

# 4-Mill School Debt Hike Set for March 28 Vote

Birmingham school district voters will decide in special election Monday, March 28, whether to increase school operating millage by 4 mills for a 5-year period.

If approved, this would provide next year's salary increases for teachers and certain other clerical and maintenance employees.

It also will enable 50 more teachers to be hired next year, reducing the pupil-teacher classroom ratio.

At a Feb. 9 regular board meeting, Tuesday night's decision will be formalized.

Birmingham school district's present operating and debt millage totals 22.48 mills. The proposed 4 mill additions would amount to a 17.7 per cent increase in your present Birmingham school taxes.

MRS. LOOMIS SAID the board and school administrative officials will hold special explanatory meetings with each school PTA membership.

Other civic groups will be contacted, too, she said.

"A careful study of figures convinced

board members that about 50 more teachers will be required in the Birmingham system two years ago before staff cuts were made last year because of a restricted budget," said Mrs. Loomis.

RATIOS AT THAT TIME were one teacher to each 22 1/2 students. Teachers' average four or five more students per class.

"The four mills," Mrs. Loomis said, "will be needed for the state additions, for an improved teachers' salary schedule, for adjustments of some clerical and maintenance salaries, and for addition of books to the Seaholm library to bring it up to the stand-

ard of the new Groves high school library."

THE NEED FOR a millage increase became evident last week when the Birmingham education association presented the schedule and greater increments (yearly raises).

The board voiced no objections to the request that would raise minimum and maximum salaries from \$4,500 and \$7,100 to \$4,600 to \$7,250.

A schedule for teachers with master's degrees would range from \$4,900 to \$7,825.

INCREMENTS WOULD BE \$225 for the

first three years, \$250 after that.

The proposed increases would cost Birmingham \$201,415 more the first year and \$257,000 the following year, according to George Miller, spokesman for the teachers' group.

This is only the beginning, said Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools.

Bus driver and custodian groups had not been heard from yet, he said. Clerical help was due for a salary raise, he went on.

PRINCIPALS PRESENTED the superintendent with a request for 51 more teachers. (Birmingham had cut back by 17 teachers for 1959-60, he reminded.)

The increase is needed to bring Birmingham

within the 27 to one pupil-teacher ratio demanded by the North Central association for 1960-61.

Birmingham's present operational millage is 13.98, much lower than that in many neighboring school districts.

Debt millage is an additional 8.5.

BIRMINGHAM'S OPERATIONAL income is kept in check by the area's strict residential zoning, Ireland pointed out, and the growth in student population is far ahead of the growth in assessed valuation.

Present assessed valuation per pupil is \$15,847, and dropping steadily.

Ireland predicted a 1960-61 school budget of \$5,233,750.

THE ELECTION DATE and size of the millage question was decided at a special board of education committee meeting Tuesday night, Mrs. Kathryn Loomis, pres-

Most sincere people, from time to time, get flashes of what may be labeled "good intentions" to change for the better, involving resolutions regarding very great faults, or just make a few minor faults. The "dash" may derive from conscience to reform, or it may be the result of serious thinking about the "dash" to get ahead. It's thought, how often these "flashes" are forgotten.

## The Birmingham Eccentric

36 PAGES AND SUPPLEMENT  
FEBRUARY 4, 1960  
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN  
SECTION A

Neighbor, Neighbor  
... hello, hello. See B. (Page 6).

Beat Pad  
... on 1-C.

Who Finished  
... and where in the PGA seniors' tourney. Check page 8-E.

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Bloomfield township Justice of the Peace Albert C. Carr totals up the fine for a traffic offender. Carr doesn't want to "hit the pocket"; he would rather have it be a good lesson that speeding doesn't pay ... it costs.

Your Court Report  
**2 Justices Look At Their Cases**

B'field's Carr Sees Parent, Rudell Looks at Motivation  
By SAVILLA SLOAN and JULIE CANDLER

If a 17-year-old driver gets a traffic ticket in Bloomfield township and hopes to pay the fine before his parents find out—he hasn't reckoned with Bloomfield Justice of the Peace Albert C. Carr. He makes young drivers bring a parent to court.

If a young motorist appears before Bloomfield township justice of the peace, William R. Rudell, he probably won't be asked to bring in a parent—but he may get "a little talking" with his fine.

Judge Rudell applies his deep interest in psychiatry and psychology to his work on the bench. He believes "people are what they are, not because they want to be, but because of something they have no control over."

"MANY OF these reckless young drivers are trying to prove something," says Judge Rudell. "This status business is part of it."

ONE YOUNG speeder's father told Judge Carr, "We warned him that on more traffic ticket, and we would restrict his driving."

## 'Romney Story' Told in New Biography

'Nice Guy' Is Finishing First In America's Business World

Humor, hard-selling, economy, inspiration and incentives made a success of American Motors according to a biography of George Romney, president of the company, just published by Harper & Brothers. The book is "The Story of George Romney" by Tom Mahoney.

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B'ham Republican Tries For State Senate Post  
Stanley M. Brown, 632 Ardmoor drive, has announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for State Senator from Oakland county.

B'ham Gets County 'Gift'—More Work  
Any future patching required by the recently widened and repaved W. Maple will be done by the city of Birmingham.

Public To Hear Both Sides on Zone Requests  
The public and the city commission are scheduled to hear both sides on three zone change requests, Feb. 8, at public hearings before the city commission.

Skier John Jay's 'Mountain Magic' Set for Town Hall  
His skill with a camera and his sense of humor has won for John Jay the titles of "The Cecil B. DeMille of skiing" and "Fred Astaire on skis."

Narrow Misses Are Routine  
How close can you get? That's what motorists Birmingham residents have known for years on this 16-foot bridge spanning the River Rouge at Oak street. But the city commission has decided an end to this hazard—and plans are on the drawing boards for a wider driving surface, if not a brand new bridge.

## Having Dinner with Ike

Just like the Republican program they're working on, these two Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills area Grand Old Party leaders found the program for "Dinner with Ike" a big one.



James R. Patterson (left), 967 Southfield, Birmingham, looks over the handsome program at the \$30-a-plate dinner with William H. Breech, 3530 Franklin, West Bloomfield. The two were introduced to the huge crowd gathered last Wednesday at Masonic Temple. Patterson is vice-chairman of the Oakland county Republican finance committee, and Breech is chairman of the committee's campaign to raise funds for the party's big 1960 task—to get Republican candidates elected.

Underestimate Power of Women? Not Us, Sydney!  
When author, columnist, lecturer Sydney Harris intimated that Birmingham women are shallow thinkers because they concern themselves too much with contemporary problems and not the basic philosophies of the past, he started something!

As a result, Michigan State University-Oakland this week announced a "Great Books course" to start Feb. 25.

Two-Hour Classes Will be Held Thursday nights. "We're trying to respond to the area's demonstrated needs," Eklund explained. "Registrations are being taken now by my office."

Council of Churches Honors W. T. Gossett  
William T. Gossett, vice president and general counsel for the Ford Motor Company received one of two laymen of the year awards from the Detroit Council of Churches when it convened for its 41st annual meeting.

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Michigan workman's compensation insurance now applies to Birmingham's volunteer policemen. The city commission this week agreed to pay \$184 annually to get the state's increased benefits, compared to the \$113 an insurance company's policy.

## This and That

U.S. Not Taught An Important Subject... Sylvia Porter Says  
Sylvia Porter is a 46-year-old New York writer on what is referred to as the "dismal science" for her forte in the newspaper columnist world is that of "economics." Over at the annual Michigan Press Association convention in East Lansing last week end, Miss Porter (her married name is Mrs. G. Sumner Collins) told her audience a number of facts (and, I presume, also a few fancies) about the financial status of the U.S.A.

Following Her Talk she answered questions from her audience. Miss Porter, do you believe that the American educational system has given or is giving the youth of today sufficient knowledge of the fundamentals of economics so that they, when grown to adulthood, will be more intelligent in using their ballots as they face the economic problems of the day?

With a smile she replied: "Well, that sounds like a 'planted question'—but I'll answer anyway."

When She Had Finished I again rose to my feet and said: "I wish to add a postscript to my question and I suggest that the chairman ask the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University, who were seated at the speaker's table, how they would answer."

To get his pictures, John Jay and his camera frequently skim along behind Olympic skiers in action at 50 miles per hour.



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