The Birmingham Eccentric

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Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

What is of greater importance, and more difficult to achieve, than raising children to become mature, responsible, kindly, and able to provide economic security for their eventual families? Yet the very role of parenthood makes so many demands upon man and wife that they are often unable to meet them satisfactorily—simply because most of us are unprepared for the job that really exists only after marriage.

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Three Days Left in City's Arts Festival

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'Yes' Voters Triumph in Millage Issue

Beier, Hanson Top Candidates

By AL SANDNER
Staff Writer

An energetic group of Birmingham school district citizens, that snowballed into existence, scored a double victory at the polls Monday.

The Independent citizens for Birmingham schools, organized in mid-April, was instrumental in the passage of a 1.9 mill increase proposal 5,858 to 4,159, and in getting out the largest vote on record—10,087.

Five candidates ran for two board of education posts. One incumbent, Mrs. Mary Beier, and one newcomer, E. Ross Hanson were voted in.

INCUMBENT William Spence, a 12-year member and vice-president of the board, was defeated.

Hanson polled 4,224 votes; Mrs. Beier was second with 3,577 votes. Spence placed fourth with 3,108 votes.

Other unsuccessful candidates were Albert C. Scott and Garvin Bawden, with 3,173 and 2,898 votes respectively.

"I CAN'T overstate my gratitude to the Independent citizens for Birmingham schools or to Mr. Hollingshead for the job they did in preparing and disseminating the facts on this issue," said Mrs. Kathryn Loomis, president of the board of education.

"The amount of information the leaders of this group learned in so short a time is phenomenal," she said.

The citizen's group was born in the audience at the April meeting of the board of education. Someone suggested petitions be drawn up requesting the board to place the millage proposal on the regular June school election ballot.

A SIMILAR four-mill proposal was defeated in a March 28 special election, 4,665 to 3,363. Both proposals are designed to bring Birmingham's teacher salary schedule up on a level with those of other metropolitan Detroit school districts.

Attorney Pell Hollingshead, 489 Argyle, Birmingham, latched onto the idea presented at the meeting and started to spread the group which almost organized itself in different school areas.

"Right from the start, we knew there were enough votes to pass the millage proposal—we just had to get them to the polls," the soft-spoken attorney said.

"WHAT KILLED the first millage proposal was the fact that 70 per cent of the eligible voters did not go to the polls March 28," said Hollingshead, chairman of the citizens group.

The group had its first organizational meeting May 3 in the Quarton school area.

Hollingshead and friends started to round up others—getting a chairman for each elementary school. Each area organized a planning committee and sent a delegate to a central committee.

THE CHAIRMAN of each planning committee decided how to contact voters and distribute the fact sheets drawn up and printed by the central committee.

Local groups were organized on a block basis and volunteer workers visited almost every home. Some were visited twice.

"We went back several times to get the 'non-registerds' out," said Mrs. Barbara Conn, 1184 Yorkshire, Adams school chairman.

THE CENTRAL committee arranged a mass meeting June 1 at Seaholm high school.

The committee raised $450 in one and two-dollar contributions to cover printing costs—50,000 pieces of literature were distributed in slightly more than a month.

Approximately 70 persons — teachers, principals, board members, candidates and citizens waited in the board meeting room in Hill school building Monday night until the trend in the voting was evident.

THE WAITED until after midnight; the last precinct reported at about 2:15 a.m.

The $292,000 now assured for teacher salaries will not relieve Birmingham's current personnel problem, according to administrative assistant Richard Featherstone.

"We now have lost about 65 teachers—including some of our best," Featherstone said. "It's too late to sign up the better teachers

(See MILLAGE, Page 2-A)

Bloomfield Considers Bond Issue

Bloomfield Hills has a commission-size job cut out for itself in convincing residents to support a tentative $1.5 million general obligation bond issue for a sewer system. The city is under order from the Michigan water resources commission to clean up all sources of pollution, said Mayor Henry Woolfenden.

The city commission has employed Hubbell, Roth & Clark to survey and lay out a lateral system for sewers. Meanwhile, the commission has been studying the possibilities of financing such a project.

At their monthly meeting Tuesday night, the commissioners discussed a subcommittee recommendation to issue general obligation bonds. Alternatives suggested for financing were a special assessment of residents or contracting with the county through bond issue to install the sewers.

HOWEVER, the commissioners agred that a general obligation bond issue is the only feasible approach to financing the project. The bond issue is the only tax deductible way the city can finance the system. If a special assessment was levied, the citizens would have to pay it up much sooner than they would a bond issue, and they wouldn't be getting as much for their money, agreed the commissioners.

Bond issue action will require approval by 60 per cent of the residents voting. The subcommittee recommended that a special bond issue election be held.

If the residents don't approve the bond issue, the city will have to resort to a special assessment. And, if this is not affirmed by the necessary 60 per cent, the city will be forced into a bond issue by a court order, said Mayor Woolfenden.

IF PEOPLE don't understand the problem, they are going to vote against it, he said. The sewer system is a complicated issue and it is important to explain the matter. The commission members agreed with the subcommittee that a town meeting be held two weeks before the special election to dis-

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ECCENTRIC PHOTO

'So THAT'S How You Do It!'

These four spectators represent what thousands of Birmingham-Bloomfield residents and visitors are doing this week—taking a closeup look at art and the artists. Here Charles E. Balough, 1027 Eastover, Bloomfield township, shows his artistic ability in one of the special demonstration tents in Shain park in downtown Birmingham.

B'ham Arts Festival: 'Wet, But Wonderful'

By DON PEMBER
Staff Writer

Although drenched by rain and heavy thunderstorms, participants and performers and patrons alike failed to have their spirits dampened as the 2rd Annual Birmingham Arts Festival completed the first half of its eight-day program Wednesday night.

Boasting a program of top flight musicians, artists and thespians, the annual event has made Birmingham what well known illustrator Robert Thom calls a "city of the arts," and produced a civic pride seldom seen in a suburban community.

And what were the people saying about the Festival?

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Dodge, 843 Suffield, Birmingham, called the Festival "stupendous for a community this size."

Dr. Ron Clark called the Saturday's ballet "a nice production" and said of the entire Festival, "I am enjoying it."

"I like the Festival very much," said Mrs. M. Danto of Brookdale. She added, "I think it is much better than last year's."

Mrs. Francis O'Neil, 355 South Williamsbury, called the Art Festival a "wonderful idea."

"The kids enjoyed the ballet and the Charlie Chaplin movies," Mrs. O'Neil said. She also commented that there is a lot more to the Festival this year.

"It takes a lot of community cooperation to put on something like this," said M. W. Eichner of Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford township. He said that although he hadn't seen any of the programs, the exhibits had some "pretty nice stuff."

"It's wonderful that Birmingham can do this," said Mrs. John Finch. When asked what she liked best, Mrs. Finch replied, "It's all interesting."

Mrs. Arthur Shore, 1319 Covington, Birmingham, said the music was very good, and she enjoyed everything in the Festival.

"This Festival is far superior to the first one," Mrs. Shore said. "We were comfortable tonight during the program," she added.

The Festival opened Saturday at 2 p.m. with short talks by Birmingham Mayor Florence Willett, Robert VanderKloot, chairman of this year's Festival, and Paul N. Averill, president of the Bloomfield Art Association, which is sponsoring the Festival.

THE SEAHOLM high school band led guests and spectators on a promenade to Shain Park. Slightly reminiscent of an Arab camp with its multi-colored tents and gay banners and flags, the park is the center of attraction during the eight-day festivities.

A huge geodesic dome, made of gold-colored aluminum framework and a waterproof nylon lining covers most of the center area of the park and houses the evening programs.

SATURDAY'S PROGRAM included a ballet, performed by students from the Irene Mortenson school of dance; a three-act play presented by the Young People's Studio Theatre, (under managing director, Melvin L. Whittle); and a choral and instrumental program by the Cass Tech harp and vocal ensemble under the direction of Velma Froude.

"An Afternoon with Robert Thom" highlighted Sunday's activities. The noted illustrator displayed his entire "History of Medicine" series, which he did for Parke, Davis & Company, and included a demonstration of his painting techniques.

DURING THE WEEK, the daylight hours found many visitors roaming throughout the park and the streets of Birmingham, fascinated by the many art demonstrations and displays.

Due to heavy rains Monday night, a rather scant crowd attended the second performance of the Young Peoples Studio Theatre production and a short program of art films presented by Mrs. Barney Bogue and Mrs. Honre Kirk.

THE STRING ENSEMBLE performed under the big dome Tuesday night, bringing to the Festival a program of classical music. The Ensemble, under the direction of William C. Casey, is an integral part of the Birmingham Musicale.

Vocal duets and solos were sung by Helen and Bob Smith, accompanied by Armin Jack Franz on the organ.

SILENT MOVIE STAR Charlie Chaplin returned to the screen to the delight of Festival-goers Tuesday night during an "Evening With Chaplin." Two original

(See FESTIVAL, Page 3-A)

'Borrowed' Patrolman To Perform

By DENI SCANLON
Staff Writer

Patrolman Lem Winchester won't walk his beat in Wilmington, Del., Friday night. Birmingham Police Chief Ralph Moxley took care of that.

Instead, the talented law enforcement officer will man the vibes at the jazz festival in Shain Park.

Chief Moxley, in the interest of the city's third annual Arts Festival, wrote to the Wilmington police head requesting a short furlough so the performer could take on another kind of beat here. Permission was granted.

OTHER TOP notch entertainers will arrive in town today and Friday to add still more bounce to the Birmingham scene.

The Chrysler Pipe Band will send squalling sounds through the streets tonight as they march to the dome at Shain Park to perform at 8:30 p.m. Farmington players will be busy touching up make-up for their presentation of "The Hasty Heart" that will follow the band's performance.

AND SOMEWHERE else in the city, Lem Winchester and other headline musicians, will be jazzing it up for the first time together.

The Metropolitan Indian Dancers will be actively mapping strategy for trail-blazing into the dome at 3 on Saturday afternoon and somewhere between here and the east, Carl Sandburg will be en-route for his "Evening" with a sell-out audience at Cranbrook stadium.

THE BESS BONNIER Trio will begin the jazz festival. Bess, a blind pianist, is a native of Detroit. Bess's earthy piano is jewel-like in a setting provided by Nick Fiore, a groovy bass player and creative arranger, and Dick Reardon, a clean, tasty drummer.

J. C. Heard, a Detroit-born drummer, will leave an assignment with Sarah Vaughan to pound out progressive jazz for Birmingham. He has played with such muscial luminaries as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Woody Herman, Cab Calloway, Dizzie Gillespie, Erroll Garner and Billie Holliday.

THEN LEM Winchester will take the stage. A policeman who went from two-finger piano to vibrating vibes that broke up the most recent Newport Jazz Festival, he reaffirms applause echos from the famous musical event.

Jean Thielemans, a Belgian who was once featured with George Shearing, will play a swinging modern-jazz harmonica, doubling with riveting guitar renditions.

DETROITER SANDY Moss, tenor sax man, will wield an enter-

(See PATROLMAN, Page 6-A)

Winchester Packs Wallop

Patrolman Lem Winchester demands attention in either of his roles. The Wilmington, Del., policeman-turned-vibist is one of the many jazz artists that will entertain music enthusiasts at 8:20 p.m. Friday in the geodesic dome at Shain Park.

4 Seaholm Grads Tie for Top

By CAROL KING
Seaholm High School Graduate

A record class of 646 seniors will be graduated in Birmingham at 10 a.m. today.

Leading the class of 1960, first group to graduate from the renamed Ernest W. Seaholm high school, is an unprecedented quartet of four co-valedictorians, Natalie Gingell, Orin Pearson, Daniel Rodgers, and Robert Tigelaar, and salutatorian Fredrica Harris.

MISS GINGELL RODGERS PEARSON TIGELAAR

THIRTY-FOUR students in addition to the above class leaders will graduate cum laude with a grade average of at least 3.6 of a possible 4 points.

MISS HARRIS

They include Anne Abbott, Anne Bailey, James Bird, Jean Buchanan, Charles Coffin, Mary Cook, Bonnie Cueny, Mary Dalson, Charles Darling, James Donaldson, Robert Flaherty,

Susan Ganter, Mary Gough, David Hunter, Janet Johnson, Ricki Johnston, Ruth Kalmbach, Karl Kanzler, Carol King, Barbara Koch, Laura Linder, David Lindsay,

Jane McKinley, Mary Matulaitis, Barbara Monroe, Gary Poole, Judy Reilly, Timothy Shovan, Eleanor Sims, Barbara Sommer, Jane Thompson, Martha Thompson, Donald Wehe and Nancy Wesch.

At the senior dinner, May 26, these students were presented with medals in recognition of their achievement.

Speaker for the commencement program is Dr. William E. Stirton, vice-president of the University of Michigan in charge of the Dearborn division.

DR. STIRTON, a native of Imlay City, worked his way through the University of Michigan, receiving his bachelor degree in electrical engineering and a master's in physics and mathematics.

His two honorary doctorates are in business administration and science in engineering.

Ross A. Wagner, Seaholm principal, will present the class, and Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools, will hand out the diplomas.

PAUL ROBERTSON, president of the graduating class, will lead his fellow students into the gymnasium for the ceremonies. Other officers of the class include Fred Rhines, vice-president; Nancy Wesch, secretary; and James Bird, treasurer. Chief faculty adviser is Harold VanDragt.

Among those graduating are two American service students, Gloria Mendoza of the Philippines and Jean-Pierre Gontard of France. Seaholm students abroad this year included Dan Rodgers, Eleanor Sims, Jane Thompson, Natalie Gingell, and Emily Watson.

Scholarship recipients from the class of 1960 included Donald Wehe, Alpha Tau Omega scholarship to the University of Michigan; Carol King, Birmingham Journalism Scholarship; James Bird, Birmingham Student loan and Scholarship Fund association; James Bird, Birmingham Student loan and Scholarship Fund association; James Alain, Dwight B. Ireland scholarship given by the Pembroke PTA; Margaret Ostrow,

(See GRADS, Page 2-A)

The wife of a handsome young business executive met her husband one afternoon. As they were going down on the elevator it stopped and a high octane secretary got on. Poking the business man in the ribs, she winked and said, "Hello, cutie pie." Unperturbed, the young man's wife leaned toward the secretary and smiled sweetly, "I'm Mrs. Pie," she said.

A state of Washington gentlemen recently addressed a college graduating class and told them that the U.S. is losing its role as world leader "because of the moral deterioration of our people." What a challenge to any graduating class!

Sophia Loren, Italian movie star, recently lost more than a half million dollars worth of jewels from her de luxe cabin in England's London. "The gal, not too many years ago, on the verge of poverty, certainly loves jewels. Some of the lost gems were not hers, she says. "I only borrowed them to wear in a movie I'm making," she stated. Here, it seems to us, is an outstanding case of "From rags to riches."

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6310.

This and That

by George R. Averill

Au Sable Loses An Old Friend— J. B. (Jerry) Webber

The passing, last week, of James B. (Jerry) Webber Sr., not only removed one of Detroit's prominent businessmen from the current scene, but also resulted in the loss of one of Michigan's devoted out-of-door enthusiasts—more particularly an expert trout fisherman.

With three brothers, he for 40 years had been a part of the J. L. Hudson Company's controlling powers, being its vice-president in charge of merchandising.

For 28 consecutive years "Jerry" Webber was a familiar angler on Michigan's Au Sable River. His personal guide and friend, Earl Madsen, of Grayling, served him over those 28 years for each year's months of May and June.

Many were the times when my Birmingham pal, Jack Taylor, and I were fishing the Au Sable and, came the noon lunch hour, we'd find ourselves making a wood fire with Jerry and Earl at some spot along the river, cooking some food and boiling the ever-desired coffee.

AT SUCH TIMES we'd discuss the day's fishin', often regaling one another with past angling successes (every one such "most authentic" in every statement). Jerry was a first-rate "old shoe" type of chap, never "up-stage", always ready with a joke, or an apt listener to another's tale.

As one who has fished the Au Sable for over 30 years, I believe I can say with accuracy that Jerry and Earl perhaps caught more total trout on that stream than any other twain of anglers—and there's no doubt but what they returned most of every day's catch to the river again.

Jerry Webber will be missed by many . . . including fellow-trouters who enjoyed him whenever and wherever they met him.