

Every day brings its problems... some big ones... but mostly they are quite little ones. Indeed, some of them may not exist, in reality. They may be born of a fear of something... generally something that exists only as ghastly image in consciousness. When such a "fear-problem" confronts your thought—why not banish it right-off by recalling a happy memory? A happy habit, to develop!

# The Birmingham Eccentric

Thursday, May 17, 1962

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

3-A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



## This and That

by George R. Averill

### Do You Think Democracy Has A Guarantee of Permanence?

Whether one be an individual intent upon, for example, owning his own home, or an individual or group of individuals, intent upon building up a business, the right to earn a profit from one's own efforts is the free, competitive enterprise system. Any interference with your right to retain your profits is a definite barrier to the growth of your home, or the ownership of a business. The right to work and to retain the maximum of your profits is, actually and inevitably, the very essence of personal freedom—and the sum total of individual freedom constitutes the environment of national freedom. Any construction or loss of personal freedom in the economic phase of one's life and living is, of course, equated by loss of other freedoms.

**NOW LET ME GET** down to the fundamental problem currently besetting the average American who, in the midst of ever-increasing governmental taxation upon his earning power, finds himself, or his business organization, unable to operate with traditional American freedom. Let's say that you are part or whole owner of a small industry. That you and your few employees produce something that is finding a ready market. What you need, to expand and thus produce more jobs to make more products, is additional financing. You may suggest others to invest, or you may borrow from a bank, plus using some of your original meager profits—this is how you get needed money to enlarge your business.

(If you are a wage-earner, working for others, you strive to increase your income, hoping that most of it may be yours to buy food, clothing, shelter, etc., for your family. In this way, naturally, you are akin to the businessman.)

**SO (OUTSIDE** the areas of the government treasury) you obtain added funds, expand your business by buying needed equipment and building, increase your employee roster, and produce more of your goods to sell to the public. Thus, you and your business grow. If you have borrowed money from the bank, part of your profits go to pay this loan. If you have sold stock to others, then you compensate them with dividend payments. In the environment of maximum personal and/or business freedoms, you become part of an economic system, free from unnecessary government restraints, and you and your employees prosper. Your tax bill has been normally kept with needs of efficient and economically operated local, state and federal governments. (This hypothesis is based upon pre-New Deal, Fair Deal and New Frontier periods.)

**ALL OF A SUDDEN,** you discover your tax bills mounting. You discover that a new (yet, historically, old) breed of politicians has "taken over." They espouse and work for laws and increased taxes which contain many of the elements of Socialism, of the so-called Welfare State.

Because of a "universal instinct" that urges most men "to want the most with the least," this policy is eagerly accepted and supported by a majority of the citizens. From that awakened moment on, the very life and substance of freedom is threatened.

**DO YOU DOUBT THIS?** Two hundred years ago a noted historian was writing about the decline and fall of the once-great Athenian Republic (Greece); that Republic fell two thousand years before the historian began his writing. This is what Professor Alexander Fraser Tytler wrote: "A Democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves largess (generous giving; gifts) out of the public treasury. From that moment on the majority always votes for..."

## Social Workers Honor Ingraham

Birmingham City Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham was honored as the Oakland County Volunteer of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers Tuesday night. Ingraham was feted at the group's annual dinner meeting. The award was presented to the commissioner by Charles A. Mentzer, county chairman of NASW, for Ingraham's outstanding work in the social fields. This was the group's third presentation to an individual who has given outstanding service as a volunteer.

## Compromise Is Reached in Zoning Suit

By SAVILLA SLOAN  
Special Writer

**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP**—A compromise settlement in a law suit involving zoning of the southeast corner of Maple and Lahser was reached this week between owners of the property and township officials.

A consent decree setting forth terms of settlement was handed down Tuesday morning by Oakland County Circuit Court Judge John Boers.

The settlement allows development of the property for commercial and business purposes, with strict provisions as to the type of commercial and the physical layout of the buildings.

The terms were approved by Bloomfield township board members at their Monday night meeting, with an opposing vote cast by trustee Robert Reid.

**THE DECREE** requires that all buildings constructed on the property shall be placed a minimum of 210 feet from the center of the intersection of Maple and Lahser. It establishes 85 feet as the minimum building set-back from the center lines of both Maple and Lahser.

It also requires a green belt of at least 30-foot depth planted on both the eastern and southern boundaries of the property as protection to adjacent residential property. The green belt is limited to evergreen trees not less than 9 to 10 feet tall, at initial planting, in the location. A six-foot cyclone (See ZONING, 3-A)

## Seek New Bids On 3 City Lots

New bids may be submitted on May 23 for three lots Birmingham wishes to sell in the East Maple Gardens Subdivision. The lots are restricted to R-6 zoning regulations.

The lots were advertised for sale and two bids received on May 9. One bid was for \$29,250 and the other, \$30,000, both exceeding the minimum price of \$28,125 as set by the city commission.

**CITY MANAGER L. R. GARD** referred the matter to commissioners Monday night that the administration has advertised for bids with the requisite that the minimum price be at least five per cent more than the previous high bid.

He said the City will continue to advertise until no further bids are received.

By NITA HARD  
Special Writer

**FRANKLIN**—Once upon a time, many long years ago—in fact, in 1828—the postmaster general of the United States stuck a pin in a map at the four corners of Southfield, Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Farmington townships, and Franklin became a postmark.

It became an incorporated village much more recently, in 1954—to retain that postmark. AT LEAST, this is part of the reason why the three square miles between Inkster and Telegraph, Fourteen Mile to 12½ Mile took up the home-rule form of government.

The other reason, blissfully and mercifully obscured by passing time, were as varied as the people who voted on the matter. The framers of the charter states the one cohesive factor—"wishing to preserve our simple way of life and the identity of historic Franklin."

**SHOULDERING** the responsibility for slaving off the encroachments of the spreading metropolis of Detroit, from which most of us came, are duly elected six trustees; a village clerk; a treasurer and an assessor.

The titular head of the village council is elected and the president holds this honor for two years each term. His colleagues also serve two years apiece and are elected, three each year. The clerk, assessor and treasurer are elected for one-year terms every year at the general village election on the second Monday of March.

**THE VILLAGE** offices are open daily in the white frame building at Franklin and Wellington, Monday through Friday, from 8 a. m. until noon. Officially, you'll find the only two paid employees of the village, the clerk and the building department clerk, on hand after those hours. Both devote as much time as is needed to complete the village business but get no over the top pay. Councilmen are paid a dollar a meeting, or a total of \$25 a year. A regular monthly council meeting is held on the second Monday of the month, starting at 8 p. m. in the quarters of the Franklin Village adjacent to the village offices. At 9 p. m. the

agenda is interrupted for ex-glossions or problems from the public. A policy has been adopted to pay bills once a month and matters to be brought up at the council meeting should be submitted to the president a week before to be scheduled on the agenda.

**THE PRESIDENT**, with council approval, appoints a village marshal, to head a 15-man volunteer police department, who patrol village roads and enforce ordinances without compensation. Only uniforms, radio equipment, insurance and gas are furnished from village general funds. Deputized by the Oakland County sheriff's office, the men are armed and trained to protect their neighbors.

A nine-man planning commission meets every fourth Monday and six residents are appointed to serve on the zoning board of appeals with meetings on the second Wednesday of the month.

**OTHER appointees**, all serving without pay, are an audit committee of two plus the assessor; a violations officer and a street commissioner, with 11 area road representatives and a three-man road advisory committee. Elected by Southfield Township is a justice of the peace, who presides on the first Wednesday evening of the month, at 7:30 p. m. in the village offices.

In addition to these is an advisory committee for Sanitation and Health which has studied Franklin's sewer needs and will act as an education corps at cottage conferences when an issue is due for a decision by the electorate.

Under the five-year, 8-mill rate construction program, Franklin has hired road engineers on a fee basis who work with the street commissioner and advisory committee to supervise work on annual contracts.

**ALL IN ALL**, the structure is fairly simple. But the problems are becoming more complex. It's a neat trick to have so many skilled, well-trained and extraordinarily well-qualified people willing to voluntarily devote many hours of their time for the welfare of a community they have adopted. By pooling talents from many professions, a high standard of grass-roots government is possible, at no cost. It will probably be available for as long as residents are reasonable in their demands, considerate of their neighbors and content with a congenial status quo. This lumpy little town is an oasis.

By KAY SMITH  
Special Writer

Last November the voters of Birmingham said "Yes." "Yes," we want more schools built. Yes, we want additions built to existing schools where necessary and yes, we want the quality of education to continue to improve.

Who has the voters' affirmative response meant in terms of actual results? Here, in May, is a progress report.

**ADDITIONS ARE** underway at five existing schools: Barnum Junior High and Franklin, Pembroke, Harlan and Bloomfield Village elementary schools. Completion of the building program at these schools is expected by September.

Construction has started on two new schools, Meadowlake and Westchester. The latter was authorized by voters in 1957.

**PLANS FOR** the new junior high school at the Valley Woods site, at 14 Mile Road and Bellevue Trail, have reached the stage where architects' drawings are complete.

Daniel A. Nesbitt, deputy superintendent in charge of instruction,

will meet at 8:15 this morning with the architect and the citizens committee to review the plans. Work will be completed on schedule in 1963.

**OVERALL PROGRESS** is summed up by Norman Wolfe, assistant superintendent in charge of buildings and grounds. He says, "We are very pleased with the progress we have been making on the building program. Bidding activity has been good and up to this point bids have been very favorable."

Barring any further delays, we believe the majority of our program will be completed on time."

**THE CONSTRUCTION** program marks the end of a long period of growing up to the population expansion with regard to physical school facilities. The increase in the rate of children attending school is slowing down as the area becomes more heavily populated.

In 1953 and 1956, for instance, the increase was about 1,000 new pupils per year. In 1956 alone, four new schools were constructed.

In 1962, the increase is about 400 new students but an expanded educational program, providing a broader range of academic and non-academic subjects, requires much more space than in earlier years.

As the needs for housing pupils—the bricks and mortar needs—diminish, the whole school system will be able to concentrate more on the quality of education.

Meanwhile, work goes on in spite of strikes, weather and other problems.

**THE FIRST LOT** for the addition to Barnum Junior High School has been acquired. Arrangements for the second one are about to be completed.

At Pembroke, exterior masonry will be completed this week. The floor slab here cannot be poured until the current strike of reinforcing steel workers is settled.

Masonry-bearing steel will be set at Harlan next week and 30 per cent of the masonry has been completed. The strike will catch up with Harlan School about the middle of this week.

**BLOOMFIELD VILLAGE** School is only about 10 per cent completed. The steel strike is holding up the installation of a beam over the old coal bin, and until this is in place no further work can be done. (See MILLAGE, 3-A)

# Here's How School Millage Is Used

June 15th is the tentative date set for completion of the working drawings and the advertising of bids. If possession can be taken of the two properties on July 1, as projected, the Barnum addition should be under construction by July 15.

The service building at this location should be ready for occupancy by June 15.

**AT FRANKLIN SCHOOL**, all the structural steel is up and when school is out—the slab in the gym will be poured and the remainder of the work finished.

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## Council Passes Budget; Tax Rate Coasts Down

By IRMA N. DAVIS  
Township Editor

**LATHRUP**—Although final approval of the 1962-63 budget Monday included a one-half mill increase in taxes over original estimates, Lathrup taxes will be lower than last year's 11.2 mills.

The tax rate will be 9.8 mills, or \$9.80 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The decrease from last year's taxes is accounted for by debt retirement requirements, City Administrator Jerald Stone said.

**THE OVERALL BUDGET** of \$309,765 is for operating expenses, DPW, water department, debt retirement and sewer disposal charges. The tax rate will cover administration and debt retirement costs.

The one-half mill increase was levied to increase to \$14,500 the fund for the first interest payment on the voter-approved storm water system bond issue. Allowing for a Sept. 1 sale of the bonds and a near-maximum interest rate, the added millage should be adequate, councilmen believe.

**ADOPTION** of the budget involved transfer of about \$25,000 in the municipal building fund to the general contingency fund. The transfer followed objections of Councilman H. Earl Hanson to a system of credit proposed by the county to assist Lathrup in raising its share of paving Southfield under proposed county-wide road network program.

**HANSON'S COMMENTS** were summed up when the council agreed to try for another meeting with the county road commission. The council directed that the commission be advised that wording of a proposed contract "would seem to say that storm bond money would be used for paving."

The council will reaffirm its interest in the proposed county road program in arranging the meeting with the commission.

**Public Hearing Set for June 11**

The public hearing to determine the necessity of relief sewers in the Chester-Wallace area has been set for June 11.

It was reported erroneously last week that the Birmingham City Commission had set the date as June 12, which is a Tuesday. Commission meetings are held on Monday nights.

Total cost of the project is estimated at \$180,000. City cost is estimated at \$70,400. Relief sewers are proposed for an area bounded by Southfield, Merrill, Pierce and Lincoln.

Hanson referred to a credit of about \$24,500 on the proposed Southfield widening which the county would allow Lathrup for drainage of Southfield Road resulting from the storm sewer program.

**HE ALSO SAID** it would be better to forego the credit, and appropriate money out of the building fund for the paving of Southfield. He averred that he was not opposed to paving Southfield, provided it was financed by what he called proper methods.

"It's not a building fund, it's surplus, Hanson maintained. Transfer of this money to general contingency would allow wider scope for its use, the council then agreed."

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Low Bid Accepted For Curb Program

Birmingham city commissioners accepted Monday night a low bid of \$21,304 for replacement of faulty curbs throughout the city and for pavement alterations in the Chester-Maple alley.

The low bid was submitted by Alva L. Greer and Sons, Roseville. City Engineer William T. Killean reported that it is 9 1/2 per cent under the engineer's estimate for the project.



FRANKLIN SCHOOL Principal Marjorie Tate and head custodian James Bowden make their own progress check of construction work on the addition at the elementary school. The building program will be completed by fall, just in time to serve local

small fry who will no doubt be glad about the whole business—especially after a long, hard summer of play. The new quarters will include six more classrooms and provide enough additional space to bring the library up to full size.

## People ask us why we're moving to Birmingham



Why, indeed! It's quite simple. We like you folks in Birmingham; you're our kind of people. On Monday, you, your family and all the homemakers of this fine community are invited. We'll be in apple pie order with much to tease the palate and please the purse. We're proud of our beautiful new store—all sparkling inside with fresh exciting furniture and accessories from the corners of the world, air conditioning and one of the finest interior design studios in America (we didn't dream this one up, our satisfied clients have been telling us so for over 30 years).

Monday, May 21st, we'll be Birmingham residents and we're simply ecstatic! It may be hard to get further than our irresistible main entrance, but force yourself, the seeing of what we've gathered up for YOU shouldn't be delayed. Much of it has never been seen anywhere in the world before.

The welcome mat is out at Hunter and Maple.

Englander's  
Hunter and Maple  
NORTHLAND AND EASTLAND, TOO