

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Support Community House

The Birmingham Community House, an activities center for the entire Birmingham-Bloomfield area, has embarked on its annual fund campaign.

This year, the House asks local citizens to contribute \$50,500, which sum would represent 80 per cent of the total budget.

Through the years, our residents and business establishments have generously contributed to the support of this service organization. They have shared consistently in its success.

We believe that because they recognize the worth and value of the services this traditional activities center offers to the community they will continue to contribute to its support and success.

COMMUNITY HOUSE officers report that last year some 160,000 persons made use of its facilities. Some 1,300 groups held meetings there.

During the year, 42,800 meals were served; 2,000 persons enrolled in the 95 craft and hobby classes conducted at the House.

We cite these figures because they demonstrate vividly the popularity of the House and the useful purpose it so aptly serves.

These services cost money. The Community House must have funds to meet the

expenses incurred in offering these services to the community.

THE 1962 budget includes expenditures for repairs, maintenance and replacement; utilities; personnel payroll, which accounts for 61 per cent of the House's expenses; and such items as insurance, payroll taxes and miscellaneous expenses.

These costs are genuine. They are to be expected in an operation of this kind. And because the House is a community organization, it is quite natural that its main source (80 per cent) of revenue is voluntary contributions. Rentals account for 18 per cent, and interest brings in most of the remaining 20 per cent.

When it comes to raising funds with which to assure continuance of the work of the Community House, its officers recognize the value and importance of communicating its needs and services to the public.

To help inform the public, the Community House last week published a special section of Community House news and pictures which was distributed with The Eccentric.

WE BELIEVE the Community House consistently lives up to its challenge and responsibility.

We believe it deserves our generous support.

Hill Serves Community

In many organizations, a man can be elected president and not be expected to contribute excessively if his name helps the cause.

In other organizations, a man can be elected president if he is capable of offering his time and efforts. If he performs exceptionally well, he is re-elected.

Merritt D. Hill is the type of man who contributes of himself when he accepts such positions. He applies his time, talent and energy.

We have in mind particularly Hill's work with the Boy Scouts. For the third consecutive year, he has been elected president of the Detroit Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

In an activity as vigorous and dynamic as the Boy Scouts, to be re-elected once is a high honor. To be re-elected more than once is one of the most significant honors an organization can bestow.

It is more than saying, "Thanks for a job well done." It is like saying, "You have given us leadership that we don't feel we can find elsewhere."

HILL HAS achieved this distinction with the Boy Scouts. But he has not restricted himself to this one organization. He has

given of himself in like manner to several others.

Professionally, Hill was until last week vice president of Ford Motor Co. and general manager of the Tractor and Implement Division on E. Maple.

In a statement Friday, the company announced that Hill retired in order "to devote more time to personal interests and other business activities."

Henry Ford II, chairman of the board, said Hill "has brought great credit to the Ford organization for his untiring work on behalf of numerous community and service organizations."

HILL SERVES as a director of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Bank, an overseer of Beaumont Hospital, a director of Oakland County Child Guidance Clinics, Inc., and chairman of the finance committee of the Republican Committee of Oakland County.

He also gives of his time and energy as a trustee of the Michigan 4-H Foundation, a lay trustee of the University of Detroit, and chairman of the agriculture committee of the Greater Detroit Board of Commerce.

In all of these activities, Hill demonstrates a keen sense of civic responsibility. We feel that his efforts should be brought to public attention so that others might follow his example.

Learning a Lesson from Beethoven

The theater, often a means of expressing rebellion against tyranny, has once again shown its power to sway an audience to an open expression of its feelings. We refer to the occasion when an East German audience at a performance of the Beethoven opera, "Fidelio," loudly applauded after two numbers in the opera—one extolling the blessings of liberty, the other crying for relief from prison chains.

"Fidelio" was written by Beethoven to celebrate the defeat of Napoleon and the freeing of Europe from the bondage of dic-

tatorship. The hero, Floristan, is unjustly imprisoned by the wicked governor. Only through the faithfulness of his wife, who disguises herself as a man to get into the prison, is he finally liberated.

Dictatorial regimes have often—and with good reason, from their point of view—prohibited the performance of operas and plays depicting the overthrow of tyrants. The East German government probably regrets having allowed the performance of "Fidelio" which so clearly revealed the real sentiments of the audience.

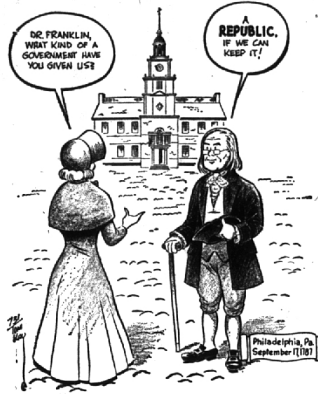
From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Why does Gus Scholle, one of the CIO-UAW union leaders in Michigan, so vigorously oppose George Romney's candidacy as a Republican seeking to be this state's governor? Well, we don't claim to possess a crystal ball... but we know Gus fairly well, and also George. The latter is a natural born leader; so is Gus, in his area of human activity. But Ole Gus, a vigorous practitioner and defender of the Democratic Party, doesn't like anything that's very Republican, it appears. Too, with Soapy Williams governor for 12 years, and now Swainson in the same capacity, Gus and other labor boys and girls have had easy going in Michigan. To be confronted with even the remote possibility of losing his control over our

state's chief executive appears to upset Gus. In a word, to quote one local observer of the political landscape: "Gus is acting like a spoiled kid."

Are you mystified regarding the reasons for the President's brother Bobby going around this earth, visiting high and average people in many countries? If and when Bobby campaigns for his brother's job in 1968, such trips may stand him in good stead, when discussing international conditions. Also, of course, Bobby, being closest of all people to JFK, will be in a better position to advise the White House occupant on foreign subjects.

THE AMERICAN WAY



The REPUBLIC of the United States of America

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Photography Is Art, Cameraman Contends

To the Editor: Our present day photographers, amateur and professional, are divided in their thinking about, and approach to, photography as an art. Let us classify the two dissenters as the contemporary and the pictorialist—each has his place in the sun.

The more popular and the older is the pictorialist. The contemporary has not yet been wholly accepted (as airplanes years ago). About photography's place in the world of art, I would like to present these observations.

PHOTOGRAPHY, regardless of whether contemporary or pictorial, is the art of our time—the art of the masses. Photography is the newcomer in the field of art and any newcomer is met with a certain animosity.

The technique of photography is more facile than the other arts. Photography is universal in the interpretation of the world by everyone regardless of race, creed, or color. Therefore, it is the art of our present-day democracy.

What makes up the two classifications in photography? First, let us consider pictorialism. The pictorialist is interested in creating pictures of beauty and artistic self-expression with the camera, and with the technical tricks of control.

WHETHER THE control is by hand-work, chemical or mechanical, the results are what is important—the finished picture which brings joy and aesthetic self-expression to him. The method used in achieving this result is unimportant, although in most cases a tremendous amount of technical skill is needed.

Some pictorialists work entirely in the straight photographic process, but in the tradition of the classic and romantic fine arts. This class is by far the most popular and predominant in our present-day salons of photography.

THE CONTEMPORARY photographer is interested in creating pictures—they need not be beautiful. The work of the contemporary photographer falls into the following classifications:

PHOTOGRAMS—Introducing light on a sensitized emulsion to produce forms without a camera. CANDID—recording occurrences

realistically through use of the camera's fullest capabilities.

ABSTRACT—experimenting with forms and textures without regard to recognizable subject matter. MONTAGE—combining two or more photos to produce a new picture or meaning.

DOCUMENTARY—preserving a record of the corporation for sewer or disposal plants; to complete the program system that has been commenced it will be necessary to revise our charter.

CREATIVE—Any honest self-expression, whether achieved by complete abstraction or precise realism.

CONTEMPORARY creative photography is doing much to erase the animosity of the arts against camera work, and is becoming more and more acceptable by museums on the level of other arts.

HARVEY CROZE Cranbrook Bloomfield Hills

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

FIFTY YEARS AGO

March 8, 1912 President George E. Taft explained the resolution to be voted upon at the coming village election, asking for a general revision of the charter. The village does not have the right to condemn property outside of the corporation for sewer or disposal plants; to complete the program system that has been commenced it will be necessary to revise our charter.

Robert Moore's son, a resident of Troy, last Sunday night brought his best girl up to church and tied the horse along the side of Shain's Drug Store. After service, he discovered that someone had stolen his rig. The sleigh bells were cut off and laid down by a tree.

On March 21, the Thursday Night Club will hold a St. Patrick's Day banquet in the Johnston-Shaw hall. Only 75 tickets will be sold, owing to the capacity of the hall.

30 YEARS AGO

March 10, 1932 Collection of the 100 per cent assessment from stock-holders of the closed First State Savings Bank, last year, is expected to be entirely completed by April 1. The announcement was made yesterday by Thomas H. Cook, president of the bank, who last week outlined a re-opening plan based on payment of the assessment, and a five-year moratorium on deposits.

Birmingham schools were face to face today with a new financial crisis, more serious than any during the last year. Unless an unexpectedly large amount of school taxes are paid in the township offices before the application of the four per cent penalty March 15, the school board will be forced to adopt drastic economy steps immediately.

A committee to study the possibility of abolishing townships in order to bring about a more concentrated form of government was appointed Tuesday night by the Property Owners division of the Birmingham Real Estate Board.

15 YEARS AGO

March 6, 1947 Mrs. Velma R. Levy, assistant director (See HAPPENINGS, 7-B)

Are College Entrance Tests Carried Too Far?

To the Editor:

"Einstein never would, or had made it of these parents listening in this room," were my thoughts racing about a week ago Monday night after having "college tests" explained thoroughly.

College scholastic tests are necessary. We all realize that. (We don't want stupid fellows getting in, of all things) but

Have we, in our new-found enthusiasm for statistics, numbers and machine-like outcomes, gone too far in our love-affair with this testing business? (The November issue of Fortune contains a delightful humorous article on how statistics can, if used rightly, say anything the writer wishes to say.)

ARE WE, with our stressing of early high school testing, pushing toward what college demands in our students, creating a situation in our high schools that isn't exactly healthy for our students? Will we eventually "teach" only those subjects that colleges grade on and consider important?

Will our students become so enervated (See TESTS, 7-B)

Talk of the Towns

Take a good look friends...



Your trusty—now officially an Art Carney of The Eccentric—saw a recent Saturday in this shaft looking over tunneling equipment and procedures being used to dig the 12 Towns Drain.

Aside from my dandy cold and my camera's

first literal exposure to the snow, the trip was an interesting one.

We descended 27 feet via a spiral staircase to the Captain Horatio Hornblower. Once submerged below the surface of the earth, we began to realize just how much work really does go into putting something down the drain.

The tunneling equipment shown at left chews away at the clay which is in turn dumped into a small rail car and hauled back to the shaft where it is removed.

Following behind the tunneling equipment are huge drum-like forms that act as molds for cement that is poured down through a hole in the surface above.

The particular portion of drain that we viewed was being poured because of the depth. Where it lies closer to the surface, pre-cast pipes are used.

Walking through a nine-foot high storm drain tunnel creates a rather eerie feeling. It sort of makes you silently hope no one turns the wrong lever while you're down there.

It also brings home that bonding costs and engineering plans and negotiations and meetings and boundaries and all the other confusing things that go on do eventually lead to something concrete—namely, a drain.

It is a fascinating thing to tour.

Try it some time. But—bundle up and rope on all cameras!

Suburban Sidelights

By HANK HOGAN



When a man enters the public eye, what part of his and his family's personal life becomes fair game for the public to invade?

This problem was brought home to me recently during John Glenn's orbital flight. The nation sat tensely waiting to see if Col. Glenn would return to earth alive.

Since they could not follow him around the world, the TV cameras were focused on his home. Reporters and newscasters were trying various means to get an interview from his wife and children during the four-hour wait.

I'm not sure what television expected to accomplish by the interview, unless it wanted to be the first to relay the anguished expression on Mrs. Glenn's face if they found that Col. Glenn had not survived the trip.

Maybe they wanted to win a prize. In all sports photography contest the awards seem to be given to the person who captures the most tortured expression during an athletic event.

IN MY OPINION the effort to find out what the Glenns were doing had crossed the line between what is private and what is public. True, many people were curious but did they have a right to know?

On top of crossing the private-public line I think it crossed the thick line of what is good taste.

The newsworthiness of the flight was not what the family was doing to overcome the tension of the occasion. This is merely one example. Another is an elected official being subject to telephone calls during nights and on Sundays.

A LOCAL LEGISLATOR relayed a recent happening to him.

During their session legislators do not get home for dinner with their family very often.

A group of people interested in certain proposed legislation started a telephone campaign, and one after the other called the local representative's home from five o'clock in the afternoon until well into the evening. I'm sure you have all tried to feed a family and get them to bed when the telephone continually rings all evening long.

Judging from the reaction of the legislator, these tactics could possibly hurt the bill more than they could help it.

Our justices of the peace are continually plagued by midnight calls to get a drunken driver out of the county jail. These people have office hours and should not be penalized because someone else could not control his actions.

I DO NOT subscribe to the theory that as soon as you attract attention, you automatically open the door to the public to come into your private life and use it as they want.

There is an element of reasonableness, that seems to be lacking on occasion.

The public life of a man in the public eye is of course subject to comment. So is his private life if he violates the standard of living which the public expects of Caesar's wife.

It is where I draw the line. It is subject to comment, but not to invasion.

By KEN WEAVER

City Beat

Charles Renfrew and Carl Ingraham have no opposition for the April 2 election.

Both commissioners have served Birmingham capably and faithfully for a long period of time. Both have much to offer in the way of leadership and talent.

Renfrew, for instance, in the past year came up with a financial arrangement for paying Birmingham's 12 Town Drain assessment that saved the city several thousand dollars.

On occasion, I have differed with Ingraham on his role as a county supervisor, but otherwise I feel his voting record more than adequately qualifies him for re-election.

WHAT BOTHERS me is that in this community of so many high-ranking executives we have no one else interested in serving their community at this time—at least no one else interested enough to offer competition.

I hold Messrs. Renfrew and Ingraham in high esteem, but I cannot believe there are no others sufficiently qualified to serve as commissioners.

I find it difficult to believe that there is no one else with the high feeling of devotion and dedication to the community that these men must possess.

The job pays \$5 per meeting. It requires time and effort besides the opportunity to help shape the city's future, it offers a certain amount of prestige and publicity and public relations value.

Despite the low pay, these should be sufficient inducement to attract more people of the Renfrew-Ingraham caliber to serve their government.

ON THIS SUBJECT of candidates, think what a team George Romney and Mrs. G. Howard Willett Jr. would make.

Mayor Willett has gained a reputation of great intelligence, understanding, wit, grace and knowledge of city business in her role as commissioner and mayor. I think almost any public relations firm in the nation would be overjoyed to have her on its payroll.

Given a chance to become thoroughly acquainted with the scope of state affairs, Mrs. Willett could become Michigan's first woman lieutenant governor.

"Vote for Romney-Willett."

Then, given the same opportunity to fully educate herself, I can see Mrs. Willett moving on to become:

The first woman governor of Michigan.

The first woman Vice President of the United States.

The first woman President.

The Aeronautics and Space Administration hasn't named the rocket intended for landing a manned expedition on the moon. They needn't worry; if the rocket fails it will be called lots of names.

Sociologists blame parents for the large number of early marriages. Why not? Parents get blamed for everything else.

Brunettes outnumbered blondes five to four in the annual selection of the best coiffured women of 1961. They won by a head.

A health official discounts the fall-danger in snow. But nobody discounts the fall-danger in ice.