

# This and That

by George R. Averill

## Robert Frost Left Rich Inheritance To All Mankind

Living human society lost a venerable and beloved man when the visible evidence of Robert Frost vanished in the wide embrace of his Mother Earth.

This wise, simple and gentle man, having been a witness to the challenges, the defeats and the victories that strew the paths of mankind over a period of 88 years... this New England modern Puritan whose hands knew the plow, whose feet followed the furrow, whose spiritual self yearned to grasp Truth and then tell it in ways that lighted the paths of so many others—this great soul was bequeathed to this and following generations a rich treasure of thoughts that, read and understood, can add to the glorious stature of God's Children!

Yes, Robert Frost demanded less from life than he so willingly gave. His material wants were not large beyond the ability of anyone to essay—for it is the heritage of a Good Man to receive what that never gets on the tax rolls; this kind of wealth is beyond material appraisal! It is "the pearl of great price."

It is on "Open Sesame" to the Gate of Eternity! And not the least of his achievements—that of "being at home" in the environment of an earthly habitation... an experience that only comes to those who really and truly live humbly... who love mightily... whose human horizon stretches beyond material vision into a world of "peace among men of good will."

## Kennedys Are Top Political Ad Men

In the entire political history of the United States there probably has never been a "warmer" letter merchandising outfit to take over the White House (and lots of Congress, too) than the Kennedy family known as Kennedy, JFK, Bobby, and now Teddy, are the sons of a militant, aggressive, successful businessman named Joseph P. Kennedy.

With many millions of dollars at their disposal, with personal motivation drives that few other men have had, this trio of Kennedys is destined to leave a considerable imprint on this nation... if not much of the world. Already JFK has continued the ways for the U.S.A. to graze its journey into welfare statism... and this with but half of his first term in the White House.

# Little Crime in 1st Days Of Our Police Department

This is another in a series of articles The Eccentric is presenting on the various departments in the city of Birmingham. It deals with the patrol and services and staff functions divisions of the police department.

By LARRY EVOE  
City Editor

Emergencies were few and far between in old Birmingham and so were policemen.

In the early 1900's the village was patrolled by a night watchman who received a dollar-a-day for his work. The files of The Eccentric show that there was very little crime except for an occasional chicken thief.

Home F. Gaskill was asked by villagers in 1919 if he would be interested in a job as Birmingham's first chief of police. For some reason the department did not officially get under way until 1921 when Gaskill and two men opened the doors of the station at Woodward and Maple.

The wooded area near Quonset and Telegraph was an excellent place for members of Detroit's old Purple Gang to dispose of their victims after a gangland hassle. During the next 20 years the department grew along with the village and moved into its present headquarters in the municipal building.

## LWV Makes Policy Statement

The West Bloomfield League of Women Voters today issued a statement to clarify its policy on nonpartisanship.

The League of Women Voters may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. It does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

One stabbed the other and left him to die on Hunter Blvd. RALPH W. Moxley, the present chief, took over the department in 1948. The first parking meters were installed about that time and 1951 marked the first appearance of the radar unit on Birmingham streets.

Today's 38-man department, including the chief, is broken down into three divisions—patrol, detective and services and staff functions—with a lieutenant in charge of each. There is also a 28-man auxiliary department made up of volunteer citizens that supplements the regular force.

THE PATROL division handles such things as traffic control and other routine police matters. The division operates around the clock and there is a sergeant in charge on each of the three platoons.

All of the members of the patrol division have taken courses through the Michigan State University police program. Many of them are graduates of the Southeastern Michigan Police Chiefs Association-sponsored FBI course in Royal Oak.

The public is most familiar with the patrol division. They make preliminary investigation of complaints and then turn them over to the detective bureau.

## Monday Deadline To File Petitions In Lathrup

Lathrup residents wishing to file for office to run in the April 1 election must file their petitions at the city hall by 4 p.m. Monday. Three council posts, presently held by Mayor Richard N. Cogger, H. Earl Hanson and John R. Kohl, will be on the ballot. Those candidates receiving the two highest number of votes will serve two years terms, each. The third highest in voter count will get a one-year term.

## Groves Students To Appear on TV

Four students from Groves High School will take part in this Sunday's "Quiz 'em on the Air" on WWJ-TV, channel 4 at 12:30 p.m. The youngsters will compete in a current events quiz with students from Dearborn Junior High.

# Sociology Students Become Film Producers

By IRMA N. DAVIS  
Township Editor

"Don't Miss Me," read the signs on the wastebaskets in the halls at Seaborn High School.

Obviously it is hoped that the students will dump the wrappers, papers and assorted junk from their pockets into the receptacles.

In a picnic home in a school counselor's office another container rests. Inside is a film, made and produced by pupils last year in a sociology class.

Its title also could well be, "Don't Miss Me."

THE FILM has a message, for those who need and heed it, that could direct their future lives of junk and clutter and tragedy.

Actually, the color film is entitled "The Consequences of Alcohol." It was produced, filmed and acted by sociology students of Don Grothe three years ago in 1966. Because of technical difficulties

with the first movie, it was reproduced by another class last year. It was financed by pupils for film and sound track cost money. They sold candy to raise funds and showed the film to interested students during their free periods last fall at 20 cents per ticket. They wound up still owing \$100 which the school had loaned to them.

FINANCIALLY, this cleared the decks of debts for the film. The class, however, hopes to continue a yearly obligation undertaken some time ago by Grothe's classes to support a Chinese orphan.

One of the problems with the movie was dubbing in the voices of the actors in the play, which revolves around the past and future

## 'Consequences of Alcohol' Is Movie with a Message

experiences of six average high school couples.

GROTHE SAYS the young thespians were enthusiastic over their project and he hopes now to make the film available to women's clubs, PTA groups and child study organizations—for a slight fee—so that the class may continue its efforts in sponsoring the Chinese Child.

He thinks the pupils have presented their tale in such a way that

hope to go on to college; and those whose plans to get started on a working career are slated for "right after graduation."

AS FAR as drinking is concerned, their attitudes are an average cross-section, not only of students but of adults. There are those who "can take it or leave it." There are others who find it a source of "Dutch courage" and those who really don't care for it but want to "be one of the gang."

THE FIRST film depicts six boys and an equal number of girls. Some of them are coupled off as steady daters. Others "go together" quite a bit. The remainder are good friends who occasionally date.

Another budding romance is broken up later as a boy finds out, too late, that alcohol and driving don't mix. His death in the street is hardly less tragic than the inevitable death of the skid-row bum who "could take it or leave it."

IN THE LATER, unfinished film, which may yet be redone, the same message is delivered in different format. Here, the viewer watches a

family wherein the children see the "crazy" effects of alcohol on their parents' lives.

From watching the wild, gay parties staged in their home by mother and dad when they were small children, the children grow and listen to the resumes of "the night before," and the hangovers. Eventually, they are "graduated" to the "well, they might as well try it at home, where we can watch them" stage. Later, the daughter is even allowed to entertain her teenage friends at a cocktail party.

THE AFTERMATH is expulsion from college.

The parents can't understand it: their daughter "has had the best of everything."

Grothe is hopeful that the first film will be utilized by area clubs. In his opinion, there is a drinking problem among students locally.

"If the film helps just one young man," he says, "it will be worth the work we put into it."

# The Birmingham Eccentric

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BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

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# School Boundary Plan Brings Clash at Harlan

Birmingham school administrators and parents of children attending Harlan Elementary clashed head-on at a special PTA meeting last Thursday.

The meeting was called to discuss the proposed changes in the secondary school boundaries.

Harlan area parents have objected to the proposed changes because their youngsters will be transported across the school district for their secondary education.

THE PROPOSED new boundaries were presented by the school administration to the board of education at the January meeting, but no action on the part of the board is expected until the March meeting.

Change in boundaries was needed, according to Supt. Otis M. Dickey to help relieve the overcrowded conditions at both Derby and Groves.

UNDER THE administration plan students in the Harlan attendance area will attend the new junior high school on the Valley Woods site beginning with the fall semester.

They then will move on to Groves High School for the 9th through 12th grades.

At the present time Harlan area youngsters attend Derby for grades seven to nine and Seaborn for grades 10 to 12.

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# Elliott vs. Gibbs

Whom Will Romney Tap?

A committee of more than 100 GOP leaders will spearhead his campaign for Republican state chairman, Arthur G. Elliott, Jr., has announced.

Local residents on the committee include Mrs. John C. Finesing, James Dickerson, John C. Emery, Jr., Mrs. Howard Liverance, all of Birmingham, Mrs. George Hodges of Bloomfield Hills and Arthur Saltzman of Franklin.

Elliott said the committee will be headed by Wendell Hobbs, Wash-tenaw County Republican chairman.

The convention will meet at Grand Rapids this week end. Another county figure is also making a strong bid for the chairmanship, John A. (Jack) Gibbs.

There are no Republicans holding any of the 10 offices to be filled. These include two seats on the State Supreme Court, state superintendent of public instruction and seven posts on the boards that govern state colleges and universities.

not come out for Elliott. In case of a deadlock between the two, Romney has said he has a third man in mind but has not revealed whom it might be.

Romney, however, has said that the spring election slate of GOP nominees for state offices and the new GOP chairman will be "consensus candidates."

Gibbs met with 110 delegates and their alternates Sunday night in Royal Oak. His supporters claim pledges of votes from many of the 160 regular county delegates.

Nevertheless, Romney has indicated that he will show his preference to a group of congressional-district and state GOP leaders who will screen candidates this Friday.

Some members of the party think that Gibbs stands a fair chance of winning if George Romney does

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