

Why City Pays Parking Share

Now and then a local citizen asks: "Why should we, as residents of Birmingham, approve the purchase and operation of off-street parking lots by our municipal government?"

The question is accompanied by the statement that "I believe that locally benefited businesses should assume the full cost of such parking lots."

Well, our reply to this is brief and to the point: "Your city government assumes its portion of such cost—60 per cent, with benefited business properties paying 40 per cent—because good parking develops and preserves good business areas, and business properties pay both personal and real estate taxes. This helps to reduce the tax burden to the home-owners."

"ALSO, when the city enters into the payment of its share of a parking lot, its funds come from the special parking meter fund—a fund that is created from the nickels and dimes that both local and out-of-city shoppers pay, for parking spaces. The city's cost is not obtained from a direct tax levy on your property. Besides, when the city acquires the land for a parking lot it retains sole title and control of it; thus it may continue indefinitely as a form of insurance that good businesses may continue to exist, to continue to pay local taxes."

"The 40 per cent paid by businesses only provides their particular investments with convenient parking space for the public; this money is never returned to them, since the city acquires sole title. If parking is not provided, then shoppers go where they can get parking—which can result in a business area deteriorating, even disappearing. So Birmingham's entire off-street parking development is a form of local economic insurance."

How Do You Rate?

How do you rate as the parent of a school-age child?

In an age when parents are prone to stress academic achievement for children, many parents fail to provide a stimulating environment at home, according to Robert S. Fox (EdD), director of The University of Michigan University School.

He suggests parents might ask themselves these questions:

- 1) Do you subscribe to a variety of magazines and read them?
- 2) Do you discuss "meaty" problems at home, such as local, national or international affairs?
- 3) Does dad take the youngster with him to some of his civic and social activities?
- 4) Does the family, on vacation trips, make it a point to visit historic spots or special-interest places?
- 5) Does the family have available in the home some reading resources the child can use, such as a good encyclopedia, and good general interest reading material?
- 6) Does the family attend cultural programs, go to concerts, visit museums?
- 7) Does the family read aloud occasionally?

Any parent who answers "yes" to less than four of these categories has some home work of his own to do, says Fox.

Good Music's Appeal Timeless

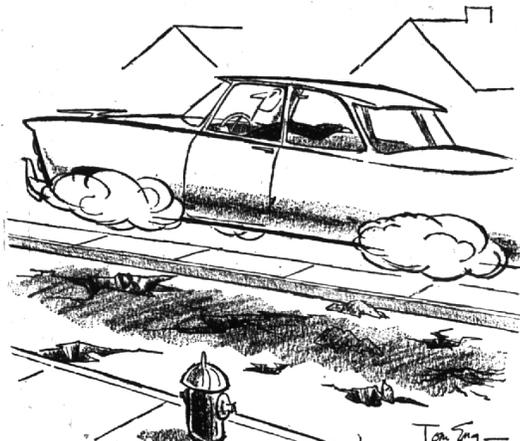
The focal point was Bach. Johann Sebastian himself, at full flower in the E major concerto for violin and orchestra. Joyous sonorities filled the room, and the dozen or so men and women listening were variously transported by what they heard.

There was nothing new about this—about the power of music to reach across time and vast cultural divergence, entering heart and mind as readily as the day it was first heard.

There was nothing new in that, but the point is worth reiterating: music—especially simple folk songs and the giant creations that stand at either end of the musical spectrum—is a timeless language that retains forever the power to stir and uplift.

This was an ordinary living room in the United States in the year 1961. The music heard there had been composed early in the 18th century, when Bach was in his 30s. A long time lapse, but communication was immediate and deep. The message came through, as the saying goes, loud and clear.

The Great American Dream



Editorial Page

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

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From The Eccentric's Point of View...

The margins of difference between a first place winner and a second place winner in many of life's contests often are very narrow. For example: a few nights ago, world champion fighter Floyd Patterson knocked out challenger Ingemar Johansson in the sixth round of a scheduled fifteen-round fight. Johansson fell to the mat and apparently remained there for the full count of 10 seconds which, of course, meant that he had lost the fight. Yet Johansson thought that he had risen to his feet before the count of ten and certainly it is conceded that he was on his feet by the count of 11 or 12 seconds. Thus we may see how near the margin between victory and defeat can be in the squared circle. The same is true of horse racing. Very often the first place winner wins by just an inch or two which is the reason, some years ago, they installed moving pictures to determine exactly which horse won a race and which horses came in in other positions. Now let's consider the arena of American politics. Last November John F. Kennedy obtained 114,000 more votes than did his Republican opponent Richard Nixon—and this is a very narrow margin when you realize that nearly 65 million votes were cast at that election. All of which adds up to this homely moral: whether you're a fighter, a horse or a politician, keep on striving until the contest is finished.

One fact seems to loom high on the Lansing political landscape: Gov. Swainson appears to get along better with the Legislature than did his predecessor, Soapy Williams. Maybe this will be the difference between good, bad or indifferent legislation.

It's currently reported that Cuba's Castro is requiring little five-six-seven-etc. tots to spy on their elders, paying special attention to anything "anti-Castro" they can pick up. That, if true, reveals the desperate condition of Castro's own survival.

State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie's ability to garner more votes than any other Democrat in the recent election suggests that we make this prophecy: Perhaps the day will come when he will want to succeed Gov. Swainson. Expect to read the daily newspaper pundits on this subject.

Now that Democrat Swainson holds down the "front office" in Lansing, he ere long will discover how many "potential Governors" there are in the Legislature. Every new Governor learns this.

One of the best ways to quiet a critic of something is to put him on the committee to improve that "something". Young Jack Kennedy is destined to go through that role as he is confronted with plenty of domestic and foreign problems.

'Tis reported that Jackie Kennedy likes to ride to the fox hunt so well that she refuses to obey her husband's wish that she quit this form of recreation. Apparently, even the wife of a President gets up on her high horse!

One Thing or Another

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Glorious color pictures of home interiors are beautiful to behold... at first glance.

But so many of them on second glance seem so perfectly arranged that if a chair—or even an ash tray—were moved, that would destroy the setting.

Most of us prefer a living room in which you can live. Or a dining room in which you can eat in comfort. The kind of room in which you can drop a magazine or newspaper in the middle of the floor and it looks like it belongs there.

In other words, rooms should be able to handle organized clutter.

They should not have an atmosphere that suggests you should not sit on a sofa because it will make a dent in the cushion.

There is only one drawback to freedom of speech — we must expect occasional long-

winded explanations of nothing.

Finding a parking place quickly still is important to most of the shoppers in downtown Birmingham. We'll bet the city would get considerably more use out of its municipal lots if it would make the locations obvious.

Those little "Municipal Parking Lot" signs—small black letters on a white background with a tiny directional arrow—are obvious only if you happen to look directly at them.

Besides a bit more expense, why can't they be made eye-catching?

If you don't like yourself, few other people will, either.

Do you suppose all the magpies will run out of things to say as the final trumpet sounds?

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Resident Lauds JFK For Display of Courage

By KEN WEAVER

To the Editor:

Our new president, John F. Kennedy, who wrote "Profiles in Courage", is displaying plenty of courage himself. He started off by choosing the very best men available for the majority of cabinet posts, ignoring party affiliations

or contributions, surely a courageous break with historic tradition, and a firm appreciation of courage and deep insight, and is bearing fruit.

His unopposed backing of Secretary of Defense McNamara in placing all military space development under the Air Force took a courage so special from both men that it can only be fully understood and appreciated by a former President or Defense Secretary who tried to buck the power of the military "brass" in the Pentagon.

Feels Kennedy Has Potential For Greatness

To the Editor:

Mr. Koehler's "The Creed of an American" is a profound, moving statement. I subscribe to it. Mr. Koehler errs in suggesting I am of the school that feels all wisdom, intelligence and new ideas are centered in the legislative and executive halls in Washington, D.C.

I do believe there are more of these three attributes in the present administration than in the preceding one. I would add two more: imagination and willingness to experiment.

WITH THE exception of Theodore Roosevelt, no Republican president since Lincoln possessed these qualities. This is the fundamental difference between the Republican and Democratic parties. I belong to neither.

I voted for President Kennedy because, of the two candidates, I felt he alone had the potential for becoming a great president. It comes as no surprise to me that some Republicans are beginning to share this view.

WILLIAM LYMAN 5395 Hickory Bend Birmingham

Senior Citizen Finds School Tax A Heavy Burden

To the Editor:

I noticed that you wrote about more schools, and that if the money could be obtained, from the U-S special fund.

I am 77 and have a nice home to retire to, but this terrible school tax is always around older people necks! Will one ever get under it?

PLEASE TAKE a drive now around Birmingham and also in Birmingham, and notice how many people are trying to sell. Some real reason, and it certainly is the high taxes.

If school older men can play golf on any city course. Why can't the rich city of Birmingham take off the extra school tax and leave only the regular school tax to persons over 65 years old. No, this would be something unusual, and there are so few persons over 65, so what.

SOMETHING FOR the little lady to ponder on, after the nice vacation.

The U.S. is planning something in its making, but it is not to have to be on welfare, and not to persons owning their homes.

BIRMINGHAM RESIDENT

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO April 21, 1911

The annual high school concert will be given April 27 in the high school assembly room. The Boys' Glee Club will present a selection. There will be extra school tax and Mrs. Parkinson a reading and the girls' chorus will sing a tone poem.

It has been many years since Birmingham had any outdoor boys. This year the 22nd Michigan Infantry holds their reunion here. Many Birmingham boys belong. Let us make it a general home coming and give the old Veterans' day that they will never forget.

The Kenneth H. Kitts children have a fine runabout. It is a beauty and carefully drawn by two fine large-sized dogs, King and Duke. The runabout is the Randall Runabout. Ed O'Neal made the harness and when this outfit appears on our streets a sensation arises.

30 YEARS AGO April 23, 1931

Professor Nelson Vance Russell, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Russell of Beverly Road, has been awarded a Lloyd Travelling Fellowship by the University of Michigan for the year 1931-32. It was learned here yesterday. Dr. Russell, head of the history department of Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is one of two U of M graduates awarded the fellowships.

At a recent meeting of the Ladies Aid Society of the Franklin M. E. Church it was decided to improve the appearance of the church lawn—staging a general cleanup day. During the latter part of May the organization also will clean the interior of the building.

The Birmingham YMCA Basketball League closed its first successful season with a banquet of the association at the Birmingham Park Club Monday, 55 players attending. Robert Lynd, local secretary of the YMCA, was the evening's first after-dinner speaker.

15 YEARS AGO April 19, 1946

Birmingham residents who had occasion to use the suburban Greyhound service between Birmingham

and Detroit last Thursday and Monday were somewhat awed by what appeared to be special buses added to the run. The "special service" was a result of the rumored suburban maintenance workers strike which, if called, would have tied up all the cars parked in division garages, stated Fred Uhrman, division superintendent of the Pontiac and Detroit.

A special show for school children of Birmingham is announced for May 2 at the special auditorium room of the First Baptist Church, when the Edwin Strawbridge Co., now on tour, presents its play, "Christie in Columbus." It will be given in three performances.

In a personal effort to "do something" about low-cost housing for veterans, William W. Lyman, Jr., West Long Lake, Bloomfield Hills, has sent a printed argument to every member of both Houses of Congress and to leading newspapers, magazine and radio concerns throughout the country.

STRICTLY FRESH A gentleman is one who is never offensive unintentionally.

Freedom is being able to do any darned thing you please, considering nobody except the boss, wife, life insurance company, police, city, state and federal authorities and the neighbors.

Science has come up with so many substitutes lately it's getting hard to remember what we needed in the first place.

A thing of beauty can be a jaw breaker.

City Beat

Adolph Eichmann is on trial in Israel on charge of crimes against humanity. What a service to God it would be if Israel were to forgive him, to spare the life of this man accused of participating in the slaughter of millions of Jews.

How magnanimous it would be then if the rest of the world were also to forgive him.

Think of the supreme contrast: Forgiving one man; sparing the life of one man responsible for taking the lives of millions.

Would this not serve as an ever-lasting example for all the peoples of the world of the precept of forgiveness?

"THERE IS enough space in the cosmos for all..."

"American cosmonauts will have to catch up with us. We shall welcome their success—but we will try to keep in front."

"Our party and our government have raised the question of the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, about peaceful competition. This arena must not be used for warlike, but for peaceful purposes."

These were the words of Soviet spaceman Yuri Gagarin after he became the first man to orbit into space and return.

Though Americans dislike seeing a Russian as the first to accomplish this feat, it is not encouraging to note the spirit, the philosophy of the man—THE MAN—who did it?

BY THE WAY, remember Boris Pasternak's Dr. Zhivago?—His first name is Yuri, too.

SIGN OF SPRING—Mrs. Fred Pivitt witnessed a dozen cedar waxwings birds flying from the South into her back yard at 1240 E. Lincoln, Birmingham, and for two hours eating off the rose bushes—and getting a drink.

WINTER SCENE—Young women in black, knee-socks, pointed shoes and short-skirts parading through a supermarket parking lot on a cold, wet day.

By DENI SCANLON

Talk of the Towns

The constructive enthusiasm of youngsters in this area is contagious.

Two years ago about this time, students of Seaborn instructor Don Grothe appealed to The Birmingham Eccentric for help with their pet project.

It was just that—collecting pets, a wide variety of parakeets, to be given to the infirmed in Oakland County.

This year, they've done it again. Now the students are collecting bicycles for a displaced couple from Holland. The couple is seeking work but finds transportation a problem. Neither can drive an automobile so bicycles are the solution.

The students plan to give the pair the sturdiest cycles from their collection. The young people also hope to get enough donations to provide "transportation" for the neglected and dependent children at the Oakland County Children's home. They are especially interested in bicycles for younger children.

The working condition of the bikes is no problem. A number of the more mechanically inclined students have promised to make necessary repairs.

Grothe's students during the past few years have been an industrious group.

Their charitable activities have included collecting stuffed animals for the Oakland County Children's Home, giving a party each semester for the children, "adopting" grandparents at a Pontiac infirmary, supporting a Chinese war orphan, making educational films on alcohol to combat drinking, raising money to buy food for a distressed family and sending cards to a boy who was dying of leukemia.

Speaking of Seaborn students, several local moms are proud of the teenagers' behavior at the league swimming meet held recently at the school.

According to the women, the swim rosters all stood while a recording of the National Anthem was played on a phonograph before the meet began. Trouble in the sound system developed leaving the crowd standing in silence.

Without a leader, prompter or snicker, the students sang The Star Spangled Banner in its entirety, then sat down quietly and waited for the meet to begin.

They cheered for the team but there are others in town who are cheering the fans.

It isn't only the Birmingham youth that is displaying constructiveness.

Lathrup officials received a letter last week from the boys of the Upper Teens Club.

It read in part: "We express our appreciation to the residents and businessmen of Southfield and Lathrup Village for their untiring efforts and contributions in making our club possible."

"Therefore, all members of our club offer our services to assist Southfield and Lathrup in any municipal projects or in any way or means that you may desire."

"We will await your request or suggestion that will permit us to assist or serve those who were kind and thoughtful in helping us."

Yes, there are occasions when had apples in the basket but it seems evident that they are far outnumbered in this area by some very healthy, polished and choice specimens.

