

The Birmingham Centric

48 PAGES
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN
DECEMBER 8, 1960

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

SECTION A



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Excitement Unlimited

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This and That

by George R. Averill

Dr. 'Ed' Spalding Was 'A Giant' In His Profession

Probably not too many of the readers of this newspaper are aware of the fact that the late Edward B. Spalding, D.B.S., who passed on several weeks ago, was one of this nation's outstanding dentists. He was a pioneer in many areas of his profession, being credited with leading the way in the development of porcelain inlays and crowns, removable bridge-work, and was the first in this area, with his late wife, Grace, to understand and grasp the personal costs of the cases against the dentists. Dr. Spalding was himself as erudite as a man. He possessed a remarkable sense of humor, and seldom met and left an old friend without expressing some form of appreciation.

His professional proficiency was known throughout the United States and as an essayist he frequently spoke to groups on the subject of dentistry. Often too, he was called to Washington, New York, or other cities to perform some phase of his professional ability for persons of national and international prominence.

IN 1955 HE WAS chosen as the recipient of the outstanding dentistry award, only one of which is given annually in the U. S.

Many Birmingham dentists knew and loved Ed Spalding. He never seemed too busy to advise them, and asked, considering this as an opportunity professionally to serve the public via a testimonial bearing name of a younger generation of practitioners.

When he was approaching his ninetieth birthday, several Birmingham dentists and I contacted Dr. Spalding with the idea of honoring him with a testimonial bearing his name. It was planned to invite many parts of the nation, as well as Michigan. This never came to pass, chiefly because of his inherent modesty erected a barrier against tributes from others, even though he and we knew they were deserved.

One of the refreshing and inspiring contacts some of us had at Christmas season with Dr. Spalding was the receipt of his annual Christmas card, which contained some of his own wise and friendly message from now and then a paragraph from some ancient literary philosopher—but all written in his hand, each letter scribbled in the carefreeness of an everyday.

I HEREWITH GIVE you a few of his thoughts taken from his 1950 card: "A profession is not only a calling or occupation which one may profess to understand and to follow; it is a service, furthering the pursuit of special knowledge, a certain field of more than mere ability and implying a close relationship between ability and responsibility in its practical application of affairs, uses and needs of others, as distinguished from its pursuit for one's own purposes.

"Personal ambition is commendable when it is serving an honest purpose. Expediency is serving to promote a desired end which contributes to personal advancement. May expediency never have a place in the definition, nor in the practice of a profession.

Yes, Dr. Edward Bartlett Spalding was a giant in his beloved profession.

FREE - FREE! When receiving your subscription to The Centric, or starting a new subscription, you will receive a complimentary copy of our 74th Anniversary Edition, "The Centric Through the Years," which contains the history of Birmingham from its early days at the founding of Birmingham in 1825. Many features you'll find interesting in this book.

12 Towns Drain Seen As Reality

With a state supreme court ruling in favor of the Twelve Towns drainage board, Birmingham city and other area community officials see no further obstacles to the long-awaited southeastern drainage project.

Birmingham City Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham said today he believes the high court's ruling last week prevents any further litigation.

The ruling dismissed Madison Heights' suit for apportionment of cost for a proposed \$47 million storm relief system. The plan had been blocked by litigation since its inception in 1952.

According to Ashton J. Beart, Twelve Towns drainage board construction now can start by early next spring - if there is no lengthy delay in the terms of bonds or awarding of contracts.

BIRMINGHAM OFFICIALS said there still is a possibility of Madison Heights petitioning for a rehearing of the case before the supreme court.

Heights councilmen will receive copies of the decision with their agendas for their regular meeting of Dec. 12.

If there is no further legal action, a final hearing on apportionment will be held around the first of the year.

Birmingham officials believe that the Twelve Towns drain now has a firm chance for approval.

They quoted this sentence from the ruling as significant in that respect: "There is nothing in the statute, nor in common sense or a regard for fairness or due process, which for two such opportunities concerning the same question; that being the valid terms of the apportionment formula."

IN ITS suit against the drainage board filed 14 months ago, Madison Heights' only objection was directed to the formula used for apportionment. The board decided that this objection was not well founded and construction of the drainage system for the city.

Local observers pointed out that the supreme court ruling levied costs of the cases against the drainage board, usually does not do when public bodies are concerned.

Birmingham and neighboring communities are all involved in the Twelve Towns project. Also included are the city of Birmingham and drainage projects pending this ruling from the supreme court.

B'ham, Hills Election Time Drawing Near

See Related Story on 1-F

Campaigning time is drawing near for elected officials in Birmingham and the Hills.

The city elections will be April 3. There are no primaries. Incumbents and candidates must file petitions bearing name of 25 valid voters by 4 p.m. Feb. 25 at the city hall.

Two commissioners will be named to two-year terms in Birmingham. Remaining offices are: piring for Harry M. Denney Jr. and Robert Page.

THERE ARE SEVEN members on the Birmingham city commission, elected on a rotating basis. The group chooses the mayor from the commission ranks. Mayor Florence Willett, Carl F. Ingraham, William H. Burgum, Charles Renno and William E. Roberts do not face re-election in 1961.

Birmingham voters will also choose two members for the Albany board. Office terms of Edwin Snyder and Charles Kain will expire. There are also members on the library board, each serves a three-year term.

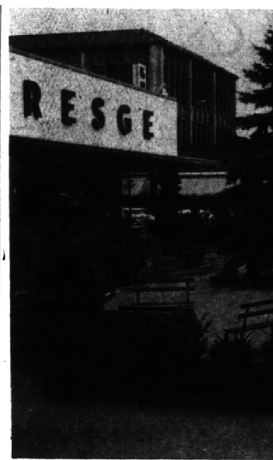
IN BLOOMFIELD HILLS, three commissioners will be named to two-year terms and a constable to a one-year term.

Terms of office are expiring for John S. Burgum, Dominic Vetrinno and Lyman J. Craig.

Bloomfield Hills has five commissioners; three are elected one year and two the following. The mayor is elected by the commission. Remaining offices are: James A. Beresford and Mayor Henry L. Woodfenden.

High Twelve Club Elects New Officers

The Birmingham High Twelve club elected its new officers for the year.



Here is Birmingham's experimental mall, installed last Thursday and Friday. It consists of bamboo fencing, planters and a gas light on Henrietta at Maple and the first alley to the south; a dozen six-foot Scotch pine trees planted in whiskey barrels, cut in half, along the sidewalk; and a 30-foot spruce in the middle of the street. The big tree was donated by Clark H. Stevens, 1386 Lakeside, former city commissioner.

Mall Discussion Prompts A Vow from Commissioner

See Related Photo Page 5-A

In the future, Birmingham City Commissioner William E. Roberts "will see that everything is spelled out very precisely," he vowed Monday.

Roberts made his vow after discussion concerning the mall in downtown Birmingham brought out that he had misunderstood the commission decision two weeks ago.

The Central Business District Development committee, a group of local merchants, property owners and professional people planning for the future of the downtown business area, has erected a mall on Henrietta from Maple south to the alley.

Roberts opined Monday that the city should share in the cost of this project.

"I'M SURE the city is getting as much credit as the merchants for creating this lovely scene at this time of year," Roberts stated.

"This is a Christmas scene, not just an experimental mall. I would like to see the city share in the cost."

TO NAME THE SWANS

By KEN WEAVER

Thanks to Steadham high school government students, Birmingham now has an official "name-the-swans" contest.

Representatives of three civics classes informed Mayor Florence Willett at a meeting in her city hall office Friday that they have decided to sponsor a contest to name the two white swans on Quanton lake.

Meeting with Mrs. Willett were Miss Beverly Steffes, Michigan State university student teacher, and three of her students, Bill O'Neill, Garton Bomard and Suzanne Melusky.

Each student represented one of the classes interested in the project. Their regular instructor is George Miller.

MISS STEFFES explained that sponsorship first came up as part of a regular civics class report on civic committee meetings. Her senior American government class members have been attending the Monday night sessions since school started.

"This was the classes' idea. They wanted to be more than observers," she said.

Mrs. Willett said she is "happy to see the young people enter this thing and accept the responsibility."

Monday, the civics classes named four committees, chosen from volunteers, to organize and conduct the contest. They are:

PUBLICITY AND communications—Holly Shaker, Carol Wang, and three members of the Bonnie Banners and Bob He Lane. Rules—Hank Bickel. Dave Can (See CONTEST, 3-A)

Roberts said he also thought the mall—said actual cost was \$645,191 in contrast to an estimated cost of \$625,000.

He added that there also would be a continuing expense in maintenance of the mall and the eventual removing or replacing of it. Roberts said he understood that this would be a temporary mall during the Christmas season.

But Commissioners William H. Burgum and Carl F. Ingraham said the project came from the business development group as an experiment based on results of their study.

Burgum said that when the matter was discussed two weeks ago, the city agreed to closing the street but made no stipulation as to share in the cost.

"TO CLOSE off the street at this time is a proper function of the downtown business district," he declared.

Roberts said he was surprised "at myself for not having a better understanding of it."

Commissioner Harry M. Denney Jr. said he also thought the project was a cooperative effort was involved. Commissioner Robert E. Page thought the city "should do anything it can" to make the project successful.

But he felt that "it was made clear that this improvement was not to be at any cost to the city."

MAYOR FLORENCE Willett quoted minutes of the Nov. 21 commission meeting, which showed that City Manager L. R. Gare gave a verbal report in which it was stated that the cost was "all to be financed by merchants."

In that report Gare also said the health care display in Shain park and did not call for any "additional expense to the city."

Following Mrs. Willett's reading of those minutes, Roberts said he was sorry he voted the way he did and vowed:

"In the future I will see that everything is spelled out very precisely."

BURGM said he was not in favor of spending any of the taxpayers' money "until we get a complete, comprehensive report."

He said there are other businessmen in the city—"not downtown—who expect equal and fair treatment."

Burgum also said Toledo, O. has twice experimented with a mall and twice removed it.

"I don't want that here," he declared.

Roberts ended the controversy with a remark: "In light of the error I have made... I withdraw my motion."

"Let's go see what Kresge's is giving away," said one. "In Himeholz's, I trade the impossible job of listening to two equally fascinating conversations at one time."

"How about some flimflam?" a clerk suggested and her customer gawked. "THE WHO?"

A BYE BYE sign at the Hingston center nearby held up a tiny dainty sign and said "Is this the kid's apartment?"

"Boy, that bed clothes," guffawed his buddy.

Teen Traffic Court First Session Today

Birmingham's teen traffic court will get underway with its first session of the school year at 9 a.m. today in the city commission meeting room at City Center.

Oakland Probate Judge Arthur E. Moore met Wednesday morning with local attorneys who are to serve as referees for the court. Judge Moore briefed them on their duties, the purposes and methods of operation of the court.

Sponsor of the court and a correctional clinic run in conjunction with it is the Birmingham Exchange club.

Directing operations for the city is Robert Schaule, head of the Birmingham police juvenile division.

HE SAID the following attorneys have agreed to act as referees:

Clarence W. Brennan, 207 Wabek building; Edgan Winley, 653 Bloomfield court; George J. Fulkerson, 1025 E. Maple; John A. Givley Jr. of Miller-Cantelmo; Charles D. Stone, 318 Wabek building.

Forbes S. Hasall, 249 - 251 Briggs building; Oliver H. Kirk, 207 Wabek building; William G. Lerchen Jr., 1100 N. Woodward; John P. MacKay, 35 W. Maple; Donald H. Parsons, of Emery, Parsons & Bahr, 1200 N. Woodward; Henry M. Hogan, Jr., 318 Wabek building; Walter R. Denison, 1101 Pontiac State bank building.

Pontiac; and Frederick G. Bahr, of Emery, Parsons & Bahr. All but Denison are located in Birmingham.

HASCALL WAS to serve as referee for this first session, but most of the attorneys were also expected to attend.

LA SCHAULE said there would be six or seven defendants before the jury today.

Under the teen court program, traffic tickets are screened and first offenders are sentenced to work. Letters are then sent to their parents with an explanation of the case and pointing out that appearance is voluntary.

Birmingham's teen traffic court, organized by Schaule, was the first of its kind in the county.

Auto Corporations Promote Area Men

Chrysler

American Motors

Little did Lynn A. Townsend of Bloomfield township, orphaned son of a local auto mechanic, think he would climb the stairway of success to become Chrysler corporation's second top man.

Second only to President and Chairman Lee Iacocca, the 41-year-old former group vice president in charge of international operations has been named administrative vice president of the firm. The post has been vacant since the death of Robert E. Townsend.

According to Colbert's announcement, Townsend "will direct the current administrative affairs of the corporation subject to the control of the board and the chairman and president and will continue to supervise the international operations."

AS NO. 2 EXECUTIVE in the company, Townsend becomes the man most likely to succeed Colbert as president. Colbert resumed the job on grounds of conflicting interests.

Richard T. Purdy, 325 Wellesley, Birmingham, elected vice president and treasurer. He has served as company treasurer since 1956.

John W. Raisbeck, 920 N. Glenhurst, Birmingham, elected vice president of sales operations. He was formerly assistant to the president.

A Franklin Village resident, Donald P. Elze, 2605 S. Carolina Lane, was named vice president and controller.

Robney said the executive changes were made to effect "maximum use of special talents and to prepare for new intense activities in several fields."

ABERNETHY STARTED in the automobile business in 1926 as an 18-cent-an-hour apprentice mechanic in the Pontiac Motor Co.

He worked his way through a series of sales assignments with Packard Motor Car company - (See MOTORS, 3-A)

Townsend was elected a vice president in 1958 and a director of the corporation in 1959.

After graduating from high school, Townsend began his business career in National City Bank of Evansville, Ind., and later worked his way through the University of Michigan, working dishes and sweeping floors.

BUT KEEPING his nose to the grindstone paid off as Townsend rose to the position of bachelor executive.

(See CHRISLER, 3-A)

Four Birmingham-area residents have been elevated to new executive positions in a realignment of top management at American Motors Corp.

Changes announced by President George Romney, Beverly Hills, included:

Ray Abernethy, 3340 Oakwood, Bloomfield township, former vice president of automotive distribution and marketing to executive vice president of automobile and appliance distribution and marketing. He was elected a director of the corporation.

Bernard A. Chapman, 19320 Riverside, from executive vice president of the appliance division to executive vice president responsible for all automotive and appliance manufacturing, engineering, styling and procurement. He is also a director of the corporation.

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THE COURT meets once a month from 9 a.m. noon in a room in the high school senior civics classroom. The court officers, judge, jury foreman and court recorder are all chosen from these 20 Jr.

Purpose of the teen court is to help the programs of traffic safety and the need for traffic safety and to demonstrate the court processes which result from such violations.

Involved in the correctional clinic are eight hours of classroom study, two hours per night for four nights, with driver training teacher conducting the first hour and a police officer the second.

Youngsters are referred to the clinic through the teen court. Traffic law that further study of traffic laws are needed.

Hills Sewer Election Two Weeks Away

By BOB BEEDLE Staff Writer

Bloomfield Hills residents have less than two weeks in which to make up their minds on the feasibility of the proposed bond issue financing of a sewer system.

In at least 90 per cent of the majority of those residents who vote in the Dec. 19 special election must approve the project, a \$2,500,000 general obligation issue for it to carry.

IF IT IS not carried, Mayor Henry Woodfenden says, the city will be forced by the courts into installing a sewer system through a special assessment or revenue bonds.

The State Water Resources commission has already filed suit in Oakland county court to stop the city from polluting Rouge river.

If the Hills plan is approved, the city will be in the position to issue general obligation bonds on the project, a method which would be the most economical to the taxpayer, the mayor explained.

THE CITY has not decided which company would get the construction contract. City Clerk Robert J. Slaughter estimates the job would be completed by December, 1961, if work gets underway next spring.

The plan for financing the system, if it is approved, is based on issuing general obligation bonds over a 30-year period.

It has been estimated that the cost to residents the first year would be about \$7.51 for each \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

THIS ESTIMATE is based on the project being handled all at once. However, financing the system, Hubbell, Roth and Clark of Birmingham, has suggested the project be undertaken in two stages.

This plan would see only the developed areas of the city getting the sewer and only \$1.35 million of the bonds issued, reducing the first year's cost to about \$6.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The remaining \$170,000 in bonds would be a low-cost, fast-action classified ad.

BUYING OR SELLING... CHECK THE CLASSIFIED COLUMNS

Classified ads are a home-maker's real find-a-bag-stretcher! Here you'll find a place to rent or buy, money-saving prices on appliances and furniture, a good car buy, dozens of other bargains for the discerning shopper. Get dollars for the belongings you no longer use. They're worth money. You can't get them elsewhere. So let the town know what you have to offer with a low cost, fast-action classified ad.

Townsend Elze Purdy Hansbeck

AT KAY COOLEY'S I'mbled up to the refreshments.

"Does your husband know

yet.

"This ginger ale sure has a kick," said one man, and some one else replied, "No wonder this place is packed."

"At the sweety counter some strong-and-brawny were enjoying the antics of a local clown who replied in unison: "His ears stood out at almost right angles to his head. The Jew's rick came on an earwig that had fallen on a sweet potato."

"Never mind the dress, I'll take the model," said another.

"Can it," said a galled gentleman as he spotted my big ears.

WELL, that did it. I left.

All makes of inner-spring mattresses. Entree. 62-day service. ROYAL MATRESS CO. 2151 Dixie Dr. and ask for

Well, If That's the Way You Feel...

By IRMA N. DAVIS Staff Writer

Downtown Birmingham was a "Christmas-Trimmings" area on the area Monday. No one minded a bit, least of all the merchants who kept the shelves supplied with peanuts and punch.

"Let's go see what Kresge's is giving away," said one. "In Himeholz's, I trade the impossible job of listening to two equally fascinating conversations at one time."

"How about some flimflam?" a clerk suggested and her customer gawked. "THE WHO?"

A BYE BYE sign at the Hingston center nearby held up a tiny dainty sign and said "Is this the kid's apartment?"

"Boy, that bed clothes," guffawed his buddy.

figure out what to do but finally clutched her hand, unlimbered his nose and took a healthy snuff.

IN ALMOST every store I visited, I saw the same three teen-age males, eating their way through and around snack tables.

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"HOW DO THEY lift these things?" said a customer at Kay Beum's as he snuffed a huge shoulder bag. "Can I use a red one?" he requested.

"Nope, too small," he said. "Bake at Jake's agency to hide behind and around snack tables."

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you're out, lady?" quipped one stalwart.

"You'll get in trouble, lady," sang out his friends.

"Only men allowed here tonight, madam," she parried with the air of a game warden who had found his first poacher.

"I'm from the press," I said. "Oh, well, that's all right then," she replied in unison: "His ears stood out at almost right angles to his head. The Jew's rick came on an earwig that had fallen on a sweet potato."

"Never mind the dress, I'll take the model," said another.

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