

## Morale of Our Schools at Stake

Affairs within the official family of the Birmingham public school district are in a state of anxious uncertainty.

Supt. Dwight B. Ireland, for almost 18 years the educational leader hereabouts, has tendered his resignation, effective "when mutually agreeable."

The board of education "has unanimously voted not to accept the resignation. We have asked him to reconsider, and earnestly hope he will decide to stay," declared Mrs. Peter B. Loomis, board president.

"We have suggested that he try to get away during the Easter holiday, get away from the pressures in his office caused by the failure of the recent millage levy," continued Mrs. Loomis' statement. "Perhaps rest and a change of scene while he thinks over the situation will result in a favorable decision."

WHILE THE board's official statement, as we write this, implies that Ireland's chief anxiety and concern is "... caused by the failure of the recent millage levy", it can be authentically stated that another, and more important (to Ireland) condition exists. It is the status of the working relationship between Ireland and the board itself.

Briefly, so far as we can determine, the board, spurred on by three of the latest elected male members, is assuming more and more policy-making responsibilities. This is contrary to past arrangements, wherein the board allowed its chief educator to plan and carry out a major portion of the policies governing our schools.

Ireland, we gather, not only opposes the curtailment of some of his important customary responsibilities, but he also vigorously dislikes the manner in which the board has effected such changes. He appears to hold that the board's methods of communication with him are hardly patterned after the manner of co-operative teamwork. He says he is being left out of certain phases of the board's planning and decisions.

THIS ALMOST REVERSAL of relationship with the board, (so important to Ireland) has resulted in a sort of impasse. Exactly what compromise needs to be effected to heal this breach, we do not know.

But this we do know: a very unhealthy condition exists with the official family of the Birmingham public school district.

Ireland has offered his resignation. The board has refused to accept it. The board, we think, basically doesn't want to lose Ireland—at least not during the current school year, as well as the one ahead.

Fundamentally, the chief concern of everybody ought to be the school students and the cause of education. Next come the teachers, parents of school children, and the remainder of the district's populace.

WE BELIEVE THAT an acceptable degree of "peace" between the board and the Superintendent can be established, at least to the end that the district's schools may continue to operate. This may require more of a "give-and-take" spirit between all parties concerned.

It definitely is a challenge—a characterful challenge—to test the wit and the

wisdom of the chief actors concerned.

Regardless of what side of this situation one may take, we believe that, should Ireland find it impossible to change his final decision, that (should he therefore leave "when mutually agreeable") his dedicated service to the cause of education here entitles him to retain happier memories that currently seem to be his lot.

The school youth should be the chief concern of everybody in this case. The cause of education is next-of-kin. This school district's taxpayers have contributed millions of dollars into the hands of our school officials. They possess a public trust in this respect.

PEOPLE ELECT PEOPLE to run their public affairs. Public officials, of course, should exercise their respective ideas and convictions on matters relating to their respective spheres of responsibility.

If a majority of the present school board desires to change the pattern of its policy-making, it certainly has that right, too. Likewise, if a Superintendent for reasons of his own wants to oppose a board's ideas, he also has that right.

In other words, strained relations between public officials happen. But when they do, it is not the responsibility of all concerned to bring into operation every facet of wisdom and understanding, of patient and co-operative striving for an acceptable solution of whatever perplexes them at the moment?

IN SO DOING, ONE NEED NOT sacrifice his own principles—indeed, that would be wrong.

We sincerely urge that the board of education do whatever is possible to find a satisfactory solution in the present emergency.

We likewise suggest to Ireland that he endeavor to impersonalize to the fullest this situation, that he, too, recall some ancient words that read: "Blessed are the peacemakers ..."

This district's populace expects Ireland and the school board to effect some final decision on this relationship problem. The morale of every person in the district deserves to be held high.

### From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Michigan Democrats are afforded the opportunity of making their choice of Governor from a trio of: Lieut.-Gov. Swainson, Sec. of State Hare, and Detroit's Councilman Connor. The Republicans have Paul D. Bagwell and State Senator Carl Morris to choose from in the primary. The final choice will be made at the November general election.

In due time the Cuban people probably will penetrate the Communist sham of Castro, and throw him out. . . unless, of course, he falls victim to the pattern of the bloody purge he started over a year ago. Our own Uncle Sam is playing the role of a patient victim . . . much to the dissatisfaction and irritation of many U.S. citizens.

### The Birmingham Eccentric

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## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

What company official is responsible for this Coca Cola snafu?

Maybe you haven't noticed it yet, but plenty of others have!

There is a batch of brand new Coca Cola bottles WITHOUT CITY NAMES ON THE BOTTOM OF THE BOTTLE!

The old bottles, you remember, had a name of a town molded into the bottle's base.

DOES THE COMPANY KNOW what this has done to thousands of office coke sessions around the nation?

No longer can we determine who pays for the round of Cokes as determined by the bottle with the closest bottling company's location. He had to buy.

It'll serve the Coca Cola company right

if we office workers and a substitute refreshment which allows us to determine who pays for the mid afternoon pause!

A minister is a man who sticks with his congregation through sick and sin.

Department-of-things-I-wouldn't-know-could-happen-if-I-didn't-read-the-publicity-in-my-mail.

That a new public information officer at Selfridge Field had "gyroscoped" his way to a Nuremberg, Germany, assignment with the 8th Infantry division back in 1956.

Most of the time when I greet people with "How's everything going with you?", I don't really expect them to tell me.

## Awakening Giant



Nature Now Is on Page 5-B

### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Too Many Clerks, Bosses Ignoring Public's Comfort

To the Editor:

I wish to speak candidly on a subject frequently encountered by mothers shopping in the Birmingham area with their pre-school children.

My little boy, age 3½, and I went shopping in your fair town. It was to be a pleasant all-day affair, but was marred by an incident not unusual in my experience and those of other mothers.

Children have the very human need of rest-room facilities, something which the store personnel do not understand and are quite disdainful of.

APPARENTLY, such things are "done" in cosmopolitan Birmingham. In New York, London, Paris and other villages the human need is understood and accommodations are readily available.

While I was making a purchase at a store, my little boy requested the use of the holy sanctuary and we were summarily refused its use. "There is no public restroom here."

Next we went to another store where I also intended to shop and thought we'd combine both errands; shopping for me and relief for my little boy.

CALLING the salesgirl's attention to my son's plight, we were again very haughtily informed, "We do not have a public restroom."

By this time, drastic action was necessary and we politely requested to see the manager, expecting a more understanding attitude.

It is possible that we offended the sensibilities of this genteel, pristine, major domo? She too, denied my little boy the privilege of using the private temple.

PRESUMABLY she is unaware that nature demands its universal tribute, and unpredictably, in the case of little children, she lacked the sympathy of a normal woman for a child.

Fortunately, the police station offered its services without further growling on my part, and one very happy child, slightly damp.

emerged. The police had come to the rescue.

My child, to my knowledge, is not radioactive, will not contaminate any area, and has no communicable disease. On the contrary, he is a healthy normal male, with a natural urge.

IT IS A SAD commentary on the merchants, stores and salesforces, who are so gracious in taking money, yet cannot dispense with a bit of humanity, and give not of themselves but the use of the private facilities.

Rules of the use of private restroom facilities are unquestionably legitimate in the majority of cases, but a store manager on occasions of emergencies, should have the intelligence and authority to interpret these rules to the advantage of the store and the customer. There are a few establishments which have public restrooms for their patrons and these no doubt suffer the imposition of providing facilities for all. It is ridiculous to be forced to leave a certain shop to use the facilities of a competitor.

IT IS A SHAME that the small merchant should negate the work of the Chamber of Commerce (composed of the merchants themselves) by deliberately humiliating and driving the customers away.

As a matter of principle and convenience, we mothers, will direct our business in the future to those stores which reflect a sane and practical attitude toward the above mentioned emergency request.

Mrs. HERBERT E. KADAU  
1825 Gilbert Lake Rd.  
Cibola Lake, Okla.  
(See PEOPLE'S COL., Page 5-B)

## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

58 YEARS AGO  
April 15, 1902

"From the loud moanings of vulgar, profane and dirty yells from three or four young men on our Main street Sunday night last, one would think the saloons were running full blast. Our marshal could have found business awaiting him had he been in the vicinity."

Oakland was one of 16 counties in the state to vote "wet" in last week's election. For the past two years, Oakland has been "dry."

"Many threats of arrest and exclusion from property owners are ripe along the line of the creek at the north end of town because the boys are dumping all sorts of trash into the stream. Boys, who you are given permission to swim and play there, why not do the fair thing?"

30 YEARS AGO  
April 17, 1930

"By an apparently unanimous vote confidence in his leadership, the Oakland county board of supervisors Tuesday re-elected Robert Y. Moore of Birmingham as chairman of the board."

Birmingham Community House's dedication ceremonies have been set for April 28.

"Resumption of transportation service on the West Maple Road by the Bloomfield Transit Co. . . was begun last week. . . Bloomfield Transit . . . now is operating on a regular one-hour schedule . . . from Woodward to Franklin road."

15 YEARS AGO  
April 12, 1945

"With its goal set at \$19,700 the Birmingham Community House is completing its organization for the annual Roll Call which will begin May 12 . . ."

Rector at St. James for the past 18 years, the Rev. Warner L. Forsyth will resign June 17 from St. James Episcopal church, he announced this week. His future plans are incomplete.

### STRICTLY FRESH

The trouble with trying to put an old head on young shoulders is that you're liable to get slapped.

The easiest way to make ends meet is to get off your own.



A supersalesman is a husband who can convince his wife she's too chubby for a mink coat.

Nowadays, a kid thinks he's underprivileged if his parents can't provide him with a convertible.

A fellow is rarely so blind that he can't see the other guy's duty.

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