

Too Many Assumptions Permit Rink Costs to Climb

How Birmingham's city commission could "lose" a multi-thousand dollar building is difficult to understand.

But that's what has been admitted by Mayor Charles Renfrew, speaking for the commission.

To be more specific, he said the commission failed to inform itself fully enough, and thus did not direct closely enough, the artificial skating rink now under construction at Eton park.

Costs, the commission had discovered, have risen from an original \$140,000 until now they are at \$175,000.

IT SHOULD BE STRESSED commissioners are not surprised at the ultimate cost. It is just that they thought they were going to get an ice rink this year, then possibly in a year or two add the real "warming room", or place where skates could be changed, some food could be purchased, and mothers and fathers stay a few moments while Junior finished his final lap around the rink.

Instead, the warming room (complete with fireplace) has been worked into the plan and the contractor right now is building it.

We have taken considerable time to talk with a number of persons connected directly or indirectly with this project. To

us, it certainly does look like a lack of direction.

BROKEN LEGS, RESIGNATIONS, other city business, assumptions—these and other things are mixed up to the point that trying to decide how, and who, and why is extremely difficult to pin down. No two opinions are exactly the same.

Sort of reminds us of the "Maple Bridge Mixup" of several years ago.

It concerned the new bridge over the Rouge, for which voters approved a bond issue. The public ultimately learned the bonds paid only for the bridge, but not the approaches. The city had assumed the public knew more money would have to be spent on the approaches.

LACK OF SUFFICIENT communication, of course. Too many assumptions. Like in today's ice rink project—not enough intercommunication, hence lack of adequate direction.

Because such situations can happen, it takes increased effort to see that they shouldn't—or don't.

Assumptions are dangerous to make or to hold.

We only can suggest that instead, one take no chances. Pass along information just in case. Most times, it will be new enough to have merited the effort.

Have Your Contribution Ready the First Time

Next Tuesday, the Detroit metropolitan area will launch its sixth consecutive "Once for All" campaign.

Thousands of United Foundation volunteers will be contacting business and residences on behalf of more than 150 organizations which contribute to the welfare of our community.

The Detroit goal is slightly more than \$14 million. For Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin, a contribution of \$200,485 must be realized.

WE IN THIS AREA always have ex-

ceeded our quota, so it is reasonable to expect we shall do it for the sixth time. Only improvement we could suggest is that we obtain our quota faster than we ever have done.

That would mean you should make call-backs unnecessary for the volunteer who contacts you. Why can't we all decide now to give at once? Sort of like an "at once for all" campaign?

Sounds good, doesn't it?

Then let's make it good.
For the good of all.

Free Elections Basis of Freedom

Freedom's only support stems from the ability of men and women in a nation to choose, through free elections, by secret balloting, the people who will govern them.

Until Russia, Red China, and all other currently despotically-controlled nations are given these freedoms, only enslaved populations will exist in them.

This right to choose rulers is the only guarantee for freedom's security anywhere on this earth. Until Russia, Red China and all, obtain this freedom, all the "sweet talk" of their leaders is mere hogwash.

We in the good old U.S.A. ought never to forget this fact!

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Concerted effort on the part of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield township to improve the quality and drivability of Quanton road, west of Woodward, are to be encouraged. It took some years to get the county to move on the portion east between Adams and Woodward. It is to be hoped the county will not take as long to fix up the western leg. After all, that (whatever its condition) is in existence. The other wasn't. Shouldn't that make some difference in getting the current project done maybe a couple of years earlier?

Little did that Indian maiden know, in Saratoga, in 1863, when she dropped a sliver of potato into boiling fat and discovered the potato chip, what she was

going to let this generation in for. Twelve per cent of all potatoes sold for food in 1934 went into chips. We could do with fewer in younger hands at movies.

The average infant is 20 inches long at birth, smiles at four weeks, has first tooth at seven months, says first word at ten months . . . and during all this time is considered "lovely, cute, etc." (Thereafter he begins to find out what kind of a world he was brought into, and continues his howling.)

The federal household of this nation is so filled with bureaus and bureaucracies that there is little room left for furniture more restful for the tired taxpayers.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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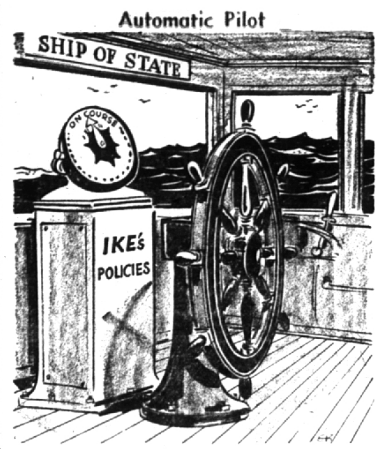
Meet Your Michigan

UNIQUE AGENCY: THE MICHIGAN TOURIST COUNCIL, INCORPORATED IN 1925, IS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION OF ITS KIND IN THE U.S. IT IS COMPOSED OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCIES. THROUGH THE MICHIGAN TOURIST COUNCIL, INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCIES ARE Brought into closer contact with the tourist trade.

30 YEARS AGO
Oct. 9, 1925
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HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

It's started. The first meeting to plan the coming Halloween celebration was held Tuesday afternoon. The customary school, city, organizational and business representatives went over plans, turning some down, accepting some, and revising others.

The main idea is "Give the kids as much fun as we can for the money we can raise." Their excitement spread to adults and the whole town reflected the gala spirit that gripped them.

Then there were the costumes. The section around Baldwin and Hill schools looked like a scene from New Orleans at Mardi Gras time.

There were all kinds, from the usual ghosts and goblins to some very ornate and original jobs involving mechanical men, fancy dress, flowers, animals, and even household furnishings.

In spite of the cold, everyone was gay. Youngsters dashed here and there (some costumes permitting) around trying to see everything at once.

FINALLY the band struck up and the parade began to move. Our greatest piece of amusement was still to come—the food line.

Great long tables were loaded with sandwiches and cups of fresh cider. A glance convinced us that there was enough food there to feed four times as many children. Half an hour after the parade

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

When the Birmingham municipal building is remodeled, the second floor city commission room undoubtedly will get an overhauling, too.

Top officials have considered the possibility and advantages of changing its location to maybe the main floor where the fire department used to keep its trucks.

However, this has all but been rejected on the basis that while the first floor location would permit many more citizens to attend Monday night meetings, such area is more vitally needed for other city functions.

New lighting, better acoustics, raised platform for the commission, a screen and projector for maps—these and other improvements are being carefully considered.

While this revamping is being studied, Commissioner Florence Willett would like to see if an elevator can be worked in.

"Especially if we can't get all the most-frequented offices on the first floor," she emphasizes.

Do you like driving your 1935 model car over a 1935 model road? Maybe you should tell your state representative about it. Perhaps he can think of some way to help.

Several weeks ago there found its way to our desk a copy of the Tankhannock (Pa.) Republican and New Age.

Tunkhannock, with its 2,100 population, is along the Susquehanna River, 26 miles northwest of Scranton.

Like The Eccentric, The New Age has its correspondents. They write from such picturesque sounding communities like Carney Flat, Nimble, Farr Hollow, Folkston, Meshoppen and Lynn (how did that last one get in?).

We thought we'd reprint the column by the correspondent from Briar Ridge, who

seemed to be especially observant that week.

HERE IT IS (managing editors can't hardly get this kind of reporting no more):

"One of Meshoppen's fine old girls who was given up for lost returned home last week. There were several rumors. One was that she had been kidnapped by an admiring boy from Lawton, but she just took a plane and went out to the middle west to see some relatives.

"She came back by car, and reports it was some sight to see some of the corn fields they came through. There are very few good pieces around here.

"Jerome Makaker, of Dickson City, called on the Mayor one day last week. They were callers at the blonds' camp.

"Alberta Truesdale and Linda LaFrance, of Meshoppen, attended Queen's Day at the blonds' summer camp on the Scenic Route. The queen wasn't chosen as the judges failed to arrive at a decision.

"Some said it was because there was no law protection, as the Mayor was attending a christening in Binghamton and you never know what is on the minds of those blond waves. They can be deceitful, cruel and unkind. They decided to hold it at a later date when the Mayor and Chief Ray can be there with the law.

"Mrs. Overbeck and children returned to New York Sunday after spending a week on the Scenic Route.

"Our mail man has been missing for three weeks. If he don't show up soon, his friends are going to get a search warrant and search all the blond waves' hide outs. He is too fine a man to be carried off and nothing done about it. This is just the time of year when blonds are the most vicious."

So help us, that's what went on in Briar Ridge that week, as reported by The New Age.

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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 Today.

50 YEARS AGO
Oct. 11, 1905
Mrs. Forest S. Rose of Pontiac, was severely injured by a lamp falling into her lap. It then fell to the floor and exploded. By rolling over with the lamp and the fire of rage that her mother, Mrs. Harper, hastily applied, the fire extinguished. Both ladies suffered very much.

The frosts of two weeks ago did great damage to the tomato crops in Oakland County. Thousands of plants were not maturing and the frost stopped further growth. Those that matured will ripen, but the rest will stay as they were when the frost struck them.

A bounty of three cents per head for sparrows is contemplated owing to their surprising increase. They are to be killed from Nov. 1 to March 1, with a fine imposed for killing them any other time.

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As the only Birmingham member of the Historical Memorial Society of Detroit, Mrs. Henry Riley Fuller of the "Chalet" North Woodward avenue, was the only guest from this section at a luncheon for the society last Friday. The members were guests of Mrs. Truman H. Newberry at her charming home in Grosse Pointe Farm.

15 YEARS AGO
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The Old TIMER

"If you want to keep out of the spotlight, try getting upstage with your friends!"

WASHDAY is child's play
...she has an ELECTRIC DRYER

Be wise! Live Electrically!

And that makes the toughest part of washday easy as playing with little Susie's toys. In goes the wet wash—out comes the dry laundry, sparkling clean and sweet smelling. No baskets of heavy wet wash to lug up the stairs, no weather worries, either. Line drying was never like this!

You'll love the carefree way you can whisk through washday—thanks to an electric clothes dryer.

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