

Local Educational Standards Must Be Kept Strong

For the third time in a bit less than five years, the Birmingham board of education has come to school electors to request a bond issue that will permit the children in its district to have adequate buildings in which to attend classes.

This third request will be answered Monday at the annual school district election. The Eccentric believes voters should endorse this latest bond request, as they have the first two.

School Supt. Dwight B. Ireland, his administrative aides, together with board of education members, have been busy these past several weeks explaining to as many persons as will listen just why this newest \$3,500,000 bond issue should be approved.

THE REASON SIMPLY IS THIS: so many persons have moved into the Birmingham school district since the recent war that more and more children are entering local schools every week. There aren't enough school rooms to adequately provide the educational needs which Birmingham district parents demand.

Therefore, the \$3,500,000 is to be used for a 19-room addition to the high school, and for construction of a new junior high school on the east side of the school district.

This is to be accomplished by the transference of 4 mills of the 1949 bond issue to this new one. This is possible because the increased building activity, plus property valuation increases, now require only

2 1/2 mills — instead of the original 6 1/2 mills — to retire the bonds in the 1949 issue.

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT electors in the past have jealously guarded the educational standards offered its school children. Factors which would diminish the effectiveness of these high standards or would lower them — have been successfully fought down.

Monday's bond proposal is another opportunity for the Birmingham school district to demonstrate it will not break stride in the steady pace which has kept it abreast of the wholesome educational needs of its resident children.

TOO, THE ECCENTRIC agrees with forward-looking, economically-minded school officials in the county who recommend approval of the special 1/2-mill county school tax proposal to provide more adequate educational facilities for handicapped children—the partially lame, blind, and deaf; the homebound, the mentally retarded and emotionally maladjusted children, of which there are today more than 5,800 in Oakland county.

There are too few of these types of children in any one school district for it to provide proper facilities. But if all county school districts contribute their very small financial share, the county then can establish proper central facilities and staffs.

Soothing Charm of Good Music

Seventeen years ago David Sarupff, chairman of the Board of the Radio Corporation of America, asked then 70-year-old Arturo Toscanini to lead a symphony orchestra formed especially for him. Toscanini was persuaded to lead the group, and for seventeen years the maestro has been broadcasting symphonic music to all parts of the United States.

Early last month Toscanini conducted his last concert with the special symphony orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Though the audience was not aware of it (except for some who sensed the end on their own initiative), this was the end of a 17-year performance.

When Toscanini finished the concert, he quickly left the stage and, in spite of eager applause, he did not return.

THROUGHOUT MOST of his last concert, Toscanini leaned against the rail that encircled the podium, although he occasionally bent into action in his old manner. Although 87, it was not only his physical age that brought about his decision to retire. His friends attribute his retirement to other reasons.

Whatever the reasons, a great series of symphonic music, first begun in 1937, came to an end. The broadcasts of this great music over the past seventeen years have been a good thing for the American way of life and it is naturally with regret that one watches Mr. Toscanini's departure. Though the symphony orchestra is scheduled to continue its broadcasts for another month or two, it is widely believed that, after this time, it will be disbanded.

High Cost of Living a la Soviet

On occasion do you still feel aggrieved at the prices you pay for foods and other commodities in our American retail stores?

If so, it would pay you to take a trip, in your imagination, to Warsaw and do some shopping under the communist system.

In Warsaw, as everywhere behind the Iron Curtain, the stores are run by the government, and so are non-competitive in any true sense of the word. According to the "Business Around the World" column of U. S. News & World Report, beef costs from \$3 to \$5 a pound in ferna of U. S. money. Horse meat is \$1.50 a pound and coffee \$50! That last figure is particularly interesting in the light of the fact

that there was a national uproar when the national drink passed \$1 a pound here.

IN THE MANUFACTURED goods field, the situation is equally startling. Men's shoes are priced at \$231.25 a pair, a girl's sweater at \$187 and bathing trunks retail at \$85. One wonders what, if anything the Polish swimmers wear.

In any event, this is a pretty typical example of what inevitably happens when competitive free enterprise is outlawed and the state takes over.

How can any American think totalitarianism is the way to the more abundant life?

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

The inscription on our Liberty Bell reads: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." In the original enthusiastic ringing of that bell many years ago it was cracked, as best of us know. Nowadays there are many "inhabitants" who would crack the U. S. Constitution which is presumed to be the foundation of all our liberties.

By 1958 it is estimated that there will be 50 million TV sets in the United States. This presents a growing problem for both parents and teachers who would like to know: "How can we get our youngsters

to pay more attention to their school homework?"

A South Carolina optometrist warns that unless more human beings turn back to outdoor living, their eyes will acquire a "boudoir blindness." He argues, "Nature intended man to use his eyes to stalk game and look off into the horizon, not for intricate tasks within arm's length." You are quite right, Doctor; people who spend most of their lives out in the open retain excellent vision, as one may recall from his own experiences with them in the wild, open spaces.

It is now admitted that the Soviets have the largest air force of all nations upon this earth. This proves, of course, that the boys in the Kremlin intend to use this air force some day... and they certainly are not going to pin-point their military objectives on some remote and unpopulated island in one of the Seven Seas.

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Collector's Items



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

On Monday, June 14, the 59th annual observance of Flag Day will bring an abundance of the red, white and blue banners into display throughout the country. Special programs will be held, relating the history of our flag and otherwise paying tribute to it and what it represents.

We wonder what the thoughts of Betsy (Mrs. Elizabeth Griscom) Ross could have been on that day when she completed the first flag and turned it over to the authorities.

We wonder, as we view the number of flags around today, at the fact that Mrs. Ross and her four daughters could handle the government contract to make all official flags.

Few, if any, flags have "grown" with their country as the Stars and Stripes have done. Starting with the 13 red and white stripes to represent the original 13 colonies, the blue field of our flag has seen several changes.

AS STATES have been added, so have the stars which represent them. Even now there is the possibility of additional stars being added if the tradition is to continue and some of the country's far-flung holdings are admitted to statehood.

What a story these flags of ours could tell if they were but given voice!

They have flown through the icy blasts of Arctic cold and under the wilting heat of tropic suns. They have known the world's highest and lowest places; the rich and the poor; the thriving and the dying.

MEN HAVE followed it to their death and, even dying, have cherished it. It has supplied the inspiration necessary for men to perform deeds of battle far beyond their recognized capabilities.

It has fluttered proudly at the head of victorious columns of

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Things-Are-Finally-Right Dept.:

The house organ "The Aderafter", which is the voice of Detroit's advertising fraternity, carries the Managing Editor ahead of The Editor on its masthead.

Being a managing editor myself, that's been my private opinion of the way it should actually read.

But I can't find any newspaper publication that I can point to as my precedent.

If you perchance appear on one of those radio or quiz show programs, and the emcee asks you what is the exact position of Birmingham on this earth, look him in the eye and say without hesitation, "Sir, it is latitude 42 1/2 degrees north, longitude 83 degrees west."

And if he says, "Yes, but we would like you to be a bit more exact," then you can add, "Well, sir, the main four corners of Birmingham are at Maple and Woodward, and that is 42 degrees 32 minutes 35 seconds north, and 83 degrees 12 minutes 30 seconds west."

("And ladies and gentlemen, that is absolutely correct! Our contestant thus wins a handy-dandy pocket set of surveying instruments!")

Should the city of Birmingham spend employees' time, together with postage, to collect amounts due that are as little as two or five cents?

City commissions last week agreed with Finance Director James Purkiss that it will cost taxpayers less to have the city-at-large pay these amounts than the persons who owe-the bills.

Such small items occasionally come along in connection with special assessment rolls which need small amounts more to balance actual contract costs.

That's why Purkiss last week was instructed not to bill for amounts less than \$1 on such matters in the future.

He informed commissioners that on the deficiency roll for the widening of Eton road, between Lincoln and 14 Mile, for instance, private property owed an additional total of \$181.

"But 65 out of these 162 properties involved owe amounts of 25 cents or less, or a total of \$7.60," Purkiss emphasized.

Citizens in Ewart, Mich., took what they consider a practical approach to their Memorial Day observance this year.

As reported several weeks ago by Editor Fred Smith in his Ewart Review:

"We sort of like the idea for the Memorial Day celebration this year. Instead of spending plenty for the traditional orator, two talented youngsters from the Ewart high school will give the speeches.

"The money that would ordinarily go to the speaker will be used to spray the grounds for mosquitoes.

"Some years you could hardly hear the orator over the sound of slapping and muted cussing as the little beasts feasted."

If the St. Lawrence Seaway becomes the great water passage some folks claim it will, Birmingham may be introduced to the "Widow's Walk" atop the roofs of residences built by some sea captains.

Accident characteristics of the driving population now are under study by individuals at Iowa State College.

So far, these studies are tending to show that the more traffic violation tickets a driver has, the more accidents he has had—or the closer he is to getting involved in one.

Might be interesting to check your own "tendency."

Advertisement for Manufacturers Life Insurance Company. Text includes: 'IT'S THE FIT THAT COUNTS. Life insurance is good material for the financial security of your family. With the help of our representative your life insurance can be "tailored" to fit your needs. For competent advice—Consult our representative.' Logo: 'THE MANUFACTURERS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY'. Branch Offices: 1880 Penobscot Building, Detroit 26; 804 1/2 Fisher Building, Detroit 2. Birmingham Representative: David K. Falvey, C.I.U.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bite 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 June 10, 1904

"Some queer combinations occur in this world. For instance, J. A. Bigelow had all his teeth extracted and a new set came in. Next he had his hair all shaved off and now a new growth has all come in. Verily, if his arm would sprout, the age of wonders would be complete."

Jim Marble and Frank Ash are entitled to the medal for the best string of fish so far this season. One day last week they caught 14 pickers in the lake at Colchester which weighed just 70 pounds. The largest one weighed 13 pounds.

"Confirmed Sunday at St. James Episcopal church were Mr. and Mrs. James Fobb, Mrs. Walker and daughter, Emily, and Miss Isabel Lonsberry."

The society event of the season took place last Wednesday evening, June 8, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. W. Smith, when Rev. W. S. Watson united in marriage Mr. Franklin Ward and Miss Betty Smith. The ceremony of this place, Miss Smith is one of Birmingham's most popular ladies."

TROY—"Tom Renshaw's eldest child had his little hand severely burned by putting it into hot candy."

30 YEARS AGO June 6, 1924

Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock the marriage of Miss Elizabeth Harry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Harry, to Mr. George Booth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Booth of Bloomfield Hills, was solemnized by Rev. W. C. McKnight at the First Presbyterian church of Birmingham.

The Eccentric this week welcomes into its growing family of readers over 150 new subscribers, the result of a week's campaign put on by J. R. Potts, special representative.

While returning from a weekend trip to Chicago, Ernest Phillips, 32-year-old son of Mrs. Perry G. Phillips of Quanton road, was instantly killed as the result of a

Advertisement for Electric Home Freezer. Text includes: 'Pack lunches once a week... get an ELECTRIC home freezer'. 'WHO TOTES a lunch box at your house... dad, sis, brother? They'll all enjoy tasty noon snacks 'fresh out of your freezer. And you'll be less rushed every morning, because you can easily prepare a week's supply of lunches in an off-hour or two. Sandwiches, cookies, fruit cups, will be wonderfully fresh at mealtime. (Freezer lunches are fine for picnics, too.) Enjoy better eating and easier living with a home freezer.' 'BE MODERN—LIVE ELECTRICALLY'. 'SEE YOUR DEALER or Detroit Edison'.