

Our New Public School Leader

Although here but a few weeks, Otis M. Dickey, successor to Dr. Dwight B. Ireland as superintendent of the Birmingham Public School District's educational system, has made a favorable impression upon the community. This 45-year-old gentleman, formerly assistant superintendent of the Grosse Pointe public schools, brings to his new job a considerable variety of work experiences, as well as a thorough educational background.

He also manifests an enthusiastic interest in meeting the challenges of a school district that is acknowledged to be among the most modern in both plant and curriculum.

DR. DICKEY, in a personal memorandum to the Board of Education, said: "A school superintendent should be the type of leader who is both willing and capable of making decisions when necessary. Even so, his strength in leadership should more often be evident in the way he establishes confidence and in the way he guides and inspires co-workers, rather than ruling by edict.

"What is best for the educational needs and aspirations of boys and girls should be the final yardstick for the plans, pro-

grams and decisions on the part of the staff and the Board. The Board is the proper medium for expressing the will of the people as to the kind of educational program that shall be offered to the children and youth of the community.

"IN MY WAY OF thinking," continued Dr. Dickey, "the members of the Board have a serious and rather awesome responsibility in seeing that our schools continue to train successive generations of alert, vital and effective young citizens who will love, promote and protect our way of life."

The new superintendent's full memorandum to the Board, previously published in this newspaper, contains many additional ideas and plans which, applied successfully, and winning the co-operation of citizens, should prove of continued scholastic benefit to the students.

Dr. Dickey, his wife and eight-year-old son (a daughter is 20, is a student at the University of Colorado) have come to live in Birmingham, on Rivenoak.

On behalf of the Birmingham District's citizens and youth, we say: "Welcome Dr. Otis M. Dickey! May your tenure here be a happy one... happy for everybody related to the cause of education."

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Just so long as the doctrine of human freedom dominates the United Nations, just that long may the Western World depend upon it to perform a reasonably useful function in world affairs. But the minute that the UN becomes the easy tool of Communism, dominated by Soviet Russia, we believe, freedom will have to depart from UN's potential evils and seek sanctuary along with other Western Nations in another grouping. Realizing that Communism will never cease to want to "take over" the UN, we believe that our American government should never "give in" to dictators' evil plans—and unless we do resist every effort to cause Uncle Sam to lose his own sovereignty, we are flirting with the most dangerous hazard.

Appointment of Robert W. Page as a new member of the Birmingham City Commission, to fill the vacancy created by the recent resignation of Lance C. Minor, suggests that our community should gain added strength in its municipal government. Commissioner Page, you may recall, served the City on the Planning Board for six years, part of the time as its chairman. Thus he knows much about local

problems and civic goals. As in the case of Minor and others who have served in this capacity, Birmingham is fortunate in having men and women willing to aid in keeping the City "a community of homes where children thrive."

"Higher education is the primary guardian of Truth and Freedom," recently declared the dean of a New York university. To which the average citizen may inquire: "Well, Dean, what has happened to this guardian, these days? Where are our professors valiantly walking the sentry posts of Truth and Freedom? How come, Sir, that so much ignorance of basic morality, of sound economic law exists among our so-called leaders today?"

Would you endeavor to prevent a stranger from coming into your home and take away some of your property? Well, what's the difference between that and allowing some group in Congress to pass legislation that reaches into your pocketbook for more taxes? In the case of your home, you'd resist, even call the police; in the case of Congress... what do you do? Docilely submit to it?

Dangerous Practice



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Parents Can Strengthen Public School System

To the Editor:

If you are the parent of a school-age child, you occupy a unique position in our society. You have, in your hands, the power to immeasurably strengthen the American public school system without spending one tax dollar.

This revolution in our schools hinges upon just one important factor: "Attitude."

If you can send your child to school eager to learn, imbued with a sense of urgency, and full of curiosity about things and people, you will have accomplished more good than the educators and planners of our public schools have accomplished in decades!

This is not to say that there are no children in school who are eager to acquire, assimilate and apply new knowledge.

RATHER, IT is to admit that too many of our children sit in their classrooms, radiating an attitude which says "I'm here, what are you going to do about it?"

Can you imagine the impact of a classroom charged with expectancy, eager for new knowledge, and impatient with delays which might impede today's progress? Can you sense the challenge to our teachers if confronted by such children?

What teacher, what school, could resist the quest of these children? Without a doubt, our schools would rise to meet such a challenge with new strength and purpose!

Does this sound absurd? Fantastic? Can we do this with ordinary, average, American youngsters who view school as a grind to be endured between recess and vacations?

YES, WE CAN. Furthermore, we can work this magic at home. We, as parents, are given freely one priceless gift—the love and trust of our children.

If we do not shun or disillusion

that love and trust, our every action consciously or unconsciously molds their characters.

A conscious effort on our part to create positive attitudes toward school can work this magic. As the two most influential people in our children's lives, we can:

1. Inspire—By word and deed we can show in our home life that we place great value on learning. Our continual efforts to broaden our own horizons, our careful selection of reading material, our sense of values, our selection of dinner table topics mold our children's future lives.

2. CHANNEL and Develop—The energy of childhood is nearly boundless. Almost every youngster overflows with curiosity. The direction of such curiosity and energy imposes a frightening responsibility on parents. We can plan together ways and means of exposing our children to new and stimulating ideas. We can coordinate family efforts into meaningful projects. We can direct the emphasis of our children's free time, giving the proper weight to those activities which compete for their attention (athletics, TV, music, Scouts, home work, movies, hobbies, etc.). Children are too immature to evaluate the relative importance of such activities. We can help them.

VERBALIZE—Put into words that our children can understand our basic philosophy of life. Let them question the reasons we (Continued on 4-B)

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Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO Oct. 7, 1910

The First national bank of Birmingham, capital \$25,000, surplus \$10,000, which has been in process of organization for several weeks will this week forward the final papers necessary for incorporation to A. S. Pratt and company, National bank agents of Washington, D. C. who act for national banking associations before the Comptroller of the treasury.

Not so very long ago, Mr. Bert Quorton sold from the north end of his farm, up east of the mill pond, five acres to a Mr. Case of Detroit, for just an even \$500 per acre. You can't make us believe any more that buying farm property don't pay. It does. Case will in the near future proceed to erect for self and family a beautiful country home.

Samuel Bortle has sold his lot in Greenwood cemetery to Guy Watkins and the same has been transferred on the book of the Association.

The Detroit Tuesday's News said: "It has been announced by Manager Jim McGuire that Fred Blasing will pitch the final game here on Wednesday." Blasing is very well known in this city, being a resident of Birmingham.

30 YEARS AGO Oct. 10, 1930

Seventeen civic-conscious citizens Monday asserted their rights in the regular village election in Bloomfield Hills with the following results:

The votes were counted in record time. Luther D. Allen, the incumbent was elected village president, receiving 17 votes. William Story, the incumbent, was unanimously elected village clerk; Donald James and Harry Wallace, receiving 14 votes and 17 votes, respectively, were elected to the two vacancies on the village commission.

The candidates were unopposed on the ballots, but at least two voters thought other persons should be elected. Two votes were cast for Walter G. Monday, Fred Blasing and R. J. Curtis received one vote for commissioner. James succeeds Commissioner Gen. Roehm, who declined to run again.

15 YEARS AGO Oct. 4, 1945

Bids for the erection of the first one of Birmingham's new club houses at Springdale park are expected to be opened on Friday of this week at the Municipal building, according to a report made by City Manager Harold H. Corson to the city commission at its meeting Monday evening.

Corson told the commission some time ago that contractors were reluctant to bid on the building because of labor difficulties and trouble with the steel industry in securing materials.

Several bids are expected by Friday and, if possible, the start work on the new club house within a few weeks. The old clubhouse was destroyed by fire last season.

Up in Bloomfield Hills, the Wanderer was told that the gasoline shortage apparently was slowing down and thinning out automobile traffic on Woodward avenue.

"Haven't had a drunk driver for a week," was the word from the city officer.

STRICTLY FRESH

A great help if anyone wants to quit smoking: Try cigarette in a new pipe.

It was a lawyer's daughter who told her boy friend, "Stop and/or I'll slap your face."



Foreign policy is getting more foreign to more people all the time.

The hardest things to swallow about politics campaigns are our own opinions.

The key to our entire filing system is the garbage can. It's the key to our entire filing system is the garbage can. It's the key to our entire filing system is the garbage can.



ONE THING OR ANOTHER

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

My crystal ball is as cloudy as yours, so I am merely going to disclose a feeling I have:

In my lifetime, I am going to witness the emergence of a new political party in the United States.

What its name will be I have no idea.

BUT IT WILL BE FORMED by the conservative Democrats and a liberal Republicans. It will include most of the so-called Southern Democrats.

I believe the future Democratic party will contain only those way-out-in-front liberals. They probably will continue to keep the name "Democrat" for some time to come.

Anything with "socialistic" or "liberal" would lose them more votes right off the bat. The Democratic party, in spite of the fact many Republicans today would have you believe, contains many who are not "liberals" or "socialists" in the European party system sense.

ON THE OTHER HAND, the bulk of Southern Democrats would hesitate long before joining up with any party with "Republican" in its name.

That's why I believe you will see the Democratic and Republican parties, as they exist today, cease to be.

The so-called "conservative Republi-

cans" (now becoming known as "Goldwater Republicans") might continue to bear the name "Republicans".

But they will be in the small minority if they continue as an entity.

THE DOMINANT PARTY of the future, as I see it, will concern itself with the welfare of society in greater amounts than the Republican party has been identified with in past years.

Too, the new party will move in the direction of more national fiscal stability than what the Democrats have come to be identified with.

With that prediction, my cloudy crystal ball is returned to its closet shelf.

It's pleasing to learn I'm not alone when it comes to desiring billboard-less highways and byways.

Since my Sept. 15 column on this subject, a number of you have written or told me, "If that situation could only come about!"

It could come that much faster—if you make your desires known to the Michigan tourist bureau, the Michigan Chamber of commerce, your state legislators and, your state highway commissioner, all of whom get their mail through the Lansing post office.