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Let's Not Fall Backward

Residents of the Birmingham school district should have no objection to maintaining the present 2 1/2 mill levy for school operational costs, nor should there be much argument against voting an increased 2 1/2 mills which the school board would earmark for building maintenance and much needed additional construction.

Birmingham is in an unusual plight concerning the finances of its schools; school districts the nation over are wondering how to obtain the additional revenue to prevent the downgrading of American elementary and secondary educations.

These school systems are asking for money to be used for leather-bound textbooks, leaky gymnasium floors or bent grass lawns. The money is needed now to grant needed increases to school teachers, to pay the increased cost of fuel and supplies, for building maintenance and the like.

Public school educational systems have never before faced such a financial crisis. The American public can ill afford to become miserly when the American educational structure is threatened by the lack of revenue with which to carry on.

A few dollars a year more in school taxes from each resident of the school district will help to carry the schools through this abnormal period. The American educational system has added greatly to the position of the United States today. We can't afford to fall backward now.

The Radio Manufacturers Association estimates that production of all types of radio receivers in 1946 exceeded 15,000,000, which represents a ten per cent gain over the largest pre-war production.

In view of the fact that the manufacturers were turning out receivers at an annual rate of nearly 20,000,000 a year as 1946 closed, one naturally wonders how many receivers the public will be willing to buy.

We have no idea how many receivers the American people will be able to buy, but the sale of these sets depends entirely upon what the purchaser can get over the air. This means that the interest of the manufacturers should be definitely centered in the type of programs sent over the ether.

A CHIEF DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING MORE EFFICIENT and economical administration of Michigan government is that too many past leaders have made appointments on a political basis, rather than on the formula of selecting men and women who can and will give real public service.

The Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission is a case in point. Seldom has any agency of State government become so "inefficient" a condition resulting from too little correct direction from the top men in that agency.

Vandenberg for Cooperation

Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee says, "There is no longer any partisan politics in the fixed and united American foreign policy."

The Michigan Senator, who cooperated very patriotically with the Democratic Administration in connection with the promotion of economic cooperation with the rest of the world and says that, here again, "we shall do our full part in legitimate economic cooperation."

Mr. Vandenberg says we shall ask questions in order to be sure that we do not "jeopardize our own national economy" and maintains that "the zealous protection" of our economy is no threat to peace.

Publicity recently given to accidents on the airlines of the United States and elsewhere in the world has created the impression that flying is more dangerous than ever before.

This is a mistaken impression. The safety record for 1946, according to W. Averell Harriman, Secretary of Commerce, was forty per cent better than that for 1945.

BIRMINGHAM IS PARTICULARLY FORTUNATE to learn that eight of its citizens have come forward to offer their services as members of the City Commission for the next three years.

While only two of them will be elected to the vacancies created by the retirement of Commissioners Coit Allee and John Martz, the eight announced candidates are to be commended for their civic-mindedness and interest in the affairs of the community.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 375-222 North Woodward Avenue

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Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan, under the Act of March 3, 1917.

Subscription Rates: (In Oakland County) One Year \$2.00, Six Months \$1.25, Three Months .75

The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, and University Press Club.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material provided it has news value and questions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited superficially so that they conform to general newspaper standards. Any strenuous criticism on the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

That's a Long Knife, Brother

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO March 4, 1897

Who says our town isn't becoming metropolitan? By actual figures we were 27 years hatched on our streets Saturday last at 3:15 p. m. and it wasn't a very good day for teams either unless they were well blanketed.

Anyone wishing to secure 20 acres of first-class land in a good neighborhood and a reasonable price, will do well to call on Lyon J. Beardsley, Birmingham, who will cheerfully furnish particulars in regard to same.

Nearly every paper we read tells of some town or village that has bought land for a park. Why not buy Horace Randall's park? It can be bought, is near town and is a beautiful spot.

30 YEARS AGO March 3, 1917

A petition asking for a Woodward avenue wider than 100 feet was to be in the hands of Gov. Fred W. Green today following a meeting of less than 30 Woodward avenue property owners who discussed the matter in the Baldwin High School Friday night.

The new Goodyear All-Weather balloon tire, announced this year, is the most revolutionary development in the automobile tire industry since the introduction of the cord tire, according to F. E. Stornal.

Senior Washington Group Wednesday evening to complete final arrangements for the annual banquet, which is scheduled from April 9 to 17 inclusive.

Shoppers tried to match the frock more than once for evening wear. Sometimes the slippers arched a little higher than the frock it is to go with.

5 YEARS AGO March 5, 1942

Birmingham schools, one hundred percent of the children in the "Save the Children Federation," each school pledging the support of one English child for the coming year.

A sampling of opinions from parents of children of grade and junior high school seems to indicate that Birmingham is "sold" on the idea of a central junior high school to open in September in the Barnum building.

Bloomfield Hills is organizing for the coming year. George Coleman Booth has been appointed chief air raid warden and he held a preliminary meeting Monday night. About 30 auxiliary policemen are to start training this week.

The old brick homestead which stood for perhaps 75 years on East Maple avenue at the railroad right-of-way, now Hunter boulevard, is no more. Last Saturday afternoon, when armed with iron bars and sledgehammers, went to work on it and the familiar structure was soon leveled to the ground. It was of solid masonry.

Some shyster visited the power house of the electric road last week and turned on the power of an electric motor car a point or so north where found, the car was trying to smash a hole through the rear wall of the building and the wheels were making merry ground. Just suppose that car had headed the other way.

Regular meeting of the Board of Education February 18, 1947, at 8:00 p. m. Resignation of Jacqueline Britten accepted.

Appointment of Donald God, William Spurlack and Jay Everts as custodians approved.

Accounts Payable, payrolls and transfer of funds to Bond Retirement in the amount of \$141,750.70 approved.

New purchases in the amount of \$2,627.30 authorized. Payment of \$3,513.21 for school bus approved.

Christ Church Visit Made by Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts of Lone Troop 4, Poppleton School, were guided through Christ Church Cranbrook Monday afternoon. The girls were shown the whole troop visited the church building. Many of the art objects and treasures there were explained to them.

A similar visit to the Shrine of the Little Flower is planned by the troop for March 2.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland, at Court held at Court held at the Probate Office in the City of Detroit, Michigan, on the 11th day of February, A. D. 1947.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate. Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

It is remanded of this recently when, sorrow through some old wife, came across a shot of my wife taken some years ago. I don't remember the exact exposure details but it was a time exposure made in our living room by the light of a late winter afternoon sun.



AA Groups Plan Reserve Officers

Series of Open Meetings Here

Inaugurating a series of open meetings to be known as the "Oakland County Monthly Meeting," the Birmingham Community House, March 11.

All members of the A. A. groups will be welcomed, and the visiting public who wish to find out just how this organization works are also invited.

Members of the clergy, doctors and police groups interested in knowing something of the working of the A. A. organization will be in attendance. It is reported.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political organization composed of ex-drinkers who have found their way out and who are anxious to carry the message to others needing help.

No fees, dues or assessments are charged—A. A. stating that these have already been paid over bars. After the open meeting, there will be a social get-together, when coffee and doughnuts will be served.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Sunlight and a white cardboard reflector provided the necessary illumination for this indoor shot.

INDOORS BY DAYLIGHT

ALl too often, it seems to us, we forget the simpler methods of what picture taking in our concern with flood or flash lamps, gadgets and accessories of one sort or another.

Not that such devices as special lights, lens attachments, and extra equipment don't extend the camera's picture possibilities. They do, and make no mistake about it. But the average camera, even a box camera, has possibilities in itself which we may overlook.

To plan an exposure for such a picture, calculate to catch the details in the shadows. The correct exposure will depend on a simple card turned slightly so that the light did not fall directly on her face, and a white cardboard reflector was used to give adequate lighting to the right, or shadow, side of the face.

Such a device as a sheet would serve as well—should be placed close to the subject as possible without showing in the picture.

To plan an exposure for a simple card, calculate to catch the details in the shadows. The correct exposure will depend on a simple card turned slightly so that the light did not fall directly on her face, and a white cardboard reflector was used to give adequate lighting to the right, or shadow, side of the face.

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