

Suburbia Today  
... In this issue.  
Weekly Visit  
... with neighbors begins in this issue. Page 5-D.  
Ah, Spring  
... and time for Easter bonnets. Photo ode to season is on page 1-E.

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## This and That

by George R. Averill

Top elected officials in the Birmingham - Bloomfield area have been asked by The Eccentric to publish a column for several weeks.

by MARVIN B. CLINE  
President, Village of Beverly Hills

The Village of Beverly Hills celebrated its third birthday last month. It was incorporated as the three hundredth village in the State of Michigan in February 1958.

While it is only three years old, maturity is fast arriving at Beverly Hills. The residents are blessed with good neighbors at their borders and one of the finest cultural centers in the county five minutes away.

With the high standards of the Birmingham School system available to their children, excellent churches, and with an abundance of the finest people ready to assume their duties as their services are required.

Beverly Hills encompasses approximately 4 1/2 square miles with a population of almost 9,000 people, and a potential population of approximately 10,000 people. While the eastern portion of the village is now fairly well populated, its main area of expansion lies west of Southfield road.

EXPANSION is a date has been curtailed due mainly to poor circulation of the soil in areas where no sanitary sewers. With the new sewer system to be installed in these areas this year, there is certain to be rapid acceleration in home building and in the development of the western section of the village.

One of the most gratifying things to me in being associated with the development of Beverly Hills has been the spirit of its citizens and their willingness and desire to perform civic duties without financial compensation. This is a most important factor in making the Beverly Hills an outstanding community and good neighbor.

At the present time there are 32 residents serving Beverly Hills on committees, boards, and in administrative positions, who are receiving no financial compensation or are being reimbursed for only a portion of their costs in this work.

THIS SHOWS a community spirit unparalleled by my knowledge. I can honestly say that there are many, many more citizens who are not serving at the present time but who only need to be prodded and they would be more than willing to serve.

Beverly Hills has within its boundaries some active and well-organized civic associations. Some of these associations prove their ability to perform when the village was incorporated.

To acquire the attributes of an earned and deserved self-confidence is an invaluable asset. He who possesses the qualities of leadership in any field of human activity will climb the ladder of success if he is boosted by the consciousness of "I can do it!" This self-confidence is best applied when one is engaged in a work that can bring values to others as well as to him who is thus blessed.

84th YEAR—NO. 1



Snapper Trappers

In typical Tom Sawyer fashion three Holy Name Grade School Birmingham boys discovered this 8.5 inch, 5.5 pound common snapping turtle along the bank of the Rouge River at Woodward and Oakland on their way home from school last week. Hermann Fleischer, 13, (right) 1930 Hazel, spotted the refugee from the dinosaur age while

## Snapper Trappers

pals Tim Crabb, 12, (center) 1863 Hazel, and Pat Feighan, 12, 2647 Pembroke, hauled it out by its thorny tail. According to Cranbrook Institute, where the turtle is residing, it is about seven years old. Turtles have been known to live longer than all other backbone animals, including man.

## 4 City Governments Support Clinic's Request for Funds

Birmingham, Clawson, Troy and Lathrup city governments this week adopted resolutions supporting the Oakland County Child Guidance Clinic's request for additional funds.

Unless more money is forthcoming, the clinic will be forced to close its Birmingham branch April 7.

Birmingham commissioners passed a motion Monday night to urge that the city's representatives on the county board of supervisors "do their utmost to support the request and to act on it as expeditiously and as quickly as possible."

## Ford to Honor Page For Community Work

Robert Page, Birmingham city commissioner and member of the planning board, will receive a community service award Tuesday at a Ford Motor Co. banquet in Detroit.

Page is unit supervisor of the inventory, planning and control department in the Automotive Assembly Division. He has been with the firm since April, 1947.

THE 40-YEAR-OLD resident, who resides at 2408 Manchester, was instrumental in 1961 in organizing a civic association representing approximately 1,050 residents of two subdivisions in Birmingham.

He was appointed to the planning board in 1955 and to the city commission last year.

Prior to his affiliation with Ford, Page was a major in the U. S. Air Force. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel before he resigned.

## Bigger Sewer Plant Plans Meet Favorable Reaction

### Convert It to an Art Center?

### Takes Faith, Says Club Officer

By KEN WEAVER  
News Editor

"When you walk into the building, it takes a lot of faith, believe me, to take that this could be possible."

That's what Bloomfield Art Association President Robert Bender told Birmingham city commissioners Monday night. He was speaking of the BAA's plan to convert the deactivated sewage disposal plant into an art center.

When you stop to think of it, it is unusual to consider changing a treatment plant to a structure of cultural activities.

But Bender explained the BAA's hopes, complete with drawings, and evoked words of praise from commissioners.

UPSHOT of all was the commission's decision to refer the proposal to the plan and recreation boards for study this week and for all three groups to meet jointly Wednesday.

Said Commissioner Charles Renfrew:

"This is an exciting, stimulating idea. We have long sought a building like this to carry through to completion."

Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham said BAA "has done a tremendous job in lifting this idea, giving it some unity."

He called the Birmingham Arts Festival, sponsored by BAA, "one of the city's finest, one of its greatest resources."

PRELIMINARY estimate of cost to convert, said Bender, is \$50,000. This \$50,000 would be needed immediately for a heating system.

"BAA is ready to undertake this transformation," Bender declared. BAA has \$15,000 ready to invest now, he said, and hopes to have the rest would come with future planning.

"I say we have enough information and a great deal more on the board of supervisors has on the whole."

Ingraham abstained, and all the other commissioners voted for the motion.

E. E. Logue, 2220 Buckingham, spoke on behalf of PTA (Parents Teachers Association) representatives.

the City provided a sewer connection. Yes, that's right, a sewerage disposal plant with no sewer.

"Such things don't go with sewerage disposal plants," said Bender.

By DENI SCANLON  
Staff Writer

"It stands to reason that we cannot live in the past. The whole structure of the country must be updated. The United States is a place with the pace of history; can we adjust to it?"

Those observations, spoken by a man who writes equally as terse, came from James Reston, diplomatic and foreign affairs specialist for The New York Times.

ADDRESSING a capacity audience at Birmingham Town Hall he indicated, "The French empire is in the midst of a population increase and the steady political climate the biggest problem in the world today."

"Do you realize that the population of China is increasing at the rate of 16 million each year? The population of the United States grew by 25 million during Mr. Eisenhower's administration," Reston pointed out.

IN THE POLITICAL realm, the Washington bureau chief said, "We have seen some 800 million people achieve independence for the first time in this century. In places like the Congo and Laos," he continued, "they are not ready. The people need more education and a knowledge of the way government operates. They are still involved in tribalism and factionalism."

Reston declared that the consequences of two wars are still being drawn out — old war cries still driving reactions.

Political revolt is obvious in the reduction of British possessions, he said. "The French empire is in its final agony with the Algerian situation; it is the same with Belgium, the Congo and Portugal in Africa."

TURNING to the domestic scene, Reston brought out a number of points.

"It's of tremendous value to the class members."

"I feel that it gives them a feeling of serving some cause or purpose other than themselves."

"It helps them to recognize the need to better serve their community."

If Mrs. Joan Marks sounds enthusiastic, it's because she believes in the value of the call for the March 6 voter registration deadline for the April 3 city elections.

The figures represent an increase in both communities over 1960 registrations, when Birmingham carried 13,030 and Bloomfield Hills 1,380.

City clerks of both communities account for most of the increase. In Birmingham, the 1960 was a presidential election year which usually brings out more voters.

City Manager L. R. Gare explained that the sewer to the treatment plant originally tied into an old interceptor and not the present one.

Renfrew wondered about the possibility of an advisory vote at a future election, but consensus was that this would not be necessary now.

BAA MUST vacate its quarters at 361 N. Woodward by April 1 because the property is being sold to the City for the northwest quadrant parking lot.

"We were about to approve purchase of property in Bloomfield Hills," said Bender, "when one of our members suggested the disposal plant."

"We examined it quite carefully and came to the conclusion that something could be done with it."

The treatment plant has two outside digester tanks at the front, two long settling tanks on each side, an open aeration tank at the rear and an open grit chamber in one corner.

INTERIOR CONSISTS of an office, laboratory, loading room, locker room and restrooms in the front and a tank room in the rear with open tanks 11 to 13 feet deep and 7 1/2 feet long.

BAA proposes that the present office area be maintained and that the laboratory be converted to a kitchen, meeting room or combination room.

"We would develop the loading area as a lounge area, extending into the tank room," said Bender.

THE ENTIRE south side of the tank area, by 35 feet, would be used as open gallery space. The north side would be enclosed with a wall and be used as classroom space.

By using folding doors, this could be divided into three or four small instructional rooms or one large classroom for concerts, lectures and the like.

"This would be known as the Birmingham Art Center," said Bender.

He noted that no structural changes would be involved; therefore, the building could still be used for some other purpose at a future date.

BAA WOULD desire this help from the city. Bender explained, "Seal off, fill or cover the tanks at the rear (for safety purposes)."

Extend the present parking area to provide a lighted basketball lot consistent with present municipal code.

Consider the possibility of reserving additional space around the building for possible future cultural projects compatible to the art center.

Revision Prevents City Losing Parking Property to Seller

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night approved a revised provision in the land contract for purchase of the Wakeback-Jacobson property for the northwest quadrant parking lot.

The revision came about following complaints that the proposed land contract would permit the property to revert to the seller in event of default by the city.

IT PROVIDES that if the city is in default for more than 30 days, the seller has the right to file in circuit court asking that a receiver be appointed to administer the property.

Thus, it could not be returned to the seller other than through resale through competitive bidding.

## HELP WITH CONTEST

## Service to Community Rendered by Students

See related story B-C

contest, except managers of Birmingham stores, families, employees, and their families, of Birmingham Federal Savings and Loan Association and the Birmingham Chamber.

ANYONE MAY enter the contest as many times as he wishes, and no purchase is necessary.

Three prizes will be awarded. First is a 12-day trip for two by air to the Caribbean. It includes transportation, first class hotel accommodations, meals and sightseeing.

The winner will visit Jamaica, Haiti and Puerto Rico, Jamaica, N.Y.

Second prize is a weekend trip for two by air to New York, and third prize is a weekend cruise for two to Cleveland, O., and Buffalo, N.Y.

Winners will be announced in the April 6 issue of The Eccentric.

## Service to Community

## Rendered by Students

Students of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce are rendering service to the community by participating in the contest.

The contest started last Thursday and ends at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 25.

THE PERSON having the closest estimate to the value of coins on display in a treasure chest in the window of Birmingham Federal Savings, 95 W. Maple, will win an expenses-paid trip for two to the Caribbean.

The coins also can be estimated from pictures of the chest on posters attached to ballot boxes in participating stores.

Entry forms and ballot boxes, distributed by students, are available at the participating stores. (See advertisement Page 1-B)

Sponsors of the contest are The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and the Birmingham Merchants' Travel Contest.

SAID MRS. Marks: "This is a very good for our students to take part in this program. Here is an opportunity to be in the store and the students together in a capacity other than social."

"This helps the students to begin now to learn the value of service to the community."

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An Important Message

Get Results

From A BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC CLASSIFIED

MI 4-1100

## Gaining Valuable Experience

Students of Mrs. Joan Marks' retailing class at Seaholm High School gathered last week to distribute entry coupons and ballot boxes to the 61 stores taking part in the Birmingham Merchants' Travel Contest. Mrs. Marks stands at the far left, front row.