

The strongest timber comes from those trees that stand high on the hill, against the wind and the weather. The meager-fruited soil... like the oak, for example, it is not equally true that the strong men and women of every era were given to an environment of some struggle... the early struggle of their roots deep into the soil... well, of positive values.

32d Year—NO. 13

The Birmingham Eccentric

40 PAGES BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



Financial Trouble Threatens City's 'House with a Heart'

Giant
... we took one. See page 1-B.

Garden Treat
... really neat. See C—page 1.

Mosaic
... made by students. See page 2-D.

She Knows
... and she's telling. See page 1-E.

There's going to be a death in the community—according to one ad brought into The Birmingham Eccentric's display advertising department this week.

The victim—apparently dying of financial starvation—is the Birmingham community house.

STILL \$135,357 short of its \$515,500 goal for 1956-61 operations, the House warns grimly, "it may not remain open without these funds."

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By AL SANDNER
Staff Writer

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ent financial plight, however, is said Mrs. Effie Schaffer, director of the community house, is a weakening in public support. It has caused the house to lose ground in the past few years.

The future looks even worse, as the house puts off necessary maintenance and repairs with no hope for raising the funds to finance them.

"There is little doubt that unless we get some additional funds we will be forced to curtail activities," McFarland added. He did not specify the extent of the cut in activities.

"DON'T let the community's new danger of closing in the near future,"

Geodesic Dome to House Arts Festival Activities

This revolutionary geodesic dome, will there are no supporting columns to interfere with the audience's view. A black nylon covering will allow total darkness during the performances.

By DENI SCANLON
Staff Writer

A giant geodesic dome, large enough to engulf the Community House or the post office, will mushroom over the main activities for Birmingham's third annual Arts Festival. A third of a sphere and measuring 110 feet in diameter,

Neat, Uncluttered Proclamation Urges City Clean-Up Week

Being a woman who likes things neat and tidy, Mayor Florence H. Willett proclaims next Monday through Friday as Birmingham Clean-Up Week.

The mayor exhortation is not an exaggeration. "It's pretty sad business that we cannot support a community fund like this," she went on.

"Had it be a little strong," said Harold S. McFarland, president of the community house's board of directors.

The community house's president announced the necessity for the project north of Willett and semi-circling the Willett-Woodward corner building. The commission authorized City Manager L. R. Gare to proceed with negotiations to acquire the property involved, which includes a lot adjoining Jacobson's home decorations shop, now operated by National garages and owned by Jacobson's.

Leaders Planning New Bank Here

Application was made June 1 to the state of Michigan to establish and operate a new bank to serve the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

Five prominent community leaders signed the application: C. Allen Harlan, president of Harlan Electric Co.; Merritt Hill, Ford Motor Co. vice president and general manager of its tractor division; W. Calvin Patterson, vice president of the Michigan Bell Telephone Co.; Charles D. White, vice president and cashier of City Bank, Detroit; and Donald H. Parsons, Birmingham attorney.

HARLAN SAID the new bank when the application is approved by the banking department of Michigan and incorporation papers have been filed, will be located in the lower level of the Harlan Building, 250 Martin, Birmingham, north of the city park. The group has set a target date for opening in September.

Harlan said the new bank plans to start with \$500,000 of paid-in capital, half of which will be surplus, the other half in 25,000 shares of \$10 par-value stock.

Due to the tremendous growth and potential expansion of the Birmingham-Bloomfield area, a new bank locally-owned and operated would provide additional service for that area.

INSIDE THE ECCENTRIC

- Amusements 6-D
- Bits of Birmingham 4-A
- Business Briefs 6-B
- County News 6-B
- Church 6-B
- Dominion Earth 4-D
- Editorials 6-B
- Nature Now 5-B
- Obituary 6-B
- Real Estate 4-D
- Round the Towns 8-E
- Sports 6-B
- Theaters 8-E
- Woman's News 6-B
- Want Ads 6, 7-A
- Yours 1-D

Birmingham Passes Budget Lowering Taxes by One Mill

A one-mill tax reduction was incorporated in the 1956-61 budget passed after a public hearing Tuesday by the city commission. A \$35,000 surplus carryover and increased state tax returns, due to new census totals, account for most of the tax reduction.

The budget, approved by the city commission, provides for a reduction of \$31,422,208 in current expenditures. The new rate is 18.4 mills.

Mayor Florence H. Willett last week praised the city's employees and department heads for their efficiency which helped to reduce the tax levy.

Roche, Warner Get Higher Positions

General Motors president John F. Gordon announced recently the appointment of two local men to high executive positions within the corporation. The appointments of James M. Roche, 425 Dunston, Bloomfield Hills, vice president of the division's general manager of Cadillac Car division, and Harold Warner, 5950 N. Snowshoe, Bloomfield Township, as general manager of Cadillac Car division, Detroit.

Roche, a veteran of 33 years with Cadillac Motor Car division, has produced and sold over half a million vehicles in the three and one-half years he has served as its general manager, and in the first four months of this year sold more cars than in any similar period in its 65-year history.

New Park Lot Is Underway After City OK

A \$550,000 city project to provide municipal parking for over 200 cars in downtown Birmingham's northwest portion got underway Tuesday.

The city commission unanimously declared the necessity for the project north of Willett and semi-circling the Willett-Woodward corner building. The commission authorized City Manager L. R. Gare to proceed with negotiations to acquire the property involved, which includes a lot adjoining Jacobson's home decorations shop, now operated by National garages and owned by Jacobson's.

This and That
by George R. Averill

GRA Starts 3rd Score of Years In A New Building

When you have gone through 40 years on the same job, from the purchase of a two-man four-page weekly newspaper in a small suburban village that since has become a thriving suburban city of 26,000 residents—and during those two-score years you have survived a serious depression plus several small "recessions"; when your organization has grown to a hundred employees and it last year you have seen your dream come true in the form of a brand new beautiful building... well, maybe you'll feel good as I do at this moment of writing this my fifteen hundredth "This & That" column.

Rate Hike Won't Pay Teachers

The Birmingham school district's financial picture brightened during the past week, from one of near-impossibility to one of austerity, according to Mrs. Kathryn Loomis, president of the board of education.

Financial pressure eased when state-equalized valuation for Oakland county increased by six percent, from \$195,678,000 to \$207,156,374.

THINGS LOOKED better, also, when the county allocation board granted Birmingham \$15-million property tax.

These increases, said Mrs. Loomis, will provide funds for some of the necessities already planned for the coming fiscal-school year. The 1956-61 budget, however, was based on a nine-mill property tax.

Here Are Important June 13 School Election Facts

We have compiled some of the information that we think is pertinent to the 1.9 millage increase proposal on the June 13 school election ballot.

The following comparative statistics have been secured from the office of Supt. Dwight B. Ireland:

How long will this voted millage be collected?

It will be for five years, or through 1964.

What is this new money going to be used for?

Increases in salaries:

Teachers	\$271,725.00
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Custodians	49,600
Clerical	16,608.50
Central board staff	5,000.00
Increment	3,825.00
TOTAL	\$364,611.00

Why do we have to spend it?

If we don't, then our teachers' salary schedules—already at (See FACTS, Page 5-A)

Episcopalians to Build Retirement Home Here

An Episcopal home for the retired is now being planned in Bloomfield township, it was announced this week.

The retirement home, to be built on Squish road near Waffles, was the idea of the St. Anne's guild of St. James church, Birmingham, incorporated as Episcopalian Episcopal diocese of Michigan, Bishop Crowley said.

The retirement home will be non-sectarian, and open to men and women, 65 years of age or older, in good health, and capable of meeting moderate monthly charges.

"The cost of the group of construction buildings, which will house 48 residents, with room for expansion, is estimated at \$675,000," SMITH, Hinchman, and Grylls associates, Inc. are the architect. It is expected that building operations will be started within a few weeks, according to Harold G. Dempster of Dearborn. St. Anne's board president.

"It will depend on the response and generosity of those asked to help in turning a hope into a reality," Dempster said.

Ticket Bargain For Festival

Saturday, June 11

- Ballet Children's Theatre \$25
- Cass Tech Ensemble \$50

Sunday, June 12

- Afternoon with Robert Thom \$50

Monday, June 13

- Children's Theatre \$25
- Birmingham Musicale \$50
- An Evening of Chaplin \$50

Tuesday, June 14

- Ethnic Night and Art Films \$50

Wednesday, June 15

- Chrysler Pipe Band \$50
- Farmington Players \$50

Friday, June 17

- Jazz Festival \$1.00

Saturday, June 18

- Metropolitan Indian Dancers \$25
- Village Players "Pot Luck" \$25
- Dancing in Dome \$50

Total: \$475
Season Ticket: \$4.75
Adult: \$3.00. Saving \$1.75
Children: \$2.00. Saving \$2.75
Tickets for dome activities will be on sale at Grinnell Brothers and the Chamber of Commerce. Package price: \$1 for adults and \$2 for children. Tickets can also be purchased individually at the dome the night of the performance.

YEP, I EMBARKED on this job with plenty of time to learn more about it and its demands... but, somehow, I possessed sufficient idealism of youth to understand that "my new town and its people would be charitable enough to overlook mistakes of the head, providing they were not mistakes of the heart."

And so the first seven years of my newspaper life wended their ways... two sons and a daughter came to our home... my health was good... I instinctively liked people and, thank goodness, everyone liked me to increase my affection for this Birmingham area.

And then another person came into my business life... came direct from Ann Arbor's U of M... I met Neal Averill. At first he took over some reportorial duties and, though without previous experience, did all right for himself and The Eccentric.

Not many months later he requested the opportunity of handing over the newspaper to me. It was in this field that the science and art of merchandising that Paul found an outlet that has since made him a considerable author and craftsman of the entire subject.

TO HIM, ALSO, must go the major credit for the development and success of our commercial printing business. Operated for many years as a subsidiary department of The Birmingham Eccentric, six years ago we incorporated it as Averill Press, with Paul as president.

Another important fact of our (See THIS & THAT, Page 8-A)

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For it was back in February of 1920 that I purchased The Eccentric. I had left a reporter's job on the old Detroit Journal (since purchased by The Detroit News), and, without any previous experience in newspaper management, printing, writing or selling ad-vertising, I embarked on the sea of printer's ink" with no fears of the future years that lay before me.

For I was enthusiastic about owning and publishing a newspaper, and I was eager to participate in the problems of a community, and to help in whatever manner I could to make it a good place in which to live, in which to do business.

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These increases, said Mrs. Loomis, will provide funds for some of the necessities already planned for the coming fiscal-school year. The 1956-61 budget, however, was based on a nine-mill property tax.

But the additional \$292,152 will not cover the proposed salary increases for teachers and other school employees, Mrs. Loomis said; they will cost the district \$365,000.

This is why the schools are asking voters to approve a 1.9 millage increase in operating taxes at a June 13 election. Registration deadline for the election is tomorrow at 5 p.m.

Since the county increases will cover staffing requirements—the 11th grade at Groves high school (which includes the 10th grade only this year), other additional teachers needed to replace elementary class overloads," she pointed out.

"It may even be possible to reconsider some of the instructional improvements—such as better in-service training and library needs—after the millage defeat," she speculated hopefully.

BIRMINGHAM probably can't look to the state for more funds, education president went on.

"Legislators have left the state formula the same as last year," she (See RATE, Page 5-A)

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Warner, who has been Cadillac's vice president since 1955, will succeed Roche, and has also been appointed a member of the corporation's administrative committee.

In 1927, Roche joined the Cadillac sales and service branch in Chicago as a statistician. Within a year he was assistant to the branch manager.

He moved to New York in 1931 as assistant regional business manager of the eastern region for Cadillac. In 1933 he was transferred to Detroit in a similar post. Two years later he was named general manager of Cadillac's National Business Management department.

He continued in this position until 1943 when he was appointed personnel director of Cadillac. Later he assumed added duties as director of public relations for the division.

In July, 1950, ROCHE was named general sales manager, and during the first year of his sales leadership, Cadillac for the first time sold and sold more than 100,000 cars. In 1955 Cadillac broke all sales records, producing and selling more than 153,000 vehicles.

Warner has risen to the division's top executive post from his job as an hourly-paid worker on an assembly line.

With the exception of one year on a special assignment, his entire automotive career has been with Cadillac, which he joined in 1927 as a technical high school student. A year later he entered General Motors Institute, Flint, as a Cadillac cooperative student.

In August, 1947, Warner was named assistant superintendent of methods and equipment, a position he held until August, 1949, when he undertook a one-year special assignment with General Motors Overseas Operations division as assistant manager of forward planning of an expansion and modernization program.

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Highway Knights Extinguish Fire

Last Tuesday afternoon, two women, Mrs. Betty J. Smith and Mrs. Fred Williams, both of Riverdale, Michigan, were driving on Telegraph near Maple when their car caught fire.

A moving van driver, Art Hug and his assistant Ray Dombroski, driving for Hammel Moving & Storage, agents of Atlas Van Lines, Detroit, pulled their big rig off to the side and using fire extinguishers put out the fire for the women.

THEN, WITHOUT another word they jumped back into the van and drove away, another good deed done by a knight astride a moving van.

"WITH THE completed St. Anne's Mead serving as a model,