

Schools Prepare Lunch for Over 2,000

By VIRGINIA REINEY

Birmingham definitely is not a "baked beans" town. That's the word from the man responsible for the menus served in five cafeterias in the Birmingham school district.

Because "baked beans" is the most disliked dish among school-aged children, it consequently is the least likely meal newcomers will find served in the cafeterias at the high school, Barnum, Baldwin, Adams, and Pierce schools.

The cafeterias are only a few of the many responsibilities delegated five years ago to Norman A. Wolfe, assistant school superintendent. Before coming to Birmingham, Wolfe had the responsibility of the Redford school cafeteria, where he found that "bean and wieners" was the most popular dish served.

IN BIRMINGHAM the most popular meals are "hamburgers" or "hotdogs" and the kids won't just as soon omit "the vegetable" that's always included in the balanced noon-time meals prepared at the five school cafeterias.

Least popular are the heavier meals like meat loaf, potatoes and gravy—which the boys like, but the girls do not.

The board of education provides only the space and the utilities, supporting from the standpoint of food, labor and replacement of equipment.

WOLFE doesn't even attempt to set up a yearly budget. He sets

up no more than one month at a time.

A break-down on last year's cafeteria operation is \$87,599.44 for food; \$50,552.28 for labor; \$8,653.24 replacement of equipment; and \$1,659, miscellaneous (such as laundry).

Last year there were 315,042 paid student lunches, 8,840 teachers' lunches, 166,357 bottles of milk and 81,797 dixie cups of ice cream sold.

Wolfe estimates that 75 per cent of the high school students patronize the cafeteria, 65 per cent at junior high, and 50 to 60 per cent at the elementaries buy the hot lunch.

The hot lunch program consists of two ounces of meat, poultry, fish or protein of some kind, plus six ounces of raw or cooked vegetable or fruit, one portion of bread and butter, and a half pint of milk. This is the state's minimum requirements to which the Birmingham system adds a salad and a dessert, ranging from cherry pie to pudding.

FOR ALL THIS, the elementary students pay 25 cents and the high school students pay 30 cents. A fee of 40 cents is charged to teachers.

However, any day's menu, if

priced on today's market, would cost from 45 cents to 75 cents to prepare, Wolfe said.

Were it not for the surplus food that the system receives in federal government subsidies for small handling and shipping charge, (from the Flint cold storage outlet, which supplies the schools' hot lunch programs in four counties, including Oakland) the schools would have to charge an additional 15 cents per lunch, Wolfe said.

The state reimbursements, which are federally supported, will amount to 4 cents per lunch served during the coming year.

LAST YEAR the government provided the following surplus foods: 2645 pounds of processed cheese; 858 pounds of natural cheese; 618 pounds of butter; 152 gallons of salad oil; 1171 pounds of dried milk; 1656 pounds of hamburger; 2564 gallon-cans of peas; 2978 gallon-cans of peaches; 9674

canned beef; 294 gallon cans of tomatoes; 120 gallons of peanut butter; 355 gallons of shortening; 1390 pounds of dried apricots; 200 pounds, dried beans; 580 gallons of grape fruit sections; 1,380 gallons of winter pears; 54 gallons of cranberry sauce; 5600 pounds of potatoes.

Even so, the schools had to go out and purchase 80 per cent of the food used during the year, said Wolfe.

To give the reader some idea of the volume of lunches that are being served over a one month period as compared to the number served three years ago, the schools served 18,086 lunches during June last year.

THIS IS TWO-and-a-half times as many served during the same month in 1951 when 8,029 lunches were served. In 1952 a total of 13,925 lunches were served during

that month. Wolfe expects to serve some 23,000 in June of 1955.

And June is never a full school month because school usually lets out after the first two weeks.

Few teachers patronize the school cafeterias, because so many are on diets eating everything from yogurt to raw carrots.

It is surprising to learn that many children in the elementary grades get a big kick out of carrying their lunch pail to school. As a result many do bring their lunch. At lunch time they may buy milk and dessert, if they want it.

The old theory that a cold lunch is not nutritious has long since been discounted, Wolfe said. If the lunch is a well balanced diet it is just as nutritious (but may not be as appetizing) as the one from home, Wolfe said.

After 10 years in the cafeteria business, through the method of



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In the great department store, Angus MacTavish was endeavoring to select a rug for the living room. His wife picked out a rug she deemed satisfactory both with respect to quality and price, but Angus was satisfied with neither. Angus patiently explained to the stubborn woman the manifold reasons why the purchase was inadvisable, and managed to keep his temper well under control until the impatiently waiting clerk ventured to intervene. The young woman was foolishly enough to contradict some of the claims Angus had made against the merchandise.

Suddenly Angus, turned angrily toward the clerk and demanded, "See here, my good woman! Whose money am I spending—yours or hers?"

"No," said young Smithers. "I'm getting married next week, and I'd like to have a raise."

"No, it's not that," explained the prospective bridegroom. "I'm making enough now for you to live on."

"Really?" said the boss. "Then why do you want a raise?"

"Well, it's this way," he ventured. "In an unguarded moment I told Mary how much I get, so I'd like a little more for my own use that she doesn't know about."

REGISTRATION NOTICE

FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION AND SPECIAL CITY ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1954

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, County of Oakland, State of Michigan

TO VOTE AT THIS ELECTION, all persons must be registered in the City by Monday, October 4, 1954, at 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Citizens of the United States, 21 years old, who have resided in the State of Michigan six months and in the City of Birmingham thirty days prior to November 2, 1954, are eligible to register.

TO REGISTER: Call in person at the office of the City Clerk in the Municipal Building on or before 8 p.m. Monday, October 4, 1954.

TO TRANSFER a registration from one address to another address WITHIN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, send a signed request to the office of the City Clerk stating present address, former address, and date of moving to present address. Such transfer may be made any time up to and including, Monday, October 4, 1954 at 8 p.m.

HOURS FOR REGISTRATION

DAYTIME

Monday through Friday—8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

SATURDAYS during September Only — 9 a.m. until noon.

EVENING

Monday—7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

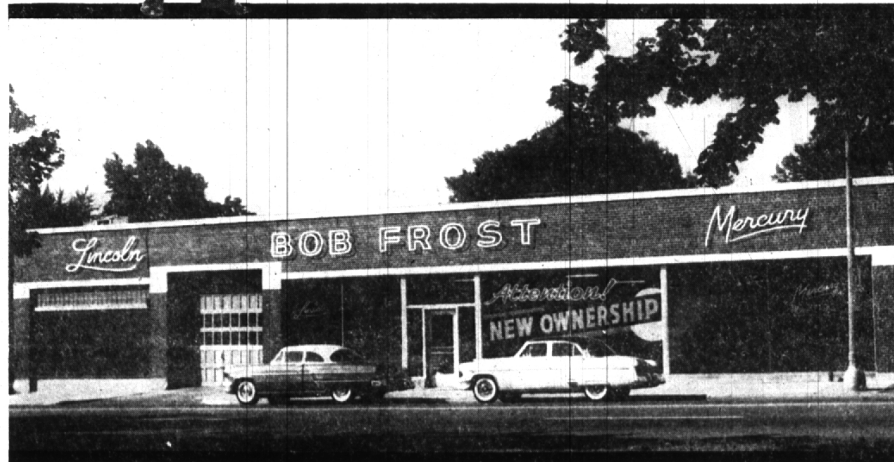
On September 29 and 30 and October 1, the office will be open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. for the purpose of accepting registrations and transfers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION with respect to voting regulations or registration regulations may be obtained by telephoning the office of the City Clerk, Midwest 4-1800—Extension 1.

IRENE E. HANLEY,
City Clerk



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trial and error. Wolfe concluded that he had found about 25 popular menus that are rotated during the year.

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