

Every man and woman is of importance to others than himself or herself. Some more than others, of course. But if one daily remembers that he or she is capable of bringing a word or an act of kindness, help, or service to any other, perhaps he or she will become more conscious of his or her human values in a difficult and complex world. Keeping this in mind, he or she grows faster in quality of stature!

85th Year—No. 1

# The Birmingham Eccentric

38 PAGES AND SUPPLEMENT  
MARCH 8, 1962

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



## Here's History of Jet Airport Proposal

### This and That

by George R. Averill

#### 'Our First 1,800 Miles—Or Driving To Southwest's Wide-Open Spaces'

CARLSBAD: NEW MEXICO: For the next several weeks this column will contain descriptions and personal observations of an automobile trip from Birmingham to the nation's southwest. They will cover portions of the states of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Illinois.

approximately 1,800 miles; estimated total driving time was 40 hours, or an average speed of 45 miles per hour. This average, of course, was fairly low because of the winding, hilly roads in parts of southern Indiana, most of Kentucky, about two-thirds of Tennessee and some of Arkansas.



Hampson Dearborn

#### Hill Retires; Ford Tractor Reorganized

The resignation of Bloomfield Village resident Merritt D. Hill last week preceded by one day an announcement of reorganization of the Tractor and Implement Division of Ford Motor Co.

At this writing, I have travelled through the local men will head the new organizations resulting from the split of the Troy division. R. J. Hampton, 2655 Woodlee, Franklin, becomes vice president-general manager of the new Ford Tractor division.

L. Emery Dearborn, 5905 West Lake Road, Bloomfield Township, is the general operations manager of the new Tractor and Implement Operations (U.S.), and will officiate at the Troy facility.

Operations in Troy will not be interrupted in the foreseeable future, according to a company spokesman. No shift in manpower from the offices and engineering plant in Troy is contemplated, he said.

The new tractor division, under Mr. Hampton, will control product (See HILL, 2-A)

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### PTA Group Cites Barnum 'Fire Hazard'

#### Calls Original School Portion 'Sub-Standard'

The original, 50-year-old portion of Barnum Junior High School is a "potential fire hazard" in the opinion of a PTA committee formed to study junior high facilities within the Birmingham city limits.

The Barnum Rehabilitation Committee, in a report submitted to the Birmingham Board of Education, also considered the original part of the school "sub-standard."

ABOUT \$250,000 is currently being considered for disbursement to district schools, some of which are less-lesser than those at Barnum, the PTA report stated, and a "superficial facelift" would be both unwise and costly.

The report contained a list of recommendations asking that the board of education restore its long-term plans for Barnum.

Suggested was an overall master plan for the entire school system, including the existing facilities, if the building is to remain in use. Master plan would be a comprehensive (See GROUP, 4-A)

### Rates Hiked At Springdale Golf Course

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night approved rate increases at the Springdale Golf Course.

Season memberships will be increased to \$50 per person and \$25 for family memberships. Daily rates were \$35 for single and \$65 for families.

Commissioners William H. Burgum, Eric S. Page and Ralph A. Main opposed the increases.

Burgum said he "can't see any justification of this," contending that the course shows a profit.

COMMISSIONER William E. Roberts said the new rate is still "a bargain" in comparison to other municipal courses in the area.

"It should be," said Burgum. "This is the kind of town where it should be a bargain."

He cited complaints from residents last year after increased rates were placed into effect.

### Something to dream about?



### C of C Urges Top Priority For Parking, Traffic Flow

Continued improvement of parking facilities and traffic flow were given top priority recommendation by nearly 200 Birmingham businessmen and professional people who attended the "Keep Birmingham Ahead" Conference of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

"TOO MANY COMMUNITIES, and some of them not far from Birmingham, have not taken action in time to promote and protect their best interests. We do not want this to happen here. By all of us getting together and working together we can maintain and build the type of a community we all want. We can't do it piecemeal and in an emergency fashion. We must get together now and work

for immediate and long-range objectives." It was announced that an intensive effort to obtain new members and increased support from present members would be started immediately. Committees began work this week to call on all present members and potential new members to enlist their support.

### Reorganized Eccentric Prepared for April 5

Publisher Paul N. Averill today announced details of a reorganization of the contents of The Birmingham Eccentric.

The completely revised paper, incorporating new special features with The Eccentric's regular, popular news coverage, will first appear with the April 5 issue.

Edged by Robin Bahr, the "Arts of Living" Page will consist of a personal column on local cultural activities by Mrs. Bahr, a bridge column, a family-life column, reviews of local dramatic and musical events, book reviews and other news, features and photos of top local cultural activities.

"MANY INDIVIDUALS pointed out that each of the points in the Chamber's proposed program contribute to the entire economic and civic climate of the community and that any work on any of the points helps everyone."

"The most effective weapon for preventing community decay is the Chamber of Commerce," Henry F. Johnson, chamber president declared. He said, "We want your ideas and your suggestions and we want your help to put them into effect."

"These surveys," he stated, "demonstrate that our readers prefer a more orderly and logical placement of the news contents of our paper."

"IS IT a question of the principle of increase or the principle of the amount of increase?" asked Mayor Florence H. Willett.

"We want our readers to feel that when they pick up a copy of The Birmingham Eccentric they will know right where to turn to find their favorite reading."

"For instance, they have indicated a desire to find all of our society news in one section. Therefore, we're placing it in Section C rather than spreading it through the two sections as it now is custom."

"I feel there is no need for an increase so far as family membership is concerned," declared Burgum.

"We want our readers to feel that when they pick up a copy of The Birmingham Eccentric they will know right where to turn to find their favorite reading."

"Our revision of the paper is planned for their convenience, and we hope we are successful in meeting their wishes."

### Accident Fatal For Hills Man

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—Robert B. Thompson, 886 Panorama, died in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, early Wednesday morning of injuries suffered in an accident several hours before.

Thompson, 32, was a passenger in an auto driven by Wayne E. Tatu, 219 of Hickory Lane, Clarkston.

Police said Tatu's car apparently was out of control while traveling at a high rate of speed on Opdyke Road near Hickory Grove and struck a tree.

"THERE IS so much to be done we need the participation and support of every civic-minded person in our area," he said.

The so-called Township Page, i.e., with no longer exist, instead the Sports Page will appear as the cover of Section E.

Also in that section will be found business news, the ever-popular real estate display advertisements and the classified ads.

Amendment that the Chamber of Commerce will be asked to publish all that it has done with its limited manpower and money was expressed repeatedly. Many urged that the Chamber should conduct an intensive membership campaign to entice the membership of every business man and professional person in the area. Some suggested that the Chamber should work to identify Chamber members.

William E. Roberts, member of the board of directors, said, "We have a real job ahead of us if we want to maintain Birmingham's leadership as the type of community that every citizen wants to live in."

Section C will be devoted entirely and exclusively to society news from our entire area. It will have an all-new feminine appearing format.

"We want our readers to feel that when they pick up a copy of The Birmingham Eccentric they will know right where to turn to find their favorite reading."

Police said that Tatu's auto may have been involved in another accident minutes earlier at South Blvd. and Opdyke.

Tatu, 27, is in St. Joseph Hospital with internal injuries.

### Project Involves 2 1/2 Years Planning

Following is the first in a series of articles by Birmingham Eccentric City Editor Les Langlois following an extensive research into the proposed international airport in Oakland County.

By LES LANGLOIS  
City Editor

A major jet airport in Oakland County? Whether the Oakland County Board of Supervisors proposal is considered a dream or a nightmare by taxpayers, the proposal was not devised overnight.

Beneath the political, business, financial, emotional and implications revolving around the controversial airport and its previous secrecy lies seven months of detailed study and research by one of the nation's top airport consultant firms and about half years of planning by county officials.

Although not an immediate need, the airport is proposed to satisfy a projected future need which, if and when it arrives, would need the actual facility and not the time-consuming development of it.

At the present stage in the long drawn-out procedure for both state and federal approval, it is just a proposal—a long-range proposal expected to undergo four or five months of intensive and thorough study and examination by federal and state technicians and authorities before judgment is passed on its need and merit.

Here, with the FAA, is where the final decision as to specific requirements and design of the airport, as well as matching financing funds rests.

IN THE MEANTIME, The Birmingham Eccentric is researching the proposed airport and related questions in an attempt to accumulate the facts and present residents with an objective, overall picture of the proposal and its possible impact on the county.

A history of the proposal's development comes directly from the background in arriving at an approach to considering the total situation.

An airport problem, according to Delos Hamlin, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, dates back to the state and federal authorities listing the Detroit Metropolitan Area as being among the top critical areas in the country lacking airport planning.

EARLY IN 1958 a Supervisors Inter-County Committee consisting of representatives of Oakland, Wayne, Macomb, Monroe, and Washtenaw counties, which make up Southeastern Michigan, initiated a series of exploratory meetings with technical experts to study aviation problems and needs of the area.

Agreed at the outset that previous studies were obsolete and that a comprehensive area-wide study be provided, the six-county committee engaged Landrum and Brown of Cincinnati, O., aviation consultants, in March, 1959, to make the airport study.

"The firm was awarded a contract at a cost of \$30,000, shared equally by the six-county committee. The Michigan Department of Aeronautics and the Greater Detroit Board of Commerce after a field of possible research firms had been narrowed down to eight of the nation's top airport consultant firms.

About eight months later, in November, 1959, Landrum and Brown issued another inch thick report (See PLANNING, 4-A)

"I believe it's a good thing to show to the citizens that these things can happen."

IN A WRITTEN report to the commission City Editor William T. Killen recommended that the peripheral route—designed to move traffic around what would become an enlarged central business area—be designed for two-way traffic with a median strip to be provided "wherever practical."

He also recommended the minimum width for right-of-way be established at 82 feet wherever practical.

No estimate was made as to the cost of acquisition of property. This would come after determination of width, which would indicate how much property would be needed.

### Right Wave Length

Young Joseph David, 11, likes to work on radios and that's the reason for a fellow to study beginning electronics in a Birmingham Adult Education course. He's shown learning all about it at Seaholm High School with the help of instructor Constantine Paron of General Motors Tech Center. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald P. David of Bloomfield Township, Joseph is a student at St. Hugo Country Day School, Bloomfield Hills. He has made his own short wave receiver and has built testing equipment at Seaholm. Right now he's concentrating on tube, rather than transistor, radio.

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