

## Mich. to Uncle Sam: Four Billions

When the Birmingham school district's new junior-senior high school at 13-Mile and Evergreen in Westwood is completed this coming winter, the project's cost will be \$390,000 less than it would have been had the architect's original plans and specifications been followed, and had the Board of Education allowed its original budget to be expanded.

It is recalled that the Board's original budget, based upon estimates by the architect, was \$4,800,000 for the entire land and construction project. Of this total, \$3,836,000 was allocated for construction of the school, for equipment, and for site development.

**HOWEVER, WHEN** the first bids were received it was found that the sub-contractors' figures exceeded the estimate by approximately \$122,000. Linn Smith, of Smith, Tarapata & MacMahon, Birmingham architects, also informed the Board that his firm's estimate had overlooked adding the sum of \$248,000, the cost of 16,000 square feet of construction space, in their final report to the Board. This space had to be restored to the school's plans and specifications.

This meant that the final cost of the school, unless re-negotiated, would be about \$370,000 in excess of the Board's budget. The architect was directed to eliminate that much cost from his plans and specifications, and seek new bids.

**BY CHANGING SOME** architectural design, elimination of some features, and the substitution of less expensive, though quite substantially acceptable, materials in the school's construction, the desired saving was accomplished.

Last week, another economy, amounting to \$17,186, was effected, bringing the overall total decrease to nearly \$390,000.

Since the construction cost of the new school, plus operating equipment and site development, is expected to reach \$3,817,770.18, (final exact figures won't be available until project is finished) the reduction of \$390,000 represents approximately 10 per cent less than had the architect's original plans and specifications (including the 16,000 square feet) been executed.

**THE FACT THAT** the Board of Education, facing the continuing problem of expanding the district's school plant, de-

termined to keep within its original budget, deserves the warm approval of the taxpayers.

To be sure "necessity was the mother of invention" in this case. But the Board did respond to its economy demands . . . and if it continues to exercise thrift and frugality in future school plant expansion, it probably will stand to win more taxpayer support.

What the Board did in this case may, in considerable part, answer the citizen query: "Why don't we plan and build our schools at less cost per student?"

Prophetically, it would appear, was the action of Board member Malcolm P. Lovell when, the evening of last Sept. 2, the Board was ready to direct the architect to submit his plans and specifications to bids, he officially requested that, before voting such a resolution, it request the architect to reduce the estimated cost by at least \$200,000.

"I HONESTLY DON'T know exactly where and how this can be done," declared Lovell, "I admit I am a new member of this Board. But this I do know: in my industrial job I have been, at times, required to cut down on my department's budget, and this I, and others in our company, somehow accomplish. It is in this spirit that I make the request relative to this new school project."

Unfortunately, it turns out, Lovell's resolution wasn't even seconded . . . the architect asserting that any change in the plans and specifications would delay the desired opening date of the new junior-senior high school.

**YES, THERE ARE** many problems related to the operation of a school district like this area's rapidly increasing suburban population, requires. Finding the money with which to build and maintain the physical plant, plus the cost of maintaining a sufficient teaching and administrative staff, is a problem of most of the U.S.A. today.

Board members, of course, are recruited from one's own neighborhood. They receive no pay. They give up many hours and days to the duties and responsibilities that the job demands.

And, during times such as the present, with ever-increasing tax demands, when a Board manifests practical evidence of official frugality—it generally deserves to win public approval and support.

security is a continuous one and is a real testing ground for the survival of all that is right and good. In the final analysis, the successful man is one who lives to make his life a glorious adventure, always aware of the fact that there are spiritual values within him that are far greater in wealth than all the gold that he could accumulate in a dozen life-times.

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## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

You don't have to be a clotheshorse, but it sure helps to wear something which sets you off from the rest of the crowd.

It saves you—and the other person—a great deal of time and trouble. This trouble would result from trying to determine who is who.

Clothes are valuable human guideposts. If you saw a man in the middle of the street directing traffic, you wouldn't know who he was unless he were wearing a policeman's uniform.

The store clerk is identified by his white shirt and long white apron. Your restaurant waitress wears a distinctive uniform.

A woman wears a simple print and you

know she's sticking close to the house. Let her put on a wool suit, and she's probably going downtown to shop or across town to a club tea.

Let a man wear a suit and he's an executive or salesman on his way to make a business call. But in sweater and slacks, he's probably a student. A factory hand is identified by his work clothes, too.

The clothes of our countrymen on Main Street USA are as labelling as the obviously different costumes we associate with Britishers, Arabs, or Congo natives.

One of civilization's greatest boons came only a few years ago—that neccessitating glue on the flaps of return envelopes!

As long as this nation's elementary and secondary school teachers are paid less than obviously less-important occupations, a school PTA council has a ready-made crusade before it.

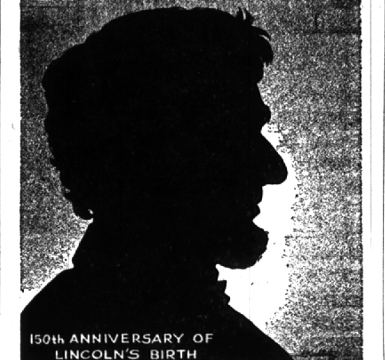
When a nation gives more reward to those who turn out digdigs than to those who develop the young minds of that nation, how could that nation wind up?

As a glorious collection of glittering digdigs belonging to a curious collection of simple souls.

## Suburban Sentiment

**VALENTINE'S DAY**  
Valentines drip sentiment,  
Their ardor can upset one;  
They're childish, rash and impudent—  
I surely hope I get one!  
—Dorothy Rockwell McWood

## Enduring



**NATURE NOW** by Lydia King Frehse  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

## Primitive Man Was Student of Nature

"Nature study" was sparked by primitive man when he found that some knowledge of his world and the plants and animals which populate it increased his chance for survival. Today's scholars never cease their efforts to unravel the "inferred knowledge" of this long and obscure period while pressing forward toward a future which will include today's startling achievements.

The curtain of written history rises, somewhere in Mesopotamia, "the land between two rivers," about 6,000 years ago. While this civilization was thriving, a second was developing in another great river valley, that of the Nile. Here nature was so lavish of sun and soil and water that a livelihood came easily. Soon a slave economy freed the privileged and the intelligent for cultural pursuits. Arts and crafts flourished. Scholars and philosophers had time to delve into the mysteries that filled their world.

**SO IT WAS** that the early Egyptians made some of the most notable contributions to science. As an agricultural nation, they soon took a note of the seasons, winds and tides and their effect on the growing season. The Sun-god was crowned their chief deity.

Other objects in nature such as the bull, lotus and cobra loomed large in their worship. A trip through Caesar's Museum of Antiquities leaves one spellbound with the extent of Egypt's use of a wide variety of nature symbols both in her secular and religious life.

From their knowledge of the heavens, the Egyptians made a calendar. Their skill in medicine included a startling amount of the humoral and specific names. So with various potions mixed with herbs and other compounds. This suggests considerable knowledge of plants and chemicals.

**THEY PERFORMED** delicate brain operations, implying advanced skill in surgery, and had some knowledge of medicine which may have been used as a substitute for anesthesia.

The culture of Egypt was dominant in the then known world until the third century B.C., when the conquest of Alexander the Great made it a part of the Greek empire.

The genius of the Greek mind flowered in a succession of brilliant scholars led by Socrates, who was followed in turn by such pupils as Plato and Aristotle. These men were concerned not only with the metaphysics of their observations extended into the world of nature.

**SOCRATES**, who was born 469 years before the Christian era, entertained the idea that all living things were related. He pondered on life's origin, observed fossils in the rocks and made collections of plants and animals which he classified. Aristotle studied plants and animals by dissection. Without the aid of a microscope, he already concluded that all of life was made up of one basic substance arranged in small units.

It was 77 AD when the Greek physician, botanist, Dioscorides, wrote his "De Materia Medica." This presentation of plant, animal and mineral drugs became the "bible" of drug knowledge for more than 14 centuries.

**WHILE SOME** of this early information with its attendant conclusions was too incomplete and faulty to be called "science," it nevertheless was a guidepost to the Roman scholar, as the two Plinys. It outlived the Dark Ages, became a kind of nest egg for the intellectual revival of the Renaissance, and was regarded with awe and reverence by the old herbalists of the 16th and 17th centuries.

A "classical chaos" reigned until the middle of the 18th century when the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus made his classification of plants and animals, giving to each a Latin name and species name. So sound was his system that it has served us well throughout the years, bearing the weight of our ever-expanding knowledge.

**30 YEARS AGO**  
January 31, 1929  
"Whoopee, as an expression is merely enjoying a revival according to the files of The Eccentric. An item of fifty years ago reads: What's the matter with the Holly Register? Whoopee! Jenkins, wake up and send us a paper, or we'll think you've gone dead again. It's possible that villagers made whoopee then too."

**"Birmingham** businesses are going in for signs. Among the late ones to make their appearance is the electric flash sign for the First State Savings Bank, and the new sign at the Thomas market. A number of merchants have expressed their intention of purchasing new signs to herald their name before the public."

**15 YEARS AGO**  
February 3, 1944  
"The Wanderer heard this tale about a Birmingham family who

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—Practicing Attorney 18 years  
—Former Municipal Attorney  
—Veteran of World War 2  
NON PARTISAN

**GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION**  
TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS:  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That a General Primary Election will be held in the  
City of Birmingham, County of Oakland  
State of Michigan  
on  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1959**  
AT THE PLACE OR PLACES OF HOLDING THE ELECTION IN SAID CITY AS INDICATED BELOW, VIZ:  
Precinct No. 1—Chesterfield Fire Station, 1600 West Maple  
Precinct No. 2—Holy Name School, Corner of Harmon and Greenwood  
Precinct No. 3—Congregational Church, Woodward at Euclid  
Precinct No. 4—Municipal Building, 151 Martin Street  
Precinct No. 5—Barnum School, Frank Street at Purdy St.  
Precinct No. 6—Adams Fire Station, 572 S. Adams  
Precinct No. 7—Grank Trunk Station, 245 Eton Road  
Precinct No. 8—Birmingham High School, Corner West Lincoln and Cranbrook, Lobby Entrance from Parking Lot.  
Precinct No. 9—Pierce School, 1829 Pierce Street  
Precinct No. 10—Y.M.C.A., 400 East Lincoln  
Precinct No. 11—Torry School, 1658 E. Lincoln, Corner of Torry  
Precinct No. 12—Adams School, Oakland between Worth and Adams.  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLACING IN NOMINATION, CANDIDATES PARTICIPATING IN A NON-PARTISAN PRIMARY ELECTION FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICE, VIZ:  
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE  
ALSO ANY ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS OR PROPOSITIONS THAT MAY BE SUBMITTED  
NOTICE RELATIVE TO OPENING AND CLOSING OF THE POLLS  
ELECTION LAW, ACT 116, P. A. 1954  
SECTION 720. On the day of any election the polls shall be opened at 7 o'clock in the forenoon, and shall be continuously open until 8 o'clock in the afternoon and no longer. Every qualified elector present and in line at the polls at the hour prescribed for the closing thereof shall be allowed to vote.  
THE POLLS of said election will be open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will remain open until 8 o'clock p.m. of said day of election.  
**IRENE E. HANLEY**  
City Clerk