

IN THIS SECTION:  
 Editorial  
 School News  
 Church  
 General News

# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Thursday, November 1, 1962

**EDITORIAL**  
 SECTION B

## Six Candidates We Prefer

The Birmingham Eccentric supports the election on Nov. 6 of George Romney, Alvin M. Bentley, William S. Broomfield, Farrell E. Roberts, Ray Baker and Roy Russell.

We have studied carefully the statements, the campaigns, the announced beliefs of all of the candidates and believe that the above men will best represent the citizenry.

**ROMNEY, WE FEEL**, through his management positions with American Motors, has demonstrated that he possesses the administrative and business capabilities required by the state's top executive office. In his role as chairman of Citizens for Michigan and Con-Con delegate, he gained a thorough knowledge of the functions, needs and problems of our state government.

And he has shown that he has the ability to prepare solutions to those problems.

**ALTHOUGH A CANDIDATE** on the Republican ticket, Romney has strongly urged greater citizen interest in government. He knows full well the value of citizen participation.

He would, in our opinion, lend a sensitive ear to the needs and wants of all the citizenry; he would encourage and foster more representative government.

One great problem that has plagued Michigan the last 14 years is the party difference between the chief executive officer and the legislature. As a result programs of both have been stymied, in the legislative halls and in the form of a veto by the governor.

**THE LOSER**, of course, has not been the governor or the legislature—but the State of Michigan, which has gotten deeper and deeper in debt.

Romney should be elected governor, we believe. He has the ability to bring opposing factions together into a cohesive force to effect constructive, progressive legislation for the State of Michigan.

We urge our readers to vote for Romney and to study carefully the other state candidates, Republicans and Democrats, to determine which of them would best support Romney programs.

**AS FOR CONGRESSMAN**, we believe the voters should send to Washington those men who would most likely tend to put an end to bureaucracy, to extravagant federal aid, to ever-continuing expenditures.

In our pursuit of the candidate for congressman-at-large and congressman from the 18th district, we have found that Republicans Alvin Bentley and William Broomfield are more likely to support this point of view.

## 3 Ballot Issues Endorsed

Practically all of our readers who vote next Tuesday, will vote on a voting machine.

The majority of these voters may possibly have not noticed that the machine ballots are separated into several colors. The purpose of this is to impress the voter that there are different areas on which to vote.

The red area contains ballot propositions. The white, the partisan national, state and county elections. Finally, the blue contains the non-partisan election for the judiciary.

**ALTHOUGH** one might vote a straight party ticket in the white partisan area, he must still vote individually in the red and blue areas to complete his voting responsibility.

In the red area all Oakland County voters will have the opportunity to vote on two propositions. In Birmingham voters will have an extra decision with a third proposition.

The first proposition is whether the office of county surveyor should be abolished in Oakland County. This is an office that has no duties and the office holder is paid a dollar a year for the honor.

The incumbent county surveyor, Ralph Main of Birmingham, heartily endorses the elimination of the office; and we feel that he certainly is the man who should know.

**THE SECOND** proposition is an amendment to the state constitution which would permit a general revision of the state statutes.

This proposition has nothing to do with the new constitution which will be voted on next April. This particular proposition

Broomfield is the incumbent, and Bentley has previous congressional experience. Their experience is another reason why we believe they should be elected to office.

**STATE SEN.** Farrell Roberts is, in our opinion, a man above his party. He has demonstrated that although he generally believes in Republican political theories and platforms, he has the courage to vote specifically according to his own convictions.

Roberts was criticized in his home county—Oakland—for his vote in favor of a state income tax. We call to our readers' attention that George Romney, himself, has advocated a state income tax.

Surely, Roberts would be one of the men who would support Romney's reform programs in the legislature.

Why not then re-elect him?

**THE ECCENTRIC** is interested in southern Oakland County as well as in what transpires right here in our own front yard.

We have noted, with pride, Republican Ray Baker's influential role in the settling of the educational problem in the Carver School District of Royal Oak Township. That district was abandoned and then merged with the Oak Park district.

We recommend to voters in the fourth legislative district that they return Mr. Baker to Lansing.

Inasmuch as Henry M. Hogan, Jr., is the associate publisher of this newspaper, we refrain from commenting on the Hogan-John Foley race for the third district legislative seat.

**ON THE COUNTY** level, we see the Democratic slate for the six positions as a selection along strict party lines rather than a surging force of dedicated candidates—with one exception.

Roy J. Russell, a professional engineer, has qualifications which we believe to be superior to those of the incumbent drain commissioner, a Republican.

There is a general feeling that this office could be better administered.

It is our opinion that Democrat Russell could do so. We recommend that Oakland County voters elect him as their drain commissioner.

**TO SUM UP**, then, it is our conviction that the voters will be better served if they choose these candidates:

George Romney, Alvin Bentley, William S. Broomfield, Farrell Roberts, Ray Baker and Roy Russell.

Whether or not you agree with our choices, we urge you to go to the polls and cast your ballots come Nov. 6. Your right to vote is more than a democratic privilege; it is a citizen's duty.

was ordered to be placed on the ballot long before the Constitutional Convention was ever held, but this is the first general election since the order was entered.

Actually, if this proposition is passed and the new Constitution is passed next April, the amendment will have a short life. It will die with the old constitution.

**THE BACKGROUND** of the proposition is this:

Among the 50 states in the Union, Michigan is unique in that it is the only state which by constitutional provision prohibits the general revision of the statutes.

Contained in this constitutional prohibition are two other 112-year-old restrictions on the power of the state legislature.

The first restriction that the proposition would eliminate is the requirement that the governor appoint the compilation commission.

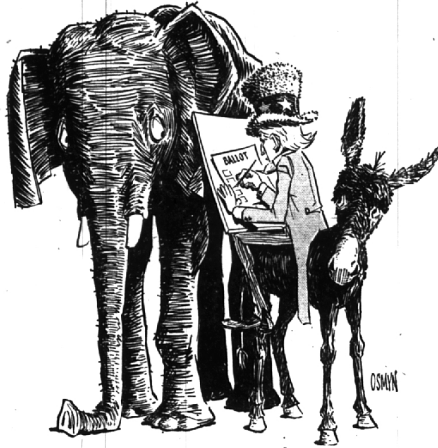
This is the commission which every 10 or 15 years puts all of the Michigan laws together in a series of volumes.

Since this is a legislative function, it was felt that there was no reason for the governor to appoint them.

**THE SECOND** restriction sought to be eliminated is that the laws should be compiled "without alteration." This clause has required the printing of manifest errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar, some of which have been in the statute books for the past century.

The third restriction is the prohibition against general revision of the statutes. The amendment would permit the legislature to enact a law to provide a method for the general revision. Any proposed revision

## Got Those Pre-Election Jitters



### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Editorial on Zoning Disappoints Reader

The Editor:

Your Oct. 25 editorial advocating the building of a 96-unit motel and multiple dwellings on the area bounded by Manor Road and Big Beaver came as a great disappointment to the more than 100 families in this area who have expressed their disapproval of such types of changes in zoning.

You are right on one score—these two zoning decisions will be of considerable interest and importance to the people of both the township and Birmingham.

HOWEVER, you neglected to mention the most salient point of the proposed zoning change—a namely that Al Green, a well-known tavern keeper, proposes to build a restaurant and bar seating 250 people in the 96 motel-room unit.

The people of the Birmingham area should be informed that the sale of liquor is involved. How do we all feel about bringing the sale of liquor and all the disorder that goes with it, right into our midst?

Do we really need enormous motels, scads of multiple dwellings and bars or are we merely enriching outside promoters?

MRS. H. O. SCHOLIN  
 127 Stony Brook Lane  
 Birmingham

**EDITOR'S NOTE**—The Eccentric recommended the rezoning of the property to commercial use and said there is a need in the area for "a top quality motor lodge-inn." We did not specifically endorse the proposal referred to in the above letter.

## Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 Years Ago  
 Nov. 1, 1912

Maurice Collins, an old and highly respected pioneer of this township, died at his late home one and a half miles southeast of this village, Oct. 22, aged 71 years. Mr. Collins was born in Limerick, Ireland, and came with his parents to Canada, at the age of six months. He was married to Elizabeth Hayes, who was born in Staffordshire, England. They came to Michigan in 1865.

There will be only one picture show in Birmingham after all. It is a good thing for all parties. Mr. J. F. Wooster has bought all the O. Poppleton corner, and will go ahead with the building of the moving picture building which Mr. Levander has a most complete plans. It is to be second to none in the State. The name it is expected to be chosen from is Levander contest and is to be announced later.

Mrs. Robert Chase is somewhat lame after being thrown from her buggy Saturday. The horse stumbled and fell throwing her out but she held on to her horse and freed it from the rig. Mrs. Will Clark came to her rescue.

30 Years Ago  
 Nov. 3, 1932

Taking the stand in her own defense, Darice Rowley, 1126 Villa Road, denied yesterday that she had embezzled \$1,400 from the former Birmingham Savings Bank for which she is being tried in Oakland County Circuit Court. Miss. (See HAPPENINGS, 7-B)

## Appreciate News Stories on Parley

To the Editor:

The Birmingham congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses wants to express their appreciation for the news articles published by The Birmingham Eccentric relating to their recent Bible convention in Madison Heights.

In harmony with the public talk, "The Bible's Answer to Our Problems of Survival," you have shown interest in man's survival problem by bringing notice of the assembly

to your readers. By use of a prominent display board, many of the convention news items are put on public view. This allows people who are attending the convention from all over eastern Michigan to see the articles published. We thank you for making this possible.

RONALD MONETTE  
 Presiding Minister  
 (See PEOPLE'S COLUMN, 8-B)

## Once Over Lightly

by IRMA N. DAVIS

Take heart, mothers of America. While you are still looking for ways to get that sticky caramel off the rug and performing feats of legerdemain with the last of the Halloween candy, your English counterparts 'round the world are going through much the same thing.

You see, Monday was Guy Fawkes day in the lands where the "sun never sets" and the kids were busy begging there, too. Although the mothers overseas aim for a bag measured in pennies rather than candies, the procedure is much the same.

**THE BRITISH HOLIDAY** celebrates the flogging of Guy Fawkes' fourth-column effort to blow up Parliament, some 300 years ago. The event is still referred to as the Gunpowder Plot.

A recent letter from a South African cousin indicates that the youngsters nowadays aren't as keen on the holiday as they were when I was a knee-high "bugger" in Johannesburg.

We used to don our mother's old frocks and shoes, turban our heads and make the rounds singing, "anything for the Guy?"

(See ONCE OVER LIGHTLY, 8-B)

## ESTABLISHED IN 1878 • A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press

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George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus

would have to be adopted by the legislature. The Constitutional Convention in its proposed constitution removed one of the three restrictions, the governor's appointment of the compilation commission, but retained the "without alteration" phrase and the prohibition on general revision which is peculiar only to Michigan.

No other state has found it necessary to restrict its legislature in this area. In fact, 35 states have established revision programs.

Because of its technical nature, the amendment has created little interest among any groups but we urge a "Yes" vote to improve legislative effectiveness.

**THE BIRMINGHAM** proposition seeks authority to sell 11 acres of City-owned land on Coolidge in Troy. Birmingham no longer has need for the property for municipal purposes. We believe it should be sold and the proceeds used for some worthwhile municipal function.

## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



If you will only fill in the date of your birth and return the enclosed card, you can get absolutely free one bona fide life insurance salesman.

How many times a month do you get a little letter with a pull-out card offering a personalized gem if you fill in the magic date?

Then how many hours after you send the card back does it take for your phone to ring?

**ADD TO THESE** cozy little offers the number of ordinary telephone and office appeals you get from life insurance salesmen and you get to feel that there is nothing else in the world.

The card gimmick, of course, enables them to find out how old you are so they can prepare tables for you. Some of the salesmen actually have an application prepared for you in case you have a weak moment in your first interview.

A neighbor of mine filled in a date which would make him 88 years of age, but a salesman arrived anyway.

**ANOTHER APPROACH** is newspaper clippings.

It gets to a point that the only safe publicity you can get in the paper is an obituary. If you get promoted, a dozen salesmen clip out the article and mail it to you with the cryptic note, "I will call you in the next couple of days"—and they will.

If you get married, there is always someone who practically will drive you to the airport for your honeymoon just to get a few minutes of your time.

A new baby puts you on hundreds of lists in the rush to give people security.

**I AM NOT** knocking life insurance as such, just the way some salesmen peddle it.

The insurance companies must operate like some gasoline companies. The more salesmen they have apparently the more insurance they feel they can sell. It seems that everyone I ever went to school with at one time has sold insurance.

In the process of experiencing the soft sell, the hard sell, the medium sell and the poor sell, many working hours are lost.

**I REMEMBER** when I first started practicing law. Over a dozen salesmen contacted me and each took an hour of my time. Now I'm kind of hard to get to.

I am sure that the life insurance salesman does a tremendous service to a lot of people, but I kind of wish that this service could be performed by vending machines.

## City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

"Wait just a minute here, Mr. Editor," writes writer Ruth E. Vogt after reading this column in last week's paper.

In you can't list the famous names out of history such as you did in your article on "Squares" (Hale, Henry, Revere and Washington) and not slip in perhaps the greatest "square" of all.

She refers to comments I reported from a speech by the president of a top advertising agency executive. He bemoaned the fact that the "honest, wholesome word" square has come to mean "the man who never learned to get away with it; a Joe who volunteers when he doesn't have to," etc.

**RUTH VOGT** is a frequent contributor of articles to this newspaper. She's the type of intellectual that reads something, gets inspired and immediately sets her thoughts down in writing.

Of the "greatest 'Square' of them all" she writes: "It's true. He didn't live on American soil. Nor on European ground, either. He was born and raised at the end of the blue Mediterranean where only olives (and some grapes) were able to thrive. Oh, but Mr. Editor—" He was the greatest 'Square' of them all.

"**COME TO** think about it . . . He didn't fit into any one pattern at all. Instead of getting an 'organization' going, He merely picked 12 ordinary men.

"They weren't given elaborate intelligence tests, nor were they chosen for their looks or dress or their Alma Mater; they were picked, maybe, because they were 'squares' too?"

"That is, men who wouldn't be shocked if called upon to go counter to the crowd."

"And, of course, we all realize that they did go 'counter to the current thoughts of their day.'"

"**ALL THROUGH** this particular Man's life, He met with awful resistance.

"That Man's crazy," they probably murmured much after hearing what He advocated. We can't blame them. He was such a 'Square' that He spoke thoughts so new that the world had never heard of such odd things.

"Isn't it funny—of all the men of such strong like Henry, Washington, etc.), this one Man's squarish ideas still remain?"

Nobody ever gets anything for nothing, but a lot of people keep trying.

The man of few words doesn't have to take so many back.

Boulders in our paths can be stumbling blocks or steppingstones.

Quality has everything in its favor including the price.

Beware of the man who talks about what he did instead of what he's doing.

It's the original noise that counts; most people are merely echoes.