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Next Tuesday Is Primary Election Day

Are you ready, informed, and otherwise fit to cast your vote at Michigan's primary election next Tuesday?

On other pages of this week's Eccentric we are giving you a survey of candidates and issues, prepared from information obtained by the League of Women Voters. This survey is objective, since the League, itself, does not favor or oppose candidates and issues.

Reading it should provide you with some current details on subjects that you may or may not have had time to read before.

While this newspaper does not seek "to tell" voters whom they should vote for, we see no harm in making some personal observations on the subject—since a newspaperman is presumed to have more detailed data on candidates and issues than most readers do.

In this coming primary election, each political party presents one or more candidates for each of the public jobs. The Democrats have only one candidate, Gov. Mennen Williams, now completing his first two-year term.

Williams is young, wealthy, enthusiastic for public service, desirous of a continued political career. He is surrounded in Lansing by a politically astute group.

Williams is both a New Dealer and a Fair dealer. He believes "government should be paternalistic in the interest of the "have-nots"—which, incidentally, is where most of the votes are.

The Republicans present five candidates.

There is former two-term Gov. Harry F. Kelly, a staunch party-man, opposed to too much governmental paternalism. He is a veteran, always ready to help them through governmental subsidy. (Lots of veterans vote, of course.)

Kelly was an average Governor, not brilliant, his ear to the political ground—and he certainly is opposed to the current drift toward Socialism.

Fred M. Alger, Jr., a son of wealth, is completing his second two-year term as secretary of State. Unlike most sons of wealth, Alger has had considerable practical business experience.

His judgment on various Michigan problems to date has been fair and good. He is opposed to the Socialistic drift, is perfectly honest, and comes from a family long distinguished for its personal and financial contributions to good government. He has served his country in the military services.

Alger is not the traditional party politician because he makes no "promises" to obtain support. Surrounded by good men of his own choosing, he would no doubt be a better than average Governor.

Dr. Eugene C. Keyes has been Michigan's Lieut.-Governor twice. A bachelor, he makes politics his chief civic hobby, and wants to be Governor more than the devil wants sinners.

We know the Dearborn doctor-dentist, lawyer quite well. While we admire his willingness to offer himself "to serve the dear people!" we certainly do not consider him quite the timber to occupy the chair of Michigan's Chief Executive in Lansing.

As for the fourth candidate, Thomas S. Leith, Mayor of Brighton, we never heard of him in Republican circles until this year—so he may be grateful for whatever publicity he wins from the primary election activities.

When it comes to the candidacy of lawyer J. Engel, now completing many years as a Congressman from western Michigan, we want to record the fact that we admire the gentleman.

His zeal in Congress has saved American taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. He is a practical-liberal, who knows plenty about government, especially in the federal level, although it must not be forgotten that he served in Michigan's Senate years ago, too.

Engel is honest, forthright, understands the problems of both management and labor, is a veteran, and would do a good job in Lansing. However, being away from Michigan for many years, he is not well-known to contemporary voters, a fact that suggests he'll have an

uphill road to reach the Governor's chair next January 1.

Among four candidates for Lieut.-Governor on the Republican ticket, we see only two with any state experience.

Harry Henderson, of nearby Franklin, a retired Detroit businessman, now on the State Liquor Control Commission, is one of these candidates. His public experience, of course, is limited, but he is able.

The other is William C. Vandenberg of Holland, who has served several years in the State Senate, since his retirement some years ago from active business. Vandenberg is a stolid Dutchman, whose personal or political worth is as good as the gold stored in Ft. Knox. He knows state affairs well.

John W. Connolly, present Democratic Lieut.-Governor, is unopposed in next Tuesday's primary election.

Then we started to write this piece, we intended to cover more territory, but find space limited... so suggest that you read the League of Women Voters' survey for additional data on the various other political personalities, including Congressional and county candidates of both parties.

We believe that both Birmingham City Charter amendments are deserving of your approval, as well as the four State referendum propositions coming up.

BUT, WHOEVER YOU ARE, DON'T FAIL TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE AT NEXT TUESDAY'S ELECTION!

Man On The Loose

Always remember that our form of self-government, which we label "democracy", is the only system ever devised that turns man on the loose to make his own destiny.

There is a price attached to this freedom of individual thought and action: it is the price of being decent, honest, tolerant, intelligently interested in the job of being a good citizen.

"Democracy" is only a formula, like mathematics, always ready to serve those who know how to use it. Indeed, "democracy" is the most difficult of all forms of government.

From Our Point of View

Russia can add this to her distinction (?) list of "firsts": aggressive by proxy.

We have discovered that when someone invites you into a conference, it is because he thinks he has enough arguments to convince you.

About this flying saucer business: if the Americans really have them, wouldn't it be a good idea to let the Red Koreans see them—in action?

Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson may have gotten economy, but the nation wonders what he got for the 50 billions spent since the end of the last war.

So They Say . . .

Ralph Lee, industrial consultant: "I think we all are born with a big hunk of lead in our breeches."

Robert B. Brown, GI in Korea: "We're wearing our shoes out walking backwards."

Mrs. Andrew C. Du Mez, educator: "Society has a responsibility to all children whether they are superior, normal or slow."

Mrs. Emma M. Stine, carousel operator: "It ain't the infant that wants the ride. It's the adult that uses his child as a pretext."

Head of wholesale grocery firm, speaking of state buyers: "You could wear your sawdust up in cellophane and sell it."

Chester W. Nimitz, Fleet Admiral, U.S.N., retired: "The surest way to have World War III is to lose the venture on which we are now embarked in Korea."

Clement W. Attlee, Prime Minister of Great Britain: "They (Communists) talk of freedom while they murder it. They talk of peace while they support aggression."

Robert W. Taft, U.S. Senator from Ohio: "We are moving into a new 'normal' condition in which about 20 per cent of our national production will be devoted to sustaining partial mobilization."

There's Fire!



Happenings of Long Ago

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

50 years ago SEPTEMBER 7, 1900

Only 40 persons turned out for the annual school meeting last Monday night. It was voted to raise \$2,900 by direct tax for the purpose of erecting a new building fund. Miss Matie Baldwin presided over the meeting with dignity and grace.

Mrs. McStay received \$25 from an insurance promoter promptly after her house was struck by lightning as aforementioned in this paper. A Whitehead is the agent for this prompt-paying company.

Mrs. Mary Taber and daughter Mayme have taken up their residence in Ann Arbor having left Birmingham at 10 o'clock last night. They may be happy in their new home as the true wish of their many friends here.

The Exchange Bank of Birmingham is paying thousands of dollars out in interest rates each year. Be thrifty and be sure you get your money. Furthermore, you can't get a safe deposit box from this sterling organization for only one dollar a year.

Franklin and the Detroit Wheelmen played a game of ball at Birmingham at 10 o'clock last night. Franklin Monday evening, Franklin's team outplayed the Detroiters and won out by a score of 11 to 8.

20 years ago SEPTEMBER 11, 1930

Leith Stiles, 29-months old son of Mr. and Mrs. Leith E. Stiles, former Birmingham resident and Raymond Bell, three-and-a-half year old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Bell of Chester, won second and third prizes in the state fair baby contest.

The hearing of the special assessment roll to pay the cost of cutting weeds in Birmingham was delayed by the village commission Monday. The estimated cost has been set at \$1,795.

David H. Thompson was elected commander of the Charles Edick Post, American Legion last night. Ralph Coryell will be vice-commander; Peter Ariston, adjutant; Gerald Putters, financial officer; E. J. Mathews, sergeant-at-arms; and L. L. Stanley, chaplain.

5 years ago SEPTEMBER 13, 1945

Dr. John Lambie, head of the Birmingham Veterans Council, explained the work of the veterans counseling center to members of the Rotary club Monday noon. He explained the advisory capacity of the center in helping returned veterans with their problems.

A congregational meeting of the First Presbyterian church Monday evening resulted in the board trustees being instructed to proceed with the purchase of a new church site on West Maple. The property is located between Larchlea and Pleasant on the south side of Maple.

Miss Charlotte Squires has been named children's librarian at Baldwin Public library, to take over the position left vacant by the resignation of Miss Ruth Poucher. For every employee who has been with the Wayne county library, plans to use her experience as a puppeteer with the local program.

The city commission has authorized the purchase of new truck for general use and to handle the light snow plow. The purchase of this Federal truck brings the fleet total to nine.

Harold L. Hall has been named the new manager of the Detroit Edison company here. A graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic institute, he has been associated with the company since 1915, with the exception of two years military service in World War I.

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. All must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words.

To the Editor: I greatly enjoyed reading the article in The Birmingham Eccentric a couple of weeks ago written by you in which I met a city apparently attended the meeting of the Birmingham city commission at which time a petition for the improvement of Quanton lake was presented for their consideration.

While I enjoyed the humorous twist given to the article, it was a little disappointing to me that a more serious vein was not followed.

I am sure that you, as well as the Birmingham citizens, are interested in having a community which can definitely be classified as attractive; and, although a number of us in the Quanton lake area have pleaded with the city commissioners for the last five to six years to get something accomplished at which time a petition for the improvement of Quanton lake was presented for their consideration.

IF YOU HAVE NOT been in the Quanton lake area recently, I would suggest you look it over and you will see what I mean. Anything The Birmingham Eccentric can do to promote a greater understanding of the needs of the city to the need for proper maintenance of the property surrounding Quanton lake belongs to the city itself, which is held in trust for the overall community standpoint.

860 Lakeside Drive L. H. POMEROY (Editor's Note: George Wm. Averill's column, "One Thing or Another")

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

SELL THE SILT AND GET RID OF ALGAE

For years, the green algae covering on Quanton Lake has received considerable attention from city officials as well as residents who live near the lake.

The Quanton Lake algae problem is nothing new. It has existed for many years. Originally the lake was formed by an old dam to the north of the present concrete one. It provided power for the old mills which used to be located between the present dam and the Maple bridge.

ABOUT 1920 the old dam was taken out, and the subdividers of the Quanton area constructed the concrete dam. The idea was that the lake as an attractive asset to the surrounding area.

The lake was pretty deep then, compared to the 3 to 10 feet it is now in most spots. No one noticed the algae, if any was growing in isolated spots.

But during the '20s the lake became shallower and shallower because of the silt being washed into it each year by the Rouge from the north.

Along with the other strictly amateur botanists in Birmingham, he has taken the problem some here.

Here is my idea, offered for your official consideration: it merits:

LOOKING AHEAD By George S. Benson

THE COST OF BORROWING

If you ask a dirt farmer in Idaho what's the worst thing about being in debt he'll usually say "getting out of debt, of course."

If you put the same question to the new GI home owner, he'll probably say, "The interest. It's killing me!"

Those are two bad things about private debt.

A rising public debt has other bad features: it creates inflation, stimulates boom and bust, crowds out private enterprise, and dries up human freedom.

SOME OF THESE later effects of public debt are a little slower coming into clear vision, but there's nothing vague about the tax bill imposed upon all of us to help pay for the breakdown of Federal government.

Every Federal government office in Washington and all those in the 48 states and our possessions were being closed down tomorrow, abolishing every Federal job and stopping every dime of Federal spending.

THE FEDERAL DEBT is approximately \$258,000,000,000. That's about \$7,000 for every family in America and about \$4,500 for every employed man.

In the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1950, the taxpayers paid \$5,725,000,000 in interest on the debt.

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MICHIGAN MIRROR

OCTOBER TEST FOR DETROIT'S DEFENSES

As preparedness is emphasized throughout the State, Michigan moves its machinery along to recruit 1,500 air raid spotters. Detroit's defense will be tested in October with a simulated atomic bombing of key installations.

Michigan will have fewer physicians and dentists in the future. Congress is acting illegally to draft needed medical men for military service.

The legislature's economy program did not anticipate K-Day and resultant inflation. (Note: Wholesale prices index soared 20 per cent in 40 days.)

Michigan's President Roosevelt warned legislators that the low operating budget (\$11.5 million) would be the worst crisis in 50 years. Chrysler are demanding that the Government stop cutting back just like it's Thanksgiving turkey.

While the political scene is being cleaned up as usual, Mud-slinging has been at a minimum thus far. But Republicanism is being revived.

Shortage of a possible labor shortage in Michigan are being shown by the fact that many employers are dipping to the bone for labor (Michigan War II) is 6,000.

Michigan game bird hunting has been promised better shoot-

ing next fall. State conservation funds survey indicates the cock pheasant population is up 35 percent.

The value of your dollar is still going down—with scare buying playing the villain in the trend. New by hoarders in retail stores, according to W. H. Street, but by merchants, wholesalers and manufacturers who have hoarded primary sources, with anticipatory orders.

An American Legion official at the convention in Grand Rapids is urging for universal military training says: "The Neck of the United States is being cut off by the chopping block just like Thanksgiving turkey." He demanded immediate and complete preparedness for national defense.

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Next Door

By BEATRICE McDONALD

If there neighbor over the corn that grows In a long wide swath that's thick and green and tall And separates us like a garden wall Till a sudden lively bit of breeze Parts the waving corn plumes . . . then I see Your baby playing under the maple tree With her doll and buggy and building blocks. I hear her laughing. I hear you too, Laughing and chatting beyond the corn. I see the smoke from your outdoor fire Over the corn rise higher and higher Till it joins the smoke clouds up in the sky. If neighbor . . . be smelking you bye and bye.