

# Have Fun At The J-Hop—Fun To Recall Joyously!

Next Saturday evening approximately 1,700 young men and women, students at Birmingham's Seaholm High School, will hold an annual J-Hop. This occasion probably represents the largest, most impressive social affair each school year.

Sponsored annually by the Junior Class, honoring the graduating Seniors, this activity officially begins at 9:30 p.m. in the Seaholm gymnasium with dancing, and concludes at 1 a.m. Sunday morning. During these hours the local school officials assume chaperone responsibility for the affair.

However, custom decrees that this J-Hop does not conclude for all the students involved, whose ages average from 17 to 18. In most cases it extends through Sunday morning breakfast. Most of them will participate in a variety of other get-togethers, including house parties, eating and dancing at a variety of public places—not to overlook a possible environment referred to in an old song that is related to "spring and a young man's fancy."

IN BRIEF, THEN, while few adults become unduly concerned about the dance itself, as well as most of the later get-togethers, there always is a great concern that uncontrolled moments may bring about some hurt, some harm, to some youngsters.

It is this chance, whatever its momentary urge or lack of control may be, that concerns parents and other adults.

Fortunately, though, Birmingham has an answer ready for the question raised in a recent article in the National P.T.A. magazine titled: "Graduation Parties Gone Wild." The Birmingham Parentene Guide for high school students states that most parents agree that the latest hour for teens to arrive home from a J-Hop should be 3 a.m.

"Parents who permit their children to stay out all night after this dance do, of course, inadvertently apply social pressures on other parents to do likewise, even though some parents agree against their better judgments," says Cramer Shafer and Eleanor Palubin, co-chairmen of the local Parentene Committee of the Birmingham P.T.A. Council.

THIS ORGANIZATION was formed more than a year ago in response to a letter addressed to The Eccentric by a graduate of the Birmingham high school. He asked why parents couldn't do something to control activities of students at high school parties—"... for I now realize that drinking and other wrong activities can ruin one's career."

"Many hours have been devoted in behalf of young people by the good citizens of our community, who have drawn up a questionnaire, tabulating it, and designing and printing 'Parentene Guides' for both Junior and Senior high school students," stated Shafer and Mrs. Palubin. "We suggest that the articles re-printed in the current Readers Digest be read, and that our Guides be used—for they are of value only if actually used."

So, to you young men and women of Seaholm we enthusiastically say: "Have fun! Have lots of fun! Your parents and teachers want you to enjoy the wonderful adventures of youth in most enjoyable ways... for the paths of glorious youth can never be re-traced as adults... only watch out for the tempting but dangerous situations one may encounter... and remember Ben Franklin's words: "China and glass and reputations are easily cracked—and never well mended!"

## Wondrous Success Of Nutwood Canes

Once there was a merchant named Nutwood Canes. His Pa had been well fixed and Nutwood had gone to a college near Boston which had a professor named Keynes.

Because their names sounded alike, Nutwood and the Prof became great friends. But halfway through college, Nutwood's Pa lost all on Wall Street and Nutwood stopped learning. However, he had soaked up Prof. Keynes' Rule One, which is: "When Customers fall off, put Purchasing Power in their Hands."

Nutwood made an honest living running Canes' Candy Canteen where he sold Bubble Gum to the kids at a nearby school. He prospered until the kids stopped buying because their dads had priced themselves out of jobs.

HOWEVER, NUTWOOD remembered Rule One. He gave each of the kids a Dollar Bill on their solemn promise to spend the same for Bubble Gum at his Canteen. The kids grabbed the money and gave

## Eyesore



## Editorial Page • A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

Thursday, May 18, 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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## From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Have you been to nearby Greenfield Village and Museum lately? If not, you are missing the opportunity to enjoy a form of mental relaxation that was a larger part of human existence "in the good old days." For in that Village are gathered a wide variety of early American artifacts, actual original and/or duplications of the homes and shops of generations ago, plus exhibitions of many of the original important inventions we enjoy today. Just recently the Village and Museum entertained its millionth 1961 visitor.

Apparently, for the moment President Kennedy isn't "sitting too pretty" on that famous rocking chair he uses in the White House office. According to the United Furniture Workers Union the chair was made in a non-union factory. That, say the union boys and girls, certainly is not in keeping with Mr. Kennedy's political alliance with the U.S. labor movement.

Perhaps the President may find it expedient to exchange the present chair for one made by union craftsmen. What next? Maybe the folks who fabricate inner and outer human habiliments will inspect the Kennedy wardrobe... better, Jack, be sure everything you wear sports some union label.

Former Vice-President Richard M. Nixon has just concluded a brief speaking trip in Michigan and Ohio, during which he strongly criticized several phases of the Kennedy administration. Our own reaction to this is that he is too early for such comment—too many of his own campaign utterances fail to measure up to his current declarations. But what he said about Michigan needing new and stronger Republican leadership has been known for some years.

## Talk of the Towns

By DENI SCANLON

There's more to voting than pulling a lever. Now that the major local, state and national contests are over for a while, an interesting aspect in the game of politics bears mentioning. Ever heard of "bullet voting"?

It's known by other monikers but in essence, it means casting a ballot for one man when instructions read "vote for four candidates."

So you vote for one. So what? So what happens can create a unique result. It can kill a candidate's chances or it can put him in office with no perspiration whatever. How does the system work? It's simple. When the instructions say, "Vote for four candidates," it means select the men you feel are most qualified from the total number of aspirants. By voting for only one of the four, it's like giving four votes to the one man.

It is as the name implies, "bulleting" or "triggering" the mechanics of voting into a faster and more powerful realm, usually picking a specific target.

It is good for it is bad? The answer is both, depending on the man involved and the reason behind such tactics. three ringing cheers for dear old Nutwood. At the end of a very busy week, Nutwood had done a Land-Office Business in Bubble Gum and suchlike staples. His till was busting with Dollar Bills and he felt Mighty Good.

So Nutwood said to himself, "My old Prof sure knew all the angles," and he repeated the dose with the kids—and wrote his Senator how well Rule One worked.

And so it went until Nutwood had nothing left but his Dollar Bills and no Bubble Gum!

If a candidate is exceptionally capable but relatively unknown, a solid vote for him alone multiplies his strength. But, on the other hand, if a shrewd politician starts a phone campaign and requests uninformed citizens to "vote for me and nobody else," it's dangerous.

A lone lever pulled for such a person is hazardous because, one, it's an unfair manipulation of a basic American right, and two, it indicates an undesirable facet in the candidate's character. After all, why sacrifice this nation's principles for a stinker!

Can it be spotted in election results? You bet. One look at the total votes cast in a precinct compared to the returns for each candidate shows exactly how much bullet voting went on and who it was for.

According to a local political scientist, this voting tactic can be wiped out by going back to a ward system.

Wards demand the selection of one of two men who will represent the specific area. Only a single vote is involved. This system, however, presents another problem. Suppose both men are excellent choices and candidates in another ward aren't worth going out in the rain for. It means that only one of the good guys has a chance. Bullet voting is the lesser of two evils in this case.

Why get upset over the mechanics of voting? When you know candidate's qualifications and when you have a sincere interest in voting intelligently, persons who slough this duty become disgusting.

Bullet voting for a good reason is okay. Backing a Democrat in a Republican territory is fine, too. Writing in your choice for highway commissioner is also affirmative.

But, the most important thing to remember is—vote—and for this community and nation's sake, do it informed!

## PEOPLE'S COLUMN

# Wants Springdale, Eton Dedicated As Parks Now

To the Editor:

About a year ago the Senior Men's Club requested an inventory of all city-owned property with a view to having selected areas dedicated as parks.

More recently the Sheffield Estates Civic Association, of which I am a director, has urged the City Commission to dedicate certain areas of the city as parks.

Now that the inventory is almost complete, I see no reason why Springdale and Eton Parks should not be dedicated. Last April 3, Mr. Herbert Herzburg, the City Planner, stated that the city has no other plans for Springdale and Eton except to widen the parks.

THE COMMISSION has defended its failure to dedicate these areas on the grounds that they have the best interests of the city in mind—therefore, such areas as Springdale and Eton will remain parks.

This is undoubtedly very true. However, I am not concerned with their present use as parks as much

as with their continued and future use as parks. As commissions change, so do points of view.

MY REASONS for concern are as follows:

- 1) Non-dedicated areas of city-owned property can be sold for any price up to \$61,150 without referring the sale to the voters for approval.
- 2) To obviate the possibility of private interests buying or leasing a "portion" of the park areas for commercial or private use, e.g., a swimming pool.
- 3) Assurance that Birmingham will always have conveniently located parks and will not suffer for lack of these areas in future years.

I request your support both as the editor of The Eccentric and as a private citizen in urging that the city commission dedicate Springdale and Eton parks.

JOHN MCGILL  
1287 South Eton

## Be Kind to Animals, Woman Writer Urges

To the Editor:

Last week animal lovers throughout the country devoted extra thought to their animal friends. "Be Kind to Animals Week" was set aside as a reminder of an im-

## CARE Marks 15th Birthday

May 11 marked an anniversary shared by many Michigan residents.

On that date in 1946 CARE delivered its first food packages, to World War II victims in France.

Since then, it has sent \$408,500,000 in relief and Self Help aid to the people of other lands as gifts from the people of every state and section of America.

These 15 years have seen much world history. Europe's struggle to rise from postwar misery. Independence for India and Pakistan. The creation of Israel. The blockade. War - and partition - in Korea, Vietnam. The Suez conflict. Arabian revolt. Occupation of Tibet.

NATURE MADE its own kind of havoc in ravaging Holland and Belgium. Famine in Yugoslavia. Blight in Greece. Drought in Hawaii. Earthquakes in Iran. Tidal waves and quakes in Chile.

And CARE donors made human history. In all these and oth-

er, they joined hands with the survivors of war and disaster, the victims of earthquakes, typhoons, and other natural calamities.

When our children are taught to be kind to every living thing it is necessary to our well-being that we shall have no fear of their attitude towards their fellow men.

THE WRITER believes that humane education should start in the home, be preached from the pulpit and be part of every school curriculum.

"Be Kind to Animals Week" had its origin in Philadelphia when local humane societies introduced "Humane Sunday." On this Sabbath day religious leaders throughout the city reminded congregations of their duty towards animals.

"Humane Sunday" attracted the attention of the American Humane Association who conceived the idea of a whole week devoted to humane work. This idea was inaugurated April 1914 throughout the United States.

HELEN G. FERGUSON  
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Michigan communities including Birmingham and vicinity of a plentiful supply of natural gas for 25 years was announced yesterday by Consumers Power Co. and the Panhandle Pipeline Co. It was announced, however, that Consumers will be unable to connect additional house-heating equipment until after this summer.

Plans have been completed for the holding of the second annual Birmingham Junior Olympics, sponsored by the Sidelite Quarterbacks, May 21 at Pierce School field. Seven schools are listed by the Quarterbacks as being eligible to compete: Birmingham Junior High, Adams, Gorton, St. Jerome, Holy Name and Franklin Schools.

A water tap, left running wide open apparently from April, 1945 to the later part of March, 1946, has been closed in Michigan. Birmingham Country Club quit a bit higher than normal. City Manager Donald Gierhart told the City Commission Monday in recommending that the arrangement for fire protection at the club be continued for another year.

STRICTLY FRESH  
Funny thing about luck: It seems to increase the harder you work.

Those who are intent on advertising their troubles should be careful that there is no market for them at present.

Any successful man will tell you that the door of opportunity is clearly marked "Push."

Of course, nobody is 100 per cent useless. You can always serve as a bad example.

It's refreshing to see that one of the junior executives around here is not a yes-man. When the boss says "no," he says "no."

AND A BIG, burly man says: "It's only me from over the sea," said Barnacle Bill the Sailor.

"I'm old and rough and dirty and tough," said Barnacle Bill the Sailor.

"I never can get drunk enough," said Barnacle Bill the Sailor.

"I drink my whisky when I can, whisky from an old tin can."

"Oh, whisky is the life of man," said Barnacle Bill the Sailor.

AND TUNES like the soft, dreamy "Honey": "I'm in love with you, Honey."

"Say you love me too, Honey."

"Seems funny, but it's true."

## BY GEORGE W. AVERILL

# One Thing or Another

From time to time—and community to community—newspapermen encounter public officials who object to reporting of their actions.

Oh, these officials give many reasons in rationalizing their demands, including: "The newspaper won't print it accurately." "Reporters are biased." "The public won't understand."

"The citizens aren't really interested in what we're doing. Besides, they trust us."

THEN THERE ARE THE FEW who brazenly announce to the reporter: "It's none of your business!"

In this reporter's opinion, all these comments add up to pretty much the same thing—the public official has an inferiority complex.

He is not sure that he is exercising his governmental function adequately and as well as most other citizens had they the same responsibility.

Too, these attitudes could indicate the official does not understand the functions of democratic government and the newspaper's role in it.

WHEN HE IS ELECTED or appointed to a government position, the mature individual understands that the spotlight of news will follow his official movements. He knows that the public is quick to censure, slow to praise.

He realizes that people—including newspaper reporters—are subject to occasional human error in judgment, in action, in expression. Just as he will make errors from time to time in carrying out his municipal obligations.

So this mature public official will trust the public—and the reporters. They both will trust him. They will talk things over, explore possibilities, exercise due caution. They will expect each other to do their respective jobs well—but not perfectly.

AND THEY WILL RECOGNIZE there will be disagreements. But they will recognize that in the long run, they all will be cooperating to promote the community's welfare.

The mature public official welcomes the news spotlight. It helps him learn what the public wants and what it will not accept. It aids him in doing his job better.

The official who has something to hide—whether it be his inferiority or some questionable action—wants to work in a news blackout. He tries devious ways and gives spurious alibis to keep out of the news spotlight or to extinguish it.

That kind of a public official is in a sense a thief, because he is robbing the public of its constitutional right to know what he is doing as a public official.

Reporters across the nation—large or small, daily or weekly—are constantly striving to expose censorial public officials, wherever they may be. Once exposed, the great and democratic American public moves in on them—but quick.

## By KEN WEAVER

# City Beat

It was a big white house. It stood back from the highway a hundred yards or so.

The front yard was a near-forest of tall, straight pine trees.

You would probably say the place resembled a southern plantation home.

It had a rather spacious living room. In the middle of the floor was a big square register.

Many a family gathering took place around that warmest spot in the house.

ESPECIALLY songsters. Songs like "Onward Christian Soldiers," "Gloria, Hallelujah," "The Old Rugged Cross," "Home on the Range," "Bury Me Out on the Lone Prairie."

Sometimes relatives came from out of town. Then there would be mostly talk and laughter.

And there would be an aunt who would pull one of the youngsters up on her lap for a round of cuddling. A round that always ended in a penny or two.

In the corner of the room stood an upright brown Victrola.

THE KIND where you opened the top, cranked it, put on a record, played one side, turned it over, played the other side, then put on another.

Tunes like "The National Emblem March" and "Lights Out March."

Which you seldom hear any more. And like "Barnacle Bill the Sailor."

A small girlish voice singing: "Who's that knocking at my door?"