

## They Made It a Success

In retrospect, this year's local and regional Michigan Week observance appears to have been the most active and, therefore, the most popular and successful ever planned in this locale.

Through the leadership of regional chairman Charles F. Adams and Oakland County chairman Florence H. Willett, the county and regional activities attracted greater public interest and support than any previous Michigan Week.

For the jam-packed calendar of events in Birmingham, credit must go to community chairman F. Ward Ouradnik and his committee.

Adams is executive vice president of the Bloomfield Hills advertising agency of MacManus, John & Adams; Mrs. Willett, of course, is Birmingham's mayor; and Ouradnik is executive director of the Community House.

ATTESTING TO the quality of their leadership besides the planning and the actual programs are their selections of the various chairmen to work out details.

Another MJ&A executive, Virgil LaMarre, deserves public recognition for the time and effort he put into the county and regional programs.

Organizations like MJ&A contribute to the success of such programs as Michigan Week through the people and the resources they make available for them.

And certainly the city and county officials themselves cannot be overlooked; without their cooperation, time and effort

such observances could not be accomplished.

WHILE SPACE limitations prevent commenting on all facets of the local program, some attention must be given to the emphasis on culture.

Selection of Bloomfield Art Association as the county and regional Achievement of the Year award winner attests to the significance of that organization's conversion of the old sewage plant into a community arts center and its entire arts program.

In an address at the Community House on Livelihood Day, H. D. (Ted) Doan of Dow Chemical Corp. called attention to the fact that "many of the highly trained, creative scientific minds in this country view the Midwest as a cultural desert."

Therefore, he said, there is a challenge "for us to hasten the progressive efforts already being made" in Michigan culture.

IT IS APPROPRIATE at this time to draw reader attention to an article, entitled "Detroit: Culture Bumper-to-Bumper," in the June issue of *Shopper*, a show business publication.

It comments on the locally written and produced arts magazine, *Impressario*; BAA and its program at the arts center; Cranbrook Academy of Art; and The Eccentric's new cultural (Arts of Living) section.

YES, MICHIGAN Week is behind us. It was a highly popular and successful one. Time now to look to next year's celebration. May it be even better.



'They Remembered!'

### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## 2 More Hopefuls Add 'Hope' to State Race

To the Editor:

With spring here, things are really perking up for the Aug. 1 primary elections.

Two more hopeful candidates for governor have joined the race. This will give us voters a choice and a chance to make our influence felt in each major party by nominating the best qualified man for the high office.

The petitions are being circulated for L. Montgomery Shepard, president of Berrien County Abstract & Title Co., of St. Joseph, Mich. Shepard is a Republican by conviction and not by expediency, a diligent party worker for the last 24 years.

He is known as a conservative American, who has taken a firm stand against the state income tax.

MR. GEORGE Corey, manager of Corey Glass Co., Lansing, is

running as an independent Republican, who prefers to be known as "traditionalist and more American than Republican."

Corey's program is "government economy and tax levy on gross income, repealing all other state and local taxes."

The need for a strong government on a state level is paramount to protect the State Rights from the encroachment of federal bureaucrats. One World Internationalists and socialist do-gooders.

WE NEED a man who believes in the principles that made this country a symbol of great achievements.

We must all participate in primary elections as they are more important than the November elections—otherwise we will lose by default.

S. OLSHANSKA  
Birmingham

## Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

May 31, 1912

An article appearing in a recent issue of the Royal Oak Tribune speaks strongly against civic improvements in our village; speaks of it in such a way as to inflame the minds of the classes who should be influenced to think for the betterment of the village. Such an influence is always pernicious in the extreme, rousing the minds of the inferior and ignorant classes and working to defeat that which goes for the biggest and best.

The Eastern high school team lost to the Birmingham high school outfit by a score of 14-1 in Mack Park Friday afternoon of last week. The Indians started out in the lead, but could not maintain the advantage and in the last innings of the game Birmingham ran wild on the bases.

History points out that the township of Bloomfield furnished more soldiers for the Civil War, than any other town in Oakland County.

30 YEARS AGO

May 26, 1932

Hearings for five of the six men accused of felonies in Judge Frank L. Doyle's one-man grand jury investigation of the affairs of the closed Pontiac Commercial and Savings Bank in which several members of the staff at The Eccentric were depositors and stockholders are scheduled to be held in Pontiac Municipal Court next Thursday, June 7.

(See HAPPENINGS, 5-B)

by

IRMA N. DAVIS



## Study Showed Fluoride As 'Cause of Illness'

To the Editor:

I have been very concerned since I learned that the Birmingham City Commission has sent a recommendation to Detroit that they approve the addition of fluoride to public drinking water.

I suffered fluoride poisoning, which caused arthritis, from our well which contained less fluoride

than is being added to drinking water. After this was discovered by my doctor through several tests, I began drinking distilled water. I began to improve in a few days and within six weeks I was able to use my hands again.

IN ORDER TO prove that fluoride (See PEOPLE'S COLUMN, 7-B)

## Once Over Lightly

Apathetic? Overly confident?

The pundits and the commentators claimed these adjectives for the American people last week as the time drew near for Scott Carpenter's orbital flight.

That wasn't the way we saw it—not here at The Eccentric, anyway.

BIRMINGHAM AREA residents who dropped into the news office altered their usual approach. They didn't ask for the managing editor or the sports editor—or whichever reporter—instead they began with "Is he still up there?"

Later in the day their question changed to "Have they found him?"

Still later, "When are they going to pick him up?"

Some of them stayed to listen to the broadcasts coming in over a radio brought in by an "apathetic" staffer.

THE ECCENTRIC that day, as it had been during all of Michigan Week, was periodically host to children from various school groups, escorted around the building by proofreader Bill Dove.

Bill was all primed after the first group and, instead of introducing himself to the youngsters, he started out with a bulletin on Carpenter. A few in his audiences informed HIM, having acquired up-to-the-minute information, en route to the newspaper, by some form of snailmail radar.

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER Al Mitchell, back from a "society" assignment, reported that a kindly group of women switched their television set back on when he arrived so that he would get a progress report. It was the topic wherever he went with his trusty camera, Al said.

Some of the staff at The Eccentric were a bit sleepy when they arrived for work—their little ones were up at six, all set to go into orbit right next Thursday, June 7.

LES LANGFORD of the newspaper's advertising department stopped in at a Birmingham Supermarket during the course of the day's business. The manager had obligingly connected a radio to the store's public address system.

The shoppers looked rather bemused, he said. They were obviously more interested in the space adventure than in stocking the family larder. Nevertheless, the shop grocery carts were full—though the tension in the long period when Carpenter was apparently missing may have resulted in some unusual purchases.

APATHY there may have been, but not around Birmingham.

The comment of a second-grader in a local school sums it up as far as we're concerned.

Said he to his parents as they sat at the dinner table, "Gee whiz, we only got to hear it on a little old transistor radio at school. Gee whiz."

## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



Every day we ask ourselves why does the state need more money? Every year it seems we are plagued with some sort of new tax, and the word economy seems long forgotten.

Yet, the average citizen who feels this way usually says, "Let's cut spending, except in..."

Take primary and secondary education, for example. Most of us think that our local public schools are supported by our local property taxes. What most of us don't realize is that above and beyond our local taxes, the state pays each school district \$205, less deductible millage, for each student enrolled in its system.

The state also pays additional fees for driver training courses, transportation and other extras.

UP TO TWO years ago this allocation was covered by 2% of the 4% sales tax which is earmarked for education. Last year the population explosion pushed this into the general fund of the state because the earmarked funds just didn't cover the money needed.

Three years ago the state took nothing out of the general fund for this "School Aid Formula." Two years ago the state paid \$12 million toward it, last year \$46 million; and we have to add \$15 million more this spring to take care of some unexpected children. Next year we will have to take out of the general fund approximately \$75 million.

In three years this appropriation has jumped from 0% to over 14% of the general fund with no apparent sign of letting up.

As a matter of fact, educators are campaigning this year to raise the \$205 figure to \$224 per child. This would cost the state an additional \$16 million and raise the percentage to close to 20% of the general fund.

Also, as more money is appropriated to education, teacher salaries usually rise. When this happens the state must appropriate 2 1/2% of the increased teacher salaries into the school retirement fund.

This is why this is known as an open end mortgage. This is one of the reasons why the state needs more money this year and will need more next year.

AS LONG AS we are on the subject, possibly we should take a look at teacher salaries. It has long been the cry that teachers are grossly underpaid. It is difficult to carry this banner now.

The superintendent of public instruction recently announced that the average salary for non-administrative teachers in Michigan last year was \$6,200.

Everyone admits that it is hard for a male teacher to raise a family on this, but most teachers are female.

A female college graduate has no trouble getting \$4,800 for 28 weeks of work. A young lawyer with seven years of college will start at \$4,800 for 50 weeks of work.

Add to this average the fringe benefits of a 38-week year and a generous pension. Few teachers have to work after 4:30 on a Friday afternoon.

THERE YOU HAVE in a capsule one of the programs that is competing for your dollar. As long as this appropriation continues in this form you will be faced with more taxes each year.

A state income tax would only take care of the first year.

By

KEN WEAVER

## City Beat

Who is this man Willett?

He's the husband of Birmingham's vivacious mayor. He's a father and grandfather.

But what kind of man is he? What does he do? What are his interests?

An opportunity to study the man came with his tour of Detroit at his wife's side on the Government Day mayoral exchange.

Obviously, G. Howard Willett was accompanying his wife not as a dutiful husband but as an interested participant.

He asked questions, he engaged in conversations, he took pictures.

MR. WILLETT has his own manufacturing company, the Standard Fuel Engineering Corp. near Ft. Wayne in Detroit. He manufactures heat-treating equipment.

He commutes 22 miles to work each day, varying his (See CITY BEAT, 5-B)



Mr. Willett: 'Stringing along with photographers'

## Business Outlook Called Good

The National Industrial Conference Board, a group of economists possessing a noteworthy record for prognostication, have come up with a business forecast. For the remainder of 1962, according to these experts, business will continue its winning ways. Not until mid 1963 can they see any serious economic question marks.

This prediction will be received with open arms. The investment community especially has been apprehensive over the behavior of the stock market and will welcome this assurance that 1962 should finish strong. For it is the market which has been going against the stream of an otherwise buoyant economy.

Retail sales, for example, which are basic to the robustness of business, climbed to

record heights during April. And new car sales, a staple ingredient in any business picture, went over 600,000 for the second time in history.

Another factor which persuaded these forecasters to be optimistic is the bright outlook for construction. As we enter the summer season, normally the best for this industry, prospects are excellent. Contracts have been let which should keep builders busy throughout 1962.

There are, of course, the imponderables. Most of these may be found on the international scene, Southeast Asia in particular. But barring any impetuosity from that quarter the recovery cycle should stay with us for a year or more.

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

President Kennedy and his "brain trusters" are hell-bent to put over a "health" measure. The American Medical Association calls Kennedy's bill "a phoney." The President calls the AMA some very bad names ... asks the nation's Senior Citizens to believe politicians rather than the medical men. Mr. Kennedy's plan, say his opponents, would thrust U.S. medical care into the hands of federal bureaucrats. But Mr. Kennedy says his desire to have the federal government intervene in more and more of the people's traditional private affairs really isn't "a power grab." Naturally, in the power hungry politician's lexicon it is called "general welfare." (However, he does believe it will win his party more votes, if Congress enacts it: READER: never forget that most politicians no longer are "statesmen"; for, since the statesman always looks toward the next generation, the politician generally gazes only as far as the next election.)

Selection of Arthur G. Elliott, Jr., of Pleasant Ridge, as his campaign manager ought to bring George Romney much needed help in the latter's efforts to become Michigan's next governor—and a Republican, at that. Elliott has been a success as chairman of the Oakland County Republican Committee, which gave him much "political know-how" also, he has just completed his assignment as a delegate to the recent Constitutional Convention, where he was chairman of the Committee on Local Government.

France's Charles de Gaulle certainly proves himself a brave man ... brave not only in war, but perhaps more so upon the "battlegrounds of French civics." His success in unifying Algeria from France, plus his ability to unify his nation when it was almost prostrate, gives him great leadership status.

Commenting on the manner in which President Kennedy "cracked down" on U.S. Steel, the *Bojones of Big Beaver* said: "Reminds me of the Irish policeman in Brooklyn who cautioned to a wrongdoer in his custody: 'I don't hate yuh becz I hate yuh ... but just to show me authority!'"

Some who criticize President Kennedy's choice of Byron "Whizzer" White for the Supreme Court seem to fear that he's trying to put over a fast one.

Russians voted for a single slate of Communist-approved candidates for the Soviet parliament. This is political harmony. It sounds more like monotony.

Hopes of a federal budget surplus are fading as the year gets a slow start. Hopes of a personal budget surplus fade, too, as the income tax deadline nears.

We certainly hold no brief for Billie Sol Estes, the Texan who is under investigation for alleged wrongdoing in connection with his relations with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. He reported that this 37-year-old chap may have swindled others of millions ... and possibly Uncle Sam may be one of his victims. What a great spectacle is being made of this mess ... what a good thing it would be for the U.S. Pocketbook if some of the "legalized swindling" (by certain officials of foreign nations) that goes in the name of some foreign aid were exposed. The Estes affair could be small peanuts by comparison.

Begins to look as though Monaco's Prince Ranier, who married actress Grace Kelly, is running into financial difficulties. His 370 acres, situated on the shore of the Mediterranean, with a population of less than 20,000, long has enjoyed a sort of glamorous sovereignty, its chief income obtained from the famous gambling casino at Monte Carlo. Recently, France has sought to levy national taxes on Monaco; Grace's husband has opposed this ... but the French proletariat, "on the march to wider socialistic programs," probably wants to restore the Prince and his establishment to the performance of activities of a more practical and productive nature.

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