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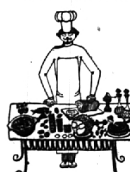
on Wednesday, September 30



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## Mountain

(Continued from Page 1-A)

fect its fine character by attempting to locate the culprits who defaced their lovely building."

JUST A WEEK AGO, other persons broke into the building and smeared ink, paste, water over the home economics room, the library and boiler room. Books were ruined, records torn up, carpets ruined.

Damage amounted to several thousands of dollars. In its editorial page today, The Birmingham Eccentric publishes a critical reaction to first vandalism act of two weekends ago. It also applies to this second bit of vandalism. It is believed both these vandalism acts are a result of yet-smoldering resentment of some Seaholm parents and students over the recent high school's name-change.

THE ECCENTRIC NOW FEELS compelled to comment on this entire name-changing episode.

What we will have to say is not flattering to any of us. What turned out to be a simple school board action of naming a high school seems to have turned into a situation entirely out of proportion to its value.

School buildings must have designations. Some are named for the street on which they are built. Others are named after people, or for the area they serve.

Some are named merely P.S. 27.

WE CANNOT DENY THAT a school name—like that given to an individual—should be carefully considered. Both school and individual will wear their name for many years. With the opening of a second high school in the Birmingham school district this fall, it had to have a name.

In defense of our school board, let it be remembered that considerable deliberation went into the choosing of the new names.

It was proposed that the existing high school—known as Birmingham High School—was to be named for Ernest W. Seaholm, a present resident who for many years has devoted long, dedicated hours to school board problems.

THE NEW JUNIOR-SENIOR BUILDING was to be named after the late Wylie E. Groves, also a longtime board member.

Before the final decision, however, Ireland and High School Principal Ross A. Wagner went before the student congress and discussed the proposed name change.

Reasons were outlined. The congress approved of the change. The school board then made it official and publicly announced the new names June 18.

Then there seemed to be a silence for some weeks. No immediate public protest, no stack of letters to the editor.

However, there was a petition being circulated, and its existence was made now known publicly July 23. It was presented to the board shortly thereafter.

IN RETROSPECTION, The Eccentric believes that at this point, the first opportunity was missed to have headed off this problem.

No one representing the school board or the administration immediately stepped forward to meet this group of 96 petitioners. When that many names are on a petition, it should not be dismissed lightly. It represents a potential problem—and should be looked into at once.

Instead, all was silence on the administration's side.

The administration waited four weeks before taking it up at a regular meeting. Then it was decided to write a letter to the student body and the public, outlining the school board's reasons for the name-changing.

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE school district, more petitions were being circulated.

People were taking a stand on this name change business. They were signing their names. The more the weeks went by, the more people there were who signed.

Once you take a position—and especially on a petition—it's a bit awkward to back out or change your mind. Especially on such abstract matters as by what name shall you call a high school?

On the other hand, it was possible for these petitioners and/or their circulators to approach the school board on a less emotional basis . . . a basis of seeking information, or conveying feelings or suggestions "for the additional information of the school board."

IT COULD HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED that the board "might want to reconsider . . . in the light of new, recent, developing facts."

But the petitions had an insistent tone. "We don't want the changes made. We think you are wrong. Why are you doing this to us?" and other critical insinuations.

Also in retrospect, this is the point at which The Eccentric considers the second missed opportunity occurred . . . in regard to the public's part.

AND WE SUSPECT the board didn't like that approach. "Our motives were honest, sound. We won't be awayed" may have gone through the minds of more than one board member.

So here we are—hassling over a school name.

To be perfectly candid, The Eccentric sees this situation:

A relatively unimportant matter has grown to unprecedented proportions because a large part of the public attacked (instead of approaching) the school board, and the school board had no adequate anticipatory public relations program.

WE NOW SUGGEST THAT the name-changing portion of this episode be closed and written off to experience.

However, we believe each Birmingham area family should make it a point to discuss among its members the immaturity and undemocratic attitude expressed by these two vandalism acts.

They represent attempts by individuals to take matters into their own hands. It shows resentment of society's accepted ways of settling and solving problems.

As a community, let us demonstrate OUR maturity and democratic processes by searching out those responsible for this latest clack eye on our community countenance. Let's find those vandals!

## Speaker

(Continued from Page 1-A)

of Washington, D. C., is director of the World Rule of Law Center, Duke University. He formerly of the University of Illinois. He announced the guild's rected the U. S. Information Agency, and for a time was under-secretary of labor.

THE FORMER Rhodes scholar and dean of the University of Pittsburgh school of law will speak on "What We Are For" at the Birmingham theater at 11 a.m. both days.

His title is the name of one of his books published last year. He also authored "A Republican Looks at His Party", a 1956 re-Dr. Larson will be introduced both days by Town Hall President Mrs. George V. Cary.

AT A CELEBRITY luncheon at Birmingham country club following his talk Thursday, speaker's table guests will be Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Fricke, the Rev. W. E. Snodgrass, Mrs. William Hickman, and Mrs. Colin M. Stewart. Fricke, of Birmingham, is a former associate of Dr. Larson on the Cornell university faculty.

Friday's speaker's table guests are Cranbrook Headmaster and Mrs. Harry D. Hoey, whose house-guest Dr. Larson will be, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth H. Gass, Mrs. Ralph H. Backus, and Mrs. Donald Bay.

## 10-Week Class

Persons interested in learning some of the facts governing the production and distribution of wealth are given the opportunity by registering for a ten-week course to be offered at the Seaholm high school, Birmingham. Class will be held Tuesday nights, at eight o'clock. First class is Oct. 6, in Room A102.

## BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

No longer are you going to wonder if you are approaching Birmingham's "Goldens Apartments." When the city commission passes a proposed sign ordinance revision, apartment and terrace owners will be able to identify their buildings more adequately than just a name over the door. The signs will be illuminated for night visitors, too. The city attorney was asked this week to recommend a workable ordinance amendment.

Michigan State Police and Indiana authorities are comparing notes on a possible link between the recent Bloomfield township arson case and a second similar fire at the home of Gene San Soucie, top Indiana Teasater official.

## LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
NOTICE OF HEARING  
AMENDMENT TO ZONING  
ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held Monday, October 5, 1959, at 8:30 p. m. in the Municipal Building, for the purpose of considering an amendment to Ordinance No. 127, being the Zoning Ordinance, re-zoning property located on the northeast corner of Dallas and Purdy, described as:

Block No. 111  
from the present classification of R-8 Multiple Family Residential Zone District to R-1 Neighborhood Business Zone District.

IRENE E. HANLEY,  
City Clerk

Michigan police authorities said it is possible that both blazes were set by the same person, and not "just some crackpot." The Bloomfield township home of Teasater business agent Charles O'Brien burned July 16.



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