

Will It Be One New Face, or Four?

Next Monday Birmingham voters will choose four city commissioners. At least one newcomer to the commission will be elected, and possibly four.

The Birmingham Eccentric traditionally seldom comments on who it thinks should be elected to the commission. It has never had to, because the candidates have been better-than-average.

However, this year we will like to state that we believe, in the 10 candidates in Monday's election, the city is offered not only the largest choice of candidates in its city history, but also one of the best.

REGARDING THE STATE constitutional and city proposals, they are briefly explained in an article on Page One of this issue.

We believe State Proposal No. 1 (for annual meetings of the state legislature) should be approved. With the complex problems today, the legislature for some time has been called into special session by the governor in the alternate years.

From Our Point of View

People who watched all or part of the Kefauver Senate crime investigation over television from New York, no doubt thrilled over the actions and statements of Senator Tobey, that character of granite from New Hampshire. This old and respected gentleman sounded the true voice of all loyal Americans in public and private living. How wonderful if only a voice like Tobey's were sounding from the White House itself!

Spring arrived in Birmingham and most of the midwest March 21, as usual, insofar as the date is concerned. Nobody can change the time of Spring's long-looked-for arrival—but we all did hope it would be accompanied by something warmer than the below-freezing temperature on its breath when it did show up in 1951. We only record this here so that, fifty years hence, future Eccentric reporters can tell your descendants about it.

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's refusal to leave Albany and go to New York as a witness before the U.S. Senate Kefauver Crime Investigating Committee does not add any laurels to the brow of the twice-defeated Republican candidate for President. Dewey's attitude, it seems to us, was "high hat." ("Now, in the names of all the gods at once, upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed, that he is grown so great?")

Not within the memory of most of us has the federal government of the United States been revealed as venal and corrupt in some of its areas. Yet President Truman, occupying our highest place of leadership, doesn't raise his voice against the evils. Perhaps he can't—so muddy is Pendergast politics.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue.
 Telephone MI 4-1100

GEORGE R. AVERILL Editor and Publisher
 PAUL NEAL AVERILL Business Manager
 GEORGE WM. AVERILL Managing Editor
 HAROLD P. BIERGE Advertising Manager

The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club

The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has news value. Suggestions are welcomed. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of a person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected if brought to the publisher's attention.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill
 TELEPHONES AND GAMBLING

Accusing top telephone executives of aiding the nation's gamblers by permitting them to use telephones, Kefauver Crime Committee Member Senator Hunt (D., Wyo.) demands that these phone company men tell the committee what they know about the use of telephones in connection with bigtime gambling.

Hunt permits it that perhaps the telephone men should tell what they know about gambling and its relationship with the telephone, but I disagree that telephone companies are willing to "aid and abet" illegal operations," as Hunt charges have been for practical consideration, a telephone today is as necessary as water or sewer service.

TO GIVE THE telephone company the authority to decide just who is and who isn't to receive telephone service would be highly improper. It permits it to exercise a judicial function which could be misused, depending on the official who makes the decision.

It should not be left up to the telephone company to determine who is supposedly engaging in an illegal operation. That always has

when it did not meet in biennial sessions. Therefore, it may as well be made a regular annual session, which even might permit a governor to call special sessions.

Concerning State Proposition No. 2 (for a \$500 death benefit for survivors of servicemen killed since last June), we only would like to point out that \$500 these days is not very much to get along on. Too, the federal government is considering approval of a much larger death benefit.

State Proposal No. 3 also merits approval. There is no reason, we believe, why men doing the same job as supreme court justices should not be receiving the same salary at the same time while they are on the bench.

THE THREE LOCAL QUESTIONS—elimination of the requirement that the city participate in every special assessment district, sale of certain city lots, and issuance of \$99,000 in bonds to complete the W. Maple widening and rebuilding—we believe should receive the voters' approval.

Our reasons: there is no reason why established city residents should have to pay at least 15 per cent of the cost of special improvements of those totally undeveloped areas that have contributed but a figuratively few pennies to all the past special assessment districts.

The lots the city proposes to sell are not needed in any well-planned park program, and everyone knows we should begin to develop a few of the areas we already have. Money from the sale of these lots, the city commission has pledged, will go toward improvement of the park for the Sheffield area, since the lots border this particular park.

AND WE AGREE WITH those who believe the city is in no position to abandon the logical completion of the W. Maple-Rouge Valley project, no matter how you feel the matter is being or should have been handled several years ago. The old Rouge bridge is a deplorable traffic hazard, so we should properly realign W. Maple so we can properly use the new bridge.

Naturally, you are going to vote here next Monday, but you may know several people who already have figured out their excuses for not voting. We'd like to suggest that you talk to these non-voters, and try to get them to change their minds.

After all, democracy does not survive by neglect. . . it dies. There is nothing in this world more important than being able to help determine what government officials are going to run your affairs and spend your money doing it.

You are not going to let freedom and personal liberty rust away. Won't you see that the others don't, either?

Without Decency and Culture

People who, through television, saw and heard the New York proceedings of the Kefauver Senate Crime investigation now realize that men who seek their fortunes illegally are, generally speaking, without decency and culture.

They seldom speak even good first-grade English and grammar. They operate in the caves and alleys of darkness. Murder and corruption are their chief tools.

Finally, it is shown that they never get far without the aid and tolerance of law enforcement officials.

The whole problem of organized crime leads back to the citizens themselves who, apathetic and disinterested in civic matters, allow themselves to be governed by weak and incompetent public officials.

Who but a better wants to know the price of the map paid at Arlington or Santa Anita in the seventh race yesterday, just so he can find out if he lost his two bucks to the bookie, or stands to collect \$3.40?

If the investigations of the Kefauver committee are extended beyond March 31, it doesn't mean gambling is headed toward the graveyard. It merely means the committee's hearings are the biggest TV show the public can get simply by the expenditure of a comparatively few tax dollars.

Gambling would fold up in a minute if the "average citizen" kept his money in his pocket or spent it on worthwhile items. Until he does, we'll still have our Costello's, Ericksons, bribed cops, fifth politics and all the rest.

Has New Position

Edgar F. Coombs, formerly of 859 Ridgefield, has been named western manager of Farm and Ranch-Southern Agriculturalist, which office in Chicago. Coombs, former manager in Detroit for Midwest Farm Papers, began his new duties earlier this month.

The Modern Peter at the Dyke



Happenings of Long Ago

Sets Of News Obtained From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO

March 29, 1901

Frank Hodgins, the cigar man, has moved from the Keeler house in the rooms upstairs in the Erby building and William Schnitzer will occupy the place made vacant by Mr. Hodgins.

One of those pleasant little parties for which the West End is becoming noted, occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Al Hutton of Fremont street Friday evening last. Refreshments were served and a very jolly time was had by those present.

Charles Reynolds is at Bellevue, Ohio, visiting in Wilson railway gates while the home business is carefully attended by Messrs. Sam Mills and Ross Hutchinson, both good men in a good place. Harvey, the energetic owner of the place is scurrying round looking for more business.

On Thursday last Claire Mason, young son of Fred Mason, tripped and fell breaking his left arm. The young lad seems to be very unfortunate as this is the fourth time in eight years that his arm has been broken nearly the same place each time.

Mrs. Hiram Good has been visiting old friends at Holly and Highland Station whom she has not seen in 30 years. She has had a most enjoyable time and enjoyed every moment of her absence from home and family.

20 YEARS AGO

April 2, 1931

Birmingham churches are planning elaborate services for the celebration of Good Friday and Easter. Services will be held for three hours Friday afternoon, marking the beginning of the Lenten-weekend. Special services will be held in all churches Easter Sunday.

Clarence Vliet, superintendent of schools for Birmingham, has been engaged by the city for a year. His contract was renewed at a meeting of the board of education Thursday evening.

Several area golf clubs opened their courses to the general public very light play. Others are planning their formal openings this week-end. Managers here and there the official act will bring out the customary number of local golfers and that the light play is no indication of what to expect.

An official stop on the Wider Woodward project has been given by Charles Boehler, state engineer, who said he hoped the job would be completed by fall. The project begins at 11 Mile road, continuing through to Pontiac.

5 YEARS AGO

April 1946

While surrounding communities reported wide-spread damage, Birmingham escaped with practically no loss during the severe wind storm which struck the area Tuesday evening. The wind was pulled down at the Cadillac saleroom was pulled from the molding but did not break.

Plans and estimates for the repairing of sidewalks on the avenue were ordered by the commission Monday night. It has been proposed that the sidewalks be replaced immediately and the work started as soon as possible since some sidewalks are very bad condition.

Coal dealers in Birmingham add little hope to the grim picture as they report supplies for only two more weeks. The situation, made worse by a predicted strike among miners, shows no sign of improvement, all agreed. They are asking residents to go on a self-imposed rationing to stretch meager piles as far as possible.

Springdale Park will open officially Saturday for a full season, with the first race. Scott Hersey said all indications were that the park would enjoy one of the best seasons in years. The golf course

WWJ Women's Editor To Be Guest Speaker At Quarton School

Fran Harris, well-known Detroit radio and television personality, will speak at the April 9 Quarton P.T.A. meeting on "Television and Children". This meeting will be open to the public.

Miss Harris, WWJ women's editor, has been in radio for 20 years, nine with the Detroit station. She conducts two week-day programs; broadcasts each Sunday while accompanying members of the state police highway patrol; conducts a TV garden show each Sunday and is producer of a traffic court show on Thursday.

One of her programs, "Protect Your Child", received the George Foster Peabody award for 1949.

Localite Will Head June Dairy Month's Promotional Program

Lewis W. Morley, 17189 Beechwood, has been named chairman of the Michigan committee to promote the 18th annual June Dairy month campaign, a national program promoted by all branches of the dairy industry. Morley is public relations director of the Michigan Milk Producers association.

Morley outlined the 1951 program briefly as aimed to cooperate with the National Defense program by building better health; promote the essentiality of milk and dairy products; bring about better public understanding of the problems of the dairy industry and to publicize the part the industry can play in the national picture.

News copy submitted early necessarily is given preference over late items. So the "Early Bird" usually gets the space.



Ruth D. Armstrong

- FOR
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
- Resident Birmingham 34 Years
 - Baldwin High School Graduate
 - Wayne U. Law Graduate
 - Practicing Attorney
 - For Efficient Administration of the Law

Use Eccentric Classified Ads For Best Results

CLOSED for LEGAL HOLIDAY

THIS BANK WILL NOT BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS ON

GENERAL ELECTION DAY

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1951

THE BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL BANK
 BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
 Member Federal Reserve System



FINANCE THESE THROUGH US
 at moderate cost

Sweden in Color

With the aid of colored slides, Myrtle Labbit will lecture on Sweden at the April 5 meeting of the Birmingham Hill Camera club. The meeting, open to the public, will be held at the Cranbrook institute of science, at 8 p.m.

Lawrence E. Smith
 Landscape Design and Construction
 135 N. Woodward in the Wilson Building
 Phone MI 4-2036

LIBERTY CLEANERS
 for better dry cleaning
 PICK UP DELIVERY SERVICE
 MI 4-0222
 PHONE MI 4-9700
 Hayses At Hunter Blvd.
 We Open and Operate Our Own Plant

INSURANCE
 All Forms—Every Kind—written and serviced. A Personal call if desired.
 Phones Woodward 2-7608
 Lincoln 2-4629
 After 6 P.M. Lincoln 1-4358
Rea Gripman Agency
 1409 Ford Bldg. Detroit

THE BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL BANK
 BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
 Member Federal Reserve System