

Poverty is a word generally used in connection with a lack of security, of being indigent in material possessions. Yet there is still another poverty that relates to a lack of idealism, of moral goodness, of spiritual virtue.

76TH YEAR—NO. 1

THIS and THAT

By C. R. A.

ROTTEN JOE STALIN
Joseph Stalin, long Soviet Russia's No. 1 revolutionary leader, is dead and entombed in Moscow. Heralded by millions of Christian leaders as this century's (and perhaps all centuries) most evil man, the 73-year-old Stalin now is no more.

During his life he sought to kill God out of every area he could control. He denounced belief in God, and in the soul. Indeed, he tried to make of himself the god of the Communist world.

Well, if there is, in the ether, a Devil, and if, when Gabriel blows his trumpet, Joe's bones and soul finally get across the River Styx, I hope the Devil's grade will be so hot that the stink of Joe's flesh will never get to places where decent people are.

Or is it possible that Satan, knowing how rotten Stalin was on earth, will refuse to let him on the hot grade—preferring, rather, to get rid of him via some place where decomposition takes place without an off odor?

**WHAT WE ALL WANT IS
STRONG, HONEST
GOVERNMENT**

Some weeks ago I received a rather critical letter from an old friend who berated me for my frequent defense of the Republican Party and many of its adherents in the past.

I honestly welcomed that letter, and became convinced that perhaps I have been too much inclined on the subject, especially during the past few years.

Yet I do recall many times when I have pointed certain of the Democratic party's policies, and some of its adherents in or out of office.

I only wish that the records of the House and Fair Deal were more on the side of substantial things, so that I honestly could rave about them.

NOT ALL they did was wrong, but enough of it was to deprive the complete respect of citizens for law and order, basic efficiency and economy, and more purity in their political leaders' activities.

Now that the Republicans have control of the federal government, they should make use of all political parties that their leaders will restore those qualities to government.

AFTER ALL, as average Americans, what we want is a strong, free nation, made up of strong, free States.

And no particular political party, to date, can claim to sole monopoly on how to achieve this condition.

Crash Survivors Slightly Improved

Hospital officials report slight improvement in the condition of only survivors of a Dixie highway crash which took four lives on March 10.

Miss Beth Abbott, 26, of 3000 Gadenia, Royal Oak, shows "a very slight improvement," according to doctors at Grace Hospital, Detroit. Miss Abbott, still on the critical list, suffered severe head injuries.

Miss Mary Ann Fairbrother, 20, of 1947 Griffith, Detroit, is improving steadily at Pontiac General hospital. She suffered fractures of both legs and a crushed wrist.

Three other city employees, Miss Margaret Polley, Miss Susan Wendell and Mrs. Margaret McGraw, with George W. Moore, of Grosse Pointe, were killed in the crash near the Dixie-M-15 intersection.

**THE SUGARING
TIME**

and all of you who have paid your taxes know what this means. If you need a little sugar to tide you over, place something for sale in the

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The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1953

SECTION
ONE

32 PAGES SEVEN CENTS

School Bonds Sold At 3.21% Net Rate

Decision on SOCSDD Is Key to City Action On Sewage Disposal

**Board OK's
\$66,000
Discount**

Ed. Note—This is the first in a series of three articles to be published by The Birmingham Eccentric on the reasons behind the placing of the Sewage Disposal District charter amendment on the April 6 ballot. The Eccentric, knowing that voters are interested in the city's future disposal operations, will outline the city's needs and explain the operations of the Southeastern Oakland County District that city officials believe is the key to the answer regarding city disposal problems.

By NORMAN E. DOUGLAS

Voters who will select city and county officers at the April 6 election, also will be faced with two city charter amendments.

The amendments will concern the city's future sewage disposal operations and an increase in the millage given to the Baldwin Public Library.

In the Sewage Disposal amendment, the city will ask voters' approval to join the Southeastern Oakland County Sewage Disposal District for treatment of sewage from the east side of the city.

The city will ask this permission to solve two problems that it is faced with at the present time. Namely, to relieve the overburdened facilities at the city's present Cranbrook road disposal plant, and also to meet the higher standards set by the Michigan Water Resources commission for sewage treatment.

The city officials foresee the questionable future of sewage disposal at the city plant, but the demands of the state commission have forced the city into immediate action to improve present disposal practices.

The present plant, built in the late 20's, has been groaning under the pressure of the rapidly growing population. More important, though, is the small water flow in the Rouge River that is incapable of carrying further loads of even heavily treated sewage.

The state commission has ordered certain improvements made in the plant but has added that the stream cannot handle any greater loads.

Relief of the city's east side sewage would relieve the plant of nearly 40 per cent of its present burden and make improvement to the plant practical, city officials point out.

By SIMPLY tying into South Oakland County mains, this portion of the sewage would be carried into the Detroit disposal plant and treated more economically than can be done at the Birmingham plant.

Consultant engineers for the city have studied the problem for the past year and are agreed that membership in the SOC district is the real answer.

City officials have long studied the operations of the SOC district and also are assured that entry into the district is a "matte."

Geographically, the east side of the city lies in the SOC district now. Costs of pumping this portion of the city's waste into the Rouge plant have increased annually.

SHOULD the amendment proposal fail, improvements to the pumps and mains will have to be made to continue transportation of wastes to the Cranbrook road plant.

The city's plant, built nearly 16 years ago, amply served the city until the suburban-push had gathered momentum. Since World War II, the residential building boom has taxed all city services, and the

The Birmingham school district's \$3,300,000 school expansion bonds were sold to Halsey-Stewart & Co., Inc., of Chicago, at a brief meeting Monday night.

The company, which represents a syndicate of 23 firms, had submitted a standby bid in February subject to the school board's re-advertisement of the bonds.

The bond issue will be used for the purchase of several school sites, construction of two new elementary schools, and additions to several existing schools.

Terms of the sale are similar to the company's first bid with the exception that the interest will be 3.25 per cent, down from 3.5 per cent in 1970 to the termination of the bonds. This lowered rate will save the district \$11,538.59 from the original bid.

The school district still will have to pay the high dollar for its school building program. The firm will gain \$66,000 in a two percent discount, or 3.19 percent of the bond, paying the district \$858,82.

The net interest on the bond issue itself is 3.2143 percent. However, it actually will require the school district to pay closer to 3 1/2 percent interest in order to borrow the \$3,300,000 when the 3.21 interest rate and the 3.19 percent discount taken into consideration.

Here's why: The district will issue bonds in the amount of \$3,300,000 at a net interest rate of 3.21 per cent. The bond syndicate will receive \$55,000 (initially \$53,882 premium) if offered to the school board, thus leaving slightly more than \$2,545,000 to be used in actual construction.

THE TOTAL amount of funds (see BONDS, Page 2)

**Pembroke School
Site Purchased
After Long Wait**

The long-sought purchase of the Pembroke elementary school site west of Eton and north of Derby was realized by school board members Tuesday night.

The school district, which has attempted to buy the 10-acre parcel of land in Troy township since June 17 of last year, will pay property developer Arthur A. Nechman \$30,000 on an agreement that he will hold the developer to construct a twelve room school site.

W. Whittington Bayless, representing Nechman at the meeting, told board members that plans had been completed for the land and the development of the subdivision would start soon on a large lot basis.

**Committee Urges
Passage of City
Charter Change**

A special committee of local residents last week declared that Birmingham voters on April 6 will have their choice of allowing the city commission to spend \$250,000 to relieve the city's dangerously overloaded sewage system or be forced by the state to enlarge the Rouge sewage plant at a cost of \$667,000. The \$250,000 already is in (See CHANGE, Page 2)

SOUTHFIELD TO DEDICATE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING ON LAMBER SCHOOL'S \$1,732,000 COST INCLUDES SITE, EQUIPMENT, BUILDING AND FURNISHINGS

Southfield Dedicates High School Sunday

Dedication services for Southfield township's new high school will be held Sunday afternoon, March 22, at 4 p.m. To many at the dedicatory service, the celebration will be one for which they have waited the past 10 years.

On two occasions, construction of the high school and the consolidation of Southfield's 11 school districts appeared doomed, but each time supporters of public education within the township bided their time and continued to work for a school building that would afford township children proper school facilities.

Dr. Charles L. Anspach, of Central Michigan College of Education will give the main address, "We Dedicate."

OTHER SPEAKERS on the program will be Fred Leonard, pastor of the First Baptist church, and a member of the Southfield board of education, and Marius BanAmeybe, principal of Southfield High.

Realization of a township secondary school and consolidation of districts have been sought actively since 1944 when a voluntary committee was established to study possible solutions to educational problems that were becoming more serious each year.

EVER-INCREASING number of families were moving to Southfield and the small elementary schools in each district were becoming over-crowded.

Graduation from grade school meant that a pupil would have to enroll in a high school in another community. At one time, Royal Oak High school served these graduates, later they went to Highland Park.

Finally in 1947, voters approved consolidation of the township's nine districts. By this time, the district had joined the Birmingham school district and a second round of up with Royal Oak.

Opponents of consolidation challenged the vote for both consolidation and a subsequent board of education election.

Legal procedures immediately de-

layed any action of the new school system and two more years went by with further details in elementary schools and new pupils confronting the township high school students.

IN 1949, the Michigan Supreme Court upheld both elections and voters approved a \$1,200,000 building expansion bond issue with the high school included in the program later the same year.

Anti-consolidation interests again attacked the bonding issue but work was soon started on the 35-classroom building which now includes a complete home making department, shop, library, cafeteria, study hall, student all-purpose rooms and a large gymnasium that has just recently been opened.

Twice within four weeks, the residents of Birmingham have seen their fire protection fall point.

On Feb. 14 the entire department's equipment and personnel were tied up for hours at the \$200,000 Lawson Lumber Co. conflagration. For 30 minutes that day the city did not have one piece of fire apparatus responded to a second alarm.

JUST LAST WEEK Wednesday another serious threat presented itself when in a 75-minute period two general alarms were answered. (See story in adjoining column.)

The situation was saved only because the first fire (at the Baptist church) was discovered immediately and extinguished before it had a chance to get started. Thus the city's fire equipment was hardly used and ready for the fire at the Peabody market.

If the church blaze had been serious enough to tie up the city's fire equipment and personnel, what more would have happened to Peabody's?

IF THE CHURCH BLAZE hadn't been noticed until the department's equipment was completely tied up with the happened to one of the city's most beautiful churches?

Fire Chief Vern Griffith and other city officials have warned that the post-war growth of Birmingham has created an immediate need for additional fire protection because of the increasing danger of multiple fires.

"Are the Feb. 14 and March 11 episodes straw in the wind?" the questions and observations must ask himself.

AWAIT KRESGE CONTRACT
The S. S. Kresge company, Detroit, was expected to award contracts Wednesday for the construction of the firm's new store at Maple and Henrietta. The building for the store was obtained from the city last week with a valuation of \$170,000.

**NEW COLUMN
OF NEWS FROM
WING LAKE-
FOXCRIFT AREA**

Beginning next week, The Birmingham Eccentric will start publishing a new column of news and happenings from the rapidly growing Wing Lake-Foxcroft area.

Writing this column will be J. (Mr. John A.) Roberts, 4247 Carle Lane, Wing Lake.

A former Detroitian, Mrs. Roberts attended Wayne University where she majored in languages and journalism. She has acquired practical experience in the newspaper advertising field, having been associated with The Miami Daily News. This new column, in the MacMans, John & Adams advertising agency.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have one son, David, a fourth grader in Wing Lake school.

Fire Defenses Escape Multiple Alarm

Birmingham last week escaped two serious fire losses simply because a potentially dangerous blaze was discovered in its earliest stages and firemen did not have to devote much equipment or time to extinguishing it, thus enabling them to answer their second general alarm within an hour and 15 minutes and hold the damage to about \$10,000.

Wednesday, March 11, at 9:15 a.m. firemen answered a call at the First Baptist church where spontaneous combustion had caused a blaze in some painter's drop cloths.

Firemen were back at the fire station only a comparatively short time when another alarm was received at 10:37 p.m. calling them out to fight a \$10,000 fire at Peabody's Market.

"As the results turned out, the Peabody fire was the most serious," commented Fire Chief Vern W. Griffith. "The Baptist church fire was kept as small as it was only because of something which was in the way."

"The church blaze was detected before it had gained much headway and had been brought under control when the department arrived. We ventilated the building and had the truck back at the engine house within a few minutes."

"When the fire at Peabody's was discovered, our equipment was wholly back in service."

The Peabody fire was first noticed by Mr. Charles C. Thomsen, 631 Forest, as they were returning to their home directly across the street from the store. Cummings, a volunteer fireman, turned in the alarm.

Caused by a current booster for the tubelights at both ends of the building went out of service and limited a stock supply of matches, the blaze was brought under control in about 15 minutes after firemen arrived.

"A metal roof and siding helped keep the blaze in one location," Griffith said, "and with the lack of wind, was a big factor in our being able to save the building. It was a quick fire and had not been burning long before we were called."

HE SAID the second floor of the building was quite badly burned and that some smoke and water damage were done to supplies on the first floor. Firemen spread about 1,500 square feet of canvas to protect stocks from water damage.

Griffith pointed out the importance of the time element in the two fires, saying: "The church fire would have burned a long time before being spotted from the outside. Had it not been for the quick fire."

Contract Awarded
A contract for architectural services on the proposed Beverly Hills elementary school was awarded to Eberle M. Smith, Associates, Detroit. Fee for the services will be six percent of the total cost of the building.

Sign Of Times
First report of blooming crocuses was received Wednesday morning from Mrs. John F. Stiff, 3442 Henrietta, who disclosed that the heavy flowers jumped off to a healthy start in Tuesday's warm sunshine.

JACOBS HAS been working with the school board for the past year in an attempt to provide additional facilities for the district's rapidly increasing school population.

He stated that his plans for the future include another school position and would be announced soon. Since assuming the head school position in Bloomfield, Jacobs has seen the Birmingham enrollment jump from 238 to 675 with an increase in the faculty from 15 to 36. During the past five years 12 classrooms and an all-purpose room have been added to the school facilities.

"Commercial, music, shop and art departments have been provided students since his tenure as well as driver training. Hot lunches also have been added as part of the district's program."

Robert W. HODGE for JUDGE, 51-42-1

MRS. ROBERTS

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