Here Are Facts On the 5 Proposals to Be Voted November 5

Longest Ballot In State History Faces the Voters

(Note—The editorial policy of The Eccentric on these proposals, for those interested, may be read on the editorial page, Page 2 of Part III)

By GENE ALLEMAN
Michigan Press Association

LANSING—What is the capacity of an electorate to vote intelligently on complex issues at the polls?

This question is again being weighed by political observers as the November 5 election approaches with a ballot of statewide proposals that hits a new high in "bedsheet" proportions. Capitol authorities here say it is the longest ballot of its kind in Michigan's history. Previous ones have at times carried more individual propositions, but the four proposals on the current offering require more space in print.

Of course the size of a ballot is not in itself the real point. It is the implication that the long voting sheet with its confusing complexities will overwhelm the voter and result in a small and perhaps uninformed aggregate vote, that invites scrutiny.

It is not denied that the voter who fails to familiarize himself with the issues before entering the polls is lost, so far as voting intelligently on them is concerned. He is left to the choice either of voting by pure guesswork, of balloting "no" on the general principle that he is always safe in defending the status quo, or of not voting at all. And it is open to question which is the least helpful.

On the ground that it's a good idea to look over all the issues before election day, here are the highlights of the four state proposals:

Proposition No. 1

This is a proposed amendment to the state constitution. It is designed to make it easier for school districts to finance the construction or repairing of buildings, by enabling them to spread their taxes for bonding purposes over a 15-year instead of a 5-year period. The proposal has the support of the Michigan Education association.

According to many school authorities, it is practically impossible for some districts to enlarge their school plants or even to make necessary repairs because of the bonding restrictions of the 15-mill tax limit in the constitution. At present this allows a district to bond itself and levy taxes aggregating not more than 50 mills (or 5 per cent of the assessed valuation of its property) in any one year. And this increase is allowable for not more than five consecutive years.

The result, according to school men, is that some districts simply cannot afford to build new schools or add extensively to existing buildings. The tax load is too heavy during the five-year period, and they cannot extend the time. There are many districts on the outskirts of large cities where present buildings are so crowded that classes meet only for one-half or one-third of a day.

These are the arguments advanced in favor of the amendment which was proposed by action of the 1939 legislature. In brief, the measure would allow school districts, for building and repair purposes only, to raise not more than 12 mills (instead of 50, as at present) each year for not more than 15 years. One objection heard is that the interest cost would be greater. That is regarded, however, as a necessary evil, as in the case of the man who buys a house on a long term plan because he would be unable to own one any other way.

Proposition No. 2

This is another proposed amendment to the constitution, placed on the ballot through petitions sponsored by the Michigan Merit System association. Its passage would write civil service into the basic law of the state, strip the legislature of virtually all its traditional powers over state employment, and place this authority in the hands of a four-member, nonpartisan commission functioning directly under the constitution.

Proposition No. 3

This is an act of the 1939 legislature now being brought before the electorate for a referendum vote. It would remove the right of municipalities to operate buses beyond their own limits without being subject to state regulation.

Popularly this measure is known as the D. S. R. (Detroit Street Railways) act because it represents a fight between the city's lines and private bus interests over the suburban Detroit area. The D. S. R. is waging a vigorous campaign to defeat the measure. Bus tops and street cars in Detroit are painted conspicuously with "Vote No on Proposal No. 3" signs. The opposition, meanwhile, is plastering the area with "Vote Yes" placards.

By way of background it should be mentioned that for years the D. S. R. has had the benefit of certain privileges granted in the city charter. One of these permitted it to operate without state control in and for 10 miles outside of Detroit. However, if and when its buses should venture beyond that radius they would come under the jurisdiction of the public service (or utilities) commission.

Briefly, the proposal amends the state motor carrier act, which was originally designed to regulate privately owned lines, so as to include municipal buses. This would prevent the D. S. R. from operating more than two miles beyond the city limits of Detroit without a permit from the public service commission. In other words, the D. S. R. would be obliged to discontinue some of its suburban lines or submit to state regulation.

According to the private bus firms the act would equalize competition by causing the D. S. R. and any other city lines operating outside their boundaries to pay equal taxes and meet comparable safety requirements. From the Detroit city viewpoint, however, the act is an attack upon home rule and an attempt to penalize suburbanites who now share in lower fares the D. S. R. has made possible.

Proposition No. 4

This is also an act of the 1939 legislature put on the ballot by petitions calling for a referendum.

(See an adjoining column for a complete discussion of No. 4.)

Proposition No. 5

Counties in and around Detroit will vote on a fifth proposition—whether an organization shall be set up to develop, over a long period of years, the recreational facilities on the Huron and Clinton rivers and on other nature spots. The Authority would have the power to levy a very small tax to further this goal.

Orrin McQuaid Makes Statement

Friends of Orrin McQuaid, Register of Deeds, say his has been one of the outstanding jobs done in county government.

Following is a statement from the McQuaid office:

"Orrin McQuaid has rearranged the recording procedure so that the same number of employes handle a larger volume of work.

"He reduced the time required to record and return documents to patrons of the office from three weeks to three days. This improvement has facilitated mortgages, abstracting, and real estate transactions and is a benefit to all.

"For your convenience and economy's sake, Orrin McQuaid re-indexed all Oakland County plats (2703) by photostating the original to a reduced size and arranging them alphabetically by Cities and Townships in inexpensive but durable binders. The Original Plats can now be filed away for reference only and will not be subject to the severe use of constant handling.

"In spite of the great increase in volume of work and the improvements made, Orrin McQuaid has operated within a reduced budget compared with former years by frugal use of the money allotted him for operating the office.

"During the first eight months of 1940 the total revenue has been $34,492.09, over 60% of which has been deposited in the General Fund of the County as net revenue above operating expense."

AT HOMECOMING

Joe McDonald, Alma College alumnus, spent the week end at Alma College and attended Alma Homecoming on Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Wahlsten, of Wattles Road, and daughters, Ruby and Mrs. Homer Ford, were among those who attended the homecoming.

Try an Eccentric Classified Ad for quick results

Dental Proposal Would Prohibit Price Advertising

By GENE ALLEMAN
Michigan Press Association

Proposal No. 4 is pretty much a private feud between two groups of professionally trained and state licensed dentists, yet one which concerns the consumer.

One group, who term themselves "ethical" dentists, operate single offices—one dental chair to each office.

Another group, known as the "advertising" dentists, operate low-cost dental offices on the chain store basis. Because of operating economies, these dental offices enjoy big patronage in the industrial centers by telling the consumer about what they have to offer. They do so by advertising. In Detroit these firms even support the Better Business Bureau!

The 1939 dental act contained these provisions, plainly designated to prevent such low-cost competition. We quote the law:

"No Prices"

"No person or persons shall own . . . or manage . . . more than one office for the practice of dentistry in any location . . . and operate them under his own name, with employed operators."

"It shall be unlawful for any dentist or dentists to advertise price, cost, charge, fee or terms of credit for professional service or for materials used in the practice of dentistry."

This Henry-Ford-mass-production method in dentistry — with economies made possible largely through advertising prices to the consumer—has thrived in industrial centers where there are many low wage earners. Actually, only a comparative few dentists in the state are concerned by such competition. And likewise, only a few newspapers have ever received dental advertising of this kind.

The Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research, a group that enjoys a splendid reputation, made this analysis of the two competing claims:

"The dentists who secured the passage of this act claim that poor dental work is confined largely to the 'advertising' dentists and by depriving them of advertising, they would lose their cliental, who would seek more competent care.

"The 'advertising' dentists claim they are able to attract persons who otherwise would neglect their teeth, that their work is as good as other dentists, that advertising prices prevent other dentists from 'gouging' the public, and that advertising is as rightfully applied to dentistry as to the sale of any other service."

"Doesn't Make Sense"

Continuing the bureau's analysis: "The public at large is not particularly concerned with a quarrel within the dental profession. It is concerned with the protection of public health. No doubt much of the material of this act (P. A. 122) is in the interest of public health.

"As to the allegation that advertising and the operation of more than one office is prima facie evidence of poor dental practices—to the laymen THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. Possibly the answer is competent state regulation of all dentists—advertisers and non-advertisers alike."

As both dental groups must have professional training at a recognized dental college and must be licensed by the dentists' own state dental board, the competitive motive behind the bill is easy to see, as the Detroit bureau points out. From the consumer's viewpoint, the anti-competition restriction "doesn't make sense."

Shutting Out Competition

If the State Proposal No. 4 were the only anti-competition bill to confront the consumer, perhaps there would be less reason for concern.

But such is not the case.

Stuart Perry, editor of the Adrian Daily Telegram which has never received a penny in dental advertising, has called attention editorially to the point that the dentists' act is designed to stifle competition and would establish a dangerous precedent for the consumer who always pays.

If it is wrong to advertise the truth about dental prices, then it is wrong to tell the truth about other prices. And where will it all end?

In 1941 the "truth in advertising" statute, making it illegal for anyone to make an untruthful, deceptive or misleading statement in any advertisement, was introduced nationally. Michigan's statute is considered to be a model law of its kind.

Advertising of Prices

Invariably the point arises: Why is it necessary for any group to have a special law of its own—forbidding price advertising of any kind—when Michigan already has a statute fully protecting the interests of the consumer? The answer always brings up the legal delays, continuances and politics which are involved by a suit at law. There are the prosecutor, the judge, and the jury, and they all take time.

The legislative trend since NRA has been to circumvent the usual system of justice by establishing special state bureaus, empowered to regulate competition as far as the legislature will permit them.

That the trend is distinctly anti-competition is shown by State Proposal No. 4 provision to forbid more than one dental office with the mass-economy savings for low income groups.

The ban on truthful price advertising is the heart of the entire proposal and has been so considered privately by the Michigan State Dental society, its sponsors. Behind the 6,000 words is this significant denial of consumer rights.

NO HUNTING-NO TRESPASSING signs for sale at Eccentric office. —adv. 28-31

Movie of Wilderness On Adventure Series

People who live in cities get the notion that all opportunity for living the primitive life has passed, but there are still plenty of spots in the United States and Canada where few, if any, white men have been, according to Martin K. Bovey, adventurer and sportsman. Bovey will appear in person at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Woodward at Kirby, next Sunday afternoon, Nov. 3, at 3:30, to tell of his adventures in the Hudson's Bay country and reveal, with motion pictures in natural color, his experiences while on a 600-mile canoe trip in the Far North.

Try an Eccentric Classified Ad for quick results

VOTE 'NO'
State Ballot No. 4
Anti-Competition Act
Pol. Adv.

Spencer C. Howarth

Republican
Deserves Re-election
—By Reason of His Past Record As Sheriff
For Efficiency
For Economy
and Cooperation with other law-enforcing Agencies
Oakland County Needs Him!

A Vote for Your Interest Is a Vote for
Howarth for Sheriff

GOOD LIGHTING
for your home is as easy as

A Phone your Detroit Edison Office for one of our Home Lighting Advisors.
B She will measure your light with the Light Meter, and tell you how to get good lighting economically.
SEE! Then SEE the difference in your rooms.

ELECTION NOTICE
GENERAL ELECTION
Tuesday, November 5, 1940
TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BLOOMFIELD HILLS

Notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held in the City Office Building, East Long Lake Road, City of Bloomfield Hills, County of Oakland and State of Michigan, on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1940, for the purpose of electing the following officers:

NATIONAL AND STATE: President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Auditor General, Justice of the Supreme Court (to fill vacancy for term ending Dec. 31, 1943), United States Senator, Representative in Congress, 17th Dist.; State Senator, 12th Dist.; Representative in State Legislature.

COUNTY: Judge of Probate, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, (2) Circuit Court Commissioners, Drain Commissioner, (2) Coroners.

The following proposals will also be submitted at this election:

The question of the adoption or rejection of Act No. 147 of the Public Acts of 1939. (The Parkway Playground Proposal.)

The question of the approval or rejection of Act 122 of the Public Acts of 1939 will be submitted (Practice of Dentistry).

A proposed amendment to Article VI of the State Constitution by adding Section twenty-two relative to providing for establishing a system of civil service for state employment, etc.

A proposed amendment to Section 21 of Article X of the Constitution relative to authorizing a tax on property in addition to the 15 Mill Limitation for school purposes.

The question of the approval or rejection of Section 3 of Article I of Act No. 261, of the Public Acts of 1939. (The Michigan Public Service Commission.)

POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A. M. to 8:00 P. M. Eastern Standard Time.

GEORGE C. BOOTH,
City Clerk

VOTE YES ON PROPOSAL # 3

PROTECT YOURSELF

Don't depend upon the whim or fancy of the Detroit Street Railways for your bus service. Too many communities have already suffered. If you want bus service that is dependable and safe and if you want a voice in determining bus fares and schedules, vote "YES" on Proposal Number 3.

Remember—
You are entitled to good bus service.

VOTE YES ON PROPOSAL # 3

We'll Put Our Money on POWER!

THERE are two ways you can go about engineering an automobile.

You can *think* it out or you can *tinker* it out.

You can get right down to the tough job of building better, livelier, abler performance *into the engine*—or you can fiddle around with expedients that seem to do the job.

It is plain, of course, that the sole *source* of car performance is the power plant.

And all engineers know that if you build in enough power and flexibility you can get the thrilling kind of performance car owners want.

Pull, pick-up, hill-climbing, economical gear ratios, less need for changing gears—you can get them all from abundant power.

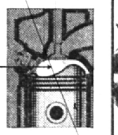
The one thing that has stood in the way has been the difficulty of getting this power without also increasing the size of the engine.

Now, sweating out more power from the same size engine and the same amount of fuel is a down-to-earth, hard-work job.

But—it's the right and proper way to get the wanted results without falling back on extra mechanisms that complicate chassis design.

And that's what Buick engineers have done.

NUTSHELL PICTURE
of America's Most Powerful Standard-Production Engine

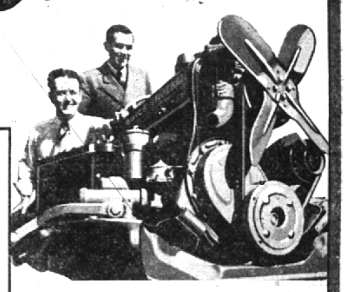


Basic source of this engine's peak power is the FIREBALL design which compacts the fuel charge into the shape of a flattened ball around the spark. Fired from its heart under higher compression pressure, each charge lets go with heavier wallop that extracts more power from each charge of fuel. Amplifying this is Compound Carburetion, in which the usual large carburetor is replaced by two smaller mixers teamed to work together. Only one of these carburetors functions in normal driving. The other cuts in automatically whenever it is needed to provide extra power, shuts off when the need is past. Result: Actually more power from less gasoline.

They have concentrated their 1941 creative thought on providing greater and more flexible power *in the engine itself*.

They have done this through FIREBALL design and Compound Carburetion—and what they've accomplished for you boils down to this:

You get more power—eight, eighteen or twenty-four more horsepower from the same size engines as last year—power that gets you off like a bullet and sweeps you up a hill like a fighter plane "going upstairs."



You get more mileage—from all engines and at all speeds—as much as 10% to 15% more miles per gallon and the benefits of overdrive all the time you are in "high."

You get easier car handling—less gear changing from a tremendous power reserve that pulls the hills and negotiates traffic without the necessity of dropping into lower gear ratios.

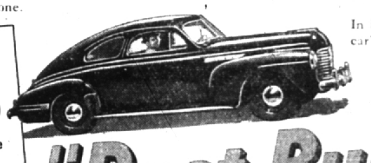
You get greater safety—from quick pick-up that lifts you surely out of tight spots, and from the full and immediate braking power of your engine without the "lag" while liquid couplings and the like readjust themselves.

Finally you get a chassis that is clean, simple and direct in design—unencumbered by intricate mechanisms that are hard to service and difficult to repair.

In brief you get basic improvement in your car's *capacity for performance*—and when you're spending several hundred dollars for an automobile, that's important enough to look into.

BUICK PRICES BEGIN AT $935 for the Business Coupe

delivered at Flint, Mich. Transportation based on rail rates, state and local taxes (if any), optional equipment and accessories—extra. Prices subject to change without notice.



"Best Buick Yet"

EXEMPLAR OF GENERAL MOTORS VALUE

SUMNER MOTOR SALES, Inc.

464 So. Woodward Phone 1200 Birmingham, Mich.