was discovered that storage space was very limited during the present remodeling of the library building.