

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1952

PART ONE

32 PAGES SEVEN CENTS

The environment of this earthy existence being made man-made is far from perfect. Perhaps, as you feel like criticizing somebody or something that you see in this imperfect and selfish world.

75TH YEAR—NO. 33

THE Sike hampered by Train Door and THAT Which Didn't Want to Open

By G. R. A.

IN PRAISE OF OUR HERITAGE OF THE BALLOT BOX

When you go to the polls next Tuesday to cast your vote for candidates for public offices that range from President of the United States right on down to the least important in your county, you are exercising a right you inherited from generations of brave men and women.

Just recall, Dear Voter, that you live in a nation where no shackles are placed upon the free exercise of your own choice for those who for a few years, govern you.

During this present political campaign you have not been threatened with any form of punishment by government for thinking and saying what you wanted to think and say.

You still have the privilege of criticizing, in public or in private, any man or woman running for public office. You have the right to criticize President Truman, or to commend him. Nobody in power has told you not to work actively and openly, for any candidate.

PART OF YOUR American heritage of personal freedom includes the right to join any legitimate political party in the United States.

For The Eccentric's explanation and interpretation of the three Michigan Constitutional Amendments to be voted on next Tuesday, read the leading editorial on Page 8 of Part 4. Two of these Amendments refer to the problem of reapportioning the State's legislative districts.

You, yourself, were even given the right to reach high places in a political party, and to help shape its platform.

In small or large groups, you are afforded the opportunity to discuss, calmly or excitedly, to rave and rant if you so desired, about political personalities and issues without the danger of police interference.

On election day you can badge or button of a political party and of one or more of its candidates, and your automobile could have been placarded with your choice of men and women for public office.

IN BRIEF, as a citizen of these United States, yours is the privilege of participating in the process of self-government, without the fear of the cold hand of the dictator closing in on your mind, your person or your property.

Isn't this a magnificent heritage from those legions of our forefathers, who, during peace and war, fought for and maintained this right of the individual to engage in choosing those who are to govern us?

Indeed, when viewed as it should be, the right to cast a ballot also includes the necessity to exercise it at election time!

Too, it presumes that, as free men and women, we should use this right intelligently—to be acquainted with the personalities and the issues of a campaign, so that we may vote as wisely as we can.

WITHIN THIS freedom, of course, is the right of people to differ on candidates and issues. Ours is not a one-party system, such as would be the case where the tyranny of dictatorship holds sway.

Freedom assumes that every person has the right to think and speak as he and she believes best. It asks for the best sort of competition in our thinking, holding that from such competition more of truth can be achieved, and thus entrenched in the halls and offices of self-government.

With so much of today's world encased in the straight-jacket of totalitarianism, where individuals have no right, openly, to think and say what they please, (See THIS & THAT, Page 2)

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

General Dwight D. Eisenhower almost missed seeing Birmingham as his 18-car campaign train went through Birmingham last Friday morning.

About all that the more than 200 local spectators saw of Ike was his hasty attempt to get the observation car door open so he could wave an arm at those who had gathered on the station platform to see his train pass through.

Ike was just inside the left rear observation car window, apparently arranging some personal papers, when out of the corner of his eye he saw the crowded station platform.

He grabbed for the door, but being a typical railroad car door, it was not easily opened. The train had all but passed the platform by then, so he waved through the door's window.

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THE TRAIN was en route from Pontiac, Mich., to Royal Oak, Mich., on a brief stop, to Royal Oak, Mich., last Friday morning. However, the train slowed way down at the station, waiting for the Birmingham station.

Ike's brief "visit" also brought some anxious moments to a United Press photographer from the UP's Washington bureau.

He had joined the campaign train Aug. 26 in New York City, and had jumped on and off the train at the various "whistle stops" for pictures of Ike in action.

He was ready for the Royal Oak stop. As the train slowed down through Birmingham, he asked a Detroit morning newspaper photographer if this were Royal Oak.

APPARENTLY new to this area himself, the Detroit reporter, "I think so."

Whereupon the UP photographer swung off onto the Birmingham station platform.

But the train kept right on. Leaving the station entrance, he chased after the reporter and the Eccentric Staff Photographer Norm Douglas.

"Where can I get a cab to Royal Oak?" he asked.

"Probably have to go uptown," we replied, and offered to take him there.

AS WE started up, he explained the mistake he had made. Immediately we offered to drive him to Royal Oak where he could get aboard the train again. Professional courtesy, you know.

On our first stop to Royal Oak, we had time to ask him some questions about the campaign.

"How was Ike standing in the trip?" was the main question.

"Probably he's been going at a terrific pace, mentally and physically," the UP man replied. "None of us on the train really had much rest. Oh, maybe one Sunday—I can't remember which—we had a few hours to ourselves."

"BUT IT'S a funny thing—here we are and he has a whole day or two to himself this Friday afternoon before Ike has to give his speech at the Massillon Amphitheatre. We got this chance to rest a spe."

(See IKE, Page 2)

Clare Booth Luce To Speak Tonight

Clare Booth Luce, twice United States congresswoman from Connecticut, playwright and lecturer, will speak at a Republican rally of Oakland County, Mich., at 8:30 p.m. in the Royal Oak high school auditorium, 709 N. Washington. She will deliver an important campaign address.

THE AMOUNT of the bond issue will be \$3,300,000. The tax rate required to pay off this bond issue would require a 4 1/2-mil debt levy for a 17-year period.

This would amount to a tax of \$4.50 per \$1,000 of ASSESSED valuation, as equalized.

The average tax per \$1,000 of EQUALIZED valuation would approximate \$5.31.

If the new bond issue is approved, the total school debt levy would be 11 mills.

(The total consists of the present 6 1/2 mills for the \$3,100,000 building expansion bond issue voted by the school district in 1949, and the proposed 4 1/2 mills for the new \$3,300,000 bond issue.)

More than 6,000 Birmingham school boys and girls will join tomorrow night in the community's 1952 Halloween party. The affair, sponsored by the businessmen of the city, will include the usual parade, refreshments and entertainment.

During the week, information regarding the affair has been distributed throughout the schools, along with tickets for the food lines and the various entertainments. Committee members ask that parents help youngsters keep track of these tickets since they are the only means of participation in the full program.

"We are deeply sorry that we aren't able to provide for neighboring boys and girls," a spokesman said. "However, due to the number of children attending schools within the city, we have no choice. The party is for these children enrolled in the public schools and Holy Name and for pre-school children, residing in Birmingham."

SINCE no judging will be done during the parade this year, committee members urge parents to have their costumed youngsters at the starting point promptly at 7 p.m. Judges will go through the various school groups at this time, selecting the more than 600 who will be eligible for prizes.

Children will line up with the school they attend, or in the case of pre-school, with the group they belong to, on the streets of Birmingham. Adams school children will form their line on Chester, facing Fern.

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