

Birmingham No Longer Wholly Republican in Its Politics

Two weeks ago this newspaper published an article relating to the ever-increasing ratio of Democratic votes being cast in Birmingham, which for more than 125 years of its history was almost wholly Republican in political affiliation.

Thirty years ago there were about six Democrats voting in the then Village of Birmingham, whose population was less than 4,000. Today, with an estimated population of 22,600, election statistics for the last four years reveal that for every three Republican votes cast there is one for the Democrats.

THERE DOES APPEAR, however, to be a fluctuation in the number of Democratic votes cast in Presidential years and the in-between State elections. Depending upon the issues involved at the time, the figures show that there must be a minority group of Democrats who do not always vote for their ticket—these may be termed the "independents."

On the other hand, there is less flexibility among the Republicans—they generally vote for candidates in their own political column.

In view of the historical fact that the processes of self-government operate better when the two major political parties are fairly evenly divided, the increase in local Democrat votes should augur well for this area.

IT IS ONLY WHEN real competition, in the political area of government, is in evidence that the public will get the best value for its money.

For most of its long life Oakland County, as well as Michigan, has been dominantly Republican. This picture has changed in the past 20 years, although the rural areas of the State still vote for the party of Lincoln. This is counteracted, of course, by the strong Democratic allegiances in our cities, especially in the Wayne County communities.

Lacked Courage To Win Presidency!

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, the Owosso, Mich., boy who is completing 12 years as Republican chief executive of New York State, recently announced he will not run for re-election.

Twice nominated as his party's Presidential candidate, twice he was defeated . . . largely because he lacked the forthright courage to tackle the then current issues. He believed "he was elected before election day." But the voters thought otherwise.

There is no question about Dewey's ability as a governor. He surrounded himself with able assistants, and did a good administrative job for his state. But when

it comes to the larger domestic and international issues, Dewey fell down in meeting them.

IT IS ADMITTED that Mr. Dewey is a liberal-liberal Republican. You can observe his influence on the Eisenhower administration, with Ike's going-along with many of the New and Fair Deal programs.

We hope that Mr. Dewey will never again get the urge to run for President. He can't be elected, we believe . . . and if he were, he will fail to be that type of leader so much needed to keep the United States close to the pattern of its founders.

Mayor Cobo Shows Real Courage

A large Detroit industry has been on strike for many weeks. Finally management cancelled its union contract and offered jobs to those of its former employees, plus new ones, who are willing to go to work. The striking union throws up a picket line, through which those who want to work must pass.

Violence ensues. The Detroit police are called out to protect life and property. The union leaders rail against the authority of law.

The Mayor, in sending out the police, merely does what he is supposed to do: namely, protect life and private property. Those police are the same ones who protect individuals against harm from many other sources.

It takes courage for a Mayor to do what Cobo has done in Detroit. Only that type of courage can make the processes of law enforcement work in the interest of all the people.

League Of Women Voters Asks Support

We in these United States, who are grateful for the liberties we enjoy, and who are willing to carry out the collateral responsibilities necessary to keep this freedom, ought to be interested in every movement to make self-government work.

There is a great variety of individuals and organizations in our nation, each of which seeks to do something along practical civic lines to make the processes of self-government operate. One of these is the League of Women Voters, with branches through hundreds of American cities.

For years such a branch has existed in

Birmingham. Over the years it has done much to keep the public informed on the various current issues and candidates for public office. In our opinion, it has done a good job in this respect, and on a non-partisan basis.

SUCH ORGANIZATIONS, of course, require money, and this week the Birmingham branch of the League is out to raise \$2,200 with which to carry on its coming year's activities.

The Eccentric heartily endorses the civic activities of the local League branch . . . it is worthy of every citizen's support.

Good Hunting



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

No matter which way you look at it, fall can be hard on the hands.

Around the house there are screens and storms to switch, along with a whole flock of other household preparations that carry their share of nicks and scrapes.

The yard is a constant mess for a few weeks, since as fast as you rake up one bushel of leaves, another bushel or two drifts down to undo all your work.

Too much exercise with a rake can, as nearly all of us know, start a beautiful crop of blisters.

IF THAT isn't enough, remember that in a little while the pumpkin-fest season will come along.

The fingers that have escaped the other nicks and nicks can get their share now.

The knife nearly always manages to slip and not only ruin the pumpkin face, but leave a healthy gap across someone's knuckles. Scraping the seeds and surplus "meat" out of the cutter adds to the beauty of one's hands with a generous supply of broken nails and hang nails.

The worst of the lot, however, falls to those of us who have a hankering for storing nuts ready for winter candies, cakes and puddings.

BUTTERNUTS and others of their ilk offers a good source of hand irritation.

Picking them, at a sticky, gooey job, as the green husks are removed, leaves the real mess comes along.

To dry them properly it is necessary to remove these fuzzy husks and then the real mess comes along.

The first few leave a not-too-terrible stain on the fingers, but just wait until you have reached

the bottom of the sack! Brother! The green tinge has deepened alarmingly. Hands, not just fingers, now are a deep, horrid looking brown that sticks closer than a poor relative. It seems the more you scrub, the deeper into the skin it goes.

SO YOU'RE going to be smart. You won't harvest butternuts and their objectionable cousins. You are going to get butternuts. Once upon a time we shelled a whole peck of these little fellows. We pinched our fingers in the hulls, gouged them on the shells, and filled ourselves with the look on "spines" that decorate the butternuts.

But somehow, the open air, the woods, the peaceful feeling of fall calls us back again and again to go through the same process year after year.

MAYBE THE fact that mankind is a creature so governed by his stomach has some influence on our returning. Those nut meats do so much to salads, the candies and puddings mentioned before.

And, on a cold winter night, what can be more fun than to stand around cracking them, eating the tangy meats, and tossing the shells into the open fire?

Windows, rakes, pumpkin faces, nut shells, there is something about fall that gets under one's skin, and makes all the attending discomforts a seasonal pleasure.

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.

30 YEARS AGO

September 21, 1924

"We venture to say that the largest, finest, most expensive dwelling erected in Oakland County is drawing to a satisfactory finish at Briar Bank just north of our village about two miles, the site of the Trobridge brothers farm, built by Mr. William T. Barbour who is now a Bloomfield farmer—a horny handed son of toil."

"(Lawson)—A recent wind storm moved Francis Poole's silo partly off its foundation."

Well of all things, we had a nice long chat with J. Beverly Goodman, of Clare, one day last week who had come down to the state fair. The boy has grown to be a big portly man and very few would have recognized him without his speaking first.

"A fine big seven-pound pickerel and Lyman B. Peabody formed a connection at the mill pond last week much to Lyman's good luck but the pickerel's ill fortune."

"The fire alarm Friday morning was caused by a burning chimney at the home of W. C. Jenks of Bates street. T. A. Ward squelched the flames with a garden hose before the fire department reached the scene. Damage by water slight."

30 YEARS AGO

September 17, 1924

Wider Woodward road became a partial reality last Saturday, when the first section of the new thoroughfare was open for traffic. Vehicles on their way to Detroit are now passing over one-mile of 40-foot boulevard, on which only one way traffic is allowed. The stretch extends from the Eight Mile to the Nine Mile road.

Efforts to incorporate a new village in the territory between Berkeley and Eco City, to be known as "Oakfield," are being made by real estate men and residents of the territory, according to a discussion of the matter at the Mapmakers' school, just south of Birmingham, Saturday night.

The only town official who works at night is policeman Richard Lawler of Brown street. Going on duty at 8 in the evening and off at 6

to bed and greets some of them in the morning.

Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Irving have sold their home on Greenwood avenue and Monday of this week they moved to Toronto, Canada.

Mrs. William J. Vhay and her charming daughters, the Misses Julian and Delphine, returned to their home in Bloomfield Hills after a two weeks' visit at Sarnia Beach.

15 YEARS AGO

September 21, 1939

A vein of quicksand which by some queer quirk of nature eluded detection when borings were made for the foundation of the city's new \$165,000 sewage treatment plant was subject of debate at the City Commission Monday night.

Mrs. Cleveland Walcott, program chairman of the Birmingham Branch of the American Association of University Women, was the guiding light in the formation of the Community Institute which is scheduled to be held Nov. 8 in the Community House.

Miss Betty Cousins will leave "Walsh" the end of the week for Alexandria, Va., where she will make a month's visit with her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bryant. Her mother, Mrs. James Cousins, and her cousin, Miss Eleanor Manning, will join her in Washington next month and later, they will all go to New York to attend the National Horse Show to be held in Madison Square Gardens.

For the wedding Saturday evening to John Holiday Chick, Miss Dorothy Herbert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clay E. Herbert, chose a mid-victorian gown of ivory satin with a sweetheart neckline edged in two rows of narrow lace.

Birmingham received \$5,391.61 from the County treasurer for delinquent taxes collected during the month of August, according to a report made Wednesday.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Along with lipstick, comb and compact, are today's young men expected to carry (at formal dances) the pipe cleaners and reamers of their pipe-smoking dates?

It appears some men seem to prefer to wind up their spears in a police station rather than face the music at home.

The only way some women could obtain beauty would be to inherit a beauty shop.

If you really would like to clean out the attic, why not start giving the stuff away as bridge party prizes?

Some people object to being given directions—they believe that if they don't know where they are, they can't get lost.

Now that summer is over, wasn't it silly to wish last June that the city have a municipal swimming pool?

Only in Hollywood can yesterday's glamorous girls, who are today's grandmothers,

continue to portray glamorous mothers. It is extremely difficult to make up last time.

Exists the woman who cannot say to her husband there was at least ONE other man she could have married?

A thirsty intellect seeks its way out of the eroding sands of time.

One of the most disguised maneuvers of TV masters-of-deceit is when he seems so astonished to discover big names in the audience, that brings them into an obviously rehearsed bit before the cameras.

With so many more important problems and situations to solve, it is impossible to imagine why man's talent is expended on developing such things as deodorants for dogs.

Some day there will be erected a monument to the lawyer who can answer a query, with a simple "Yes" or a "No."

Blazing Burner

Unusual circumstances set off a fire at the home of James Rich program along similar lines to the one at 1440 Ruffner last Thursday afternoon that was later extinguished by the Birmingham fire department. It happened when an ironing board slipped out of Mrs. Board.

Rich's hands and back of a stove in the stove. The pilot light on the stove ignited the burner.

City Makes Plans For Big Halloween

A community-wide Halloween festival of the entire park area, it was revealed. The city's shot on the city police change has been resumed Saturday mornings until the Halloween festival prevents continuing the program.

A schedule of Saturday swimming classes at Barnum pool will be announced soon by City Recreation Director Frank Whitney.

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From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Once again the public schools, colleges and universities in the United States have opened their doors to pupils who may acquire education. No nation on this earth offers greater educational opportunities for its young than this nation . . . and, though the cost is great, it is worth every penny. Indeed, the more money wisely spent on education, the less, in the long run, society will have to spend on prisons, asylums, and law enforcement agencies.

A Montreal preacher thinks that too many church goers get the notion that God can be referred to as one's next-door neighbor. He said: "Too often the great conception of the fatherhood of

God is watered down to a point where we feel we can speak to Him on the same level that enables us to address Him as 'Hi Pop,' and to sing about Him as 'The Man Upstairs.'"

A contemporary humorist offers this advice to the ladies: The woman who thinks she can hold her husband with just her cooking should remember that he wasn't eating a ham sandwich when he proposed marriage to her.

Human beings are like trees planted in a forest—some of them reach up to gather in the sunlight of their opportunities, and thus rise above the crowd; others remain dwarfed, stunted, never growing into the quality of timber that obtains the best market prices.

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So They Say . . .

Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture:

"The American way of life and American success can't be explained in other than spiritual terms."

Sidney Hook, author:

"An objective study of the theory of communism makes few converts to communism, and none at all when accompanied by a study of its practices in Communist countries."