

This Choo-Choo Disappointed Many

This newspaper is aware of the great part that American railroads have played in the nation's progress and history. We applaud the traditional loyalties of railroad men and women, many of whom have risked life and limb in the performance of their jobs.

But we often are puzzled over some evidences of either ignorance or stupidity shown, on occasion, by some of various railroad companies' top brass.

FOR EXAMPLE: the recent fiasco

staged by the Grand Trunk when it sold hundreds of tickets for its final Iron Horse run, between Detroit and Durand.

The cars were filled (mostly with non-ticket-holding riders) before it reached Birmingham on its way to Durand that Sunday, March 27. What a wonderful record the top brass made on its route to a negative public good will! No wonder, everything considered over many years, so much of the public fails to come to the rescue of the American choo-choo-choos.

Is Kennedy's Wealth a Handicap?

If youthful U.S. Senator Jack Kennedy should win the Presidential nomination of his party this summer, we'll wager that you'll hear some high-to-heaven-howling—much of it from certain members of his own political group.

For this Massachusetts scion of wealth has a dad said to possess from 200 to 250 millions of dollars, not a little bit of it having been tossed into Jack's side of the contest.

We definitely are not, in this comment, attacking the Senator's personal life, or even questioning his considerable abilities; we only are emphasizing the power of money in the game of American politics.

For example: 'tis reported that Jack's family gave him a Convoir airplane, com-

plete with bunks, two pilots and even a hostess—just so he could get around the country with ease and swiftness. Indeed, Jack's whirlwind activities in the recent Wisconsin primary election has revealed how plenty of financial help from his own multi-millionaire family proves this point.

We wonder if he would not have won more genuine, loyal and lasting wide affection had he campaigned in an environment of less ostentation. (. . . and we don't overlook the possible similar goings-on had one multi-millionaire Nelson A. Rockefeller continued his race to win out over one Dick Nixon for the Republican nomination for residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.)

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Of this we feel certain: President Eisenhower has NOT done all that his office should do to outwit and out-manuever Communism's onward march. How come? Simply because he did not appoint the proper men (and maybe women) to weed out from various U.S. departments (especially State) some of the career persons who are either in sympathy with the Soviet, or at least apathetic in resisting it. That neither Dulles nor Herter have stuck around Washington long enough at a time to achieve this needed renovation, is the belief of millions of Americans.

If a man, or a woman, possesses the basic abilities that go with executive or legislative responsibilities, he or she won't have too much difficulty in "learning the ropes" of public office. However, what the public is entitled to are deep and understanding convictions, based upon realism and ethics, in those who aspire to govern. 'Tis better to vote for a strong person than one whose thoughts and actions respond solely to the crowd's whims and caprices.

Recently, when a photographer was assigned to take a picture in the Pentagon of Army Chief of Staff General Lemnitzer, it was suggested that he pose with a rifle in his hands. A long search in that huge edifice failed to produce this weapon . . . but one was requisitioned from nearby Fort Myer. (Sure, you're quite capable of making your own reflections on this episode.)

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Flagrant traffic violators should be taken off the road and the law book thrown at them!

Let's be realistic about who is entitled to use our streets and highways. This "law of the jungle" attitude does not fit in with what one normally thinks is a civilized method of handling social problems.

These "jungleers" take too many innocent lives, maintain too many innocent people, cause hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to property.

SOME OF THESE VIOLATORS have records a mile long. Yet they still are on the road.

There'll be a certain few protectors who say it's unconstitutional to deprive anyone of a license to drive.

Bosh!

A traffic menace should be kept off the highway, just as society tries to prevent

a mental incompetent from becoming a community menace.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS—and civic organizations—are to be applauded for their growing interest in this problem of incompetence on the highway.

They already have taken a number of progressive steps toward elimination of this traffic problem.

Public attitude, too, is changing, and is acknowledging a need for better control over who is permitted to use our public rights-of-way.

IT'S TO YOUR OWN INTEREST to detect, apprehend, prosecute and rehabilitate anyone who's a menace to highway safety and well-being.

Let's not let these scofflaws continue to chafe and maim.

The rest of us have to be safe and sane.

Will It Stay Up?



Nature Now Is on Page 4-B

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Our Readers React To Millage Vote, Ireland Resigning

To the Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to call to your attention a letter which was sent to Mrs. Kathryn T. Loomis, President, Birmingham Board of Education, by the Harlan Elementary School faculty. We are including a copy of this letter which is signed by every member of the faculty.

We feel, as professional administrators, it is important for us at this particular time to make very clear our position with regard to recent developments to the board of education.

We also feel that the position of the professional educator in regard to the recent action and behavior of the present board of education would be of interest to readers of The Birmingham Eccentric.

HERE IS OUR letter to the board: Mrs. Kathryn T. Loomis, President, Board of Education 1648 Dorchester Birmingham, Michigan

The faculty of Harlan school wishes to call to the attention of the board, its acute concern regarding the incidents which have precipitated the resignation of our Superintendent of Schools.

The responsibility of the board of education toward its community is not only legal, but has civic, social, economic and moral aspects which are no less important.

WITH THE GREATEST good to the greatest number as its goal, the board should seek at all times to carry out the considered wishes of the majority of the people of the community, within the framework of the law, whatever that may be.

The board must stand firmly against the pressures of minority groups and special interests of any kind.

Any educational system is simply a formal arrangement of social relationships, personnel and equipment to meet the need to transfer knowledge, skills and values from one generation to the next. It is the chief way the people of any community direct their way of living into the future; breakdown or inadequacy of that educational system means breakdown or inadequacy of the community or society.

IT SHOULD BE apparent that we do not educate our children in a vacuum; we educate them in an existing and very real physical and

social world that at any given moment is capable of only so much knowledge and skill, that has certain prevailing values, fears and ignorance. We educate our children not only in and for a local community, but also in and for a national and international community.

Any educational system always reflects the dominant values and

(See READERS, Page 5-B)

This Ex-Resident Likes 'New Look' Of School Board

To the Editor:

So Mr. Ireland got huffy and resigned after the recent special school election when he didn't get his way for the first time in 18 years. So what?

As a former Birmingham resident, I well remember the threat Ireland used several years ago to get what he wanted. He was going to resign to become a college professor.

The school board in consternation turned itself inside out and upside down to appease him, just like a weak-willed mother, giving in to a spoiled child.

WELL, IRELAND didn't resign, probably because he could earn a great deal more money as superintendent of Birmingham schools than in a college or university.

In last week's issue, it stated Ireland's starting salary—\$5,000 but no mention was made of his present salary. Why should that be kept a secret?

If I remember correctly, he got in the neighborhood of \$20,000 when I lived in Birmingham during the intervening years, this probably has been raised.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Ireland's present salary was inadvertently (See BOARD, Page 5-B)

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
April 22, 1910

"Horses are too slow for our doctors. The latest auto buyer is Dr. N. T. Shaw, who has an order in for an Oakland machine."

"The most successful girl's meeting was held at Mrs. Hulbert's Monday. Over 50 were present. Charades made out very pleasantly. Refreshments were served."

30 YEARS AGO
April 24, 1930

"The petition of J. A. Walsh, realtor, who requested that the village bear the expense of cleaning up the rubbish on the shores of Quanton lake and replace or remove his 'no trespassing' signs on the adjacent property, was granted by the unanimous vote of the commission Monday night."

"By a vote of four to three the village commission Monday night denied the petition of the D. M. Newberry Co. to cut down two trees at the corner of Maple Avenue and North Street, which, the company contends, interfere with a proposed gasoline station for that corner."

According to the recent count, The federal census shows 1,115 persons live in Bloomfield Hills.

15 YEARS AGO
April 19, 1945

"To celebrate V-E Day, the assembly club at Baldwin high school has planned a program for the students."

STRICTLY FRESH

Middle age: The time of life when the favorite night spot is a seat in front of the TV.

A wise man is like a pin—his head keeps him from going too far.



"They say" usually refers to yourself and another gossip.

There were just as many reckless drivers 50 years ago, but they were driving something that had more sense than they did.

Three-word recipe for success: Make yourself useful.

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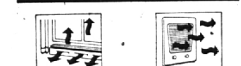
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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT BUILT-IN

ELECTRIC HEAT

Electric heat is an advanced and superior concept of home comfort. Here are some of the questions we've been asked about it.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
The four most widely used types are illustrated below. Because electric heat is built in, there is little interference with living space.



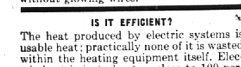
Baseboard units come in any length, in any height.



Radiant panels go in on walls.



Heating cable is buried in ceiling plaster.



Forced air units can go in walls or partitions.

IS IT SAFE?
It's as safe and troublefree as electric light. Electric heat devices work very much like your toaster does. However, most of them operate at relatively low temperatures—without glowing wires.

IS IT EFFICIENT?
The heat produced by electric systems is usable heat; practically no heat is wasted within the heating equipment itself. Electric heat is just about as close to 100 percent efficiency as it's humanly possible to get.

IS IT EXPENSIVE TO INSTALL?
In general, the original cost of an electric heating system is less than that of any other type of quality equipment. Actual installed cost will vary according to type of heating unit used, home size, method of home construction and additional insulation requirements.

A good time to install electric heat is when building a new home. But it's also very economical to install it when home alterations or additions are being made. Wiring is no problem. It's figured as part of the job.

CAN I PUT IT IN JUST ONE ROOM?

Yes, and economically, too, as indicated above. Typical examples: when you're adding a new room, finishing an upstairs, closing in a porch or breezeway. Electric heat is especially valuable when the new living space is a long way from the central heating system, or when the central system is already working to capacity. Another good time to use electric heat is when you have a hard-to-heat area.

CAN I PUT IT IN THE WHOLE HOUSE?

Yes, you can switch the whole house over to electric heat. In this case, additional insulation will be required, plus storm sash and storm doors all around.

For greatest heating economy and summer comfort, regardless of type of heating system, good insulation pays off. Industry established standards for this area for insulation thickness is not less than 6" overhauled; 8" if insulated; 2" along side and partially under concrete floor slabs. Floors above basements also need insulation.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO USE ELECTRIC HEAT?

Various factors, including family living habits, affect operating cost, so a hard-and-fast answer is impossible. A rough rule of thumb is 25¢-28¢ per square foot of heated space, annually. But there's little need to guess. An electric heating contractor can calculate actual first cost and operating cost quickly and accurately.

Electric heat will cost more. But the cost will probably not be as high as one would imagine. Like any quality product, you pay more for electric heat but you get more benefits!

In June 1959, Detroit Edison added a new, lower step to the residential electric rate. Now, kilowatt-hours of electricity over 750 per month cost 2¢ each, gross, instead of 2½¢—an 11 percent reduction.

DOES IT NEED MUCH SERVICING?

No. There are no moving parts in the electric heating systems discussed here except in the forced air units where fans or blowers are used. Fans are not high velocity, so they are long lasting also. An added advantage of electric heat, depending upon the type, is its completely silent, or very quiet, operation.

WHAT MAKES ELECTRIC HEAT BETTER?

FLEXIBILITY—Each room has its own thermostat. So each remains at the temperature you choose without affecting other areas. Temperatures can be raised or lowered in any room without overheating or chilling the rest of the house. Just a touch on the proper thermostat does it.

SPEED—When a thermostat is adjusted to call for heat, the response is fast! In the systems described here, the heat source is right in each unit—only inches away instead of many feet.

EVEN HEAT—There will be very little temperature difference between floor and ceiling. And, wherever possible, electric heat (except ceiling cable, of course) is installed in outside walls. Then there is a curtain of warm air between the cool wall and window surfaces and room occupants. This tends off chilling drafts.

CLEANLINESS—Nothing is burned to make smoke, soot or fumes. Air currents will carry only whatever dust may have been introduced by other means. Nor are large quantities of outside, potentially dusty air drawn into the house to support combustion. Results: walls, draperies, furniture and floor coverings stay clean longer.

ARE THERE OTHER TYPES OF ELECTRIC HEAT?

Yes, the flexibility of electric heat makes it applicable to many basic systems. For example, there are electric warm air and wet heat systems.

WHERE CAN I SEE ELECTRIC HEAT?

And a feature of every Gold Medal Home is its electric heating system. Watch for announcements of Gold Medal Home openings.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

There's free literature at your Edison office, or mail the coupon below. Another source, especially for a cost estimate, is the electric heating contractor who displays this emblem.

The contractor who displays the emblem has had special training which enables him to estimate your heating needs accurately. He has also pledged himself to meet industry standards of installation.

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Please send your free illustrated booklet, "Electric Home Heating."

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