

Ireland Was A Dedicated Educator

Dwight B. Ireland was superintendent of schools in the Birmingham public school district for 18 years. Anybody who had any close relationship to the school system during that period knows that Dr. Ireland was a dedicated educator. Day or night, rain or shine, he allowed very little to interfere with his performance as head of one of the largest suburban districts in Michigan.

Aside from his recognized talents as a superb administrative executive, he, like most of us, had his less strong points, too. As we review our long association with Dr. Ireland, by his very dedication to his job, allowed himself to bear far more of the system's problems than, we believe, a superintendent should.

On one occasion we suggested to him: "Dwight, why do you assume so many burdens of this district as a sort of personal responsibility? You have a board of education elected to represent the citizens—and why not allow them to shield you from some of the barbs and criticisms thrown at our school district? After all, Dwight, you certainly are entitled to get a maximum of sheer enjoyment from your job—just as people are in other kinds of work. You are entitled to acquire an environment of some relaxation, which you aren't getting."

HE WOULD NOD his head in understanding and, we thought, approval. But, like most of us, he found it difficult to break the habits of a lifetime—and so he eventually encountered a condition on the board in which he no longer could assume the maximum burdens he considered part of his job.

In brief, he was confronted with what he declared to be a loss of administrative authority. So he finally announced his resignation.

During his 18 years here Dr. Ireland saw the district increased many times in area, a student population rise from less than 4,000 to more than 12,000, and a teaching staff, and physical school plant

multiply beyond all expectations of an earlier period.

This came about, as we all know, because of the unparalleled growth of suburbia . . . of Birmingham and vicinity—conditions that also confronted every other metropolitan area in the nation.

It is, we think, very unfortunate that Dr. Ireland found it necessary to leave this community as he did. By this we mean he hardly could have moved back to his Ohio farm in as happy a frame of mind as 18 years of service entitled him . . . for it was no secret here that he was unable to adjust himself to the changed board of education policies.

INSOFAR AS changed policies of the board are concerned, we offer no criticism. After all, we elect seven members, representative of the entire school district; these men and women, while not educators in a professional sense, do represent the children, the parents and the taxpayers of the district. It is to them that we look for the operation and maintenance of the very best educational plant possible, within our financial means.

Dr. Ireland was here for 18 years. He has left of his own volition. Regardless of some differences of thinking that did exist between him and quite a number of citizens, we believe he is entitled to the district's thankful appreciation. He was a dedicated educator, a man of strong convictions. May he be healed of any "scars" he carried away with him . . . may he achieve greater joy and relaxation wherever he goes!

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

The federal government's annual budget, back in 1960, was approximately four billions. Today interest on the national debt alone amounts to \$1,084,400 per hour.

"God helps those who help themselves, and the government helps those who don't", goes a bit of these days.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Some communities have lived for thousands of years.

Like Cairo, Jerusalem and Peking. There are new communities, too. Such as Beverly Hills, Southfield and Livonia. But there have been communities which have died. These include Carthage, Pompeii and Babylon.

Aside from earthquakes, floods and wars, what do you suppose kills off a community?

WELL, PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE its citizens:

Don't take an active interest in community affairs.

If they do, they do so when it's too late to stem the inevitable.

If they participate, they always find fault with the work of its officials and other citizens.

They never accept an office or appointment to a committee. It's so much easier to criticize others than to do things oneself.

THEY ALWAYS GET SORE, though, if they don't get a job. If they do, then they don't show up for meetings.

During meetings, they have nothing to say. Afterwards, they tell everyone how it should be done.

Or they do as little as possible, with a multitude of excuses.

They don't bother about getting new people to move into the community.

WHEN A COMMUNITY PROJECT is proposed, they complain how it will waste money and time and really accomplish nothing.

If no projects are proposed, they claim the community is dead and should be buried.

If the project has community accept-

ance, they wait until all the jobs are filled before volunteering to work.

Then they scream they were cheated out of an opportunity.

IF ASKED TO TAKE a project or committee chairmanship, they are modest and refuse.

If they don't get one, they threaten to move out of town.

They hold back on their taxes and assessments until threatened with court action.

Then they get sore because they are being rushed or pushed.

They don't let the community know how it can help them, and if it doesn't, then they move from town.

If they get service or attention without asking for it, they accept it as their due.

IF NO SERVICE IS forthcoming, they complain that they are being neglected.

If the community doesn't correct abuses in their neighborhood, they howl that nothing is done.

If the community corrects THEIR abuses, they move from the community.

They always think and talk about the other fellow's weaknesses, and never consider their own shortcomings.

They keep their eyes open for everything wrong, and raise plenty of hell about it.

THEY CONSTANTLY THREATEN to move out—and tell their friends to move out, too.

They take all the service they can get, and give nothing in return.

When everything else fails, they cuss the community.

And if this sort of thing doesn't kill a community, it surely must be a hell to live in!

More African Rumblings



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Swimming Pool Story Brings Heated Defense

To the Editor:

In reference to Miss Symons' column (on swimming pools) in the Sept. 8 issue of The Birmingham Eccentric, I would like to address these remarks to her:

Your column . . . sent me to my desk to write in defense of our neighbors and friends. In fact, I hope none of them read this story because I'm sure your very sarcastic—and humorous—I'll admit—column has scared them away from Burke's backyard for many seasons to come.

We have just ended our fourth summer of "pooling" and our guests couldn't be more thoughtful or considerate of our pool or its surroundings.

If you ever care to write a follow-up article entitled "A Successful Summer of Swimming and Sociability," please make our backyard your reference center. How about on a lucky day next summer?

LUCE BURKE
484 Linden, B'ham

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Sept. 23, 1910

Casting your eyes about our city you would not imagine that a greater number of new buildings are being now erected in this season of 1910 than for any one season before in the history of this city—our beautiful Birmingham.

These homes will cost the builders all the way from \$1,200 to \$5,000. They are all being erected by home capital with one exception.

Just wait until the Cobb-Hagerman-Johnston and the J. F. Rundel additions are put on the market, and see the new homes that will be erected there next summer. Both of the plots are included in the Oak Grove addition to the City of Birmingham. There are over 100 lots to be sold and they will go like hot cakes. The woods north of these new additions have already been sold to Detroit parties who will soon put up these elegant new homes, fix up with drives, this hilly ground and have the hand-somest grove grounds and home outside of Detroit.

The Union (Ed. note—WCTU) held a mother's meeting Sept. 6 at the United Presbyterian church in Birmingham. . . . It is expected in the near future that we will send a box to a lumber camp and anyone who can will be welcome to contribute, especially suitable literature.

30 YEARS AGO
Sept. 25, 1930

The village plan commission at its next regular meeting, Oct. 1, will consider the petition of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Lawrence, 606 Southfield avenue, who have asked the village commission for permission to cut down two poplar trees in front of their residence. Hearing on the petition Monday was continued for two weeks upon the motion of Commissioner Charles E. Lewis who declared he believed the matter was primarily a consideration of the plan commission.

There are still thrills left for the radio fan, this Wanderer learns. Lawrence Brant, 10-year-old son of Archer Brant of Stanley avenue, while experimenting for new stations the other evening, tuned in on the new State Police broadcasting station at Lansing. The station was broadcasting a test program.

The annual sales campaign for the Baldwin school annual at Baldwin high school, will begin in two weeks, in charge of Morris Winborn and Marian Masters, according to the advisers of the staff. Mrs. Avis Horvath, literary critic, and Ethel Hughes, business manager.

15 YEARS AGO
Sept. 20, 1945

Don't forget that football game at Pierce field tomorrow night at 8. If you love football, if you are a backer of Birmingham school sports or supporting your boy or your neighbor's boy in his fine fun, be there. This Wanderer knows how happy it makes the football squad members when they see a great host of their home city

folks join the stands.

Birmingham folks who have heard this story say it's one for the book. They say it is not often that a bit of ribbing or kidding results in the sale of a restaurant business or any other business, right on the spot.

But that is just what happened the other day out at Carson's cafe, West Maple and Telegraph road, when Thomas H. Meyers and Burt L. Tower, both of Detroit, kidded the waitress about the service and the food.

As sometimes happens, one word led to another, and soon the proprietor mentioned that he would like to sell his business. . . . The guests, already operating two restaurants in Detroit, thought they might be interested. . . . Soon the parties had agreed and right there at the lunch tables the sales agreement was made out and signed, a down payment made . . . and the new owners had changed their lunch to their new business. The name of the place has been changed to "Pinewood No. 3" and its slogan, like that of the two restaurants owned in Detroit, will be "This Is It."

Mr. Tower is in charge of the new place for the present.



"A danger sign on a highway can't talk, but it isn't as dumb as the guy who doesn't believe it."

STRICTLY FRESH

Everyone thought the garden hose had more kinks than anything—until the man of the house got finished weeding the roses.

Hist'ry is a collection of past errors that nobody ever paid any attention to.



Most stuck-up people are content to keep their thoughts glued on themselves.

A desperate politician will clutch at straws in the wind.

A football upset actually describes what's wrong with the stomach of the losing coach.

On Active Duty

FT. BENJAMIN HARRISON, Ind.—Stewart H. Nussle, 680 Hamilton boulevard, Birmingham, began six months active duty for

training Sept. 18 at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. After his return home, the army reservist will continue his military training with Headquarters Battery, 4 Howitzer Battalion, 39th Artillery, Postiac.

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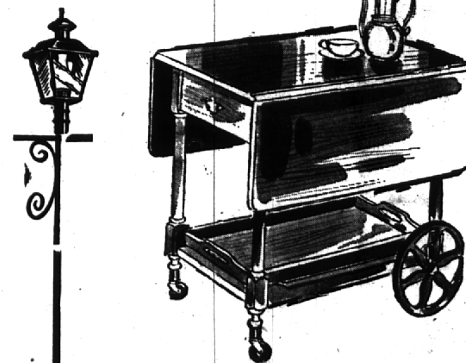
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