

Advisory Panel for Local Schools

Voters in the Birmingham school district June 10, contrary to the four previous bond issues, revealed a considerable increase in "No" votes. Although only a minority of eligible voters did cast ballots, the results showed that the \$6,800,000 school bond issue won by only 642 votes.

There were 2,380 "yes" votes, and 1,732 "no" votes.

The fact, too, that there came into existence an organized group of citizens opposed to the bond issue only points up the need for a strengthening of the relations between school authorities and the taxpayers.

THE RECENT LARGE BOND ISSUE added up to a total of \$22,200,000 which the taxpayers of the Birmingham school district have bonded themselves for since 1949 to meet the ever-increasing educational needs of this populous area. It is not a great surprise that the recent bond issue received such an increased negative vote.

People the nation over are reaching a state of near-tar rebellion. Unable to do much (they think) about lowering state and federal taxes, it is quite natural that they ultimately register their opposition to local bond issues.

All of which supports the need for an advisory panel, as emphasized recently by the very Citizens Committee on Education that prepared the supporting data for the presentation of the June 10 bond issue.

THIS COMMITTEE ADOPTED a resolution in which it strongly advised the creation of such an advisory panel. It's responsibility would be to investigate the variety of details relating to the complete expenditure of the taxpayers' money, whether for new schools, repairs to existing ones, and the general current operat-

ing spending of the district. Such a committee, which this newspaper heartily approves, should consist of local taxpayers recruited from various vocational pursuits, to the end that each would be a specialist in his or her field. This cross-section of knowledge, when applied to the district's operations, could serve as a strong intermediate element between the board of education, school officials, and the taxpayers.

In no sense it is to be expected that such a panel connotes a public criticism of school officials. Indeed, just as the school officials expect a Citizens Committee on Education to investigate school conditions and recommend whatever is needed to meet current problems, so can an advisory panel act as a practical and economical bridge.

WE ARE TOLD BY school officials, and the Citizens Committee, that within another year or two or three, the district again will ask the taxpayers to bond themselves for more money to build more schools. More than mere statistical proof of the need for another bond issue will be necessary to win approval for it, if taxpayer resistance continues to increase.

Selection of the suggested advisory panel membership is a very important assignment. To be a member of it, we believe, each should be a taxpayer in the school district. Small homeowners of modest means, as well as those better off, should be included. Recognized special abilities, plus an interest in the subject ought to be further qualifications.

In no sense should it be hand-picked by the board of education, obviously. Finally, if it is to enjoy public confidence, its members should feel perfectly free to make open suggestions and constructive criticisms in periodic reports to the taxpayers.

U.S. Merchant Marine Needs Subsidy

We Americans are justifiably proud of our world-beating wages and living standards. But these boons create special problems in enterprises which must compete for business with foreign concerns.

The American merchant marine is a particularly good example. It competes for cargos with the ships of many other maritime nations. But the cost of operating U. S. flagships is a great deal higher. For instance, in 1956 the total monthly wage costs of a C-2 cargo vessel operated under our flag was \$32,030. The same kind of ship could be operated at a monthly wage cost of \$8,878 by Denmark; \$6,206 by Japan, and \$8,848 by Norway—all of which have large and aggressive merchant marines. What is true of wages, is generally true of all other operating expenses—and ship construction costs as well.

This explains the long-established U. S. government policy of providing subsidies to American merchant ships, under very strict contracts. The subsidies are actually differential payments, to help make up for the great differences in the costs borne by our steamship companies as against those of their competitors.

AS THE PORTLAND OREGONIAN has said, "Government subsidy of private industry in justified to the extent that it helps preserve essential institutions for the common good." The newspaper goes on to show what steamship subsidies have accomplished. They have involved a net cost to the government of less than \$500 million since World War II.

In return, they have helped the merchant marine create 225,000 jobs, with an annual payroll of more than \$1 billion. They are giving us the big, modern merchant marine the national interest and security urgently require—the subsidized lines have about doubled their fleets since 1939.

These lines and their personnel, incidentally, have paid \$422 million in taxes since the war, which is the equivalent of 85 per cent of the net subsidy.

The subsidy idea no doubt is a necessary plan in the operation of certain segments of a nation's affairs, but only constant alertness to the dangers of predatory influences on the nation's treasury can prevent the invasion of corruption. We must never forget that we still live in an imperfect society."



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehee
Special Writer for The Birmingham Economic

Perfumer's Art Is An Ancient One

Flowers are the essence of summer. To many of us their fragrance is even more arresting than their beauty.

Elusive and unnamed, the magic of perfume early cast its spell over primitive man to become a part of his daily ritual, both carnal and religious. The ancients used a variety of perfumes to charm the living, to embalm the dead and to appease their Gods. Even wines were perfumed by the Egyptians. Incense and fragrant tapers were used in Christian worship since the baptism of Clovis in 486. Since the middle ages France and Italy have been leaders in what has become for them a national industry.

are all required in the preparation of natural perfumes. The product will vary with the age of the flowers, the amount used, the amount of moisture in the atmosphere when the flowers are picked as well as the process used in extracting the oils.

The simplest way to make perfume is to crush the plant material with alcohol making a tincture. This is successful with such plants as citron, orange and bergamot.

DISTILLATION is the method most commonly used with roses, thyme, roses and lavender. The fragrance of these essential oils is not destroyed by high temperatures and aqueous vapor.

The so-called "cold process" employs the absorption principle and is used in the manufacture of such delicate perfumes as jasmine and tuberose. In this method the flowers are placed over a stack of lardered plates. By a careful adjustment of the amount of flowers in relation to the oil plates most of the fragrance imparted to the lard is caught and held in the lard. The fragrant oil is then dissolved from the fat with such substances as alcohol, chloroform or ether, according to its volatility.

In the manufacture of extracts the flowers are treated with alcohol until the essence is removed. Rosewater and similar perfumes may be made by simply heating the fresh flowers in water and then distilling the infusion and adding sufficient alcohol to keep it from molding.

IN FRANCE many districts are famous for a special perfume. She also imports many tons of flowers from all over the world to augment her own supply.

The growing of flowers and plants for perfume is a comparatively new industry in the United States. But so great is the demand that millions of dollars worth of perfume and toilet water much of which is made from unfinished materials imported from France.

Perfumes may be natural or artificial. The former are made from animal or vegetable sources found in nature; the latter are synthetic and are made by combining chemicals.

Our grandmothers made natural perfumes by drying and treating rose petals and violets and combining them with a variety of spices and aromatic herbs and roots. All odor-bearing plants contain their fragrant principle in minute oil glands or sacs, some in the rind of the fruit (orange), some in the leaf (sage), some in wood (sandalwood), bark (cinamon) or seed (caraway). Each of these lend an essential oil of their own.

THE CELEBRATED perfumer Eugene Rimmel built his reputation upon the use of eighteen flowers. Five of these, rose, jasmine, orange, tuberose and violet yet lead the list of today's most popular flower perfumes.

Skill, experience and knowledge

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Some communities have tried the bargain-type parking fine: bring your ticket into police headquarters within two hours, or put it in the nearest "fine box" in the block, and get off with a 10-cent or quarter fine instead of the usual one buck.

A few communities still use this method. Some others have given it up as too expensive, from standpoints of both cost and a respect for the law.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSIONERS are talking over this reduced fine plan with Police Chief Ralph Moxley. He is recommending against it.

On second thought, maybe it'd be to his advantage to go along with this idea. Then he might be able to talk commissioners into setting up all our other ordinances along similar lines. You know, if you'll walk in and confess to speeding, or to stealing hubcaps, or to forging checks, you'll be let off with a bargain fine or sentence.

You know you'll get caught eventually. But think of the money—and the time—you could save this way!

It is the end-of-year baseball game between the 8th grade boys and their dads.

In the 1956 contest, the fathers eked out a 13-12 win. The sons were out to "get 'em" this year—and did. The boys

were on the long end of the 6-5 score. Winning pitcher was 12-year-old Frank Bemis. Shabbiness has no relationship to money.

If there are any Michigan State University alumni on Birmingham's city commission or city recreation board, they must be hanging their heads in shame over a recent action of their alma mammy.

Quite a few months ago, the recreation board recommended to the city commission that it not accept a retired iron horse, gift of the Grand Trunk Railroad, for installation in a remote corner of Eton park for the curious kids and adults.

City commissioners sided with the recreation board.

NOW COMES VENERABLE Michigan State University, which has accepted for display purposes a 265-ton steam locomotive and tender, gift of the Chesapeake & Ohio railway company.

Now stationed southeast of the football stadium, the locomotive "will be an attraction to many campus visitors including hundreds of school children who visit the campus each year," according to Dr. Rollin H. Baker, director of the MSU museum.

La Belles

- Swedish Crystal Royal Doulton and Royal Copenhagen Figurines
- Silver Antique and Modern Reproductions
- China Spode, Minton, Wedgwood
- Pictures
- Stainless Steel
- Trousseau and Table Linens
- Gifts of Rich Genuine Leather
- Georg Jensen Silver and Jewelry
- Crane's Stationery and Engraving
- Greeting Cards
- Books
- Furniture
- Lamps

BOOKS :: GIFTS

STATIONERY — ENGRAVING
137, W. MAPLE
NEW STORE HOURS:
Mon. thru Sat. — 9 AM - 5:30 PM

"Got some bad news last night. Our water heater sprung a leak."
"You ought to get a new electric heater. Gives you all the hot water you want—long lasting, too."



SOMETHING NEW IN ELECTRIC WATER HEATING!

- Only electric water heaters give you all these important advantages:
- ☑ Safest water heater built—flameless
 - ☑ Plenty of hot water—24 hours a day
 - ☑ Install anywhere—no flame, no fume
 - ☑ Efficient—no heat wasted up a flue
 - ☑ Cleanest—no soot, it's all-electric
 - ☑ Cool to the touch—top to bottom
 - ☑ Long lasting—built to rigid Edison standards
- They add up to the finest hot water service ever offered in Southeastern Michigan*
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From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Russia's Nikita Krushchev recently made an American TV appearance, promising the usual line of malarkey concerning world peace, live-and-let-live, etc., etc. We're glad that President Eisenhower has refused to seek similar time on the Kremlin's controlled TV network. After all, until Soviet leaders prove their good intentions by liberating their satellite neighbors, why should their promises mean anything substantial?

There are many in the U.S.A. who sincerely believe that if and when Uncle Sam ceases to tax heavily, and toss the dough around in numerous federal projects, that the nation's economy will tailspin into a depression, or recession. There also are many who believe otherwise. There is no question, though, that most Americans would like lower taxes—even many of those who advocate New and Fair Deal give-aways.

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Let's gamble this next round—loser's Dad pays!

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 28, 1907
"Miss Blanche Heth and Miss Florence A. Green, out driving to Wood Orchard Lake recently, took time enough to stop the pony and with the buggy-whip whipped an immense blue-racer to death. 'Brave girls.'"

"Any young man who wants to earn a little night money can make 35 cents per night by sleeping in the telephone office, and answering calls. See Mitchell."

"Birmingham's celebration of the Fourth to outshine everything ever before seen here. First there will be a band from Franklin. The business houses will be serenaded and you can spend your money until 11 o'clock when there will be a dinner and general old-fashioned visit in Willets Park, opposite the power house. The exercises will start at 1 o'clock, when the chairman of the day, Lime Reynolds, of Vontier, will call the crowd to gether."

30 YEARS AGO
June 30, 1927
"New Essex Super-six car—larger, finer, and more powerful—are announced by Hudson Motor Car Co. They are now on display at Roughter Bros. Hudson Essex dealers."

This unexpected announcement embodies one of the dramatic automobile stories of the year. Since the Essex Super-six was first introduced this year the demand has been continuously ahead of the number which Hudson could manufacture, notwithstanding the largest schedule of cars in its history was steadily maintained."

"The smart woman of today carries luggage de luxe on her travels. There is a new kind of trunk which holds only lingerie, another for hats, and a trunk which carries 36 separate labeled boxes for shoes."

"No public celebration will be held in Birmingham July 4 according to announcement made today by village officials. A proposal for an appropriation for fire works was turned down by the village commission and any celebration will be of a private nature."

15 YEARS AGO
June 25, 1942
"In a nearby town, a single man married a widow with four children and asked to be reclassified out of I-A. 'Nothing doing,' the draft board said. 'Anybody brave enough to do that is the kind needed in the army.'"

"Birmingham has yet to attain complete success in its blackout efforts, for last night, air raid wardens reported fourteen places where lights remained burning."
Most glaring omission was a red neon sign in the Photographic shop, on Woodward avenue, so bright that from the air it could have been seen miles away. If plane announced earlier in the week are carried out, each of the persons responsible for lights will be taken to court, whether or not the act was wilful."

"A patent has been issued to Earl A. Thompson for gear changing device with automatic over-drive. Thompson is a research engineer for General Motors and lives on Dunston road."