

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Sewage Disposal and Library Amendments Should Be Passed

Unless a local, county or state candidate, in The Birmingham Eccentric's opinion, possesses unusually good qualifications...

Such, we believe, is the normal situation this year. Birmingham voters will select from three candidates only one to serve on the city commission for the next three years.

ON THE NON-PARTISAN ballot for supreme court justices and Oakland county circuit court judges, the incumbent label would seem to give the edge to the present office holders, although all are well qualified.

However, there are two local issues which The Eccentric believes should receive enthusiastic support of the voters.

A Noble Symbol Passes

In the passing of England's Dowager Queen Mary, that nation has lost a wonderful woman... a human being who symbolized most of what is noble and genteel in any land, at any time.

Although her power, as well as that of England's Kings and Queens for many generations, is less in governmental affairs, she did stand for something that developed and maintained the Englishman's love for and respect of his country.

We have no real counterpart of that in the United States—for, much as one may love and respect the President, it still re-

'Tis Human to Err

Please never forget that people are but human beings. No matter how high they may rise in business or political affairs, they are still human...

We only remind you of this (when, for example, you observe a situation like the nomination by President Eisenhower of Charles E. Bohlen to be Ambassador to Russia.

That nomination created quite a ruckus among some of the Republicans themselves. Senators McCarthy, Bridges (both Republicans) and McCarran (Dem.) fought against the nomination.

WAS EISENHOWER'S SELECTION OF Bohlen a good one? Perhaps, had he known

A second charter amendment would allow the Baldwin public library to receive an additional 1/2 mill to provide more adequate library service.

IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, The Eccentric has taken every opportunity to present stories and articles outlining the advantages of joining the SOCSDD, as explained by City officials after intensive investigation.

The Eccentric agrees with city officials and many other local citizens that joining the SOCSDD is by far the most inexpensive method of solving a good portion of the city's sewage disposal problem.

Also, the proposed library amendment should benefit the community because it streamlines library bookkeeping and financial practices, and would permit the city to expend on library services more money than it can under the present charter.

The additional 1/2 mill would not necessarily mean an increase in taxes. It would be obtained within the 20-mill tax limit. However, the city commission would be able to devote more of its budget to library service, if it was deemed necessary, than it has been able to do under the present 1-mill library limitation.

mains that he (whoever he is) still is the head of a political party.

EVEN THOUGH A President sincerely tries to keep his office above partisanship, he cannot—for about him are too many selfish, greedy and grasping people whose actions deface the true nobility of the Presidency.

England has her own way of life, and so do we. One complements the other... but deep beneath the surface both our nations are roiled in the ever-lasting human desire for freedom.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Clare Booth Luce, our new Ambassador to Italy, is one of this nation's best posted women on domestic and international affairs. If you don't think so, how could she think up this smart statement: "If I fail (in the Ambassadorship) no one will say: 'She doesn't have what it takes.' They will say: "Women don't have what it takes!"

For a good many years beloved old Joe Warner, Ypsilanti's Republican contribution to Michigan's House, has tried to get a capital punishment bill through each session; and every time he fails. The 83-year-old patriarch no doubt keeps on trying as a matter of habit. He is chairman

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Michigan's road program admittedly is far below what the traffic of this State warrants. While winter's freezing and thaws play some part in road deterioration, most of the harm comes from the vehicles that use it; and do you believe it is your (and others) passenger cars and light trucks that crack and break up these main highways?

What will make most women putty in the hands of their husbands? According to the Washington Supreme Court, the answer is: "Love. With it she will bear any burden, forgive any wrong and her heart will be light through all misfortune."

So They Say . . .

Adlai E. Stevenson, Democratic Presidential nominee in 1952; "The tensions and difficulties may get worse before they get better in Europe, in the Middle East, in Asia—all around the world, divided and in revolution."

William Dwight, Massachusetts newspaper publisher: "I am not one of those who believes that it (television) is the death knell for newspapers."



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 April 3, 1903 W. Elmer Bart, head of the Eco City organization, told Birmingham officials this week that residents of the area had many objections toward annexation to the city of Birmingham.

James & Bell, our up-to-date furniture men, are out with their spring campaign. They are adding a line of wallpaper to their stock and are doing a large business. They are now fully equipped to sell you whatever you need to furnish or decorate your home.

A generous supply of wedding cake reached this office one day last week from the wedding supper of Mr. and Mrs. John McClelland. The bride's sister, Miss Bessie Bell, was the fair messenger who delivered the cake.

LOST—Disappeared from Whitehead & Mitchell's store last week "Galileo," my kitten of many colors. I will pay one dollar to anyone who returns her to me and asks no questions. I. Terry, Pharmacist, owned the cat.

Mrs. John Bohlen has had three of these mammoth shade trees which adorn Maple avenue cut down and cut up into firewood.

30 YEARS AGO March 30, 1923 Birmingham was without water for more than four hours Tuesday morning when it was necessary to shut down the waterworks to repair a broken pipe. The pipe burst Monday afternoon, flooding the streets and generally causing quite a disturbance among city authorities.

Coron Mendelsohn will take a vacation this week at Santa Barbara, Calif., when he plays the role of Pierre; his wife, Mrs. Mendelsohn, will take the west coast last Tuesday for the opening in the Municipal theater.

S. L. Billings, truck driver for a Detroit firm, had a narrow escape from death here Wednesday afternoon when the truck he was driving was struck by a building.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Spring and Easter. What a wonderful, glorious time of year they stand for! It seems so significant that the two come together. In the story of Easter we see before us the saddest mockery of a mockery of the trial and torture and death of the Son of God.

We can see, too, the awe and wonderment of His followers who found the Tomb empty and knew that Christ had fulfilled His promise and had truly risen from the dead.

In spring we can see this whole glorious experience of the resurrection enacted day by day, year after year. Forgive me if I turn to fantasy—but

ARE YOU SURE there is no suffering in the heart of a tree? Cannot the biting frosts of fall bring it the pain of dying? Cannot the tree, in its own mute way tell us of the story of Christ? For the seasons to the test—see what you think.

Imagine that those frosts, coming day after day, more and more piercing until they strike the very heart of the living tree, to carry knives of pain. For days on end the tree suffers and at last comes the blizzard of the winter winds. It stands heaped with winter's snow or shrouded in winter's sleet.

THE MONTHS drag on and the significant "three days" of the tree's life come to an end. The day of its resurrection are at hand. Life surges again through its fibers and it lives again. While the rain soaks into the beauty of all life once more, the cold dank earth gives up the dead of the other plants which give us so much beauty and joy each year.

That certainly ought to be an interesting meeting next Tuesday evening. I mean the one which begins at 8 p.m. in the city commission room of the Municipal Building. For at that meeting the city plan commission expects to decide on the "central business section" boundary line west of Woodward avenue.

THE DECISION reached at that meeting plus that arrived at at another meeting at which the east side central section limit line is determined, will decide which merchants will be required to provide off-street parking facilities—and which others will not have to provide them.

THIS CENTRAL section boundary must be determined by the plan commission before the city commission can approve a proposed amendment to the city zoning ordinance which would require all new and expanded businesses OUTSIDE the central section to provide off-street parking.

THE PARKING problem is considered by most city officials and businessmen to have three parts: 1) Future needs of new businesses established or present ones expanding; 2) Present needs of existing businesses not centrally located around the Woodward-Maple intersection; and 3) Present needs of that central Woodward-Maple business area.

THE Women's Foreign Missionary society of the Methodist church celebrated its 25th anniversary this week with a special program. The anniversary meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Fred Pfeifle with two other members, Mrs. Polly Bray and Mrs. Bert Peabody present.

35 YEARS AGO April 7, 1918 A light balloting marked the city election on Monday, when the bond issue for expansion of the city's sewage disposal plant was passed by a 140-vote margin. Work on the \$140,000 project will be started as soon as financial arrangements are made.

A single masked bandit, walked into the home of Mrs. Fred Pfeifle on South Woodward early Monday and walked out with \$5,000, overlocking \$200 in another drawer. Mrs. Pfeifle said that he did not show a gun but did keep one hand in his coat pocket.

Discussing the driver license age limit in Birmingham's PTA favored the state's proposal to raise the limit to 16. A large majority of members voted definitely that they felt it altogether too young for the operation of a motor vehicle.

Elmer Haack, city assessor and representative of Oakland county supervisors, addressed the Women Voters on April 11. He will discuss welfare problems as they affect the county and community.

Residents were not at all pleased with the snowfall which covered Birmingham Sunday night—every one had thought spring was here. Although a few had time to enjoy a happy hunt to spot in the snow all who see it. It is followed closely by the stately daffodil and jonquil, the crocus and narcissus.

SPRING IS here and the resurrection of dead things—sleeping things goes on and on across the continent, around the world for all mankind to see, wonder at, enjoy.

How many times did the Son of God have to think that he had never been able to do anything that would make the world know that it was only a demonstration of His life? Did He as He walked along the shores of Galilee see these things as we see them? Did He mean to Him what they mean to us? Did He have time to stop in His busy coming and goings to touch the fresh green bloom opening here at His feet? Did He have time to pause at dusk and smell the heady fragrance of a new spring?

IT'S NICE to think He did. It's nice to imagine Him walking in a garden, leaning to sit on the soft grass, warmed by the soft touch of spring sun.

So much of His life, as it has been recorded for us to study, was loaded with sadness and tragedy. It's nice to think that the Son of God was able to enjoy some of the miracles which He had kept alive for us.

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