

The \$6,800,000 School Bond Issue

Next Monday voters of the Birmingham public school district will be given the opportunity to approve, or disapprove, the issuance of \$6,800,000 of bonds for the purpose of adding to the district's physical plant.

There is no question but what the proposed new junior-senior high school and a new elementary school, are necessary. The proposed bond issue can be amortized, you are told by both the board of education and the Citizens' Committee on Education, by a continuation of the present tax millage.

This millage, however, does not include the added operating costs that will ensue, once the new buildings are up and in use. Teachers, heat, light, and similar current expenses must be provided for, of course.

NOR DOES THE APPROVAL of the \$6,800,000 bond issue mean that the school district will not, in the next two or three years, have to bond itself again. It must be remembered that next Monday's voting is for buildings to care for existing elementary pupils, who are scholastically graduating toward the proposed junior-senior high school.

Since 1949, the voters of this school district have approved bonds amounting to \$15,400,000; the proposed June 10 bond issue, if approved, would bring the total during nine years to \$22,200,000. That's a lot of money. But the district also has had an unprecedented increase in pupil population, too. In 1947, there were only 2,685 students in the system. Today there are

10,132. Most of the documentary information touching on the current need for approval of the bond issue comes from the Citizens' Committee on Education, chaired by Louis A. Bauer, 3140 Broadway, Bloomfield Village. He is being aided by a number of other local citizens, each vocationally a specialist in a subject of value to the committee's work. The board of education has accepted the committee's findings, using them largely as supporting evidence for approval of the bond issue.

THIS CITIZENS' COMMITTEE also has suggested the appointment of a special citizen panel whose responsibilities will be to ensure practical and economical use of all public school funds, whether obtained from the annual tax rolls or from bond issues.

Such a panel, it is argued, will also keep the voters aware of school matters by the release, at frequent intervals, of data covering various subjects. This idea, we believe, should be of value, providing its roster consists of representative, capable men and women completely free to constructively suggest or criticize. Indeed, only in such manner, we believe, could it function in the best interests of everybody concerned.

But to get back to next Monday's \$6,800,000 bond issue. We believe you should give it your approval at the polls.

For more details about it, read articles in the news columns of this issue of The Eccentric.

It Figures: Vacation's Coming



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Great Blue Herons Found in Forest

To many of us the most exciting event of the Audubon Society's Spring Camp Out at Walden Woods, was our discovery of a colony of nesting great blue herons.

The rookery was located in the seclusion of tall forest trees in a low beech-maple association bordering a marshy pond. We counted eight nests in the tree tops, all within a 100 foot radius. As one stood on the ground looking upward, the bulky structures were plainly visible in the half-leaved trees. They are made of a crude platform of sticks and twigs, loosely filled in with weed stalks, bushes and tall grasses. Frequently they are re-occupied on successive seasons by the addition of new materials.

SOME OF these already contained freshlings, for we found fragments of discarded shell from the incubated eggs. These are made of green-blue in color and are large like those of precocial (ground-nesting) birds. The heron holds enough nutrient to protect its fledgling. As we lingered to wait for the return of the parent birds, we could hear the cries of the young, impatient to be fed.

Although the great blue heron is an altricial (tree nesting) species, its young are born well-clothed with down, have their eyes open and are able to stand very soon after they are hatched. They only remain within the nest for a few days and are climbing around among the adjacent branches of the tree long before they can fly.

When the parent bird returns to the nest with an appropriate snack, the young grasp its beak at right angles and shake it vigorously. This suggests the release of the prey, which is then taken from the bill or dropped into the nest.

The heron eats almost any animal it can kill with its long sharp beak. It is a patient bird and will stand for long periods at the water's edge to snatch a frog, salamander, fish or crayfish. In the marsh it is at one with the tall

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Birmingham Mayor William E. Roberts came up with a good one at a recent city commission meeting.

Someone from the audience arose to ask the commission a question involving some area of controversy.

Spoke up Roberts: "Not being an attorney, I think I can answer that question for you!"

The audience liked it.

Tangled with a tongue twister lately?
Try this:
Short shifty Chevy chassis.

Nothing quite so stupid as a publicity seeker making an editor guess what news puffs he has received. That happens whenever publicity people mail mats without proof sheets, pictures with no identification, and similar confounding actions.

Even if equipped with a compass, some persons wouldn't know which way is up.

More and more police departments are bending their squad cars into the traffic. One automobile manufacturer recently

reported that he is delivering less than one car in four with black paint. The lighter colors account for 60 per cent of the orders.

Police also are making greater use of power brakes, safety belts, power steering, windshield washers, turn indicators, nylon tires and two-tone paint jobs.

Soon all policemen will be cruising in comfort.

Ever try explaining away a prejudice?

What's the greatest contributor to highway accidents?

A negative attitude, an insurance company has decided from a cross-section study of its accident claim cases.

This attitude can be identified as incompetence, as arrogance or as ignorance. The first two are most prevalent: 36 per cent traceable to some form of unskilled driving, 35 per cent to the arrogant driver. Only 15 per cent were chargeable to plain ignorance.

In the arrogant class were most speeders and most drunk drivers.

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Senator Morse Hits Ike Low Blow

Oregon's U.S. Senator, Wayne Morse, came to Detroit recently and lambasted President Eisenhower unmercifully. He compared him to teamster boss Dave Beck, "... only while Beck had his hand in union funds, the President is giving away some of our natural resources to private power companies."

Morse conveniently forgets (if he even remembers) that NOT ONE federal-owned and operated hydro-electric power plant supports itself from revenues. They sell power at less than cost, making up the deficits by taking cash from the federal treasury. Thus, you see, citizens who get none of this cheap power are forced to

pay for part of the power used by people who are served. Who, Senator, is thus "stealing" tax money from the non-beneficiaries but Uncle Sam?

Morse, who used to be a Republican, seems to forget the scandals in the Truman administration, as he gilds his new political affiliations.

In our opinion, Morse is a vindictive person, an academician of the most hysterical pattern.

But let him rave and rant... like the late Joe McCarthy, maybe some of Wayne's efforts may do some good, at that.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Recent utterances of Gov. Williams against leaders of industry, who declare that added State business taxes are obstacles to industrial growth in Michigan, gives emphasis to the fact that Soapy here places politics about job opportunities. By what manner of democratic logic can he deny an industrialist the right to speak up on matters of government on any level? Does Soapy presume that only politicians and labor leaders have a right to debate the problems and suggested solutions of government? Personally, we ad-

mit the Governor is a likeable chap... but when it comes to the solving of profound and perplexing civic and economic problems, he is no world-beating oracle himself!

A survey of British high school girls reveals that the average of them go to bed at nine o'clock each evening. Seven out of nine of them have television sets in their homes. No doubt the TV programs help to put the youngsters to sleep earlier than is the case in the U.S.A.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., by The Birmingham Eccentric, Inc., 230-232 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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Suburban Sidelights by Neil



"Harriet and I both felt we should participate in our husbands' hobbies more, so starting this Sunday..."

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 7, 1907
"The Bert brothers are making the mud fly at the yards of the Birmingham brick & tile co., and have now on hand a good stock of brick and drain tile, ready for delivery and guarantee it for first-class ware. They will make a specialty of the hollow building tile in all shapes and sizes. They are good people whom you will be glad to meet and make their acquaintance."

"Peter Keen has a new auto, and it is a beauty. He and his family certainly do enjoy it. Seems to be that you ain't livin' unless you have a buzz wagon."

"A Michigan editor is sued by a woman because he said in the obituary that her husband had gone to a happier home. It doesn't always pay to tell the truth, even when writing an obituary."

30 YEARS AGO
June 9, 1907
"Birmingham today is looking forward to the first paid fire department in its history, following approval by the commission at the meeting Monday night of hiring four full time men. Two men will be on duty during the day and two at night, according to plans."

"Work is expected to begin within the next two weeks on the new Bloomfield Hills Village drain No. 2 following the award, Friday, of contracts to a Lansing contracting company whose bid was the lowest of five received. The price is \$27,260.50."

"The Lord gave us two hands — one to hold and the other to give with."

"No fair sneaking up on amphibians... you can catch frogs in the daytime, but you can't go

The Old Time