

If you have done your best on some project, however big or little, and it still doesn't come up to your desires, be not unduly disappointed; you will have learned something in the preparation for the next effort.

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38 PAGES SECTION ONE



SEVEN CENTS

Parents Win Praise for Safer Railroad Fence

THE S and THAT

By G. R. A.

A Free Press Is Freedom's Best Defender

A few weeks ago I was visiting John A. Hannah, president of Michigan State University, in his East Lansing campus office. We were discussing journalism and the University's academic relation to it.

It has been graduating some very good and very earnest students from its journalism department, many of whom have joined the staffs of various Michigan newspapers.

Dr. Hannah has some very deep convictions on the subject of communications media. Not only as a university administrator, but as a former assistant secretary of Defense, in charge of man-power, he knows the value and need for good communications media both nationally and internationally.

SO WHEN the federal government a few months ago to resume his full-time activities in East Lansing, he had convinced himself that MSU should undergo a sort of modernization in its academic structure in these areas. He decided that the journalism department should be integrated better with our radio and television," said Dr. Hannah. "These three media play tremendously important parts in the whole American process of self-government, with its competitive free enterprise system."

"Upon the creation of a 'Communications Center' on our campus, where these courses are taught with an emphasis upon their inter-relationship. For, if our type of government is to survive, its communications media operations must be staffed by capable people."

ANOTHER phase of Dr. Hannah's concern was finding a suitable successor to Prof. A. A. Apple, of the University's journalism department.

He said he would like to find a man who would be a blend of all three communications media, the printed word, television and radio. Aroun such a man he endeavored to build one of the best such departments in the U.S.A. At this point in the conversation I ventured the suggestion that Apple's successors ought to be dedicated, dominantly, and best versed in the traditions of the printed word.

"Mankind's march toward so-called civilization has been in keeping with its ability to free itself from the controls and restraints of government, whether the latter be a monarchy or some form of self-government," I stated.

"FREEDOM to speak, to print, to write are guarantees written in the Bill of Rights of our federal Constitution." I reminded Dr. Hannah, "Mankind's struggle to own and operate a free press free from requiring a license from any governmental agency... covers many centuries. This struggle often resulted in bloodshed. It has been a long, hard fight." (See THIS & THAT, Pg. 6, Sec. 1.)

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DO NOT DISTURB GROWING ELM TREES
FRANK PARKS AND FORESTRY DEPT.

'LITTLE ELM'S FROM GREAT MAPLES GROW' discovers B'ham City Forester William Lehold. So he posts a "Do Not Disturb" sign high off the ground and places this botanical rarity under the protection of the city parks and forestry department. The two seedlings, cashed in on this million-to-one chance and have sprouted in the crotch of this ancient silver maple, located on the north side of Merrill street between Bates and Henrietta. (Eccentric Photo)

New Budget Would Hold Tax Rate at 19½ Mills

Birmingham's municipal budget for 1955-56 would maintain the present \$19.50 tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, according to proposals presented this week by City Manager D. C. Koberger.

Commissioners on June 6 for the preliminary hearing on the budget, and June 13 as the final adoption date.

The proposed budget totals \$1,405,308.90 or \$69,453.90 more than last year.

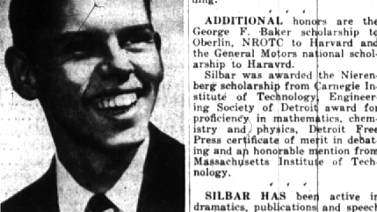
This 5.2 per cent boost, Koberger said, results primarily from increases in the fire, police, D.P.W. and parks and forestry departments.

Boys Take Senior Honors for 1955

Two boys share scholastic spotlights as the 1955 class of Birmingham high schools goes into final preparations for commencement and graduation.

James Gillen has been named valedictorian, with Richard Silbar as salutatorian. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Gillen, Franklin, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Silbar, 306 Madison.

Gillen has received several student honors including the honorary Harvard College national scholarship for 1955-56, highest award for incoming freshmen. He is one of only 100 to be honored for which more than 1,000 were bidding.



JAMES GILLEN



RICHARD SILBAR

Southfield, Troy City Vote Tuesday

Tuesday voters from Troy and Southfield townships go to the polls to determine whether they wish to become a home rule city, or whether they want to remain as they now are—rural-type communities. And in Bingham Farms subdivision, residents will ballot on village incorporation.

Voting is expected to be heavy in both townships. In Southfield township, where registrations have been high 12,126 registered voters, this is a decrease from 12,829 in the April 4 elections, but does not include Franklin Village or Bingham Farms subdivision.

IN the Bingham Farms area, where 160 residents have registered, a favorable vote is predicted by leaders of the incorporation movement.

Troy has 5,994 registered voters, an increase of about 100 over the April 4 totals.

In addition to votes on incorporation in the three communities, Troy must select nine charter commissioners from 33 candidates. Bingham Farms, which will elect five commissioners, has only five men on the ballot.

The death of Southfield Township Supervisor William E. Roeser Sunday reduced the original list of charter candidates from 38 to 37.

SHOULD the vote be favorable, Troy will become a city of 27.8 square miles with a population of about 15,000. Later they hope to annex an additional 5 square miles in order to incorporate.

That Troy does have the required population density was still questionable Wednesday as results of a state census had not yet been revealed.

In Southfield three areas, Franklin, Bingham Farms and Lathrup Village, will be excluded from the area which would become Southfield City should the voters favor incorporation.

THE AREA under consideration is about 31.4 square miles and contains about 30,000 persons.

Last fall a similar incorporation vote by Southfield failed, as have several attempts by arguments in the southern part of the township over the past two years.

Leaders of the incorporation movement in Bingham Farms who successfully battled the home rule vote of the township last November are eyeing the possibility of annexing to Franklin on their western border after incorporation.

BOTH Southfield and Troy incorporated in 1954. It is understood that a favorable home rule vote is a must if the townships are to be split up into several smaller communities or annexed to neighboring cities.

Leaders of the incorporation movement in Southfield was prompted early this spring by attempts by Royal Oak to annex a 76-acre area owned by Vickers, Inc. of Detroit, at Crooks and Maple.

Vickers plans to build a \$2 million headquarters on this land and Troy feared the loss of the estimated \$20,000-a-year tax intake from the property.

Services Held Yesterday for W. E. Roeser

William E. Roeser, Southfield township supervisor for four years, was buried yesterday in Elmwood cemetery after services held at the Bell Chapel of the William R. Hamilton Co. in Birmingham.

Mr. Roeser died Sunday in William Beaumont hospital after a brief illness.

Retired as sales manager of the Roeser Machine Casting Co. in 1940, Mr. Roeser moved to Southfield township in the same year.

Township voters will go to the polls Tuesday to elect a third term as supervisor at the April 4 election.

Mr. Roeser, 67, was one of the leaders in the battle to incorporate Southfield as a home rule city. Township voters will go to the polls Tuesday to ballot on the proposed incorporation.

It was Mr. Roeser, too, who occupied the top administrative office during the township's greatest development.

In attendance at the township board's last meeting on May 24, Mr. Roeser was responsible for the calling of a special meeting last Friday to consider zoning changes along Eight Mile road, but became ill during the middle of the week and was confined to his home until early Saturday when he was transferred to the hospital.

To Reconsider Cedar Paving

Paving of Cedar, from Lincoln to Catalina, was deemed necessary this week by the Birmingham city commission. It will consider the assessment roll for June 13, at the same time several other areas streets are up for confirmation.

The Cedar improvement is in some ways a controversial project because a number of property owners appear not to favor it.

However, the commission believes the property owners might change their minds if their street is part of an area program.

Southfld Without Supervisor Until After June 7 Vote

Southfield township board members have decided to wait until after the Tuesday election to choose a successor to William Roeser, supervisor who died Sunday in William Beaumont Hospital.

Mr. Fannie Adams, who with the supervisor, was until after the election, will shoulder those duties alone until Roeser's successor takes office.

The name of the late supervisor, who was candidate for charter commissioner in the coming incorporation election, was removed this week from some of the ballots, and those ballots that already were completed will carry a sticker over Roeser's name, township officials said.



AMATEUR WIFFI SMITH (left) 18-year-old golfer star from St. Clair River Country club, and Fay Crocker pro from Uruguay, South America, who won the Wolverine Open Golf tourney at Forest Lake this week, share the spotlight for tournament honors. Miss Crocker fired a 291 to win top prize of \$1,000 and Miss Smith shot a 301. Full results and story on sports page 2, section 5. (Eccentric photo)

\$5.5 Million Question And the 24 Answers

On June 13 voters in the Birmingham school district will go to the polls in their annual district election—and they will be asked the \$5.5 million question:

"Can we have that amount to continue our school building expansion program?"

In order to obtain as much information as possible, in concise a manner as possible, and all at one time and in one place, The Birmingham Eccentric this week asked Supt. of Schools Dwight B. Ireland 24 questions.

The questions and Ireland's answers follow:

- 1: When is the election?
A: June 13, 1955.
- 2: Where do I vote?
Precinct one, Adams school: east and north boundaries, district limits; south, East Maple; west, Woodward.
Precinct two, Quorton school: north, district limits; east, Woodward; south, West Maple; west, Covington.
Precinct three, Barnum school: north, West Maple; east, Woodward; south, Lincoln; west, River Rouge.
Precinct four, Pierce school: north, Lincoln; east, Woodward; south, 14 Mile; west, River Rouge; and that section bounded on the north by 14 Mile; east, Greenfield; south, district limits; west, Franklin attendance area district limits.
Precinct five, Franklin school: all in the original Franklin area district.

- 3: What will be voted upon?
A: a) A bond issue of \$5.5 million dollars to build the facilities required to house the present and anticipated school population.
(See QUESTION, Page 2, Sec. 1.)

Reserch Center Open House

Birmingham area residents will have an opportunity to tour a major industrial research center June 6 and 7, the Division 1190 of the Ford Motor Company's new farm machinery research and engineering center is open to the public.

The new facility, a major step in Ford's expansion in the "full line" farm machinery business, is located in a separate building connected with the general offices of the tractor and implement division at 2500 East Maple.

A NUMBER of events have been planned to mark the Center's opening, as well as the completion of the facilities expansion in the general offices.

Monday and Tuesday evenings, June 6 and 7, the Division 1190 general office employees and their wives or husbands will be guests at a theater party at the Birmingham Theater.

Wednesday, June 8, the Board of Directors of Ford Motor Company will meet in Birmingham and tour the Division.

That afternoon and evening some 200 business, civic and professional leaders, and press representatives, will inspect the facilities and be guests at a reception and dinner at Oakland Hills Country Club.

THE PRINCIPAL address will be given by Congressman Harold D. Cooley of North Carolina, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Open house for suppliers is scheduled for Saturday morning, June 11, and for employees in the afternoon.

A public open house is planned for Sunday afternoon, June 12, to which all residents of the area are invited.

Guided tours are planned and special displays will demonstrate for visitors some of the interesting techniques employed in the design and engineering of modern farm machinery.

Græfield Petitioners Ask Action

By DOROTHY JEAN ZACK

"Anything we can do to safeguard the area and protect the children of that area will certainly be given prompt action," the vice president and general manager of the Grand Trunk Western railroad told The Birmingham Eccentric yesterday.

S. J. Massey, Jr., of the railroad, indicated that the petition of 61 parents of the Græfield area, where fencing defects allowed two children to come near death on the railroad last month, will be given prompt attention.

Disaster was prevented by the stopping in time of a slow freight train on April 29 when Christopher Alden and Robert Mitchell, both two and a half years, were playing on the tracks.

Details of the near-tragedy told in the petition brought to the public view for the first time.

LESS THAN FIVE minutes after the two youngsters had been seen by Christopher's mother, Mrs. J. L. Alden, in the enclosed play area, the mother was bringing the two youngsters away from the railroad.

The engineer of the train, says the petition, had seen the children, blew his whistle and stopped his train, and had removed the children from the tracks before the five minutes had elapsed.

"There is every chance that accidents such as the above will recur and become actual tragedies unless immediate steps are taken to provide adequate fencing between the Grand Trunk railroad right-of-way and Græfield Terrace," the petition states.

THE TWO CHILDREN were seen by Mrs. J. L. Alden, 1940 Græfield, and of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Mitchell, 923 Græfield.

The petition, submitted to the Grand Trunk management and the Birmingham commission, describes the fence as "exceedingly cheap, flimsy construction and stands on a slope of 40 inches high." It also breaks, bends, and tunnels that reduce its value as a safety device.

"The Grand Trunk fence running from the Maple road overlaps to the Derby road overpass in asked by the parents to be replaced by at least six feet in height and surmounted by barbed wire, they say.

ASKED IF THESE provisions could be met, Vice-President Massey of Grand Trunk indicated that the petition had not reached his desk but possibly had been cleared through his office and referred to engineers for action.

He indicated that if it is a matter of inches referring to new or old fencing, it would receive the prompt attention of his office.

The city commission's action, taken on the suggestion of city attorney Forney, was to refer the problem to the Public Service Commission. The mayor will prepare a letter to the commission.

(See PARENTS, Page 6, Sec. 1.)

STRICTLY FRESH

WOMAN in Moline, Ill., told police that her boy friend took her false teeth. Said she hoped they'd find him because she was getting hungry. Maybe she wants to put the bite on him for a meal?

The body of Idaho state patrolman which serves Two Falls, Idaho, includes "Hand, Legs, Feet and Hair." But not two "Heads," as apprehended miscreants offer claim.

There's a rumor that some enterprising promoter is making plans to televise the home fights over



As schools begin to let out for the summer, ever-increasing numbers of mothers will be looking forward to their vacation. Many a school once more takes up in September.

Scientist foresees the day when dishes will be washed by sound waves. This may be a boon—what's how they get done today in many homes—wife's shouted requests for help, or hubby's ears until he does the dishes.