

'Permit Executives to Serve in State Legislature', Retiring Solon Asks of Business and Industry

Although he will have served his district for a little more than a year, Birmingham's Richard C. Van Dusen spent enough time in Lansing to note that business and industry—at the management level—was poorly represented at best.

In this special two-part article written at the Birmingham Eccentric's request, Van Dusen recommends business and industry encourage their young executives to serve a term or two in the state senate or house of representatives. The state, the executive and the business all would benefit by this practice. Van Dusen declares.

Here is the first of Van Dusen's two articles:

By RICHARD C. VAN DUSEN
Representative, 3rd District, Oakland County

How does a member of the legislature spend his time? How does one get elected? How about the hours and the pay? What kind of people are legislators? These are questions I have been asked with some frequency.

Let me make one thing clear at the outset: membership in the legislature is an important job. The legislature decides how much you and I will pay in taxes. It has the power to say what state highways will be built, and whether they shall be toll-roads or free roads.

It decides what powers the city of Birmingham can exercise, including such details as the hours of work for firemen. It divides millions of dollars among the various school districts of the state, and thus determines to a considerable degree the budgets of the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills school boards.

It decides when the deer season shall begin and end, and whether Michigan Solon shall be called a "collegiate" or a "university." It determines the penalties for crimes, and decides whether Michigan should have a speed limit. It raises and spends over \$700,000,000 per year.

THE DIVERSITY of its decisions and the importance of some of them are obvious. Not so obvious, but equally important, is that even the "minor" laws vitally affect many of Michigan's citizens. Because its decisions are so far

reaching, membership in the legislature is one of the outstanding opportunities in public service today.

What kind of men make these decisions? There are 110 members of the House and 34 Senators. In the House there are upwards of 30 small businessmen, including merchants, real estate brokers, manufacturers agents, and insurance men; there are 17 lawyers, 18 farmers, and 14 employees of local units of government; there are 10 full-time employees of labor unions.

THE REMAINDER have diversified backgrounds, there being, among others, one teacher, one manufacturer, a few salesmen, a carpenter, a miner, an electrician, a railroad claims agent, two machinists and one housewife.

Of the 34 Senators 13 are lawyers, 8 sell real estate and 4 are insurance. There is one salesman, one public relations man for a small college, one contractor, one retired publisher and one boiler-maker.

The one occupation singularly absent is "corporate executive." There are some, to be sure, among the small businessmen, but only one of them employs or supervises more than a handful of men. Only a few of the lawyers represent large corporate clients.

ALMOST NO ONE in either house of the Michigan legislature brings to this important branch of state government the background and experience of management.

I am not arguing here for a government in which management and labor, farmer and merchant are equally represented. After all, legislators should represent communities of constituents, not employers or trade groups.

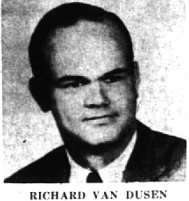
The fact remains, however, that while farmers and labor unions, even county and city governments, are represented in abundance, our largest businesses, paying millions of dollars annually in taxes, seem to have been unable to spare anyone to run for the legislature.

IN TALKING with potential candidates, I have become convinced that the lack of business representation is business' own fault.

"Can't spare the time," "Would lose my chance for promotion," "He's too valuable, we can't spare him," "Can't afford it" are the usual excuses.

It should be obvious that management has a sufficient stake in government to want articulate spokesmen for its point of view in positions of responsibility.

In next week's article, I hope to show that the experience as a member of the legislature can be sufficiently valuable to the member, and that his value to his employer will increase sufficiently as the result of that experience, to render these typical excuses invalid.



RICHARD VAN DUSEN

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1956 42 PAGES SECTION ONE

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

Physically speaking, perhaps man has been given dominion over the inanimate earth—but certainly not including the people who populate it. Human beings are, according to God's plan, born to attain freedom, when they support this decree with intelligence enough, only then can they become free.

79TH YEAR—NO. 13

THIS and THAT

By George R. Averill

Ever Observe How Beaver Work On Their Dam Plans?

Ever have the opportunity to watch how beavers build their dams across rivers and small streams?

Up near Manistee, Mich., at a cabin owned by myself and the Ludington newspaper publisher, H. P. Furstenau, we were recently concerned with beavers and their dam construction.

On our property is a small lake, whose inlet is a small creek, and whose outlet runs into the Little Manistee River, about four miles away.

For the past four years beaver have built and maintained a dam between the upper reaches of the inlet. Of course, the original beaver trail has increased annually.

THIS YEAR, apparently, some of the twined logs used to look over the outlet to our little stream. So, about six weeks ago, they began the original beaver trail in tearing out this dam. Were it left constructed, it would hold back the small stream's overflow, submerge our dock, etc.

Every morning, after our efforts to tear out all or part of the dam, we find the dam restored, or on the way to restoration. During the night, when the beaver branches off adjacent trees and large bushes and push them, butt, butt, down-stream.

ANCHORED in stream bed. (See THIS & THAT, pg. 2, Sec. 1.)

INSIDE THE ECCENTRIC

League Track Title led by Birmingham Section 5, Page 6

Lathrup Accepts \$95,000 Paving Bid Section 5, Page 1

Photo Page Section 4, Page 1

Honors Awarded to RHS Seniors Section 6, Page 5

50 Years Ago... Today Section 2, Page 1

Section Page

Amusements	5
Bits of Birmingham	1
Business Briefs	4, 2, 3, 4
Church	4, 6, 7
Correspondents:	
Beckwith	5
Bloomfield Village	3
East Beverly	5
Franklin	5
Gilbert Lake	3
Graefield-Derby	7
Lathrup Village	5
North Adams	3
Orchard Hills	5
Valley Woods	5
Walnut Lake	5
West Beverly	5
Wing Lake-Hercroft	5
Down to Earth	4
Nature Now	4
Round the Towns	5
School	6, 5
Women's News	2, 3, 4, 5
Theaters	3, 7
Want Ads	1, 4, 9



ELAINE PARNIE



MARY LOU MARSH



WILLIAM SPENCE

1 Troy Twp. Annexation Fails, 3 Others Pass

Troy township, a 35-mile square area only six months ago, almost doesn't exist today—especially after Tuesday's special election which saw three scattered chunks annexed to adjoining cities.

Birmingham acquired a small parcel on Adams road, south of Maple, another at the northeast corner of Woodward and 14 Mile.

City of Troy obtained a several-mile-square piece at its northeast, but a tie 2-2 vote in a northwest area means that it won't be annexed at this time.

Annexations will be effective July 5.

BY AREA AND PROPOSITION, the votes were: Birmingham—249 yes, 18 no on the Adams road parcel; 251 yes, 18 no on the 14 Mile-Woodward parcel. Total Birmingham votes cast were 269.

City of Troy—109 yes, 31 no on the northeast parcel; 420 yes, 29 no on the northwest parcel.

Votes in each area to be annexed: Adams road parcel, 2 yes, 0 no; 14 Mile-Woodward parcel, 2 yes, 0 no; northeast of Troy parcel, 41 yes, 9 no; northwest of Troy parcel, 2 yes, 0 no.

Troy city voters also approved purchase of the township's water system, 402 to 46.



EXPLORER SCOUTS from Southfield's Troop S-3 pull up the flag signaling the start of the annual district one camporee for scouts and explorers at Kensington park last weekend. Nearly 2,000 scouts from the area north of 8 Mile road participated in the campout and in competitive contests. A tent city sprang up overnight to house the boys and their leaders.

Final Budget Huddle; Hearing Is Next Monday

Several budget items—including whether to add any more policemen—all must be decided upon by Birmingham city commission before next Monday night's deadline on adoption of the city's 1956-57 budget.

Commissioners hope for a Saturday morning session, but absence of several members may force them to convene at another time.

Public library board members have asked for a last-minute recapitulation of a three-hour session several weeks ago at which next year's library financial needs were given in detail.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley has recommended that up to four more officers be added to his present complement of 28.

Tentative budget considerations have ranged between a minimum of \$1,495,143.55 and maximum of \$1,667,123.

Volunteer Fireman Goes Off Duty After 28 Years

Eugene Allen, who retired Friday after serving the Birmingham volunteer fire department, was honored Monday night by the city commission.

On behalf of the city, Mayor James C. Allen gave Eugene Allen, his second cousin, a gold wrist watch, on the back of which was engraved: "In recognition of service in Birmingham Volunteer Fire Department 1928-1956." Jim's grandfather was the brother of Eugene's mother.

Allen, 60, is a life long Birmingham resident. A General Motors research staff toolmaker, he lived at 469 Townsend. He joined the volunteer department on March 10, 1928.

Mayor Allen said "On behalf of the City of Birmingham, the city commission, the administrative officers, and all its citizens, we express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for faithful service in our part-paid department for more than 28 years. We hope you will continue to maintain an active interest in this organization."

Number of Trash Cans Is Tripled

The ward's out: "Clean it up." Birmingham city commission this week bought 24 new waste-paper containers which are going to be placed strategically in the downtown business area.

For the past several years, the city has struggled along on an old, tight-widely-scattered containers.

All makes of inner spring containers required. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, Dist. '56, and ask for EPPENDORF 6319.

School Vote Monday for B of E Posts

From a field of three candidates, two of them incumbents, Birmingham school district voters next Monday, June 11, will choose two persons for four-year terms on their board of education.

Seeking re-election are Mrs. Alec (Elaine) Parnie, 50, of 693 N. Glenhurst, Birmingham, and William Spence, 47, of 30523 Greenfield, Southfield township. Newcomer to local politics, Mrs. Marvin (Mary Lou) Marsh, 30, of 16264 Beechwood, Southfield township, also seeks one of the two B of E seats.

POLLS WILL BE open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the election, which is expected to be tight. Lack of any local issue—financial, educational or political—will keep down the number of voters.

Mrs. Parnie, who has two children in school here, belongs to the AAUW, Friends of the Library, PTA, and Village Players.

Mrs. Marsh, mother of two preschool children, is an AAUW member, and belongs to the Beverly Hills garden club.

Spence's two children are out of high school, and he is a past district governor of Lions clubs and member of the Birmingham recreation board.

Quiet Election Set For B'ad Hills

It will be a very quiet election at Bloomfield Hills school board but the only proposal will cause some nostalgic sentiments among the old-timers.

Up for reelection to the five-man school board is incumbent David W. Lee, who is running for his third term. He is unopposed by this election.

The proposal before the voters is in regard to the sale of the 70-year old school building, the Pine Lake school. This one-room school house is located at the corner of West Long Lake road and Middlebelt.

According to Eugene L. Johnson, superintendent of schools, the school is impractical for school purposes and should be sold.

The election will be held at the Vaughan school on Vaughan road between the hours of 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



PRESENTING THEIR newly-earned driver certificates to Chief Stanley Kevern at Bloomfield Hills police station are Mary Horton (left) and Ellen Guest. Their certificates are believed to be the first issued in this area under the new state law which requires completion of a driver training course before a driver's license can be issued to a 16 to 18-year-old. Mary, Ellen, and 16 other girls completed 30 hours of classroom work and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel training under instructor Arthur Tyrrell, of Pontiac. The course organized at the request of mothers of the Kingswood school girls by Mrs. Dexter Horton and Mrs. Clifford West. Classes were held at the Horton residence at 3 Country Club drive.

Recent apprehension of three Birmingham youths who have admitted blowing up a mailbox belonging to the William P. Williams at 1135 Southland brought to police attention that local boys are obtaining chemicals to make homemade bombs.

Police said the three 13 and 14-year-old boys also admitted placing a steel bomb in a window ledge at the John W. Jolley residence, 1068 Wakefield, last March 21.

LT. HENRY TIMM, Birmingham police juvenile officer, said the boys reported that they had exploded approximately 15 homemade bombs around a River Rouge bridge on Northlawn near the Birmingham country club.

"The boys have been getting chemicals with which to make explosives from drug stores, and their experiments with them could be extremely dangerous," Timm said. "Only recently a boy burned his hand in an experiment."

Timm said local druggists had been alerted to the situation, and that the pharmacies had promised their cooperation.

Shareholders to Vote On Merger of Banks

Plans to effect the merger of the Birmingham National Bank with The Detroit Bank are expected to be brought to official consideration this month. This action has been under consideration for a number of months.

Prior to the presentation of the purchase offer to the local bank's shareholders later this month, a stock dividend will be declared by the directors.

Directors of the Birmingham National Bank have held several discussions with Joseph M. Dodge, chairman of the board, and Raymond T. Perring, president, of The Detroit Bank.

Eventual disposition of the merger offer will be up to the shareholders themselves.

The total merger also includes the Fernalde National Bank and the Detroit Waback Bank & Trust Co.

A formal statement of the proposed merger will be published in The Birmingham Eccentric next week.



THE NATION'S POLIO EFFORT is \$4.70 richer this week after the latest effort of Beverly Manor's "Helping Hand Club." Saturday morning their club president Pamela Risdon's backyard drew 21 customers to the fish bowl, toy counter, haunted house (in the garage), and netted \$4.10. The previous Sunday their puppet show brought in another 60 cents, and this coming Saturday club secretary Donna Thorne is scheduled to put on an acrobatic show. Proceeds from all this will be sent to the national polio foundation. Lining up waiting for business Saturday were (from left) Pamela, 9, vice president Linda Stout, 9; Donna, 10; treasurer Christine Stout, 8; and publicity chairman Stephanie Risdon, 6.

3 Boys Admit Exploding of 15 'Bombs'

By JULIE CANDLER

He may be an atomic scientist or chemist of the future, but a boy with a chemistry set can endanger himself and others if not properly supervised.

Recent apprehension of three Birmingham youths who have admitted blowing up a mailbox belonging to the William P. Williams at 1135 Southland brought to police attention that local boys are obtaining chemicals to make homemade bombs.

Police said the three 13 and 14-year-old boys also admitted placing a steel bomb in a window ledge at the John W. Jolley residence, 1068 Wakefield, last March 21.

LT. HENRY TIMM, Birmingham police juvenile officer, said the boys reported that they had exploded approximately 15 homemade bombs around a River Rouge bridge on Northlawn near the Birmingham country club.

"The boys have been getting chemicals with which to make explosives from drug stores, and their experiments with them could be extremely dangerous," Timm said. "Only recently a boy burned his hand in an experiment."

Timm said local druggists had been alerted to the situation, and that the pharmacies had promised their cooperation.

STRICTLY FRESH

He who digs dandelions gets to the root of the argument for abolishing summer.

The "all expense—in the phrase "all expense-paid vacation" stands for all the expenses you must pay to fully enjoy your vacation.

During the carnival season, the difference between a hot dog and a frankfurter is usually about 25 cents.

Why do the people who are allergic to fresh air, always occupy the window seats on buses these hot summer days?

A horrendous mistake is how you define the trivial error you often find perpetuated by the other fellow.

