



The cover

The cover of this section depicts the Marshall Fredericks sculpture, "Freedom of the Human Spirit," superimposed over a photograph of Shain Park. Fredericks is donating the artwork. The city is raising \$150,000 to pay for the casting, materials, shipping from the New York foundry and erection in the park. Those who wish to make contributions to the fund drive for the city's birthday present may make checks payable to the City of Birmingham Anniversary Gift. The money should be mailed to Comerica Bank, attention E. Kelley, Hamilton and Woodward, Birmingham 48011.

From the editor

THIS SECTION celebrates Birmingham's 50th anniversary as a city.

You'll find a variety of stories looking at the city yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Here's a guide to the contents:

• The beginning of the section is devoted to the Birmingham of yesterday. On Page 6, you'll meet Milton Mallender who was a young lawyer when Birmingham became a city in 1933. A candidate for the first Birmingham City Commission, he is still practicing law in the city today.

On Page 8, you'll discover the businesses that were attracting customers in the Birmingham of 50 years ago and which are still doing so today.

On Page 12 is a comprehensive historical review of the events which surrounded and led to the successful cityhood vote in 1933. The movement began in the 1920s and suffered setbacks along the way. The text is based on a review of editions of *The Eccentric* published in the 1920s and 1930s.

On Page 19 is an easy-to-read review of the last 50 years of Birmingham's history.

THEN WE swing you back to 1983. The stories beginning on Page 22 detail

what Birmingham is doing to celebrate its golden anniversary.

You'll meet the duo who headed the celebration on Page 22. On Page 24, we profile internationally-recognized sculptor Marshall Fredericks, who is donating a sculpture which will become a centerpiece in Shain Park.

You'll also find out about the souvenirs, free postcards, ice cream social, parade and art fair which are expected to attract thousands to downtown Birmingham during the celebration.

Wrapping up that section is an interview with the city's mayor Barbara Jeske. Just as the Great Depression was a backdrop for city politics in 1933, so the celebration today occurs during a municipal fiscal crisis.

The final piece in the section looks ahead to Birmingham's tomorrow. Birmingham City Planner Bonnie Cook predicts the city's future growth and health.

I hope you enjoy this edition. As always, feel free to comment on this section or anything in the newspaper. You can send a letter to *The Eccentric*, editorial department, P.O. Box 503, Birmingham 48012.

Happy birthday, Birmingham.

— Mary Connelly Szczesny
Editor

OUR VERY BEST TO YOU, BIRMINGHAM

You have good reason to celebrate! Fifty golden years of growing and thriving, and continually displaying the fine tradition and beauty for which Birmingham is known...like the Community House, the Birmingham Theatre, your own Village Players. Jacobson's is proud to have been part of that tradition since 1950, constantly reflecting your standards for quality in our Apparel Store, our Store for the Home, and our Children's Shop.

Jacobson's