

## Why Fewer Votes Cast For Judges

Fewer votes are cast for candidates of the Michigan State Supreme Court and for the candidates who are running for the offices of Circuit Judge in Oakland as well as the other Michigan counties, as compared to the total usually cast for other candidates for other offices. One of our readers recently asked us to make some comment on this subject.

The chief reason, we think, why fewer votes are cast for these judgeships lies in the fact that judges run on what is called a non-partisan basis. By this it is meant that they are presumed not to wage campaigns based upon the particular programs of whatever political party they may belong to.

This non-partisan idea was promoted in Michigan some years back with the hope that it would remove these judgeships from the so-called "stigma" of having to carry on political campaigns using the traditional pattern of criticizing your opponent.

TO SOME DEGREE this has worked insofar as "knock down drag out" fights are concerned during election campaigns. However, in the case of candidates for the state supreme court, they are nominated at their particular political conventions.

This political anomaly has not eliminated all the frictions that do result in campaigns where either the state or the circuit court judgeships or both are involved. This lack of competitive aggressiveness among the judge candidates naturally removes from their campaigns some of the dramatics that the public generally looks for in campaigns. So fewer voters focus their attention upon these candidates and, as a result, know less about them.

Other candidates, during a campaign, follow the traditional pattern of "name calling", often accusing their opponents of most everything short of treason. Quite naturally some of this dramatic campaigning finds its way into the public press and thus more voters, of course, become aware of the names of candidates and the various issues they argue about.

OF COURSE, TO BE a hundred percent citizen, one should make every effort to find out about the qualifications of the various candidates for the state supreme court or circuit courts, for, after all, they are most important to the maintenance of justice—and only in the environment of justice can freedom and liberty flourish.

Many informed groups of our citizens, including a great many members of various lawyer groups, long have suggested the discontinuance of balloting for judges. They would use, instead, a method of having a specially informed group of citizens, including members of the bar, nominate candidates for these various judgeships—it being assumed that these groups and lawyers are in a better position to determine the qualifications of a man for a court responsibility than are the average voters. The nominated judge candidates then would have their names printed on regular ballots for submission to the voters.

Some day an improved method will be accepted and applied. In the meantime the elective method will be continued and it is hoped voters themselves will become better informed on the qualifications of these important candidates at election time.

## New Museum Honors Trainer of Horses

A museum in honor of a Negro horse trainer who was once a slave is the unusual feature offered by Mexico, Mo. Mexico, a town 100 miles northwest of St. Louis, was visited in 1861 by Col. U.S. Grant, who was trying to root out nests of Confederate guerrillas. It was here that he received his commission as brigadier general. Mexico thus honors Grant in the museum, but reserves its real affections for Tom Bass.

Tom Bass was so renowned a horse trainer that Presidents McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt consulted him about horses, and an injury to him was fully reported in the London Times. He helped to bolster the town's claim to being "the saddle horse capital of the world."

While the museum has many interesting objects, it specializes in the history of the saddle horse and of noted horsemen. There are catalogues of sales, saddles of famous horses, and rows of prize ribbons and oil paintings of winners.

Mexico may have had unusual advantages. But almost every town could develop some specialty which would draw tourists and make its name known. The idea is worth looking into.

## Litter-ally Speaking, You Shouldn't!



## Editorial Page

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

Thursday, August 3, 1961

### The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 1225 Bowers Street Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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## Nation's Wealth More Evenly Spread

According to a survey taken by the Institute of Life Insurance it is no longer accurate to speak of certain sections of the country in terms of their wealth—the "rich East," for example, or the "poor South." For in the past two decades the nation's wealth has spread more evenly over its length and breadth. The South has seen industrial expansion raise per capita income to levels not experienced since Civil War days; at the same time, parts of the East have not sprung forward as fast,

undoing a growth pattern in effect for more than a century and a half.

Nor is the term "rust bowl" and the economic stagnation it suggests any longer appropriate to that area in the Middle West hit so hard in the 30's. The Institute reports that this area now has a per capita income about 93 per cent of the nation's average. This is concrete evidence of the phenomenal growth of mid-America.

This leveling of the nation's wealth is sociologically and politically a good thing for us all. For a mean sectionalism can breed from wide disparity in income and development levels. To share equally in a high per capita income will help to add meaning to the word "united" in the United States of America.

## From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

If Soviet Russia is able to attach itself to Asian and African primitive nations, you may rest assured that years of bondage will ensue. Russia, you see, wants to subdue these new U.N. created nations in order to control their natural resources, their oils and minerals. Thus, you see, how Russia could win advantage over other nations that could not get those minerals necessary to perfect the munitions of war. Without recourse to such minerals, how could the U.S.A., Britain, France, West Germany, et al, produce their own modern defense equipment?

A form of hypocritical cynicism seems to obsess some of the U.S. multi-millionaires who get into politics. Roosevelt, Harriman, Kennedy et al, all of whom never had to earn a dollar to keep the wolf from the door, support legislation opposed to the traditional operation of the U.S. free competitive enterprise system . . . while they also hang on to their inherited fortunes. (They like to spend your tax money, though.)

It was no less a man than Abraham Lincoln who said: "The candid citizen must confess that if the policy of government upon vital questions affecting the whole people is to be irrevocably fixed by the Supreme Court — the people will have ceased to be their own rulers, having to that extent practically resigned their government into the hands of that eminent tribunal."



## One Thing or Another

By GEORGE W.M. AVERILL

George William Averill is on vacation. His column will resume with the Aug. 17 edition.

## PEOPLE'S COLUMN

# Red China Drug Traffic Omitted From UN Report

To the Editor:

Just recently the United Nations released its annual report on illicit narcotics traffic.

In every year since the U.N. began, Communist China has, percentage wise, led the rest of the world in this heinous trade.

In fact, U.S. Narcotics Commissioner Harry Anslinger has stated that Communist China is responsible for 65 per cent of the world's traffic in illegal drugs.

This year China is not even mentioned in the U.N. Annual Report. Mr. Anslinger publicly indicated his was "aghas" at this omission.

WE CAN only surmise that per-

haps Mr. Hammarskjold and his staff felt it would be inadvisable to present the facts about a country being "groomed" for membership.

This omission serves to point up the duplicity of the U.N. Secretariat and the great error this nation makes by placing its trust in an organization that collectively cannot face up to truth and morality, and which is increasingly dominated by our enemies and the uncertain, primitive states of Africa.

Yes, let us offer Red China a seat in the U.N.—our seat.

P. J. M.

## Present New Hospital Site

Ormond S. Wessels, 356 Lake Park, Birmingham, president of the board of trustees of Crittenton General Hospital in Detroit, recently announced that a tract of land on Auburn Road near John R. and von Township has been presented as the site for the Rochester unit of Crittenton General Hospital.

The site was presented by Howard L. McGregor Jr., of Rochester, president of National Twist Drill and Tool Co. and vice president of the Crittenton General Hospital board.

"We are most grateful," said Wessels, "for being the recipient of this generous gift. This is a definite move that will insure the erection of the new 200-bed Rochester unit of Crittenton General Hospital which will serve the present hospital bed deficient area in Western Macomb and Eastern Oakland Counties.

"THE HOSPITAL unit was planned in consultation with the Greater Detroit Hospital Council and has their full approval as part of the master plan and is outside the area covered by the Metropolitan Detroit Building Fund," he said.

E. Sibery, administrator of Crittenton General Hospital, has announced that the American City Bureau has been retained to direct the forthcoming campaign and that campaign headquarters have been established in the Rochester Drive, Rochester, where preliminary work is now underway.

"West hit so hard in the 30's. The Institute reports that this area now has a per capita income about 93 per cent of the nation's average. This is concrete evidence of the phenomenal growth of mid-America.

"This leveling of the nation's wealth is sociologically and politically a good thing for us all. For a mean sectionalism can breed from wide disparity in income and development levels. To share equally in a high per capita income will help to add meaning to the word "united" in the United States of America.

"THE DECISION to build a branch hospital in the Rochester area was made by the Crittenton General Hospital board authorized by the City Commission Monday night in a resolution to follow the recommendation made in a recent survey by the traffic research staff of the Automobile Club of Michigan.

Golf clubs of Birmingham and surrounding area will be presented this year when the Michigan Open starts tomorrow at Black River Country Club, Port Huron, Mich. Ray McGuire of Birmingham, Al Wilcoxon and Harry Tenney, both of Oakland, Bill Graham of Bloomfield Hills and Tommy Shannon of Orchard Lake will also vie for the state championship.

In spite of various protests made by Oak Street residents that they want to see the holes and bumps remain in their roughhairs rather than have the street paved, the street may get a permanent face lifting as soon as the City Commission gets a report and recommendation back from the city manager.

A Charles Dickens cocktail is described as a martini with an olive or twist.

Will power is the ability to eat just one salted peanut.

The official celebration of the opening of Grand Trunk Commuter service Aug. 1 included a band concert, kiddie parade, ball game between Birmingham and Pontiac, parade, arrival of first train at the depot, fireworks, air show, banquet and the grand opening at 7 p.m., climaxed by a carillon recital. North Westward commuters are expected to 50,000 strong and state and local officials attended, with Gov. Bruckner presiding. The parade will participate in brief dedicatory exercises.

The new building code regulating all types and phases of construction work in the village and representing several months of research and investigation by village officials and a special committee was adopted by the Village Commission Monday night.

15 YEARS AGO Aug. 1, 1946

"No Left Turns" signs which will prohibit westbound Maple traffic from turning south onto Pierce should make their appearance at the strategic points within a short time. The action was

One good way for a housewife to have a few minutes to herself at the end of the day is to do the dishes.

The boss is a very economical parrot. He at least saves a little peat moss from his garden to stretch out his supply of pipe tobacco.

# City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

Government is criticized so often that when you see an example of good government—for the people—it's worth pointing out.

Such is the case with last week's Birmingham City Commission meeting.

Commissioners presented a plan devised to save interest costs on the City's obligation in the Twelve Towns Drain.

Simply, the plan is for Birmingham to issue its own bonds at less cost than the county can, capitalize the interest on them and prepay the City's year assessment for the drain.

Commissioners have estimates on how much the City stands to save, but this information can't be divulged at this time.

Suffice it to say that I have seen the figures and know that the people of Birmingham will be very pleased at the more than "substantial saving" (announced last week) if the plan works out.

COMMISSIONERS considered the people of Birmingham in planning this less costly method to pay a City obligation.

And they are considering the drain itself and neighboring communities by not divulging the saving until the bonds are sold and the actual amount can be accurately determined.

Twelve Towns has been blocked "yee many years" over litigation. Now everything is ready to go. Birmingham doesn't want to take any action that might prove a stumbling block.

And that could happen if officials of a community—not in the same financial condition as Birmingham—thought they could do the same thing.

I UNDERSTAND that it was Commissioner Charles Renfrew who first brought up the possibility of Birmingham issuing its own bonds to pay its Twelve Towns share.

This type of thinking is typical of Birmingham's commissioners.

It also is typical that other commissioners see the wisdom of it and go along with it rather than "play politics" because it wasn't their idea.

In some communities, officials are always thinking of election time, saying "This was my idea. I thought of it. I am saving the community thousands of dollars. I am the one who thinks of your welfare. I am always looking out for the taxpayer."

Not so in Birmingham. Actions here speak louder than words.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE of government for the governed rather than for the officials came with last week's commission meeting.

Police Chief Ralph Mackey had recommended certain measures for handling traffic coming in and out of Municipal Parking Lot No. 5, scheduled for opening in September.

He submitted his ideas to the merchants parking committee for their reaction.

The fact that he and the commission were willing to listen to the ideas of the merchants—who pay a high tax rate, who are directly involved through the movement of traffic and parking, who are aware of customers' reaction to such regulations—speaks well for them.

If more communities had governing bodies like Birmingham, this nation of ours would be in even less peril of Communism.

Rev. Robert J. Searls, former minister at the Franklin Community Church, is doing more than running the Cass City Methodist Church and enjoying the community's fresh air.

The congenial fellow has taken pen in hand. His latest notice recently published in the "Christian Advocate" that an article he wrote has been accepted for publication.

Rev. Searls' topic, "The Churches Serve the Small Hospital", illustrates how small town churches can participate in a program to comfort the ill.

Rev. Searls is president of the Cass City Ministerial Association. The group has a rotational Chaplain-of-the-Month schedule which includes ministers from all the religious denominations in town. Each man is "on call" for 24 hours a day during his assignment and spends a good deal of time at the hospital.

For Rev. Searls' interested friends—the magazine is a professional journal for ministers and church leaders and is published by the Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tenn.

By DENI SCANLON

## Talk of the Towns



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When a girl approaches sweet sixteen, an obvious sign of her maturing is indicated by an increase of incoming telephone calls.

A Bloomfield Township miss spent a recent afternoon sitting while her neighbor (a polite young man just her age) sketched his face.

A barrage of phone calls began. He sat patiently during each interruption, waiting for his model to return.

Finally, after the total reached five, he gathered up his materials, opened the back door and headed into the den where his friend was chatting.

"I guess I really ought to get my subjects in the natural habitat anyway," he explained to her mother as he set up shop in front of the phone.

## STRICTLY FRESH

A Charles Dickens cocktail is described as a martini with an olive or twist.

Will power is the ability to eat just one salted peanut.



We just heard about the naturalist who crossed a parrot with a bald eagle. He doesn't know what to call the new bird, but when it talks he listens.

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