

Mayor Willett Won't Seek Re-election

B'ham to Get New Fire Chief

By LARRY EVEO
City Editor

Birmingham will have a new fire chief as of Feb. 10.

Fire Marshal George S. Scott was appointed by the city commission Monday night to replace Park H. Smith who is retiring.

Although Chief Smith will stay on the job until February, the city administration recommended that Scott be appointed immediately so that he may work with Smith.

Both men are natives of Birmingham and are veterans of many years of service in the fire department. Both joined the department as firemen and rose through the ranks.

terfield and still lives at 271 Chesterfield. He joined the Birmingham Fire Department on Feb. 10, 1936, after working for 14 years in the automotive test and repair field. He was named master mechanic by the fire department in 1937 with the rank of captain.

In 1951 he was appointed to the post of assistant chief.

When Chief Vernon W. Griffith retired in 1955, Smith was named his successor.

Smith is married to the former Mildred Kemp and has two children, Mrs. Charles Shalberg and Wallace F., both of Birmingham. He also has four grandchildren.

SCOTT, 45, joined the fire department on June 18, 1936. He left the department in 1940 to join the Navy. He rose to rank of lieutenant in the Naval Air Force.

He returned to Birmingham in 1945 and was appointed the city's first fire marshal in July, 1946.

In 1950 he took a leave from the department and worked for the fire service. He returned to Birmingham in September, 1952.

Scott, of 787 Hazelwood, is married and has three children.

Masons Buy Site in Hills For Temple

The Birmingham Masonic Temple Association has purchased 2.6 acres of property on the southwest corner of Woodward and Chesterfield in Bloomfield Hills as the site of its new temple.

The land was obtained from the Village Woman's Club. No purchase price was disclosed.

W. Lyle Boney, president of the Temple Association, said he hoped plans for the temple would be ready by Feb. 15. No date has been set for ground-breaking.

BONES SAID the Austin Co., a national engineering firm, is revising plans it had prepared if the temple were to be built on the present site at Woodward and Forest in Birmingham.

At the present time the Masonic Lodge, Royal Arch and Eastern Star chapters are housed in the old Peabody home. It has been used as a temple since March, 1929.

The Masons had first planned to build a \$250,000 temple on the old site but later decided to seek another spot.

The growth of membership to over 600 has created a need for more facilities, Boney said. The lodge serves an area bounded by Long Lake, Crooks, 13 Mile and Inkster roads.

Township OK's Water Contract

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Signing of a final contract to bring Detroit water to the township became a mere formality with approval by the township board of the contract agreement Monday night.

The board authorized Supervisor Arno Huet to proceed with the signing.

The contract stipulates that Detroit will bring water as far as Adams and Square Lake roads and such other points in the future as may be mutually agreed upon.

Maintenance of master meters, to be installed at township expense, is a township responsibility. If meters fail temporarily the township agrees to temporarily the Detroit Water Board's estimate of the amount of water delivered by Detroit during the period.

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Fire Chief Park H. Smith (left) and his successor, George S. Scott.



Art Collector Vernon W. Griffith speaking at the Town Hall.

Commissioners Decide 'No Need for Shelter Plans'

Birmingham city commissioners decided Monday night that there was no need to have the administration prepare plans for four city fallout shelters.

The administrators had asked for guidance as to whether they should proceed toward a goal of providing fallout shelters for the city's emergency forces.

City Manager L. R. Gare estimated that each of the four shelters would cost in the neighborhood of \$6,200.

Saeffke said these developments included: All policemen and personnel of the Department of Public Works and Parks and Forestry have been instructed in radiological monitoring procedures.

The DPW yard and police station have been established as daily monitoring stations, in addition to the stations at each of the fire houses.

Final studies to complete strengthening of emergency water production and distribution are under way.

The establishment of the emergency engineering services organization has become a reality.

The establishment of an emergency operations center in the basement of the municipal building is progressing rapidly. Complete sets of engineering data are stored in the operations center. Operating functions, with priorities, are being established. Individual responsibilities are being assigned.

Identification and marking of public fallout shelter areas in existing buildings has been completed with the stocking of them to some soon.

The public schools and some of the parochial schools in the Birmingham School District have been visited; drill procedures and shelter areas were viewed and emergency plans were discussed with the principals.

The first courses of public instruction in medical emergency training and emergency welfare have been completed and additional courses are to begin soon.

Saeffke noted that the government has two broad responsibilities in connection with disaster preparedness: (1) to prepare itself (2) to assist individuals to prepare.

COMMISSIONER Robert W. Page said he felt the shelter would be a good idea because it would "permit city departments to operate" in the event of a disaster.

Commissioner Carl P. Ingraham said he saw no reason to look into the possibility of building the shelters.

"We have had many tornadoes without building shelters," Ingraham said.

"I can see no great need for protection against nuclear attack," he said.

Mayor Pro Tem William H. Bursum, who was sitting in for Mayor Florence H. Willett, said that the administration report was well presented but he could see "no disposition to proceed with plans to construct the shelters."

In A WRITTEN report to the commission, Gare and Administration Aide John F. Saeffke listed recent developments in Birmingham's civil defense program.

Delay Appeal On Zoning For Motel

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—An appeal to Bloomfield Township Board for rezoning of Woodward Avenue frontage between Big Beaver and Manor roads to allow erection of a restaurant and motel has been delayed by owners of the property.

Before the township board meeting Monday night, John Gilray, attorney for the property owner, requested that the appeal be removed from the board's agenda.

Gilray told The Birmingham Eccentric later that the delay was occasioned in order to plan changes in the development of the property to meet objections made by the township planning commission.

THE PLANNING commission voted unanimously in December to recommend to the township board that the zoning request be denied. The property is presently zoned for office and would have to be changed to a general business classification to allow its development with a motel and restaurant.

In denying rezoning, the planning commission charged that the plan was "greedy." Members stated that too much was being planned for too little property.

"We are definitely going forward with the project," Gilray said. "We will ask for it to be placed on the agenda as soon as a bill of plans is accomplished."

He declined to state what changes are being contemplated.

B'ham Favors Paving Coolidge

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night authorized the administration to enter into an agreement with Troy and Royal Oak on the paving of Coolidge Road.

City Manager L. R. Gare said that Birmingham's share of the project is estimated at approximately \$2,300. Gare said that he understands both Troy and Royal Oak to include the project in their 1963 paving programs.

Behind Our Progress

THE POPULATION served by Baldwin includes not only Birmingham but 28,650 residents (1960 census) but an additional number from the surrounding area, bringing the total closer to 61,481 persons.

Thus, residents of Beverly Hills, C. Bingham Farms, Bloomfield Hills, C. Bloomfield Township and Franklin are concerned and involved in the local library problem.

In a comparison with libraries of

Art Collector To Address Town Hall

The fourth speaker of the current Town Hall season, Richard Rush, will speak at 11 a.m. today and Friday at the Birmingham Theater.

The art collector and author will discuss "Art as an Investment." He will be introduced today by Robert A. Thom.

Luncheon at Kingsley Inn will follow both lectures.

Guests at the speaker's table today will be Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick, Mr. and Mrs. John Coppin, Town Hall president Mrs. O. F. Pearson and Mrs. Guy D. Pitt.

On Friday, Mr. and Mrs. Thom, Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Rothman, Mrs. Don W. Hunter and Mrs. Pearson will be seated at the speaker's table with Rush.

HE SAID he hopes to be interested in it or you're not interested in and concern for the CBDD has led him to seek re-election in April.

HE ALSO spoke of forthcoming plans for expansion of the Community House—and his interest in "icing it in properly, working in cooperation with Community House officials in assisting with their plans."

Roberts feels that "Birmingham has reached a point in its history where there are some real important decisions to be made."

Residents and merchants "generally have the same goal in mind," he believes. They differ only in the means to the end.

"I think I can help with the final understanding of it."

WHEN it comes to municipal parking lots, Birmingham can "look back with pride" in comparison to other communities, he said.

He spoke of the foresight of the commission in putting a parking lot behind the old Eccentric building on Woodward where Demery's now stands.

Roberts said that in the past nine years "it has been a real pleasure to serve with the people we've had on the commission."

"I've always enjoyed it."

SAVING THAT he has been "personally disappointed in the past that too few people have been interested in running for the commission," Roberts felt that citizen interest "at this time is as high as I can ever remember it."

And the discount sign on the corner has been a major factor in awakening citizen interest in preservation of the character of our community."

(See ROBERTS, 5-A)

Use by Nonresidents Main Library Problem

Third in a Series
By IRMA N. DAVIS
Township Editor

The Baldwin Public Library has come a long way since the "Ladies Library Association" was started in 1888 by Martha Baldwin.

In 1924, the building was organized under state law; in 1927, the library was decided to the village of Birmingham and it was given its present name in 1928. In 1927, the present building was erected and remodeling was accomplished in 1960.

The library's present situation is reported by Frederick Weseman, associate professor of library science at the University of Minnesota. An extensive survey prepared by him was received recently by library officials.

Actual per capita cost is closer to \$3 which can only provide minimum service, according to American Library Association standards, Weseman says.

Circulation statistics are subject to the same factor. Per volume circulation at Baldwin is figured at 5.07 in the comparative charts and circulation per capita at 13.75. Circulation actually is much greater than these figures indicate because of the nonresident use.

Weseman concludes, then, that

(See ROBERTS, 4-A)

Top Torch Is Local Man

Edward N. Cole, 1371 Kirkway, Bloomfield Hills, has been appointed general chairman of the 1963 Torch Drive. He will lead a volunteer force of 125,000 in obtaining funds for the 1964 budgets of 196 health and community services, according to Donald F. Valley, president of the United Foundation. The drive will take place Oct. 15 through Nov. 7. Cole is group vice president at General Motors, president of the Detroit Area Council of Boy Scouts and a director of several other Torch Drive agencies.

Burgum Eyes Development Of Downtown

William H. Burgum

Either you go ahead or you slide backwards, Cities don't stand still.

Birmingham City Commissioner William H. Burgum, seeking reelection in the April 1 city election, wants to participate in decisions affecting the future of the city.

"I feel that the city commission in coming years are going to be faced with some big problems insofar as implementation and development of the central business district plan and putting into effect a comprehensive plan for the city-at-large are concerned."

ONE BIG problem, Burgum pointed out, will involve the financing of improvements in the downtown area and the master plan.

"We've plateaued a little bit. Now, are we going to spend a little more money to get the downtown area going? Or are we going to keep the status quo and let business development bypass the city?"

Burgum said the city "is very fortunate that a Birmingham was foresighted enough to park what (municipal) off-street parking we already have."

"The increased business activity this past Christmas was partially due to off-street parking."

"The thing we can't do is say we've got it made now. We're going to have a population development."

HE SPOKE of growth "to the east and the north" of the Birmingham School District have been visited; drill procedures and shelter areas were viewed and emergency plans were discussed with the principals.

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Roberts Sees Importance of CBDD Plan

William E. Roberts

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(See ROBERTS, 5-A)

Burgum, Roberts Want in Again

By KENNETH R. WEAVER
Managing Editor

See Editorial, 1-B

Birmingham Mayor Florence H. Willett, whose term as city commissioner expires in April, has decided against seeking re-election.

Mrs. Willett, the first woman to become mayor of Birmingham, told The Eccentric this week that she feels "the need of a sabbatical" from city government.

"While she was telling of her decision not to run, two other commissioners—William H. Burgum and William E. Roberts—said they will seek re-election. They have not yet filed nominating petitions, however.

The three commission seats, all for three-year terms, will be open in the April 1 city election.

Mrs. Willett, Burgum and Roberts all singled out development of the central business district as a main area of concern in the future.

MRS. WILLETT, a commissioner since 1955, emphasized that she is "not through with politics."

Her decision, she stressed, does not mean "that I haven't liked politics."

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MAYOR WILLETT

"I feel a need to get back into it—I would like to get back into—the community and look at it as a main area of concern in the future."

"My not running again does not mean in any sense that I have lost interest in Birmingham. There is a lot of work to be done. I'm hoping that I can continue to serve the community where it will help."

THE MAYOR called attention to the Feb. 14 meeting between the city commission and the boards of nine civic organizations to discuss the proposed Central Business District Development Plan.

She said she hopes her decision not to seek re-election would be interpreted as "running out."

"Rather, she hopes that she can help bring about community improvements" such as the CBDD.

"Freshly out of government, I would hope that I could serve the community in communicating the needs to the citizens."

"Yes, she could be "as busy doing that" as she is now in her role as mayor and commissioner.

"You love your work and you feel you grow by learning and you want to learn even more," the mayor philosophized. "I don't want to stop learning."

"Why pass up the opportunity to learn something?"

WHAT ABOUT state or national politics? Has she had any thoughts along these lines?

"I have no ambition, political or in that respect. If an opportunity comes along, I will meet it at that time."

"I never dreamt that the doors would open to me that (See WILLETT, 2-A)

Here's How YOU Can Be Candidate

By LARRY EVEO
City Editor

So you want to be a Birmingham city commissioner?

With the announcement this week by Mayor Florence H. Willett that she will not be a candidate for reelection, there will be at least one new commissioner elected April 1.

How do you become a candidate? What do you have to do to enter the local race?

Here's what to do in Birmingham (generally, the same rules and procedures are practiced in the area communities).

THE FIRST step is to obtain a "Petition for Nomination" from the city clerk at the municipal building.

Candidates for any elective office to be filled in any election must turn in the nominating petition before their names can be printed on the election ballot.

The person to be put in nomination must have been a Birmingham resident for at least two years.

Before it can be returned to the clerk's office, the nominating petition must have the signatures of at least 25 but not more than 50 registered voters in the city of Birmingham.

The petition must contain no mark or designation showing the party affiliation of the person being nominated.

IT IS unlawful for any person to sign more than one petition for the same office, except where two or more candidates are to be elected for the same office. A person may sign as many petitions as there are persons to be elected to a specific office.

The clerk's office advises persons taking out a nominating petition to get more than the minimum 25 signatures because many people that sign forget that although they have a Birmingham mailing address they are often registered voters of such places as Beverly Hills or Bloomfield Township.

The deadline for returning the nominating petition is 4 p.m. on Feb. 18.

AFTER THE clerk has examined the petitions and has certified that all the signatures are proper, the candidate is notified that he has been nominated.

If all the signatures are not legal, the clerk informs the candidate that additional names are needed. If there is enough time before the filing deadline, the candidate may resubmit the petition.

Nominated candidates must file an acceptance of their nomination. The clerk then places the name of the nominated candidate on the ballot.

IN BIRMINGHAM if a person's name is not placed on the ballot he may become a write-in candidate. Any person who has not had his name placed on the ballot through a nominating petition may be a write-in candidate.

This is accomplished by writing the person's name in the blank space on the election machine on the day of the election.

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