

The Birmingham Eccentric

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We Endorse School Proposals

During the past several weeks, The Eccentric has published numerous factual articles about the needs of the Birmingham Public School District for additional finances. We trust that you have read them, so that on Nov. 20 you may ballot on these school propositions with maximum understanding of the situation.

In brief review, the board of education will offer electors two separate ballots: one requesting 11 mills for the operating budget and another asking authorization to issue \$4,915,000 in bonds for a building program.

However, only the operating proposal requires an increase in taxes.

The operating millage consists of replacement of the current six mills for operations authorized in the 1957 spring election which will expire in December. Also, five additional mills are requested to finance implementation of various immediate needs including program and curriculum improvements, teachers' salary improvements and additional teachers.

However, the five-mill increase in operating millage (which would not be included in taxes until December, 1962) amounts to a net increase of only 2.6 mills.

This would be accomplished by decreasing the present 7.4 debt service millage by 2.4 mills to a 5-mill levy in December, 1962. Thus, although residents in December, 1962, will be paying an additional five mills in taxes for school operations, they will be paying 2.4 mills less in taxes for debt service payments on bond issues.

Current reserves, increases in property valuations and payment of previous building bond issues will enable the board of education to reduce the current debt service millage.

In other words, the overall effect of the operating millage increase would result in an additional 2.6 mills, or \$2.60 per thousand dollars of your assessed valuation.

The other ballot, the building proposal, is designed to authorize issuance of \$4,915,000 in bonds to finance construction of several new schools and additions to existing ones, but does not require an increase in taxes.

Several months ago the school board suggested the formation of a citizens' committee, recruited from every area in the school district, representative of a cross-section of our people. This committee

has had a series of meetings with the board and faculty and has obtained data on practically every phase of the local school situation.

The committee, aided by many other citizens, is actively engaged in seeking voter approval of the election proposals. This newspaper joins in recommending your support of both Nov. 20 propositions.

At present, the school district is accommodating 12,700 students in its 18 elementary and junior and senior high schools. Actually, this plant was designed for a capacity of 12,000—and the student population continues to grow. This is why there is a need for two new elementary schools, and additions to Barnum, Pembroke, Harlan, Bloomfield Village and Franklin Schools. Repairs and remodeling of other existing schools and sites are also needed.

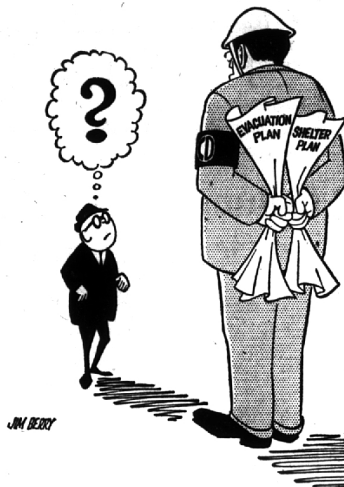
You may recall that a special Ohio State University research team last summer investigated our school district's present and future educational needs. Their study resulted in a proposed building program involving an ultimate expenditure of \$20,000,000. This large amount, our board of education determined, should be met only gradually. Hence, the Nov. 20 comparatively smaller financial request of \$4,915,000.

Over a number of years the Birmingham school district has fallen behind teacher salary requirements in keeping with desired educational standards. Providing our faculty with additional salary funds will enable Birmingham to meet competition of other districts and obtain improved educational aids for the students.

Few, if any, expenses that you pay with your taxes are of greater value to parents, to children, and to the continuing defense of self-government and collateral freedom, than what you pay to maintain a good educational system. We believe this statement would be hard to dispute.

The Eccentric heartily endorses approval of your support of the Nov. 20 bond issue and millage propositions.

Sincere appreciation is due the board of education and the faculty for their extensive presentation of the various conditions requiring the necessity of voter approval of the bond and millage needs. These were provided well in advance of the election, thus giving voters adequate time for an appraisal of the issues involved.



"Which hand do ya' take?"

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

Nov. 10, 1911

The Castle Concert Co. will present an instrumental concert and song review at the Johnson-Shaw Hall in Birmingham Nov. 14. Special feature will be a description of the Austin, Pa. flood, illustrated by stereo views and moving pictures, taken immediately after the great disaster.

Dr. George P. Raynal is home again after four months absence during which he studied every morning. He comes back from foreign shores to locate in our midst and will have office rooms in the telephone building over the Eccentric office. He was busy in Guy's Hospital at London, England and at London University college and studied also at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh, Scotland.

A cigar, tobacco and pool room has been started in the Thurbly block by Walter Allen.

30 YEARS AGO

Nov. 5, 1931

Final plans for the organization of Oakland County engineers, into a society comparable to the medical and legal groups already established, are expected to be made at a meeting to be held in the Commission House of the Municipal building Nov. 18. Preliminary steps were taken at a meeting two weeks ago, attended by about 20 engineers and called by M. D. Van Wagoner, county drain commissioner.

Moving pictures of scenes in Spain and Morocco will be used to illustrate a lecture to be given in the Community House Friday evening by Col. Edwin S. George for the benefit of the Camp George fund of the Birmingham Boy Scouts. The pictures were taken by Col. George on a recent trip.

Students at all three junior high schools celebrated Halloween with masquerade parties and prizes were awarded to those wearing the best costumes. Parties were held at Adams, Baldwin and Barnum Junior High Schools.

15 YEARS AGO

Nov. 7, 1946

The Rotary Club of Birmingham voted last Monday at a special meeting to give a \$3,000 fund toward the Cummings Street Park, according to the president of the club. The Cummings Street Park is one of the projects worked out by the Plan Commission for pro-

viding more play places for Birmingham children. It will give the pre-high school children a neighborhood playground.

Football fans from Birmingham who want to be sure of having a good seat for the annual Thanksgiving game between Birmingham and Royal Oak can secure tickets next Tuesday evening at the Community House. The Side Line Quarterback organization will put a large block of tickets on sale at 8 p.m.

In a mock election held on election day, even the students at Baldwin High School cast a hand-drawn vote for Kim Sigler, He drew 234 votes against Van Wagoner's 94.

Plan MEA Confab

Nov. 11 at MSU

About 75 teachers from throughout the state will attend a workshop sponsored by the Michigan Association for Childhood Education, a department of the Michigan Education Association, at Michigan State University Nov. 11. Themed "ACE—A resource for Children," the workshop will begin at 9 a. m. in the Union Building.

Keynote speaker will be Hazel Gabbard, U. S. Office of Education, who will present the topic, "Legislation in Michigan: What We Need to Know and Do."

FEATURED AT the workshop will be discussions of the planning and execution of a good branch program.

My Neighbors



People's Column

'Strike for Peace' Petition Sent to The 2 Mrs. K's

To the Editor: The "Strike for Peace" by grass root women was made on Wednesday, Nov. 1, by presenting a petition to both Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Khrushchev protesting the testing of the use of nuclear weapons. How many signatures are on these petitions I do not know. Surely, every woman in the United States, given the opportunity, would sign.

There are those who look on petitions as useless or even undemocratic and yet their right is granted in the first Amendment to our Constitution.

Could the reason for not signing such a petition be that under certain circumstances one would accept mass extermination in order to achieve certain goals? Is mass murder any less murder even if it has the authority of government behind it?

ONE'S NAME does not have to appear on a petition in order to "strike for peace". A postal card or a letter to Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Khrushchev can indicate that we women of the United States are willing for our government to take the first step toward peace, ban-testing nuclear testing of nuclear weapons.

The second step is unremitting support for negotiations necessary to build the institutions of international government and the rule of law necessary to maintain them. Utopia! Possibly, but only a world uncontaminated and undestroyed by nuclear blasts has a chance of even struggling toward Utopia. How many of us will "Strike for Peace" remembering that the Pen, if used is mightier than the sword?

MRS. JOHN K. ORMOND
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Platoon Leader Arrives in Germany

Army 2d Lt. Richard W. Potter Jr., whose father lives at 1550 Social Lake Drive, Bloomfield Hills, recently arrived in Germany and is now assigned to the 3rd Armored Division.

Lt. Potter, a platoon leader in Company B of the division's 48th Infantry, Gelnhausen, joined the Army in September, 1960.

By
DENI
SCANLON

Talk of the Towns



"No Bomb Shelter Here. K— we aren't rats like you. We live above the ground." That's how the L. J. Richard family reacted to the news of Russian detonation of the nuclear bomb. That is how they are reacting to the bomb shelter building fever.

ing to hide in the ground from some bully."

"I just hope we get away from this fear attitude," Dr. Richard explained. "It's time we get sick and tired of being pushed around."

"It makes the Americans look stupid," Dr. Richard said, "when we prepare to hide underground."

"I am with the government of the United States," he stated, "and I think we can be twice as strong as the Russians."

Getting more specific about the topic of bomb shelters, Dr. Richard said, "They're not worth it. I could never get the whole family together."

"I would be at the office, my wife at home, my daughter at work, my son at school, my mother-in-law at her home... And if we were together? What would we come up to from that hole in the ground? Nothing."

"And once we came up to that 'nothing' there would be other things to think about. Even the seed of my son and the egg of my daughter would be ruined."

"My family has realized what a terrible thing this could be," the doctor said. "It's just that their old man reacted a little more violently. That's the reason for the sign."

Suburban Sidelights

By HANK HOGAN

"A man is without honor in his own hometown" aptly describes "Bud" Erickson, the Detroit Lions assistant general manager.

I had an opportunity to observe him on the West Coast a couple of weeks ago preparing for the Lions' invasion of Los Angeles.

WHEN THE Lions play an away game, "Bud" must under League rules be in that city the Tuesday before the game to help promote it. His task is fairly simple. He merely has to talk to each sports writer in the area and give him original ideas for a column or two.

He also has to appear at press and radio conferences, give speeches, confirm hotel reservations, make arrangements for meals, buses and all the various and sundry things that have to be done to get the team on the field.

In all the league cities "Bud" is well known by the press and radio, hotel bellhops and fans. Yet here in Detroit few people know who lays out the program that they buy at the stadium or who sells the ads in it.

They take for granted that someone has to prepare a facts book for radio and television each week. They are oblivious of the fact that someone must make arrangements to get the team to the stadium and that only the right people get into the pressbox.

IN THE OFF season the assistant general manager publishes a news report called "Fan Fare" for the season ticket holders. He also is the man who answers requests for pictures of players, autographed footballs, speakers for all sorts of gatherings.

One of his most unusual jobs is manager of the Lions basketball team in the off-season. Last year some 12 footballers played 25 exhibition basketball games from Columbus, Ohio to Traverse City. "Bud" made all of the arrangements and besides that played in all the games.

With all his public duties very few Detroiters realize that he exists. Yet people outside of this town involved in athletics look upon him as the Detroit Lions. Very few outsiders meet "Andy" Anderson or George Wilson.

This overshadowing locally is not unusual. In government a man may appear in headlines every day for accomplishing great things internationally, but at home he's just the man who couldn't hold down a job locally and had to run for public office.

Daily in our own community we have the heads of some of the largest corporations in the world walk down Maple Ave. unnoticed.

SO IF YOU meet a thirtyish tall slender six-footer, dressed with a collegiate flair—and if he looks like business with a perpetual motion, just walk up and say "Hi, Bud".

Imagine he would enjoy some hometowners recognizing that someone must do the work we all take for granted.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

Birmingham city commissioners took a step in the right direction last week when they decided to ask various officials to seek legislation to exempt fallout shelters from property taxes.

If anything will encourage the building of shelters, such legislation should do it.

And if anything will discourage them, having to pay taxes on them as property improvements certainly should.

YET, THERE is more to the problem than that. Commissioner Robert Page suggested that dual purpose shelters should not be excluded from any such exemption.

Suppose somebody converts his basement into a combination recreation room-shelter, Page said. Shouldn't he be eligible for an exemption?

The idea being to do everything possible to encourage construction of shelters.

Encouragement factors here would be to effect an improvement that would be functional insofar as ordinary use is concerned, that would serve as a shelter if needed and that would be exempt from taxes.

Exemption, Page said, should be based on the "primary purpose" of any such improvement.

BUT COMMISSIONER Carl Ingraham said "it would be difficult for the assessors to determine just what the primary function is."

"I have in mind the dollar limitation. "We would have to work out the most workable, equitable way to handle it."

For one thing, Ingraham emphasized, there should be no variation in the permit procedure.

"The fee for building permits, he said, is minimal. He agreed with City Manager L. R. Gare that the City should continue its policy of issuing a permit and charging a fee for shelters.

"Maybe we should have a section on fallout shelters in our building code," he stated.

THE MAIN purpose of the proposed legislation, Ingraham said, should be to provide exemption for construction of shelters for "adequate protection."

For instance, if the cost for adequate protection were set at \$1,000 there is no reason why legislation should provide for a \$10,000 exemption.

Page agreed, then asked, rather jokingly: "While we're on the aspects of taxation, should we suggest provision be made for deduction for cost of shelters from gross income on tax returns?"

Then he quickly added, "This would get shelters built!"

ALTHOUGH THEY provided much food for thought, commissioners realized that the decision on exemption is not theirs. It lies with the state legislature.

They agreed with Gare that "the basic idea is to give relief" and that the commission shouldn't be too concerned with trying to design the needed legislation.

So, let's wait and see which of our legislators will be the first to act.

There is said to be little "small talk" in White House conferences these days. Let's hope there isn't much "big talk," either.

Indebtedness of U.S. municipalities has increased so much that interest exceeds fire protection costs. That burns us up.

Brazilian people are advised by Castro to profit from Cuba's revolutionary experience. Lesson One: Pick your leader more carefully.

How to Solve Dog Problem

"What can we do about dogs running loose, tearing up our lawns and threatening our children?" ask many residents of the more densely populated areas of Bloomfield Township.

They can, we believe, work together to achieve a mutual, cooperative method for controlling dogs.

For example, they can agree that they will politely inform the owner when a dog bites one of their children or damages the lawn—and ask that owner to exercise better control of the animal.

This they can do in a friendly, neighborly conversation or letter.

THE TOWNSHIP has no dog ordinance of its own, but the state dog law can be enforced.

We asked Police Chief Norman Dehnke what specific steps residents could take. He suggested these:

- 1. Go to the person who owns the dog committing the offense and ask courteously, "How about keeping it at home?"
- 2. If this doesn't work, consult the local home owner association president and ask him to contact the owner with this approach: "We have had a complaint about your dog; you suppose we could work together to do something about it?"
- 3. If this fails, too, go to the police. The

police can then call on the owner and thus lend authority to the request to keep the dog under control.

4. As a last resort—if offenses are repeated after the above steps have been taken—see a justice of the peace and sign a complaint.

IT IS UP TO the justice, then, to issue a summons to the owner to show cause why the dog should not be destroyed.

After a hearing, the justice decides whether the dog is to be destroyed or confined to the premises of the owner.

If the owner disobeys the justice's order, he is subject to a fine of from \$50 to \$100 or a county jail term of 60-90 days, or both.

The first two steps serve to solve the desire to seek a solution on a friendly basis.

If the owner still fails to exercise control over his dog after these two measures have been employed, then he can only expect action on the police and court level.

If he does not act in this spirit of friendly cooperation, he deserves no further consideration.

In summary, residents of some sections of Bloomfield Township have a dog problem; if they follow the procedures outlined here, they may soon find that they have pretty well solved it themselves.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Most every neighborhood, at one time or other, has possessed a "bully". Generally he is a teenager and his dominance can exist only in the face of fear and cowardice by the bully's own contemporaries. Just let some good kid stand up to the bully and watch that bully capitulate—especially

if he is given a sock in the jaw. Seems to us that Khrushchev needs the type of treatment that can stop his bullying. No doubt beneath his ponderous paunch his fatty heart will flutter in some degree of fear... If only the Western World would muster the collective courage so to do.