Raising Public School Taxes

More than one Michigan School District, especially in urban areas, has found it increasingly difficult to get sufficient tax money with which to carry on its educational system. This condition is caused largely by a sort of taxpayers' rebellion against the ever increasing over-all tax load, beginning with the federal government's tremendous demands on the average person's income right on down through State and local governmental units.

Another important factor exists in the belief by many taxpayers that some boards of education are spending too much money on school buildings. Bloomfield Hills School District, after two tries, finally won the approval of a majority of its taxpayers to increase the district's millage and the right to issue bonds to pay for a new school building.

Just a few days ago, down in Royal Oak, the voters rejected similar financial demands made by the Royal Oak School District. Of course, Royal Oak will have another election and perhaps the estimated cost of some of the buildings it needs may be lowered by revamping the plans and the substitution of less costly materials.

IN SCHOOL districts where the taxpayers have had to finance and build many new schools, with consequent rapid increase in their taxes, they have been more reluctant to approve further school expenditures. Some districts have, like the Hills, had to submit financing propositions several times, lowering the amount in many cases, in order finally to win voter approval.

The Birmingham school district, too, may find it more difficult in the future to raise the tax millage and win public support for anything except a very economically designed and constructed school plant. "After all," believe many parents and taxpayers, "we're perfectly willing to provide suitable school buildings, but we also feel a deep obligation to pay our teachers sufficient money so that we may get the best possible instruction for our children."

How Easily People Are Swayed

Modern propaganda methods make it comparatively easy for good ideas or bad ideas to receive wide acceptance by whole nations—even many nations. The Russian leaders know this; Hitler knew it; so did Mussolini and Huey Long.

Political parties in the United States have acquired many skills in the use of propaganda. Demagogues and quacks in fields other than politics, too, have put over their panaceas and schemes on millions of people. Why is this possible?

Well, you know how quickly baseball fans, for example, will turn against their latest hero who, when a home run would win the game, boo him as he strikes out. That same psychology works in propaganda programs.

The vast communications media of the printed and spoken word, radio and TV have greatly aided in getting to the minds of people. In the case of a nation, give a demagogue or quack just a few years, and he'll be able to sway enough people in most nations so that he can achieve leadership over them. Simple, isn't it?

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

When a man of science makes the same mistake twice, it is either because of forgetfulness or stupidity. Few dedicated men of science are stupid. When men, high in the affairs of government, repeat the mistakes of previous generations, often they are hailed as great statesmen. Way down deep, people don't like to be fooled but they so often appear to be ignorant of methods to prevent themselves from being fooled by men in high places in government.

President Eisenhower denies that there is a feud between himself and Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Newspaper stories have been circulated that the President is much upset about the way Warren has conducted the affairs of the Supreme Court, insofar as the Court's decisions relate to the subject of Communism. Ike certainly is a long-suffering man.

It always gives us a bit of amusement when we read a headline in a newspaper that says a Legislature or Congress is seriously bent on discovering new sources of tax revenue. Why do we smile? Only because such headlines are misleading unless one realizes the fact that all tax sources lead back into the incomes of men and women. Let the politicians try to camouflage this tax source—but in the final analysis, they can't fool all of the people all the time!

More often than not today's pedestrian is the one who failed to get the family car out of the garage first.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER *By George Wm. Averill*

You've heard of car pools, of course.

But have you learned about the cow pool?

That's right—c-o-w pool.

Michigan State university farm economists have just returned from studying a cow pool in Iowa. And they didn't find a single cow taking a swim.

THE COW POOL is where a farmer brings his cows. He turns the feeding and milking chores over to the pool manager. The farmer pays a flat fee, and the farm pays the expenses of feeding and milking. Individual cow records are kept. If income exceeds expenses, the farmer gets the profit.

Benefits to the farmer?

About two-thirds less labor hours per cow, or about three times as many cows can be milked in the same time.

But don't expect cow pools to become widespread. This method is only for those who desire a return on capital invested in animals. There will be no big cry for pooled milk.

Certain of the business world's big guns really are nothing more than pop guns.

There's little use in being on time. There'll be no one else to talk to.

A politician is a man who wants to play God, but only succeeds in performing like the devil.

Most women will admit to only one extravagance—spending money.

The world's most trying job belongs to a judge.

Suburban Sentiment

RARE BIRD

Tho Gable, Rock Hudson, and Peck are grand,
The man I most truly admire
Is the little guy who stops passing by
And offers to fix my flat tire.

—Dorothy Rockwell McWood

Mayflowers, 1959

NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Growing Period Hits Spring Peak

Once more the swallows have kept their tryst on St. Joseph's day at San Juan mission in Capistrano. Crowds waited in hushed silence while thousands of birds descended with a whirring of wings to begin their nest building.

And so spring makes its yearly avowal. This is the time when life experiences its greatest period of birth and growth. The soil warms; hidden shoots unfold. If the plant is an annual, the flower must bloom; next year's seed must be ripened. A complete life-cycle must be lived in a single season.

Mrs. Frehse

A corresponding urgency stirs the animal world. The egg must be hatched; the young must be reared. Answering life's need, placental mammals deliver living replicas of their kind. All this activity reaches its peak during the spring and summer months when we have our longest days and shortest nights.

DURING this period of maximum sunlight and warmth, the earth responds with an abundant food supply, thus creating our most favorable season for growth. This immensely important function can be carried on only by plants. Animals require foods which have already been synthesized by the living green.

Growth as we see it demonstrated in the varied life around us involves a series of complex changes. Scientists believe the process is triggered by growth hormones which awaken that which for a time has lain dormant. Once activated, the cell has an affinity for food from which it is able to synthesize new protoplasm, with its resulting growth.

For all life begins with a single unit which we call a cell. Growth reduced to its simplest terms rests on the power of this bit of protoplasm to divide itself, thereby creating two new individuals each with dimensions and characteristics of the mother cell.

GROWTH is the most miraculous, immense and universal activity in our world. You may see it demonstrated by observing a drop of pond water under a microscope. Here is life in its simplest form, dividing and redividing itself to make new individuals. There may be present both simple plants and animals which only a biologist can call by name.

Life's widely differing cells are of many shapes and sizes. They may be as small as a virus or as large as an ostrich egg. They may fuuction as simply as an amoeba. They may combine by the billions to form a highly specialized human body.

In some plants and animals, especially those living in water, no growth limits are set. For example, certain seaweeds may continue in size as long as they live. However, in most forms of life the specie pattern sets the adult growth limit. But even when this is reached there is always the wear and tear of living process. Growth, therefore is a continuous activity which goes on from birth to death.

SURROUNDED by the complex web of life, each living thing must find for itself the best possible conditions for growth and survival. This selection is slow and often costly to the individual. Man, however, has some conscious control over his environment so that he may, within limit, determine his life's pattern.

So at each recurring spring, growth asserts itself with renewed force. As I write I hear a mourning dove call and a cardinal's repeated questioning from the topmost limb of our tallest oak. Soon each will be readying a nest to hold its young.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
April 2, 1909

"Mrs. Esther Boyd of Vassar, is a happy guest of Mrs. Mary Cooper, and from this place as headquarters she makes short visits among her many friends in this vicinity and Pontiac. The Eccentric office was honored Wednesday."

"Will the officers of each school district do something to improve the school grounds? Plant some trees and shrubs. As a rule school grounds are attractive. Let us make them so.

30 YEARS AGO
March 28, 1929

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten bright colored Easter eggs scattered on the sidewalk of Woodward avenue. Some child has dropped them from a broken bag the Wanderer was thinking. "Ten cents," remarked his companion."

"Woodward avenue traffic Wednesday morning was held up abruptly when a squirrel ran into the street. Apparently he had been struck by a car as he ran in confusion from one side to the other, looking, no doubt, for refuge in one of the trees he knew last summer."

15 YEARS AGO
March 30, 1944

"A Birmingham mother, who has a son overseas, has been besieged by a series of phone calls concerning the boy. It seems that someone has started a rumor about him, the rumor goes thusly: He has killed at least nine Japs single handed and has held off several others; he has received the purple heart and a medal for swimming three miles with a wounded buddy on his back. The latter is the one that finally convinced the "mom" that her son was not superman. The boy can't swim a stroke!

Clarence W. Blenman, Atty., 207 Wabeek Bldg., Birmingham
72,891

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

In the Matter of the Estate of ADA FLOWERDAY, Deceased.

At a session of said court, held at the Probate Court in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 17th day of March, A.D. 1959.

Present: Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

Order appointing time for hearing claims.

Notice is hereby given and it is hereby ordered that the time and place for hearing on claims against the above estate shall be the 1st day of June, 1959, at nine o'clock in the forenoon at the Probate Court in the Court House at the City of Pontiac, Michigan;

All creditors or claimants against the above estate are further notified and ordered to prove their claims at said hearing and prior to said hearing to file written claim therefor, with this Court and with the fiduciary of this estate, under oath, containing sufficient detail reasonably to inform the fiduciary of the nature and amount of the claim.

It is further Ordered that notice be given to all interested parties as shown by the records in this cause by delivering a copy of this order to each of them personally, or by mailing such copy to each of them by registered mail with return receipt demanded addressed to their respective last known addresses as shown by the files and records in this cause.

And it is further Ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.
3, 4, 5

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD WILL BE HELD AT THE BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP HALL, 4200 TELEGRAPH ROAD, ON SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1959, AT 2:00 O'CLOCK P. M.

ROBERT H. DUDLEY,
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP CLERK.
(3, 4)

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Medical Mirror
WHAT DOCTORS SAY ABOUT:
Better Health Through Knowledge
• Mumps
• Fish Eye Injections
• Skin Stripes

Q. "Should children, especially little boys, be deliberately exposed to a case of mumps so they won't have it later on?" —A reader.

A. The idea of getting it over with springs up because children rarely have complications with mumps whereas adults, especially men, often develop serious trouble during and after the disease. While it may be desirable to have mumps early, deliberate exposure is another matter; serious complications are indeed uncommon but they do occur. Also, the exposed child may bring mumps home and give it to adults who could have a severe case of the disease and perhaps be left with permanent damage.

Q. "I have heard that eye cataracts can be cured by injections made from fish eyes. What can you tell me about this?" —A faithful reader.

A. Various nonsurgical treatments, including use of fish lens extract, have been tried in cataracts. Such treatments, according to two New York specialists, have not been very successful. There is no really good medical treatment for cataract. When an operation does become necessary, the cataract patient can take comfort in knowing that in most cases surgery will provide useful, even excellent, vision.

Q. "I am 13 and my busts have developed pinkish stripes. What is the cause and what can be done to clear this up?" —Worried.

A. This sort of thing is not so rare in young girls who more or less suddenly begin to move rapidly toward womanhood. The stripes, as you call them, are due to stretching of the skin. In all probability they will disappear in time. Youngsters whose busts are so large as to be discommoding would do well to contact the family physician.

Answers do not necessarily reflect the opinion of all doctors. The diagnosis and treatment of disease is the function of the patient's personal physician. Questions directed to Science Editors, P.O. Box 396, Madison Sq. Sta., N. Y. 10, N. Y. will be incorporated in these columns when possible.

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