

# The Birmingham Eccentric

38 PAGES  
FEBRUARY 18, 1960

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



The Nation's Top  
Suburban Weekly  
TEN CENTS

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## This and That

By George R. Averill

**PERSONAL NOTE:** It was exactly 40 years ago last Sunday, Feb. 18, 1920, that I arrived in Birmingham and purchased The Eccentric. Our then Young contained 3,800 inhabitants, and covered one square mile of the earth's surface. Scarcely a year later, some still used for farming, some still used for potential subdivisions—for already there was evidence of the movement of city folk to more rural areas. Certainly, there's nothing surer than change!

Summing up all the varied suggestions, plans, ideas and similar yak-yak on the subject of "How can one save money?" the best answer is a simple one: DON'T SPEND IT!

A home-permanent manufacturer recently received a letter which included: "I took a permanent job in the auto and it about three months ago and I just came from the doctor and he told me in three months pregnant. The same thing happened last year. Is there something in the auto could do this? I like curly hair just fine, but too many kids is a problem."

A young stenographer, unimpaired, caused a number of raised eyebrows at the office one day when she began passing out cigars and candy tied with little blue ribbons. "Say, what's the occasion?" one of her fellow workers finally asked. "It's a boy," she steno announced proudly, displaying a small diamond on her left hand. "Six feet tall, weighs 178 pounds."

Because of the criticism being directed to TV networks concerning the blood-thirsty "shootin'" in programs they put on when little children are watching, several networks have agreed to refrain from this pattern. Instead, it's reported that they will put on programs on when only adults are looking. Question: If it ain't good for the kiddies, is it good for the people who bring up the kiddies?

"I said that as many as 20,000 American tourists will visit Russia during 1960. During 1959 half that many did so. We hope that Ivan (the John Doe of Russia) will encourage these tourists enough to want to breathe the freedom that makes them what they are."

The U. S. Greeting Card Ass'n estimates that 500 million valentines were sent last week, 35 per cent of them bought and sent by women. "Be my Valentine" still seems to be a popular Americanism.

If the Democratic members of the U. S. Congress could win every project they propose, the tax rates in this nation would orbit along with our space missiles. As you know, 1959 is an election year, and some of the leading Demos are offering the voters a great many "welfare" items. Some of them, to be sure, merit careful consideration, but plenty of them are just pander to get votes. Boy! & Girl! what a far cry from the statesmanship that founded this nation!

**Timing Is Off On New Hours For Parking**

Before the city changes the timing on any more parking meters in its Pierce-Merrill municipal lot, the mayor's parking lot study committee will look over suggested changes.

Birmingham commission this week recommended a Feb. 8 action which would have changed 30 two-hour meters into all-day meters. The four-member committee is expected to report its reactions within two weeks.

How can one expect his life to be without the variety of challenges that add strength and quality to living? As well expect a sturdy oak to exclaim: "I do not like to be challenged by summer's heat, winter's cold blasts and the ever-coming winds that cause me to bend and sway. Why must my roots toil and dig through hard earth for nourishment? Long life, good wood is the answer."

82nd YEAR—NO. 50



## Filling the Pot With Gold

Henry Johnson (right) president of the Birmingham Federal Savings and Loan Association and Foster Toothaker, chairman of the Retail Merchants Committee of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce empty money into glass container. The money will be on display in the Association's window for the Shop In Birmingham contest which starts today.

## It Sure Beats Walking: Win Yourself a Falcon

Starting today through March 17, everybody will have the opportunity to enter the "Shop In Birmingham Contest" sponsored by the retail merchants committee of the Birmingham chamber of commerce.

Some lucky person is going to win the grand prize, a 1960 Ford Falcon, like those on display in the lobby of the Birmingham theater and at the corner of N. Woodward and Hamilton, while the runners-up will receive gift certificates for second, third and fourth places—\$150, \$75 and \$50. The gift certificates are redeemable only in merchants at the participating stores.

No purchase is necessary to enter this contest. You merely obtain an official entry blank at any of the 61 participating Birmingham stores. On it estimate the amount of money contained in the glass box in the window of the Birmingham Federal Savings and Loan Association, W. Maple, corner of Pierce. Return the entry to the store where a ballot box will be provided for deposit.

You may enter this contest as often as you wish and need not be present to win. The winner of the Falcon must be 18 years of age or older. Only one prize to a contestant.

**BIRMINGHAM** Eccentric entrants, all participating merchants, their employees and families, are eligible. Contest judges are Martin Frank, Harvey Kravetz, Charles Mortenson, Herb Herzberg, Paul N. Averill, Frank Mulholland and Aaron Kershbaum. All entries must be in the ballot boxes by 6:00 p.m. Thursday, March 17. Decision of the judges will be final.

In case of ties, an additional estimate will be required. See this week's issue section B, page one, for a complete list of participating merchants.



## Broadway Meets Birmingham

Broadway impresario Eddie Dowling (right) meets Birmingham's favorite amateur impresario, Jack Hassberger of the Village Players theatrical group.

# Loge Bill Would Make County Go to Voters for More Money

## Roberts To Seek 3rd Term

City Commissioner William E. Roberts will try for his third full term at the April 4 annual municipal election, he disclosed Wednesday.

He is the fourth incumbent who will stand for reelection. Others whose terms expire in April—and who three weeks ago announced they will run again—are Florence H. Willett, Lance C. Minor and William H. Burgum.

MRS. WILLETT and Burgum are seeking three-year terms, while Minor will try for a one-year vacancy.

Petitions for Burgum and Minor already have been filed with City Clerk Irene Hanley.

Petition deadlines is 4 p.m. Feb. 27. Petitions must have at least 25 and not more than 50 signatures of qualified electors.

ROBERT B. AIKENS, 30, a Detroit attorney who lives at 1725 W. Lincoln may make it a race for the three-year terms.

He told The Birmingham Eccentric Wednesday morning he hasn't decided yet whether he will run. It would be the first time he has sought public office.

The Birmingham public library board election will be a contest. Arthur J. Underwood, Jr., 39, of 808 Mohegan, will oppose incumbent James M. Tobin and newcomer, Edward C. Smith (Pharos) Smith for one of the three-year terms on the board.

INCUMBENT Mrs. W. O. (Carolyn) Smith is running for a two-year board vacancy.

Petitions have been filed for Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Vogt and Mrs. Underwood. The petition is expected to be filed in the next few days. He is office manager of an advertising representative firm's Detroit branch.

## Swim Club Surfacing For 3rd Time

Whether a proposed Birmingham swim club still is afloat is a question.

The club's board of directors this week came up for the third time before the Birmingham city commission and asked for help.

President Fleming, speaking for the club, said they would extend Eton park, which spans 14 Mile and Maple.

HE WAS ASKED to put his suggestions in writing for official action next week.

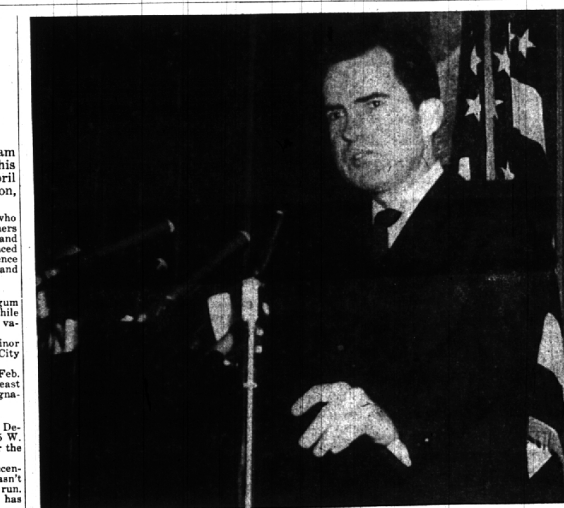
Under the plan, the club would like 90 additional parking spaces at the east end of Eton Park. The club is desiring for a swimming pool site in a small parcel of Troy townships immediately east of Eton park.

The club has sought unsuccessfully for a building site since last fall.

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## 'Would Be A Hard-Hitting Campaign To Give...

## 2 New Mains Will Bolster Water System

A \$250,000 bolstering of Birmingham's water system was approved this week.

City engineers were given the nod to advertise for bids for two new 16-inch transmission mains.

Entire cost will be financed from sewer department surpluses.

One main will aid the northwest part of the city. It will be constructed on Southfield, west over Northlawn, north of Pleasant, between 14 Mile and Maple.

THE SECOND main will go in from Hazel and Columbia between 14 Mile and Maple. This will improve pressures in the northeast part of the city.

City Manager L. R. Gare estimates the contracts can be let in about three weeks, with construction to be done early next season. There will be no tap-ins or cross-connections on these new mains, Gare emphasized.



## Dowling's World Is Still the Stage

By ELISE M. GOODE  
Special Writer

"Personality and speech are the two most potent weapons people everywhere have for promoting peace" said Eddie Dowling, Broadway actor, producer, playwright and director, when he spoke to more than 400 people at Holy Name church's third Christian Culture series last Thursday evening in the Holy Name school auditorium.

And personality and speech were certainly evident in the speaker himself as he retold episodes from his long and colorful career in the American theater.

FROM HIS 1918 Broadway debut in Victor Herbert's "Vehet Lady," through "Sally, Irene and Mary" which Dowling co-produced, directed and was also the star, through "Honeymoon Lane" in which he introduced Kate Smith, "The Time of Your Life," which was the first play to win the Pulitzer Prize and "Drama Critics' Award, through "The Glass Menagerie" which co-starred Donald and Laurette Taylor, one of America's finest actresses, the wonderfully human personality, insight and Irish sense of humor of this "man of the theater" shone forth.

Dowling, who was the fifteenth of seventeen children—16 of them boys—was born on a farm near Troy, N.Y., and at the age of nine left home to join the St. Paul's Cathedral Boy Scouts in Troy, where he naturally moved on into the theater.

He spoke often of his mother giving her life to his "down-to-earth" values and for his will to succeed in the theatrical world.

HIS GREAT LOVE of people was evidenced before and after the lecture when he came down from the stage to talk informally and collectively with those who came to hear him. Dowling met Mr. and Mrs. John P. Callaghan and quite surprised when Mrs. Callaghan informed him: "We have 17 children. Mr. Dowling, and are expecting our eighteenth very soon!" Mr. Callaghan is chief master at Holy Name.

Another guest whom he enjoyed meeting was Dr. John B. Hassberger, actor, producer and director of many productions presented by the Birmingham Village Players in the past 30 years, who at the present time is directing the Players' production of "The Diary of Anne the United States in 1940 is Hen-Frank."

## B'ham Pilot Recovers After Crash Landing

A 38-year-old Birmingham pilot injured in a crash landing last Saturday in Troy is reported "out of danger" by Naval authorities.

Lt. Commander William A. Blazo, Jr., 1043 Chestnut, suffered a broken left leg, broken nose and severe cuts and bruises.

He is at St. Joseph's Mercy hospital, Pontiac, but Naval officials said he will be transferred to a service hospital as soon as possible.

A FORMER FBI agent, Blazo crashed-landed in a cornfield at 19 Mile and Crooks roads while on a service mission.

The plane engine "conked out" the aircraft bounced over a wire fence, skidded 1,000 feet and topped over.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cadwalller, 4246 Yale, Berkeley, and Neal Allen, 476 W. Squirrel, Troy, pulled Blazo from the wreckage. Cadwalller is employed at the Ford tractor divisions implementing design engineering laboratory on Maple road, Troy.

A native of Royal Oak, Blazo and his wife, Mary Jean, 37, have two children, Becky, 10, and Robert, 7.

## His Aim: Protect Schools

By AL SANDNER  
Staff Writer

The Birmingham school district is pushing to get a state-district flat into the hole in the dike through which its annual revenue has been leaking.

A bill introduced in the state senate yesterday by Senator Harvey Lodge (R. Oakland county) would freeze county shares of the state-imposed 15-mill tax on real property at present levels.

COUNTIES which have been taking steadily increasing shares of the 15-mill tax, "would have to go to all the citizens of the county to get more money for this bill becomes law," said Birmingham school board member George W. Coombe, Jr. The county would have to present its needs to the county as school boards now have to, he added.

Under the present system, the county allocation board reviews county, township and school board budgets each year and decides what percentage of the 15 mills each governmental unit gets.

Current introduction of the bill is the result of several months' activity by Coombe, who was lodged at the direction of Representative Farrell E. Roberts (R. Oakland county).

LODGE, Coombe and School Superintendent Kathryn Loomis, of Midland and William Shunk of Waterford (formerly of Bloomfield Hills) have had several meetings on the proposed bill.

The same bill was defeated by a 1-1 majority in the house during the 1958 session.

Coombe and fellow board member have to present its needs to the county as school boards now have to, he added.

IN A LETTER to the senator drafted by Coombe and signed by Board President Kathryn Loomis, the local problem (similar to the one that plagues practically every school district in the state, was outlined.

Citizens voted an additional 3.5 mills in 1957, and increased Birmingham's additional millage to six. Birmingham then lost 2.32 of (See LODGE, Page 2-A)

## Growing Pains Hit Schools

Growth is the key word when describing Birmingham Public School system according to administration officials and school board members who are urging an affirmative vote on the 4 mill tax levy March 28.

Citing the facts of Birmingham Public school's growth, Mrs. Kathryn Loomis, president of the board of education, said that to maintain its high standards of providing educational opportunities and facilities for its children, the district needs the additional operating money that would be provided by the new tax.

THE TAX is needed in order to keep the Birmingham district in a competitive position to attract and keep quality teachers. In the past five years, Mrs. Loomis, the district has grown by about 50 per cent in student population.

In 1954-55 there were 7,784 students enrolled in the schools. Today there are slightly over 12,000. Birmingham School district employed 292 teachers in 1955; an instructional staff of 476 is employed in 1955.

IN 1955 Birmingham district was composed of 12 buildings. Today the school district maintains 18 buildings. These include 14 elementary, 2 junior high schools and 2 senior high schools.

Total operating budget for the Birmingham schools in 1955 was \$23,388,931.14 while Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent, predicts a current expense budget of over \$4 million dollars for the next school year.

All of the above facts concerning Birmingham schools (See SCHOOLS, Page 2-A)

All notices of lease or mortgage contracts should be sent to THE PRESS COMPANY, 214 N. 1st St. and ask for Editor's Office.