

Two Sides To Southfield, Troy City Proposals

Whether a voter in Southfield or Troy Township should vote for or against the proposition, June 7, to become a city depends upon where he lives and has his interests at the moment.

Under the present Township form of government he will live under a pattern of restricted home rule, while as a city his governing body will have greater powers than a Township Board, and thus better be able to tackle and solve a variety of local problems.

Under the Township government, however, taxes will be lower, in keeping with fewer public services rendered, as a city's residents may expect to find their taxes increased, the degree being in direct ratio to the quality and quantity of public services demanded.

IN THE CASE OF Southfield Township, growing at a greater rate than Troy Township, where the concentration of population today is in the southeast section, it is to be expected that residents there will approve the change to a city.

They are located where a considerable part of the Township's industry, with its large tax payments, currently exists; they are in an area fairly heavily developed, no doubt reasonably close to where a new city would locate its police and fire departments, and other city hall services.

Assuming that this southeast area will continue to increase in population more rapidly than any other section of the Township, its voters probably will dominate the proposed new city's governmental agencies. This control, of course, is applicable wherever similar conditions prevail under Home Rule governmental laws.

ON THE OTHER HAND, residents in Southfield areas where larger homes and lots are the pattern might not be willing to adjust themselves to the planning of folks whose ideas are different from their own.

It must be remembered, though, that once an area affiliates itself with another area, it cannot separate at some later date. Forever, its destiny is wrapped up as just a part of the whole.

Southfield and Troy Townships are, for the most part, at present vacant and undeveloped areas of land. That both will increase tremendously in population during the next 25 years is agreed upon by all informed people.

SOME OF THE EXPERTS on the subject we have talked with agree that, over the long pull of from 25 to 50 years, the incorporation of a large area into one city form of government can be reasonably successful; but it will require extra good and careful municipal planning, with capable public officials to administer affairs.

And many years, and many tax payments will have to take place before all sections of such an area will get what they want in public services.

However, to remain as a Township, under present State laws, is to be without adequate public services indefinitely.

The alternative, say the experts, to

forming one large city in an area in which so much vacant property currently exists, is the formation of a few villages or cities, to be determined by the nature of the area environment desired by those who live there.

TODAY SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP, for example (and the same general situations apply to Troy Township) has a population of 30,000 in the 31 square miles proposed for the suggested single city; by 1985 it is estimated that the population will approximate 100,000.

A single city of 100,000, as against a half dozen or less smaller villages or cities, is the 664 question. With a single city, say the experts, there will be less flexibility in the pattern of area developments than if there be several smaller ones, each deciding (as in the case of Franklin and Lathrup areas) what type of community they want to develop into and remain.

Another alternative to the single city plan is for a subdivision area contiguous to a village or city to ask itself this question: shall I seek to be annexed to my neighboring village or city because already it has developed along the lines I like?

USE OF THIS LAST alternative, of course, cannot be resorted to in either Southfield or Troy Townships, unless both fail to become cities when the ballots are counted June 7; or, even though one or both Townships do vote for the change to city, should they fail to formulate and adopt city charters within two years they will revert to Township status (in the meantime operating under Township rule until a charter is adopted).

In such a case one or both, as the situation might be, will be back where they now are, and "can start all over".

Summing up the entire subject, it can be said that both those for changing to a single city and those opposed to it have some logical arguments on their sides.

As the experts have declared: "It all depends on where you live and what your interests are at the moment. Under Township rule you never can expect to obtain all the public services that either a single city or several smaller ones can provide for its residents. But it should always be remembered that public services on a municipal level must be paid for by levying taxes against those who benefit from these services. The more services rendered, the higher the taxes."

SO THERE YOU ARE, Mr. and Mrs. Southfield or Troy Township Voter.

This newspaper has tried, through its news columns, to bring to you the pro and con sides of the subject. After all, many will agree that the issues at stake are fairly evenly divided... depending, as we stated in the beginning of this editorial, on where one lives and has his interests.

If you are in doubt, probably you'll vote "NO" and then join with others to investigate the entire subject at greater length. If you have made up your mind, you'll approve the proposition June 7.

In the language of the vernacular: "You pays your taxes, you makes your choice!"



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

After reading an article that hinted of a serious fur shortage, thanks to Davey Crockett, it came to us that as a nation we are slaves to advertising.

Before a baby is born, the prospective parents read baby-care books which they learn about through advertising. They begin stock-piling supplies of advertised baby foods, clothes, and other miscellaneous items.

When baby comes home from the hospital he is already set on a path laid down by advertising. His medical needs, his toys, what he eats, wears and how and where he sleeps, are selected through ads. As he grows older he is enrolled in an advertised pre-school group riding to and from the school in a widely advertised bus.

When he starts grade school he uses advertised pencils and crayons, hounds dad until he gets an advertised bike and then begins beating the drums for an advertised big gun.

AN ADVERTISED watch should enter the conversation about now. After that will be a car which the ad said has everything. Of course it will be driven on a way by advertised gas and roll smoothly and safely on advertised tires.

If there's pin money enough it will be loaded with advertised gadgets and will pour forth music from an advertised radio along with a lot of words advertising things.

When college looms, the "baby" will go to the college which dad has been advertising for years. He'll wear the sharpest of advertised clothes now, of course, and want money to attend all the advertised shows.

WHEN HE meets the girl, he'll want to deck her out in advertised corsages and sooner or later will

go shopping for an advertised diamond. Next comes the advertised wedding band.

Both will shop furiously for advertised clothes, make reservations at an advertised resort and wonder where they are going to put all those advertised wedding presents.

Their life will repeat itself here as they surround their own children with advertised products.

The new father will buy advertised stocks and bonds and buy advertised insurance to provide for his family and to assure his and his wife's comfort in their old age.

They may even invest in an advertised cottage small enough for two, getting ready for those days when their children are grown and gone away.

ADVERTISING remains, though. Old age finds them with bifocals advertised to save eyes, one of man's most precious gifts.

They buy advertised books and furnishings and make plans for advertised cruises as their advertised investments pay off.

Like many others, they buy advertised medicine to help ward off the advances of old age.

But time moves on and the inevitable happens. An advertised funeral home conducts the last sad rites and an advertised headstone marks the grave.

Friends have sent advertised cards of comfort and advertised floral pieces. Soft music has been played on an advertised organ, powered by advertised electricity.

Mankind goes on, one of one lifelong companion, advertising.

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

June 2, 1935

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Meyer and cousin, Mr. Elbert Houser, both from Kibbie, Mich., blew in town Monday last and everybody was glad to see the boys. Better yet Meyer saw a builder and will at once build a fine house in our village.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Man's futile ability, compared to God's enduring facility, was clearly demonstrated to me May 21-22.

That Saturday Birmingham's water system labored mightily for 24 hours to produce almost 6 million gallons of water which residents used, thereby creating a new high in demand.

Then the next day, the Almighty set a local record of His own—in only 25 minutes that evening He deposited 1.15 inches of rainfall, or 93,930,000 gallons!

Birmingham's city commission decided last week to open its future committee meetings to the press and the public.

After considerable deliberation lasting over some months, commissioners discovered they were not meeting behind closed doors because they had thought the public and the press would unnecessarily hamper their speed in the solution of community problems.

It is my conviction that their decision, in the long run, will be the one which really speeds up solutions to community problems.

Open meetings will give the general public a feeling of confidence in their commissioners, and because of that growing confidence, the commission's plans and proposals will be accepted more readily and with more blessings than under the former "closed door" policy.

A Baldwin (Mich.) fisherman who likes to use worms for trout fishing, has started a test case against a new state law which says he can't use that kind of bait on 46 miles of trout streams. I wonder how the trout fly fishermen are going to wiggle out of this one?

Current campaign of the Birmingham chamber of commerce to increase its membership is an encouraging sign.

Since the war, the city and its surrounding area has grown immensely—and its problems and opportunities have increased in size accordingly.

The C of C's board of directors and various committees have adopted a vigorous program to initiate, encourage or assist in

bringing into reality the many things that can and should be done for the entire community's welfare.

Such an endeavor, I believe, should have everyone's support—by enlisting as an active C of C member and community booster.

Besides Coke and Lifesavers, the only other thing which has not risen in price for Birmingham residents is the cost of their water.

According to City Manager D. C. Egbert, 1,000 gallons of it costs only 20 cents—which is the same price charged back in 1923.

Birmingham city commission's recent decision to review the requirements of the off-street parking lot licensing ordinance is a move which private parking lot owners should welcome.

Presently, within the next year and a half, they would be required to hard-surface their parking areas under penalty of having the license revoked.

"Hardsurfacing" would consist of asphalt or concrete.

Those city commissioners who favor keeping considerable control over appearances of parking lots—public or private—claim the surfacing will keep down the dust nuisance.

OTHER COMMISSIONERS—notably Dean Beier—say the dust can be prevented at considerably less cost than asphalt or concrete.

Oiling, for instance, Beier says. Several private lot owners say they will have to discontinue their lots because of the expense involved. First to officially notify the city of this possibility has been Embury Methodist church, which only recently undertook a finance drive for its new edifice.

My opinions agree with Beier's. Such parking facilities are for my convenience, I feel. I believe any municipality should be restricted to outlining an objective and setting up the ground rules for playing the game.

But I do not believe the municipality should be allowed to pick the specific equipment for each player. That should be left to individual choice.

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The "Ordinary" Americans
AMERICA IS MADE OF PEOPLE—GOOD PEOPLE—HARDWORKING PEOPLE—PEOPLE LIKE THE ADVERTISING MAN—

THIS AD MAN IS STANDING IN FRONT OF A NEW BUILDING—THE NEW HOME OF ONE OF THE CITY'S BIGGEST FIRMS—HE'S GOING TO HELP LAY OUT ADS FOR THE "GRAND OPENING."

HE'S REMEMBERING NOT SO MANY YEARS AGO THE COMPANY WAS SMALL, AND HE HELPED PLAN ITS FIRST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN.

THE AD MAN (ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE) CAN BE PROUD OF HIS KEY ROLL IN AMERICAN BUSINESS—BY INTRODUCING SELLERS TO BUYERS, PRODUCTS TO CONSUMERS, HE SERVES BOTH—

THE ADVERTISING MAN HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTORS TO AMERICA'S ASTOUNDING GROWTH IN THIS CENTURY

McNaught Syndicate, Inc. REG-MANNING

What! Still doing the Black Bottom?

As you can see, we don't mean the flapper-day dance... but a routine that's just as exhausting—scrubbing and scouring black-bottomed pots and pans.

Now that's something that an electric cook never has to do. You see, electric heat is clean as light. That's why kitchen walls and curtains stay clean longer, too.

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