

Candidates and Proposals Seek Your Support Monday

Next Monday, April 4, is ELECTION DAY in the State of Michigan, in every city, village and township. You will be afforded the opportunity, as qualified voters, to ballot on a variety of subjects. Locally, a number of your public officials are to be elected, and our news columns present this information to you. In Birmingham, twelve candidates seek three vacancies on the city commission. They are presenting their views on other pages of this issue.

WITH THE VIGOROUS recommendation of the city recreation board, the city commission and several local service groups, the electorate will be asked for \$125,000 to construct an artificial ice-skating rink, an accompanying 180-car off-street parking lot, and a small ice machinery building and shelter.

This would be the first major improvement in the city's park and recreation facilities since the acquisition of Springdale Park many years ago. To be used by all age levels, the rink would fill a much desired community need. We recommend your endorsement of the bond issue which will be required to finance the project.

A SECOND BADLY needed improvement, this time by the entire Birmingham area, is the proposed Evergreen interceptor sewer.

The state has ordered Birmingham and five other adjoining communities to cease polluting the Rouge river. In fact, these six communities right now are in violation of the state order. Because of their recent and imminent growth, all six of these municipalities—Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Lathrup Village and the townships of Southfield, Bloomfield and Troy—soon must provide additional sewage disposal facilities anyway.

We agree with officials of these several municipalities that to act together to obtain the interceptor is the more economical way to solve the problem. To do so will require a charter amendment to permit the city to establish its participation in the Evergreen interceptor. The charter change is recommended for your approval.

ANOTHER BIRMINGHAM proposition you are asked to vote on, relates to the use of the present Shain Park as an off-street parking area, owned and controlled by the city itself. Tied in with this is the purchase of the block south of Shain park and the development of it as a part of the civic center.

This purchase, according to the city commission, would not cost Birmingham taxpayers a penny, since it would be paid for from money obtained in assessments against business properties benefitted by the off-street parking project.

Making this area, which is close to the W. Maple business center, an off-street parking area would serve as a great convenience to shoppers. As the city commission points out, it also would assist in a maximum development and stabilization of assessed property tax values in that part of Birmingham's business section which will aid in relieving the homeowners of a portion of their tax burden.

TWO SCHOOLS of thought have developed concerning the suggested transition of Shain Park to off-street parking. One argues on the side of convenience to shoppers and tax relief to homes. The other declares that to do this would spoil the landscape beauty of the civic center. This latter support argues that placing the off-street parking area a block south will still meet shoppers' requirements.

It is no surprise to us that two schools of thought have developed from this proposal. Many local voters no doubt are experiencing within themselves the conflict of weighing the aesthetic values against the physical values of this subject.

It is understandably human for each of us to consider the various sides of this proposition. Yet each of us knows that he must cast his vote either for or against the city commission's request for an advisory vote on this subject. Which side shall one take?

Which way the vote goes will not be earth-shaking in its effects. If the vote is No it simply will indicate that as a community we elect to walk an extra block to and from a parking lot as a proper "sacrifice" for retaining a civic center setting we consider aesthetically important to us. Or if the vote is Yes, then a majority has emphasized the "practical" side of their human evaluation of the problem. This group believes it best to save themselves an extra block of walking from a parking lot to stores and offices... even though this will require them to compensate by walking an extra block, if they wish to realize the aesthetic values of a transplanted park area.

It's a very human decision that our community is being asked to make on this subject. In a way, aren't all sort of faced with a situation of "having our cake and wanting to eat it, too"?

TOGETHER WITH four proposals to amend the State Constitution you will be afforded the opportunity to vote your choices for the filling of vacancies in the offices of Supt. of Public Instruction, Supreme Court Justices, Board of Regents of the University of Michigan, Board of Agriculture, Michigan State College, and State Board of Education.

Proposal No. 1 relates to the need for investing the State Legislature with powers to change certain of the procedures governing the wording of nominating petitions for members of the judiciary; it is pointed out that at present there is a lack of uniformity in the wording of petitions in the 83 counties in Michigan, as well as a difference in the dates of filing such petitions with county clerks.

At present, State Supreme Court Justices are nominated by their respective political parties in convention, although the Legislature possesses powers to change this method of nomination, if they choose. However, they probably do not intend to, so your support of this Proposal No. 1 is recommended by many informed groups.

The Michigan Bar Association has not approved this Proposal No. 1. Indeed, for years it has had one of its own, known as "The Michigan Plan," which would seek to remove all circuit and supreme court judges from so-called "politics."

PROPOSAL NO. 2 relates to the qualifications for circuit and Supreme Court judges, requiring them to be qualified lawyers and less than 70 years of age when either appointed to fill a vacancy or elected. It is expected that the adoption of this Amendment will tend to improve court procedures in Michigan.

That hundred million dollar school loan plan, known as Proposal No. 3 on your ballot, is being supported by a great many Michigan groups and organizations, including the Michigan Education Association itself.

It is reliably stated that it is intended to take up the slack in needed new schools, or additions to them, especially in areas where the taxpayers in a school district find it impossible to finance their school needs under existing requirements. You'll be helping the educational system in Michigan if you vote "Yes" on this Proposal No. 3.

PROPOSAL NO. 4 concerns a change in the State's Board of Canvassers, the chief item of which is to prevent elected State officials from being a member of said Board. It also would prevent a majority of this Board from being members of a single political party. We suggest that you approve Proposal No. 4. Quite a "package" of civic subjects for you next Monday, isn't it?



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

"We're not sure, but we sincerely believe we are on every 'stucker' list in the country. Now, to our horror, we have obviously made the foreign exchange.

From the home market we receive identification tags for our license number. These usually arrive in the fall, a matter of weeks before the time to buy new plates.

A new idea popped up this winter when a nice box of name and address stickers arrived. We could have them for only a dollar sent by return mail. They were very neat—but the name wasn't spelled correctly.

Our biggest business seems to be neckties and since neither of us in our all-woman household wear the things...

THESE ARR'ALL kinds of greeting cards arriving on our doorstep. Usually they are the sort we wouldn't send to our dearest enemy.

At one time there was a flurry of plastic household items arriving, bowl covers, etc. but as the novelty of this material wore off the manufacturers left us alone and we have the chance to make our purchases without outside intrusion.

Of course we get the usual assortment of stamps which if properly attached, permit us special rates on all kinds of insurance policies, great buys in magazines and a few other items we never seem to want.

THESE ARE the flocks of mail promotion material, trying to sell us everything from new roofs to dog collars. These are the common things, the things we expect, the things which provide us with excellent bonfire material and make incineration necessary.

We have received our share of men's suiting, drapery samples, little snippings from nylon and silk hose and even cosmetics.

The latest and the one which puts us in the foreign trade bracket, is an offer to let us purchase a piece of cork for only \$5—just think of it, what a bargain.

You see, this cork is from England's famous Washing Cork Tree. Pieces of this tree (the size of the tree is not mentioned but leads one to wonder) have been carried by all sorts of people.

ROYALTY, cabin members, ministers, film stars and just folks have done it and all, according to the flyer, have had marvelously lucky breaks. This is true of people on both sides of the broad Atlantic; so the tree must be very powerful.

If one wishes to approach this thing gently, smaller pieces may be obtained for lesser sums. No mention of whether or not the luck of the receiver is governed by the size of the piece of cork.

Now all this is fine, in a way. These things which amount to, poor amazing amounts of money into the post office coffers.

But they make us sore.

For a long time we tried keeping the stuff in some odd corner of the house and neither paying for it nor using it. We thought the senders would become discouraged and take us off the list as first class dead beats. But, hope runs high. They kept us on.

Now, we're trying a new tack. We mark it refused and give the poor hard working post man the job of lugging it right back where it came from.

If we think of it, we'll let you know in a year or so how this idea works.

Apparently, I have all the best

3 Pierce Blocks To Be Repaved
New pavement and curbs will be constructed this summer on Pierce street from Brown south to Lincoln, the city commission has agreed.

One of the city's first paved streets installed in 1924 under past streets, the \$40,000, cork replacement will be borne by the city-at-large.

Members of Boy Scout Troop B-4 met Monday night in the Adams School gym to discuss plans for the last "camp out" of the season at Lapeer.

A demonstration was given by the scout master on self-treatment in emergency first aid situations. The meeting ended with a competitive game period.

To Re-Establish Observer Post
Re-establishment of the local ground observers post atop Baldwin School gymnasium is being made possible by the Birmingham city commission.

It has approved expenditure of \$200 for certain heating and heating improvements to the rooftop observer post.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Arbitrary governmental power is something for which the American people ever must be on the watch. Whatever its form, it should be rooted out and killed if we are to continue to enjoy the maximum of personal freedom.

One stronghold which never has been stormed is the U.S. Post Office department, which reserves the right to forbid the mails to any publication it thinks likely to corrupt morals.

This has led to ban many books that are sold freely in any bookstore.

A recent case in point was the temporary banning of a well-known play by the Greek comic dramatist, Aristophanes, one of the world's great authors. Postal authorities said the volume couldn't be mailed to a California book dealer. A court subsequently ruled that the book could be mailed.

The customs house used to do things like this. Since 1934, the U.S. Treasury department has relied on a special adviser, Huntington Cairns, a Baltimore lawyer with a wide knowledge of literature and a sane outlook.

Cairns examines cases where exclusion is proposed. If in doubt, he consults authorities and book reviews. His judgments consequently generally are respected.

It is unfortunate that people like Cairns do not grow on every bush. But the post office department might do well to find one. Otherwise, it may discover itself quite a customer of courts.

things in life, for I, too, help myself liberally to those things labelled "Free." However, from the bills that keep coming in, someone in my family continually is bringing home stuff which is less than the best.

Owners of new cars immediately acquire two problems—how to pay for the vehicle and where to park it.

The federal government's house-keeping agency—the General Services administration—announced this week it is getting rid of a 90-mile high stack of unnecessary government records.

I second the notion. Unless, of course, they want me to dispose of my first grade report card and receipt for my first pair of long trousers.

In this busy world, everyone is challenged to get somewhere. It certainly helps to know where you are going so you can tell when you have arrived.

Sizable rate reductions have been granted by insurance companies to young women drivers. This indicates women have become safer drivers—or a woman now is figuring out the rates.

An American group reportedly is planning to climb Lhotse in the Himalayas. Such a trip is not for me. I'm even scared to pronounce it.

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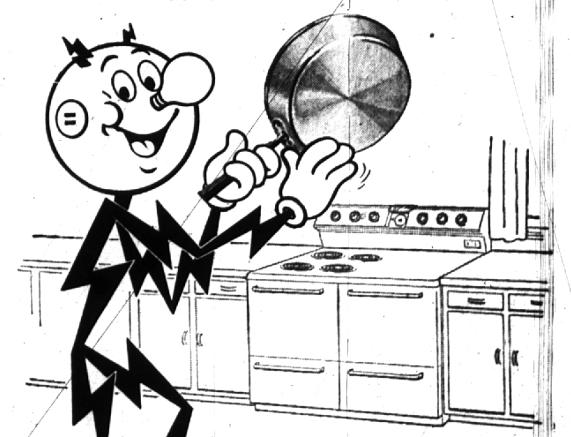
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Happenings of Long Ago

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
March 31, 1905
"The township board of Farmington has decided to use a voting machine at the coming township election."

"C. H. Hoffman and Neenan T. Shaw are pitted against each other for school inspector in the coming election and what those two fellows say to each other when they meet, would make a horse laugh."

"One of the most pleasant social functions of the season took place last Friday evening. About 40 friends of Mr. and Mrs. George Dawson gathered at their home in Troy township and the evening was passed most pleasantly. Pedro, dancing and a fine lunch helped to while away the time in a manner most pleasing to all."

During the absence of the family last Sunday a tramp broke into Amos' house a mile north of this village. He gorged himself on pie and other good things, and then set upon to meditate over the cruelty of fate. During his reverie he espied a pair of shoes belonging to Amos and as his own were sadly dilapidated, he decided to exchange. He took the other shoes off and it dawned on him that a nice clean pair of stockings would be a valuable addition to his wardrobe. He looked around the premises and decided on a pair belonging to Amos. He slipped them on, and took along an extra pair for a change. He quickly disappeared from the scene and effort to find him and bring him to justice have proved unavailing.

15 YEARS AGO
March 28, 1940
The Lutheran church is the youngest of any denomination in the city. Its work dates back to the fall of 1924, when, as the result of a survey conducted by the Detroit Pastoral Conference, the field was considered a likely one for the establishment of a Lutheran church. In September of that year, the Rev. L. A. Schuessler was called to establish and organize a congregation.

Winner of the fifth grade spelling bee at Barnum last Friday was Ruth Kadell, 788 Pierce, whose lucky word was absent. Sixth grade champion was Phyllis Jones of 588 Purdy, twice winner and her word was continue.

A first division rating in playing and sight reading was given to the Baldwin high school band last Saturday at the seventh annual Southeastern Michigan Band and Orchestra Festival in Grosse Pointe.



"If Congress had to pay their per capita share of the national debt out of their own pockets, they'd go slower about increasing it!"

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Meet Your Michigan

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?
THE DEAD BURN, NORTH OF BIRMINGHAM WAS FIRST Mined BY BIRMINGHAM "COMBINATION"
A BIRMINGHAM ATTRACTION FOR TOURISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD
AGENTS TRANSLATED THIS "MINE" INTO "MONEY" AND THE ENGLISH LATER DISCOVERED IT TO BE DEAD BURN.

SEVENHILLS CITY:
THE TOWN OF CHENOAIC ACTUALLY WAS THE SEVENHILLS (THE SEVENHILLS).
ERECTED IN 1871 WAS ONE OF THE FIRST IN THE STATE AND NOWHERE MORE COMPLETELY ABANDONED THAN THIS PLACE. LATER IT BECAME THE TOWN OF CHENOAIC.

ROCKWELL FENCE:
THIS AUTHENTIC BIRMINGHAM FENCE PROVIDES A BIRMINGHAM ATTRACTION FOR TOURISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD
AGENTS TRANSLATED THIS "FENCE" INTO "MONEY" AND THE ENGLISH LATER DISCOVERED IT TO BE ROCKWELL FENCE.

The Old TIMER

"If Congress had to pay their per capita share of the national debt out of their own pockets, they'd go slower about increasing it!"