

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Informed Public for Election

When they go to the polls for the special school election next Monday, electors of the Birmingham School district should be among the best informed in the history of such elections.

Certainly, they have had ample opportunity to inform themselves of the issues, of the facts pertaining to them.

The Board of education has made a wealth of information available to the public.

Studies were made of the school system and surveys were made of the community by citizens groups and by professionals. The facts they gathered—about the needs of the schools, projected enrollments, curriculum, personnel, salaries—have been presented in the news columns of The Eccentric.

In addition, the school board mailed news letters to residents, presenting still more essential information and greater detail.

Climaxing this informational campaign was a public meeting Monday night in the Seaholm gym. Residents were given the opportunity to ask questions on anything not previously brought out and to seek clarification on any points in doubt.

WE BELIEVE that the school board has met fully its responsibility in determining the needs of the district, proposing a solution and informing the public of them.

We commend the school board highly for communicating so effectively, so efficiently with the public.

Now, the actual decision is in the hands of the voters. It is their responsibility to go to the polls Monday and cast their ballots.

AS ANNOUNCED in these columns last

Citizens Asked for Safety Ideas

To combat mounting traffic accidents, the Michigan Safety Commission set up Regional Traffic Safety conferences throughout the state.

Under the sponsorship of the governor, local citizens were called upon to come up with ideas on how to slow down mass highway murder.

In our own area Mayor Florence H. Willett and Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley hosted a conference at Devon Gables, then a follow-up meeting at the Community House.

The result was the formation of a Citizens' Traffic Safety Committee to which two area residents were elected.

Rotarians to Sell Papers Friday

Many people will purchase a copy of The Eccentric Friday from one of approximately 70 local businessmen who make up the Birmingham Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club has been conducting this annual sale for the past nine years to raise funds for their various projects. This year they hope to raise \$4,000 or more.

President Harvey A. Kresge said about 90 per cent of the proceeds this year will go to the Oakland County's Crippled Children's Society. The remaining 10 per cent

week, we endorse these two school proposals. We believe electors should vote yes on both.

We believe the facts as reported in The Eccentric the past few weeks amply demonstrate the need for the bond issue and the increase in millage. (See story on 1-A for details.)

Electors should ask themselves, What will happen if we do not provide the funds to meet the needs?

What will happen to the school district's practice of hiring "quality" teachers?

What will happen to the district's "quality" curriculum? Will it remain static or regress?

What will happen to the youngsters being educated in the district if the "quality" system cannot be maintained due to lack of funds?

We remind the electors that a good education is probably the greatest bulwark of our democratic system.

NOW THAT the school board has done its part in communicating to the public, it is up to the voters to go to the polls and register their beliefs.

To put it bluntly, there should be a complete expression by the community on the two propositions in this election. They should not pass or fail because only a small segment of the population cared enough to vote.

Any turnout of less than a maximum of the number of registered voters in the district would not be a true community expression.

The facts have been made known. It's now time to vote.

WE ARE PROUD to have Dain Milliman and Mrs. Aley Lawson as members and hope the other citizens in the area will share with them ideas and methods for greater traffic safety.

We will be particularly interested in their conclusions on mandatory chemical tests for persons suspected of driving under the influence of intoxicating beverages and compulsory motor vehicle inspection.

Both of the topics have been before the State Legislature and have received less than enthusiastic support. Yet, highway safetyfemen feel both measures would save many lives.

will be used to help needy children in our area.

THE COMMUNITY as a whole gets very few opportunities to salute our service clubs, yet they are working among us daily for the betterment of our community.

The Eccentric extends congratulations to all of the service clubs for the fine job that they are doing and wishes the Rotarians good luck in their drive Friday.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Federal judges are looking into the reasons why there is so wide a variation in the sentences imposed on guilty wrong-doers, as revealed in the various States. A man could steal chickens in one State and be given a five-year prison term, while a more serious offense in another State would result in as little as three months of bread and water. (Do you really believe that the entire U.S.A. is even partly civilized?)

The office gardener says that any man who burns leaves instead of piling them on a compost heap is a fellow without a sense of humor.

Khrushchev's new proposals for settling the Berlin dispute still sound as though he wants to trade an apple for an orchard.

Some observers suspect that there's a widespread effort to get Americans to accept the idea of nuclear war. We don't mind accepting the idea—but nuclear war itself is something else again.

At the conclusion of President Kennedy's four years in office do you believe that our nation will

have travelled a considerably longer distance down the road toward Socialism? Do you have any concern about the increasing deficit of the centralization of government in Washington, D.C.?

Our Senator Kefauver is still trying to scare certain segments of U.S. business into reducing prices, especially some drug manufacturers. Several years ago he chairmanned a Senate Committee looking into criminal gangsterism in the nation. That launched him on an unsuccessful effort to win the Democratic nomination for President back in 1966. Observing how that young Massachusetts chap got into the White House, Ole Kef appears still champing at the bit to do likewise... and Senate investigations do get one lots of publicity.

A Massachusetts editor suggests that it's easier to build sound boys and girls than to repair adults. (Sure, it's hard to change the habits of a lifetime.)

Do you suppose that one reason why so many of today's youngsters fail to learn and apply good manners is simply because they see so little of it in their elders?



JIM KERRY

"For a bountiful harvest, we thank Thee, O Lord."

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Says Fallout Shelter Foes Uninformed

Until they reach a stage where they know what they are talking about, those enemies of fallout shelters should be silent—or at least laconic. Anti-shelterites read and heed fragments of news such as: "Villages organized to resist city people who flee fallout bomb blast" and "Nevada's man will guard his fallout shelter against neighbors with shot gun."

By its nature, such shelter fall-out news tends to distort the national picture. It's not the usual, but the unusual. It's true, no doubt, but it bears little resemblance to the whole truth. J. W. O'MEARA Pleasant Ridge

IN ONE newspaper, this appeared on the editorial page: "All this business about fallout shelters is a lot of booby." An editorial in another paper used 400 words to say people should protest the \$2 building permit required of shelter builders.

Two congressmen, Orson Bean and Henry Morgan, on the Jack Paar Show spent 30 minutes before 10 million people saying in effect: "I would rather stand on a hill and defy fallout than hide in a hole."

THE FOES OF shelters ignore the fact that the day of the old-fashioned war is gone. Soldiers are not fighting soldiers. Our enemies are deliberately aiming at defenseless women and children—civilians. Our enemy says he will bury us; he would second the motion of those who oppose shelters.

There is no other way to classify the shelter foes than in one of these four categories: they are either pinka, pacifists, isolationists or uninformed. Many congressmen are mailing an official government 32-page booklet that shelter opponents should read to all of their constituents. President Kennedy will soon make a nationwide announcement of his wholehearted support regarding shelters.

IT IS DANGEROUS to spread uninformed opinions, like talk and printed words that might influence some people not to build shelters. The nation is a state, county or city, after a bomb blast there were thousands who were saved by shelters—how would those survivors feel toward those

who would advise them against shelters? Everyone is entitled to an opinion—but unless it's an informed opinion, it will serve the public interest better if one keeps his opinion to himself. No one knows whether an accident or a fire is coming or not; but sensible people take out insurance against them. Remember, you can't take it with you—the \$200 or \$300 it would cost to build a shelter; nor the cost of a \$2 building permit; nor your savings, stocks or property.

Field Day Primarily for The Students

To the Editor: In answer to the letter signed J. W. regarding Field Day at Seaholm High School, I feel in all fairness to the school and the parents, the following facts should be known.

Field Day is and always has been for students. In a sophomore meeting the night before, someone made an announcement that the parents were welcome; this meant many more parents arrived than in previous years.

IN THE PAST, very few were allowed to witness this event and those who were lucky enough to get in felt very privileged!

To begin with the order in which the students march inside is very important; as this means points to them, and any interference could mean the difference between winning and losing.

THEIR SEATING patterns have all been worked out before, plus the fact that the construction committee (talking among parents) could ruin the complete marching silence, and spoil the effect.

PARENTS WERE not allowed inside in the past until the students (See FIELD DAY, 5-B)

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

30 YEARS AGO Nov. 17, 1931 "I wouldn't let a doctor cut my foot off," said H. D. Ely, Bantam, Ohio, "although a horrible ulcer had been the plague of my life for four years. Instead I used Bucklen's Arnica Salve, and my foot was soon completely cured." Heals burns, boils, sores, bruises, eczema, pimples, corns. Surest File Cure. 25c at C. J. Skain's.

Mr. William Dana of Sterling hauled 1975 bushels of corn from 19 acres.

For sale—House and lot on Willets street, north side \$2,000 for quick sale. Also 8 room house and barn, two lots for \$1,750. Inquire Exchange Bank.

30 YEARS AGO Nov. 12, 1931

The Village Commission has before it today a report recommending that 12 village employees be dismissed and that the salaries of remaining employees in every department with the exception of police and fire be reduced for a total estimated yearly saving of \$29,540. The recommendations were made Monday night by Justice of the Peace Arthur J. Tugney as a climax to his arraignment of the village administration on charges of w.a.s.e., mismanagement and over-stuffed payroll.

A total of 15 men was filled in September through the employment office of the Birmingham Community House. It was brought out in a report submitted Monday night to the board of trustees by Mrs. Hope F. Halgren, executive director, and Mrs. F. F. McKinney who is donating her services as employment office director.

Members of the Girls Athletic Association and the Varsity Club of Baldwin High School took part in a luncheon and a roast of steak roast at Bloomfield Township Park Monday evening.

15 YEARS AGO Nov. 14, 1946

The First Methodist Church, which members helped build, is the second home of the church, now celebrating its 125th Anniversary. Built in 1871, it replaced the old frame church at the corner of Willett and Bates.

A petition calling for the establishment of a special police force (See HAPPENINGS, 5-B)

By DEN SCANLON

Suburban Sidelights

By HANK HOGAN

An open letter to those teen-agers who sat next to me at a local drug store pouring salt into a sugar bowl!

Dear Kids: We sympathize with you at an age when you are half-adult and half-child, and we as adults expect you to act as an adult all the time.

We also know that the vast majority of the time a vast majority of teen-agers do act like mature and able citizens. However, we also know that it takes only a small percentage of wrong-doers to bring condemnation on a whole class.

Even with these things in mind, we ask you to assume more responsibility to increase the general respect for your age-group.

For example, imagine your father or the President of the United States wearing a hair cut that is flat on top, long on the sides and with a duck-tail in back. If it isn't impressive on your father or the President, what makes you think it is impressive on you?

Imagine your father driving to work in a car with Hollywood mufflers or straight pipes, disturbing the neighborhood and the community.

WHILE WE ALL like on occasion to test our car at a stoutheigh, why is it when we pass the teen-age meeting places our lives are practically always endangered by reckless use of automobiles?

Imagine if you were a local merchant trying to serve the community, and a group of people came in every day and childishly destroyed his business by trying to trip his other customers replacing sugar with salt at his soda fountain, reading and mauling his merchandise.

Is it any wonder that teen-agers are not welcome in some stores in town?

Maybe this results from the fact that we as a community have failed you by not providing you with enough places to go to work off your surplus energy.

Maybe we as parents have failed you for not giving you the leadership and guidance you deserve. But let's face it: the person who succeeds never has everything handed to him. The successful person is one who takes what he's got and uses it to its best advantage.

WE ARE SORRY as older citizens we have to call a spade a spade. We are sure we will be looked upon as "stuffy" and not in the know. Yet we have the opportunity to see that minority brought into the police station on Saturday night.

We are not so old to remember when we grew up in this same community and were faced with these same problems. We are also not so old that we can't remember that teen-agers influence teen-agers. Maybe more than their parents.

Therefore, recognize your responsibility to your community and work with your own, so that the small percentage of wrong-doers are diminished to a point where they can't bring condemnation to your group.

Good luck! Sincerely yours, A Suburbanite

City Beat

When you talk to Ward Ouradnik, the thing that impresses you most is his appearance of complete relaxation.

Watch as he sits in a chair; his posture upright; his legs crossed, his arms folded.

He sits relaxed; he talks relaxed. His eyes hold promise of a smile as he slips genially into conversation.

And the conversation comes easily—about the Birmingham Community House, about the Birmingham community, about other people; very little about himself or his position as executive director of the House.

You call him Mr. Or-add-nic, but you hear him pronounce it to someone on the phone Or-ah-nic.

ONE OF THE people that comes up in his conversation is a friend who has had several brushes with death. The latest being with a crashed airliner.

Ouradnik's friend was aboard a plane that crash landed. He was sitting near an emergency exit. After the crash, he looked all about him and saw that there was no fire or explosion—and that no one was moving.

He reached up, grabbed the handle that forced open the emergency door, climbed out and ran like a deer.

After running several yards, he stopped suddenly and looked back. No one else was emerging from the plane. Should I go back and help? was the thought.

The man returned to the craft and got the other people to moving out of it. He assisted several himself.

WAS THIS HEROISM? No, said the man who was the first out of the crashed plane but who went back to help.

There was no fire, no smoke. He saw no danger in going back. Ouradnik's friend reacted normally—as almost any person would—to the question of personal survival.

After the crash, his first thought was to save himself. When he was reasonably assured that he was not in personal danger, he returned to lend assistance to his fellow passengers.

He is the first to admit these facts. TALK TO Ouradnik about the possibility of nuclear war and people's reaction to it and the story very probably will be forthcoming.

It is repeated here because it serves to illustrate the theory of self preservation.

If trouble were in season only parts of the year some people would be hunting for it out of season.

The answer to those who wonder "what on earth there is to negotiate about" could be, "Things we might be fighting about."