

1.9 School Millage Needed

Next Monday, June 13, is the day when voters in the Birmingham public school district will determine whether or not to increase their school tax millage 1.9 mills.

This newspaper has, for weeks and weeks, endeavored to present its readers with every fact and statement bearing on the subject—from both those who favor the added millage and those who oppose it.

Personally, after considering all angles of the subject, we do believe that a favorable vote will be in the best interest of the youth who benefit directly from education. Other beneficiaries are the parents who desire their offspring to get the best possible learning from classroom and textbook, the teachers and administrators receive rewards, and—last but not least—society in general which, of course, derives benefits wherever youth is subjected to education advantages.

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND the passage of this 1.9-mill extension for operating funds.

At the same time, we emphasize again that those directly related to the schools—the board of education and the top school administrators—that they renew their resolves to bring about every possible economy in the operation of Birmingham's public schools in the future.

This means, naturally, a continuous and penetrating study of curriculum, eliminating whatever may be deemed beyond the requirements of a sound and practical education.

(The board's president, Mrs. Kathryn Loomis, last week in this newspaper admitted that the local schools now face "an austerity" program. Translated into action, this alone may have a considerable financial load from the pocketbooks of the taxpayers.)

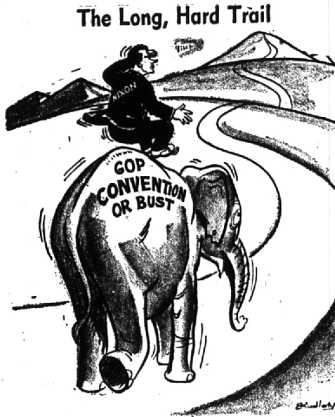
Another, and most important, phase of this or any other school system is related to the physical plant itself. Architectural plainness, simplicity, yet retaining good taste, is reflected in lowered construction costs. Use of acceptable, but not the most expensive building materials, also lowers plant costs, and means less bonded indebtedness.

TWO MONTHS AGO the district's electors voted overwhelmingly against a four-mill increase in their school taxes. Now they face the question of voting on the 1.9 mill request.

We recommend they approve it. We also believe the current pros and cons on the subject have been a benefit to the civic condition of the minds of the voters and school officials alike. Let's have more of it in the future.

EDUCATION, AS A VALUE and a virtue, is beyond anybody's criticism. How it is administered, and at what cost, is within the right of public criticism and suggestion—just as is any other type of publicly supported service.

This is the American way . . . the education way.



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Grosse Pointe Defends Their 'Point System'

To the Editor:

By clamor and by censure, and by letters to the press, many have heaped condemnation upon the Grosse Pointe Property Owner's Association and upon the residents of Grosse Pointe.

I do not believe this condemnation would exist if the true nature of the situation were generally understood. In the interest, therefore, of adjusting the balance, may I cast my vote for the property owners and against the vote of those who would do, somewhat prematurely "the hair of the Milkenium"?

We have only to look around to see many residents of widely varied backgrounds, incomes, social interests and national origins, and we have managed to maintain a degree of excellence that makes Grosse Pointe one of the most beautiful suburbs of the Detroit area.

THIS IS NOT SO of many once beautiful sections of the City of Detroit. Friends from California who are former residents of Detroit, recently visited their former home sites and came away sick at the sight.

And here it may be noted that the Wall Street Journal recently editorialized that while it once took about 20 years to destroy a neighborhood, officials of the urban renewal projects pioneered in Chicago have found that "new slums" have been created almost faster than new housing projects can be built.

It was suggested that this has come about because of the inability of the planners to understand that "the people are not in the slums, the slums are in the people."

THERE ARE OTHER attractive

suburbs beside Grosse Pointe, in the Detroit area, and it is generally known that such has at least one organization as well as watchful realtors whose purpose is to guard the sale of property in those locations.

WHY, THEN WAS GROSSE POINTE SINGLED OUT FOR ATTACK?

Simply because certain militant minority and do-good groups (to say nothing of aspiring politicians) saw in the Maxwell case and in the global defamation of the Grosse Pointe, the perfect opportunity to create a climate favorable to their objectives.

What is the main objective of these militant minority groups? Just this: to take away by law obtained through state legislature or by court decision, the right of a property owner to determine to whom he shall sell his property. This is a right inherent in the ownership of property and to abrogate this right is to take from the owner by force, the control of his own property.

IN SUPPORT of what I am saying, I quote from a recent address by the Honorable M. T. Phelps, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona: "There is a nationwide movement being vigorously advocated by 27 liberal organizations to enact into law every State in the Union a law that carried the innocent title of 'Fair Housing.' This law makes it 'Unlawful' to discriminate on the basis of race." (See SYSTEM, Page 7-B)

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
 June 10, 1910

"The Eccentric here presents—a photographic half-size of the new waiting room to be erected in Birmingham by the Detroit United Railway. The building is located on the property now occupied by the company's express building. It will have a frontage of 34 1/2 feet on Woodward and a large depth of 76 feet with a total freight loading platform in the rear.

"The exterior of the building will be Spanish character with a combination of red brick and stucco walls and red Spanish tile roof. The designers of the station is the famous firm of architects and engineers, Smith, Hinchman & Grylls of Detroit.

Rochester high school defeated Birmingham high school baseball team Saturday, June 4, in a game featured by the heavy hitting of the winners. The score was 7 to 3.

30 YEARS AGO
 June 12, 1930

"The need for a comprehensive village plan and zoning ordinance for the protection and advancement of Birmingham were stressed in a talk yesterday by Harlow N. Davock, a member of the village planning commission.

"Robert Y. Moore, supervisor of Bloomfield township, was honored Friday night at a testimonial dinner at the Bloomfield township park."

15 YEARS AGO
 June 7, 1945

The Birmingham Board of education contracted with the firm of Saarinen and Swanson to research the need for expansion and improvement of Birmingham school facilities. Part of their task was to determine which could be accomplished with a large plot of land on West Lincoln, owned by the school district.

The city commission worked for

some weeks on requests for closing of alleys in various parts of the city. Frequent petitions have been received during the preceding year, study disclosed, in almost every case that the alleys no longer were desirable. An alley was closed between Stanley and Washington streets, south of Lincoln, following a hearing June 3.

A Birmingham woman who lives alone on one ration book received some extra meat points from her daughter and lost sleep worrying about the beef roast she purchased for a company dinner. According to the Wanderer, when she finally did get to sleep, she dreamed of the wonderful dinner she was to serve the following day.

"Considerable interest is being displayed in the Birmingham school district election to be held June 11. There are two seeking the one position . . . Ernest W. Sealin, 385 Ketter street, William D. Grim, 19481 Beverly road."

STRICTLY FRESH

Some long books are like old friends: hard to get to know and hard to say goodbye to.

Many lessons of history have been forgotten in schoolyard fights.



Why is it that everybody wants to smoke the peace pipe—but nobody likes to inhale?

Many marriages wouldn't crash if people didn't take off on them so fast.

Druggists: A department store that used to sell medicine.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

The following editorial is from the Cleveland, Ohio, Plain Dealer: "Get a load of this, folks. The government has got out a pamphlet on 'Tools for Food Preparation and Dishwashing.' And it contains some information we'll bet you never thought of such as 'Dishpans should be large enough to hold the dishes but not too large for the sink.' Well, what do you know? For years we had a dishpan that wouldn't hold the dinner plates and when we got a new one it was too big to fit in the sink. Now thanks to this advice from Washington, we'll go right out and buy an in-between-size dishpan and see how that works. We never would have solved the problem ourselves. And when it comes time to pay our income tax next year we'll be especially grateful to the bureaucrat who thought this up."

One important reason why many older persons do not possess sufficient funds to take care of their medical expenses is that the federal government already has taken so much of their earnings in the way of taxes. Say what you will, speak as kindly as you wish about Congress, the fact still

remains that a majority of those elected officials act like legalized bandits. Every boondoggling dollar they extract from you—regardless of what label they attach to it—is akin to being held up by a robber. Think this over, Friend, think it over and then come to your own conclusion.

Frequently we hear this comment by local citizens: "So often, when I attend meetings of our public bodies, like the city commission, the school board, or the township board, it is very difficult to hear what some of them say. Sometimes a board member's voice drops so low that one cannot hear what is supposedly being uttered for the audience to hear. This is, of course, discouraging . . . maybe it contributes to the general citizen disinterest in attending such meetings."

"A War to end all Wars" and thus "Make the World Safe for Democracy" were slogans invented during World War I. The first above slogan was used again in World War II. If such a horrible thing as World War III comes to pass, then slogan No. 1 certainly will apply—for who will be left to fight?

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 1225 Bowers Street Telephone West 4-1100

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

So Detroit needs an income tax to balance its budget.

Why not? It's an easy way out.

A harder way, of course, is to untangle the financial knots the entire state finds itself in because of the constitutional limitations on state revenues.

IF THE DETROIT INCOME TAX is made to stick, then it'll be just that much more difficult to get the state mess straightened out.

How much better in the long run for Detroit to trim its budgets to the point where its taxpayers will force a showdown on the state problem.

But politics seems to have a way of taking the easy way out . . . which is the hard way for the taxpayer.

A woman's eyes constantly are playing tricks on her. She can thread the eye of a needle but can't get the car through the garage door.

While on this subject of easy ways out, I'm waiting to see when the Michigan Educational Association, the school superintendents association, and related educational groups put their noses to another

grindstone.

It's the old problem of estimating next year's school district budgets on phantom figures with undetermined property assessments, state monies, etc.

In April a school board must estimate its forthcoming budget. Yet county and state equalization figures are weeks away from determination.

State officials are months away from revealing what their new state aid formulas will be.

MEANWHILE, THE PUBLIC SEES a proposed budget which really doesn't mean a thing. Taxpayers become confused in the fall when they see another budget based on known formulas, ratios, etc.

The city assessors used to have a similar problem, too. They were hard pressed to make up property assessment rolls for municipal tax purposes because the state tax valuation date came so late in the spring.

Some body or bodies got to work and had that valuation date moved forward to Jan. 1 each year. That ended the confusion for the assessors.

Perhaps some educator will rally around him enough support to clear up this school district budget-determining problem?

The Long, Hard Trail

MARK WESSEL
 Pianist • Composer • Teacher
 Studio at 3815 Old Indian Trail
 Orchard Lake MI 48456

WEDDING
Invitations

Genuine
Engraved

- INVITATIONS
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- ACCESSORIES

You may select your needs with confidence as to quality and correctness of form.

- COMPLETE SELECTION
- PROMPT DELIVERIES

Birmingham Printing
 & OFFICE EQUIPMENT CO.
 308 E. MAPLE — BIRMINGHAM
 Midwest 4-4740

Sometimes gentlemen (and ladies, too) should prefer bonds . . .

Because of the daily excitement that stocks create with fast-action quotation changes, bonds often go unnoticed. That is unfortunate, for there are attractive bond issues which would fit snugly into the portfolios of many gentlemen (and ladies, too).

There are, of course, many different types of bonds, some of which offer decided advantages for investors. For one thing, bonds usually provide a fixed, regular income. They normally are less subject to fluctuation than common stocks. And there are tax-exempt bonds which can be advantageous for those in higher income brackets.

We have complete information about the characteristics of the many bond issues available to investors, so why not stop in, and talk about bonds. You may find that you prefer them.

MANLEY, BENNETT & CO.
 MEMBERS NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Buhl Building, Detroit 26
 Woodward 5-1122
 Enterprise 5209 (Dist. '07)

Bloomfield Mills, Mich.
 Jordan 6-4550
 Midwest 7-9900

Bloomfield Office Open Saturdays—9 to 1

give your furniture a new lease on life!

ELLIOTT'S of Waterford
 —since 1924

UPHOLSTERING

5400 Dixie Highway OR 3-1225

West Maple at Henrietta — Birmingham

USE OUR Thrifty CHARGE

Save at Kresge's lower prices—Make small monthly payments!

Kresge's BIG BUY
The family's choice

REFRIGERATOR SETS In Unbreakable POLYETHYLENE

This Sale Only 63¢ Set

Colorful Food Containers For Refrigerator, Picnics!

Pack food away or save it for another day . . . in light, unbreakable plastic containers. The 5-piece set includes four 16-oz. containers and one 32-oz. size. The 6-piece set has two 12-oz., two 16-oz. and two 32-oz. containers. Choose a set today in pink, yellow or turquoise.

West Maple at Henrietta — Birmingham
At Kresge's—"This Week's Big Buy is Your Best Buy"