

School Millage Vote Next Monday

Next Monday, March 28, the voters in the Birmingham public school district will ballot on the question of adding an additional four mills per thousand dollars of assessed valuation as equalized, for a period of five years.

This money, amounting to approximately \$761,000 on present valuations, is to be spent to increase faculty and custodial salaries, hire 50 new teachers, purchase needed books for school libraries, qualify for federal assistance in getting aid in certain educational fields, and to provide for improved in-service training programs.

Every member of the school board is in hearty accord with the need for this additional millage. Supt. Dwight B. Ireland has declared that the satisfactory status of the local educational curriculum will suffer greatly, unless the four mills is approved at the polls.

THIS NEWSPAPER LONG has supported the cause of education. Within the limits of its own resources, it has sought out various data on the subject, and has unreservedly offered both pro and con groups the free use of its columns to present their respective arguments.

For a good many years local voters have, with more than ordinary citizen vigor, supported school bond issues and millage increases for operating budgets. Yet, during the last several such elections, the margin of approval has been narrowed.

In the case of the current situation, more citizen resistance is being made evident. Such resistance, to be sure, is not unknown

in civic affairs . . . and there's no doubt but what much of the present opposition is triggered by a general public antagonism to the whole subject of high taxation, even though the greatest source of this feeling is caused by the ever-increasing demands of the federal and state tax collectors.

Result: many taxpayers, apparently unable to decrease the federal and state tax grabs, do what they consider the only available thing: pay closer attention to the tax levies requested by their villages, cities, townships and school districts.

IT IS IN AN atmosphere of this latter kind that the March 28 millage election finds itself.

While The Eccentric, after a considerable amount of thought and study of the subject, admits the proposition next Monday needs to be approved, we shall not be surprised if the approval margin is, considerably more narrowed.

. . . and another thought we have is this: The Board of Education will do well in the future to provide the taxpayers with a much longer period of time between announcement of the need for more bonds and or millage and the election date. The taxpayers are quite understandably believe they are entitled to plenty of time during which to discuss every phase of the subject.

Next Monday, March 28, is your day to express your pro or con desires on this question. Be a good American citizen and respond to your civic duty!

Community House Annual Roll Call

We trust that local and nearby volunteer contributors to the annual fund campaign for the next year's operation of the Birmingham Community House will respond. The quota has been set at \$51,500, deemed by the House board as necessary to carry on the variety of community services afforded by well known "heart of Birmingham".

In the past, personal contacts have been made by a host of canvassers, calling

house-to-house. This year a direct mail campaign is being used. Such a method, experience has proved, places greater emphasis upon the enthusiastic support of contributors themselves to respond to the call.

It is to be remembered, of course, that support for the Community House does not come from the Detroit Metropolitan United Fund—hence the staging of the House's own annual fund raising campaign.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Don't you suppose that New Jersey judge finally acted Solopoin-like when he agreed to allow the foster parents of that little four-year-old girl to adopt her? The youngster possesses a very high I.Q., and at first the judge decided that the foster parents haven't equal mental status, and thus the girl would not develop to her potential best. But plenty of public opinion was expressed, holding that the invaluable quality of love (admittedly possessed by the foster parents) was sufficient blessed environment for any child to be reared in. What a lucky little girl!

When the Governor of New Hampshire recently declared that Senator Jack Kennedy "is soft on Communism", V-P Nixon immediately over-rode his Republican New Hampshireite, stating that Kennedy is not so. We wonder if the V-P was moved by the hope that his statement would win him votes in New Hampshire . . . forgetting that he now is prevented from even hinting that the young Senator from Mas-

sachusetts is slightly tinged, should both men be opponents later this year in the Presidential race.

Isn't it nice that Britain's Princess Margaret at last has assented to marry a man? And the man is but a commoner, without the nobility of royal blood. Yet, who may be, or can be, one with nobility of character—a quality not bestowable by any monarch. Sincerely, we join millions of people in their wholesome wish that this couple, to be wedded in May, will be a great joy and inspiration to their countrymen . . . thus to all the world . . . and also to themselves.

Another proof of the hurried impatience of the average American may be noted in church when the congregation, about to conclude singing a hymn, closes the song books before the last words are uttered. A professional church soloist, however, always holds his music open until the last melodic note is silenced.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher

PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager

GEORGE W. AVERILL
Managing Editor

DAVID F. GIBB
Advertising Manager

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

What do you want from Washington, buddy?

I'll get it for you—wholesale. Need ideas on how to run your local government? Or your community affairs? There are plenty of idea men in Washington.

How about these fellows planning your streets, sidewalks, gas lines and kitchen sinks?

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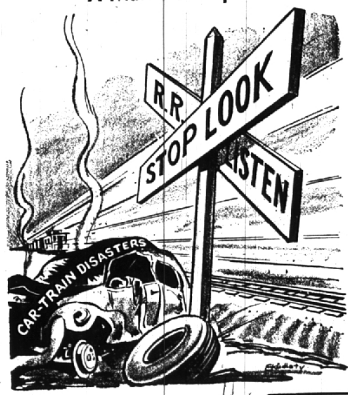
All you need to do to get this life of ease is to vote for me . . . and then do what I and my cohorts tell you.

PRETTY SOON YOU'LL BE a spineless, thoughtless hunk of humanity.

But just think—you won't have to solve a problem in the world! Isn't it worth it, though?

You bet!
Vote for me!

X Marks the Spot



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Orange Most Valuable Of Citrus Fruit Trees

The orange is the most important of citrus fruits. All of this family including lemon, lime and grapefruit are prized for their high vitamin C content.

No citrus fruits are native to America. Of the 37 species just common sweet orange (Citrus sinensis) is most valuable. The orange was brought to southern Spain from China about 1100 A.D. In Spanish explorers and missionaries it was growing in St. Augustine, Fla., by the year 1579. These first oranges were a small orange variety in contrast to those we eat today.



THE ORANGE is one of our most beautiful trees and has the longest leaves. It is symmetrical in shape and reaches a height of 35 feet. Our present sweet orange tree is bud-grafted to young shoots of the more hardy sour variety, thus making a stronger and more resistant stock.

The five-petaled, fragrant flowers are wax-like with many stamens surrounding a single pistil. They are a source of perfume and are preferred as a head-dress by so many brides that they have come to be known as a symbol of marriage. The trees bloom for as long as six months so that green and ripe fruit as well as flowers may be present on a single tree at the same time.

THE FRUIT so familiar to all is a modified berry known to botanists as a hesperidium. Its primary axis is surrounded by 10 to 15 pulpy segments with the juice enclosed in membranous sacs. The outer rind contains small glands which hold an essential oil. Citric acid and sugar are found in the juice which is also rich in mineral salts and vitamins A and B as well as in vitamin C.

The navel orange grown in California is usually considered our best variety and commands a top price. It is double-fruited with a small orange nestled in the central end which is the so-called navel. Look for it the next time

you peel this fruit.

NINETY PERCENT of United States oranges are produced in Florida and California, the former growing about 50 per cent more than the latter. Texas, Arizona, Louisiana and Mississippi are continually adding acreage to their groves. Different climates produce different flavored fruits.

The Valencia, a popular California variety, is very juicy and sweet in comparison to the navel orange. Valencia oranges do not chip as well, are thinner skinned, juicier, less acid and paler in color than most California varieties. Western oranges are picked the year round while those grown in Florida ripen from October to June.

ORANGES ARE sensitive to cold and sudden heat. When the temperature drops below 20 degrees, frost is a danger to the trees as they are unable to shed their leaves. Frost damage is caused by the freezing of the sap in the branches and the resulting dieback of the trees. Frost damage is also caused by the freezing of the fruit on the trees. Frost damage is also caused by the freezing of the fruit on the trees.

Oranges and fungi are common enemies of the orange so that trees must be regularly sprayed. Sometimes, counter-destructive insects are introduced to control native pests.

Oranges cannot be picked before they are fully ripened. They are carefully clipped from the trees and handled with care throughout the processing operation which includes washing, disinfecting and polishing.

A large percentage of the crop is shipped fresh. There is also a firm demand for canned juice and frozen concentrate. By-products include marmalade, candied, oil, pectin and a stock food made from the dried pulp and rind. The United States alone produces over 100 million 75-pound boxes of oranges per year, about one-third of the world's crop.

Next to the apple and banana the orange is our most popular fruit. What is now so commonplace used to be a rare treat. Remember the thrill of finding a lovely golden orange in the toe of your Christmas stocking long ago?

Happenings of Long Ago

Bite of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
March 25, 1910

"There are a number of unclaimed dishes in which food was brought to the free banquet. They can be had at the Oakland Realty office."

"Left at Wooster's drug store one black silk glove. Will owner please call and get it or return it to the store."

"Will Spicer's barn burned last Monday, and is a loss of over \$1,000."

"A call for another election on the question of building a new school house is already signed and placed in the hands of the School Board. This petition asks for the following: To vote for \$150,000 for site and for an eight-room building to be built on a site away from the present building, the upper floor to remain unfinished and finished when needed, the lower floor to be finished at once. Said building to be used for the primary grades. The debt to be paid within ten years."

30 YEARS AGO
March 27, 1930

"John J. Paul (was) sentenced on Monday to spend 40 to 60 years in Michigan state prison for the slaying of George Townsend, former Birmingham police officer. Paul's attorneys said they would file an appeal."

"Birmingham is getting ready to adopt a new village traffic ordinance."

"Weekend celebrations landed 11 persons in the justice court of Floyd S. Buck Monday and Tuesday mornings through arrests by Woodfield Hills officers."

15 YEARS AGO
March 22, 1945

"The Sprindale park clubhouse, to be destroyed by fire last fall, must await the end of the war, according to a letter from the War Production Board to City Manager Harold H. Corson."

To get your prospect lukewarm, you have to get your self red hot.

Anthrax coal was discovered in Carbon County, Pa., in 1791.

STRICTLY FRESH

Eternal riddle: Why is it so hard to lead a small boy to the bathtub and so difficult to get him out?

Considering the outcome of his recent predictions, a forecaster friend of ours should be called "weatherman."



Why is the boss tells funnier jokes than anyone else in the office?

A wonderful old-fashioned storm is what happens to the other fellow.

People who live in glass houses should try planting a few shrubs around it.

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