

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press is Democracy's First Line of Defense

Two Ways to Look at It

As long as the city charter provision requiring 15 per cent city-at-large participation in special assessment districts remains, the city commission may override on occasion the wishes of property owners concerning the creation of a particular assessment district.

So Kennesaw residents were told last week by Mayor Milton F. Mallender. These residents protested the improvement of their street with permanent hard surfacing, claiming they would rather wait a few years before such improvement was made.

Mallender pointed out that the city-at-large contributed at least 15 per cent of the money for all special assessments. Other costs, from time to time and depending on the particular type of improvement, are also borne by the city. The money for the city's share in these districts comes from the general tax dollar of the residents. Each taxpayer, to a certain extent, participates in each district.

While possible but not probable, some residents some time might ask the commission for an improvement of the costs of which might be out of true proportion to the benefits derived. The commission, then, since it pays at least 15 per cent of the cost, would have to decide whether the benefits to the city-at-large are out of proportion. If they were, then the commission undoubtedly would decide not to participate until the benefits to be derived were more in line with the cost of same.

This works the other way, too, as Kennesaw residents learned. As explained by City Manager Donald C. Egbert, the Kennesaw road bed is in such a good condition now that it would cost about \$2.50 per front foot to put a hard surface on the street today. But once the 25-year-old tar surface completely oxidizes (it's going to pop rapidly, Egbert advises), it will become more expensive to construct. As the road is pounded by traffic, the road bed will become progressively worse. In five years, it may require about \$5.70 per front foot to rebuild and surface, says Egbert.

Thus, when the city is presented with a "bargain" improvement such as the Kennesaw project, the city commission hesitates to let it pass. Fifteen per cent of \$2.50, they believe, is much better than 15 per cent of \$5.70.

In spite of the pressure that may be brought on the commission to drop the Kennesaw improvement for the time being, we believe the commission on September 27 will confirm the assessment roll to take advantage of the savings to the city-at-large.

The cost of blighting, according to advice from Spain, has gone up in the last 200 years from \$750 to \$100,000 per foot. The cost of meat hasn't quite approached that, yet.

An Improvement

The House Un-American Activities Committee recently held sessions behind closed doors in an effort to clear up some conflicts in the testimony before it as to various persons accused of being Communists.

We certainly commend the committee for its decision to hold some hearings in private, and think that the reputation of the committee would have been greatly enhanced if all of its preliminary testimony had been taken in secret.

[This does not mean the committee cannot disclose the results of its inquiry in proper form. All it infers is that the committee would lose some of the headlines it has bought at the price of its reputation.]

The practice of permitting individuals to appear before the committee, at a public hearing, and unlose spectacular and oftentimes unsupported charges against citizens whose reputations are at stake, does not appeal to the fair play of most Americans.

Certainly before such charges are broadcast throughout the nation to the irreparable damage of individuals, the accused should have a hearing and the committee should only make known its conclusions in regard to the charges sustained.

A Midland, Michigan, man recently walked from Florida to Windsor in one hour less than 60 days. He did it on a boast. He strengthened his leg muscles, improved his abdominal condition, and wore out much shoe leather. He spent \$150 en route for actual needs. He spent purchased transportation would have been cheaper. But we'll wager that he obtained many experiences he'll remember, some even to treasure, the rest of his life.

The tomato, it seems, is becoming a political weapon of the first magnitude. The Wallace incidents in North Carolina is equalled by the rout of draft pickets in Boston by 100 men in workmen's clothes who hurled tomatoes at them.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11 11 and 18. GEORGE W. AVERILL, Business Manager. GEORGE W. AVERILL, Advertising Manager. HANDED P. BURBANK, Editor and Publisher. Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan, on March 3, 1937.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: (In Oakland County) One Year \$1.00, Six Months .50, Three Months .25. (Outside Oakland County) One Year \$1.25, Six Months .75, Three Months .40.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material providing it has news value and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited subject to the condition of general news value. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

MORTGAGE SALE: WHEREAS, certain real estate made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage dated September 19, 1944, owned by Earl F. Parrish and Ethel Parrish, National Bank and Trust Company, Flint, Michigan, National Bank and Trust Company, Flint, Michigan, in Liber 2185 of Mortgages, Michigan, in Liber 2185 of Mortgages at Page 440-441, on October 9, 1947, and the amount claimed to be due upon said mortgage at the date of the notice of sale is \$1,000.00, plus interest thereon at the rate of FIVE and 27/100 (46.2333) per cent per annum on the amount of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT and 32/100 (188.2666) DOLLARS, and no set-off or credits at law having been established to recover the last sum remaining secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof, and default having been made whereby the power of sale contained in said mortgage has become operative, notice is hereby given that by virtue of the said power

No. 22: The Department of Public Works \$100,000 Worth of Equipment Assists DPW Maintenance

By George Wm. Averill

Water and sewer system maintenance, repair of streets, rubbish pickup, snow and ice removal—these are some of the assorted jobs assigned to the city's department of public works. At the present time, 56 men—including the department superintendent and foremen—are taking care of these city responsibilities.

One of the principal jobs of the department today is the construction of new water and sewer services from the street to a new house. Because of the rapid rate at which new residences are being built in Birmingham this year, the DPW has had pressed to keep up with the sewerage requirements by the issuance of building permits.

Only Certain Distances: The city connects these sewer and water services only from the utilities in the street to one foot inside of the sidewalk. From that point it is the responsibility of the builder or property owner to see the connection is then run to the house itself.

Nor can the property owner, in the event of a plugged sewer or leaking water service, call in a private plumber to dig up connections in the street, from a point one foot inside the sidewalk. This work must be done by the city upon proper application. Reasons for this are two-fold: first, the plumber has no idea of the utility lines in the street; second, because of this fact, he might damage something he doesn't expect. Secondarily, the city is interested in making connections to water mains. This is not up to them to construct new sewers and water mains. This is most cases let by contract to private construction firms.

May Get No Bids: Of course, sometimes the city cannot obtain bidders for the ordinary or very short runs of sewer pipe or water mains. The contractor either has to accept such work or he may be charged such a high price it would be too extravagant. In such cases, the city assigns the small jobs to the DPW.

Maintenance of the two sewage pumping stations (one located at Munier and Maple avenues, the other in the 14 Mile road just east of Woodward) falls upon the department.

The DPW superintendent controls the city's equipment pool, from grass mowers, trucks, autos to roto-tillers and graders. Today the city has 84 pieces of equipment, equipping the services of the DPW. The equipment which may be kept in proper repair.

NEXT WEEK: The City's sewage disposal plant.

Just How Sure-Footed Is a Donkey?



Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO September 16, 1908

The beautiful fall days are upon us, and we think the most beautiful season of the year is close at hand. The bright days are bringing many out of the city to drive or walk through our beautiful woods at the west end of town.

It is Mrs. Volney Goodwin who writes that beautiful colors look, and she tells the editor that she will give slips of the plants to anyone who would like to have them.

Hark! Young man, go that girl of yours and take her to the social at the Town Hall Friday evening. You can buy her (and yourself) a delicious supper for only 25c per person.

Car No. 17 on the D & P line is now in commission and running steadily. Passengers are singing their praises of the comfort of the new car as well as its looks. The seats, covered in a very attractive matting, are two inches lower than in the old cars, and are much more comfortable.

We have found out why there are so few county office candidates from Bloomfield Hills. At least ten of them are going to be the new postmaster in Birmingham when George H. Mitchell...

number of the clergy are expected to be present.

The new jitney service between Birmingham and Detroit will start today. It has been granted a temporary permit by the Suburban Rapid Transit Co. of Oakland County, and is expected to greatly facilitate getting to and from Detroit, especially for those working downtown.

Two workmen are recovering from injuries received when a crane fell while they were working on the construction of the new bridge of North Woodward. The men, Joseph Burke and G. L. West, both of 404 Forest, were taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for treatment.

FIVE YEARS AGO September 16, 1943

Executives of the Pontiac district of Michigan Bell will pay tribute tonight to Walter E. Fisher for his 25 years as manager of the Birmingham office. He will be the honored guest at a dinner, and will be presented the diamond pin awarded to 25-year men.

Police, who were unable to gain on a speeding car when their own machine was traveling at better than 90 miles an hour, captured their quarry when his car crashed at Woodward and Hunter Saturday evening. Witnesses said the car rolled over eight or ten times. The driver, who was not injured, was 19-year-old Edward Bouchard, was crawling out of the wreckage. He suffered fractures.

Hans Wagner had to take a lot of ribbing at the H-12 meeting the other night when he pulled his own sump out of the hat for the special prize. Every other member present wanted to know how he did it.

Arthur C. Mason, 956 Chester, was installed as Commander of the Birmingham Post No. 14, American Legion at their regular meeting. Plans for the coming year were made by Mason and his staff, including aid to the current War Savings Bond campaign in Birmingham.

Don Dasher, 778 Ridgedale, and his pointer Garbala's Harkaway, gave a demonstration of obedience training for dogs at the Lions luncheon Wednesday. Harkaway's performance proved why she has won two out of the three shows she has been entered in.

RESTAURANT OPERATION SCHEDULE

So You'll Find Them Open When You Go To Your FAVORITE EATING PLACES

CORNING'S EL PATIO WOODWARD AVENUE AT COOLIDGE HIGHWAY Near Birmingham SEA-SHORE DINNERS Open Daily and Sunday CHICKEN PHONE ROYAL OAK 9772 STEAKS - CHOPS FOX AND HOUNDS INN JOHN INGELSON, Prop. Bloomfield Hills. Woodward at Long Lake Rd. SERVING DINNERS Sunday—12:30 until 2:00 p. m. Monday—12:30 until 1:00 p. m. Phone 640-4000. Closed on Sundays.

HOME PLANNERS



Consult with us if you are contemplating improvements or additions to your home. We'll help you with sound advice... tell you how to go about it at a minimum cost and we'll supply you with the finest building materials.

LAWSON & SON

484 Forest BUILDERS SUPPLIES Phone 111

BIRMINGHAM MOVERS MOVING • STORAGE • CRATING 277 PIERCE ST. PHONE 1343

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

BENDIX RAKES STOP HERE SO YOU CAN STOP ANYWHERE We are authorized Bendix Brake dealers... GET OUR PRICE GENERAL AUTO SERVICE

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner Here's a natural, story-telling picture symbolizing the opening of school.

School Day Pictures The son of a neighbor of mine is off on an ambitious project—a personal school year book to be made from photographs which he plans to shoot in the next few weeks.

STOP IN AT YOUR CONVENIENCE LAWSON & SON 484 Forest BUILDERS SUPPLIES Phone 111