



The Nation's Top
Suburban Weekly
TEN CENTS

"Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel" and "Tyranny makes soundbells of patriots" are two old axioms that should give us Americans pause, as we reflect upon the continuing loss of many personal liberties... as we witness the unending travagance of many state legislatures and of Congress. Are we not, today in the U.S.A. being governed too much by men—instead of law.

83rd Year—NO. 1

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This and That
by George R. Averill
Politics Produces Its Humorous Side

Since this is an election year, and already the politicos on federal and state levels are warming up their respective (though not entirely respectable) campaigns, I'm reminded of an episode that took place in early November of 1946. I was in a campaign during that affair. I was named him all over Michigan. The night before election day I was to make his final state-wide speech, over radio from the stage of a high school.

BET PRIOR to the evening's dinner, which preceded the speech, a great big Republican street parade was held. I've forgotten how many people took the thing over its way, with quite a number of marchers, plus several bands.

Sliger was in the first big automobile, right behind one of the bands, which happened to be from one of the high schools.

The last musician in that band, loyally marching perhaps a hundred feet ahead of Sliger, was a drummer. The important fact regarding this maker of sound was that it was a drum.

THAT WAS a unique contribution. A real elderly woman who was married to a politician, marched more than a couple of miles on a cold November day to tribute to a candidate for Governor? That was a real feat.

It was riding in the car behind Kim's. With me were four Detroit newspaper reporters—Ken McCormick, Fred Presser, Al Neuber, Tom Newsom, Jim Inglis, Detroit Times, and Hub George, also of the Press.

When we all first saw the lady, vigorously playing her snare drum, we all agreed that "there was a story."

INCIDENTALLY, may I inject one fact of the campaign in which the opponents of Sliger, both in the primary and general elections had suggested that Sliger himself had been a member of the Ku Klux Klan—which, I may add, he wasn't. Anyway, our caravan reached the high school, our newspaper boys wanted to get in touch with the grand old man of politics, and I managed to get her attention. She beckoned her over to our location. She was all smiling, though obviously tired.

ONE OF THE reporters asked her for her name, age, why she participated in such marches (she admitted she had done so for years), and a few other relevant questions. The reporters were making their notes, then came a final question: "Tell us, where did you learn how to play the snare drum?"

With a rare smile... one that perhaps was tinged with a slight suggestion of embarrassment, she answered: "Oh, one of a young girl I learned to play in a band made up of members of the Ku Klux Klan!"

Paul D. Bagwell (left) leading contendor for the Republican gubernatorial nomination and David Barnard, Birmingham board of education member, engaged in some informal conversation before a Totta Party meeting Tuesday evening. Bagwell addressed the meeting in his capacity as an educator, on

academically talented students and curriculum at elementary and junior high school levels. "With the present developments, I don't have much choice," Bagwell answered, when Barnard asked whether he was a candidate for governor.

'Not Much Choice'
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She Won't Be Home Here For A While
BEVERLY HILLS—The telephone was disconnected this week at the Beverly Hills home of Mrs. Nell Lassiter, who it is thought could be a long time before she returned to 1960 Beverly.

The pre-trial examination of Mrs. Lassiter and the alleged paramour with whom she is accused of plotting her husband's murder resumes tomorrow morning at 9:30.

The 38-year-old widow's attorney has failed in attempts to obtain her release from custody. Justice of the Peace John L. Mokeraky is hearing the case in Dearborn township, where Marvin (Bill) Lassiter was killed last April 7.

Gordon Watson, 44, of Detroit, former partner in Lassiter's auto lot stand time when arranged before Judge Mokresky Tuesday night. It was just three hours after he arrived from Los Angeles, where he now lives.

Watson told Newman he would have fought extradition to Michigan if he didn't believe he could clear himself of the charges of first degree murder and conspiracy. He called them "fantastic," and said he was a close friend, and nothing more, of Mrs. Lassiter.

Returns Costly, Merchants Find
A plan to educate shoppers of the losses suffered by local merchants as a result of returned merchandise is being recommended by a study committee made up of representatives from the chamber of commerce credit plate association and local merchants.

Some merchants lose as much as 20 per cent of their sales in returns, the committee learned.

THE COMMITTEE included Charles J. Sigler, vice chairman of Birmingham chamber of commerce; Foster Touchette, chairman, Retail Merchants Association; Donald L. Cummings, president, Birmingham Credit Plate Association; Wayne L. Smith, president, Birmingham Credit Bureau; Sherwin Davidson, and J. M. Ball, local merchants.

\$67 Million Valuation Under Review by B'ham
A \$67,019,800 tax roll for 1960 is before the Birmingham board of review for adoption. City Assessor Clark Hagstrom, P. G. Burnett and Barrett Mason met in preliminary session Tuesday.

Meetings will be open to the public next Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the assessor's office in the municipal building.

HAGSTROM SAID he has recommended a new tax roll listing \$59,375,000 in real property, \$14,240,000 for personal property. This compares to \$58,273,460 and \$6,848,740, or a total of \$65,122,200 last year.

Hills Incumbents Stand Unopposed
BLOOMFIELD HILLS—The city commission last Monday accepted the lowest bid received for the April 4 elections. It came from the J. L. Van Wagner Insurance company, Pontiac, and was for \$753,632.

The only other business was the appointment of election workers for the April 4 elections. Two city commission incumbents, Henry L. Woolfenden and James A. Bereafor, have no opposition for re-election. Constable Homer Murphy also is unopposed.

Ever Hear A Gleam Talking?
BY GEORGE W.M. AVERILL
Managing Editor
That proposed 10-to-20 million dollar Oakland county center still is not much more than a gleam in Robert B. Aikens' eye.

No Need to Widen Southfield Here, B'ham Is Told
Answer to a long-standing question for Birmingham was supplied this week by Oakland county road commission engineer, Paul Van Roekel.

In a letter to City Manager L. R. Gare, Van Roekel said: "It is our opinion that the bulk of the traffic using Southfield in the vicinity of 14 Mile is local... and most of it will dissipate in that immediate area."

Gare said this means simply that the county considers Southfield north of 14 Mile (the Birmingham-Beverly Hills boundary) will not need further widening.

THE COUNTY, Van Roekel said, has plans underway for widening Southfield from Northwest corner highway to 14 Mile road. The county and municipalities will split the widening costs, he said.

City Commissioners William E. Roberts suggested it might now be time for Birmingham to discuss 14 Mile road widening plans with Beverly Hills and Bloomfield townships.

Mayor Harry M. Denyes said he'd see if he can arrange a meeting.

Boss for a Week
Birmingham chamber of commerce President Richard Fischer will be chairman of Michigan Week in Birmingham May 15 to 21. Appointment was made this week by Birmingham Mayor Harry M. Denyes.

Police Auxiliaries Get Gift, Praise
In recognition of the service they perform during athletic events, the Birmingham schools' athletic department this week distributed \$200 to the welfare fund of the Birmingham police department auxiliaries.

These men, who serve many more than the required 6 hours per month, also were praised by Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley and city commissioners.

Said Moxley: "Without their help, we'd have a serious enforcement problem."

"This group is a tremendous one," he emphasized. Commissioner Lance Minor. "Nothing we can say about them would be enough."

B'ham Planners to Plumb Attitudes of Homeowners

Here Are Important March 28 School Election Facts

Charts, graphs, maps, ratios, surveys have carried the Birmingham planning department about as far as they can, according to City Planner Herbert Herzberg.

Urges Letters To Support Millage Bill
Letters from Birmingham school district residents to Senator Clyde Gierlings, head of the state Senate committee on taxation, are being urged by board of education President Katherine Loomis to help get senate bill 1200 on the floor.

The bill would eventually help Birmingham and other school districts in their fight to hang on to their share of the 15 mill tax.

THE BILL, introduced by Senator L. Harvey Lodge and induced by Birmingham board member George W. Coombe, Jr., would freeze county appropriations within the 15-mill tax at present levels for school districts that have voted additional millage, thus giving the school district some assurance of its future income.

In a letter to Mrs. Loomis, Lodge referred to well-organized opposition from county and township representatives and a short legislative session as elements in the possible defeat of the bill.

"EACH SCHOOL district should plan carefully for the 1961 session so that a maximum amount of public opinion will then be brought to bear," the senator from Drayton Plains said.

The Birmingham board of education, set to ask voters for an operational millage increase at a special election March 28, is sending board members to PTA meetings to discuss and explain the district's financial needs. PTAs have scheduled board members to speak:

March 11—Walnut Lake elementary;
March 14—Adams and Franklin elementary;
March 15—Bloomfield elementary;
March 16—Pierre and Valley Woods elementary;

March 17—Baldwin, Pembroke, Beverly elementary;
March 24—Barnum junior high.

Shop in B'ham Contest Enters Its Final Week
If you haven't already entered the Shop in Birmingham contest do it today. There is only one week left in which you can enter.

Any chances of winning in this contest are much greater than in any other. All you have to do is estimate the amount of coins in the glass container displayed in the Birmingham Federal Saving and Loan association window.

THERE ARE NO TRICKS, no puzzles, just simple luck can put a new 1950 Ford Falcon in your garage. There are also three additional gift certificates for runners-up, redeemable at any of the participating stores.

The contest is open to all, regardless of age, and to anyone who enters a fair chance, not even the bank president, Henry Johnson, knows the actual amount in the jar. Charlie Mortenson, secretary of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, will be one of the judges counting the money Friday, March 18. This will be the first time anyone will know the total amount held in the glass container.

B'ham Fire Dept. Has Busy Month
The Birmingham Fire Department reports that for the month of February, including Leap Day, there was an estimated loss of \$1,000,000.

The department made 26 runs for the month, covering approximately 63.5 miles to and from the scenes. There were nearly 500 feet of 1/2 inch hose laid and 800 feet of 1/2 inch hose laid during the month.

Shop in Birmingham Contest
WIN A NEW 1960 FALCON
Simply estimate TOTAL VALUE OF COINS in this jar.
Enter from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.