

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

Have you been by the Sportsman store this week and noted the four drawings of hunting dogs on special display? These drawings are the work of Birmingham's freelance artist, Morgan Douglas, an ar-

dent outdoorsman and hunter. He naturally went to this medium of art to preserve likenesses of these animals, three of which he still has. Douglas' drawings will be publicly displayed for another week. And this is probably the closest that dogs ever have been to the many wild animal trophies which Sportsman owner Erv Wilson (and Douglas' close friend) has brought back from his many hunting expeditions.



Telegraph at Maple
BLOOMFIELD

9 Mile at Coolidge
OAK PARK



Telegraph at Maple
Bloomfield
MA 6-7170

9 Mile at Coolidge
Oak Park
LI 3-8022

Board

(Continued from 1-A)

cover payments should tax collections drop. Even if the district had a history of 98 per cent or better tax collection rate, as is Birmingham, the size of the tax required reserve fund was often based on a 75 per cent collection rate.

3. A SET millage rate required to be levied for the life of the bond issue or until too heavy reserves were established. Therefore, even if the valuation of the district went up and the same amount of money could have been raised with a lower tax rate, the original rate prevailed.

Result, as many districts grew rapidly and needed more buildings, tax rates went up sharply. In some instances, buildings could not be built.

At the same time, large, unneeded reserves were accumulating in construction funds set up for previously voted bond issues.

4. FORCED calling of bonds before the due date, and, in many instances, charging the district a premium to call them in early. For example, a school district might have been forced to pay off a 17-year bond issue in 6 to 10 years and then be charged for being forced to do so (1).

"Facing these restrictions, and in order to make their bonds nationally marketable, school districts figuratively had to mortgage themselves up to the hilt," concluded Root.

In 1958, the people of Michigan enacted legislation which pledged the full faith and credit of the state in support of loans sought by school districts.

WITHIN CERTAIN limitations, it became permissible to levy millage for building purposes, primarily on the basis of money needed rather than on an inflexible voted rate, he said.

The effects of this were outlined by Lloyd Van Buskirk, director of finance.

He stated, "This (state) support had the immediate effect of reducing interest rates paid by school districts, since Michigan bond issues were now more attractive to bond buyers. Other restrictions were eased."

"Bond issues could be financed over a longer period of time. The fixed yearly levy was no longer required. As a result, growing school districts could house their school children, handle more debt, yet pay it off at a tax rate more in line with income. The tax rate could be kept within bounds when new buildings had to be built."

ROOT SAID, "It's something

like buying a home. You can imagine how unrealistic it would be to pay off a home mortgage in 6 to 10 years as compared to 25 to 30 years—of having to put the same percentage of your pay check aside for the same mortgage when you earn \$10,000 per year as when you earned \$5,000."

A difference is noted in the 1960 proposal as compared with the 1955 proposal submitted to the people.

In 1955, a limit of \$100,000,000 was placed on the amount of loans to be underwritten by the state. Since 1955 schools districts have had to borrow only \$451,000 to help them make payments on bonded indebtedness.

Of this amount, over \$200,000 has already been repaid, according to the Michigan Department of Public Instruction. On the basis of this experience, the limitation has been removed in the present proposal.

IN FURTHER explanation, Dr. William Emerson, Oakland county superintendent of schools, stated, "The limitation was removed in an effort to give Michigan school districts further advantages on interest rates by making their bond issues more attractive to national buyers."

"While some people may feel that the state legislature should not be given the authority to determine the limits and conditions of the credit it has underwritten, the fact remains that this expression by the people of faith in the judgment of the legislature is most important to a prospective bond buyer in a highly competitive market."

"He is primarily interested in the security afforded when quoting interest rates. School districts enjoying this kind of support usually have considerable advantage in obtaining favorable bids on their bond issues."

"THUS A rapidly growing district can enjoy nearly the same advantages as its wealthier and more financially stable neighbors."

"This is the first year since 1932 that the state has not continued to fall behind in the number of needed classrooms built in which to educate its children," emphasized Louis Schimmel, director of the Municipal Advisory Council of Michigan and sponsor of the proposal.

"We would hope that electors will make further progress possible by approving Proposition No. 1."

Mrs. Loomis concluded, "Although our population increase in the Birmingham district is leveling off somewhat, we shall nevertheless need to build some additional school buildings if the quality of our educational program is to be maintained."

"If the board is to continue to levy realistic millage for financing the building program, it is vital that voters support the board by voting 'Yes' on Proposal No. 1."

Quits Committee Over WSU Policy On Red Speakers

Charles R. Landrigan, Bloomfield township resident and vice president of the Detroit Edison company, received unexpected support last week from New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller in his protest against Communist speakers at Wayne State university.

Landrigan resigned from Wayne State university's businessmen's advisory committee because of the school's new policy allowing red speakers at WSU. The new policy revokes a 10-year-old school ban. Petitions protesting the new policy were signed by Rockefeller during his visit here last Saturday. Two Detroiters, Ann Byerlein, 32, and Donald J. Holsinger, 26, opened the petition campaign and hope to have 25,000 signatures by Oct. 15.

Landrigan explained his views in his resignation letter to WSU President Clarence B. Hilberry.

Reckless with Boat Say Sheriff's Men

Gordon F. Laramie, charged with reckless operation of a motorboat, stood mute and was released on \$300 cash bond by Justice of the Peace Francis Castellucci. He will stand trial Oct. 19. Laramie, 48, is the owner of a Bloomfield Hills trucking firm.

The WSU president, in turn, has sent a letter to Landrigan asking him to reconsider.

Hilberry said, when the policy action was taken that it would "permit us to behave as a university should." He pointed out that the ban might prevent a Russian scientist from talking on his specialty on the campus. The new policy was instituted on a recommendation of a joint committee of the university council and the Council of Deans.

Landrigan said he might reconsider his resignation in view of his understanding "that the university people have given some plausible explanation for their stand." No other members of the advisory committee have indicated interest in resigning their post.



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