

B'ham School Electors Should Extend Special Operating Levy

Birmingham school district electors next Monday, March 25, will go to their respective polling places to express their opinion on whether the district's special operating millage should be extended another five years. As part of this expression, they will be considering whether this special millage should be increased 2.5 mills over the amount they have been paying the past five years. In other words, the voter is being asked to provide the school administration with a total of 6 mills in addition to what will be obtained from the school's portion of the county tax limitation. This latter share has ranged around 8 and 9 mills for some years.

WHEN YOU GO to the polls next Monday, The Birmingham Eccentric urges you to vote "Yes" on the special 6-mill levy. Here is why: Fifteen years ago, the type of school education we in the Birmingham district desired could not be financed entirely out of the 15-mill limitation. School operating costs would exceed the 8 or 9 mills.

SO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT electorate in 1942 approved a special operating levy of 2 1/2 mills for the next five years. In 1947, it granted another five-year extension, this time for 5 mills. In 1952, the school district had grown property valuation-wise, and operating costs had not risen as fast by comparison, to the point where only a 3.5-mill special levy was required. However, this February a special citizens committee on education recommended that the expired levy be continued, not only for the previous 3.5 mills, but with an additional 2.5 mills, or a total this time of 6 mills.

THIS COMMITTEE BRAVELY faced its friends and neighbors in this recommendation to urge that another, an additional \$300,000 be voted to meet competition in educational fields for the available

supply of teachers. Birmingham's teaching salaries are by no means the highest. Neither are they the lowest. But they are sufficiently on the low side that the administration's teacher recruiting job is more difficult than it should be to provide the educational standards the residents have felt their Birmingham schools should maintain. Too, the added 2.5 mills will provide some needed supervisory personnel and procedures now lacking, but which are desirable to bolster our basic educational program.

THUS WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT of this new special operating levy. One aspect of this election we'd like to comment on: We do not understand why the board of education thought the voters could evaluate this important matter in only a little over three weeks' time. Public announcement was made Feb. 28 that the special election would be held March 25. It was difficult enough for The Eccentric to evaluate the situation in this short time. We can only imagine the reaction of the average voter who is not as close to the educational scene as is his local newspaper.

WE CHECKED INTO THIS shortness of time, and now find that the board itself and school administration, too, believe additional time should have been given. But back in February, the dominant thought was, "Let's see if we can have the voters' decision before the time our teachers' 1957-58 contracts are being discussed." This negotiation customarily takes place the last part of March or early April each year. However, on behalf of ourselves and the electorate, we'd like to suggest that next time the board of education give all of us more time.

But regarding next Monday's election, we'd like to repeat: we hope you'll vote "Yes".

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

That Birmingham's distaff side can become important in political affairs of Michigan is evident in the fact that two of them are candidates for the board of regents of the University of Michigan. Mrs. Irene Ellis Murphy, Democrat, will represent her party, while Mrs. Ethel J. Watt will make her bid for votes as a Republican. In the traditional language

of all competitive games, "... and may the best lady win." Now that Israeli troops have given way to United Nations forces to control the Gaza strip, let's hope that peace will reign in that region. It will, eventually, require more than mere force to maintain peace between Israeli and those various Arab states.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Suburban Sidelights by Neil



The Girls

30 YEARS AGO March 17, 1927 "A petition asking that the name of Chester street be changed to Hunter avenue is in the hands of village commissioners today. No objections having been made to the proposed change of the names of south Madison street, from Lincoln avenue to Clawson road, to Grant avenue, and of Dorchester drive to Stanley avenue, the village commission has ordered them changed. "The mid-season collections are lively with the frail fabrics and the delicate colors which herald the migration of the smart world south. The chiffon frock, a mere wisp of subtle drapery, is everywhere in evidence." Students at New York University organized an antisludge club to combat suicides among students.

Getting Closer



NATURE NOW

Horse's Evolution Traced Thru Years

The horse, which has long been one of man's most useful and faithful companions, is of ancient lineage. He is a member of the Ungulata, herbivorous land mammals with hoofed feet. His ancestor, one called Hyracotherium of the Green River fossils of Wyoming, was an early rodent-like mammal only eight inches tall. Nature took an added ten million years to produce the "dawn" horse, little Eohippus, and another forty million to develop Equus, our modern horse.

THE FOSSIL record of the horse is preserved for all to see in every major natural science museum across the country. And so it was, that while your scribbles visited the museum at Ann Arbor last week, she could turn back the pages of time to Wyoming of the Eocene Period. To see it as it then was, one needs to flatten the Wind River country from its present 11,000 foot elevation to a region of rolling hills, lower the whole Central Plains several thousand feet, add a lake south of the present river and atrew a few smoking volcanoes about this, geologists believe, was the Wyoming of fifty million years ago. At this time a great revolution was afoot. Both plants and animals were discarding their archaic forms and taking on their modern shapes as we know them today. It was a time when the flowering plants were taking root in the folds of the Appalachians and seeding their way westward across the plains. It was a time when the first pastures clothed the land and the mammals, developing superior tooth and foot structure, marched on a new plant called grass.

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 March 22, 1907 "An oratorical contest will be held at the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian church, Friday evening, March 29. The subjects are 'Mother: a Promise,' 'Rum's Tragedies,' 'Baptized in Blood,' 'The Orphan's Prayer,' 'Salvation from the Saloon,' 'The Cost of Rum,' 'The Lone Hunter's Child,' and 'Who Will Roll the Stone Away?'"
- 30 YEARS AGO March 17, 1927 "A petition asking that the name of Chester street be changed to Hunter avenue is in the hands of village commissioners today. No objections having been made to the proposed change of the names of south Madison street, from Lincoln avenue to Clawson road, to Grant avenue, and of Dorchester drive to Stanley avenue, the village commission has ordered them changed."
- 5 YEARS AGO March 19, 1952 "Petitions were filed too late on behalf of Walter O. ('Spikes') Briggs, Jr., in the Bloomfield Hills election, according to Harry S. Starr, City Manager. . . . The result is that Commissioners Luther D. Allen and George C. Booth will have no opposition in the election April 6."
- "Each householder may secure a train on his property, in case of an incendiary bomb attack. The sand, which should be dried, is available, free on the Hill School grounds."
- "Fire and accessory thieves staged another raid in Birmingham during the past week, stealing four wheels from one car and two from another."
- Returns to States Robert L. Davis, aerographer's mate third class, USN, is serving aboard the Navy icebreaker USS Staten Island as it returns, via South America, to the United States, from Antarctica. Robert's son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Davis of 1526 E. Lincoln, Birmingham.
- "Women diet either to keep their girlish figure or their boyish husbands."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

From Bloomfield Hills came the portrait of the happy bird at the right. Artists at MacManus, John & Adams, Inc., advertising agency took him—his Michigan's official bird, remember—and put those words around him to make him the symbol of Michigan Week May 19-25.



PPA executive secretary William E. Smith comments gloomily, "This huge crop presents a particularly grave problem to the industry. Popcorn is a food produced solely for human consumption, and because of the increased popping expansion of the new hybrids, consumption is not keeping pace with production. Thus the industry is faced with a 68-million-pound surplus which it finds impossible to move. "The popcorn industry is entering its third year of depressed prices, and there is no relief in sight." Okay, now, gang, let's get out of more movies and eat our way through more of this popcorn! Up to now, you've just been nibbling!

The 10-cent candy bar, which used to sell for 5 cents, now costs 15 cents. This ought to be good news for the people who go to movie theaters to eat popcorn (and incidentally see the movie): There is no shortage of raw popcorn. The Popcorn Processors Association has just reported a 58-million-pound popcorn surplus.

People's Column

Sustain Highway Safety Effort, Asks Governor

To the Editor: It appears, after careful re-checking of the records that 200 Michigan lives were saved in the general traffic safety campaign of 1956. This figure represents people who are now alive who might have been dead, but for the continuing interest of men like yourself and institutions like the Birmingham Eccentric. How to cope effectively with this strain on our human resources has become one of the great social problems of our time. Your concern with this problem has been deeply appreciated. Our state facilities are now

If the Birmingham city commission can find the money to remodel municipal building basement rooms, the voters in precinct 4 may find themselves casting ballots on the ground level. The voting machines will be moved to the police garage to make way for expanded county health department offices in the basement.

In this uphill endeavor, your assistance is going to be needed more than ever. Your feeling for your community and the creative-ness and interest of your staff will be of the greatest aid in generating in people their own desire to be safe—their aspect for the rights of others. May we continue to have your able support? G. MENNEN WILLIAMS GORVENOR

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