

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

THE AIRCRAFT FLASH, official Ground Observers Corps magazine, made its bow last week. The small monthly paper, printed in Washington, is prepared to keep GOC posts abreast of the activities of their program throughout the country. Dealing wholly with GOC activities, members of the various posts are invited to submit items concerning their own jobs, unusual events and operations which they feel will be of interest or helpful to others in the field.

THIS WANDERER watched with a great deal of interest a young woman and three small children out buying pumpkins at a roadside stand Saturday. The kids swarmed all over the pile of huge pumpkins, picking the biggest and fattest, while mother stood hopefully beside three much smaller ones. She pointed out the many advantages of smaller jack-o-lanterns, how much easier they would be to work on, how much better to carry, and, to her not the least attraction, how much cheaper. Her discussion fell on deaf ears. As we loaded our apples and pears into our car, the three children started rolling their choice toward their waiting auto, and we'll swear each pumpkin outweighed its owner. Proof of the cartoon, "Why Mothers Turn Grey!"

THE ADDITION of three pictures of former city and village commissioners will complete the collection hanging on the walls of the city commission room, Birmingham City Clerk Irene Hanley believes. The missing three photos, which Miss Hanley is now attempting to obtain, are of Fred Mallender, his son Milt, and the late David H. Ladd. Fred Mallender served on the village commission in 1914, Mr. Ladd in 1926, and Milt Mallender on the city commission from 1943-52, including two years as mayor.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in many, many months, the Birmingham city commission meeting Monday evening was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Patterson with no member of the public in the audience. Six minutes later, Chamber of Commerce Manager Charles Mortensen, a regular attendee of the meetings, arrived. No one else even poked a head in the door.

BIRMINGHAM'S WATER SYSTEM at the end of the fiscal year June 30 was worth \$2,619,860.40, according to a report released this week by City Treasurer Russell T. Berger. A year before, the system was valued at \$2,223,541.09.

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Among many virtues that parents, by word and example, can teach their children is that of assuming and discharging little and big responsibilities. The work-day world will compensate in good measure those who are not lazy, shiftless.

Concluding Article on Reapportioning

(As a public service to the community, The Birmingham Eccentric presents the last of a series of four articles concerning the two reapportionment amendments which will appear on the Nov. 4 ballot. The information is being supplied by the Oakland Citizens League and the Civic Research, Inc., of Pontiac, both of which are non-profit, non-partisan organizations devoted to research and education in government.)

Of four petitions circulated last spring to change reapportionment provisions of Michigan's 1908 constitution, two secured enough signatures to assure a place on the Nov. 4 ballot. Proposal No. 2 seeks to establish reapportionment on a population basis; Proposal No. 3 seeks to combine population with area and other factors, placing the Senate on an area basis and the House on a population basis to assure a balance of power.

Oakland County stands to benefit under each proposal, gaining either representation and not sharing that representation with Washington County, as at present. Voters have four alternatives in casting their ballots. They can vote "yes" on Proposal No. 2 and "no" on Proposal No. 3; "no" on 2 and "yes" on 3; "no" on both or "yes" on both.

It is possible that both proposals might pass, in which case a court conflict is foreseen.

It is also possible that both proposals will be defeated, in which case the Legislature still is required (but cannot be compelled) to redistrict the state in 1963 in accordance with the present state constitution.

"ACCEPTANCE or rejection of either of the two proposals depends upon an individual's belief," the Citizens Research Council declares. "If he accepts the principle that numbers of people should be the sole basis for allocating representation in both Houses and that possible 'control' should rest with the majority resides, then Proposal No. 2 is available.

"On the other hand, if a person believes that geographic, social and economic interests plus population should be considered in determining representation in one House and population in the other and that no one section of the state should be in a position of possibly controlling both Houses, then Proposal No. 3 is available."

The Oakland Citizens League, through its candidates and issues committee, has taken a stand that Proposal No. 3 is the best of the two plans offered, and is urging a "yes" vote on Proposal No. 3 and a "no" vote on Proposal No. 2.

There is reported a growing move to vote "no" on both proposals and then follow it up with an amendment forcing reapportionment in the manner that the state constitution now intends.

PROPOSAL NO. 2
Arguments for — Gives representation according to people with the majority of representation coming from areas where a majority of the people reside (i.e., Oakland, Macomb, Wayne and Genesee counties). Theoretically, legislation would be enacted that

reflects the wishes of the majority.

Arguments against — Control of both Houses could rest in one section of the state and it would be possible that legislation would benefit only that area. It is possible that the formula for representation might lead to creation of districts that would preclude carrying out the intent of the law. Theoretically, 26 per cent of the state voters could control both Houses and it might thus be better to set up a unicameral legislature.

PROPOSAL NO. 3

Arguments for — The pattern established would give effective representation to the varied groups and interests in the state, as well as population, and no one section would be in a position to control both Houses.

Arguments against — It would give representation to area or geographical units in the Senate, leading to a possible stalemate in legislation. The House would not be on a straight population basis, since, in effect, the moiety clause would be retained.

The Senate would not be placed on a true area basis, but rather would be a compromise since some recognition has been given to population.

Underlying the move for reapportionment is the age old problem of urban versus rural control, with in recent years a new element of labor control injected. Proposal No. 2 is backed by the C.I.O., the A.F. of L. and other labor groups. The Oakland Citizens League declares interests of minorities should be protected and that Proposal No. 3 would provide equitable representation for all the people.

City to Pay Balance

Rather than re-assess so small an amount, Birmingham city commissioners have ordered the \$10.65 over-expenditure on the Edensborough sidewalk construction to be paid from city funds. The construction was completed at a cost of \$620.65.

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The Birmingham Eccentric

PART 2

Thursday, October 16, 1953



MIDSHIPMAN JOHN W. ROBERTS, son of Mrs. John C. Roberts, 480 Yarmouth (right), stands before the U. S. Naval Academy's gold-spired Chapel with two other members of the Academy's Third Class (sophomore). All are members of the Chi Phi fraternity. The others are Midshipman William O. K. Rentz of Washington, D. C. and Midshipman John R. Boardman of Atlanta, Ga.

First Place Goes To Lower School

The Cranbrook Lower school soccer team successfully defended their position in the Red Division of the Detroit Midset Soccer League on Sunday, Oct. 12, by defeating the "Traillablers" by a score of 4-2.

The game, played on Cranbrook fields, was a close one through-out and the victory gave Cranbrook first place in the League.

Jon Himelhoch scored the first goal of the game in the first half.



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Salvation Army Being Considered To Collect Paper

Birmingham city commissioner Ebert to continue discussions with Gil Pierson, Salvation Army representative, regarding waste paper collections by that organization.

The group has expressed its willingness to perform this pickup service, badly needed here, provided property owners would place papers at the curb for collection. Commenting on the question of licensing the Salvation Army later, Commissioner V. B. Watkins said he did not believe this would be necessary, feeling it would fulfill its part of the agreement.

"I feel we should give the Salvation Army recognition," Commissioner Frank Rising commented. "They are willing to collect paper here when other groups have refused because of current low prices."

IT WAS SUGGESTED by City

Attorney Forbes Haskell that the Salvation Army be designated by the DPW as the local paper collecting agency, and still permit Boy Scouts and others to go into basements to get papers.

Commissioner Lanece Mingo brought up the question as to what would happen to collection should the Salvation Army withdraw from the picture.

"The people," he said, "will soon get used to the idea of putting papers at the curb for collection. Will the city eventually find itself saddled with the job and have to continue it?"

In the meantime, Ebert will continue negotiations with Pierson, working out an arrangement agreeable to the city and the collecting agency. The need for licensing the collectors after a month or two, to protect their performance of the job, will also be considered.

Street Refund Okayed

Property owners in the special assessment district created for curb, gutter and gravel on Edensborough, Maple to Dorchester, will receive refunds totaling \$158,377. Birmingham city commissioners approved the refund Monday, in closing out the district's account.

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