

Birmingham Has Become Wary Regarding Annexations

In a recent letter to The Eccentric, Troy Supervisor Charles R. Ryan emphatically said his township would resist any attempts by Birmingham to annex valuable industrial portions of the township, thereby depriving it of needed economic support in the way of tax monies.

We don't think Mr. Ryan personally believes Birmingham will make any attempts to steal township property by annexation. His statement undoubtedly was "for the record" in connection with Birmingham city plan commission views

on territory contiguous to the city which may sometime in the future become part of Birmingham.

IF RESIDENTS IN THE township—be it Troy or Southfield or Bloomfield—ever feel they will gain more by becoming part of Birmingham, we believe nothing will really hold up that annexation.

But it might be pointed out that for some years now, Birmingham city commissions have been extremely critical of proposed annexations.

During the 1930's, Birmingham grew to about four times its 1920 size through many annexations, most of it sparsely settled subdivisions. Those annexations have resulted in many financial headaches for Birmingham: improper and inadequate sewers, water mains and streets.

SINCE 1930 ONLY A FEW annexations of small property parcels have been accepted—and these for the best of reasons and after meeting stiff acceptance requirements.

If Birmingham city commissions continue to view annexations as they have for the past 20 years, any new annexations will have to prove, to Birmingham's satisfaction, that the city is at least obtaining as much benefit from annexations as annexed property would obtain from the city.

If the city feels it is on the short end of the line, the territory will be rejected.

ON THE OTHER HAND, if the property owners feel the benefits they would derive from the city are inadequate, then naturally the area will remain in the township.

Former Birmingham city commissioners can attest to the fact that a township's loss necessarily isn't the city's gain. Present commissions have been fairly successful in seeing that recent annexations have cost the city little or nothing.

Mr. Ryan may gain added comfort from the fact that it's not going to be easy to become part of Birmingham if the past several annexations are any indication.

From Our Point of View

The U. S. Senate Crime Committee, headed by Sen. Kefauver, Tennessee Democrat, expires March 31. Kefauver says he will not continue on it, and doesn't know whether or not it will be kept alive. We've all read plenty about the gambler-political life-ups discovered in various parts of the country by that Committee, but can't recall anybody being sent to jail. Is it possible that Kansas City crime revelations have shackled law enforcement agencies?

Coached on foreign affairs by his Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, President Truman is unwittingly leading contemporary human freedom along the dangerous trail that skirts the barbarian jungles of Communism. He argues, with Acheson, that it is possible for the Western World, through strong re-arming, to "confine Communism, to contain it." One might just as well assume that a city could "confine and contain" a gang of hoodlums simply by issuing statements that its police force is against crime. Soviet Communism lives and breathes and has its being only through the forces of brutality. It is like a plague, menacing all life unless the plague is stamped out. Unless Acheson goes, and Truman gets a new and able foreign relations adviser, dis-unity will flourish in these United States of America!

There are people in Western Europe, no doubt, who would be happy to see Russia and the United States fight it out—just the two of them.

So They Say . . .

Rene Pleven, Premier of France: "In France, we still have families trying to rebuild their homes for the third time in 30 years."

Harry S. Truman: "The bulk of the income in this country is received by persons whose incomes are between \$2,000 and \$10,000 a year."

Robert P. Paterson, former Secretary of War: "The American stockpile of atom bombs and the power to deliver them have been the deterrent to a Russian thrust."

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GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Business Manager
GEORGE W. AVERILL, Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BUEGER, Advertising Manager

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

TRUCKS NOT PAYING THEIR SHARE

You are going to have a mighty hard time convincing me that passenger cars are just as hard on our concrete highways as are the big trucks.

The way I see it, the trucking companies are not paying their share of the road repair bill, compared to the small auto owner.

All those big potholes in our highways come primarily from the pounding of the big boys. The little ones merely knock the dust from around the edges.

The average semi-trailer and truck pack 20 to the neighborhood of \$250 to \$300 a year in state license plates. Then they pay the same gas tax as the passenger car owner.

than the several hundred dollars assessed against him? If truck owners don't make more in profit than the first they pay, why do so many resort to overloading?

To be fined an amount more than the profit from an overload might help to curb most of the damage to our highways.

HIGHWAY commissions might consider the advisability of designating truck routes—and making the boys stick to it unless they have a permit to go off the beaten track to make a local delivery. And then only over certain local streets.

Maybe I'm wrong about all this. But I won't change my mind after listening to mere opinions. They've got to be facts that hold water.

They're Not So Dumb

It is so surprising a great many parents—and undoubtedly many high school students, but—The average U. S. high school

senior possesses a vocabulary larger than that which Wm. Shakespeare used in all of his published works.

So say Dr. Robert H. Seashore, chairman of Northwestern University's psychology department, and Mrs. Carol G. Bell in a recent article.

"The average high school senior has a total vocabulary of approximately 80,000 words, made up of about 46,400 basic words and an estimated 33,500 derived words," they said.

Word counts of Shakespeare's published works, according to them, total 15,000 basic words.

HERE ARE OTHER interesting figures on total vocabularies in school grades, as given by Dr. Seashore and Mrs. Bell: first grade—24,000 words; third—44,000; fifth—51,000; seventh—58,000; ninth—62,000; and eleventh—73,000.

Recent studies estimate the four-year-old's basic vocabulary at 1,500 words.

Time Out for Some Questions



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

March 1, 1901

Twenty men, more or less, have been at work in the village transferring the New York State telephone lines to the Michigan Co., and a thorough up-to-date, solid, lasting job they have done. A cable carrying 52 pairs of wires has been put in commission and a new switchboard is being made for the Birmingham office, which, when completed will be a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

Charles J. Shain Sunday with relatives at Davisburg and whop he returned home the crimp was all out of his hair.

Pontiac is feverish over the prospect of two new opera houses being built there. One only would be a blessing to her theater going people of which there are many from Birmingham.

Is it so, or does he see things? Eric J. A. Bigelow reports a fine flock of quail feeding around his barn last week. We believe what he says but oh me! it's hard work.

Miss Carrie Poppleton, who graduates at Vassar College in June, has been offered a salary of \$100 every month per month in the year and transportation to teach in the Philippines on a three years' contract.

20 YEARS AGO

March 5, 1931

Eleven volumes of tax rolls contain approximately 95,000 descriptions of Oakland county properties on which 1928 taxes have not been paid. Listed as delinquent, they have been filed with County Clerk E. P. Daugherty, to be published for sale.

Miss Mary Griffith, for more than seven years an active worker in the social and welfare activities of the Community House, has resigned.

People's Column

The Eccentric welcomes letters for signed. When signatures will be kept confidential. Letters should be limited to 500 words.

To the Editor:

Let's enforce the law, and have the dogs running loose through the Sheffield estates subdivision tied up or confiscated. The owners should be held responsible for the 100 per cent responsible for the damage done by their dogs.

If any member of my family scattered garbage around someone's yard, I am sure that I would be forced to clean it up, or be hauled into court. Again, if any member of my family were to kill a dog, I am sure that corrective action would be forced upon me. Yet, my shrubs are being killed, and garbage in my yard and it is not mine as we have a disposal unit.

If the dogs are not kept out of my yard I am ready to refuse to do any more landscaping. Under the law, I am sure that it is not worth the time or effort.

AN IRATE CITIZEN.

NOTICE

The assessment roll for the year 1951 for the City of Birmingham, will be completed March 5th.

In pursuance of Sec. 3 of Chapter IX of the Charter of the City of Birmingham, notice is hereby given that the Board of Review will meet in Room 105 of the Municipal Building on Monday and Tuesday, March 12th and 13th, from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 M. and 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

The Board of Review shall, during the time it is in session, hear the complaints of all persons considering themselves aggrieved by assessments, and if it shall appear that any property has been wrongfully assessed, or omitted from the roll, the Board will correct the roll in such manner as it shall deem just.

Elmer W. Haack, Assessor
City of Birmingham, Michigan

Lathrup Youth Makes 'Who's Who' Listing For College Honors

Conway M. Adams, senior at Michigan Tech engineering college, has been listed in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges". Students are selected on a basis of scholarship, leadership and college activities.

Adams will be graduated in June and has already been offered a position with United States Steel in Pittsburgh.

He has been a member of the hockey team at Houghton for four years, serving as captain this season. A graduate of Baldwin high school, he is president of the college's student council and a member of Blue Key, national honor society.

Adams has received orders to report May 24 for training at the Great Lakes naval station.

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The Bob Hopes have it!

Bob Hope Star of "THE LEMON DROP KID" a Paramount Picture

Like all clever wives, Mrs. Hope "holds her star" by feeding him the things he likes. "When it comes to eating," she says, "Bob isn't any different from most men. He knows what he wants, and he waits it to be good. And I've found a way to make everything good. That's to cook with an Electric Range. There's no guesswork that way, and meals always come out just right. The Electric Range is my 'dish for cooking'!"

Whatever dish you cook, your own Electric Range will do it fast, thrifily, cleanly, without waste. Besides, everyone can afford the modern Electric Range. In fact, it's so saving of time, trouble and money that you really can't afford to be without it!

CANADIAN CHEESE SOUP

4 tablespoons butter or margarine
1 tablespoon flour
1 tablespoon paprika
1/2 teaspoon pepper
2 cups milk
2 cans condensed tomatoes
2 cups grated sharp cheddar cheese
1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/4 cup minced pimientos

Melt butter or margarine, blend in flour, paprika and pepper. Add milk, cook over low heat, stirring constantly until thick. Add milk, cook over low heat, stirring constantly until thick. Add milk, cook over low heat, stirring constantly until thick. Add milk, cook over low heat, stirring constantly until thick. Add milk, cook over low heat, stirring constantly until thick.

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