

Seaholm

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died 4 1/2 million dollars. We need men as trained and interested as Ben."

ROOT, WHO lives at 1741 Bradford, Birmingham, is manager of electronic data-processing for the U. S. Rubber Co. "I have had a grand experience," Seaholm said. "It has been a grand education and a privilege to serve. But, in a growing community, we must turn to the younger minds for continued service. My vote will go for Ben, and I strongly urge everyone else to vote for him."

"Ben Root was brought up in Birmingham and knows the community. He has the 'feel'—a very worthwhile attribute. He has done outstanding work on the citizens' board."

committee for education and shows a thorough knowledge of our problems, particularly in finance. "As such, he has worked closely with our outstanding school administration and works well with board members and the public."

SEAHOLM NOTED that Root has come to recent public attention as chairman of the Birmingham city plan board—in a term which expresses this month—and called this "an important position requiring information and fact on the school board" there has been no politics for all these years.

"They were a group of citizens doing their job," Seaholm said. "They frequently were called out at all times of the week. They were not politicians. Ben Root is not a politician, either, and he will make an admirable member of the outstanding work on the citizens' board."

Seaholm, Ireland Urge Approval of New Bond Issue

Retiring Birmingham Board of Education President Ernest W. Seaholm and School Supt. Dwight B. Ireland this week urged school district electors to endorse the \$6.8 million bond issue in Monday's election.

Both men defended as sound educational facilities the several buildings and projects that the bond issue would pay for—a new junior-senior high school, an elementary school, a service garage, and renovation of the Baldwin elementary school.

Here are their individual statements:

Ireland:

"One of the important lessons learned in recent years in the Birmingham schools is the fact that as a building becomes overcrowded the effectiveness of the educational program afforded boys and girls in that building is seriously lowered in quality."

"Three years ago Barnum junior high school was badly overcrowded. Problems in discipline were greatly increased because of the inability of teachers to give consideration to individual problems. Classes were too large for effective instruction, and the congestion of the building resulted in discipline problems which seriously affected the educational program of the school."

"Two years ago it was necessary to place the ninth grade in the senior high school. This action caused overcrowding and disciplinary problems rose to a point of concern for the administration and staff."

"THIS PAST YEAR, after the opening of Derby junior high school and the removal of the ninth grade from the senior high school, the effectiveness of the educational program was greatly improved. This fact has been identified by a majority of staff members and the principal of the school. Overcrowding lessens the effectiveness of the educational program has again been emphasized."

"Next year Derby junior high school will have 1400 pupils enrolled in a building with capacity of 1000 pupils. Barnum junior high school will be above capacity with 875 pupils in a building that should accommodate 800."

"The senior high school will have an estimated 1700 pupils in a building with a capacity of 1800. It is evident that the senior high school can afford little relief to the problem. This congestion in the junior high school is bound to result in a less effective program."

"IT WILL TAKE two years to plan and construct another secondary school. By that time there will be 1400 pupils beyond the capacity of present secondary school facilities in the Birmingham school district. This critical situation will only be solved by a vote in favor of the proposed bond issue on June 11, 1957."

"The need for an elementary school in the Westchester Village area also is imperative. These children are being transported to a third school in as many years as the Westchester Village area. This is definitely detrimental to their educational progress and imposes a hardship on both children and families."

"THE REHABILITATION of Baldwin elementary school is necessary both as a matter of safety as well as a matter of service for the elementary children who attend. The corrosion due to moisture is weakening the structure and making it unsafe for continued operation. It is far beyond the point of maintenance within the operating budget and drastically requires attention."

"Although the amount allocated to the bus garage is a relatively small item, the damages caused by leaving buses outside is serious. On dry days time is lost in defrosting and heating the buses for their daily run. A constantly expanding fleet requires more space for maintenance."

Seaholm:

"It is to be hoped that our citizens carefully study the information contained in the statement of the citizens' committee which is being circulated."

"There, the true facts on our bond issue are objectively presented free from prejudice, emotion or distortion by a group of able people, taxpayers all, who have the welfare of their schools and community in mind along with their own."

"It should be recognized that school building costs cannot be ever simplified. We are not talking of bare school rooms alone but include all that goes with them such as furnishings, shops and equipment, general purpose rooms, gymnasiums, swimming pool, administrative offices, athletic fields, and other numerous items that go into large schools such as ours."

"IN THE CASE of the Baldwin elementary school, we are faced with the absolute necessity of extensive renovation at today's high costs in order to offset deterioration which unchecked constitutes an unardonable hazard to our children."

"It is interesting to note that our recent building developments are the outgrowth of competition between five of the best architectural firms in this area, some of them with national recognition. Addition to this has been constructive contributions of members of our citizens' committee who likewise are leaders in their industrial fields."

"As a matter of further interest, the Birmingham school committee, who have been working with us were recently appointed to the Detroit school building review committee to keep this city abreast of the times."

"YOUR BOARD of education can assure the voters that all recommendations have had intense study and that no effort has been spared and no source overlooked to bring about economical, functional buildings that will stand the test of time and be free from unnecessary frills."

"We welcome careful scrutiny. We feel that what we are proposing is in the best interest of our children and of ourselves and that thoughtful people will recognize that what we are recommending is a necessary investment in the future welfare of our children and their development as useful members of society."

"The recommendations of the citizens' committee are minimum recommendations made by a lay group of people who have become acquainted with the facts. Their endorsement of this program should warrant your deep and serious consideration and support."

Appeal

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met with no increase in the current school debt levy of \$8.50 per \$1,000 of state-estimated valuation, committee and school board members assured.

"Crowded classes, reduction in elective courses, elimination of athletics and other extracurricular activities and abandonment of the 'wholesome' services of home rooms and cafeterias will be necessary otherwise, said the committee headed by Louis A. Bauer, 3140 Broadway, Bloomfield Village.

A SUBCOMMITTEE studying building planning made broad recommendations that were accepted by the citizens committee and the school board. This was the same group which obtained voter approval in 1955 of a bond issue for the new senior high school under way or just completed.

"On none of the 1955 recommendations has the school system been changed its mind," said Howard W. Riemann, 31740 Glencoe, its executive representative. "Some were interpreted austere as we did not want to seem approval of extravagance in education for its own sake."

"On the basis of the same criteria, we believe that the total pupil population will be 17,350 (compared with the 11,000 this September), and our problem is to provide equal education."

Positive and negative values of the alternative, and our problem is to provide equal education (neither alternative ever has been resorted to here).

HALF-DAY SESSIONS Positive: uses schools all day on the basis of the absolute necessity of reducing some desirable services such as cafeterias.

Negative: Reduces the program which can be offered; practically eliminates elective courses; drastically restricts extracurricular and athletic programs; cuts by half the time pupils are in a "wholesome school atmosphere."

QUARTER SYSTEM (using the schools all year) Positive: Could increase usable classroom area by one-third, cut down the need for new construction, economize on operating and maintenance costs, give 600 extra hours of instruction in nine months or 11 months' employment.

Negative: Upsets the traditional family vacation schedule; causes a hardship on pupils transferring from or to the system; transfers in the Birmingham district amount to 20 per cent; impairs learning efficiency by hot-weather discomfort; interferes with summer repair and major maintenance programs.

Bauer pointed out that present junior high schools already are crowded to beyond their designed capacity, and that the high school will reach capacity by September, 1958.

Junior high enrollment will exceed capacity by 1,400 pupils in 1958.

Expect Light Vote Monday in Hills School Election

A light vote is anticipated in Bloomfield Hills school district election Monday as the only issue on the ballot is the election of two board members. There is no contest as both incumbents are unopposed for re-election.

Board President Merrill O. Bates, 920 E. Long Lake road, is seeking his third term. Secretary Douglas L. Joelyn, 1525 Lakewood, Bloomfield township, is running for a second three-year term.

Bates, who has been on the board four years, first filled an unexpired term. He has three daughters in the school system. A resident of Bloomfield Hills since 1956, he is president of Bates and Bates, Inc., and formerly served as Unitarian minister in Grosse Pointe.

IN SEEKING re-election, Bates stated: "I am terribly pleased with the progress that has been made and, with all the board, wish to achieve the finest school system in the state; we're working toward that end. Education seems more important now than ever before, so we are striving for the best from kindergarten on to prepare students fully for admission to college."

"I feel," he added, "the greater the education, the happier and better-rounded the student, who becomes the better citizen and person."

Bates pointed out that the board now is giving "serious consideration" to the education of the gifted, or "uncommon," child. He said the board hopes in another year to have a child psychologist for the district.

JOELYN has lived in the district for six years. He is president of Plastry corporation of Birmingham and Walled Lake and is in an attorney with offices in the Fisher building. He had been a teacher and school administrator before becoming an attorney.

He has two daughters in school and a son who is graduating from Bloomfield Hills high school this month.

Polls for the election are at Vaughan school.

IN 1959, by 1960 the senior high population will be 20 per cent above the present school's capacity.

CONSEQUENTLY, the committee said, one junior-senior high school will meet the immediate desperate need for junior high classrooms and relieve the pressure on the senior high school.

For this reason the committee recommended, and the school board is asking, a junior-senior high school to accommodate 1,600 pupils, built to expand to an enrollment of 2,000.

"We are asking our community to invest \$8,800,000 in education," Bauer said, "without an increase in the millage levy."

Hickory Grove to Decide Annexation Issue Monday

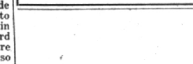
Hickory Grove school district will vote Monday on whether it will be annexed by Bloomfield Hills school district.

Bloomfield Hills board of education already has approved the annexation last April 30. State approval also has been received.

The small district, which has no high school, has been sending its students to Bloomfield Hills for secondary education. A survey by Dr. Donald Lee, Michigan State university department of school services, recommended annexation based upon similarity of the two districts.

Hickory Grove residents are being asked to vote to approve annexation, keeping their present debt and adding Bloomfield Hills rate.

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