

The Birmingham Eccentric

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PUBLISHER: PAUL N. AVERILL Associate Publisher: HENRY M. HOGAN, JR. Managing Editor: KENNETH R. WEAVER Advertising Manager: ARTHUR SHAFER George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus

Library Faces Up to Problem

Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham is facing up to a problem. Non-resident users are placing an increasingly heavy load on the library's facilities, causing the library board great concern. After taking a close look at the problem — projecting population and library usage figures over the next few years — the board decided to discontinue its family fee system in four neighboring communities. (Families now living outside the city limits pay an annual fee of \$14.34 to use Baldwin Library.) The board has notified Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Beverly Hills and Franklin that as of July 1, 1964, it can no longer offer this service. AS WE SEE it, the library board has two responsibilities: It must act in the best interests of the people of Birmingham, who foot the greater portion of the bill; and it is obligated to help these other municipalities work out a plan for continued library service. You don't provide library service to other people for several years, then arbitrarily cut it off. That would be grossly unfair. So, the library board is seeking a solution that would be fair both to Birmingham and to the other communities.

It is offering a plan for contractual arrangements between the library and these other communities. Each would participate in cost on a basis proportionate to use by its residents.

AS THE BOARD members and outlying municipal officials discuss this plan, they will become aware of each other's problems. For instance, Bloomfield Township probably would have to seek a similar contract with the Pontiac library, inasmuch as some township children attend Pontiac public schools. And the problem of financing any kind of a library program is an acute one when a community is already hard-pressed for taxes. But certainly, because of the need for continued library service and the results that can be realized, it is worthwhile for the library and municipal officials to explore the possibilities of a contractual system. If the library board succeeds in signing contracts with each of these communities, it would accomplish an area cooperative library system. This should be a good answer to the entire problem, fair and equitable for all concerned.

Area Will Meet UF Goal

We have faith in the citizens of Birmingham and neighboring communities. We are confident that they will—as they have in the past—loyally, enthusiastically and unselfishly support the United Foundation Torch Drive. Local goals were announced by the Oakland County office of UF last week. Birmingham area people are being asked to contribute \$159,667 of the \$18 million metropolitan area goal. We firmly believe that they will once again see the need for and value of the 123 Torch Drive agencies and will recognize that vast sums of money are necessary to carry out their many programs. IT IS IMPORTANT to note that Torch Drive funds DO NOT cover the entire budgets of all of these agencies. People making use of their services are asked to pay, when

ever possible, at least a part of the costs involved. This practice assures maximum service to everyone, with no one being denied for financial reasons. Actually, this emphasis on partial payment for services rendered illustrates the progress, and success, of the Torch Drive method of raising funds. All of the accent today does not have to be on DONATING. THIS IS A tribute to the people—in the Birmingham area as well as elsewhere—who so willingly and faithfully support the campaign each year. We think our citizens in the past, have given us good reason to be optimistic: We believe we will again meet our goal and thus once more carry our share of the Torch Drive.

De-Segregation Of Prison Inmates

Over the long range of history, punishment for crime has involved three main ideas—to make criminals suffer for their wrongdoings, to isolate them (in some cases) from law-abiding society, and to deter others from committing similar crimes. The concept of rehabilitation, of restoring criminals to a useful place in society, has assumed prominence only in recent times. But jurists and correctional officers are frustrated in their efforts at rehabilitation because laws and accepted procedures allow little flexibility in the treatment of lawbreakers. There is hope that this may be changed. There is a growing belief that if the more dangerous and habitual criminals could be handled separately, the chances of rehabilitating the majority would be far greater.

This practice, a former director of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency has noted, "really works down the effort to improve the correctional system for the vast majority." That is exactly the trouble. Not the whole trouble, obviously. But if the minority of truly dangerous criminals were segregated and given the longer sentences justified by their records, then officials could focus more correctional attention on those who might be returned to society as useful citizens. Such differentiation among criminals would be subject to abuse unless the laws providing it were very carefully worded, with provision for review from time to time so that no man would be tagged forever as "dangerous." Such a law could surely be worked out. Under a system of this kind, carefully safeguarded to prevent abuse, rehabilitation efforts would be freed of a crippling handicap.

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

A recently completed study of Michigan roads states that by 1980 nine out of ten of all Michigan roads will have to have new surfaces placed upon them...and this is expected to cost about 11 billion dollars. Just where the money will come from is not revealed in detail...but one can hazard the known fact that it will come from the pockets of the people. Michigan Democrats, 'tis reported from Lansing, want tighter controls placed on legislative lobbyists. Well, that wouldn't be so wrong if the controls included the political activities of some of the labor unions. See where a special Michigan Legislative committee will probe the operations of

Michigan State University's Labor and Industrial Relations Center. 'Tis to find out if the Center is slanting its methods on behalf of labor. Well, let's see. Forty buxom London, Eng., girls who work in a place where they make beer for shampoos have let their boss know that they cannot use the fact that they are getting fatter, because they drink beer, to cut down their free access to the beer supply. They were asked to let their boss know respective weights. This, the girls stoutly declared "is none of your business." If that boss expects to win, he'd better find a palatable soft-drink substitute for the beer...after all, beer has been known to make some people "heady".



PEOPLE'S COLUMN Questions for UN Day Speaker in Birmingham

To the Editor: A representative of the Indian delegation to the U.N. will speak on the occasion of UN Day (Oct. 20) in Birmingham. Regrettably, I will be unable to attend (without rose-colored glasses) and ask your good friend from India questions. Might I suggest some that might be passed along? What, for example, is the position of the Indian delegation with respect to the continuing Soviet military occupation of Hungary? Will India insist that the Soviets cease their repression of Hungarian self-determination? In the past India has been rather critical of western colonialism. What about eastern Europe?

Not Function Of Military, Writer Says

In answer to the questions upon which George R. Averill based his commentary, "Why Can't Our U.S. Military Denounce Communist Evil?", I must reply that this simply is not a function of our military establishment. As prescribed by the Constitution our armed forces exist "to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions." By definition, such a responsibility does not include inappropriate harangues by overzealous "patriots" who are neither equipped nor authorized to "educate" government personnel to the dangers of Communism.

ONE OF OUR fundamental guarantees of freedom is civilian regulation of the military. Obviously, then, any administration is not only unfitted, but is obligated, to choose any subordinate who's actions are not in accord with this principle. Certainly responsible instruction about Communism as antagonistic to freedom would be a good thing for all military personnel to know. Unfortunately this burden has been assumed by individuals who, in effect, has been to exalt a negative concept of loyalty by substituting our traditions of free speech and open discussion. Especially in times like these we can ill afford to have those commissioned with the immediate defense of the nation undertaking "educational seminars" which breed apprehension and distrust. JAMES K. FLACK, JR. 507 W. Brown Birmingham

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric 50 YEARS AGO Oct. 20 issue "For a long time the condition of Woodward Avenue below Maple has been deplorable. The condition between the DUR tracks is especially bad and can be easily remedied. If the writer is not misinformed, there is a provision in the franchise, granted to the company by the village, that the former shall keep the spaces between the rails and tracks, and also 18 inches on each side, filled to a certain depth with crushed stone of a specified quality and dimension; also they shall provide certain cross walks in conjunction with those laid by the village. George Daines, president of our village, announces that the village clerk has house numbers for each of all streets in the village, and the entire board that every house owner step forward, secure their number and attach it to their home at once. Herr R. Tusworth has finished installing a water system at Briarbank for W. T. Barbour. It would supply a small village with water for its entire population. Barbour will use the water for fire protection, the Woodward Avenue sanitary sewer between Lincoln and Clawson roads, and the Elton road paving. Urgent haste is being used today to force the completion, before the bad weather sets in, of three important construction jobs in the village—Woodward Avenue widening, the Woodward Avenue sanitary sewer between Lincoln and Clawson roads, and the Elton road paving. Preliminary steps toward an investigation of the gas rates charged by the Consumers Power Co. in which every municipality in Southern Oakland County will be asked to participate with a view to bringing about substantial rate reductions, are being taken today. (See HAPPENINGS, 4-B)

Suburban Sidelights By HANK HOGAN

Fallout shelters seem to be the topic of conversation in any gathering of more than one person these days. Over 'til last weekend I was enlightened by experts on the why's and wherefores of my neighbors' underground homes. It was a revelation to me that they cost practically nothing to install, if done while you are constructing a swimming pool. Whether they should be located in the backyard or under your home would be the most popular area of discussion. It seems that if it is part of your home, it can double as a recreation room, a wine cellar, or a cold storage bin. But if it is separated from the house, it makes an ideal secluded study for those days we all have when we want to be alone. What actually got to this suburbianite was the discussions on what people were doing to exclude unwanted visitors once the shelter was needed. If you store enough food in your shelter for your family for a 30-day period, and all of a sudden four or five additional families without shelters arrive, it is obvious that someone will be hungry in a hurry. Based on the theory of survival of the fittest, most people apparently planned to install inside locks. The most extreme case I heard of was that one shelter was fully armed to ward off any attack. It was also suggested that some people were installing their shelter at night so that neighbors would not notice their erection.

ALL OF THESE discussions would lead to better planning, I think. It will force those who have shelters into deciding in advance who their friends are. Food was included in most of the conversations. One family said that they had stocked their shelter with Metrecal. While most of us only consider this fluid in terms of excess poundage, it was apparently designed as liquid food for our astronauts. It would probably keep your family not only hale and hearty underground, long after most food would have spoiled, but also would keep them trim. Very few people were reluctant to finance their shelters on a time payment basis. It was compared to insurance. If something happened, they would have either survived and been happy to have made their payments or succumbed and been relieved of their contract. It was the common consensus of the shelter exponents that the shelter must be designed not for just the fall-out period, but for quite a longer period. They felt that even after radio activity subsided, your home may have been destroyed and the shelter would be the only place to rest your bones. In the various discussions I discovered three types of individuals. The person with plans in his back pocket, the person who claimed he was a fatalist and not interested in the listener. This third group was not really indifferent, merely interested. They had not yet been bitten by the bug. ONE FATALIST indicated that there was no need to construct a shelter in Birmingham because a Detroit paper had delineated the fallout zone of Detroit and it ended on 14 Mile Road. How, however, what if the Soviet rocketeer was near-sighted or something? The trouble with being a fatalist today is that you may be locked out tomorrow. I think the problem was summed up very nicely by a cute young gal who carried her plans in her purse. "It's all a gamble, but it is one wager I'd hate to lose!"

By KEN WEAVER

City Beat

Some people say it's futile to build bomb shelters, on the theory that if we are ever hit by an A-bomb or an H-bomb there would be nothing left to make living worthwhile. I believe in the preservation of human life. As long as there is life, we must take steps to preserve it. To be true, if a bomb struck there would be ruin and devastation. But man can fight back from desolation; he has done so in the past. An A-bomb devastation would not be total. Several areas of the country might be obliterated; but there would not be total destruction. THE GREATEST danger would be from radiation fallout. Once this fallout disappeared, it would be safe for people to leave their shelters—maybe in two weeks, maybe in a month. Then would come the task of building life anew, from the rubble and from the areas not devastated. It could be done—with will, determination, imagination. SAY THERE was such an attack. Then liken this situation to the discovery and exploration of this hemisphere. If Columbus and his successors had refused to come ashore because they might be annihilated by savages (and whatever other horrors they might have imagined), there very likely would be no United States or Canada or Mexico or Brazil today. But they came ashore, conquered the wilderness and fashioned a new life here. So, it might be necessary after an A-bomb attack to conquer the desolation and fashion a new life. It could be done, with a renewal of the pioneering spirit. LIKEN THE situation also to space exploration. We could remain in the comfortable and relatively safe confines of Earth and stay out of space because of the perils we might encounter. ANOTHER VALID argument for bomb shelters is that they serve as a deterrent to enemy attack. They thus became part of a strategic defense against a known or unknown enemy. The idea being that a nation would be less apt to attack a nation with shelters than one without because the rate of survival would be greater. THERE'S STILL another valid argument. Suppose we do suffer attack. Without shelters we are subjected to radiation and its resulting defects to body and mind. But with shelters we proceed through life without these defects. Authorities say that with shelters 75 percent of the population in the stricken area would survive. I for one would want to be in that 75 percent.

Talk of the Towns

By DENI SCANLON "Take the dead eat out of your yard and toss it where somebody else will have to deal with it." It's a rather blunt way to express it, but one municipal official in this area isn't afraid to say what he thinks. What he was commenting on was this: About 72 persons attended a council meeting in Beverly Hills last week. They were there to object to a portion of the Oakland County Road Commission's improvement program in the vicinity. The seven councilmen, the village manager, the clerk, the deputy clerk, the road commissioner, the treasurer, the auditor and a few other faithful sat—as they do at every meeting—and listened to the visitors' objections. When the residents had finished, 66 of them got up and left noisily. A few minutes later, three more left. Three remained. Three cared to stay and hear what else the village government was doing—regardless of whether it was "in their yard" or not. They represented 6,830 other village residents—many of whom have never and may never attend one of the meetings—that is of course—unless they have a "dead eat in their yard." "About Face!" Here's a change of pace. Several years ago Councilman Ted Shurtleff of Beverly Hills went into the ever-booming field of public relations. Now Ted is an ex-newspaper man. Just his switching to PR was teasing about, but when he came forth with the fact that he was the man behind the Sweetest Day promotions—well,



By DENI SCANLON

that—if you know Ted—is worth a chuckle. He's a fiery fellow fast with a smile and even quicker to be frank about things. One of his most notable qualities follows the same vein—he laughs as readily as he does everything else. Just to prove it—take a look at the photograph Shurtleff dreamed up—borrowed sergeant and all!



The caption? "Yeah, you guys, be nice!"