

B'ham on TV, Radio Sunday, Tuesday

Birmingham returns to the air! Birmingham will be discussed on the Municipal Reports program on WJW-TV at 4:45 p.m. Sunday and on WJW-Radio at 10:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Mayor Florence H. Willett will represent the city on both occasions.

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Opinion of School Program Rates High

See related story, 1-A

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following third in a series of articles by Community Research Associates reporting on its survey of people living in the Birmingham School District, describes opinions of the local public school system. This series of school programs will concern public opinion of school personnel.

The major objectives of most modern public school programs are three in number: 1) to teach essential academic materials, 2) impart values of democratic citizenship and 3) to provide an emotional climate conducive to the development of healthy interpersonal relations.

To what extent do local residents feel these objectives are being achieved by the Birmingham Public Schools?

Impressions of the Academic Program—A large proportion—41 per cent—of Birmingham area residents don't know fundamental subjects are effectively taught in the local public schools.

Lack of opinion of the part of this group is quite understandable in light of the fact that 85 per cent of this group do not have children enrolled in the public schools.

If we disregard the "no opinion" group and compare attitudes about curriculum of those who have children enrolled in the public schools with those who do not, a difference between these two groups appears.

People who have children enrolled in the public schools are more satisfied with the teaching of fundamentals than are those who do not have children in the public schools.

In the table below it should be noted that the groups are favorably impressed with the handling of fundamental subject matter. Dissatisfaction is about three times as great among those who do not have children in the public schools as among those who do.

While the table below refers to the secondary level, a similar response was obtained to the same question directed at the elementary level.

"To what extent do you feel the fundamental subjects are being taught in the Birmingham Public Schools at the secondary level?"

Do the Public Schools Prepare Students for College?—Since 50 per cent of the parents of school-age children in the community anticipate entry of their children into college, one of the most important aspects of the local school program is how well it prepares students for college.

When asked how well the Birmingham Public Schools prepared students for college, 1/3 of the local residents did not feel well enough informed to venture an opinion. However, 84 per cent of those who did reply felt that the local public schools were doing a good job. Eleven per cent felt the college preparation was fair and only 5 per cent said the preparation was poor.

Foreign Language at the Elementary Level?—When asked how the academic program might be improved, few people had concrete suggestions to offer. Fourteen per cent felt language and literature might receive more emphasis at the secondary level, while 7 per cent said math and science should be stressed more.

Greatest consensus regarding curriculum improvement was revealed by a question concerning the teaching of foreign language in the elementary (K-6) through 6th grade schools.

Eight out of ten people are of the opinion that foreign language should be included in the elementary curriculum.

"How do you feel about foreign language being taught in the elementary schools?"

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Dislike | 10 |
| No opinion | 16 |
| Fairly well | 40 |
| Very well | 22 |
| Total | 100% |

How Healthy is the Emotional Climate in the Public Schools?
The majority in the community have an opinion concerning the emotional climate in the public schools. Most feel that the climate is good.

However, there is a tendency to rate the elementary schools higher in this regard than the secondary schools. Again, the evaluations differ from people who have children enrolled in the public schools and those who do not.

In the table below it may be seen that a majority of both groups rate the emotional climate in the elementary schools above average. But only 8 per cent of the people with children in public schools feel it is good, compared with 22 per cent with similar opinions among the non-school group.

"And how about the emotional climate in the public schools?"

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Dislike | 10 |
| No opinion | 16 |
| Fairly well | 40 |
| Very well | 22 |
| Total | 100% |

People with children in the public schools are not as highly satisfied with the emotional climate in the secondary schools as they are with the climate in the elementary schools.

From the elementary to the secondary evaluation a decrease of 14 per cent in the "very favorable" rating is accompanied by a 14 per cent increase in "not so good" evaluations. (Compare prior table with table below.)

"To what extent is a healthy emotional climate provided by the Birmingham Public Schools at the elementary level?"

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Dislike | 10 |
| No opinion | 16 |
| Fairly well | 40 |
| Very well | 22 |
| Total | 100% |

We are not currently able to offer specific reasons why the parents of public school children rate the emotional climate in the elementary schools higher than in the secondary.

It might be mentioned, however, that the fact does coincide with the opinions of many people that secondary teaching loads are too high, more individual attention should be given to students, etc.

Or again, this finding may mirror the fact that a large per cent of the present teaching staff represents first year teachers, not yet as fully experienced as the master teacher.

Citizenship Values—Eighty per cent of the people in the community who have opinions about the matter believe the local public schools are average or above in teaching values which lead to good citizenship.

Two-fifths of those with opinions believe the schools are not doing enough in this respect.

When the "no-opinion" group is omitted and the data analyzed by parental status, differences again appear between people with children in the public schools and those with no children enrolled.

In the following table it may be observed that both groups feel the local public schools are doing an average or above average job of imparting values of good citizenship.

APPROXIMATELY 40 per cent of the local population have no opinions about the various facets of the public school program. This group is composed almost entirely (95 per cent) of people who do not have children enrolled in the Birmingham Public Schools.

Of those people who have opinions, the majority believe the public school program in Birmingham is good.

The stereotyped notion that schools do not teach the "three R's" is a poor fit in this community, since most people believe the schools are doing a good job of teaching fundamental subjects.

Moreover, satisfaction with the emotional climate and with the teaching of citizenship values is also high.

Although people who do not have children enrolled in the public schools differ somewhat from those who do, both groups are favorably inclined to the school program.

The major difference between these groups is that the minority of people who are critical of the school program is greater among those who do not have children enrolled than it is among those who have children in the Birmingham schools.

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| | |
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Another solution may be forthcoming to the dirt-hauling problem in the Miralce Park Subdivision in Birmingham.

City commissioners two weeks ago ordered an end to hauling of dirt to fill in property owned by Fredree Y. Henkel.

Some residents in the area have complained that Henkel has allowed dirt to be hauled from his property intermittently the past three years ago and this has caused them a problem of too much noise from trucks and too much dirt.

HENKEL'S ATTORNEY, Ray Munde, appeared at this week's commission meeting to suggest that efforts be made to effect a compromise and thus avoid litigation.

Commissioners agreed to a proposal for Munde and Henkel to meet with City Manager L. R. Gare and the City's legal counsel. It was a public nuisance.

Munde suggested that arrangements be made for Henkel to purchase enough dirt, probably 6,000 yards, to complete the fill operation with one or two more major haulings.

However, commissioners suggested that Henkel investigate to see if he couldn't develop the property for some suitable use as it now is, leveling off and not hauling in any more dirt.

"To what extent are those values which lead to good citizenship taught by the Birmingham Public Schools?"

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Dislike | 10 |
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| Fairly well | 40 |
| Very well | 22 |
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BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

For the first time since 1941, Japanese beetles have been found in Birmingham. But don't be alarmed. The Michigan Department of Agriculture has located them and has taken effective control measures.

"I'm sure," commented Birmingham City Commissioner Carl Ingraham, "I didn't second my own motion." While City Clerk Irene Hanley searched the minutes of a preceding meeting, other commissioners joked Ingraham about this not being the first time you've tried, etc.

Way back in 1949, the Southfield School System purchased some land—about 53 acres of which was used as a site for Southfield High School. The school board paid \$40,000. Recently the abstract of title dating back to 1926, was presented to school officials who noted that the cost of the property was originally about \$150.

The Franklin Cider Mill seems to be a popular meeting place during the fall. There is even a special staff of policemen to help direct the carloads of visitors. One hobby who stood at the entrance, frantically waving his arms turned out to be Birmingham Det. Dick Chambers. His "husman's holiday" bit is now in its ninth year. Seems he finds it more exciting than hunting.

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Cranbrook Academy Chosen for Meeting Of Design Group

Cranbrook Academy of Art will host a one-day regional meeting of the Midwest section of Industrial Design Education Association on Friday, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

About 20 members, representing departments of colleges and universities in the mid-west, will attend, headed by James Alexander of the University of Cincinnati, who is president of IDEA.

Seminars will be held Friday morning and afternoon and at 8:15 p.m. there will be a lecture by Robert Propst, director of the Herman Miller Research Center, Ann Arbor.

Howard Brown, head of the design department at the academy, is chairman of the mid-west region of IDEA.

CBDD Plan Subject For Joint Meeting

Birmingham City Commission and Plan Board will meet jointly Tuesday, Dec. 5, to consider the Central Business District Development plan.

They will discuss the plan, its goals and its implementation at their quarterly joint meeting. The plan, which serves as a guide for future development of Birmingham's central business area, was endorsed as a concept by the plan board last week.

Howard Brown, head of the design department at the academy, is chairman of the mid-west region of IDEA.



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184 PIERCE MI 6-1225 BIRMINGHAM

Derby Plans Annual School Open House

Members of the National Junior Honor Society at Derby School, will be on hand Nov. 9 to assist parents at the annual open house. All Derby parents are invited, and are asked to assemble in their son or daughter's homeroom at 8 p.m. After meeting the homeroom

teacher, parents will be given a schedule of their child's classes. Following the modified schedule, they will have the opportunity to meet all of the child's teachers and become acquainted with the program of study.

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