

THE AMERICAN WAY



Hooked Again

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

She Sends Book Mark To Nixon, Gets Letter

To the Editor:
A few weeks ago I made and sent Vice President Nixon and family each a crocheted cross that is used as a Bible book mark, because I admire them so very much. But little did I think he would find time to answer so soon.

I am inclosing in my own hand writing the letter I received this week from our wonderful Vice President. It certainly shows he is a humble man and remembers of how busy he is, especially at this time, to pause briefly to thank me so sincerely.

I THOUGHT perhaps it would be nice to share it with the many Birmingham Republicans. As for myself, I am very proud to have received it.

I am sure with such dignity, integrity, and deep religious belief, we the people can not go wrong by electing Vice President Nixon to the highest office in our land on Nov. 8.

MRS. BEULAH PETERSEN
237 N. Woodward Ave.

Mr. Nixon's letter follows:

"Dear Mrs. Petersen—
"This is the first opportunity I have had to thank you for the beautiful crocheted Bible book mark which you recently sent to my family and myself.

"I WANT you to know how much it means to all of us to be reminded in the thoughts and prayers of our fellow Americans and I am most grateful to you for thinking of us in this special way.

"I hope to have the opportunity some day to thank you personally, but in the meantime, all of us join in sending you our very best wishes for every happiness in the future.

Sincerely,
RICHARD NIXON"

There Will Be No Rehearsals For Big Show

To the Editor:
Even though one of the noblest ideas of our times is that we "can hold Civil Defense classes" in peoples' basements and teach them the art of helping themselves, and many others, to survive in case of, (let's face it—a nuclear war), will this noble project really work when it is supposed to?

THE FUND for the Republic has just issued a study in which it declares that the moment man believes he can "go underground" in order to "come up again to live" is the moment we will, as the whole human family, abdicate our journey toward light and will begin "adjusting toward living (like moles?) in holes."

No Rehearsals aren't possible for the big show. All the training in basements in homes will be no avail. If one ever falls, we'll all forget our better instincts. We'll forget to think to help anyone but ourselves.

MRS. R. E. V.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Oct. 28, 1910

When Sheriff Harris presented his bill to the board of supervisors at the October session, it was for the sum of \$5,875.38. The publication was secured in several newspapers that is the amount of his "bill for conducting the Sheriff's office for the past year."

That statement was untrue, and its effect would have been to deceive the public as to the true amount of his bill had it not been discovered and exposed.

The bill, as presented to the board was really for the first EIGHT months of the year when it should have been for NINE months—from January to October.

After the exposure was published, Sheriff Harris added to his bill his charges for the month of September, making the amount from January to October, \$6,522.69! This sum is over \$2,000 higher than former Sheriff's bills in their second year's incumbency of the office of Sheriff.

For sale: a good mare, an honest worker, 12 years old, weight 1200 lbs. Price \$400. George Wood, one-half mile west of Woodward avenue on the William Hunt road.

In Detroit they say, "who wants the street car question settled?" Here we say "to want sewers!" The pure food man says, "flies are opposed to sewers."

30 YEARS AGO
Oct. 30, 1930

Excavation work on the new \$100,000 Birmingham station of the Grand Trunk railway is under way today and other parts of the railroad project are being pushed by engineers and contractors in the hope much of the work may be accomplished before the cold weather sets in. The paving of E. Maple avenue under the grade separation is expected to begin the latter part of this week.

The contract for the construction of the station was awarded last week to the firm of Walbridge and Aldinger and excavation work was

begun Saturday. The station will be erected on Eton road between E. Maple and Yosemite avenues.

Directors of all county, township and village welfare departments and other agencies have been invited to attend a complimentary dinner Nov. 5, at the Community houses. The affair is sponsored by Mrs. Harvey W. Whalen, Mrs. Charles Burgess and Mrs. Warren Pease, Jr. The food for the dinner will be donated. Following the dinner, a discussion of the methods of operation and the avoidance of duplication of work will be held.

Today: Masonic dance at Bloomfield park; Halloween party at

STRICTLY FRESH

Fall in the air puts spring in your step.

If you can't raise the price of that big Christmas gift for the wife, most stores will budge it for you.



Those who refuse to exercise their franchise to vote might be described as poll cats.

Evolution in a nutshell: Watch the development of fins on automobiles.

Square wheels on cars would certainly break up the monopoly of turnpike driving.

Which....Sales Tax or Income Tax?

Do you want to pay an income tax to the State of Michigan, or, instead, would you rather approve the increase of one cent in the existing sales tax?

This decision will have to be made by Michigan voters when they ballot Nov. 8. For on that date, among other propositions you will consider, is the proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 2, which reads: "Shall Section 23, Article X of the Michigan Constitution be amended to increase the limitation on the maximum sales tax from 3% to 5%?"

An added one cent sales tax is estimated to bring to the State's treasury an additional 110 to 115 million dollars annually. Financial experts have stated that this added sum will place the State's treasury in a solvent position—unlike the current year's impoverished pocketbook, when for months there wasn't enough money to meet current expenses.

OPONENTS OF the proposed sales tax increase—including many Michigan Democrats who are led by UAW-CIO labor leaders, oppose the sales tax proposition. They argue that a sales tax places too much of a burden upon lower income groups, not enough on those with greater incomes. Thus, they argue, "... give us an income tax ... let the burden fall upon those best able to pay."

Well, the surface logic of this attitude is, we believe, considerably off by the historical ever-increasing levies made via the income tax route, especially when, as in the case of the federal levy, it is a graduated levy, ever shifting upon all income groups the need to support ever-increasing public expenditures.

FOR EXAMPLE, TODAY, with the federal income tax pattern, no wage earner pays less than an average of 20 per cent

of his earnings to Uncle Sam, while others may pay up to as much as 92 per cent of their wages.

You may argue that the higher bracket payers can afford high levies ... but can you justify the minimum of 20 per cent taken from the average lower income groups?

The fact that the 20 per cent levy is not lower, much lower, largely is because of the insatiable, unlimited financial appetites of the politicians who, in State Legislatures and in Congress, always find new and more extravagant ways to reach into the pockets of every wage earner. Such is the inherent nature of politicians who are willy-nilly the partners of a hungry group of tax-spending bureaucrats, often aided by citizen pressure groups.

A SALES TAX is a levy upon all the people. The pennies that we pay when making purchases are ever-present reminders of the costs of government ... and these reminders, remember, are the natural irritants that ought to make voters alert to the costs of government. Remove the irritant from a majority of voters in a State or the nation, and you do inestimable harm to the self-governing processes. For without there being a dominant citizenry kept aware of the tax subject, the economic harm of excessive taxation ultimately brings government to ruin.

"The power to tax is the power to destroy," is a saying as old as taxation itself. We ought never to forget this. One way to remember it is to approve the sales tax proposition No. 2 on Nov. 8. Once this is done, then the state Legislature's job is to decide whether it will, by statute, place a one cent, or less, added sales tax to the existing three cent tax now on the law books.

Proposal No. 1 Merits Extension

Proposition No. 1 on your Nov. 8 ballot concerns a constitutional extension of the time limit during which qualified state school bond programs will receive state support.

During the past five-year life of the present bond loan program, extensive use was made of it by local school districts. More than 900 bond issues totalling over \$600 million have been sold. Of these, 558 issues worth \$500 million have qualified under this constitutional amendment. Included in the \$500 million are \$197 million in bonds which could not have been issued under the limited tax provision existing prior to 1955.

THE 1960 ELECTION PROPOSAL essentially is the same as the one in 1955, with a few technical improvements.

If voters approve the extension and changes, the state can:

- 1) use its faith and credit to make loans to school districts to pay certain

- 2) bonds issued during the next 12 years;
- 2) permits the legislature within certain limitations to prescribe the conditions of such loans; and 3) would permit school districts to levy taxes without limitation as to rate or amount for payment of the bonds and state loans.

This proposal's greatest advantage, perhaps, permits qualified school bonds to be issued under terms most acceptable to bond buyers, thus earning the lowest possible bond market interest rate at time of the bond issue. This is a financial saving to taxpayers.

PROPOSAL NO. 1 has been endorsed by all major educational associations—including the Birmingham board of education—, by both the Democratic and Republican parties and by both these parties' gubernatorial candidates.

The Eccentric adds its recommendation that voters approve Proposal No. 1.

We Suggest Approval of "Con-Con"

One of the very important propositions before you when you ballot Nov. 8 is that of amending the Michigan Constitution to pave the way for revising this 1908 pattern which, according to all authorities on the subject, certainly needs bringing up-to-date. Popularly, it is known as "Con-Con".

Exact wording on the ballot reads: "Shall Section 4, Article XVII, of the Michigan Constitution be amended to provide for submitting the question of calling a Constitutional Convention at the Biennial Spring election in 1961 and each 16th year thereafter; to provide that the question of calling a convention shall be decided by a majority of those voting on the question; and to provide for the election of one delegate for each state representative to which each such district is then entitled, and for the time and place of meeting?"

NO DOUBT YOU have read the statements of various persons and groups on this subject; some of them approve proposition No. 3, some of them oppose it.

Personally, this newspaper believes that this proposition should carry. It will not actually call a convention, only provide the voters with another voting opportunity to do so. It does change the formula as to a majority vote requirement for approval—but only a majority of those ballots actually voted on the proposition, and not a majority of all votes cast at the specific election.

It also designates one convention delegate for each State Senator and Representative. Thus convention delegates will be representative of the voters in the same ratio as they are in the Legislature itself.

Our suggestion is for a "Yes" vote on proposition No. 3.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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"One Thing or Another" appears on Page 4-B

at Douglas
You can feel the good fit...when your clothes are Sanitone Dry Cleaned

Have your Fall wardrobe stay fashion fresh, cleaning after cleaning. Sanitone restores the soft, supple quality of fabrics—banishes that limp look so clothes feel and fit like new again. It's America's top dry cleaning value! Call us today.

After thorough testing, Handmacher recommends Sanitone Dry Cleaning to preserve the fresh look and textural beauty of this suit.

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