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# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Thursday, May 3, 1962

# EDITORIAL

SECTION B

## Summarizing Airport Issue

The Eccentric over the past two months has published seven articles on the proposed new jet airport for Oakland County. It has attempted to review objectively the many facets of such a project so that the public can make a valid and unprejudiced judgment on the project and make its opinions known to local supervisors.

The articles have covered everything from location to necessity and have aroused strong supporters and opponents. The Eccentric emphasizes that it is neither proponent or opponent. It is merely doing, through its reporting efforts, what the county should have done before voting to proceed with initial purchase of land.

IN OUR investigation we have found that the county followed the law and did only what it had a legal right to do. To every criticism it has responded that even if the airport never materializes, the people will not suffer any financial loss, because the property purchased can be resold for at least what the county paid for it.

The county has justified its position by stating that its action was prompted by good forward planning. We find little fault with this.

The area in which The Eccentric remains highly critical of the county board of supervisors is the swiftness of its actions between the time they publicly announced the project and the time they actually voted to go ahead. This, we feel, violated a fundamental principle of government. The public has a right to know how its money is being spent and should be allowed sufficient time to make its objections known.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE that an element of secrecy was needed to hold the price of the property down, but once it was publicly announced the board should have given the public more time before voting to go ahead.

Unlike the Birmingham Board of Education before the recent millage election, or the Bloomfield Township Board before changing its zoning ordinance, the county failed to communicate with and interpret its action to the people.

The area of public relations is not confined to the business arena.

THE SECOND area of criticism that we might raise is that the airport was touted as "the second major jet airport for the Metropolitan Detroit area." The likelihood of this becoming a major airport is some-

what remote since the airlines have indicated to our reporters that they would be reluctant to invest in the capital expenditures that would be needed to relocate after only recently moving to the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. "Metro" Airport is just finishing a 25 million dollar expansion, itself.

The airlines are also less than overjoyed at the prospect of splitting their services among two airports. In the major cities that have tried this, there has been more criticism from the public than compliments.

ANOTHER AREA of controversy that has not been fully explained is the flight patterns around the proposed airport. Weather changes flight patterns. If the planes are routed or "stacked" over the suburban areas of Birmingham and Bloomfield, any asset the county might gain in new industrial development would not necessarily offset the loss of property values in the millions of dollars worth of homes in one of the finest residential areas in the state.

The last area of controversy that concerns The Eccentric is not criticism of the county board of supervisors, but of the laws of the State of Michigan. Under the present law the county can commit its taxpayers to a business enterprise which could cost up to 100 million dollars without consultation or approval from the voters.

IF THE AIRPORT is constructed and loses money, the taxpayers would not only carry the burden, directly or indirectly, of part of the original capital expense, but also any annual cost to keep it in operation.

We feel we have done our duty by letting the people know how the airport came about; the legal questions surrounding the preliminary acquisition of land; its location; the arguments for or against its necessity; its cost and how this will be paid; its advantage in luring new tax base to the county; and the reasons why other areas were not selected.

It is now up to the people to let their supervisors know if the development of such an airport is in the best interests of the county.

If the citizenry does not voice an opinion now, pro or con, the county will invest time and money on a project without knowing whether the public will second guess them later, at a time when it may be too costly to stop.

## Church Life Is a Gratification

The idea of carrying religious belief to the point of sacrifice, even of martyrdom if need be, has long been considered of central importance. In our time, as in centuries past, there are men and women who make notable sacrifices in the name of their faith.

Many clergymen appear to feel, however, that the idea—and certainly the practice—of sacrifice is becoming less and less popular. They see institutional religion burgeoning, but without any corresponding rise in devotion to the demanding ideals that undergird faith.

One minister recently said, for example: "Church life is mainly a gratification, and seldom a sacrifice."

WHAT HE HAD in mind was that many people, perhaps to a majority in most churches, the church offers enjoyment and pleasure—beautiful music, candle light, inspirational messages from the minister, happy social intercourse at gatherings in the dining hall—without any obligation other than that of financial support.

This is all pleasant, but it is very far from the concept of putting selfish considerations aside and acting out of devotion to God.

To do that requires sacrifice, and sacrifice is not easy. Yet it is worth noting that persons who follow that exacting course are often among the happiest we know. There may be a connection.

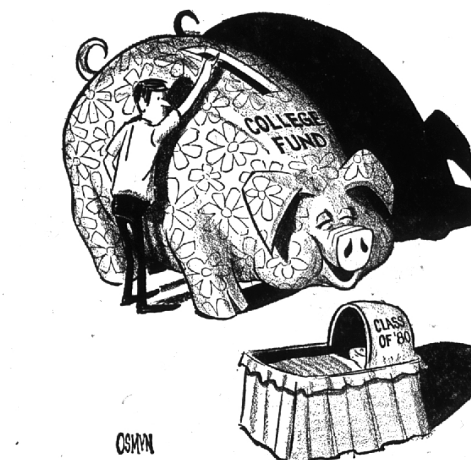
## From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Apparently, say some important members of Congress in their cloak rooms, the President is not liked because one of his staunch Senate supporters, Jackson of Washington, made a speech attacking the United Nations. The Senator openly said that he is critical of the ever-increasing role played by the UN in making U.S. foreign policies. To this, Adlai Stevenson, U.S. representative in the UN, took an opposite view. Indeed, Adlai got quite upset... but JFK did nothing to appease Adlai. Which appears to mean that the President, too, is beginning to question the wisdom of allowing the UN more so "loaded" with votes of new member nations that can't even pay their dues; to say nothing of their handful of citizens, compared with the United States, Britain, France, etc.) to give voice to important U.S. foreign policies.

Wonder if famed early American Buffalo Bill Cody is becoming restless as, from his celestial hunting lodge, he learns that buffalo meat is gaining favor in a number of western parts of the

U.S.A. For the first time in 80 years this once-common meat is staging a comeback. A very large buffalo ranch in Wyoming recently did some test-marketing of their product in the San Francisco area; sold nearly four tons in two days. "Tastes as good as good beef" was the reaction of most who sampled the stuff at their dining tables. (This animal, once counted in millions; almost disappeared from the western prairies.)

U.S. Treasurer Elizabeth Rudel Smith is trying to get Congress to allow her to print various denominations of paper money in different colors. She argues that other nations do this; that identification of various denominations of the bills will be easier; and that it will be more difficult to counterfeit this currency. This said, too, that the paper to be used for the new currency is stronger and tougher, and will last longer... but this lasting only refers to its circulation life... not to its ability to purchase more.



CSW

## Never Too Late to Start

## THE GOLDEN YEARS

Money business.

Specifically, the money business of a man and wife, both 52 years old, who intend to retire at age 62.

Month  
Husband's Social Security \$100  
Wife's Social Security \$80  
Husband's pension 70  
Husband's profit-sharing plan 25

Total \$275

The couple owns two small houses, side by side. They live in one and rent out the other for \$60 a month. At the moment they have \$10,000 in savings. Their income is \$15,000 before they are 62.

"WE NEVER made an attempt to keep up with the Joneses," the wife says, "so we don't have their headaches. We buy a new station wagon every three years, and our furniture is sturdy, late grand-mother, immediate aunt, early action... and paid for."

There is one child, married and well-established.

What are the leaks in this couple's retirement plan?

A COUPLE of 52 planning retirement at 62 is sniffling the roses of a 52-year-old garden. At 62 the garden has different flowers. It is difficult for people to understand this.

But a couple must plan. And age 52 is not too soon for it. So what, beyond money, should be added to the roof to prevent the leaks?

HEALTH — The cemetery is crowded with men and women who died between ages 52 and 62. A couple at 52 should go to a doctor, even before counting the money, to find what they can do to prolong their lives into their 60's and longer, and what they can do to keep from being invalids.

SEX—AT 52 it is not what it is at 52. The couple—or more likely the male part of the couple—often contends with a fading vigor in the early 50's and tends to associate

retirement with rejuvenation. Retirement at 62, whatever vigor might remain, should be for other things.

STATUS—THERE is a big bit of it at 52, much less of it at 62. Youth is still associated with the early 50's and there are jobs in the church, civic affairs, the company that can be had. Especially in the company, because in the mid-50's or late 50's many men hit their peaks in careers. So a certain amount of glamor attaches to a man who still may go somewhere.

Therefore the couple of 52 who plans retirement at 62 should know they will not be as desirable to others when retirement comes as they are now, and develop something within themselves that will give them the status they want.

ENERGY—MUCH of it gets up and goes between 52 and 62. The couple at 52 should plan activities and learn to be content with activities—that they see 62-year-olds following. There are many of them.

For a sample of the new Golden Years booklet by Thomas Collins, send 15 cents to: Thomas Collins, 908 N. 17th St., Grand Central Station, New York 17, N.Y.

Fabrics of the future may be woven of stainless steel wire drawn half as thick as human hair, according to a leading scientist in the textile field. He also predicted that home carpets with wirewoven fibers would be connected to solar cells, which convert sunlight into electricity, and would be used to help heat the home.

American steel companies spent a total of more than one billion dollars in 1961 in the form of capital outlay on new plants and facilities; and to provide better steel for the nation. It is estimated that another 1-1/2 billion dollars will be expended in 1962.

## Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

May 3, 1912

When a local blind woman who plays the accordion saw a genial looking man stop to read her placard she quickened her tune in the support. Six years work would give her some money, but he gave her advice instead.

Said he: "Have you read that sign of yours lately?"

She said she had not.

"Well," said he, "you'd better, and then have it edited. It is dated six years ago and says you have six small children dependent upon your efforts with this instrument for support. Six years work would give you some money, but he gave her advice instead."

Captain Wilhelm and passengers of the steamer, Bremen, which arrived in New York, that last Saturday while in latitude 42 north, longitude 49 west, in the vicinity of where the Titanic hit an iceberg, his vessel plowed through fields of bodies of the victims of the disaster.

There has been no charge for telephone messages between Royal Oak and Birmingham for some years, although it is well known, a toll is made between points similarly located.

It is decided, therefore, to notify the public that effective May 1, 1912, the regular toll charge is 10 cents for service between these points.

30 YEARS AGO

May 3, 1932

Over-riding a proposed amendment which would have reduced the total by over \$16,000 the Village Commission Monday night adopted, set to break the news to Big Sister who was already back in her dorm writing a term paper.

A frustrated veterinarian, his reaction lived up to his expectations but he thinks she broke the sound barrier.

by IRMA N. DAVIS



## Once Over Lightly

The Easter Bunny made an extra trip to our house early last week.

On Sunday, he brought the traditional chocolate animals, colored eggs and a replica of himself in a most unlikely hue.

Twenty-four hours later, he sneaked back into a secluded corner of the basement and in a near-sighted sort of way mistook a piece of upholstered porch furniture for another Easter basket.

The animals he left this time were real—three tiny, mewling kittens.

His mother, Mrs. Tang, scorned the gift at first—perhaps thinking it was a case of mistaken identity. She is a cat with character, a cat who gets herself into high places and refuses to come down.

She does on dog food and bay friends are as off-beat as her diet. One of them even had his picture in The Eccentric once, because he climbs trees—an unusual habit in a dog.

AT ANY RATE, Mrs. Tang seemed bent on shedding her responsibilities and disclaiming her kin.

But our household's Miss Eight accepted the bounty with an open heart. She appointed herself chairman of communications and relayed vital statistics to anyone with a telephone.

Big brother, home from college at the count-down, stood guard and introduced the new residents to all the small fry visitors. Used to the speed with which good news travels in a small community, he was soon agast at the chain-reaction of Miss Eight's bulletins.

Toward midnight, Mrs. Tang accepted the in-

evitable, discarded her air of bemused shock and became complacently and snugly maternal.

IT'S A WONDER the kittens lived through it. Apparently trying to instill a spirit of togetherness, their mother first carefully deposited her family on the cold concrete floor and snuggled up to them.

Then she moved them to new and warmer quarters near the furnace and moved them away when the blower roared into action. She didn't like a site near the pump and finally settled for an empty dog-food carton—Home Sweet Home.

Big B took a final spin and left for school, set to break the news to Big Sister who was already back in her dorm writing a term paper.

A frustrated veterinarian, his reaction lived up to his expectations but he thinks she broke the sound barrier.

NOW, 10 DAYS later, the situation has calmed down.

Miss Eight is back in classes after spring vacation and the traffic to the basement is nil until the hour after school. The two in college have run out of stamps and the flow of mail has slowed to the usual trickle.

Mrs. Tang is still making like a mother cat albeit sticking to her dog-food, but at least the kittens aren't barking.

They haven't opened their eyes yet, which is just as well. After all, they're only babies and it may be a bare-raising experience when they find their mama is a cat and not a crazy mixed-up Easter Bunny.

## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



Whenever I notice a police officer in my rear vision mirror, even though I am proceeding in the most lawful manner, somehow the palms of my hands perspire a little bit and my knees start to shake just slightly.

Unfortunately, I think, this is a typical American reaction.

In Canada a police officer is looked upon as a friend. Being an officer is a noble profession that people look up to.

Here in the United States a policeman is looked upon as an adversary, ready to pounce upon some poor unsuspecting lawbreaker.

It is time that we change our attitude and stop breeding this fear into our children. If the kids got to know our police officers, they would respect them and our growing rate of juvenile delinquency would stop. They think it is smart to try to outwit the police instead of learning to work with them.

LOOKING AT a police officer objectively, he is generally a courageous, fair-minded and underpaid public servant who works day and night so that we may work and sleep in peace.

I have on several occasions spent a night in a Bloomfield Township police car, and it is an education that every citizen should share.

When I first started to ride with them, there was only one officer in a car. With a single officer every time a car is stopped he risks his life. If the stopped car is stolen or the occupants are fleeing from something, they can take a pot shot at the officer and he has no one to back him up.

A COUPLE OF years ago, one of the new township officers had just passed his probationary period and was out in a car by himself.

When we came upon a parked car and got out to investigate. On the floor of the back seat were two teen-agers and an older man. One of the teen-agers hopped into the front seat and sneed off. The officer called for help and the car was apprehended.

It turned out that the teen-agers had kidnapped the older man and they admitted later that if they had known the officer was alone, they would have shot him.

The first night I was in a car, we got a call that a resident heard gunfire in the area of Lahser and Hickory Grove roads.

When we arrived we found a parked car with five armed men. They had been "coon" hunting in the swamp nearby. While the officer searched their car I realized what a spot a one-man car was in. As a matter of fact, I was scared stiff. But this is an every night occurrence for them. At least I was there to radio for help if something happened.

I ALSO FOUND while riding with the police that they were reasonable in issuing tickets. Less than one person in five who was stopped actually received a citation.

The rest, however, got a very stern lecture. The official (SEE ECCENTRICITIES, 1-B)

By KEN WEAVER

## City Beat

Last year's Michigan Week chairman in Birmingham did such an outstanding job that she was chosen county chairman this year.

She, of course, is the mayor of this fine city—Mrs. G. Howard Willett Jr.

Part of the secret of her success lies in her ability to select capable leaders.

Take, for instance, Troy Mayor Robert J. Huber, whom Mrs. Willett chose to promote the county achievement and product of the year contests.

Huber sent letters to 4,000 clubs, service groups and businesses asking for nominations for the two county awards.

WILLET

HIS COMMITTEE chose two winners (announced in The Eccentric last week) that should compete favorably on both the regional and state level.

Now consider Mrs. Willett's selection for Birmingham's Michigan Week chairman—F. Ward Ouradnik, the man who directs Community House activities.

Ouradnik has planned several events that should make this year's celebration Birmingham's most exciting Michigan Week. Among these are a concert by an Air Force band, a joint service club luncheon, an art exhibit, an outdoor fashion show and a fishing carnival.

In addition, she has planned activities on a county-wide basis and to help other communities plan their own observances. Mrs. Willett last week sent each Michigan Week chairman a summary of all activities planned to date.

In this corner, at least, the firm conviction is that she is doing a terrific job.

AND WHILE bouquets are being handed out, let's include Birmingham City Manager L. R. Gare.

To put it mildly, Gare has the patience of Job.

Many a time I have witnessed him holding back his temper while some unthinking resident made disparaging remarks. He may count up to 10 first, but he does maintain his composure.

Last week, a commissioner asked whether a certain letter had been answered. Gare said frankly that he deliberately refrained from replying for a few days until he could do so calmly and rationally.

It just so happened that a copy of the letter in question had been sent to this newspaper. Suffice it to say that the tenor of the epistle was such that it would quicken almost anyone to anger.

In his position, Gare must consistently listen to distortions of facts, misinterpretations, misunderstandings and unkind (though usually unintentional) remarks.

For my book, he does it exceptionally well.

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