

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 1225 Rogers Street, Telephone Midwest 1-1109

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Only 1 Broad Base Tax Left

The new mayor in Detroit has indicated that he will push through a city income tax, unless the state first lives up to its duties and provides Detroit with more money.

This tax, although not yet formalized, would in some instances be assessed against our area residents who work in Detroit.

The mayor's theory is two-fold—one, that the suburbanites use city services without paying for them and two, it is more politic to tax those people who are unable to vote against you than those who can vote for you.

DETROIT HAS problems; nobody will dispute that. But these problems have not been brought on by non-residents working in Detroit.

Actually, these non-residents are the reasons for most of the commercial development in the city which brings in the lion's share of Detroit's revenue.

An income tax in Detroit would force many suburbanites to move their offices from the city and worsen Detroit's tax picture.

More important, it would violate one of our more cherished liberties: "Taxation without representation."

IT IS HARD to justify taxing people working in Detroit even if the tax were to

be one-half of the rate for city residents. City services, such as fire, police, garbage collection, water, sewer, etc. benefit the property owner, not the worker.

The state income tax is, however, a real possibility and will be on us in a very short time, unless the state's spending is drastically curtailed.

The state is so close to number one in so many areas of governmental services, that to accomplish more or provide more state services would just mean the state needs more revenue.

WITH A 71 million dollar deficit, the only answer is the only broad base tax left, the income tax.

Even passing a nominal flat rate income tax would not solve Michigan's problems. When the citizens wanted better services, the legislature would raise the tax a little and this probably would become an annual occasion. The Federal income tax is a typical example.

The Eccentric can not see justification in the City of Detroit taxing our area residents. But it now recognizes that the state of Michigan will need more revenue to increase services at the rate demanded, and the only answer is an income tax.

This can only be avoided if the citizens at this time are willing to roll up their sleeves and be counted to voice their opposition to increased spending.

Should It Be a Golf Course?

In authorizing an architect to prepare preliminary plans for a golf course for the former sewage treatment plant property, we hope the Birmingham City Commission has not decided that this will be the major use assigned to the site.

At least, we hope that this will not be the decision until other recreational uses have been considered.

To date, the commission has not discussed in great detail other possibilities. No studies of other possible uses have been ordered.

We realize that when the commission is petitioned by as many residents as it has (more than 1,000) for the golf course usage, it must give serious and thorough consideration to the request.

BUT THAT does not mean the commission should not likewise consider other uses.

We are not fully convinced that a golf course would be the most suitable, the most advantageous facility for this property.

For example, some thought might be given to such recreational activities as nature walks, conservation of wildlife, wildflower preservation areas, picnic grounds and even an off-street driving course for high school driver training students.

Or thought might be given to the possibility of dedicating the property to some other use, such as centralization of cultural activities or erection of a civic auditorium.

One commissioner has suggested that if there is to be a golf course, the parking area for the clubhouse be laid out in such a way as to serve for the overflow from Seaholm High School.

WE BELIEVE there is some merit to all of these possibilities and that the commission should give them serious consideration.

At least, they might be discussed at a commission meeting so that the public could offer its views as well as hear the thinking of the commissioners.

A golf course might be the ultimate answer, but let's check more fully into other uses, too.

What's in a Name—Our Name?

"Names make news," says the Hulber News, quarterly publication of the J. M. Hulber Corp., a Texas petroleum products manufacturer, in its winter 1961-62 edition.

The quotation comes from an article telling how some newspapers got their names. It includes The Birmingham Eccentric.

"Did you ever hear of the Brewery Gulch Gazette?" asks the article. "No? How about The Canton Repository, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Birmingham Eccentric, Daily Breeze, Sacramento Bee, Daily Lowegian & Citizen, Register-Pajaronian, Patent Trader, Public Opinion, Lubbock Av-

lanche-Journal and The Tommy-Knawker?"

OF THE Eccentric, it says:

"A fraternal and social club gave its name to The Birmingham Eccentric, of Birmingham, Michigan. The founders were members of the Eccentric Club, a group of bachelors prominent on the local scene in 1878, who urged the organization's title upon their cohorts when they learned of the new venture."

We are proud of our name and believe that over the years it has become to be regarded as eccentric only in the sense of aggressive, progressive boldness.

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

If the income tax method of raising taxes should come to Michigan, it certainly ought to be on a state-wide basis. It certainly should not, in our opinion, be allowed on a strictly local basis ... for there will be so much confusion caused by over-lapping tax areas that it cannot work satisfactorily. Much as we oppose the centralization of tax powers, we can't envision anything but one tax levy, sent out from one source, and the revenues then returned to each local area on the basis of some formula yet to be devised. Of course, when such a state-wide levy comes—and it should be of a uniform nature—it simply means that government and bureaucracy will have more and sharper tools with which to open the pocketbooks of our citizens. One look at the federal procedure proves this. However, in the last analysis it does appear that most citizens of this glorious U.S.A. want more "welfare" from government, and this will have to be met by more taxes.

Alas! Michigan's "disappointment" is reported to be something of a government to old and wiser heads in the State's Democratic party. Gov. Swainson certainly gives little evidence of real leadership. He's a nice, personable fellow ... who currently appears a bit worried over whether or not George W. Romney may be his opponent—come next fall's election.

Looks as though the Con-Con boys and girls are going to allow future Civil Service commissions to raise the wages of state employees whenever C. S. wants it. This means that the Legislature will have to dig up the extra dough. Traditionally, you know, the Legislature levies taxes and allocates those dollars. But times do change ...

See where Michigan's Con Con delegates have agreed to outlaw the use of capital punishment as the penalty for murder. That's a good answer—agree most students of crime and law enforcement—for capital punishment never has proved capable of prevention of murder, most of which are committed in frenzied passion.

Seaweed are algae. An aromatic seed is anise. A marine skeleton is coral. A positive terminal is anode. A surgical thread is seton.

An African antelope could be a Hiddik, Duiker, Gemsbok, Impala or maybe Koodoo.



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Teacher Opposes Classroom Prayers

To the Editor: I feel much concern over the decision by the Bloomfield Hills School Board to allow prayers in public school classrooms. Having been a teacher for eight years, I know that I could not lead a class in prayer unless that prayer reflected my own convictions. If I were to conduct classroom prayers, I would unavoidably be imposing my religious beliefs upon my students. It is impossible for any church member to be neutral about religion. And certainly it is wrong to use the public school classrooms to teach, however indirectly, a religious belief that cannot possibly be favored by all the students and their families. I don't believe that any prayer can be truly non-sectarian.

THOSE WHO argue that religious faith is a strong bulwark against Communism are right—until they extend their argument to claim that the public schools must share in teaching religion to protect against Communism. Religion belongs in the home. The average school child spends less than 30 hours a week in school, 40 weeks a year. That leaves parents 138 hours per week to insure that their children learn what they need to know of God and their relationship to Him. The public school to assume this task, he is denying himself one of the most precious privileges of parenthood. Indeed, he is abdicating his most important responsibility.

B'field Twp. Rezoning Protested

To the Editor: Following is a copy of a letter I sent to Supervisor (Arno) Hulet of Bloomfield Township: I am writing to protest for my husband and myself (the proposed) rezoning of the southwest property on the corner of Big Beaver and Adams Road, because we feel that the merchants in Birmingham are serving us more than good service. Our drug stores all have delivery service and in an emergency will make an extra delivery, know, because it has been done for us.

THOSE WHO argue so strongly for prayers in school must be motivated either by a desire to propagate a particular religion or by a wish to be relieved of the obligation to teach their children the faith which they need to guide their lives. The schools have enough problems already in trying to raise academic standards. We can only add to these problems by selecting so highly controversial a matter as religion into the classroom. Let us keep religion where it belongs—in our homes, churches, and in our hearts.

M. RITCHIE To the Editor: Today, state and federal authorities are saying that aid can go only to children in public schools. We believe in America! We believe we are all the government! We believe our government is just to all! We believe if there is any injustice to anyone we all share part of the guilt and the Just-God knows how much! If we practice what we preach as Americans, fair play and justice for all, then tomorrow, state and federal authorities will not continue to say, "Aid only to public school children."

'Aid to Education Should Be for All'

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Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO Feb. 2, 1912 Our farmer friends will enjoy a day in Birmingham on Feb. 17. Preparations have been made for a large attendance. They will hold an institute at the Johnston-Shaw Hall beginning at 9:30 a.m. The day's program will include a discussion of organization of an Oakland County Horticultural Society led by T. A. Farrant, president of the State Horticultural Society.

Blanche Evans will give a shadow social at the home of Mrs. Bert Bird on Franklin Road Feb. 9. Miss Evans has arranged an interesting program. Earn accommodations will be provided for all horses.

The Woman's Home Missionary society of the First Presbyterian Church will meet on Feb. 7 at the home of Mrs. George H. Mitchell, Miss Crane, of the Italian-American Institute in Detroit and Mrs. Reid of the Hungarian Institute will address the meeting in regard to their work among their nationalities in that city.

30 YEARS AGO Feb. 4, 1932 Sewage dumped by the village into the River Rouge for several years is the cause of strenuous objections on the part of landowners along the stream and its branches will be chlorinated during the summer months until the proposed new interceptor and disposal project becomes a reality. The step seemed as a practical certainty Monday night when the Village Commission gave its general approval of an alleviation plan.

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By DENI SCANLON

Talk of the Towns

Did you every try your hand at crossword puzzles?

A challenge aren't they? Some of the words come easy to this reporter—like "a printer's measure"—which, of course, is either an em or an en. An en's a half an em, you know. Jumbled type is obviously pi or pi.

But there are others. Did you know that a sailor is called a gob or a tar? A Japanese sash is an obi. A male swan is a cob. A herd of whales is a gam or pod. Chinese dynasty: Chen, Chin, Chou, Hsia, Ming, Sung, Tang and Ts'in.

A young sow is a gilt. Another word for wax is cere. In Chinese it's peia. A Babylonian abode of the dead is an aralu. Russian bear for kvass. A wild dog is a dhole or dingo. More Chinese dynasties are Ching, Liang and Shang.

An earthquake is a seism. A fabulist, naturally, is Aesop.

Oh yes, another measure of printing (five-letter word) could be an em. Seaweed are algae. An aromatic seed is anise. A marine skeleton is coral. A positive terminal is anode. A surgical thread is seton.

A peace pipe could be a calumet. A Scotch plaid, a Tartan. A young salmon is a grise. A white whale is a beluga.

The son Aaron—Ithamar. Orpah was the wife of Hilleon. Agarammon was the king of Mycenae and the son of Atreus and the brother of Menelaus. He was the leader of the Greeks against Troy. He was slain on his return home by Clytemnestra and Aegisthus.

Dionysus (Bacchus) was god of wine. Echo was the nymph who fell hopelessly in love with Narcissus and faded away except for her voice. Eos (Aurora)—goddess of dawn. Morpheus was god of dreams and Orpheus, a famed musician who was the son of Apollo and Muse Calliope and husband of Eurydice. Pegasus was mentioned earlier that a male swan is a cob. Just to complete it—the female is a pen and the young, a cygnet.

A male ass is a jack; a female, a jenny and the young, a foal. The male bear is a he-bear; the female, a she-bear and the young, a cub. It was mentioned earlier that a male swan is a cob. Just to complete it—the female is a pen and the young, a cygnet.

These are only a few answers to common crossword puzzles. There are thousands more.

To return to the original premise: Crossword puzzles are a challenge. Aren't they?

Suburban Sidelights

By HANK HOGAN

With Michigan's increased population in the 1960 Federal census, we inherited a new congressional seat and 19 Congressional headwaters.

It is up to the state legislature to reapportion the state into approximately 19 equal districts. If this is not done this year, the old districts will remain as is, and the extra district will be elected at large from the whole state.

Neither political party wants a congressman-at-large because of the tremendous cost of running him for office. Both parties want a district that is predominantly made up of their own party members.

The problem is that any legislative bill has to be signed by the governor. Therefore, a Democrat bill would not pass the Republican controlled legislature and a Republican bill would probably not be signed by the governor. Meanwhile, Oakland County sits with one congressman and 690,000 people while other districts have as low as 177,000 people.

Actually, the problem is more complex than just juggling out a new district of approximately 430,000 people (which is one-nineteenth of the state's population). Friction arises when the old districts are juggled to get a balanced population.

Add to this some 144 ambitious legislators who would like to carve out a district that might promote them to Washington.

Keeping all a salary of \$22,500 is more attractive than a salary of \$5,000.

Senator Carleton Morris (R-Kalamazoo) has introduced a bill which would split Oakland County east and west at the line between Bloomfield and West Bloomfield townships, (Inkster Road).

Since the population in the west part of the county is not as great as the east part, he has added part of Wayne County to come up with approximately 411,000 inhabitants. This would be a 51 per cent or 52 per cent Republican district that the governor might sign because the Democrats could possibly take the district with some work.

However, to create this new district Senator Morris has eliminated a congressional district in the Upper Peninsula and rearranged several districts throughout the state.

While his arrangement is fair and equitable to Oakland County, he still has to romance enough out-state legislators to get it out of committee and through both houses.

Keeping all these factors in mind, people are still asking why the legislature doesn't solve the reapportionment problem.

By KEN WEAVER

City Beat

A neat this business of prayers in schools. Some people assume that saying prayers amounts to teaching a religious doctrine.

This is not necessarily so. It might be true in the case of some lengthy prayer in a Sunday morning church service. In their petitions to the God Lord, some clergymen manage to work in certain principles of their doctrine.

The classroom type of prayer, however, usually gives thanks and (or) asks for something.

So, why should anyone be offended?

AND FOR THAT matter, so what if a prayer does offer a religious belief? Are we so narrow-minded, so closed in our thinking that we don't even want our children to listen to what someone else believes?

We welcome exchange of ideas on so many subjects that influence other facets of our lives. Why not also religion?

If we are firmly convinced of our beliefs, we need not fear—jealously or otherwise—that an awareness of other concepts will sway us.

ON THE CONTRARY, this awareness—this opportunity to compare opposing doctrines—should strengthen our own convictions.

We teach Johnny that there are different political parties, with varying political opinions. We teach him that two candidates for the same office usually have opposing political outlooks.

Why not teach him that there are churches, ministers, teachers—and other children—with differing religious beliefs? Surely, he can listen to, and even utter, prayers that differ from his own without believing that those are right and his are wrong?

Wouldn't this be a part of his overall education? WE WANT Johnny to step out into the World with a well rounded development; we want him steeped in as much knowledge as possible.

Again, why not also in religion? It seems to me that this reluctance to listen to other than our own religious doctrine indicates a lack of confidence in it.

If we really believe in what we profess to believe, listening to somebody else's prayers isn't going to change our minds. So— Let there be prayers in the classroom.

State Library Provides Many Reader Services

In 1961, over 450,000 requests for books, information and other items from schools, libraries, universities and residents without a library were handled by the State Library. Over 100 parcels a week were shipped out to focal points of Michigan's people. Places and things in addition to attracting visitors from all over the country interested in local and family history.

Offering a complete picture of Michigan's growth and development is a Michigan section which filled over 11,000 requests in 1961 about Michigan's people, places and things in addition to attracting visitors from all over the country interested in local and family history.

many parts of the United States and foreign countries.

OTHER SERVICES included publishing for the 10th year, the quarterly "Michigan Documents," a complete listing of official state publications and "Of Timely Interest," a monthly directed to state employees as a means of helping them to do a better job.

ONE OF THE PRIME acquisitions to the collection in 1961 was the ultra rare "Shanty Boy" by John W. Fitzmaurice. One of only Michigan exchange program. Some 15,000 documents were shipped last year to Michigan libraries and gan's lumber camps.