

Birminghamites Spend \$1.7 Million On Homes

(Special to the Eccentric)

NEW YORK — Residents of Birmingham spend tiny sums each year to keep their homes in good condition.

In the past year alone, they invested approximately \$1,746,000 in alterations, additions and repairs to their property.

That is an estimate based on a sampling of dwellings in the local area and in other parts of the United States. Such surveys are conducted each year by the Government.

The finding is that the average expenditure for such purposes in Birmingham's

general region came to \$229 per housing unit.

THAT WAS the average figure. In individual cases it varied widely from that amount, both up and down. The explanation is that a certain proportion of homeowners will undertake major improvements one year and

then do nothing extensive for several years thereafter.

Details on how much is spent on residential upkeep and improvement come from reports issued by the Department of Commerce, from the National Association of Home Builders and from other agencies. They show that the outlay in this direc-

tion for the nation as a whole, is close to \$14 billion a year.

THE NEW data has become available in time for National Home Week, which will be observed from Sept. 20 to 27.

How was the \$1,746,000

outlay for upkeep and improvement spent in Birmingham?

A breakdown, based on the national figures, indicates that some 41 per cent of it went for alterations and additions to homes.

Painting accounted for another 17 per cent; plumbing, 8 per cent; roofing, 6 per

cent; and central heating and air conditioning, 5 per cent. Miscellaneous costs for repairs, replacements and extensions made up the balance.

IT IS FOUND that more money is spent on homes that are occupied by their owners than on those occupied by tenants.

In Birmingham, the proportion of owner-occupied homes is large. The latest official figures released by the Census Bureau place home ownership locally at 78.3 per cent.

This is higher than the United States average of 61.9 per cent and the East North Central States' 66.7 per cent.



The Birmingham Eccentric

September 17, 1964

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



Life-Saving Training Pays Off for Boy, 9

By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

Heroes in the Birmingham area are getting younger every day.

Two months ago, two Boy Scouts, ages 13 and 14, saved a two-year-old boy from drowning in Beverly Hills.

Last week a 9-year-old Bloomfield Township lad dove into 20 feet of water and towed a four-year-old to safety.

Tom Cox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie T. Cox, 4779 Walnut Lane Road, hesitated only for a moment when he saw Billy Brosse fall from a floating raft on Wing Lake.

"He's drowning," Tom yelled to his mother.

THEN HE jumped into the water, swam 20 feet to the floundering boy and grabbed him from the back around the waist.

"I kicked like a son of a gun to hold him up," Tom later explained to his father.

The drama unfolded this way: Mrs. Cox and Tom were visiting the William Brosse family of Indianapolis Trail Tuesday afternoon.

Billy was playing with a toy boat on a raft tied to the end of a dock that jutted 40 feet into the water off the Franklin Road Beach.

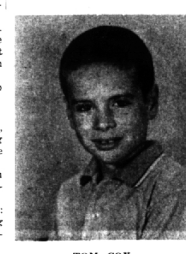
The raft drifted away from the dock, and as Billy reached for his boat, he toppled headfirst into the water.

THAT TOM was able to save Billy's life was no miracle.

The training in life-saving that he received at the Birmingham YMCA's Camp Adams near Holly this summer is credited almost as much as Tom's quick thinking, with averting a tragedy.

"I think the Y is to be commended for training youngsters this age," said Mrs. Cox. "If they hadn't there could have been two dead little boys out there."

Meantime, Tom, a fourth grader at Westchester School, is the recipient of renewed respect from his mother, father and 16-year-old sister Diana.



TOM COX

POSSIBLY THE proudest person is Dad. . . . And proof is that Tom's getting that model airplane (it flies outdoors) that he's wanted for a long time.

Not having been a hero before, Tom isn't quite sure how he's supposed to act.

"He's been pretty modest about it all," said Mrs. Cox. "He takes the attitude that he was there, it was a thing he had to do and that was it."

Allay Fears On Sidewalks In Lathrup

By KAY SMITH
Special Writer

LATHRUP—Fears on the part of some residents that they would be forced to put in sidewalks where none now exist were allayed by the council at the regular meeting Monday.

An item on the agenda concerning sidewalk construction ordinances brought the question from Jack B. Cruse, 17579 Ramsgate, who said residents of his side of the street, which has no sidewalk, were worried that the ordinance in question would force them to put one in.

Mayor Richard N. Cogger told Cruse that the ordinance concerned sidewalk repair and had nothing to do with new sidewalks.

ACTION ON the ordinance was held up pending study by the council and the city attorney.

In other business, many items were put off for the next council meeting to await further reports. A report of the Forestry Advisory Committee on a 10-foot wide emergency strip plus a 20-foot planting strip on Southfield at 11 Mile Road will be ready for the next meeting.

The Traffic Code Revision also was put aside for review, the question of awarding a contract on a Stevenson-700 radar unit was tabled for more information, recommendations on a sealcoat for 11 Mile was held for the next meeting and a report on charter revisions was also not ready.

The Birmingham Board of Education asked the League to consider the preparation of a guide to the Birmingham schools, covering all of the areas of interest to the parents of school children.

Education in general and public schools in particular have been a primary interest in the league since it adopted its first study program on the Birmingham schools in 1933. The study has been up-dated almost every year, for the publication of Know Your Town and to facilitate an analysis of each millage and bonding issue.

WITH SUCH a background on the subject, the league was in a position to assume this extra project and the guide was compiled and written last year by a committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Robert Gray.

"The Birmingham Board of Education and administration are vitally interested in promoting the free exchange of information in our school district. We feel that this joint effort by the League of Women Voters to produce a pamphlet of general information about our schools will be particularly valuable source of accurate information, especially for new residents," stated Walter Piel, Administrative Assistant, Birmingham Public School System.

THE LEAGUE has now been requested to prepare a similar brochure for the Bloomfield Hills School District. The league began its first study of the Bloomfield Hills Public School System last year. Considerably more study is necessary for the production of a descriptive publication. Under the leadership of Mrs. Earl F. Haley, the study will be completed and the brochure written during the coming year.



STUDYING SCHOOL GUIDE Mrs. Robert F. Gray, Walter Piel and Mrs. Jacque Passino.

LWV Prepares School Guide

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was written by a member of the Birmingham-Bloomfield League of Women Voters in conjunction with League of Women Voters Week which is being observed here and across the nation this week.

Study which leads to action characterizes the League of Women Voters. The public services performed by the league, often at the request of other organizations or institutions, sometimes escapes attention.

During the past year the Birmingham-Bloomfield League has been given several opportunities to perform outstanding public services in conjunction with its study programs.

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The league was afforded an unusual opportunity to provide a public service during the past summer. The publishers of the new Birmingham-Bloomfield Community Directory contacted the president of the Birmingham-Bloomfield LWV for assistance in untangling the complicated picture of local government.

As a result, the local government pages of the community directory were compiled and written by the League of Women Voters.

These are special projects which will be supplanted in the future by other public services; but the continuing service—most identified with the league in the minds of the public—is the Voter's Guide.

FEW PEOPLE, perusing the Voter's Guide for information on candidates, stop to consider what goes into the production of that document. Of all the projects undertaken by the LWV, the guide is most representative of the quality (See LWV, 6-A)

Comments From . . . Classified

"Thank you . . . one ad . . . and a good sale!" related a happy Mr. Owen to the Birmingham Eccentric.

SUN FISH SAIL BOAT IN EXCELLENT condition. Bbs. call: 477. Call 900-9000.

Are you aware that it is considered fashionable to browse through The Eccentric Classified ads . . . not only to buy and sell, but to gauge trends in the community?

P.S. Why not try The Eccentric's new successful family want ad plan—3 consecutive weeks only \$2.90 (cash rate).

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The Birmingham Eccentric Classified Ads

CALL MIDWEST 4-1100

An Old Winner

Dr. Charles L. Bowers, 3355 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Hills, an antique auto enthusiast, won a first place award at the Greenfield Village Old Car Festival last week end when his 1905 Buick Touring was adjudged to be in perfect condition. Dr.

Bowers' entry was one of more than 300 vintage autos participating in the motoring event, which drew a crowd of nearly 30,000. Here, Dr. Bowers and his family receive a first place ribbon from Village model Margaret Ready.

This and That

by George R. Averill

Why I Write So Often About the Political Picture

Some of you may wonder why this column so often contains much that relates to the subjects of government and to the officials who operate it.

My answer is this: in these rapidly-changing days a preponderance of the environment in which you live and work is being changed "through political action."

By this I mean: we live in a republic, often called a self-governing democracy, where our economic, social and civil lives more or less are being regulated by public officials. In this statement, of course, I mean state government and, more than all else, the federal government.

Already we have left behind us the basic traditions recognized by our Founding Fathers that "the best governed are the least governed"; in its place we are rapidly moving into a Socialist-Welfare State.

History—revealing the pattern of human behavior under varying conditions—unites the past and the future. It emphasizes that Socialism-Welfarism is the antagonist of a free, competitive society. History reminds us that when mankind ceases to depend upon himself for survival and instead turns toward "the state" for his security, he eventually ceases to be "master of the state" and becomes "slave of the state."

It is to preserve our God-given freedom and liberty by opposing this unfortunate drift that I so often write about government, politicians, and, alas! public civic apathy!

Senator Hubert Horatio Humphrey, since his party recently nominated him a vice presidential candidate, endeavors to win the support of U.S. business. Although his official Senate conduct proves him a vigorous defender of just about everything opposed to the traditional American free competitive economic system, he now seeks to woo these erstwhile antagonists. Humphrey, once chairman of the radical ADA and still its vice chairman, belatedly (See THIS & THAT, 8-A)

Community House Gets Boys' Fair Proceeds

With a plastic bag full of silver coins, clutched tightly in his summer-tanned hands, came 11-year-old John Dudas to The Community House at Bates and Townsend in Bloomfield, last week.

Johnny and four of his 11-year-old buddies were making a contribution to The Community House Fund Drive. Not just an ordinary contribution by any means: These five youngsters—John of 790 Michigan, Jim Cairns of 647 Kenesaw, Kip Cantrick of 719 Kenesaw, Alan Critch of 756 Michigan and Paul Kaptur of 516 Kenesaw—had earned every cent of it themselves.

IT MUST have been one of those lazy summer afternoons that youthful minds prefer to yield to, when the idea of having a fair was born. The boys decided this type of entertainment would appeal to all ages, and so they proceeded with plans for a fish pond, a apple house, a "rat-fink" (each boy took a turn playing this role) whose head protruded through a hole and became the target for wet sponges.

THE DUDAS family lawn may never be the same, but for the hundred youngsters who attended the fair, it was a day to be remembered.

It sounds like this is the end of the story; but far from it. With plans down to decide what to do with the money.

Many ideas were discussed, but the one that appealed to the boys the most was to give the money to The Community House Fund Drive. The Community House, they felt, benefited all residents of the town in which they lived, and they knew the money was needed.

BOB BOGAN, executive director of The Community House, said: "The contributions we receive are the bloodstream that keep The Community House operating. Civic-minded citizens have made contributions in all sizes during our fund drive, but none will be held in higher regard than this heartfelt gift from five of our young citizens."

It is our pleasure to accept it warmly and gratefully, and our privilege to commend these youngsters for their civic-mindedness, their generosity and the direction they are taking towards becoming capable adults."

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Building Permits Total \$1,290,000

Bloomfield Township issued 58 building permits during the month of August with a total estimated valuation of \$1,289,944.

Of the total 37 were for construction of residences with an estimated value of \$1,000,000. Two commercial permits for the month totaled \$234,000 and nine permits were issued for residential additions and alterations totaling \$32,500.

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Volume on Kennedy Given to Library

Cong. William S. Bloomfield (R., Royal Oak) has presented the Troy Public Library with a 911-page volume of memorial addresses delivered in Congress on the death of President John F. Kennedy.

This volume will be placed on the reference shelf.

New library cards are ready and may be picked up by Troy residents at the library, located in the conference rooms of the Troy High school library.

The new open hours are 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

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Order Survey Of Parking in Elm St. Area

City commissioners Monday night instructed the administration to conduct a survey of parking conditions in Birmingham's Elm Street-Maple Road area.

Residents of the area have expressed concern over the number of all-day parkers on the streets.

In addition, Dr. T. W. Renell has petitioned the City to remove a "No Parking" ban on the north side of Forest between Adams and Elm. There are no parking restrictions on other streets in the area.

Dr. Renell told the commission his patients will have no place to park when visiting his office if the ban is not lifted.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley told the commission his department thought it was desirable to remove the parking on at least one side of Forest, so traffic can move freely on the street.

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The Birmingham Eccentric Annual Automotive Section

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