

We Suggest You Vote for New County Building, Court House

When you vote next Tuesday, one of the ballots handed you will be the proposition: "Shall the County of Oakland levy an assessment of one-half mill (or 50 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation of property) for the purpose of constructing a new County Building and Court House?"

The estimated cost of this project is \$4,500,000. It can be paid for over a period of ten years. At least a million dollars of this cost will be paid from the sale of presently owned County property in Pontiac, thus decreasing the new tax levy to \$3,500,000, the board of supervisors declares.

The location of this new county building and court house will be on county-owned property on Telegraph Road, adjacent to the present county infirmary and contagious disease hospital. Oakland county years ago acquired 333 acres of this land from Michigan, and it is in this area that the supervisors eventually plan to locate every facility related to county government.

TODAY, IN THE CITY of Pontiac, Oakland County has its ancient Court House, long out-grown and crowded, located

where few parking facilities are available to the public. Numerous other county offices are scattered throughout other privately-owned Pontiac office buildings, for which the county pays rent.

The proposed new location of the county building and court house will provide adequate space for future growth, plus convenient parking facilities.

In 1920, Oakland county's population was only 90,050. Today it is estimated at over 500,000, the second largest in Michigan. By 1970 it is believed the population will increase several more hundreds of thousands.

All of which adds up to this, in The Eccentric's opinion: we believe that the voters should approve this proposition when they vote next Tuesday, August 3.

For our pre-election editorial comment on candidates and local propositions, see Page 4, Section 4.

Even One Blade of Grass Tells Wind Direction

A reporter recently visited the island of Kili, in the Marshall Islands, to see how 200 Bikinians were faring in their new home. The United States moved them eight years ago when it began tests of these 200 former inhabitants of Bikini atomic weapons in that area.

The story which confronted the reporter on his arrival is not a happy one. In the first place, Bikini was about ten times as big as Kili. It included some 36 islands, surrounding a lagoon, which had a plentiful supply of fish year around.

FISHING, THEREFORE, was the primary occupation of the Bikinians. However, on Kili, there is no fishing seven months in the year, because the high surf makes it almost impossible during this period.

The lives of 200 natives may not have a major effect on the outcome of the struggle between the free and Communist worlds but a better fate is due the 200 Bikinians who were moved from Bikini some seven years ago.

They spent two years on another atoll, after which time they were moved to Kili. They were driven from their first new

home by hunger, and it seems that they are facing the same problem in their new island location.

AN IDEA OF THE NEGLECT of these natives, for which the United States Government is guilty, comes from the reporter who visited the island. His visit was the first time in six months an American had called at Kili.

The number two man in the Bikinian village at Kili told the U. S. reporter Bikinians' old clothes were falling off and that they were hungry and that they looked to the United States to do something for them.

Unfortunately, the United States' record is not what it should be in our history of dealing with Indians, and other displaced peoples.

While the case of the 200 Bikinians may not be of major significance to many people, the U. S. Government's reputation is at stake, and has been, and our record of the last seven years with these people is a sorry one.

One need only imagine what Communist propagandists can do with this sort of inhumane bungling in Washington.

Why Put Him in Headlines?

A 20 year-old Chicago youth, very wealthy, was found dead several weeks ago and the cause of his decease immediately becomes a sordid national front-page newspaper story.

Because of the atmosphere of mystery, plus his wealth, plus what's-wrong-with-

newspapers, he gets more publicity than a thousand other national situations that are worth more to the up-building of national morals... and which get little journalistic consideration.

No wonder the public asks: Are American newspapers as good as they ought to be?

Here Comes That Hawk Again



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

We overheard a conversation the other day regarding the mentality of youngsters today as compared to that of their parents when they were young.

One man stated in no uncertain terms that today's children were twice as smart as his generation. The other maintained they had a long way to go before they could reach the mental stature of their parents' childhood.

Mr. A (the kids-are-smarter man) said they had a chance at a broader education because of the added information they acquired painlessly from radio and television programs.

MR. B pook-pooked this idea because, in his opinion, the kids never see or hear a program that might help them intellectually. "If they were half as bright as their parents," he scoffed, "they'd have sense enough to quit running around in this hot weather dragging hats and blankets behind them just to look like Superman!"

"Well," his companion countered, "how about when you see a boy? You probably wore a heavy gun belt, burlap bags for cowhide chaps and a heavy felt hat of your dad's for a sombrero. If you happened to like Mexicans, you had a blanket draped around your shoulders for a serape!"

MR. B found himself right in his element. He pointed out how today's kids don't use their imaginations and how everything they have is manufactured for them.

"When we played cowboy and Indians," he remarked, "most of the kids made their own guns and all made their own bows, arrows, tomahawks and scalp knives. Couldn't find a thin piece of board around the house, made a lot of lard handles, too."

You think today's kids have everything made for them. Brother, you go to a cliff base you just lost the bill game!

"What about these kids," Mr. A came back, "two big some wood, two steel rods, some wheels, a few tools, and turn out a 'car' that's

good enough to get 'em to the Soap Box Derby finals?"

"OR THE girls, hardly out of rumpers, who are sewing like crazy for their doll families."

"Well," Mr. B granted, "it's only natural for girls to take care of their dolls. My sister used to do it and my little girl does, now."

"What I mean is the initiative kids show—the original ideas they come up with. Like the kids and things we used to make. They used to have 'em made for 'em today."

"Well," Mr. A came back, "how about parachutes? I've seen my boy experimenting with those things. He was smart enough to make a dummy for the first jump, too. Mr. I just grabbed an umbrella and jumped off the porch roof. Broke both legs. That makes Jackie a lot smarter than his old man for my book."

MR. B looked around him. A nearby corner was stocked with just a few books. He nodded toward them.

"Well, how about these things? When I was a kid we used to make 'em. All we needed was a piece of stiff paper, a pin, a small screw and a pair of scissors. Today's kids have 'em already made!"

"Yes," Mr. A laughed. "Some kids in my generation saw a gold mine in an old home made toy, went into business and made his pile. Today's kids are smart enough to hook pop for a quarter!"

Still arguing, the two finished their coffee and walked out of the store. Now we wonder—which generation is smarter?

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

The day following my comment here last week about the Birmingham street-light which had been out for several weeks, I got a call from Bill Spence of the local Detroit Edison Co.

"Can it be that you are referring to the light located at Greenfield and 14 Mile," he asked.

I admitted this was the location. "Well, it's being relighted today—I have the work order in my hand," said Spence.

We then commented on how this particular burned-out light possibly had gone unnoticed so long by the company's spotter of such matters.

"That light is almost surrounded by tree branches, and if there wasn't a map to follow, it'd be pretty hard to know whether there was any light there or not," Spence said. "In fact, it may be the company will have to trim some of those branches."

Incidentally, Spence said it was the company's responsibility to keep these lights burning.

The person who must insert at least one fig stem in each fig newton; and

The person who is responsible for seeing at least three small bone chips are in each pound of hamburger.

Vic Koch, of Keller-Koch, Inc., Chrysler-Plymouth dealership here, has noticed my periodic comments in this column regarding inconsiderate and unthinking motorists who haven't broken their infants of the habit of honking the car horn while Mom is shopping nearby.

"For the past two years, you may be interested to know that all Chrysler Corp. automobiles have had this feature which seems to answer your complaint: the auto's horn cannot be sounded unless the ignition switch is on."

That looks like the answer, Vic. Now if only the other auto manufacturers would copy, the resulting silence would be golden.

Before I leave this world, I hope to be able to find and destroy for the future welfare of the human race the following three individuals:

The person who puts at least a teaspoon of sand in each pound of fresh spinach;

The future of Birmingham and surrounding areas will depend to great extent on what their legislative bodies listen to and work by—the steady rhythm of the community's cadence, or the off-beat strides of those few individuals who are out of step.

Share the Road, Keep in Lane

Birmingham motorists this week were urged to be especially careful in passing cars on the open highway.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley pointed out that most of the motorists killed on highways are people who live in cities and that many on vacation trips do not drive frequently enough in the country to become accustomed to high speed travel—especially when highways are over-crowded with tourist travel.

"Share the road—keep in lane" is the safety advice being emphasized this summer, he said. Moxley urged all motorists to

adapt their speed to the highways to the speed at which most other drivers are traveling. This will delay fewer people, result in less passing and provide greater safety for everyone, he emphasized.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale Home" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.

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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

July 29, 1904

"Somebody over to Rochester owns a bear and 'bear shoots' are the principal attraction in the best sugar town. They don't shoot directly at the bear, but just have him around as an attraction. The man making the best target gets the bear."

"Henry Clew, a farmer living west of here, is minus his stock of harness. The thieves called on him the other night and carried off four or five sets of harness, and they say they didn't leave Henry straps enough to hitch up a cow."

"The other day a farmer living west of Milford was 'asked by his wife to tickle his feet to call him to breakfast. He kicked so vigorously that his better half had to be brought to Milford where it was found that two ribs were broken."

"Allie Greer has purchased a telephone and is the proudest young man in town."

"Mrs. C. Sullivan while gathering eggs recently found one which she thought was double yolk. On breaking it, however, she found that it only had one yolk, but contained another egg about as large as a pigeon's egg. The smaller egg had a hard shell and was perfect in every way."

30 YEARS AGO

July 25, 1924

Seven years of consistent growth, beginning with a society of ten members in 1917, terminated in the recognition of the Christian Science Society of Birmingham as the First Church of Christ, Scientist, when word was received by the society on July 8, that their request to be accepted by the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass., had been favorably acted upon.

The north 18-hole golf course of the Oakland Hills Country club, which had its founder's set, Miss Brelford, was being declared ready to be gaining rapidly in popularity and beauty.

As the best all-around camper, John Gore of Yorkshire road was awarded the C. C. L'Hommedieu Cup and Robert Schorr of Oakland avenue was awarded the Bishop William's Medal for long and distinguished camp service at the close of Camp Williams last Sunday after two weeks of camping on Lake Huron under the leadership of Rev. Charles H. McCurdy.

25 years ago—Married at the bride's home in Highland Park, on Wednesday, July 19, Helen May Hickey to Fred T. Stoddard, Rev. Eugene C. Allen tied the knot. Congratulations.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick T. Buchanan, who recently opened their home in the Hills, have as summer guests, their daughter, Mrs. L. Ruth Farr and her small daughter, Peggy, of Cleveland.

15 YEARS AGO

July 27, 1939

A hurried long distance call from the East early this week by an excited father was Rev. W. Glen Harris' way of announcing the birth of a son, Robert Glen Harris. The boy, born Monday at Mercer hospital, Trenton, N. J., weighed 8 pounds 6 ounces at birth. Rev. Harris, who is pastor of the First Presbyterian church, and his wife are vacationing in the East.

After many months of negotiation and waiting for Uncle Sam to begin work on Birmingham's new port office, a shovel started digging out a basement for the \$92,250 stone and brick edifice at the northeast corner of Bates and Martin streets last Monday afternoon.

The announcement made this week of wedding plans of Miss Harriet Irene Brelford should prove of considerable interest to local residents for it concerns two of the most popular members of Birmingham's younger set. Miss Brelford will become the bride of Frederick W. Boynton, Jr., on Sept. 9.

Fed Up with a Damp Recreation Room?

Get an Electric Air Drier (Dehumidifier)

Spending less and less time in your recreation room because it smells musty? Concerned because expensive paneling is warped, and doors won't close? Win back that valuable living space—dry out the air in it with an electric dehumidifier! Electric dehumidifiers are compact—easily moved from one trouble spot to another. They plug in, just like a floor lamp.

SEE YOUR DEALER or Detroit Edison

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

The recent "sell-out" of part of Indo-China by France to Communist China, in which the ineptitude of Britain and the United States diplomats aided, is a crushing blow to western freedom. The remaining millions of Asiatics, all of whom are eventual prey to the march of Communism, cannot be blamed if they no longer place confidence in the western world to protect them. Like Korea, the Indo-China mess probably will re-appear in another Asian area. Without determined courage, revealed in active opposition, how can freedom be defended against tyranny?

Resignation of Roy M. Cohn, ex-chief counsel to Sen. Joe McCarthy's investigating committee, proves that fighting Joe must have realized that he had "come to

the end of his rope" in trying to be a czar. Admittedly a brilliant youngster, Cohn's deep loyalty and apparent affection for one David Schine started the recent McCarthy-Army hearings. Now Cohn, if he wishes, can chum with Private Schine without undue pressure on the United States Army.

If there is any suburban area in the U.S. that is growing more rapidly than Birmingham and Southern Oakland County, we haven't heard about it. It is traditionally true, of course, that most families like to move away from large centers of population, like Detroit, into the quieter environments. No doubt this is a large reason why the local growth is so sensational. But do you believe that the current threat of bombing large cities, if war should come some time, is also a reason for the suburban-rush?

So They Say...

James Scott Kemper, U. S. Ambassador to Brazil:

"We dare not assume that, because our way of life is the most magnificent ever devised, we need take no measures to preserve it."

Joseph W. Martin, Jr., Speaker of the House:

"We have the weapons with which to win. They are the greatest weapons—truth, the will to triumph, the moral stamina to succeed."

The Birmingham Eccentric
Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue
Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club

National Advertising Representatives
Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc.
1618 Guardian Bldg. 920 Broadway
DETROIT 26, MICH. NEW YORK 107 N.Y.

The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has news value. Suggestions are welcomed. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected if brought to the publisher's attention.