

What We Did and Did Not Do

A recent article in an Oakland County daily newspaper implied that The Eccentric was "putting the heat on" the Birmingham City Commission to change its appointments to the County Board of Supervisors.

This is far from accurate. This paper in publishing articles and editorials on the proposed county jet airport attempted to let the people know what was happening to their tax dollars.

On occasion, in attempting to keep our readers informed, we criticize individual acts or omissions by public officials, but never intend that one mistake should over-

shadow many years of good and faithful public service.

That Birmingham did in fact change one of its supervisors should not be confused with the airport issue. Mrs. Hope Lewis, who was not reappointed, was not in any way more involved than any of the other three supervisors who were reappointed.

As a matter of fact, the county board will miss Mrs. Lewis' fine work in the area of welfare, and The Eccentric would like to join in thanking her on behalf of the area for her contribution to the betterment of local government.

It's Still the Public's Money

Last week the County Board of Supervisors approved a tentative budget of \$16,680,202. This budget, which is in excess of last year's tentative budget, will be presented to the County Tax Allocation Board which must decide how the real property taxes should be divided among county, school and local municipalities.

Under our Constitution taxes on real estate are limited to 15 mills without vote of the people. This 15 mills must be spread among the county government, the operation of our schools and the local form of government under which we live.

surplus funds; and collections from various county medical facilities.

Some of this non-tax money goes into the general fund and some of it by-passes the general fund into a special building fund.

The State Supreme Court has held that this is legal, but any money diverted from the operational budget of the county will have to be picked up by a lesser appropriation to schools and municipalities.

IT SEEMS TO us, that whether it is tax or non-tax revenue it is still the public's money and should go to the general fund.

That way any appropriation by the county for capital improvements would be reviewed by the County Tax Allocation Board and be subject to the needs of the other forms of government within the county.

This year, for example, the county intends to construct a half-million-dollar supervisors' meeting room as part of the new county service center. We have combed the tentative budget and have not found this item mentioned or money appropriated for it.

Apparently, the money for it will come from this special building fund. Yet, we were told that the money spent to acquire the airport acreage used this fund. Where will this new money come from, then?

IS THE PROPOSED county tentative budget padded or are the non-tax revenues underestimated again so as to give the county a built-in surplus?

We hope the County Allocation Board investigates this situation and forces the county to adopt a budgetary policy which all citizens can more easily follow and comment on.

TAX MONEY, which is their share of the 15 mill tax on property, goes into the county general fund.

Non-tax money is the revenue the county receives from the operation of the county clerk-register of deeds office; interest which the county receives from the investment of

Tabloid Explains Zoning Law

During the course of each year, The Eccentric publishes a series of interpretive articles on the various units of local government in our area.

The records of the local realtor board shows that there is approximately a 20 per cent change in population in our area each year. Considering that our subscription area includes a combination of cities, villages and townships each with a different tax structure, we feel it is our responsibility to acquaint the new residents with the structure of government under which they live; its powers and duties; the names and faces that run it; and how they collect and spend tax dollars.

In addition to articles dealing with those subjects you will notice with this week's issue that Bloomfield Township has prepared a special tabloid explaining its proposed zoning ordinance and new master plan for zoning.

WE COMPLEMENT both the township board and planning commission for the foresight of sharing with their residents probably the most complex phase of local government. Every resident will have the opportunity to study the proposed new law before it is enacted.

The master plan is an attempt by the township to utilize its land area for fair and equitable purposes. With an overall plan, both commercial and residential areas will be protected.

When both of these areas are intermixed, both residential and commercial values go down.

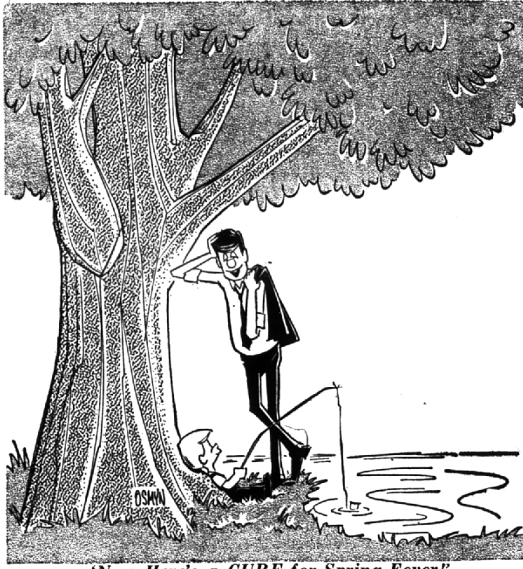
We encourage all our readers whether they live in the township or not to peruse this special section. Zoning affects everyone in the area and an understanding of the problems and solutions as explained in the tabloid will assist you in understanding your own community's zoning problems.

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Speaking of personal freedom ... the nation's hat manufacturers are pretty sore at President Kennedy because he doesn't wear a hat ... but his desire to go bare-headed is more than made up for by his good-looking spouse, whose hair-dos and costumes have brought plenty of increased revenues to those establishments that cater to feminine appearance. (And maybe little John Kennedy, when he gets older, will try to make up for his dad's unwillingness to cover his cranium with straw and/or felt.)

Some military leaders want to shoot armed nuclear missiles over populated areas. The idea may be to give the people a sense of participation—but that's just what the people would like to avoid.

President Kennedy heads the list of 10 best-dressed men. That's not news. The news would be that an incumbent President had not made the list.



"Now Here's a CURE for Spring Fever!"

PEOPLES COLUMN

Women Reader Offers Special Easter Prayer

To the Editor:

AN EASTER PRAYER

O Lord of humans make my master faithful to his fellowmen as I am to him. Grant that he may be devoted to his friends and family as I am to him.

May he be open faced and undeceptive as I am, may he be true to trust reposed in him as I am to his.

GIVE HIM a face cheerful like unto my wagging tail. Give him a spirit of gratitude like unto my licking tongue.

Fill him with patience like unto mine that awaits his footsteps uncomplainingly for hours. Fill him with my watchfulness, my courage and my readiness to sacrifice comfort, or life itself.

Keep him always young in heart and crowded with the spirit of play even as I.

Make him as good a man as I am a dog.

Make him worthy of me his dog.

HELEN G. FERGUSON
955 So. Bates
Birmingham

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
April 24, 1912

At a special session of the State legislature, a bill submitting the question of women suffrage passed both the House and the Senate. The question will now be turned over to the voters in the November election.

Birmingham doctors adopted a standard rate charge of \$1.50 for a visit in the city and \$1.50 in the country. An extra charge of 50 cents for the first mile and 25 cents for each additional mile will also be charged for country visits. Confinement cases will cost from \$10 and up. The increase of rates was needed because of the "high cost of living."

The Royal Oak city council will put into effect this week a 9 p.m. curfew for children. Royal Oak residents will also observe a clean-up campaign.

30 YEARS AGO
April 28, 1932

Village Manager James W. Parry announced yesterday that the 1932 budget would probably be ready for permanent adoption by the Commission next week. The estimate of operating costs, representing only variable figures in the budget were approved tentatively by the Commission in January at \$170,826 or about 31 per cent below those of 1931.

Plans were nearing completion today for the second annual May Day child health conference to be held in the municipal building under the joint auspices of the village (See HAPPENINGS, 8-B)

Reader Finds Editorial On Campaign Puzzling

To the Editor:

Being accustomed to fair reporting and sound judgment as expressed in the past on the issues of our times by Birmingham Eccentric editor, I must admit I was a bit perplexed reading "The Money Was Tainted" of April 12, 1962.

To the Editor chose to waste his time, energy and printer's ink on an anonymous note. It would have been more constructive and educational to write a treatise on "Being a Good Citizen" or "The Privilege of Write-in-Vote" as practiced in this democratic republic of ours, but not tolerated by the dictators, who rule the enslaved countries.

SINCE WE will have a government of the people, by the people, for the people, why do some individuals call it "vicious and in-

divious campaign" when alert and well-informed good citizens express their disapproval with the slate of the candidates and substitute with "write-in-Vote" for a candidate of their choice, who in their judgment will give them the kind of government they think will benefit the community?

More nations have lost freedom to would-be dictators because of the acquiescence and complacency of the general public, whose pleasure-seeking habits, made them negligent and indifferent to everything that is not hedonistic or utilitarian in character.

EDMUND BURKE, political writer and statesman said: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." The freedom and liberty won so (See PEOPLES COLUMN, 8-B)

THE GOLDEN YEARS

"I went out to visit a retirement village the other day. I looked at the motel home in it. "I wish I had seen it and could have moved into it when I was a bride."

"Everything has been carefully thought out, and it is very nice. You can eat and sleep and sit. But as of now, for me to live there would be like living in luxury and waiting for death. There isn't room for a hobby. I couldn't even put my sewing machine in. And the flowers are already planted. That wouldn't thrill me, because a plant belongs to him who sows the seed. "Keep it for brides. It wasn't meant for me..."

THUS SPEAKS a lady in Fresno Calif., who would like to point out to people that no time of life is more exciting than the Golden Years. Her name: Mrs. Dulcie Brown. Her excitement: "The very act of waking up in the morning," she says, "can be a great adventure. You can stretch and lie there and laugh inwardly as you realize you can take your own sweet time about it, not get up at all if you don't want to."

"HOW MANY times in those years when you were the slave of time did you long for this day... the luxury of lying in bed in the morning with nothing at all that HAS to be done TODAY? And if there is any you can always put it off until tomorrow..."

Mrs. Brown says excitement can be had in retirement with very little money, especially if you

live in a city. Recreation areas such as parks, zoos and museums are made for you, she explains, and best of all is the fairland of nature that lies at the end of the bus line.

"Every flower, bush and stone can mean someone to you. And above all the trees and the birds..."

THEN THERE are the clubs and dances for older people that most cities have. There are picnics, meetings of your church and free lectures all over. You can browse in the library through the books and take trips back through time to any point you like.

Tiring of these things, you can go to the policemen at work.

"They don't mind. In fact they are glad to get the attention. Even the good men in the fire stations do not mind your browsing through and looking at their equipment. They are proud of it and like for you to be, too..."

ACCORDING TO Mrs. Brown, you can visit your family, but not TOO often. "You can find youth all over again by playing for a day with your grandchildren. If you have none there are always some you can borrow from the neighbors."

"Children are wonderful inspirations as long as you don't stay with them too long. We can bridge the gap between age and youth for a day, and no more... a day at a time with something else in between..."

For a copy of the new Golden Years booklet by Thomas Callahan cost \$1 cents (in addition to Post, N.Y. 100, Box 1672, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N. Y.)

Eccentricities



By HANK HOGAN

STOP SPEEDING! I have been second guessed by the legislature, and the radar bill which was discussed last week in this corner was reconsidered and killed by the House of Representatives. However, Birmingham residents did get a slight reprieve while our radar car was being repaired.

Most of you probably read that a lady citizen carried on her own crusade against radar by driving her car into the radar unit.

The Birmingham police have informed me that it is now back in service.

SPEAKING OF legislation, the "Bowman Bill" has now been passed by both houses of the legislature and placed on the governor's desk for his signature.

This is the bill which would prohibit a city from placing an income tax on non-residents.

It is pure and simple a bill that would stop the City of Detroit from taxing citizens in the suburbs for the operation of Detroit.

The Detroit papers have taken the position that the suburbs are being unfair to the mother city. The legislature has taken the position that the mother city intended to take advantage of the suburbs.

DETROIT HAS problems. No one denies this. The big question is who created these problems? Certainly, the suburbanites did not.

Detroit expanded its services at a period when its population was declining. To pay for these services they raised taxes by raising the assessments on machines and inventory. This act encouraged industry to move and hastened the evacuation of the mother city.

Shopping centers grew up on the outskirts. Professional people who didn't have to be downtown fled to the suburbs. Just look at the growth along Northwestern Highway in the past few years.

DETROIT STILL hasn't learned. Just recently they wanted to spend money to open an office in Washington to attract industry. They should start chopping their budget first and then industry might come back.

The "Bowman Bill" stands for something more. If Detroit could tax those people working in Detroit but living out here, our citizens would be taxed without representation. It may be an old cliché, but if people are taxed and can't complain about it, there is a tendency when more taxes are needed to assess those whose voice is the weakest at election time.

Suburbanites would be well advised to drop the governor a line to encourage him to sign the bill.

By Ken Weaver City Beat

Every Thursday morning, Burt Van Geison picks up the section of The Eccentric carrying the want ads and takes it to work with him.

An avid reader of the "classifieds," he pores over them during coffee breaks and the lunch hour.

Then in the evening, he "persuades" his wife to accompany him to the stores, the homes—or wherever—to investigate the bargains.

Burt got caught up short the Thursday of April 5. On his way out of the house, he grabbed up Section A and headed for work.

On his first coffee break, he turned to Page 6-A—and found no want ads.

This was the first week of the "new look" in The Eccentric, with the "classifieds" located in Section E.

So, Burt had to wait until he reached home — 1672 Huron Ave., Birmingham—that evening before he could read his Eccentric want ads.

SEVERAL READERS very kindly sent us letters commenting on the new format.

"Your staff," wrote Mrs. Harry Stark, Jr., of 268 Fairfax, Birmingham, "has done an excellent job of making a very readable, interesting paper"

"I personally have been a subscriber to The Eccentric for 15 years and am very happy to see it keeping up with the very best."

Wrote J. Walter Piel, administrative assistant to the superintendent of Birmingham Public Schools: "It was a real pleasure to read the April 5 issue of The Eccentric and to note the efforts you have made to improve the presentation of the news and in the broadened scope of the contents."

In my opinion, the extensive efforts which undoubtedly went into this reorganization were most worthwhile."

The staff and the publisher appreciate these kind remarks.

IN THIS COLUMN a few weeks ago we carried a local man's suggestion to publish an "It's Great to Live in Birmingham" column.

"Good idea," was the response of a lady reader. She offered this story as testimony to why it's great to live in this wonderful city:

"Friends from New York, with 'two small babies,' stopped for a brief visit.

After they had left, someone discovered they had forgotten their insulated containers with the tiny baby bottles and food.

So, Birmingham police were called—they intercepted the New Yorkers at Maple and Telegraph and sent them back to the house on Forest St. to recover their gear.

Women workers in an onion plant in England complain that the lingering smell of onions is ruining their sex appeal. It's enough to make one teary-eyed.

Living costs for the year, says a business magazine, will hover around present levels. The dime thus will continue to be useful as a sewerdriver.

Castro tells Cubans to wait for tomorrow, when "nothing will be lacking." They'll have to go some to beat the Russians and Red Chinese at that waiting game.

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