#### The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday a Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building. 1225 Bowers Street Telephone MIdwest 4-1100

PUBLISHER: PAUL N. AVERILL

Associate Publisher: Henry M. Hogan, Jr. MANAGING EDITOR: KENNETH R. WEAVER ADVERTISING MANAGER: ARTHUR SHAFES

George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus

#### **Exploring Supervisor Problem**

One of the many areas of study by the Constitutional Convention is county boards

Constitutional Convention is county boards of supervisors.

Under the present constitution, each county has a board of supervisors as its legislative body. It is comprised of one representative from each organized town. ship and such representation from cities

may be prescribed by law.

The present law makes representation cities on a population basis.

Oakland County has a board of 85 su-

THE REASON for the Con-Con scrutiny

THE REASON for the Con-Lon scruting is that townships feel that they, too, should be represented by population. For example, in Oakland County Birmingham, as a city, has four supervisors for 28,000 people; whereas Waterford Township has 48,000 people and but one

Some critics insist that a board with so Some critics insist that a board with so many members becomes unwieldy and in-effective. They contend that a board so large cannot be an efficient manager for the country problems. They say the board should be made up

of a smaller number of full-time managers.

OTHER 'CRITICS feel that a powerful OTHER CRITICS feel that a powerful legislative body, as boards of supervisors actually are, would better represent the people if elected directly by them. Under the present system, supervisors are in no way directly responsible to the people of the county. A township's representative is the elected supervisor of that township, but he is the death of the people of the county.

supervisor of that township, but he is elected not to serve on the board but to supervise the township. Supervisors in the cities are appointed by their city commissions; they never have to put themselves before the voters

A RECENT local incident serves to strengthen this criticism. A local supervisor said at a recent city commission meeting that when he acts as a county supervisor he represents the county and

not the City of Birmingham.

This would indicate that he has no responsibility to anyone in his actions — because if he represents only the county, then he has no one to answer to inasmuch as he was not elected on the county level.

Câlifornia has solved the problem by having five-man county boards elected directly by the people.

TO SEE the other side of the coin, The Eccentric checked with David Levinson, dean of Birmingham's supervisors. He has sat on the board since Birmingham be

came a city in 1933.

Mr. Levinson felt that there is a duality of representation and that there is no conflict of interest representing Birmingham on the board.

In other words, a supervisor must think

In other words, a supervisor must clima of both the community from which the serves and the county as a whole.

Levinson said that if the board were decreased in size the various areas of the county would not be sufficiently represented because the denser population in the southern part of the county could contain all designs. trol all elections.

IN OAKLAND County practically all of the supervisors, he felt, were contributing to the county's administration by actively serving on various sub-committees of the

serving on various sub-committees of the county board.

Levinson felt that the constitutional provision on composition of the board was adequate because the framers of the document felt that when a township is big ument felt that when a township is big enough to merit more representation it is time for it to become a city, to take advan-tage of the better administrative powers which are designed to properly administer the larger communities.

WE IN the Birmingham area should

WE IN the Birmingham area should consider these various problems and ex-press our convictions to our Con-Con dele-gates.

If we do not, then we will have no right to complain about the final solution which people in other areas successfully pro-moted.

## Parking Situation Improved

Thanks to the municipal parking lots and the efficiency of the Birmingham Police Dept., the Christmas season parking-traffic situation in the city this year was

tranic situation in the city this year was better than ever.

Filled to near capacity most of the time, the five City parking lots were the main factor in keeping congestion at a minimum in the central business district this year.

Much credit must also be given to police officers on duty during the rush hours. They moved traffic along efficiently and expeditiously.

Parking Lot No. 5, in the Willits-Bates

area, with its 400 spaces, helped to reduce the tendency to circulate around the block to locate a place to park.

CHIEF OF Police Ralph W. Moxley reported that at most times there was some space available for parking. Very seldom did motorists have to wait in line to get

"Lot 5 has really taken a lot of pressure off parking in the downtown area," Moxley

Charles Mortensen, manager of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, said the Christmas parking situation in Birming-ham was "better than (in) the average"

"Generally speaking, parking was ade-

quate; and the traffic, though heavy all of the time, moved quite well. Police on the corners during the rush hours expedited traffic very efficiently. All in all, I think we were pretty fortunate," Mortensen

HE POINTED out that with the five lots in the four quadrants of the business sec-tion, shoppers can park within a reasonable

distance of where they want to be.
Undoubtedly, there were some instances in which motorists could not locate parking spaces immediately. But the inconveniences certainly were few and far between this

year.

There may be no records to prove it, but there's a general feeling that with the availability of ample parking space and the expeditious movement of traffic, greater cooperation was forthcoming from the shoppers themselves this year.

AS WE LOOK back on this Christmas season and condition of past years, we note with pride the foresight of city officials, merchants and citizens in planning and implementing the municipal parking facil-

Let us hope that this awareness of needs and this spirit of progress and accomplishment will continue in 1962 and the years ahead.

## From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

To be sure, the recent much publicized interview between President Kennedy and Khrushcheve editor son-in-law did get some readers. - but hardly a large proportion of the whole Russian people. In later editions, Irvestia and other Soviet newspapers, radio, etc., Kennedy's words were deliberately garbled and slanted pro-Communistic, of course. This unprecedented interview by the Soviet is so out-of-line with its normal methods that one must "look behind the sceness" for the purpose - . and, whatever it is, can't one question an evil motive? For certainly a ruling leadership with the known record of mass slaughter of humans, plus making and keeping captive other

millions, plus the Soviet's almost 100 per cent breaking of every agreement made with the free world—can such a leadership be trusted?

Try, always, to remember that most politicians who aspire to top positions in state and federal governments make quite outlandish promises, in order to get votes. If elected a governor or a president, most of the promises are incapable of fulfillment—regardless of political party. That is the condition President Kennedy is meeting these days. As the old saying goes: "Talk is cheap," out about how easily most unders, "hau" if all the condition president Kenned, "hau" if all the condition president Kenned, "hau" if all the president Kenned and the president Kenned in the presid vet. alas! how easily most voters "buy" it.



#### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

# **Criticizes Suggestion** To Send Money to UN

for full participation in state and "(8 mills). Voters in 69 percent of the stidstricts surveyed approved operation millage beyond the amount to allocated by the county allocation boards. These "voted operational transfer form less than one mill to 23 mills, the MEA reports.

mut to 23 mills, the MEA reports.

SOME 120 DISTRICTS levied for mills). The most frequent (8 to 9 mills). The most frequent cours in the Upper Peninsula (95 percent) and in Wayne County and the other metropolitan counties of cours in the Upper Peninsula (95 percent), according to the MEA.

The median total operational millage for achool purpose is 11.66 as low as 7 mills and others as many as 30 mills.

THE ME. THE MEA.



#### Happenings of Long Ago Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

To the Editor.

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To the Editor.

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Doctors in Katanga (14 find.)

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In State School Districts

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15 YEARS AGO
Jan. 2) 1947
Birmingham, 1947 edition has
kethall team will swing into action
Friday night when they meet the
East Detroit quintet in a game a
Baldwin gymnasium. It will b
the first game of the season for th
local five. Coach Lloyd Cooper ha
(See HAPPENINGS, 6-B)

# Talk of the Towns

debate.
I asked local women if they felt the PTA, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Little Legue, Sewing Clubs, Knitting Clubs, Hostess Clubs and Garden Clubs are worth the time spent on them.

'Is it worth it all?

"Is it worth it all?
"We join because we feel we ought to. We think
we owe it to our children to belong to the PTA,
attend all its meetings, collect funds and chauffeur
kids for the Little League, become Den mothers,
Girl Scout leaders, etc., etc., etc.
"We think we should belong to the LWV, the
churchwoman's auxiliary, the garden club, the art
theatre groups, etc., etc., etc.

"We don't really know why. We just think we

SCANLON

should.
"We join and find ourselves sitting through dull speeches, drinking tea with strangers with whom we have nothing in common, serving on the doc-rating committee, the membership committee, the house committee, going to meetings, meetings, meetings.

"I sat down one day and asked myself what I

as accomplishing,
"I decided right then that the organization life

for my children and myself wasn't worth it.
"I quit it all and got a job eight years ago. Now
Mother and Children are doing fine, thank you.
"FUGITIVE FROM THE PTA, ETC., ETC.,

Any other takers on the topic?

# Sidelights

Suburban

HANK HOGAN



With the New Year upon us, it is time to sit back and reflect on our mistakes in the old year, so we don't fall error to them again.

reflect on our mistakes in the old year, so, we don't aim error to them again.

On Christmas our family increased by one: Santa brought that robot commando and he is bigger than our youngest daughter. The only good thing about him is that he doesn't eat much.

The boss didn't give me a raise for Christmas, but he did give me copies of Webster's Dictionary, Roget's Thesaurus' and Bartlett's Familiar Quotations. If I weren't a supreme optimist, I might take it as a hint to improve this corner.

For Christmas the staff of The Eccentric gave a beautiful fishing rod to the publisher and a Waring blender to the associate publisher with a comment that it was for their hobbies. There is a question in the mind of the associate as to exactly what was meant by it.

THERE WAS much conversation about how wonderful it was to have Christmas on Monday, with a full day of relaxing before it. It actually separated the commercialism of the season from the Lord's birthday.

Some people felt that it should be that way all the time and that legislation to that effect be passed. The main problem of course, is that this matter is only within the jurisdiction of the highest authority, and it is difficult to petition that authority for such a change. Some countries have a holiday the day after Christmas, which I think is a wonderful idea. It could be called National Pick Up Day. After all, we have a day after New Year's Eve to pick up.

I HAD THE occasion to watch several boys and girls go through their loof under the Christmas tree. It was kind of interesting to see that the first toys they went to were those nationally advertised on TV, but the presents they spent the most time with were old-fashioned things like painting easels, dolls and puppet stages.

like painting easels, dolls and puppet stages.

As predicted a few weeks ago in this corner, my own daughter got a heauty parlor set to glamorize her dolls, and couldn't understand why the dryer didn't actually work like it did on television.

Speaking of my attack on TV ads, the great mass of readers of this column (my wife) questioned me on how a newspaper man could criticize TV when we could be guilty of the same thing.

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I GUESS IT is obvious that the extra day over Christmas weekend gave me some time to muse. I wondered why some years I got the Christmas spirit early and some years it didn't come until the night before.

The answer I came up with was that I shopped for Christmas at different times each year, and that the Christmas spirit came when you did things for others. With this in mind I hope both you and I can keep the Christmas spirit for the entire coming year.



City Beat KEN

What Birmingham needs is a community-wide Christ-

What Birmingham needs is a community-wide Christmas decorations context.

Of this I'm convinced after viewing the many colorful displays in the Sheffield Estates Subdivision.

John McGill of the subdivision's civic association talked me into helping to judge the association's fifth annual context hast week.

So, the Weathyn Doomis president of the Birmingham Board of Education, and James E. McGuire, group art director for MaxManus, John & Adams—and I toured the streets of the subdivision.

After our second trip around, we chose three prize winners and one honorable mention.

FIRST PRIZE, \$15, went to Mr. and Mrs. William

FIRST PRIZE, \$15, went to Mr. and Mrs. William Hardy at 1910 Humphrey.

They had decorated their living room window with a white wreath and white start, then framed the display by stringing white lights around the front porch.

After the judging was over, we learned that Mrs. Hardy had made the wreath with material from a hula hoop and plastic laundry bags for shirts.

The end result, in my opinion, was a simple but lovely display.

display.

Second prize, \$10, went to the Galen Wickersham home at 1848 Humphrey, a few doors west of the Hardy home.

THE CENTER of their front window regenthed a church window, with blue lights forming the shape of an arch and with the arch filled with the state of a state. Again, we have the state of t

HOSTS FOR the judging were Mr. and Mrs. John Mc-Pherson, 1823 Bradford. And as I write this the thought of Mrs. McPherson's home-made Scottish shortbread lingers deliciously. The displays in this subdivision of some 450 homes in the southeast part of town were many and colorful.

It there were so many fine ones the the southeast part of town were many and colorful. If there were so many fine ones there, think what there would be in the entire city. That's why I think there should be a community-wide contest.

But the judging was difficult, because of the numerous possible winners.

And that's why I wouldn't want to be a judge for a community-wide contest.