

Research Monopolizes Constitutional Confab

Reading, research and frequent committee sessions are monopolizing the time of delegates to Michigan's Constitutional Convention. The one complaint voiced most often by the 144 delegates is that there are not enough hours in the day to read all the pertinent printed material furnished each individual, along with attending committee meetings and general convention sessions.

Most of the real work of the convention is accomplished in committee sessions.

Under the guidance of President Stephen S. Nisbet (R) of Fremont, the four operational committees are: Rights, Suffrage and Elections; Legislative Organization; Legislative Powers; Executive Branch; Judicial Branch; Local Government; Finance and Taxation; Education, and Miscellaneous Provisions and Schedules.

The four operational committees of the convention are: Style and Drafting; Administration, Public Information and Rules and Regulations.

COMMITTEE SESSIONS are usually scheduled at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and immediately after general convention sessions. Committee hearings are frequently held in the

evening and some are planned for week-end sessions.

To assist the delegates and man the convention is a staff of 75 employees. These include directors of research, a public information staff, secretaries, committee clerks, guards, stenographers and others.

A budget has been adopted within the \$2 million appropriated by the legislature and includes \$1,080,000 for delegates' salaries and \$920,000 for building rental, staff salaries, rental, lease and purchase of equipment, printing, travel, insurance, etc.

MUCH OF THE emphasis at this time is on committee self-education and this is likely to continue until the deadline for the introduction of delegate proposals has been reached.

There has been little controversy in the convention thus far and business has been conducted in a bi-partisan atmosphere.

The large and controversial problems of the convention lie ahead and these will bring more activity out of committees and onto the convention floor.

The duties of a delegate are difficult and from a practical point of view have rarely been commensurate. These duties will increasingly involve longer hours, debates and, inevitably, some compromises.

Helen Keller, who serves actively as counselor to the American Foundation for the Blind, states: "It is tragic that only half of the conditions which cause loss of sight are understood and, as a result, there has not been discovered a sufficient remedy for thousands of injured eyes. The need of research and more trained personnel remain imperative."

Eccentric Sets Early Deadlines For Thanksgiving

To afford our employees an opportunity to observe the Thanksgiving holiday, The Eccentric will be closed all day Thursday, Nov. 23.

Our issue next week will be published on Wednesday.

Therefore, all news and advertising copy should be in our offices at 1225 E. Bowers, Birmingham, by 4 p.m. Monday.

The full cooperation of all contributors and customers will be greatly appreciated.



Oakland Alumni Club Wins Award

Ned S. Bearden (center), 1903 Pembroke, Birmingham, president of the Michigan State Alumni Club of Oakland County, receives a certificate citing the club's outstanding record for 1960-61. MSU alumni director Starr Keesler (right) makes the presentation as Harold W. Rockwell, chairman of the Oakland alumni advisory council, looks on. The Oakland club won the Outstanding Club Award at a workshop for alumni club presidents held on the campus at East Lansing.

How Wayne County's Library System Works

Fifth in a series by Baldwin Public Library Official

MRS. F. CHALMERS SMITH, Library Trustee

Being a trustee of Baldwin Public Library does not mean one spends a pleasant evening once a month in our lovely library with pleasantly bookish people, happily satisfied with the status quo—as I naively imagined on becoming a board member.

In a year and a half of board meetings, none has even said, "Have you read any good books lately?"

Instead, we meet several times a month, (with committee meetings and conferences in between), dispatch routine affairs and turn to consideration of the "non-resident problem" as it is referred to in board minutes.

THE PROBLEM IS, in a nutshell, that in spite of our high non-resident fee (now \$1,334 per family a year), these fees pay only 18 percent of the library's operating budget, while using 30 percent of its services—a situation grossly unfair to Birmingham taxpayers.

Of course, we wouldn't have a non-resident problem if we were willing to station Pinkerton men at each door, to demand proof of residence and turn away our neighbors who share in and support our schools, our churches and our stores.

And if, concomitantly we were willing to abolish rising per capita costs, which would inevitably force a cutting back of present services and eventually an end to any substantial growth of our book collection.

INSTEAD of this dismal picture, we believe that we can both promote and provide area-wide library service of high quality, fairly paid for, through a series of contracts with our neighbors.

Such a system has provided a solution for many a similarly expanding but separate group of communities. In fact, one of the finest examples in the country of this set-up is the Wayne County Library System.

Participating in the system are 26 communities whose library facilities vary from small rented

quarters in store buildings, to attractive modern structures, serving in all, a population of more than 400,000 people.

WHILE BIRMINGHAM'S library board does not recommend the establishment of a county library for Oakland, the area of Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Evingham Farms, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township and Franklin Township is expected to have a population of 90,000 by 1970—a workable size for a cooperative library system.

Not thinking in terms as large as or quite like that of Wayne County's, we have still found it valuable to study its pattern and progress.

An effort, originally, of the Detroit Public Library, the Wayne County System has been in operation since 1920.

For the first 28 years of its existence, no new libraries were built in these affiliated communities; but since 1948, 12 cities, townships or villages which had been using rented space or a neighboring library have now built their own libraries.

EACH COMMUNITY, as it grows, large enough to warrant having its own building, continues at a headquarters library, on Van Horn Road in Wayne for administrative, supervisory and consultant services.

Selection, ordering and cataloging of books, recruitment and selection of staff, record keeping and accounting, all are done at the headquarters library and more economically and effectively, because these services are centralized.

Each community pays for all these services with one lump sum check each year, the amount determined by Wayne County's Library Support Formula, which is based both on "ability to pay" and percentage of use.

TWO RATHER startling figures point up the type of savings to be enjoyed in this kind of system. The average cost of circulating book in the Wayne County system where central services are distributed among numerous affiliates is 34 cents. It costs the



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Choose from Darwin Tulips, Parrot Tulips, Double Tulips, Lily Flowering Tulips and King Alfred Daffodils. Most wanted colors and varieties, but shop early for best choice!

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Potted Chrysanthemums

Beautiful big plants in bloom and loaded with buds in wide selection of colors. Specially priced at Frank's this week.

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The finest Aluminum Tree available... famous Star Sapphire. It has 201 twist and curl branches in graduated lengths to give the tree a beautifully symmetrical shape. Every needle glistens like dancing stars. Normally this tree sells for \$39.95, now

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When winter comes, the more colorful song birds find it increasingly difficult to find food... and if you give them a little help they're bound to sing their praises to you!



Deluxe double feeding station in genuine weather-proof redwood has 2 glass feeding troughs with perches, provisions for suet ball, too. It is 21 1/2 inches long, 10 inches wide, 7 inches deep. It will be the most popular spot in town!



Redwood feeding station, galvanized steel, glass seed trough, 2 perches. 8"x10", 7 1/4" tall.

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13 different varieties of seed blended to attract, and properly nourish, wild song birds.

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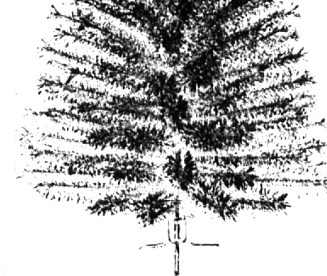
PURE SUNFLOWER SEED

2 1/2-POUND PACKAGE 79c



Rehearse for Concert

Walter Schrott, pianist and director of the Birmingham Conservatory of Music, and Paul Olefsky, internationally known cellist, rehearse at the conservatory for their concert Nov. 27 in the Community Arts Auditorium of Wayne State University. The concert, scheduled for 8:30 p.m., is a special benefit performance for the scholarship and assistance fund of the Detroit Musicians League. Selections will include works of Beethoven, Hindemith, Debussy, Webern and Shostakovich.



Teens Open Season With 'Twin in Time'

The Teen Center of Birmingham's Young Men's Christian Association will hold its first dance of the season entitled "Twin in Time" from 10 to 12 p.m. Friday.

The program will feature the Paragon of Seaborn High School. Teen Center advisors Miss Mary C. Labbe, Donald Martin and Conrad Okken have been meeting with Seaborn teens for the past weeks in preparing for the opening program.

Reading committees are Sue Hebbelwhite, Cheryl Lawson, Roger Mason, Bill Miller, Francis Quillian and Ron Rowe.