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Were The Bond Issues Only Down Payments?

In the April 1948 city election, voters were asked to endorse a \$50,000 bond issue for a new West Maple bridge and its approaches. They approved it. Two years later, at the city election just last April, voters again were asked for more bonds, this time \$105,000 worth to provide additional grading facilities, paving and fencing at the DPW yard. Voters also okayed this one. Since 1948, the bridge itself has been constructed, and the city is currently doing some rough grading on the approaches, including some tree removals. The bridge cost \$32,956.89, according to the contract which was let. As of Sept. 21 this year, City Treasurer Russell T. Berger estimated the city still had \$14,000 of the bridge bond issue left.

YET THE CITY ENGINEER has estimated the total cost of the entire bridge project at \$149,000, plus the cost of some right-of-way acquisition west of the bridge.

To finish the bridge project, the city now says it will need an additional \$99,000 plus those right-of-way costs.

City Manager Donald C. Egbert believes both a bond issue and an appropriation from the city's capital improvement account will be involved in this additional financing, but he hasn't figured out how much will come from each.

The capital improvement account, also as of Sept. 21 last, contained \$45,000. The account, it should be pointed out, is used for such things as additional fire or police equipment, resurfacing of main city paved streets, etc.

IF THE ENTIRE \$45,000 were used for the bridge, it would still require a minimum second bond issue of \$49,000. Any reduction in the amount taken from the improvement account would mean a correspondingly higher amount in the new bond issue.

Last week another complication entered the Maple bridge improvement picture with the announcement that the Baldwin Manor Corp. intends to sue the city for damages to its property resulting from the new Merrill street cutoff.

If the suit is successful, the cost of damages awarded must be added to the financing of the entire project. This would only boost the amount of the second bond issue.

None of the \$105,000 for the DPW yard improvement has been spent yet, except possibly a few hundred dollars for engineering costs.

Commissioners have not agreed on exactly what the improvement shall include. But they were informed, and reported in The Eccentric's Aug. 17, 1950 issue, that it looks like another \$11,000 will be needed to do the job as tentatively planned.

It was suggested that the \$11,000 come from the capital improvement fund, too.

But City Commissioner Ralph A. Main, asked by fellow commissioners to look further into the DPW yard improvement, may have pulled this city project out of the fire. Last week Main said he believed the DPW did need an additional \$20,000 in office space, thus trimming the project to within bond issue limits.

IT APPEARS TO The Eccentric that city officials could have done much better in planning these two projects, including COMPLETE cost estimates BEFORE these bond issues went to voters.

It now turns out that the bond issues are merely down payments on the improvements, that the final installments have yet to be paid before we can enjoy the new facilities.

We would like to ask this question: why aren't these city projects thought out so the bond issues cover ALL costs?

That was the impression given the voters at the 1948 and 1950 elections. Now they are both confused and surprised to learn they will have to vote more money to bail out the improvements, particularly the new bridge.

Concerning future city bond issues, we believe they will not be approved until

the citizens of Birmingham are definitely assured—by looking at complete cost estimates—that the proposed bond issue INCLUDES THE COST OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT, OR A COMPLETE PHASE OF THAT OVER-ALL IMPROVEMENT.

We know that many voters already have adopted this attitude.

From Our Point of View

Now that United Nations armed forces have beaten the North Koreans, some of Communist China starts to light MacArthur's men. In this whole plan of military aggression by Communists, Soviet Russia sits by and declares: "Communists of other nations, not us, are fighting you; so don't blame us." Just like an indulgent parent whose kids break the neighbor's windows, and who argues: "I didn't do it, my kids did. So don't blame me."

In 1946, George M. Dwellley says he bought from the state considerable industrial property east of Eton road. It was swampy and needed considerable filling to make it salable and useable. He claims he bought the property only on the assurance of certain city officials that the city would finish using it as a dump by 1948. The city isn't through yet. And now the officials apparently agree with Dwellley on just what was promised, represented or assured four years ago. You see, it was a verbal arrangement—nothing was written down as to who agreed to what. Around the office we have a motto: "People Forget—Paper Doesn't Write Down." It makes for such smoother progress, we have found.

City commissioners believe about \$24,500 can be obtained for development of the park in the Eton-Sheffield area by sale of other nearby city property which cannot be worked easily into any park development. We like their idea—it's taxpayers' pocketbook, like the \$50,000 park improvement bond issue which voters turned down two and a half years ago.

Like the reactions of a thermometer to atmospheric changes, the stock market goes up and down as domestic and world situations change. That's always been the way the stock market acts—except in those old days when certain speculators could "rig" the situation to their liking.

Make no mistake about this, Mr. and Mrs. America: Russia knows just about all there is to know regarding current conditions in the United States. She knows that we don't want war, but that only makes her happy. Russia knows that we are hesitant to prepare for war on a big scale, and that makes her happy, too. She knows a thousand times more about us than we know about her. So let's close our Russian embassy, kick Russians out of the U.S.A., then really get realistic enough to arm ourselves against the inevitable clash of totalitarianism versus freedom on earth.

So They Say . . .

Paul Fompey, of the American Institute of Family Relations: "Movies show teenage lovers to be just moonstruck morons, when actually they are smarter than the old folks in the love department."

Eric Johnston, president, Motion Picture Association of America: "The jobless man of 45 and up is the displaced person in our society today."

Herman L. Weikler, automobile official: "A strike is not a victory for anybody."

Leon H. Keyserling, chairman, President's Council of Economic Advisers: "In terms of real dollar value, the nation has reached an all-time peak of peace-time prosperity."

Wayland F. Vaughan, psychologist: "Marriage and children bring a richness of living that surpasses any peace of mind."

Harry S. Truman: "I am just as sure as I stand here that the people behind the Iron Curtain are just as anxious for peace as I am."

Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India: "Generally speaking, countries of Asia are developing, or wish to develop, democratic institutions."



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background of The Birmingham Of Today.

5 YEARS AGO November 22, 1945 Preliminary plans and estimates for the proposed sanitary sewer from Chapin street south to 14 Mile road, on Grant, has been completed. The plans were presented to the city commissioners by City Manager H. H. Carson Monday evening.

50 YEARS AGO November 16, 1900 Two men in our town have said they would not serve on a village or school board with women. From the signs of the times they better not live much longer or they will be in the rear of the procession.

At a trustees meeting of the Presbyterian church the treasurer's report shows that all financial obligations have been met and the church is now practically out of debt.

Harry Conroy left Monday last for Manistique, U.P., where he has secured a lucrative position with the Chicago Lumber Co. Harry has just finished a business course with the Gutches school in Detroit. Good wishes, Harry!

On the night of Nov. 7, party of parties announced a bay mare, harness, wagon and robes from a local man. He will pay \$15 reward for the return of his property. Sheriff Belt will pay \$25 for a conviction of the thief.

20 YEARS AGO November 20, 1930 Members of the Presbyterian congregation will meet Sunday to hear a report on the advisability of appointing a new pastor to the church, replacing the Rev. Floyd Logee. He resigned a year ago to accept the pastorate at Bismark, N.D.

Dr. W. Lloyd Kemp, village health officer, today warned parents to protect their children against diphtheria. There has been a sharp increase in the disease and all parents are advised to take advantage of the toxin-antitoxin for their children.

The Community House bridge party tonight will serve a double purpose for it will not only decide the town's male bridge champion but will increase the milk fund for needy families. It is expected over 100 will play.

The Rev. W. Hamilton Aulenback was the principal speaker at last night's banquet of Birmingham Lodge, F & A M Thursday night. The meeting featured several other prominent speakers including Masons from the local lodge and other sections of the state.

Mrs. Sarah C. Spencer died at St. Louis, Mo.

Ticklers



"Somebody put cracker crumbs in my bed!"

ONE HANG OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

SOVIET SURPRISE FOR U.S. NEWSPAPERMEN

For many years, all newspapermen believe that Ottmar Mergenthaler invented the linotype machine, that complex piece of machinery that permitted the development of today's newspaper.

But now we find we are wrong. Who says so? The Russians, of course.

Writing history to suit themselves, Russia claims that Comrade Peter Knyaznikoff invented the machine in 1870, twenty years before Mergenthaler said he did.

If we accept the Soviet claim, then perhaps we now should refer to the machine as the Knyaznikoff type.

Would this be looking into the future? The United States, Russia and a few other nations all claim to have invented the linotype machine after the year started. There wasn't a sign of life on the whole earth.

Then, four weeks later, a monkey stuck his head out where he would not serve on a village or school board with women. In the bushes around there was a movement, then a few monkeys appeared.

They eyed each other. Taking a deep breath, then winked at each other. "Well, what do you think? Should we start this whole darn thing over again?"

"For managers and overseers,"

LOOKING AHEAD By George S. Benson

YOUR STAKE IN INFLATION

For generations life insurance has been a mainstay of economic security for the individual. It still is one of the most important security props in most American homes.

Today three out of every four families own life insurance. The increase in their savings with private insurance companies.

Comparatively recent years the pension idea mushroomed and now approximately 50,000,000 workers are participating in the Federal government's Old Age and Survivors Insurance ("Social Security") program through which a fixed monthly pension is paid at retirement age.

THUS THESE TWO sources—private insurance and public "Social Security"—constitute primary means of economic security for the homes of America.

But day by day, week by week, they are being salaried by inflation.

Every day the inflation continues to eat into the value of \$214,000,000,000 as he becomes a nest of empty shells.

Every day it continues, these pensions are being eroded by the declining value of the dollar.

SO LONG AS INFLATION continues, pensioned "security" can only be a mirage.

MICHIGAN MIRROR

400,000 HUNTERS READY FOR DEER SEASON

While the Communists continue to restrict their hunting, Michigan hunters are ready for the annual hunt. Nearly 400,000 hunters will storm the woods this week bringing out an estimated 115,000 deer.

Some 3,250 Michigan young men will get guns from the government before November 15th. The State Commission has its monthly tally, attesting that the Korean conflict is far from over.

Government expense has gone up. Says R. Perry Shotts, Saginaw banker: "The cost of living since 1940 has increased about 75 percent, while the cost of the government has increased 174 percent. The blame? Not defense spending, but non-defense—since he says has quadrupled since 1940."

The government got its return on the State Corporation Commission gave RFC a check for \$91,185,990.80 in full payment of its obligations. The RFC is to be paid in full, down to the eighty cents. And it was paid 20 years ahead of schedule!

An old sign is the labor shortage. Detroit suffers most, along with other big cities. The smaller industrial areas, Harry C. Markie, M.I.C.C. director, suggests industry training to augment skilled worker forces.

Apparently the college boom is over. Michigan educators are planning for "seven lean years." The Yerr, C. Celestin J. Steiner, president of the University of Detroit, predicts many colleges may have to close. He sees enrollment losses up to 50 percent.

Credit cards still claim page one news space. On the whole the

Now in the Winter

By BEATRICE McDONALD

Gold wind of winter rattling the window panes. Prodding the inert snowflakes here and there. Whisking the snow through empty country lanes. Whirling the stiff arms of the weather vane, shaking the trees and snapping off the bare. Dry bonny little branches of old trees. Shaking the clouds along and the smoke from trains. Through the soft blues of the winter sky. Coaxing the spring to come back by and by.

Electric cars still claim page one news space. On the whole the