

Why We Weren't There

In response to citizen queries, The Eccentric asked why Birmingham and neighboring communities did not send official representatives to a hearing in Detroit on a bill that would prevent one community from levying an income tax against non-residents.

We wondered, quite rightly, why our home communities were not more active in resistance to efforts to establish such a tax.

Birmingham Mayor Pro Tem William H. Burgum—presiding over City affairs for vacationing Mayor Florence H. Willett—gave us a sound, sensible answer.

BURGUM SAID: "We certainly had every reason to believe that Detroit already knew just how we stand on this question of imposing a city income tax on all non-Detroit residents who work there."

"Back in March of last year our city commission passed a resolution officially opposing any such tax. We sent copies of that resolution to our state representative, Henry M. Hogan, Jr., and to State Sen. Farrell Roberts.

"Copies also went to the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, and plenty of newspaper publicity was given to the resolution at that time.

"Copies also were mailed some weeks ago to John Huss, director of the Michigan Municipal League, an organization that includes most of Michigan's cities and villages.

"Two weeks ago, I attended a meeting of

mayors from Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties in Warren. (Detroit Mayor Jerome P.) Cavanagh spoke on behalf of his income tax plan at that meeting, and the consensus of opinion of those present revealed to him our opposition to such a tax."

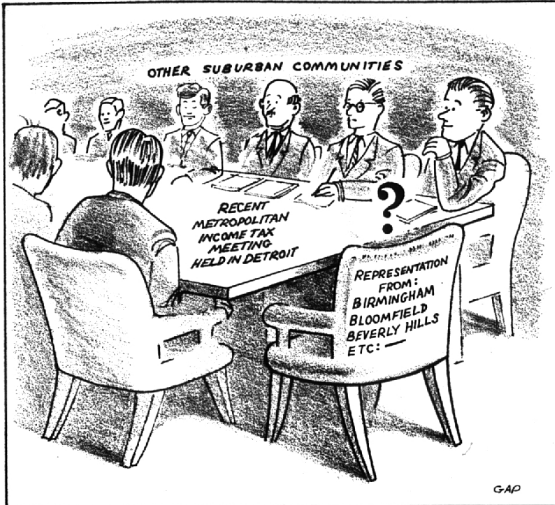
WE AGREE with Mr. Burgum that Detroit had been given sufficient notice of our city's opposition to such an income tax. But we do believe something of value can be gained from inter-community (and inter-county) discussion of municipal problems.

We believe that these discussions should and can be held to calm, intelligent reasoning; that they can be controlled to avoid any element of rabble rousing; that they can serve a useful community purpose and should not be used for personal political advantage.

Just as communities cooperate and participate in joint developmental projects—such as sewers and drains—we believe they can effectively and orderly engage in negotiations to solve their tax problems.

FINALLY, WE wish to remind all concerned that many Detroit organizations have branches in Birmingham and area—drawing their employees from Detroit as well as from our local communities—and likewise that there are other people from the outlying areas who work in Birmingham.

Let's not be taxing each other, please. And let's get together more often to discuss our problems and possible solutions.



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Does Fluoridation Reduce Dental Caries?

To the Editor:

A letter in this column in the March 22 issue referred to the fluoridation of community water supplies as a safe means to reduce dental decay.

Several factors not mentioned and of equal consideration by the public are as follows:

1. This practice would be mass medication of the people.
2. The public does not expect the local or federal governments to supply headache tablets.
3. Fluoride may be purchased in tablet form by those who want it.
4. Even if this treatment was effective (there are those in the dental and medical field who feel this method is ineffective) why have the great expense of treating all of the water? Con-

sider the percentage used on the lawn in the bath and with the dishes.

RESOLUTIONS on this issue are under consideration in the House of Representatives as submitted by Rep. Walter S. Baring of Nevada and in his words:

"The addition of any substance to a public water supply for the purpose of affecting the bodily or mental function of the consumer establishes a dangerous precedent and pre-empt the inalienable right of the individual to determine what shall be done to and with his body as long as in the exercise of that right he does not infringe upon the equal rights of his fellow citizens."
(MRS.) LESLIE EDWARDS

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

April 5, 1912

Col. Roosevelt addressed a great crowd in the Light Guard armory, Detroit. He spoke for just an hour and while there were numerous flashes of enthusiasm, for the most part he was listened to with respectful attention. Probably the most pointed statement he made was his admission that while president he had seized the Panama canal strip instead of waiting for congressional action.

In Franklin, Victor VanEmery will soon be ready to open for business in his new store. He will carry a full line of everything and will be glad to see old friends and neighbors. Dinner will be served at 1 p.m. and will consist of roast beef, scalloped potatoes, salad, bread and butter, pickles, pies, cookies and coffee.

A joint meeting of the Oakland County Horticultural Society and the Farmington Dairymen Association will be held at Town Hall in Farmington. Everyone interested in the cemetery is urged to be present, as plans for the new fence are to be discussed and also the kind of fence to be purchased will be decided upon.

30 YEARS AGO

April 7, 1932

Drafting of definite rules for the contest arrangements for a memorial tree planting project along Woodward avenue, and offers of several merchants to award prizes marked the progress this week in Birmingham's first Yard and Garden Contest. Interest in the contest has gained steadily since it was (See HAPPENINGS, 5-8)

Fluoridation 'Facts' Repeated for Public

To the Editor:

Though rebuked and refuted by the well-informed, the propagandists for fluoridation with a regularity of two-year locust are here again.

One begins to wonder if it is really dental caries in children that the propagandists are concerned with or a devious attempt to impose their arbitrary will upon the unsuspecting public for reasons known only to them?

Let's review the facts again for the benefit of the general public. The scientific investigations in 1931 of water supplies by John D. Clark and Edward H. Mann proved that the fluorine in water causes

mottling of teeth, defecation in formation, calcification of teeth as well as inflammation of the gums.

The fluorine taken by expectant mothers might cause some babies to be still-born. Coagulation of the blood is retarded. Thyroid and kidneys might be damaged. (University of New Mexico bulletin: "THE MENACE OF FLUORINE TO HEALTH" 1939).

FORMER communist O. K. Goff testified under oath in 1957, that fluoridation of water in Russian slave camps was used to induce a spirit of lethargy and docility. Pharmaceutical Merck's Index (See PEOPLE'S COLUMN, 5-8)

THE GOLDEN YEARS

By THOMAS COLLINS

What a couple can do with its money if the husband and wife retire at age 65 with a little: SPEND IT. The couple has, say, \$8,000. They also have a retirement income of at least \$200 a month. They can figure that the first five years of retirement, or up to age 70, will be the best. So the two will enjoy themselves. They split the \$8,000 into five equal parts and use \$1,600 each year for \$133 a month to live it up, with trips, winters in the sunshine, etc.

TAKE IT WITH YOU. The couple can go to a reputable funeral home and make all arrangements in advance. There's no rule saying they can't have gold-plated caskets if they choose. The heirs would weep, but think what excitement there'd be in 1,000 years when somebody excavated them.

PUT IT IN THE BANK. Interest on savings accounts in normal commercial banks now runs up to 4 per cent—usually paid semi-annually or quarterly. The couple can put their money here with peace of mind and usually can draw it out simply by walking up to the counter.

PUT IT IN A SAVINGS & LOAN. The couple usually gets a little more interest here—up to 4½ per cent, payable quarterly or semi-annually. Rules differ from city to city, as the interest rate does, but usually the couple can draw the money out whenever they want it. There's the pay of money here, too, if the couple selects an "insured" Savings & Loan.

BUY AN ANNUITY. The retired couple can go

to a life insurance company and buy various types of annuities for cash. The annuity guarantees payments of so much per month for life, the amount depending on the ages of the couple and the sum of money put into it. A common type of annuity is one that returns no money upon death, thus enabling higher monthly payments.

BUY MUTUAL FUNDS. This gets into what is known as "investments" as contrasted with "savings." The couple buys mutual funds from investment houses, brokers and, in some cases, banks. A mutual fund is usually a collection of stocks, bonds, or both. A share in a mutual fund is a share in a package of these stocks and bonds that may cover 100 or more industries. The managers of the fund are constantly buying and selling in an effort to enhance the value of the shares or to increase the income from them.

BUY COMMON STOCKS. The couple here casts its fortune with the ups and downs of the country's economy. An investment of \$10,000 may grow to \$20,000, or may shrink to \$2,000. In general, there are three kinds of common stocks—growth, income and safe. The retired couple would want income and safety.

BUY PREFERRED STOCKS. They're a bit safer than common stocks, with a return of 3 to 4 per cent, but with little protection against inflation. The retired couple with substantial money could do worse—in fact, this is where wealthy retired people often have much of their money.

For a copy of the new Golden Years booklet by Thomas Collins, send 15 cents (no stamps) to Dept. N.W.S., Box 1612, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N. Y.

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

Did you notice the new name for the column? With all the reorganization going on, I thought that this would be a wonderful opportunity to change the name and stop the letters coming to me which start off:

Dear Mr. Hogan,

I read your gardening column faithfully every week and thought of you when we decided to raise funds for...

I don't think I'll have too much trouble living up to the column name; as a matter of fact, I think it naturally fits me.

WITH THE END of the legislative session drawing near, we won't see as many of our legislators around the towns. In the closing hours the calendars are filled with various and sundry bills, and to keep the legislators in their seats to vote on them a device called "call of the House" is used.

Under the Constitution all legislators may be made to sit in their seats if a majority of the members wish to call the membership to their seats.

When such a move is made the clerk takes a roll call and the sergeant at arms is dispatched to bring in the absent members. Asst. sergeants at arms are posted at each door to prevent members from leaving.

The state Senate, which does everything in a more formal way, even locks the front door shut with a large chain. If the sergeant at arms can not locate the missing members in the Lansing area, state police are dispatched to bring in the wayward members.

It has been said the state police have gone as far as Florida to bring back legislators. Some legislators have purposely stayed at home just to get a free ride to the capital in a police car.

Once the entire legislature is seated, work is commenced at a furious pace because the membership is not usually released until the calendar is cleared.

SPEAKING of the legislature, a bill recently passed the Senate outlawing the use of radar by cities and villages for clocking speeders. The bill is now before the House judiciary committee and it is rumored that half of the Birmingham Police Department went to Lansing last Tuesday to protest the bill.

Apparently the bill was introduced by a senator who was stopped because of the device. If you drive from Birmingham to Lansing, you can't avoid driving through Fowlerville, Weberville and Williamston and each has its own little speed trap. If the introducer had to drive through these towns twice a day, it is a small wonder that the bill was introduced.

The bill will probably die in committee, but one of our local legislators, who sits on the judiciary committee, was contacted by Birmingham Police Chief Ralph Moxley. The legislator said that he would do what he could for the chief, but if he were stopped on his way back to Lansing, the bill would probably be passed in the House, too.

By
KEN
WEAVER

City Beat

The early days of spring—fresh, radiant and invigorating after the gloomy, slushy, mervating days of late winter—inspire meditation.

Take the thoughts of Mrs. Kenneth Busha of 110 S. Williamsbury, Birmingham, for instance.

The first bright days of the season prompted her to write:

"Sitting in my living room in quiet reverie, looking at the grey and windy outdoor scene, feeling the poignancy of the awakening of the early Spring Season—I thought, 'Cry Spring!'"

The following day was radiant sunshine transforming the grey to dull gold.

"IT'S GREAT to live in Birmingham," writes Jim Richardson of 764 W. Lincoln.

He enjoys living here so much that he has suggested we publish a column from our readers saying how "It's Great to Live in Birmingham."

He offers this one as a starter:

"The morning of March 22, my son departed for Barnum Elementary School per usual, except that he forgot both his lunch money and his \$1 bowling money."

"Poor frustrated father, torn between thoughts of his 10-year-old without funds and his scheduled Intermediate Structures teaching session at LIT, frantically took enough time to backtrack on his way to visit the Bates-Brown intersection."

"But, lo and behold, his son, the safety patrol, was not yet on duty. He was still at school for the morning briefing session and inspection by the safety captain."

"So, father, save a Birmingham employee in an orange safety helmet who was going to be engaged in work at said corner for at least a little while."

"Father approached this completely unknown stranger, handed him \$1.25 with a piece of paper with his son's name and address on it and requested him to give the money and paper to the school safety patrol boy who would shortly assume a post at this corner."

"The stranger accepted and the father most graciously thanked him and departed."

"All turned out well, proving that this world works in some of the strangest ways."

YES, THE GOOD days of spring are here—and with them some good thoughts. Let the days get better.

Civil Defense spending is a big boondoggle, says the General Accounting Office. Pouring money into the ground, as it were.

Many women refuse to be stamped into marriage for the sake of marriage, says an author. Some doubtless get into it for the sake of support.

Conservation News heads an item: Conservation to be Considered as Congress Considers We wish the conservation people would conserve a bit on alliteration.

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