

## School District Cooperates With the Inevitable

When it comes to the inevitable, there's nothing that can be done about it. . . except cooperate with it.

That's what Birmingham school district voters did in last week's special election when by a 4 to 1 majority, they approved a \$3,300,000 bond issue to finance construction of two new elementary schools, make additions to six others, and purchase five new school sites.

At the present moment, 5,900 school children are enrolled in Birmingham public schools. The new high school, with 1,200 students in the top four grades, is at capacity. Supt. of Schools Dwight B. Ireland says there is not an elementary classroom that is not being used.

**SCHOOL CENSUS FIGURES** show many more students entering school each September than are being graduated each June.

Birmingham's widely recognized high

educational standards would have faced lowering, with half-day class sessions almost a certainty, if the electors had not passed the bond issue last week.

It is to the credit of these voters that they said, in effect:

"We want our high scholastic values maintained. You have proved to us that the only way this can be accomplished is to provide several more schools, to enlarge most of our present grade schools."

Since the recent war, many thousands of persons have recognized that Birmingham and the surrounding area is a fine place in which to live. Many of these newcomers are young, in the process of raising their families.

**THAT THEY HAVE MOVED** into our midst and that all these many new and potential school children will require an education—that is the inevitable.

Last week's approval of the bond issue was the cooperation.

## Tearing Down Tariff Walls

By asking the U.S. Government to remove all foreign trade barriers so that goods produced in other countries may enter the U.S.A. without the payment of duties, the Detroit Board of Commerce has done a tremendously new thing.

In essence, it says: "The United States no longer need fear the competition of other nations, regardless of how low their wage standards may be. No longer can the U.S.A. expect to maintain an export business unless it is willing to accept imports of products from other countries. World trade is a two-way street."

For many, many years American business has endeavored to protect itself against foreign cheap labor and materials by imposing high tariffs against such imports.

IT BELIEVED THAT the best way to

insure the highest possible standard of living here was to prevent the import of foreign products made under conditions that priced them lower than those made in this country.

How times have changed! With the impact of two World Wars, plus the current U.S.A. efforts to help impoverished nations via the give-away plan of American cash, American business now realizes that "world trade is a two-way street."

Let's hope it works out that way. For years leading economists have argued for the abolition of tariff walls.

Lowering, or eliminating tariff walls is going to injure some of American businesses. But the ingenuity of modern business operators who find they cannot compete in their lines with foreign imports will, no doubt, cause them to enter more profitable types of activity.

## From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

One hundred thousand years ago the state of Kansas was much milder in winter and cooler in summer, says a University of Michigan geologist, who based his statement upon the discovery of certain fossils of animals he has found there. Presumably, of course, he does not include Alf Landon among his fossil findings.

Reports from Russia state that although Russia claims to have invented the automobile, months and often years are required to have a car serviced in one of their nationalized garages. This situation shows what happens in a slave society . . . and argues that freedom is all the more worthwhile defending.

We now learn that there is no key to the front door of the White House. Police, of course, guard that entrance against everything but predatory politicians, some of whom, in their own cute way, are able to loot the public treasury of some of its contents.

Good news for American taxpayers is contained in the report that Detroit's Joseph M. Dodge, banker, will head President-elect Eisenhower's Bureau of the Budget. This most important post has more to do with federal expenditures than any other agency in Washington. With Dodge in charge, motivated by his practical ability to keep expenses within income, "like" administration, aided by Congress, ought to cut your taxes. (How different from 16 years of "tax and tax, spend and spend" policies.)

From Washington, D.C., comes the hint that the Democratic portion of the U. S. Senate isn't interested in playing with Sen. Wayne Morse. You identify the latter as a

"Republican now gone independent." Morse, during the recent campaign, quit supporting Gen. Eisenhower and announced himself in favor of Gov. Stevenson. Well, to us Morse seems like a strange breed of politician; let him be an independent—isn't this a free country?

Michigan's Republican Attorney-General, Millard believes that things may not be right between certain gamblers and dope peddlers in southern Oakland County. So he called for a special grand jury to look into affairs in Royal Oak Township, outside Royal Oak city. Millard argues that tightening law enforcement in Detroit has forced nasty people to ply their evil trades in parts of the suburban area. (Anybody know about such traffic in or near Birmingham?)

People who know, or even have a slight acquaintance with Gov. G. Mennen Williams admit that he is an amiable, friendly sort of chap. During the four years he has been Governor he has gone far out of his way to shake hands with those who "vote . . . and there is no question but that his handclasp and smile won him the narrow margin of victory in the Nov. 4 election. Some day he'll probably write an essay on "How To Win Friends and Influence Votes."

Within the past year or so a rash of prison riots has broken out, including those in Michigan, Illinois and Ohio. No doubt the use of personal radios in many cells has helped to foment the rebellious state of mind of many prisoners, who heard about the prison riots that preceded their own. Perhaps those prison radios should be restricted.

After January 20, once again certain Missouri politicians will return to the atmosphere of Pendergastism. And may the cool breezes that nature blows over its landscape finally free it from the stink that led all the way to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.

To their everlasting credit be it recalled that the White House never besmirched the character of two fine American women: Bess and Margaret Truman.

Reaction of some labor leaders to the Eisenhower victory suggests that they are quite mad about the affair. It only goes to show how lacking in wisdom they are . . . or even Gov. Stevenson was American enough to call for "closing of the rackets and uniting ourselves under the new White House leadership."



## 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  
November 28, 1902

Our adjoining township is in a fever of excitement with the discovery that Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

Stories about the extent of potato rot are true. Many farmers have been forced to take them from storage and scatter them on the fields. A poor growing season is given as the cause.

It is claimed that hunters from the cities are adding insult to injury by actually cutting wire fences as they invade private farm lands in this vicinity to further their own selfish desires.

McClellan & Satterlee's flour mill is grinding at the rate of 50 barrels of flour a day. A large quantity of corn and oats for feed, daily.

The Eccentric is issued a day earlier this week because of Thanksgiving falling on our regular press day. We take this opportunity to wish our old friends the fullness of joy in the blessings of home, friends and feasting.

30 YEARS AGO  
November 24, 1922  
Monday's commission meeting ended abruptly when most of its members scrambled to join fellow fire fighters answering a call to the T. B. Moore home on Big Bear road. Despite heroic efforts the home was totally destroyed as the flames spread from the roof, out of control.

The ladies of the James church have offered church property at Bates and Martin as a village skating rink, providing commissioners will authorize a long-felt need for a rink within the village limits.

The gun club will hold its annual "poultry shoot" at its range just east of the village on Nov. 28. A large crowd of enthusiastic shooters

Well, here we are at Thanksgiving once more. How that day has changed since the first observance several centuries ago.

By our standards, that first "feast" was probably a pretty poor affair. True, they had roast turkey, vegetables, fruits and good fellowship that day, but surely none of it reached the heights to which our celebrations arose.

The turkey the Puritans ate was the wild bird. Their chances on getting one which was plump and tender were strictly that—chances. It was quite possible that the bird which graced their table had developed the build of a truck horse in its constant fight for survival. It was also possible that the flesh carried the bitter flavor of the acorns and other things which had been his food.

Not so, ours. They are the plump, meaty products of science and careful, pampered rearing.

Although supposedly on friendly terms with the Indians, those Pilgrim fathers ate their dinner with guns handy, by one ear cocked for the first whisper of hostility from the surrounding woods. Further, more, they ate it out of doors, not in the cozy comfort of their dining halls we enjoy today.

THE THINGS they considered "delicacies" were probably considered unworthy of sale by our green grocers. And, as compared with the feast from which we are able to make our selections, they were very limited, indeed.

ers are expected to be on hand matching their skill to obtain one of the five prizes.

Special church services at the United Presbyterian church Thursday morning will be in charge of the Rev. Edwards. Other highlights of the holiday here will be the return to their families of our many college boys and girls.

The Winter Sports Day committee will present a movie at the Baldwin high school auditorium Monday evening, Nov. 27, if it had been announced.

15 YEARS AGO  
December 2, 1937  
Birmingham leads Oakland county in membership and donations increases in the annual Red Cross fund drive, according to a report released by the Pontiac office. With a membership of 1024, this community gave \$1,306.50. Mrs. H. H. Conson was in charge.

The YMCA-sponsored volleyball league for men starts play next Tuesday in the Quorton school gym. Prospective players should contact Sec'y Robert Lynd or W. C. Morgan for assignment to a team.

With Santa Claus, special holiday cheer and a good air, the Christmas shopping season has officially opened in Birmingham. Stores are displaying a wide selection of gift items for every member of the family and merchants are looking forward to an excellent season.

"Crime and Juvenile Delinquency" was the subject of Ray Johns, state YMCA secretary, when he addressed a joint meeting of the Lions, Exchange and Rotary clubs Wednesday evening.

A note from Santa Claus announces that he had received his first consignment of letters from Birmingham school children. As in the past, The Eccentric will publish these letters for the kindly old gentleman.

coffee, they had no servings of frozen desserts, they had no dishes of candies or nuts such as we have again this year.

YET, they had in their hearts a deep sincere feeling of thankfulness. As much, or more, than we have today.

They had seen these things come to them. They had worked and fought for what they had. Not one thing that was taken for granted by the men, women and children who sat around that first festive board. In the true spirit of "thanksgiving," they were probably far richer than we will ever be. To them it was wholly and entirely a day of giving thanks to God for His mercies.

For many of us, today, it is another day off the job, a day when families and friends get together for fun and entertainment. We have our shows, movies and football games. Our cars to take us long distances. Our roomy, comfortable homes to become centers for entertaining.

We have had these things so long that we have lost most of their significance. We are accused of not being as thankful as we should be for these blessings.

Is that accusation true? It hardly seems possible, for aren't the expression of joy and pleasure, in themselves, expressions of thank?

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

When the milk arrived this morning, I noted that chlorophyll had been added—yet.

A New York physician says the nurse shortage hasn't resulted from fewer girls entering the profession each year—it's merely that

they have gone on a five-day, 40-hour week. Could this be what is causing "the doctor shortage," too?

We're in the midst of the season when that fiendish magician turns men into deer, bears, pheasants, rabbits and lots of other four-footed beings.

If Mickey Rooney, who's just married for the fourth time, doesn't slow down, he's going to pass Artie Shaw along the side love you.

If you believed what some store windows are telling you, tomorrow would be Christmas instead of Thanksgiving Day.

Been reading the occasional stories about "trips to the moon"? Apparently, speculation on what will be found on this satellite of the earth is nothing new. In fact, one man claims to have already been there.

He is Lucian, a 2nd century writer. In his piece of Greek science fiction, entitled "True History," he reports he made a completely unplanned voyage to the moon. He got there, said, when his vessel suddenly was caught in a whirlwind and carried into the air. It was several days before he arrived on the "dead planet."

LUCIAN CLAIMED THAT "The moon folk are marauders, carrying their young about in pouches like kangaroos." Their ears are of wood or of the leaves of trees. They have eyes which they can remove or insert as will.

Complete social justice, it seems, has not been achieved yet, because the rich own more such eyes than the poor, and they wear soft robes of cloth in woven bronze.

All drink a dew-like beverage made by squeezing air into a cup, and for more details

they repeat flying frogs and inhale the smoke of their own breath.

"On the moon, there is a shallow well covered with a mirror. If you step down into the well, you can hear everything that is being said on earth, while by looking into the mirror you can see all of its cities and peoples."

HE CONCLUDES this description with the statement: "Wherever these are the facts will find, if he goes there himself, that I am telling the truth."

Well, Mr. Lucian, after 1,800 long years, it appears that your story may be verified or discredited.

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