

Why Ike Can't Announce Candidacy

If you are puzzled over the reason why Gen. Eisenhower does not come out for the Presidency at once, or even before this date, there is a very simple answer—among several others.

Right now he is in Europe, setting up a military defense system for the western nations. He is doing this because he is in sympathy with such a plan. In this respect, he agrees with the Truman administration.

Suppose he announced himself a Republican candidate. Right off he could not criticize any defects in the current status of the military defense of Western Europe—for if he should his opponents would shout: "Well, that was your job before you got into politics, and you failed to finish it—so why should you be elected President?"

TO BE SURE, the General would be vulnerable on this point.

If he were to run on the Democratic ticket, the Republicans would ask pretty much the same question.

Thus, it seems to us, "Ike" is stuck in Europe until the time when he can feel and say: "I've got the job well along and another good military man can finish it."

Another thing: we believe "Ike" is too good an American to "run out" on Europe until he, himself, is satisfied that his departure will not injure or slow down the re-arming of Western Europe.

In other words, General Eisenhower is first of all a good soldier and a good American. He refuses to swap integrity of character for the phantom glory of the White House.

Our 'Forgotten People'

The State of Michigan long has neglected the treatment of its institutional wards, in both penal and mental cases. Our prisons contain thousands of young and older men who are, very largely, handled on a custodial basis, with little effort made to rehabilitate them so they may be good members of society when discharged.

Our mental institutions are overcrowded to the point of making them close to sardine cans for human beings. Only a handful of psychiatrists are available to help those whose cases suggest the possibility of being cured.

Living quarters are over-crowded, while on more than one occasion the food

given them is not what you would pay for in a cheap restaurant.

WHO IS TO BLAME for all this?

In general, the people. More directly, administrative and legislative officials who have run State government for many years. Most of them have been afraid, politically, to ask the taxpayers for money to improve the situation.

The problem was relieved, however, upon the recent approval by the voters of a \$65,000,000 bond issue for hospital expansion. But even this large sum will not relieve the operational expense problem, so congestion and under-treatment will continue.

Indeed, unless one has a relative or close friend in the State's custody, he is not much interested in the problem. That is why the men and women who are unfortunate enough to get into a State's prison or mental hospital are, in truth, "the forgotten people."

From Our Point of View

Fire recently leaped through the roof of one of the spacious rooms in Buckingham Palace, but was put out with the help of the Palace staff and local firemen. Here's another example of how able and efficient your average fire department is. The flaming ladders really give the taxpayers about as much, if not more, for their tax money as any public employe.

Governor Williams is showing alarm over the fact that nearly 150,000 Michigan workers are unemployed, resulting from the industrial change-over from civilian to war manufacturing. Gee, Menen, here's a chance for you to use your influence in Washington, D.C., with those bureaucrats who determine where the military dough will go.

A British Columbia surgeon almost removed the appendix from a 4 1/2-year-old boy, when all he was supposed to do for the youngster was to graft a bit of skin on him. The fact was discovered just after the surgeon had made the incision in the boy's side. Proving that a stitch in time can save an appendix.

Vice-President Barkley and wife have returned from a two-weeks' trip (at the public expense) to Korea. Pictures from the incident revealed the Veep as undergoing the rigors of flying, eating, chatting, and walking about—even including the fring of a howitzer. Now the old coot will have more stories with which to regale the audiences that pay to hear him in the long-suffering U.S.A.

So They Say . . .

Bernard Baruch, retired industrialist: "Too many people are leaning on the Government—and the Government should be leaning on the people more."

Charles E. Wilson, Defense Mobilizer: "The only hope for the economic salvation of America lies in holding the line on wages and prices, regardless of any inequities."

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

NEW HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING STARTED IN 1945

Bloomfield Hills' internationally-famous architect, J. Robert F. Swanson, in a recent talk before fellow Birmingham Rotarians, disclosed some unusual, general information about the new \$2,000,000 high school at Lincoln and Cranbrook roads. Swanson's firm designed the building and is supervising its construction. Scheduled for opening this fall, shortage of skilled labor has been the principal reason for its delay. It is now hoped the building will be ready for its second semester, starting in February.

Opening of the new high school started back in 1945, although the contract was not let and the construction begun until about a year and a half ago.

"A PROJECT" of this size involves a great amount of detail work that must precede awarding of contracts," he emphasized. "Very few high schools have been built in recent years, Swanson pointed out.

"Most of them were erected back in the 20's—so when one is built today many requests come from various parts of the country for information about the project, what has been done and what is being done," he said.

Already a number of persons from the architectural and educational fields have visited the new building. Swanson predicted that many more would visit it when the high school actually is in use.

IN PLANNING to meet the needs of the six educational phases—administration, social studies, mathematics, science laboratories,

industrial arts and physical education—Swanson's firm was successful in getting the facilities required by each of these six classifications thought regarding this. Swanson explained, "One group believes students should stay in the same room for all or most of their classes. The other group believes in the 'rotation' system, in which students shift from room to room."

The new high school, by means of its classroom wall construction, can be arranged to take care of the single room or the area type of situation, whichever the board of education wants to use in the future.

THE BUILDING can be used in segments by the public, thus enabling the unused portions to be used, Swanson emphasized. "The public can use a section of the building without involving the rest of the school," he said. "Inability to close off most portions of the system's present school is a constant headache for the board of education. It doesn't like to deny the public the color into the walls and fixtures, like the idea of people wandering all through a building, either by mistake or for exploration purposes. We've also tried to get some color into the walls and fixtures. To make the rooms and the building more attractive," Swanson added.

Did anyone happen to see any of those television courts advertised this fall by Cleveland?

AN ARKANSAS husband filed for divorce because, after 35 years of married life, he had never seen his wife. He never loved her anyway, he added. If he had waited 35 years to get in the last word, he would probably lose our patience, too.

Remember the days when you used to lose a shirt under the bureau? Well, now we lose the whole shirt under the bureaucracy.

A SAN FRANCISCO named Hennessy was sent up in jail for impersonating a man named John Poo. Apparently the police didn't take long in finding the sham Poo.

Oriental Comedy



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.

50 YEARS AGO
December 11, 1901
Frank Hagerman, wife and daughter Gertrude left Tuesday last for California where they will spend the winter. They were accompanied by Mrs. F. Packard and daughter Alice. The party will take the Southern route via Texas.

Fine toilet water and perfum, lavender or violet, at only 25c a pint. Bring your own bottle at this price and secure something fine at an unheard of price.

Last Friday Ernest Seaton Thompson fascinated many children last week by his very capable talk on "Cats, Sparrows and Other Common Things." The popular author has proven a popular speaker, too.

Charles Mudge, our efficient street commissioner, has finished laying sidewalks for our village. His work has been carefully finished and does credit to himself and his very able assistants.

20 YEARS AGO
December 17, 1931
Oscar Peterson, assistant cashier for the First National Bank has been elected president of the Birmingham Exchange club. He will succeed E. W. (Cy) Osborne for the six-month term.

Notices are being mailed out reminding dog owners that license time is here again. Licenses, this year, will be sold in the village, rather than at the county seat, according to Miss Irene Hanley, village clerk.

Several Birmingham merchants are now keeping their stores open during the evening for the convenience of local shoppers. Wish in the next week many others are expected to join them, with shopping hours extended until 9 p.m.

Virginia Louise Hawkins of Detroit, who will be graduated from Michigan State college next month, has been hired by the Birmingham Board of Education. She will be teaching home economics at Baldwin high school on Jan. 27.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

KIDS AND CHRISTMAS
In the Christmas letters this week are two from Pierce school which are, to put it mildly, different.

Two groups (or grades) have written "joint" letters to Santa, asking nothing for themselves. They are voicing a prayer which is probably deep in the heart of every God-fearing, peace-loving adult in the world.

They are asking for the end of hostilities in Korea, for peace and understanding throughout the world. They ask for comfort and joy for those persons who have been victims of the war; for aid for United Nations troops; for the boys and girls of the world, and youngsters to come to the children of the embattled nation.

They, in their own words, are asking for Christmas for the world, in its deepest, most significant sense.

BEING AN adult, and somewhat of a skeptic, we wondered about these letters. Somehow they didn't sound like second graders, who are mostly dreaming of aids and guns and dolls and bikes and toys. They have learned, by the expressions of an adult, dreaming of the perfect world. We began asking questions.

Malcolm Ferguson, principal at Pierce school, assured us the letters were entirely the work of the youngsters. "They all listened to the same TV program," he explained. "I asked for these things and the kids thought it was a pretty swell idea."

"They talked it over with their teachers—and believe me!—the discussions were pretty serious ones, too. It was actually a class decision to have the letters come from the entire group. We think they're pretty swell kids!"

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

To the Editor:
Recently I have heard groups of people complain that Birmingham is acquiring the reputation of being a "speed-trap." I.e. the police are issuing a multitude of tickets for minor and imaginary traffic violations as a means of city income.

It would be interesting to see a comparison of the number of traffic violation tickets issued per capita in Birmingham versus Detroit, Pontiac and Grosse Pointe over a representative period. The results of such a study would either vindicate our police department or arouse the mer-

chants to demand that a reasonable attitude be taken by police. I just thought that this might be an interesting piece of news for research.
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