

Never forget that, while some public officials in high places get there to perform useful services for the people, many of them do it for what they can get. Indeed, some of them look upon their job almost as a device to pluge the taxpayers. Don't trust them!

75TH YEAR—NO. 3

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1952

30 PAGES FIVE CENTS

Mill Levy Passes by 5 to Morgan

Normal (or Light) Vote Expected Monday

1627 Say 'Yes', 299 Vote 'No'

THIS and THAT
By G.R.A.

President Truman's cleaner-upper of graft and corruption in the federal government as yet cannot have met with much success—at least we have not read where Uncle Sam has asked for bids on the construction of new prisons. Maybe that will have to await the arrival of a Republican administration. (Incidentally, we hope that the cleaner-upper, Newbold Morris, won't spare any Republicans, either, if he finds them guilty of wrong-doing.)

By golly, those Irish cows take the cake! One of them walked in the front door of an Irish home, went up stairs and into the bathroom. In its struggle to get out it burst up most of the fixtures and lost one of its horns in the process. Probably didn't get a bath, after all.

Tom Dewey recently celebrated his 60th birthday... but the day passed without fanfare because, "The time has to be forgotten." How silly! Being able to live for 50 years in this dixie century is worth celebrating any time.

Gen. Eisenhower declares that the Presidency of the United States is too big a job for any one man that a President should surround himself with able aides, whom he can trust, but he would do anything like a good job. In reverse the General is. How right it appears that Truman places plenty of trust in his aides... only he failed to get able ones.

Once American doctors subscribed to the belief that spinach was mighty good for children. Then they agreed that more would make the kids grow into strong and healthy adults. Now, in conversation, some of our medical men say that even milk, alone cannot save the human race. But all are agreed that some kind of food is necessary, at that.

I heartily agree with the majority in Michigan's Legislature who want the proposed \$100,000,000 Mackinac Straits bridge bonds never to become an obligation of the State—large. In other words, should the Bridge Authority be unable to bond obligations, the bondholders could not sue upon your State treasury for some dough. "Let this bridge support itself—financially and physically", we agree.

It is only right and fitting that before the next January, Boss will have her Harry back home in independence where she can keep him. (P.S. we should be able to keep him away from pen and paper and nasty notes to nasty people!)

Walnut Lake Residents Still Face Drain Hazard

According to Walnut Lake residents, no action has been taken as yet to correct the hazard at the intersection of Suncrest and Daintree roads. Mrs. Gayle S. Chesterfield said Monday that the county had placed "road closed" signs on the street approaches but that nothing had been done to drain the flooded area. Requests were made to county officials March 14 when Susan Moakes, 3 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Moakes, fell through the ice into several feet of water. The ice came from a faulty drain at the intersection.

This Man's Been Framed

All he did was place some old picture and mirror frames for sale in The Economic Want Ad Page and WHAMMO—telephone calls, telegrams, calls at home, letters all trying to pin some money on him.

PHONE MI 4-1100
Ask for the Want Ad Desk

Vacancies, Bond Issue Head Ballot

By GEORGE W.M. AVERILL

Judging from past annual city elections, each vote cast next Monday will be worth about five times its normal value.

According to City Clerk Irene Hanley, there are 9,437 registered voters in Birmingham. But based on past performances, only in the neighborhood of 2,000 will turn up at the polls during the 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. voting hours.

In 1950, when only the city commissioner race was on the ballot, 1,775 out of a possible 7,833 voters cast their ballots. Because of the subsequent population increase, plus the fact that several local propositions are on the ballot this year, a turnout is expected to be a bit higher.

In Monday's election because of no opposition, Incumbent City Commissioner Charles Renfrew will be elected to a one-year term to fill out the unexpired term of former Mayor Chad M. Ritchie, who resigned last August to move to a new home in Bloomfield Village.

HOWEVER, THERE are four men seeking one of the 25-year vacancies. These are incumbent Richard Patterson; Robert Owen and Vincent B. Watkins, who ran for the commission last year but were unsuccessful; and political newcomer Carl T. Ingraham.

Two city charter amendments and a \$350,000 fire station bond issue will be decided upon Monday. One charter amendment would permit the city to collect from third parties any payments the city would have to make under the retirement system due to the responsibility of any third party.

CONCERNING THIS particular amendment, Mayor Dean G. Beier explained Tuesday: "It should be understood that this charter amendment would permit the city to have closer control over its finances than it now does. Because of present charter limitations, budget control and finances are spread over several city officials and several departments.

The present charter does not enable the city commission to centralize this control in one person. With the present work load of the city, it would be inadvisable to make it assume this new financial planning and administration program."

Several city commissioners privately have expressed concern over the \$350,000 fire station bond issue. They fear the necessary 50 per cent of those voting Monday will not approve the measure, thus endangering the city's fire insurance rating.

MONDAY NIGHT following the city commission meeting, one commissioner remarked to a friend, "If this bond issue doesn't pass, then only we commissioners are to blame. Perhaps we haven't made it clearly evident why Birmingham needs this new fire station."

Local Credit Bureau Names Two New Officers

James Mason, CPA, 987 Oaklawn, and Joseph E. Stanley, director of the Birmingham Credit Bureau at its meeting last week. He will fill the term of the late Maynard Ashby.

Local Building Totals \$274,655 for Past Month

A total of 40 building permits were issued through the Birmingham Building Department's office last month, representing a construction value of \$274,655. This represents a gain of five permits over the March 1951 total when total valuation was listed at \$426,200.



C. T. INGRAHAM ROBT. S. OWENS R. M. PATTERSON V. B. WATKINS
Two of these four candidates will be elected to 3-year terms as city commissioners

Reasons Why All Three City Proposals Should Be Approved

Besides voting for three city commissioners, Birmingham electors this coming Monday will be asked to express their opinions on these other three matters:

- 1—Issuance of \$350,000 in bonds to provide a new fire station at Adams and Bowers streets and to add a new pumper and aerial ladder truck to the city's present fire fighting equipment;
- 2—Amending of the city's charter to enable creation of a city department of finance with a director, thus to permit the financial planning and control to come from one direction, rather than depending on each separate department to do its own planning and controlling.

3—A CHARTER AMENDMENT that would permit recovery from a third party any payments the city would be required to make to an employee injured or killed as a result of such third party's action or responsibility.

The Birmingham Eccentric recommends that the electorate approve these three proposals and, discussing them in reverse order, here is why:

The charter amendment to permit the city to collect damages from third parties would correct an omission in the city's present retirement act. The city now is not legally certain that such damages may be collected. The amendment would make it perfectly clear it is entitled to collect.

The second charter amendment—that of creating a city finance director—would permit one person to be responsible for all financial planning of the city.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, city officials admit there are too many cooks preparing this portion of the city's diet. The city manager, the city treasurer, many department heads currently are responsible for, or are handling, various phases of the city's financial control. There is lack of coordination of all these departmental budgets and accounts.

A city finance director would keep an eye on all departmental budgets and see that they are lived up to. He also would be the person to whom the city manager and city commissioners could turn to for advice on present and future financial problems.

But the big concern before the voters this April 7 is whether the city should spend \$350,000 to bolster its seriously sagging fire defenses.

WE DO NOT MEAN to imply criticism of the fire department personnel and equipment the city presently has. The men are doing a wonderful job with what facilities they have been provided.

The members of our fire department—from Chief Vern Griffith on down through the ranks—have put in many hours of hard work to keep Birmingham with such a remarkably low fire loss consistently over the years.

But they would be the first to admit that Birmingham today is living on "borrowed time" regarding fire protection. How much more time the city has they refuse to guess.

These facts tell why:
(See EDITORIAL, Page 2)

Candidates' Biographies, Statements

Continuing its long-established custom, The Birmingham Eccentric publishes the biographical sketches and campaign statements of the commission candidates who seek the voters' approval at next Monday's annual city election.

Four of the candidates—Rich and Patterson, incumbents, Carl Ingraham, V. B. Watkins and Robert Owen—are contesting for election to one of the two three-year terms vacancies.

Charles R. Freew, incumbent, is unopposed for the one-year term.

V. B. Watkins

One of the four candidates running for a three-year term on the city commission is Vincent B. Watkins, 687 Henley. Last spring he was an unsuccessful candidate for a one-year term.

He has been principal owner and co-operator of Grand Laundry of Detroit for eight years and the faulty agency.

Where to Vote

- Precinct 1—Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Precinct 2—Holy Name School
- Precinct 3—Adams School
- Precinct 4—Municipal Building
- Precinct 5—Torry School
- Precinct 6—New YMCA Bldg.
- Precinct 7—Grand Trunk Station
- Precinct 8—B'ham High School

Polls Open 7 A.M. To 8 P.M.

has been in the laundry business for 23 years. He moved to Birmingham seven years ago. Watkins is a member of the First Presbyterian church; Rotary of Detroit; Alumni club of Phi Delta Theta; director of the Michigan state laundry association; Detroit Alumni club of Baldwin Public Library.

In addition, he has served two years on the board of education at Haworth, N. J.

He holds a BA degree from Knox College, Galesburg, Ill.

"I CONSIDER it the duty of the city commission to see that adequate operating services are maintained at minimum costs," Watkins said.

"The replacement of roads and drainage sewers should be done as rapidly as possible within the limits of sound financing."

"I favor the long range major improvements in the water department and sewage and garbage disposal."

"The issues on the ballot at this election for a new fire house and the appointment of a director of fire (See CANDIDATES, Page 3)

Revision in Retirement System Would Let City Collect from 3rd Party

Third proposal on the April 7 ballot will be an amendment to the city charter which would provide the city with means of reimbursement where death or injury of an employee is caused by acts of a third party.

The two previous articles discussed the \$350,000 bond issue for a new east side fire hall and equipment and the proposed establishment of a new city department of finance.

The proposed amendment to the city's retirement system, would stipulate that when an accident involving a city employee occurs and is caused by the action of a third party, the city has a right for a claim against the faulty agency.

CITY MANAGER Donald C. Egbert explains, "If the city pays an employee or his heirs in case of an accident or death, the amendment would provide us with the rights to a claim against the third party."

"This would mean that when either the accident victim or his heirs collect from the city, their rights to a reimbursement against a third party will be taken over by the city."

Need for a change in the amendment resulted from the recent litigation in Federal Court in Detroit, arising out of the death of Birmingham fireman Lee Carroll, who was killed in the Dec. 11, 1949 gas explosion here.

Carroll for the administrator of Mr. Carroll's estate contended that the local ruling applied only to a person receiving benefits and didn't concern the administrator of an estate.

IN ADDITION TO THE three "STRICTLY FRESH"

WHEN a Texas plumber was asked if he thought his 17th marriage established some sort of record, "I do! I do! I do! I do!"

Comfort for Housewives: If you think your house-cleaning is a lot of work, think of the job that remains to be done in Washington.

A bar of soap was one of the few clues police had to work on

ZIP

Spring is the time of year when people who have saved money all winter start planning their vacation. They'll spend all summer looking forward to.

Wonder why they don't build a permanent building to house the "temporary" Korean truce talks.

By more than a 5 to 1 vote, Birmingham school district electors in a special election Monday approved the levying of a special 3 1/2 mill tax for the next five years.

The vote was 1,627 for, only 299 against. The excellent spring weather failed to bring out more than the usual number of voters in a school election. Only 1,994 persons went to the polls, slightly over 10 per cent of the estimated 20,500 registered school district electors.

HERE IS THE tabulation of Monday's vote:

Precinct	Yes	No	Total
1—Adams	489	86	575
2—Quarton	36	541	577
3—Barnum	155	54	219
4—Pierce	327	84	412
5—Franklin	191	11	202
6—Bloomfield	67	3	70
7—Walnut Lake	60	6	66

TOTALS 1627 299 1994 (68 ballots were improperly marked by voters and were voided). The new 3 1/2-mill levy replaces a special 5-mill tax which expired last December.

SPEAKing FOR the board of education, Board President Ernest W. Sheahan said Tuesday morning: "It is gratifying to see the public's response to this important election. It is gratifying that they have taken such an interest in the school district and have shown their confidence in the board's financial policies."

Monday's results will enable the board to give the Birmingham school district the financial facilities and opportunities to which it is entitled, he said.

Supt. of Schools Dwight B. Ireland said the election outcome was a knock couple of hours after the polls closed Monday at 8 p.m., and the following comment:

"THE ADMINISTRATIVE staff of the Birmingham public schools is extremely gratified over Monday's election results."

"The fact that almost as many people voted on this issue as voted on the big bond issue a year ago is encouraging. It was really an expression of the community in support of this levy."

In the past four weeks, the board of education held special discussions with local groups, including all PTA units, and explained the facts behind the election to more than 3,000 persons.

The extension of the special tax was necessitated because the Birmingham school district is unable to obtain the construction cost facilities merely from that portion of the 15-mil limitation left it after the county and townships take out what they want.

County to Pay \$10,500 On West Maple Paving

City Manager Donald Egbert has been notified that the Oakland county road commission will pay \$10,500 of the construction cost of new pavement on Maple west of the new bridge to Linden.

Egbert said City Engineer L. R. Gare had prepared an estimate of \$10,222.37, exclusive of engineering, but did not equal the amount preferred to settle for a definite amount.

The city treasurer has been instructed to bill the Oakland county road commission in accordance with this agreement.

60,000 grain water softener, \$174.50 installed. THE TURNER COMPANY, LANSING 2-7259. (24)