

Tuesday's Election Is Most Important In State's History

We're more concerned than usual over the possibility that many Michigan voters may consider next Tuesday's Con-Con election "just another trip to the polls."

If you don't already realize it, that election will be one of the most important elections Michigan has ever held. In our own estimation, it will be the most important in this state's history.

Next Tuesday, you will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to elect understanding, forward-looking delegates who will start re-writing our antiquated 54-year-old state constitution.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield area, we feel, is particularly fortunate in having three delegates who would carry into the Con-Con Convention appreciably more experience, broader backgrounds, greater wisdom than their respective opponents.

IT'S PERHAPS UNFORTUNATE in an election as important as this that they must be identified with a party label. These three all carry the Republican tag:

George Romney, candidate for Oakland county-at-large; Henry J. Woolfenden, to represent the county's 3rd district, and Richard C. Van Dusen, to represent Oakland's 4th district.

The Democratic candidates—William A. O'Brien for Oakland-at-large, Asher N. Tilchin for the 3rd district, and Thomas G. Kavanagh in the 4th district—are to be commended for their civic interest in running for the delegate positions. However, our considered study of their evidences to us that there is a considerable gap between their respective backgrounds and experience when compared to their respective opponents.

Romney, Woolfenden and Van Dusen are men who over the years have established excellent reputations and records in business, social, cultural and civic affairs:

Romney as the guiding genius of American Motors, the spark and leader of Citizens for Michigan, and in the leadership of his church.

WOOLFENDEN AS AN outstanding Michigan attorney and leader in the Michigan and American Bar Associations, as a valuable former member of the Michigan Public Service Commission, as former mayor and present member of the Bloomfield Hills City Commission;

Van Dusen, another able attorney who has had valuable experience as a former member of the Michigan legislature and as a GOP candidate for Michigan attorney general.

We recommend them to you without qualification. We predict they would be, if elected, among the Convention's top statesmen in producing a forward-looking, practical new state constitution.

City or Rural?

The Birmingham Eccentric recommends that Bloomfield Township voters vote "no" on Proposal No. 2 in the Sept. 12 election.

This proposal asks authority to raise the township tax limitation by one-fourth of a mill for a 10-year period to provide funds for enforcement of a dog ordinance.

If passed, it would add 49 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation (equalized) to each property owner's tax bill. It would raise approximately \$30,000.

If voters approve the proposal, the township board would call a public hearing and then adopt a dog ordinance.

SUCH A LAW already has been planned in advance of the ballot proposal. In short, it would require dog owners to keep their canines on their property or under their control.

This would mean leashing them or fencing them in—decisions which could raise problems of fences under deed restrictions as well as marring township beauty.

THE ECCENTRIC recognizes that the township board does have a serious problem in the number of dogs running loose.

But we feel that the cost of \$30,000 far outweighs the gravity of the problem.

The Eccentric realizes that this problem has grown with the rapid population growth in the township in recent years.

But has the township reached the point where it needs such "cited" services?

PEOPLE MOVE from the city in the township because of its rural nature. They want the open spaces—and what that means for their canines as well as for themselves.

People in the city, living in a comparatively more confined area, must necessarily place certain restrictions on their canines, thus providing greater control over the animals' actions.

The nature of the township belies the need for such restrictions. It does not need all of the services the city requires.

The township has attractions which distinguish it from the city. To many of these disappear with the complexities of growth.

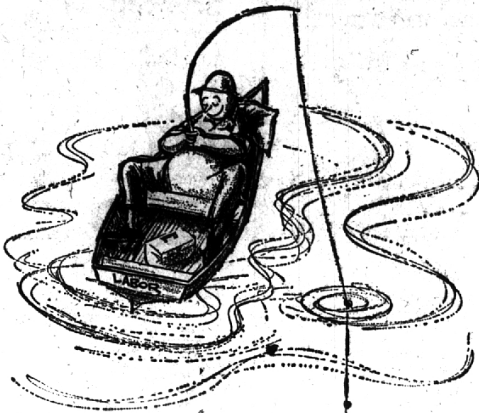
It takes constant vigilance to avoid losing any unnecessarily.

WITH THE township still growing, we know the problem is a serious one.

But it is so bad that the character of the community should be changed from "country" to "city"?

We don't think so.

"Don't Disturb Him—It's His Day, Y'Know!"



Editorial Page

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

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The Birmingham Eccentric

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One Thing or Another

By GEORGE W. M. AVERILL

In 12 days, we had come 2,200 miles via Old-tawa, up the St. Lawrence River through Ontario and Quebec, around the Gaspé Peninsula, and south across New Brunswick.

Now we left our 18-foot travel trailer on a 1,000-foot-high clearing two miles inside Fundy National Park. The next three days would see us on a fast run eastward through Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island, and return via Prince Edward Island.

This 947-mile round trip would include 424 miles of some of the most interesting and beautiful territory I've seen in 39 states and 11 foreign countries.

WE HAD NOTED THE FUNDY tidal action in the broad part of the nearby Petitcodiac River. That is, we had seen the river at low tide, again with its broad mud flats at high tide. But tides creep in and out, and are hardly noticeable except by observing banks, shore, rocks or pilings it covers or exposes.

However, there occurs on the Petitcodiac—and certain other rivers in the world—an unusual phenomenon. The river suddenly narrows, compressing the incoming tide. The water builds up into a wave, and the river current seems to run uphill until slack tide.

At Moncton, 20 miles up the Petitcodiac from the Bay of Fundy, this occurrence is called "The Bore." The morning we witnessed it the tidal crest was about 18 inches high. It reached six feet some years ago (when aided by a strong wind and record tide).

Then into our car and on to Cape Breton Island! OUR TRIP ACROSS THE NORTH COAST of Nova Scotia was uneventful. The roadway had been down for many years and contained many curves, twists and dips. In fact, for about 38 miles eastward from New Glasgow, there were only about a dozen short places where cars can pass legally. (It was in this stretch, on our return, that we witnessed a near miss—a woman stopped on a blind curve atop a rise. Plenty of tire rubber and nerves were frayed by following motorists.)

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Calls U.S. Membership In UN Illegal, Foolish

To the Editor:

Our illegal membership and foolhardy participation in the web of unscrupulous intrigue, the United Nations, is responsible for most of our national troubles. Our national dangers of being overwhelmed by a communally controlled authority, our impotent vacillated foreign policies, our inability to stand on our national selves as we did in the past, our loss of our power of the world, and our failure to protect our sacred and costly military victories, the benefits of which have been thrown away.

Our entire policy in connection with Cuba, its Moscow directed dictator, and the establishment of a communist base against our shores that will soon be able to command dominance of the Western Hemisphere by its stocks of Soviet furnished nuclear missiles, is dictated by the fact that our membership in the United Nations compels us to bow to its superior sovereignty for consent before we can make a move for the protection of our nation and a free environment for our entire hemisphere.

THE CHARTER of the United Nations, shrewdly concocted by the convicted traitor, Alger Hiss, and scribes of the enemy, created and is the constitution of a new world order, a treaty among nations as it was definitely represented to be when, under treaty authority only, it was illegally recognized by our President.

High Income Trend For B'ham Residents

(Special to the Eccentric)

NEW YORK—According to a nationwide survey, Birmingham has more of its families in the "over \$4,000" income brackets and a smaller proportion of them in the lower income groups than have most places in the United States.

Locally, the trend has been toward bigger incomes in recent years, with the result that families have been moving up to higher brackets.

How they stood at the beginning of this year is revealed by Sales Management in a copyrighted report that details every family in the country, what portion of its population falls within each of the income categories.

THE REPORT gives a clearer meaning to the term "average income" as applied to a particular community. It shows whether the average represents earnings that are widely distributed or whether it represents a few families with high incomes concealing for a large number with meager earnings.

In Birmingham the balance is tipped toward the average earner. High. Some 80.9 percent of the high households now have cash incomes, after taxes, of \$4,000 or more.

That is a better situation than prevails in most parts of the United States, where only 64.5 percent of all households are in the "over \$4,000" brackets. In the East North Central States there are 70.5 percent.

IS THE TREND toward higher incomes in the United States a purely a product of inflation or has it produced real gains for people?

The economic reports show that there has been a substantial improvement in living standards for the average American. He has more "discretionary" income left, after paying for the necessities, than ever before.

The current survey lists 19.5 percent of Birmingham households in the \$7,000 to \$10,000 bracket. As compared to their account for 17.4 percent of all income.

With cash earnings of \$2,500 to \$4,000 a year comprise 11.3 percent of the households. The average family income is \$4,000 receive 94.8 percent of the total income.

WILLIAM V. HOYT, Youku, Texas

50 YEARS AGO
With much patriotism and love did our citizens greet the 50th anniversary of the founding of our country at their 44th annual reunion held at the United Presbyterian Church in Birmingham.

50 YEARS AGO
Possibly that the Birmingham YMCA may be forced to abandon its regular winter program of activities normally carried on in the village school building located at a meeting of the Board of Education Monday when the members agreed that the school district could not afford to grant the use of the buildings free of charge as in the past.

50 YEARS AGO
Spared to action by several serious grass fires which have swept over thousands of acres in the Birmingham area, the Birmingham residents will meet together tonight in the East Side days, to discuss the fire prevention plans for the most adequate fire protection. The school stands in the line of fire, and the residents of the most serious fire of the summer, which raged for eight hours last Saturday.

50 YEARS AGO
The circulation at Baldwin Library for August totaled 7,251 books, an increase of 1,223 over the corresponding month last year, according to Mrs. Nancy E. Thom, librarian. New borrowers for the month numbered 98, and 81 books were added to the library stock, making a total of 18,168 now listed.

50 YEARS AGO
A recommendation that the City

City Beat

Ralph Main and Bob Page, Birmingham city commissioners, will represent the City at the 63rd annual convention of the Michigan Municipal League Sept. 14-16 on Mackinac Island.

They will hear several speeches and will take part in discussions on the theme of "Meeting the Challenge of Constitutional Revision."

These committees will give reports and recommendations on home rule, local judiciary, fiscal problems, local government structure, general government and eminent domain.

Any constitutional revisions they suggest will certainly be of interest and concern to Birmingham. Our future government could be vitally affected by any of their recommendations adopted at the Constitutional Convention in Lansing next month.

MAIN AND PAGE will hear a keynote address by Mayor President John A. Hannah, who will direct attention to the convention and local units of government.

Hannah, of course, is a candidate for Con-Con delegate in next week's election.

The local legislators also will hear speeches by Gov. John B. Swainson, Ambassador DeLoe, S. Morrison, U.S. representative on the Council of the Organization of American States; Elmer White, executive secretary of Michigan Press Association; and several other state and national figures.

ON FRIDAY morning, Sept. 15, Main and Page and the state's other mayors and councilmen attending the League meeting will hear talks pertaining to competitive drive for industry.

George Viličan, local planning consultant, will participate in a panel discussion on area development and planning.

Of interest to the Birmingham people should be a talk about Con-Con and assessment administration by Dr. Robert H. Peaty, assistant director of the Institute of Public Administration, University of Michigan.

After all is said and done, Main and Page should bring back some important reports to the Birmingham City Commission.

Walk of the Towns

The art of "one-upmanship" is worth tuning in on around these parts.

Having a good answer for a neepler gives no end of satisfaction to the person involved—and it gives eavesdroppers a hearty laugh.

Here are some overheard around the towns. A local man and his sharp-tongued father-in-law went into a Birmingham store to buy some beer.

"How many cases?" the witty clerk asked. "What're you trying to do, retire in a year?" the father-in-law retorted as he put a six pack on the counter.

"I'll have a pack of cigarets too," the customer added.

"How many cartons?" quipped the smart clerk. "Ten," replied the father-in-law. As the clerk scurried for the back room, the father-in-law stopped him with a start when he said, "And I mean ten! A half a pack! Get me?"

A Beverly Hills executive remembers well the day he walked into the office of a rival company and met a remark better than his own terse dig.

One person in the group was collecting dimes for coffee for the rest of the personnel. "When we have a coffee break," the executive teased, "one of us usually buys for all the rest."

"How nice of you to offer!" was the counter. The exec paid.

A Bloomfield Township official tells the one about his time he walked into his office to find two of the clerks raring with laughter.

"We'll have no more of this levity," he said briskly.

"Okay," one answered still laughing, "we had enough for lunch!"

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

In spite of the fact that there is much trouble on this earth among human beings; even though there be murderers, thieves, rapists, embezzlers, bearers of evil gossip, parental failures, juvenile delinquency . . . in spite of proof of these negatives in our various communications media, there remains an overwhelming quantity and quality of average honest, decency, and sacrifice for others among this said human family. Today's generation of people do possess greater potentiality for doing good than most of their ancestry revealed . . . even though portions of the cycle of their ups and downs may vary in length of time and degree of quality.

Cyrus S. Eaton is a Cleveland multimillionaire. He is a director and high officer in many corporations. He has prospered under the capitalistic system . . . yet he has proved himself a staunch defender of the Soviet system. Is this because he has so much money that he has taken up Khrushchev et al as a personal hobby?

STRICTLY FRESH

An optimist thinks he's cream in his coffee; a pessimist thinks it's milk.

Guy's who watch a pretty girl are no gentlemen, but

obviously the object of their attention is not one either.

The trouble with being punctual is that the boss is not there to appreciate it.

The only exercise some men get is sidestepping responsibility and blaming their luck.

There must be a lot of good in some persons because so little has come out.