

Background Data On Next Monday's B'ham School Vote

WHAT IS THE DATE of this Birmingham school district election? It is next Monday, June 10th. WHAT ARE we voting on? Two things: first, to elect a four-year term on the board of education; secondly, whether we desire the board of education to issue \$6.8 million in bonds to finance some new school buildings.

WHERE DO WE vote? At your school district precinct's polling place. A list of these precincts and their location is contained in two school board advertisements, one on page 1-D and the other on page 4-F of this issue. HOW LONG are the polls open? From 7 a. m. to 8 p. m. WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES, where do they live, and what do they do for a living?

There are these six candidates, only one of which will be elected: Paul E. Sablin, 45, 120 Westchesterway, Birmingham, a sales representative for the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad; Bennett Root, 40, of 1741 Bradford, Birmingham, manager of electronic data-processing methods for U. S. Rubber; Donald R. Borgeson, 34, of 16015 Birwood, Southfield township, a Pontiac manufacturer; George J. Pulkrantz, 30, of 8011 Middleburg, Bloomfield township, a Pontiac attorney; Malcolm Lovell, 26, of 2748 Amberly, Bloomfield Village, manager of training and employe services for Edsel division of Ford Motor Co.; Harry T. O'Connor, 48, of 1315 Lyonshurst, Birmingham, a vice president of Holly Carborator, Detroit.

HOW IS THE MONEY going to be spent? \$1,030,000 for a 20-class elementary school in the developing residential south of Maple and West Cranford roads; \$4,900,000 for a six-story building for a 1,500-student junior-senior high school, complete with parking lot, swimming pool, land-scaping and other facilities; \$225,000 for rehabilitation of Baldwin elementary school at Maple and Chester, Birmingham; \$250,000 for a service building and repair garage at Lincoln and Eton; and \$395,000 for contingencies as this construction program is developed.

WHAT WAS TOTAL TAX LEVY prior to voters' approval of 6 mills in special election March 25, 1957? Prior to this special election, the levy included 9.32 mills of normal operating levy, 1.5 mills of special operating levy, and 8.5 mills for debt service, for a total 1956 school millage of 21.32.

WHAT WILL BE the Birmingham school district's 1957 total tax millage? This is not determined until late in the summer, following action of the county board of supervisors in setting up their and township's share of the 15-mill limitation. It is known, however, that the March 25 election authorized the school's special operating levy to be increased to 2.5 mills, to a total of 6 mills, compared to 3.5 for the previous year.

IF VOTERS APPROVE the proposed \$6.8 bond issue, how much, any, and when, will the tax rate have to be increased? The debt service millage, which has been at the equivalent of 8.5 mills for the past four years, will not have to be increased. The normal operating levy will be paid off within the 6.8-mill present debt levy. This chart may illustrate this more clearly:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include 'Normal operating levy', 'Special operating levy', 'Debt service', and 'Total millage'.

Also, these new buildings naturally will mean more money must be expended for teachers, heat, light, etc., to operate them. These additional operating costs may be financed at no additional tax millage increase if property valuations in the school district continue to rise as they have in the past. If valuations do not increase at a normal rate, the additional staffs, etc., will have to be paid out of the tax rate increased to provide the normal educational facilities.

ASSUMING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT continues to increase in school population as it has been doing, how long before another school bond issue will have to be considered? It appears that at least two more elementary school buildings will have to be added about 1960.

WILL IT BE NECESSARY to increase the tax rate to provide money for constructing these buildings? At this time, it is most difficult to determine this with any definiteness. The previous bond issue, and the one which is proposed, did not necessitate an increase—if that knowledge is any assistance.

SEAHOLM ENDORSES Bennett Root For B of E Post. In an unusual public endorsement of the Birmingham school board election this week asked voters to elect Bennett Root, one of the younger candidates, as his successor next Monday.

Retirement of President Ernest W. Seaholm created the vacant four-year term which Root and five other men are seeking. Seaholm, a Board of Education member for 18 years and president for the last 10 years, called the 40-year-old Root "the logical candidate."

THE VETERAN board member expressed gratification that so many candidates were running for the office. He termed all of them qualified, but said: "Root is the one to elect."

"I think it is time for a fresh mind to sweep in, a younger man," he said. "Ben Root possesses all these qualities. He has been in the school system for this office for six years. He is an extremely serious young man who has a background of public service and training. This is a big business job. Last year we handed out \$6,800,000 authorization."

COST OF the program is \$2,125,000. (See SEAHOLM, Page 4-A) (See APPEAL, Page 4-A)

'Main Schools are Cut Half-Price' Child Reaches Curb, Thanks to Good Driver

Howard R. Estes, State Rep. Nine Years, Dies at 62. Howard R. Estes, 62-years-old, former member of the state legislature and for the past four years business manager of the Oakland county convalescent hospital and infirmary, died suddenly in his sleep Saturday at his residence, 492 Riverdale, Birmingham.

Mr. Estes was born in Alpena July 10, 1894, and was a 1917 graduate of Michigan State university. He was a member of Christ Church, Cranbrook. Mr. Estes, who married Marjorie Postle in Flint Sept. 19, 1920, was a state representative for nine years, resigning from the legislature four years ago. Frequent to his service in Lansing he served on the Birmingham city commission.

A resident of Birmingham 24 years, he came here from White Plains, N. Y. In the past he has with the research lab. of the National Lodge of Alpena, and three grandsons. He was a lieutenant in the infantry in World War I.

He is survived by his wife; a son, Howard P., of Troy; a brother, Robert, of Alpena; and three grandchildren. Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2 p. m. at the Chapel of St. Charles at Brookwood with burial in White Chapel.

Irland Criticizes Methods. Birmingham school district's operation next week faces an arbitrary \$90,000 cut because the Oakland county board of supervisors plans to add an equivalent amount—obtained from school district taxpayers via their county tax—to the kitty for the forthcoming construction of a new county building on Telegraph road at Pontiac's western city limits.

That was the essence of a special letter which Sup't of Schools Dwight B. Ireland sent to the board of education this week, and which he made public yesterday.

THE LETTER briefed the board on the appearance of Ireland and other county school superintendents before the county tax allocation board last week. Ireland wrote the local board: "The local picture is, discarding the \$92 mills which were received (this year) within the 15-mill limitation, has been reduced to 8.8 mills (for next year), a loss of 51 mills."

"In other words, before we have had our first collection of 6 mills (of special operating levy) the 15-mill limitation (just last March) we have lost 5 1/2 mill."

"BUDGETARILY, we can get through, but the loss will be a permanent loss and the effect next year and the year after will be more serious."

He told The Eccentric yesterday that this action of the county will deprive the Birmingham district of \$90,000 of its working capital, which he has used to buy fall school supplies the April before.

"Now that fund will be reduced by that amount next year, and in following years we have to borrow just that much more in tax and anticipation notes, thus carrying more each year in interest," Ireland explained.

Ireland said the schoolmen last week reminded the tax allocation board that the people twice have turned down bonds for the proposed county building.

"The county officials have decided to build a new county building anyway by converting budget surpluses to the building fund," the letter continued.

"THIS SURPLUS has averaged five or six per cent per year. By this means, plus the sale of certain properties held by the county of Oakland, they have \$2 million in their budget if the county did."

(A Pontiac citizens group has instituted legal proceedings to halt this county building fund accumulation via the "surplus method.") Ireland declared that the trend seems to be to force schools to get their operating funds outside the 15-mill limitation which is being taken over by the county and the townships.

"IT IS UNFAIR" for the schools to go to the people consistently for money, he said. By this he means that the portion of the 15-mill limitation he can use, and he doesn't know what state or county he will state as Ireland emphasized.

He also called for state legislative action which would "clarify the means for the operation of public schools."

HE EXPLAINED that presently a school superintendent by law must file a budget early in April, but is denied the information required to perform this task intelligently.

James Shepherd, (left) held in the knife-slashing of his school-teacher wife, is accompanied by Detective Lt. Merlin Holmquist for his arraignment Friday in municipal court.

June 19 Hearing Set In Shepherd Murder

As a shocked community pondered accounts of a teacher's knife-slashing, James Shepherd was arraigned Friday before Judge John J. Gaflin in Birmingham municipal court.

Visibly nervous as he stood before the bench, the 36-year-old Shepherd heard his attorney David Pence demand examination, and a hearing set for 9 a. m. June 19 in municipal court. He continues to be held in Oakland county jail, without bond.

The once-dapper Shepherd wore a brown checkered sport coat crumpled brown gabardine slacks and a pink sport shirt. He had grown a heavy beard since being denied use of a razor after his suicide attempt two days before. Both his wrists were bandaged.

OKLAHOMA COUNTY Prosecutor J. D. McMillan had previously taken statements from the daughters of Betty Hutton Shepherd, in which the ten and 13-year-old girls said they saw him stab their mother in their home at 1509 Pierce on Monday of last week. Ziem said Shepherd will be charged with first degree murder. Both his wrists were bandaged.

U of D to Confer Honorary Degree On Allan Harlan

The University of Detroit will confer an honorary Doctor of Science degree on C. Allan Harlan at the 74th annual commencement Thursday, June 13.

Harlan, president of Harlan Electric Co., lives with his wife and seven children at 3535 N. Adams road. He is the chairman of the St. Lawrence Seaway Commission, head of the Detroit Educational Foundation, and director for the City Bank, Detroit Mortgage and Realty Co.

He is also a member of the board of directors and executive committee for the United Foundation, an Michigan director for the CARE Food Crusade.

HARLAN WILL be one of three prominent laymen receiving degrees along with the 1,020 students of the 1957 graduating class at U of D.

Last year Harlan received the annual civic award from the U of D chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi, Detroit area civic leader.

His D commencement exercises will be held on both Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 8 in the Memorial building on the McNichols road campus.

Others who will receive honorary degrees Thursday are Thomas H. Keating, GM vice president and director, and Dr. Russell W. Buntin, retired dean and lecturer, retired dean of the University of Michigan school of dentistry.

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Time—and perhaps some court—will tell whether or not Ingrid Bergman is being tossed aboard by her Italian lover, Roberto Rossellini. The latter, in India, is being accused of luring the affection of an Indian married woman from her own hubby. Well, Roberto is successful in doing this with Ingrid's practice model, and this is toward higher skills, Roberto is getting experience.

Sylvia Porter, popular business economist, prophesies that the U.S.A. will enjoy a boom at least until 1963. That gal certainly is courageous!

Republican Party heads from seven midwestern States recently held a three-day meeting in Cincinnati to talk about "how to win future elections." When they finished, they all were agreed that the Eisenhower administration is too New and Fair Deal in politics. From newspaper reports about the meeting, it appears as though the new national chairman, Meade Alderson, agrees with the seven State leaders. Well, it's better that the Party know what they're up against now, and make correct adjustments, than to lose a lot of financial support.

A young Georgia girl fasted for 21 days, "for the glory of God," and her weight dropped from 130 to only 120 pounds. We always thought fasting for 21 days would cause a greater loss of avoidance than that—but, in this case, maybe she's just a Georgia peach.

Today's TV comedians play a reasonably therapeutic part in the lives of millions of our fellow-countrymen. As one watches and listens to most of their programs, one can get some laughs, some momentary mental change and relief from the problems of the day. While what they say and do is quickly forgotten, they do offer variety from the antics of, for example, politicians whose programs, incidentally, cost plenty of tax money.

The habit of being in a hurry is a typical American custom. It enters into many things we do, even to eating. We are known as a nation of abundant workers, apparent in many ways. Yet, we do not seem to know that food would not only taste better, but do us more good.