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As a youth, perhaps you now and then were aware that somewhere within yourself there "protested" a dream... ideal that you wanted to express in your mature life. You clutched the edge of a cloud and were carried above earthy matters... your thoughts were clothed in the habiliments of serenity, of an indescribable kind of inner joy. Somehow, you believed, your life would be a soaring, heavenly pilgrimage. Is or was it?

This and That

by George R. Averill
Thrill of 'Sweet Sounds' Inspiring

Life can afford one a variety of inspirations that, if understood and appreciated, can lift him far above the day's problems and troubles... many of which are after all little matters that are lost when consciousness is enfolded in the environment of INSPIRATION. Take good music, for example. Whether it be instrumental or human voice, or both, good music can be nourishing food for one's inner self. I am writing this with the fresh memory of those 80 male voices that sang so wonderfully at Groves High School a few evenings ago.

They call themselves "The Griffin of Coimbra," students in the University of Coimbra in Portugal. Birmingham Lions Club sponsored this a cappella chorus group. Their various group singing was beyond ordinary description... for whom one is "infused" by great music, there wells within him emotional exultations that cannot be fully explained to others.

No doubt William Shakespeare knew about all this when, in his Merchant of Venice, he caused Lorenzo, in his wooing of Shylsha's daughter Jessica, to say "By great music, that hath no music in himself, nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds, is fit for treason, stratagems, and spoils... most important among one's blessings is the inner hunger... to follow the gleam of an inspirational yearning." Good music certainly is one of such gleams!

"THANKSGIVING DAY in the Christian world is an annual time when we are reminded of the many blessings that a watchful Deity bestows upon His people. Who has observed the beauty that emerges from a flower seed, or the oak that answers the planting of an acorn, or the richness of the agricultural harvests, or the wondrous birth, growth and development of a baby into a life of loving sacrifice... who can be aware of these blessings without deep, grateful thinking God?"

ACTUALLY, WHAT is lacking on the American scene, insofar as United States' posture, before the world, is something like that. The vast majority of our citizens are enjoying more than average financial prosperity. So, like most human beings, they incline to become complacent, which emerges into indifference and this, of course, causes people to pay less and less attention to fundamentals... people look more to government for care and personal security, which allows "do-gooders" and similar advocates of centralized government to "take over"... States Rights lose their preferred position in the public mind... extravagances in every phase of this government's apparatus. (See THIS & THAT, 7-A)



HARRY STREIBIG (foreground) and Jim Ratcliff of the meter department check over water meters in the basement workshop of Birmingham's Water Department. Every seven years each of the city's more than 7,000 meters are tested and worn out parts replaced at no charge to residents.

Supplying Water Is Job of Many

EDITOR'S NOTE—This is another in the series of articles "The Eccentric" is presenting on the various departments in the city of Birmingham. It deals with the work of the Water Department.

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

No one department in the city of Birmingham can exclusively claim the title "Water Department." The work of bringing water to the more than 25,000 residents of Birmingham is the job of several branches of the city government.

Water Supt. Robert Kenning acts as the coordinator of the team that keeps the water flowing smoothly. New construction needed by the department must be approved by the finance department, whereas the design and supervision of construction comes under the direction of the engineering office.

INSTALLATION OF individual service to customers and the maintenance of the trunk system is the job of the DPW. The control of the flow of water into the city and the maintenance of fire hydrants fall to the fire department.

The collection of the water bills is handled by the office of the city treasurer. Reading of meters, maintenance and leak detection are handled by the meter department. Besides reading some 7,754 meters each month for billing purposes, the meter department employs men to install, repair and maintain all meters, make periodic surveys of the water system, test all meters in the city once a year, and make leak surveys.

THE MAIN JOB of the department is meter reading which takes about 10 days each month to prepare the quarterly billings. The men, who are easily identifiable by their smart blue-gray uniforms, call on each account.

In addition, the department handles many service calls each month. These include special readings and the turning off and on of services. Another task that takes a good deal of the department's time is the checking and testing of meters. Birmingham has a program whereby from 500 to 800 meters are tested and rebuilt, when necessary, each year.

Every seven years each meter is brought into the municipal building. (See WATER, 7-A)

Hope to Rebuild Inn in Franklin Destroyed by Fire

Alex Popovich of Oak Park, co-owner of the Rosemond Hills Inn which was destroyed by fire last week, told The Eccentric Monday that he and the other owner, Benjamin Kramer of Royal Oak hope to rebuild the restaurant on the same site in Franklin.

Fire destroyed the inn early Thursday morning. Damage was estimated by the owners at about \$200,000-\$250,000. The inn was located at Inkster Road and North-western Highway.

The blaze, which firemen said broke out before 3:40 a.m., when the Franklin Fire Department was called, leveled the building. It was fought until about 10 a.m. by the Franklin department, assisted by firemen from Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Southfield.

Cause of the fire has not been determined.

Organizational Chart Considered For W. Bloomfield

WEST BLOOMFIELD—An organizational chart delineating the governmental responsibilities of all township employees is to be drawn up by West Bloomfield Supervisor John Richard at the request of the township board.

The request came at the suggestion of the township planning commission and was referred to the township board at its meeting last week.

Planning commission members have no specific means of determining what township employees are responsible for carrying out decisions of the planning commission, and that an organizational chart will clarify areas of responsibility for execution of their orders.

JOHN WARREN, a member of both the planning commission and the township board, told the board that, at present, the planning commission did not even have a township employee responsible for making out an agenda for its meetings. "A chart of duties might show that the township even needs another employee or part-time clerical help to assist the commission," he said.

Delay Decision One Week on Lot Rezoning

BIRMINGHAM city commissioners Monday night postponed until next week a decision on the proposed rezoning of City-owned land on Lakeside.

With six of seven affirmative votes required on matters where there are residential objections, the commissioners could not act Monday because only five of the seven affirmative votes were present.

Involved are one 40 and 10 feet of another in the Quanton Lake estates area bordering on the Rouge River on the east side of Lakeside north of Oak.

The City seeks to sell the land, which is part of a larger piece of property acquired by the City in order to use part of it for flood plain purposes.

The City seeks to rezone the property to R-1 single-family.

FLAMES WERE visible from the school hill in Franklin, Deputy Fire Commissioner Verne Converse of Franklin said.

The building is partially insured. The two men bought the restaurant about one and one half years ago. The fire destroyed the main part of the inn and the newer west wing. The main section, a two-story building, contains three dining rooms and a cocktail lounge.

FIREMEN PREVENTED the possible explosion of three 1,000-pound propane gas tanks near the rear wall of the structure, by playing a steady stream of water on them, according to Franklin Fire Commissioner William Albee.

The flames, which had developed the building by the time firemen arrived, were fought by about 40 firemen from the four departments. Six pieces of equipment were at the scene.

A resident, who lives near the restaurant and saw the flames, then reported the fire, Albee said.



Heads Chapter

New president of the Bloomfield chapter of the Michigan Education Association is Robert E. Mehoke, 3200 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Hills. He is a sixth grade teacher at Hickory Grove School. Mehoke was elected at a recent dinner meeting at Bloomfield Hills High School. A special election became necessary when president George E. Cavin resigned from the Hills school system to join the MEA as a field representative.



FLAMES ENGLUF Rosemond Hills Inn, Franklin, in a fire that was out of control when firemen were summoned to the scene Thursday morning. Four departments fought the fire which leveled the building. Mrs. William Albee, wife of the Franklin fire commissioner, was on the scene with her camera, catching a picture of the flames that shot 100 feet into the air from the roof.

Asks Acceleration Of Civil Defense

See earlier story, 7-B
By KEN WEAVER
Managing Editor

The Birmingham city administration has been asked to accelerate its civil defense program. City commissioners Monday night adopted a resolution calling for specific recommendations pertaining to water service.

They passed a motion by Robert Page, long an advocate of a strong local civil defense program. It read:

"That the administration accelerate its civil defense efforts, make appropriate recommendations to the commission within the next 30 days for a more adequate survival preparedness program, with first priority given to the matter of maintenance of water service under full-out conditions."

PAGE OFFERED the motion following a brief discussion of a report on local progress by John F. Saeffe, administrative assistant to City Manager L. R. Gray. Both are responsible for civil defense in the city.

Page asked the administration to "consider seriously the development of dual-purpose facilities." Emphasis, he said, should be placed on long-range planning.

"I BELIEVE that the commission and the administration have the responsibility mainly to provide the same type of services as we are providing now—water, police, fire protection, etc.

"We can't think in terms of feeding or medical services; these are things we don't do now." The supply and sanitation of water is one of the major problems to be considered, Page contended.

CALLING ATTENTION to the storage wells the city still maintains (it buys water from Detroit), Page said: "I would like to see the type of facility set up whereby these wells could operate immediately under fallout conditions. We should be able to turn off Detroit water and turn on our own. We should be able to operate these standby wells at a moment's notice."

An example of dual-purpose, Page said, would be to have the water tanks set up so the city could switch to them in event of a tornado or a nuclear attack. The cost, he felt, would not be prohibitive.

"WE SHOULD confine our interests to doing what we can do well for ourselves. I think the administration knows full well what ought to be done," said Page when asked to be more specific.

His motion for acceleration of the City's program and for a report in 30 days was supported by Commissioner Carl P. Ingraham and passed unanimously.

Romney Cuts Connections With AMC

See related story, 3-CC

George Romney continued clearing the decks for his new role as governor when he severed official connections with American Motors Corp. last week.

The governor-elect resigned as an officer and director of AMC and announced that he had turned over his stock holdings to a trust which will vote and manage them for him.

Romney said he also will cut ties with the Douglas Aircraft Corp., of which he is a director, and with any group of which he is an active or honorary member if he feels that the connection does not serve the State of Michigan.

PRESIDENT ROY Abernethy, Bloomfield Township, was named AMC chief executive officer, a title held by Romney at the time of his resignation last February when he was chairman of the board and president of the corporation.



A company official said that the naming of Edward L. Cushman, an AMC vice president, to the board was only coincidental to Romney's resignation. Cushman, the officials said, "had served on the board for a long time as a non-voting member."

Richard R. Cross remains as board chairman at AMC but gave up the post of chief executive officer which he had held since Romney took a leave of absence from the company in February.

THE BOARD wiped out the post of vice chairman, created for Romney when he resigned the presidency to enter the political arena. He had held the post on a leave of absence.

Romney owns 104,224 shares of stock in AMC and also a number of stock options. He has 90 days to exercise the latter. With his resignation as an officer, he relinquishes future options. His stock is worth about \$1,800,000.

HIS SALARY head of the company was \$150,000 per year, plus bonuses and stock options. He has not been on the payroll since Feb. 12.

In severing his 15-year association with AMC, Romney said the step was one of a number that he was taking in order to be free of obligation in his discharge of public affairs.

Romney was commended by the board in a special resolution, praising his leadership.

Other motorists respect and cooperate with you when they know your intentions. Directional signals speak a common language and can be used to communicate nearly any traffic maneuver that you wish to make. Remember to use your signals when making turns, changing lanes, passing, and pulling out of the road. Also remember the shortcomings of mechanical signaling devices—make sure the other fellow sees your signal!

Outdoor Lighting Workshop Set for Nov. 29 in B'ham

By NITA HARD
Special Writer

Are you among those who have the urge to purge the whole idea of Christmas after spending hours out in frigid temperatures, trying to decorate the exterior of your home festively?

Meet the jolly old elf's "ho-ho-ho" mock your futile efforts to unsnarl the extension cords that strand the very spirit of the season? Well, chin up, buddy—just count your light bulbs and head for the Birmingham Community House on Nov. 29. For two hours, from 8 to 10 p.m., temper-saving pointers on outdoor lighting and decorating will be detailed.

A DEMONSTRATION is being sponsored jointly by the Michigan Division of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association, the Westchester branch of the WNF&A and the Detroit Edison Co. for all the residents in and around Birmingham.

It's an idea that was planted last year in the pages of The Birmingham Eccentric by columnist Alice Wessels Burlingame. She suggested that a lighting technique demonstration by the "experts" be held several weeks before Christmas. As a judge for the outdoor holiday lighting contest held in Westchester last year, she reasoned that

it takes more "know-how" than wit to brighten the corner where you are.

Thus comes this joyous "know-how" with Mrs. J. C. Calhoun, Michigan Division horticultural workshop chairman serving as general chairman of the program.

MRS. ALBERT PIEFER, Westchester branch exhibits chairman, and Mrs. Vernon Fitch and Mrs. Melvin Goodell of the Westchester branch are the improvement committee have made arrangements based on the experience gleaned in their community's outdoor lighting contest.

Miss Jean A. Hardy, electric living advisor of the Detroit Edison Co., will speak on "Effective Outdoor Lighting" showing slides of holiday-decorated homes.

With Miss Hardy will be Herbert J. Miller, the company's commercial lighting sales representative, who has developed a series of slides showing the changes in lighting trends over the years. Miller has made a hobby of holiday-lighting his home and can effectively demonstrate the mechanics involved in producing the results he has achieved each year. He will be available during the social hour following the demonstration to make suggestions. Guests may bring pictures of their homes to get specific pointers.

AMONG OTHER things, Detroit Edison is also providing a display of lighting equipment showing color caps and their proper use. Slides in lighting, of course, will be shown.

Slides taken of last year's entries to the "Doorways to Christmas Contest" will be shown by Mrs. Emil Shanley, photographs for the Michigan Division of the WNF&A and popular garden speaker.

Full-sized reproductions of outstanding doorways from last year's contest will be a highlight. The residents who designed them will explain how the effects were created and the Detroit Edison representative will make suggestions as to how the effect might have been improved.

THE COMMITTEE has invited Mrs. Henry F. Sokol, Dominic Januzzi, William Hanson, Albert Piefer, Melvin Goodell, Frank Matousek and Fay Knapp to give a brief explanation and demonstration of the methods they used as participants last year.

With all this high-powered assistance on a neighbor-to-neighbor basis, Birmingham and area residents ought to be able to put on quite a dazzling display for old Dancer and Frasier and have the proper spirit left for a merriest Christmas.

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NORTHLAND EASTLAND BIRMINGHAM

UNTANGLING STRINGS of outdoor Christmas lights is the first step in decorating the exterior of a home for the Yule season. From left, Westchester branch WNF&A members Mrs. Vernon Fitch and Mrs. Melvin Goodell get some helpful advice from Jean Hardy and Herbert Miller of the Birmingham office of the Detroit Edison Co. Miss Hardy and Miller will be on hand Nov. 29 at the Birmingham Community House where the Westchester group and the Michigan Division of the WNF&A will sponsor a demonstration in Christmas lighting "know-how" for area residents.