

**The Birmingham Eccentric**  
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Editor and Publisher: GEORGE B. AVERILL  
Managing Editor: PAUL W. AVERILL  
Advertising Manager: ARTHUR N. WINSTON  
Business Manager: CLAUDE L. WALKER  
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THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1939

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons unconnected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be in the office by Tuesday noon to obtain insertion for that week. However, to make such superficial changes in the copy as are required by lack of space, or because of a mechanical error, or for any other reason, the staff cannot be held responsible. No editorial comment or opinion will be given on any matter appearing in the columns of the Eccentric, or will be given by the staff, except in the case of a story of a crime or accident, or in the case of a story of a crime or accident, or in the case of a story of a crime or accident.

Next Monday the registered voters in the Birmingham School District will cast their votes at an annual election. They will decide whether they want to change the present graded status of the District to one of Third Class rating; they will re-elect Leo E. Joslyn, Jr., to a two-year term, because he has no opposition; they will have to decide between incumbent Board member William A. Dalee and Ernest W. Seahorn for a three-year term; if they approve the District's change to Third Class they will elect two new members, Wyle E. Groves and William C. Allen, unopposed, for the extra places on the seven, instead of the present five, man Board.

"What does the Eccentric think about changing to a Third Class District?" is a question asked of us during the past week. Now, folks, you who have been reading this newspaper for any length of time must admit that the Eccentric, while not claiming infallibility, generally "speaks the truth" on public issues. When issues arise that appear to affect profoundly the public welfare, we've tried to say something of value, as objective as we could in manner of presentation; for we recognize that the newspaper's value remains only in its retention of the public's confidence—even if that confidence is based on a "bad" opinion. In other words, whatever has been said in these columns has been said with sincerity and based upon information we thought to be reliable.

All through this local debate between citizens and the Board of Education regarding the eligibility of this District to consider a change to Third Class, we have held to the belief that if the District has a population of over 10,000, it's entitled by law to consider the proposition at the coming election. To that end we have thrown our influence in directions that have aided in establishing the District's population at over 10,000. We have crusaded for the right of the people to petition at the coming election for a change to its status in accordance with State laws covering the issue.

Having established the opportunity to vote next Monday on the change, local thought has naturally centered upon the benefits of such a change, the lack of benefits, and possible penalties. It is revealing no secret here to admit, then, the existence of at least two groups rising out of the impending election. One of them wishes to bring about the change, pointing out among benefits that of a seven-man Board; such a Board, they argue, would overcome any tendency to restrict the prerogatives of Supt. and D. Crull, which they hold is the case with the personnel of the present five-man Board.

Now, folks, the editor of this newspaper has had a very good opportunity to observe this phase of the problem. We know that harmony has not existed completely among the Board members, the Supt. and Crull's three years in office; we believe that some "personality" has resulted—an inevitable possibility among human beings in any relationship, public or private. But we also know that the issue of "dual control," wherein the Board has divided the responsibilities between Supt. Crull and Business Manager Wallace, has not been the result of a meditated or vicious creation of the Board itself; we do not believe that this "issue" will be here today, if Mr. Crull, himself, by lack of vigorous personal action in the exercise of his office, had not allowed his over-modest nature to stand in the way of his intellectual understanding of the duties of his office.

In brief, we honestly believe that Supt. Crull, personally a gentleman and intellectually an educator, has failed to exercise those executive obligations and tactical maneuvers that in the end automatically result in "unit control." In the past, the Eccentric has published in The Eccentric last week the Board, itself, made the case when it declared: "In defense of our present plan of operation, and with no desire to reflect upon Supt. Crull, we must say most emphatically that if Mr. Crull would assume whatever responsibilities he considers the prerogatives of his office, we believe that he will obtain the wholehearted support of the Board."

So, while the Board may have had some harmony, some lack of unified cooperative effort to push Supt. Crull into an unquestionable position of leadership in the administrative affairs of the Birmingham public schools, Supt. Crull's failure, lack of aggressiveness must not be overlooked, either. The editor of this newspaper says this with an accurate knowledge of actual conditions, and with a personal regard for the long friendship he has enjoyed with Supt. Crull. Perhaps the most puzzling of the issues now before the electors is that of the ability of properly under a Third Class status to the present graded District. This newspaper has asked for and published opinions from both

groups; both opinions differ not so much in interpretation of the statutes, but in their emotional reaction to the question. Which group has the right answer? The only method of finding that out is from experience. Not being either a lawyer or a Supreme Court Justice, the Eccentric refuses to assume the role of Solomon or the Almighty. Will a seven-man Board be better than a five-man Board? Well, the City Commission is composed of seven men, and does a pretty good job. Seven men, working together cooperatively, representing a diversity of background and experience, will do a better job than five men. That's our opinion, that's all.

Under a Third Class status, registration of voters and publication of the Board's proceedings are required. But the Board already has invoked the registration feature and has suggested that it might publish the minutes, either by its own initiative or through popular request. Personally, in the interest of the public protection, we feel that publication of the proceedings of every unit of government that spends the people's money is protection for both the officials and the public. Some may hold that a newspaper has a financial interest in this disclosure, and is therefore prejudiced. As matters stand, this newspaper does not run away from its honest opportunity to ring its cash register—but we aren't arguing for a Third Class District on the basis of revenue, either. The amount of money involved annually would hardly meet our payroll for a single day.

Besides, folks, The Eccentric did not instigate the change to Third Class at all; that came from local citizens, as the record will show. Furthermore, even in this editorial comment, The Eccentric isn't arguing for a change from graded to Third Class District; if we could prophesy the effect of such a change upon the ability of portions of the District to divorce themselves, then we'd be more definite. As matters stand now, however, it seems to be a case for the flipping of a coin—"heads we do, tails we don't."

Next Monday's school issue, then, seems to place most of us in a position where, like Governor Luren D. Dickinson, we "need a pipe-line to God."

The late Governor Frank D. Fitzgerald was elected on a pledge of economy, of a balanced State budget. His successor, now, State Gov. Dickinson, talks about a balanced budget. Last fall the voters elected a dominant Republican majority in both Senate and House at Lansing. The House wanted to obtain a balanced budget. However, in the last day or two of the late lamented session the Senate insisted upon adding more than seven millions of dollars, without providing for revenue to meet this extra expenditure. So Fitzgerald's promise has been broken. Now the record will show that both Democrats and Republicans do not keep their pre-election "balanced budget" promises.

Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg finally tells the nation that he will respond to public demand that he run for President on the Republican ticket in 1940.

For Prexy  
Only Senator Vandenberg is one of the ablest men in the nation's Upper House. While by nature conservative, he has lived long enough to know that business and financial leadership must provide for the common welfare, and that the killing of a practical liberal, if he does run, and has a good organization behind him, he may win against the New Deal. We certainly hope he does run, and that he wins.

There are those in Birmingham who talk about the disregard of law, and the necessity for the punishment of criminals. It is true that he has heard all over the land, but for different reasons, depending upon what particular law a particular person has in mind.

Concerning Crime  
Back of the fight for law and order, however, stands the impelled observance of all law. The assassination of a man in Chicago by a rival gang, the killing of a little child playing in New York where racketeers shot out their teeth, the petty and enormous graft that mars our political life and other criminal acts that occur, are each part of a disregard for law that has grown in this country.

Let us not attempt to be too wise in solving this problem, but, even so, let us think about one phase of the matter. We have observed, in this country and state, instances where public officials, charged with enforcing the law, have condoned criminal acts because victims have requested it. We have heard of affairs that have not come to court because neither principal made complaint, and the same has been true of other acts that violate the criminal code.

There are in the United States, we take it, enough police officials to enforce the laws of the land if they were properly imbued with the desire for law enforcement. It is a farce when a police official, learning of a violation of law, does nothing unless some citizen complains. It is not the business of the average citizen to file these things, or to work up evidence. For these things, we have officials and they should do their duty.

THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR when one who tries to cross Woodward avenue at the city's main intersection finds it difficult—especially on Sundays and holidays, when more than the usual flow of traffic goes through. A year from now, however, the scene will be changed. With the completion of the new bridge and cut-off, undoubtedly most of the through traffic, the boulevard highway, and crossing present Woodward will be safer and easier.

OF COURSE THE RADIO has made the world a rather small neighborhood—but thank something or other that you don't have to listen to some of the hysterical screams of a certain well known German expatriation.

# PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

**REAL ISSUE DUAL CONTROL**  
June 6, 1939  
To The Editor:  
Another School Election approaches. The electors are to decide whether they want a third class district with a seven-man Board, and to have the Board Minutes published, or keep the district in a graded classification.

Those opposed to reclassification claim that it would reduce State aid to a public school district and would also permit the secession of a part of the district. Information that I have received from competent sources indicates that such statements are unfounded since the distribution of funds to aid school districts is not based on the classification, but rather on the ratio of pupils and teachers, and assessed valuations in the district, and the withdrawal of a part of the district would be accomplished even now without the consent of the present School Board, if a part of competent jurisdiction so decides.

Furthermore, the additional power granted to the board of a third class district in regard to obligating the district to the extent of two percent of the assessed valuation, without the vote of the electorate, is only a theoretical and not a practical right, since in our case we are so far over the limit already that only a matter of years and planned economy will reduce the district to the point where this question will be controversial.

So then, what are the real issues? 1. Dual control—which not only causes confusion and uncertainty in the administration of the school, but to the teaching staff, but which any fair minded person would agree, would eventually produce a complete collapse of the system. 2. The continuation or elimination of petty politics and grievances that are trivial and have no place in this or any other school system.

3. Whether the Superintendent should be given the opportunity to resign, or to be removed under the thumb of a Board that is neither instructive nor sympathetic to a well-rounded school program. Personally, I will vote for Mr. Ernest Seahorn. I will consider exceptionally well qualified as a Board Member, and for Re-election, if he is re-elected. The Board which will, in my opinion, restore confidence in the District.

212 W. Lincoln Ave.  
Birmingham, Mich.  
June 6, 1939

**STUDENT'S OPINION**  
June 6, 1939  
To The Editor:  
As a student of Baldwin High, I am asking myself, "Is the present Board of Education interested in the advancement of education?" The students, or in their first thought, give the money for the tax-payers' money.

Parents undergo great sacrifices to send their children to school. It seems to me they wouldn't object to paying more in school taxes in order to improve our schools. Perhaps then the school wouldn't be so many going away to prep school.

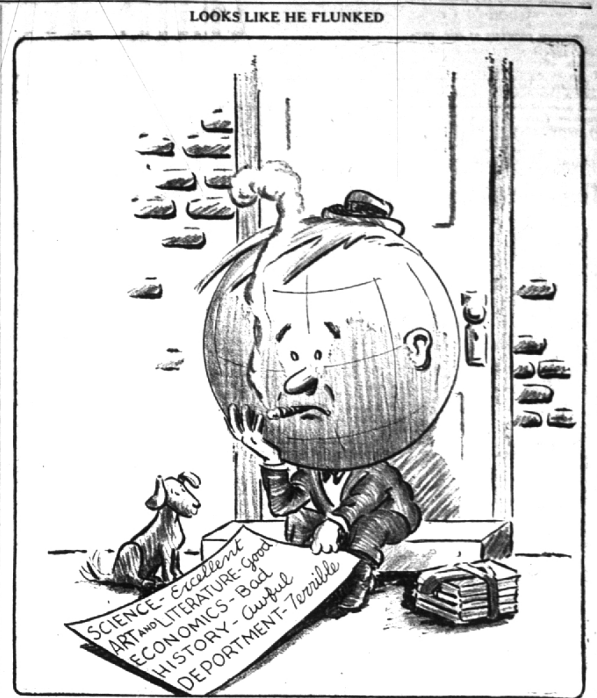
In my opinion, and I believe in that of the majority of the students, the school is not doing well. Always we are any of us, and listen to our difficulties, and try to help them. The school is in some excellent new teachers, and some excellent new principals. The school is not doing well. The school is not doing well. The school is not doing well.

Which is more important, improving our schools, or running on a slightly smaller budget?

A Baldwin Student  
"TUMMOIL SENSELESS"  
June 2, 1939

The Birmingham Eccentric, Birmingham, Mich.  
Dear Editor:  
I am an old man, almost ninety years and have many children of my own. Being interested in all children I am interested in the present turmoil about the schools in Birmingham which seems so senseless. With the earth or the New Deal soon to receive my body I am going to leave some happy memories with you as I see the situation.

Since Birmingham is filled with people of extraordinary intelligence, it is unfortunate that the national turmoil and neuroticism has crept into our city. It would not appear that our people would succumb to the orienting thinking (I do not mean Chinese or Japanese) that has permeated the nation with the resultant confusion and disintegration. Our civilization the past twenty years has been planned and operated from the viewpoint of success. The success of the nation is one of our master analysts. Phineas T. Barnum who said, "The people's love to be humbugged." Please today imitate the characters on bill boards, magazine pages and the screen as well as the billboards and the screen. The characters on bill boards, magazine pages and the screen as well as the billboards and the screen. The characters on bill boards, magazine pages and the screen as well as the billboards and the screen.



## World Cotton Conference Offers U. S. Chance to Increase Exports

WASHINGTON—New hope for the American cotton-grower is held out by the pending world cotton conference, invitations to which have just been sent out by the State Department. Mr. Andrews came forth with a new ruling, and this recent ruling of the cotton conference, testimony that was offered at the time of these hearings. He paid no attention to the statements of men in business, or to the statements of men interested in agriculture. We do not want to hurt the farmers any more. The ruling was absolutely a slap in the face to everybody who wanted to have the act clarified and broadened. Regarding the effect of the act upon the cotton industry, he said: "I have correspondence in my files which indicates that at least 50% of the cotton-growing nations of the world are going to be closed this year." I participated in the discussion because letters from constituents in my district also protested against this provision of the law which has restricted them and cannot operate their business.

**Prying Off the Lid:** Rep. Dickerson of Illinois recently took occasion to speak on the subject of appropriations and at one point I joined with him in a two-minute discussion of the present Congressional attitude toward cotton. I quote this portion of the remarks: "Mr. Dickerson, I was interested in the statement that the Appropriations Committee had been sitting on the lid. Does the gentleman know that the cotton movement in this House now to pry that lid open again and to let the cotton grower have the War Department Civil Functions Appropriation Bill, 1940 for just two weeks?"

Mr. Dickerson, "I may say to the gentleman from Michigan that the effort to pry off the lid has been going on ever since 1932. He knows it and I know it, and that is the reason we are in the predicament of the cotton grower. It behooves all of us to do some investigating and thinking before election, June 12th. Yours very truly, G. A. Ziegler (More Letters on Page 5)

**Congressional Comment**  
by Representative Dendore  
17th Michigan District  
Rep. George A. Dendore  
Wage-Hour Regulation: That administrative act of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 has been a tremendous blow to the agricultural industry. The act of 1938 has been a tremendous blow to the agricultural industry. The act of 1938 has been a tremendous blow to the agricultural industry.

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