

First
... first night. See first page of second section.

Knock Knock
... who's there? Bennington tourists. See Section C, page 1.

Fire Frat
... forms in township. See page 1-E.

Sprouts Out
... for spring trials. See Babe Ruth story on 8-E.

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This and That

by George R. Averill

Maine's female U.S. Senator, Margaret Chase Smith, says she never talks for more than 20 minutes (and then only after thorough preparation.) Oh, yes, she was referring to remarks made in the U.S. Senate.

Now, cometh a few men and women who argue that the federal government should set up a Department of Culture. Wonder who would staff it? Would Congress pass legislation, setting up the standards for getting a license to sing, dance, be an actor, a musician, a writer, painter, sculptor, etc.? Or would Uncle Sam just levy some more taxes and then scatter the dough in every direction—trusting to luck that some of it would "take root" and blossom into culture?

Never in human history have so many nations, internally and internationally, been at odds with one another. Perhaps, too, these times may recall former days in Jerusalem when the prophet Isaiah said: "The land shall be desolate, and the city shall be a ruin, and the tower shall be a habitation for dragons, and the strong hold shall be a den for wild beasts."

Zealously guarding their financial incomes from Michigan's Legislature, our State's University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University reveal a tendency toward disagreement as to who gets how much? Well, can you blame each institution for fighting for enough dough in order to achieve an educational imbalance?

Khrushchev isn't the only one who boldly stands up against the United States of America! There's Cuba's Castro, too, not to overlook Jimmy Hoffa. You Sir, Little Jimmy is a defame personified.

Want a sure-fire proof when spring comes to many parts of the country? You always can tell when the unpaved roads are churned into near-quagmires.

Uncle Sam plans to pay about \$10,000,000 to the nation's cranberry growers, because Uncle Sam scared a lot of people from buying those berries around last Thanksgiving time. You may recall that one of Uncle's political agents alleged that certain cranberries were dangerous for health. Wonder what's next on Uncle's list of bungles?

Hebrews suggest a federal census question that, we believe, will meet with the affirmative reply of 99 and 94/100 per cent of the American taxpaying public: "Do you want the Congress of the United States to cease spending so much of your wages in extravagance and bonodoggery?"

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. Check-out service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for Enterprise 6236.

Turn Spring Cleaning Into Profit

This year, convert spring cleaning into real cash. Advertise the house, shed, lawn, and garage during your clean-up in an inexpensive Birmingham Eccentric classified advertisement. The having your own "removal sale" very profitable.

Copy Deadline—Tuesday 5 p.m.

What a sad commentary one is forced to make about the times during which he lives... if he and his generation be the victims of a materialistic society. The biographies of most humble men who have achieved fame and fortune emphasize the poverty of gaining only money. For when he has the possession of jewels and gold, and fame and power ever been nourishing reward for spiritual hunger?

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BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



'Austere' B'ham School Budget Sent to County

Teachers Get Only Normal Increments

The Birmingham school district is sending the Oakland county tax allocation board a tentative 1960-61 budget of \$5,347,558.

The board of education approved the budget at a special meeting this week, in spite of the "handwritten" labels pasted on it by Ireland.

DESPITE its record size, the 1959-60 budget is \$4,980,757, the only alternative to spending this amount is an "austerity program," he said.

Ireland interspersed his presentation with warnings that the school board would have to take care of the "handwritten" labels pasted on it by Ireland. The estimate of next year's income includes two major assumptions—that state equalized property valuations will increase by 10 per cent and that Birmingham's tax rate will be 15.03 mills next year.

TEACHER SALARIES, "figured on this year's schedule," the superintendent said, jumped from \$2,216,557 in 1959-60 to \$3,194,512 for 1960-61.

We still have to staff another grade at Groves high school, he pointed out. Increments and the filling of other necessary positions should take care of the rest. A salary scale increase was killed when voters turned down a proposed 4-mill tax boost March 28. "I told principals to be prepared to handle the same class loads next year as they are carrying this year," Ireland went on.

"I ALSO told them to hold back on all requests for supplies. Next largest item, but for fuel, a \$30,000 jump from \$98,000 to \$128,000. Insurance on buildings is being upped from \$30,000 to \$37,000. The budget is a tightly drawn thing. If valuations fail to increase, or if the county allocation board fails to grant requests, we are in trouble," Ireland said.

BIRMINGHAM GOT 7.98 mills within the 15-mill limitation last year, but has been outvoted by citizens, for a total of 13.58 mills.

"Townships reportedly are not as hard pressed this year he said. 'No, I'm asking the county allocation board for 9.00 mills within the 15-mill limitation.'"

Salaries take an \$3.02 per cent bite from the allotted funds Ireland said, "leaving little room for anything else, any cut will necessarily come in the salary category."

Final budget adjustments will be made late this summer after county equalization and allocation committees complete their work.

Get AIA's Highest Honor This Month

The American institute of architects has granted two Birmingham area men its highest honor—fellowship in the institute.

They are H. Augustus O'Dell, head of the firm of O'Dell, Hewlett and Luchengh, and E. Maura Yamasaki, who lives in Troy.

THE FELLOWSHIP will be bestowed at the institute's convention in San Francisco, Calif., April 18-22.

One of the O'Dell firm's most recent projects is the Henry and Edna Ford auditorium, in Detroit's civic center.

Yamasaki, who has gained national and international fame, has won acclaim for the McGregor memorial on Wayne State university's campus, the American Concrete institute and Reynolds Metals building, Kobe, Japan.

Other local fellows of the institute are E. J. Press, devoted half in the field of hills, and Arthur K. Hyde, who also lives in Bloomfield Hills.

We hardly thought we'd see the day when we would be reminding our readers that you can't believe everything you read in some newspapers.

But that day arrived Sunday—when the Detroit Free Press devoted half the front page of its women's section to a journalistic misrepresentation of the city of Birmingham and the type of people who live here.

If you are one of the few who by this time have read or heard about the article, the gist of it is this:

"The 'web' in which dollar-worshipping hands and wives find themselves caught in is Birmingham because of the emphasis on a



Christian Soldiers

Lisa, Lydia and Lorie Fiesse, daughters of the Friedrich Fiesse, Jr., of Larchlea, Birmingham, marched from church on Palm Sunday bearing banners of their faith. Thousands of other Birmingham area residents also will attend Easter time observances this week at the churches of their choice. 'A' Chamber of Commerce spokesman said this week that most Birmingham stores will be closed between noon and 3 p.m. Good Friday. (See pages 6-B and 7-B for details on Holy Week services.)

\$85,000 Alley Pavings Planned Along US-10

An \$85,000 program for paving the alleys behind 18 blocks of US-10 business properties is being prepared for early hearing by Birmingham city commission.

It approved City Manager L. R. Gane's recommendation that this improvement is ready for construction. It had been suggested 10 years ago, but has been postponed several times because it was felt not enough properties had been developed. There also was some opposition from abutting residential areas.

THE ALLEYS are located between Lincoln, and 14 Mile roads. In the 18 blocks in this area, only two alleys have been improved with pavement.

A necessity hearing date is expected to be set shortly. Gane is preparing a brief historical summary of the plan to be sent out with hearing notices.

Sunrise Service

For the fourth year, the Birmingham Baptist youth fellowship will hold an Easter sunrise service at Quanton Falls park. A police officer will bring with Maple parking during the 30-minute service, which begins at 7 a.m.

THE REVISIONS may be necessary because of the school board's defeat of a proposed millage increase April 14. The school board and the city share the costs of the recreation program, but due to the millage defeat the school board may be caught short of funds for the proposed recreation budget.

Martin said he would submit a revised budget to the board that would call for a "cutting down on all proposed increases and include registration fees for tennis and archery instruction."

There also will be a charge for the day camp program.

"status-seeking, materialistic life."

IT PURPORTED to be the comment of a "perceptive young matron, wife of a rising young executive."

She bemoaned their inability to live within their incomes, in homes they can't afford, and she blames it all on "status-seeking."

The article, says its prologue, "is life as she finds it (in Birmingham)."

THE GENERAL REACTION in Birmingham today is: "Where are all these company-dominated, living-beyond-their-means, middle-aged couples and families?"

"To read the article, the only impression you come away with is that we are knee-deep in such unfortunates!"

Birmingham city officials, too, are incensed

Millage Vote in June? Board Still Hesitant

'Unlikely,' Mrs. Loomis Believes

Although members of the Birmingham school board have not conclusively decided to resubmit a less-than-four-mill tax to the voters in June, "present likelihood is that such a proposition won't go on," Mrs. Kathryn Loomis informed The Birmingham Eccentric yesterday.

"Our board still is studying the problem. We have received numerous urgings by some of the district's voters, together with a formal request from the Birmingham Educational Association. We do have until May 17 to make a final decision, in accordance with legal statutes covering such elections," she continued.

"IN THE EVENT our board does not present another millage proposition in June, we cannot accomplish any increase in our revenues until December 1961, effective for the school year 1961-62. This is because the various tax assessing officers in our district require considerable advance time to make up their tax records. Our school taxes began coming in December 1 of each year."

Meanwhile affairs within the official family of the Birmingham public school district are still in a state of anxious uncertainty. Supt. Dwight B. Ireland recently tendered resignation has not been withdrawn. Both he and the school board have agreed to await his return from an Easter vacation, April 25, to learn whether or not he has reconsidered, to the end that official arrangements may be made to have him continue.

Ireland, For the past 18 years head of local schools, tendered his resignation March 29 in protest of loss of some of his accustomed administrative authority.

This new policy is reported to have been activated by board members Richard P. Barnard, George W. Coombe Jr. and Nelson R. Lovell, Jr., and apparently concurred in by the colleagues Kathryn Loomis, William Spencer, May Beier, and Bennett W. Rust.

The Eccentric's learned that Ireland and members of the board are seeking to bring about a work-

See MILLAGE, Page 6-A)

3 B'ham Supervisors Again Head Top County Committees

With Tuesday's reorganization of committees of Oakland county board of supervisors, three of Birmingham's representatives again head the county's topmost policy-making groups.

Re-elected to their committee chairmanships were David Levinson, ways and means; Luther Heacock, buildings and grounds, and Mrs. Hope Lewis, welfare.

Birmingham's junior supervisor, City Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham—serves on the board's legislative committee.

All four were reappointed to their supervisors' jobs Monday night by the Birmingham city commission.



Birmingham's First Lady—and we mean oath of office as mayor from City Clerk Mrs. Florence Willett (left) receiving the Irene Hanley.

Triple-Threat Commissioner Is B'ham's 1st Woman Mayor

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL
Managing Editor

Because Florence Willett has performed so adequately in the past 12 months in her triple-role as city commissioner, plan board member and mayor pro tem—she is Birmingham's first woman mayor today.

Her six male colleagues, recognizing good mayor material when they see it, named her to the city's top executive post Monday night at the commission's annual reorganization meeting.

MRS. WILLETT, 44, succeeds Harry M. Dwyer, Jr., who now takes his place at the commission table. Mayor pro tem is William K. Roberts, who was mayor two years ago.

Both Mrs. Willett and Roberts—

together with William H. Burgum

Woolfenden Elected New Hills Mayor

Henry L. Woolfenden was unanimously elected mayor of Bloomfield Hills Tuesday night. He succeeds Lyman J. Craig.

The commission named James A. Bradford, mayor pro tem. Both men were re-elected in the April 4 election.

DURING THE BUSINESS session, Public Safety director Robert Stadler reported that there had been no fires during March.

The commission also accepted the new cost of extension No. 1 of the Evergreen sewer system, which has increased \$9,155.50 over next month.

It was decided a special meeting will be held next week to study ways to finance the lateral sewer system recently built thru the city.

POSSIBILITIES include a special assessment tax or a bond issue.

The new 1959-61 city budget will be submitted to the commission next month.

It shows poor judgment to use binoculars to single out a man with a wooden leg and leave the impression that the rest of the crowd is one-legged.

It is a violation of journalistic principles to mislead the reader.

See Related Story on Page 1-C

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM H. BURGUM

University of Michigan sophomore, and Gordon, 14, a student at Seaholm high school.

COMMISSIONER Carl F. Ingraham nominated Mrs. Willett for the mayor's position.

In her "nominating speech," Ingraham said, "I've served with her for several years, and watched how she has worked. I am a great admirer of her attention to city matters. She can do a good job. Because of her work, she is entitled to be mayor for the coming year."

A unanimous vote put Mrs. Willett into the presiding chair to the accompaniment of enthusiastic applause from commissioners and the audience, which filled about half the seats in the room.

"I hope to do a good job. I want the women in the community to be proud of the manner in which I perform—and the men, too," she said to friends after the meeting.

Model Mayor

Ladies night is being scheduled April 25 at the Birmingham High Twelve club. A fashion show, directed by Birmingham's mayor, Mrs. Howard Willett, will follow the dinner. The mayor will also model, along with wives and daughters of members.

\$607,783 Worth Of Bonds To Go Up in Smoke

With the help of the Michigan Bell Telephone Co., the city of Birmingham will be able to dispose of \$607,783.38 worth of refunding bonds and interest coupons.

According to City Treasurer Russell T. Berger, the bonds and coupons must be cremated. But the city no longer has a coal-burning furnace, the type which lends itself best to bon-burning.

"But the telephone company (across the street) has offered us the loan of its incinerator," Berger told amused city commissioners.

THE BONDS are part of a 1955 general obligation refunding issue totaling \$1,391,607.94, of which \$119,972.05 in interest paid to date.

The final \$900,000 of these issues will be paid off in 1964, Berger said.

"We still have to pay \$259,000 in sinking fund bonds, and \$400,000 worth of parking authority revenue bonds—with interest," he added. "Last of these issues will be retired in 1969."