Is your heart being lifted as spring makes its appearance again? It should react to the resurgence of life that comes even to the apparently dead, flattened grass that lay close to the soil in your yard but days ago.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

75TH YEAR—NO. 2 BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1952 30 PAGES FIVE CENTS

School District to Vote Monday on Special 3½-Mill Levy

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An Editorial

School Operation Would Be Seriously Affected If Special Levy Doesn't Pass

For the third time in 10 years, the Birmingham board of education has come before residents of the school district to ask permission to levy extra tax millage in order to effectively operate the local school system.

Back in May 1942 and again in May 1947 the voters agreed to this request and approved a special 5-mill levy. The 1947 levy expired last December. Next Monday, March 31, voters will be in the election booths marking their ballots regarding this third request, which this time is for a 3½-mill levy.

BOTH THE TWO PREVIOUS requests were necessary because the Birmingham school board could not pay its teachers the salaries they were entitled to, nor buy the necessary textbooks, teaching supplies, the necessary utilities like light and fuel, with only that portion of the 15-mill tax limitation left the school board after the county and township governments got through taking what they wanted first.

The situation has not changed much during these past 10 years. To be sure, there has been great building activity in the school district, and thus valuations have increased. But the school population has been growing as rapidly, too. The school board also must meet the increased cost of prices the same as any individual or private business.

FOR ITS NEXT YEAR'S operation, the board of education figures it will need slightly over 12 mills of tax per $1,000 of equalized valuation to operate its schools comfortably, but not extravagantly.

The Oakland county tax allocation board is extremely unlikely to give the Birmingham district more than 9 of these mills, possibly less. The other millage must come from the electorate through the renewal of the special mill levy.

If this is not approved next Monday, the board will have the problem of trimming its budget something like 25 per cent. This cannot be done without disastrously endangering the quality of education supplied the children in this school district.

The Birmingham Eccentric recommends that the electorate next Monday, March 31, approve the 3½-mill special levy. Please remember that this 3½-mill levy is, in part, continuing the last 5-mill levy which expired last December.

This and That

By G. R. A.

Eisenhower Can Justify His Return to U.S.A.

It should not be too difficult for Gen. Eisenhower to return to his native land in order to engage in a political campaign that may place him in the White House.

Even assuming that his efforts to unite Europe into a strong military and economic unit are not going too well, could he not issue a public statement something like this:

"Fellow Americans, and citizens of all the free world, I am returning to the United States to engage in one of freedom's obligations, which is to respond to a public demand that I become a candidate for President of the United States on the Republican ticket.

"I expect to win that high office, and to assume Presidential duties in the first week of 1953.

"IN RETURNING to my native country, I am doing so because, to me, it is quite evident that no matter how much and how successfully I may labor here in Europe, I am convinced that unless a new leadership takes over in the United States, efforts to unite the free world against Soviet Communism will weaken and probably fail.

"It is with this conviction in mind that I turn my responsibility in Europe over to a successor . . . a successor who, with the aid of a revitalized United States, with its resultant impact upon the remainder of the free world, will be able to oppose the evils of totalitarianism, of intolerance, of greed, of man's inhumanity to man, and thus insure a more secure and lasting peace!"

IN TRUE HUMILITY, in response to the demand of his countrymen to lead them out of the "valley of the shadow of the death of freedom", I believe that "Ike" could thus doff the khaki of the military for the clothing of the righteous citizen . . . the righteously indignant citizen, if you please, who is willing to do what he can to overthrow the shackles of socialistic slavery that have been fastened to the bodies of Americans for too many years.

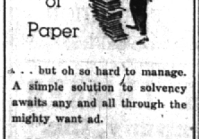
This is not to say that everything offered by the New-Fair Deal has been or is wrong; nor that millions of honest citizens who voted the Democratic ticket are anti-American in deep thought and feeling.

BUT IT IS to say that those of the dominant political party who deliberately lead the United States along the road of Socialism; those who have fattened themselves from the taxes paid by helpless human beings who have become mere chattels of the New-Fair Deal ruling class . . . such persons are unpatriotic, dishonest, disloyal to the tenets of freedom, and they should be removed from power.

That's why I think "Ike" quite properly could and should resign his position in Europe. I do not believe that his personal or political future would suffer by so doing, either.

While I, personally, think that Senator Taft would make an excellent President of the United States, I also think "Ike" would do a good job, too.

With both of them available for nomination, how can either one of them lose out in November? I dont think they can . . . there's too much popular demand for the enthronement of Character, Honesty, Ability, and kindred virtues in American public life for anything less to perpetuate itself in the White House.



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AUDIENCE LISTENS INTENTLY AS INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES ARE DISCUSSED
Four-man panel is feature of annual institute. (Bror Hanson Photo)

Moody Lists 5 Threats To Individual Liberties

Partisan politics "took a holiday" Friday evening as four speakers gave their views on "Individual Liberty USA" at the annual Institute sponsored by the Community Council and held at the First Baptist Church.

The church auditorium was about three-fourths filled during the two-hour discussion by United States Senator Blair Moody from Michigan, Congressman Charles Potter, Professor John Dawson of the University of Michigan, and William T. Gossett, general counsel of the Ford Motor Co.

Following the talks, each speaker answered several questions.

Discussing the subject, "Dangers to Individual Liberty," Senator Moody said there were five threats which could jeopardize liberty in this country. He also emphasized that the next two or three years will be the most crucial period in this nation's history.

THREATS LISTED BY Moody were (1) the danger of a military threat from a "ruthless world revolution"; (2) danger that the people won't be informed; (3) a failure of international leadership; (4) failure of domestic policies which might bring about an inflation and crash; and (5) a doctrine of "fear, ignorance, bigotry and smear."

The senator stated, "There's nothing this nation can't face providing we devote ourselves to these points."

He pointed out that if the American people are informed, they will fully protect their liberties and take the right action.

Another important point outlined by the senator was that the American people should be given more information about our more advanced military weapons.

HE STATED, "There has been a terrific advance in jet aircraft and atomic weapons during the past few years. If the Russians know some of these things, our people should be told more about them."

Moody also lashed out at the "politicians who profess to be fighting communism but are using communist tactics and techniques themselves to undermine the very program that must go forward if the real Communist threat is to be repelled."

He pointed out that the technique employed by the Communist party to destroy the system of any country it invades is to select the areas of economic and social structure in which there already is some lack of agreement or understanding, and exaggerate and distort and smear until public confidence is shaken and reasoning is destroyed.

The senator added, "I believe that the doctrine of 'fear, ignorance, bigotry and smear'—so named by the courageous Senator from Maine, Margaret Chase Smith, who happens to be a Republican—has become a real threat to our system and our country."

"WHEN UNTRUE CHARGES are made and efforts are made to discredit a definite threat to liberties is made."

Congressman Potter talked on "Congressional Investigations: Threat or Safeguard." He emphasized that Congress' authority to investigate is a legitimate function of Congressional committees.

He said, "Our country is spending enormous sums of money to combat communism in other parts of the world. It is stupid to make sacrifices and then not recognize our own communists. Communism should be judged as a part and parcel of international conspiracy.

"The Kremlin hopes to take America with Americans. I have great faith in the judgment of the American people, once they know about communism."

Potter also maintained that the communists should be removed from the ballot in this country.

He said, "I hope the individual

(See MOODY, Page 2)

YMCA Members To Help Move Offices

Members of the Birmingham Y's Men's group and the committee of Management of the Birmingham YMCA Sunday will assist in moving furniture and program equipment from the present office quarters to the new 'Y' building at 400 E. Lincoln.

The 'Y' retains its present telephone number and will be open to members at a future date when it is completely furnished.

The general "open house" and inspection date will be planned for the latter part of April or early May.

At this time the general public will be invited to inspect the new quarters.

Civic Control Day

Gail Burlingame, representing the Birmingham high school Student Congress, has been informed by city commissioners that the annual Civic Control Day may be observed April 28. High school students will vote Monday to select the group which will "run" the city that day.

Rotary Plans Lily Sale

The Birmingham Rotary club has received permission from the city commissioners to conduct its lily sale for the benefit of the Oakland County society for Crippled Children. The sale will be held on Good Friday, April 11, from 4 to 9 p.m., and on Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fluoride Talk Planned

Representatives of the Michigan Department of Health will speak at the April 8 meeting of the Oakland County Engineering society, according to Ralph A. Main. A discussion of the use of fluorides in drinking water will be discussed. The meeting will be held in the Birmingham municipal building.

$350,000 Fire Hall Bond Issue Approval Sought by Officials

The second proposal local voters will be asked to decide April 7 is whether or not a $350,000 bond issue should be made to provide for a new east side fire hall and equipment.

Last week's article discussed a proposal to establish a new city finance department, which commissioners feel will prove more efficient than the present system as direction of the city's financial affairs would be centered in one person. In next week's concluding article the proposed city retirement amendment will be explained.

The fire hall will be located at Bowers and Adams. Equipment planned there includes one 65-foot aerial ladder truck; two 1000-gallon triple combination pump engines; one rescue truck; one assistant chief's car, a half-ton truck for water and hydrant services, well service, etc; and one 100 KW diesel generator for emergencies.

SECOND OF THREE ARTICLES

City commissioners feel that Birmingham's increasing growth should be matched with adequate fire protection.

THE STATION WOULD cost approximately $300,000 and expense of the aerial ladder truck is $30,000 and the pumper $17,000.

City officials have pointed out that if voters turn down the proposal, they face a possibility of increased fire insurance rates due to inadequate protection.

Several weeks ago Commissioner Lance Minor stated at a commission meeting, "We are very close to a re-rating and we might find ourselves back in sixth class as a fire insurance risk unless we take proper action to insure better fire protection and thus keep our fifth class rating."

He added, "If our rating goes up, it will mean $1.50 more per $1,000 on non-residential and $1.70 per $1,000 on residential on a city valuation of nearly $30,000,000.

"IF WE SAVED THIS increase by keeping our fifth class rating, I figure the citizens of Birmingham would pay for the entire station in about seven years."

Present plans call for the present centrally located station to be used to house fire apparatus serving the westerly portion of the city; and to provide administrative offices for both stations, including space for the testing laboratory for the Bureau of fire prevention.

Another station at Chesterfield and West Maple to serve the population in the west end of the city is contemplated in the future.

This decentralization program follows the recommendations of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, which establishes standards for areas to be served by fire stations.

In stressing the need for an east side station, city officials cite that the present centrally located headquarters was built when Birmingham had a population of about 9500 persons. There now are close to 20,000 residents and it is expected that within the next 20 years, population will jump to 26,000.

Investigate Troy Man In Murder

A Troy township man is being held in Oakland County jail on investigation of murder.

State police said that Charles M. Himes, age 30, of 244 Florence, shot and killed his brother-in-law, John Oliver Kilgoar, River View with a shotgun blast in the chest Sunday night in the kitchen of the Hime's home.

KILGOAR, a crane operator, had taken his family to visit with Himes and his wife Sunday and the two men began quarelling. Himes told police that Kilgoar threatened him with a knife before the shooting occurred.

Mrs. Dollie Kilgoar, wife of the victim, was calling for police at the home of a neighbor when the fatal shooting happened.

Mrs. Kilgoar and Mrs. Himes are sisters. The Kilgoars have two children.

Kilgoar's body will be taken to his birthplace in Tennessee for burial.

BIRMINGHAM may furnish the next speaker of Michigan's House of Representatives. He is Howard R. Estes, 492 Rivenoak, now completing his fourth term as a legislator. A Republican, he is currently a candidate for re-election this fall. Victor A. Knox, of Saulte Ste. Marie, present speaker, will be a Republican candidate for State Auditor-General this fall, thus vacating his place in the House. Estes, who is popular among a majority of the House members, confidently expects to succeed Knox, when the Legislature convenes next January.

Take Bids On Nine Pavings

The city will advertise immediately for contracts on the construction of concrete pavement for nine projects.

City Manager Donald C. Egbert advised commissioners Monday night that the combining of the nine paving districts would save money in that paving contractors would be more willing to bid on a larger program.

The paving projects include Maple between Bates and Southfield, the widening of Eton between Lincoln and Sheffield, paving of Melton between Sheffield and Eton, Melton between Sheffield and Fourteen Mile road.

Sheffield between Mansfield and Melton, Chester between Maple and Martin, Yosemite between Columbia and Eton, Villa between Columbia and Eton and the paving of the west end of the department of public works yard.

Mrs. John Hanna Dies at Ann Arbor

Mrs. Blanche Peabody Hanna, 82, daughter of one of Birmingham's pioneer families, Lyman and Sarah Foster Peabody, died March 23 at her home in Ann Arbor.

She was born in Birmingham on Oct. 23, 1869, and had lived all her life here until moving to Ann Arbor in 1937. She was the widow of John Hanna, local businessman, former postmaster and one-time village treasurer. Mrs. Hanna was a member of the First Methodist church of Birmingham.

She is survived by two sons, John Foster Hanna of Detroit and Donald L. Hanna of Ann Arbor; a sister, Mrs. Florence Evans and a brother, Burt Peabody, both of Birmingham. Five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren also survive.

Services were held Saturday afternoon from the Bell chapel of the William R. Hamilton company with interment in Greenwood cemetery.

Future City Financing Discussed

At an introductory session Saturday morning, Birmingham's city commissioners looked at the city's financial past, observed its present, and attempted to plan for its future.

Other meetings are planned at which commissioners expect to go into more detail, particularly in regard to future projects, in order to establish coordinated work and financial programs.

At Saturday's meeting, commissioners tentatively agreed that:

The city's tax rate should remain between 19 and 19.5 mills per $1,000 of assessed valuation;

Surplus funds and bond retirement reserves should be increased in anticipation of any future economic recession or depression when tax collections will decline seriously;

WATER, SEWER and street improvements should continue to be made at the rate of $250,000 to $300,000 a year and paid for out of current budgets; and

Special assessment projects should continue on a pay-as-you-go basis with the city's revolving fund advancing monies only to districts whose finances are sound and which need only a comparatively small percentage of money advanced to them in order that the project can be completed a bit earlier.

Commissioners Monday night followed up a part of this Saturday decision by placing $27,098 in government bonds (which have a maturity value of $34,000) in the bond and interest redemption fund. Together with previous investments, this fund now will total $49,000 when all the investments mature.

CITY MANAGER D. C. Egbert led off the Saturday meeting by describing to commissioners the city's financial experience during the late 20's and early 30's. He mentioned that in the mid-30's the city was forced to refinance about $1,500,000 in debts.

"The general obligation debt of the city as of June 30, 1952, will be $843,000. This is exclusive of any presently proposed issues," he stated.

In recent years, the city's control over its financial obligations has been much greater and better than formerly, he said.

"We've been so conservative taking care of our financial obligations that we've not been giving all the city services that normally could be expected from our tax levies," he explained.

EGBERT SUGGESTED that the city hold to its present sound financing program, and for the future be on a partial pay-as-you-go and a partial bonding plan.

"We should try to devote as much of our budget as we now do to capital improvements," he said.

This currently is about 30 percent of the budget, Egbert added.

Declared Commissioner Lance C. Minor, "I think we should keep the tax rate high and lay away any surplus to meet any difficulties on bonding requirements and slumps in tax collections."

The city's 1951 tax rate was 19.5 mills.

Egbert said he'd like to see it drop to around 19 mills.

"I DON'T LIKE the city to operate much closer to the 20-mill limit," he remarked.

Commissioners also agreed to investigate a Detroit plan whereby the city buys into assessment districts rather than permit certain properties to pass through state scavenger sales.

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

Voters in the Birmingham school district must approve the proposed 3½ mill tax levy at the March 31 special election if the present educational facilities are to continue, Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, school superintendent said Tuesday.

"If we would continue our present school standards, meet area teacher salary competition and provide necessary capital improvements, this levy must be approved," he said.

Dr. Ireland had previously pointed out that this is not a new levy but a replacement for a 5 mill levy which expired last December.

"We have, during the past few weeks, appeared before every Parent-Teacher group in Birmingham. The final one, Quarton, is scheduled for this Friday," Ireland said.

"IN EACH CASE members of the board have been present to explain what the levy was for and what it would mean to the school system if voted down. These groups have entered freely into discussion with us, and it is our feeling that there is a good understanding throughout the entire district as to its importance.

"We have told these parents how the growth of the city has increased our school activities and demands. We have explained how these are altering the physical demands on our schools and their operational expenses and we feel that the whole problem has been clearly presented and is clearly understood."

Ireland said a minimum budget for the 1952-53 school year would be about $1,600,000. This is $233,000 more than the district has operated this year.

THIS BUDGET, Ireland explained several weeks ago, is not final but does indicate the upscaling necessary in expected expenses for the coming school year.

"Our operational expenses not only include salary increases and additional teachers, but also the constantly growing demand for text books and supplies," he explained. "The beginning of every school term sees increased enrollments of students who must be provided with school supplies."

This is the third time school district voters have been asked to decide such an issue in the past 10 years.

IN 1942 a proposed 2 mill levy was approved, 965-320. In 1947, the proposed 5 mill levy received overwhelming support, four to

(See VOTE, Page 4)

Local Woman Offering Free Rides to Voters

Mrs. A. Leslie Schaefer, 251 East Brown, for the second consecutive year, is offering her services to voters in Birmingham who have no transportation available.

Mrs. Schaefer will call for anyone who wishes to vote if they will make their desire and lack of transportation known to her.

Wandering Pooch Costs Irate Owner $15 for Assault

The public conception of occupational hazards for the dog catcher is a nip now and then from the captured pooch. Now and then, however, the irate owner enters into the scene as Birmingham's dog warden, Ralph Riley, learned this week.

A short time ago he impounded the dog owned by Willard Clemons of 613 Smith. Clemons redeemed his pet and went away. This week his beagle once more made unfavorable contacts with the law, and once again Clemons visited the pound to retrieve him.

The second trip seemed a little more than he could take good-naturedly and, according to Riley, a few uncomplimentary remarks were passed between the two men, along with the threat of more physical contact.

RILEY SAID he told Clemons to go ahead and hit—and was surprized when his invitation was accepted promptly.

"We scuffled a bit," Riley said, "then Clemons got in his car and drove away. I got into the truck and started after him, that is, in the same direction.

"All of a sudden he stopped and came back to try to get into the truck. I just locked the doors and sat there, while he threw stones at the truck."

Charged with assault and battery, Clemons was fined $15 by Judge John J. Gafill in Monday morning's court session.