

The Birmingham Eccentric

Thursday, November 15, 1962

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

3-A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



It is an axiomatic truism that most human beings do not rise to the defense of a possession until it is almost or completely lost. Liberty, personal freedom is fought for most strenuously when one is in chains, from the restrictions and shackles that come from the will and the effort to gain freedom. That has been the history of many former democracies. It is now expected that the United States is now fighting with this "dangerous pastime".

This and That

by George R. Averill

Gov.-Elect Romney Now Faces Larger Civic Challenge

When the traditional New Year's bells usher in the year 1963 A.D., a new Michigan governor will step behind the glass-covered desk that stands in an important part of the State Capitol. His name, long familiar in U. S. automobile conversations, is George Romney, Republican, 55 years of age, who Nov. 6 received about 60,000 more votes than did incumbent Democrat Gov. John B. Swainson.

Romney, credited with having pulled a redink American Motors Co. into prosperous compact status, some months ago left his \$150,000 AMC job, and now will receive \$22,500 plus some expense funds, when he takes his new civic job in Lansing.

In one of the most vigorous political campaigns staged in many years, our Bloomfield Hills resident revealed how vigorous, dedicated efforts to achieve an objective can be successful. Not only did he overlook the heroic labors on behalf of her husband, that attractive and capable Lenore contributed. (There are many who said that her efforts in the campaign played a very, very important part.)

ONLY will Michigan carefully watch the manner in which Governor-elect Romney will operate, but the eyes of the nation will now and then appraise what's going on in the Wolverine State—because 1964 is a presidential election year—and George Romney will, of course, cast a vote that will affect the nation.

Romney certainly has numerous obstacles to hurdle if he achieves the success he has mapped out for himself. Not only will he need to overcome a completely Democratic administrative board in Lansing, but he will have to deal with certain members of the legislature (from both parties) who are not too easily swayed.

Here is where Romney's "leadership abilities" will be made manifest. However, his past record in bringing together divergent viewpoints suggests that in the realm of politics he should be better than 99 per cent of this genus—which ought to win approval for much of his civic program.

HE DID WAGE a clean campaign. He proved that not all of the labor vote is in the hands of Reuther, Mazy, Nunn, Scholle, et al. He showed that he is a tireless worker, that he is "as much at home" talking to assembly-line folks as he is to corporation executives.

All of Romney's life has been inspired by a kind of evangelistic zeal "to accomplish things for the good of people." His personal activities are replete with the proof of such objectives. That his political life will likewise record such programs on behalf of human life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness "... is anticipated by not only those who elected him Nov. 6 ... but, perhaps, by all the citizens of Michigan who place the welfare of the whole over the special interests of the few."

GOOD GOVERNMENT beckons you, George Romney ... its precincts are peopled with the hopes and aspirations of millions of men and women, boys and girls, who pray that the heritage of self-government may be made to operate better ... so that it may stand up, valiantly, courageously, in making progress toward the goals of our Colonial Founders!

May your days be fruitful, Sir ... and your nights sweetly restful as you begin your administration as governor of the State of Michigan!

Mrs. Roosevelt Often Visited B'ham Area

The Birmingham-Bloomfield area lost an occasional visitor last week with the death of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

Mrs. Roosevelt frequently visited the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. James Halsted, 32716 Bingham Lane, Bingham Farms, Birmingham.

The 78-year old "First Lady of the World" last visited her daughter in April when she was in the metropolitan area to attend ceremonies honoring her as the 1962 recipient of Wayne State University's annual education citation.

Mrs. Halsted and two of Mrs. Roosevelt's sons, John and Franklin Jr. were at her bedside when she died.



R. L. LEE

Lee Speaker For Cancer Unit Meeting

Dr. Ralph L. Lee of Birmingham, nationally known author and lecturer, will be the speaker at the annual board meeting and recognition dinner Tuesday of the North Oakland unit of the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

His subject will be "People—As They Come and Are." The event will be held Tuesday evening at the Pontiac City Club.

DR. GLENN W. Byluma, board president, said tribute will be paid to the many area workers who have volunteered their time and effort to the foundation.

He said Alfred C. Girard, president of the Community National Bank, has been named chairman of this year's Cancer Crusade. The crusade, a program to promote cancer education, will be held in April.

DR. LEE is "THE author of 'Man to Man on the Job,' a book let in wide usage as a guide to good employee relations.

He has had a broad experience in the fields of engineering, sales and industrial research.

He operates a small hobby fountain, forge and pattern shop at the rear of his home at 938 Lakeside Road in Birmingham.

Serving on the dinner committee are Mrs. E. M. Estes of Birmingham, Mrs. Milo D. McLintock of Birmingham and Mrs. Ray Kingsbury of Pontiac.

Resident Asks Swim Pool Law Change

LATHRUP—A revision of the city's swimming pool ordinance was requested by James W. McCook in a letter read at Monday's council meeting.

McCook said that the city of Dearborn's ordinance provides that homeowners must get the permission of neighbors on each side and of those directly across and to the rear of their property before applying for a pool building permit.

Should one of the four neighboring property owners object, the matter must then go before Dearborn's zoning board.

Pool size in Dearborn is also limited according to lot size, McCook said.

VOICING DOUBTS as to the validity of the Dearborn ordinance should it be tested in court, the council directed City Administrator Gerald Stone to find out whether Dearborn's zone board has turned down any pool permits and under its property before applying for a pool building permit.

City Attorney Everett Hayes will be asked for a legal opinion on the Dearborn law.

Council members agreed that the city's present nuisance ordinance provides safeguards to insure consideration of neighborhood pools.

Cranbrook Man Head of Private School Teachers

Named director of all the private school teachers from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Rockies to the Appalachians, at the annual meeting of the Teachers' Council of the Independent Schools Association of the Central States in Davenport, Ia., was Carl G. Wonnberger, head of English at Cranbrook and director of Cranbrook's Theatre School.

Named to fill a new post of executive secretary and editor of the "Newsletter" of the organization was Floyd Burt of Cranbrook's science department.

ALSO ATTENDING the two-day Iowa meeting last week were Richard Heaverich of Cranbrook's mathematics department, Peter Williams of the biology department and Thomas Krash of the history department, who was named associate chairman of the history division of the independent schools group.

The scheduled meeting for next year of all the private schools in the area will be in Chicago at the Francis Parker School, under the guidance of Dr. Cleveland Thomas, headmaster.

School Crossing, Condemnation of Land Pondered

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Township Editor

LATHRUP — Condemnation of some privately-owned land and protection for the St. Bede's School crossing highlighted discussion at the Lathrup council meeting Monday night.

No action was taken on either matter nor on a proposal to clean out and straighten part of the Evans ditch on a cooperative basis with nearby property owners. Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Kelley.

A special council meeting was set for Monday night at 7:30 at which time the condemnation resolution will be acted upon and other business taken up. A public hearing will be held at 8 on the rezoning of a portion of land east of 12 Mile Road.

IF THE condemnation resolution is passed, City Attorney Everett Hayes will institute proceedings in circuit court to condemn the land owned by Mrs. Kelley. The city needs land for an easement in order to lay storm sewer lines from Santa Barbara to the Evans ditch in the area of Roseland.

In a letter dated Oct. 2, Mrs. Kelley said she was willing to sign the easement form on condition that land she had sold to a builder could be used for apartments. She also said she wanted access to the nearby interceptor sanitary trunk sewer for the same purpose.

The council, in early October, then voted unanimously to condemn the land if the easement was not signed by Oct. 15 or if a more economical way to route the sewer could not be found.

IN OTHER matters relating to current storm sewer construction, Mayor Richard N. Cogger proposed that property owners along part of Evergreen be approached to see if they are interested in cooperatively relocating the Evans ditch onto the road right-of-way on Evergreen near 11 Mile and Saratoga.

Cogger said fill dirt, available from the sewer construction, could be used to fill the area where the ditch is being relocated. The sewer construction program provides \$15,000 to help clean out the ditch. The council concurred on contacting the Kelleys who own the adjacent land and set a \$500 limit on the straightening job.

CARL G. WONNBERGER

ABOUT 40-50 PARENTS of Lathrup children attending St. Bede's Catholic School appeared at the meeting to support a four-person committee delegated to help work out a solution to the school crossing problem.

Lathrup police have been guarding the crossing in front of St. Bede's and will continue to do so, councilmen assured the parents. The group became aroused recently when informed that the city might have to withdraw protection from in front of the school during morning crossing hours.

LATHRUP has only one police car and one policeman on duty at a time. Both Police Chief Tom Tellefsen and City Administrator Gerald Stone expressed concern about the lack of overall city protection during the school crossing time.

Pending a solution, the city has continued to guard the crossing.

James M. Osborne, spokesman for the committee, read a statement (See MEETING, 3-A)

Hills Trustee Against School Prayer Policy

A Bloomfield Hills School Board trustee and director of the Michigan Education Trust, Merrill Bates, said last week that he is against the board's official policy affecting religious practices in the district schools.

He spoke before the association's convention in Grand Rapids.

He is opposed to the current policy of school prayer, but because he is for the supreme court.

BATES' REFERENCE was to the U. S. Supreme Court decision earlier this year in the case of parents in the Union Free School District, Hyde Park, N. Y., against state-authorized and school-directed prayer in the schools of that district.

Convention delegates were divided in their opinion of the situation as it relates to Michigan schools.

Attorneys to the Bloomfield Hills School Board, Stratton Brown and John Gilray, told an executive session of the board recently that the present Bloomfield Hills policy is illegal in terms of the supreme court decision.

Further study of the matter is being made by the board which intends to consider any action deemed necessary to comply with the law."

BLOOMFIELD Hills present prayer policy is to allow the oral saying of a non-denominational prayer in the classroom, to permit religious expression and to have music at Christmas and Easter and to encourage the study of all great world religions as a part of curriculum courses in subjects where it would be a natural part of the course.

Bates said he considers it un-American to defy the supreme court and said school officials should be an example of leadership in their communities in problems such as this.

ONE OF the founders of a Detroit committee working for separation of church and state about 20 years ago, Bates voted in favor of school prayers last December, saying he did so in the interest of unanimity.

However, he feels that a prayer by the whole family before breakfast means much more to the child than a prayer said by his classmates in school.

Trial Date Set For Sidney Eder

A March 7 trial date has been set for Sidney T. Eder, Birmingham trucking contractor, and 35 other men accused of participating in an alleged Detroit DPW graft racket.

Eder, 44 Bryn Mawr, appeared before Judge Elvin L. Davenport in Detroit Recorder's Court Nov. 8 at a pre-trial hearing. Six other trucking contractors and 38 Detroit DPW employees, past and present, also appeared at the pre-trial hearings. The March trial date was set for them, also.

Eder is the owner of the Variety Trucking Co., 18460 Livernois, Detroit.

Water Dept. Had Its Start in 1915



ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF Stanley Pepperell takes a reading on the water level of one of the city's three water towers.

The production and control of water in the city of Birmingham is handled by the fire department at its Adam Station. Since 1957 the city has been getting all of its water from Detroit through the South Oakland County Water Authority.

Reject Street Vacating

Vacating Ferndale from Oakland to Hamilton "might be incompatible with the future development" of Municipal Parking Lot No. 2 and Oakland Ave., the city engineer told Birmingham city commissioners this week.

The CITY administration, he explained, currently is negotiating for additional right-of-way for the widening of Oakland. Thought is being given to extending the parking lot to Oakland.

Killeen recommended that no change in Ferndale be made at this time.

EDITOR'S NOTE—This is another in a series of articles The Eccentric is presenting on the various departments in the city of Birmingham. It deals with the history of the water department.

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Birmingham's water department traces its history back to 1915 when a group of wells in the Maple-Baldwin area served the needs of the town's 2,000 residents. Today, the department has grown with the community and annually supplies over one billion gallons of water to area residents. The production and control of water in Birmingham is under the direction of the fire department, a unique situation though it arose through necessity.

IN THE EARLY days of the department one man had the responsibility of maintaining the system, including the pumps which kept mains filled to capacity.

One day the gentleman was nowhere to be found when a fire broke out.

The building housing the pumps was locked and firemen were forced to fight the blaze with a trickle of water. Shortly after, the fire department took the water system under its wing and has maintained a satisfactory relationship since that time.

Back in the "good old days," it was also customary for each resident to stop all operations which involved the use of water the minute he heard the first blast of a fire alarm.

THE FIRST attempt to establish an adequate water supply in Birmingham was in 1922 when the Basin well was drilled. Additional wells were drilled until the city was supplied by eight in 1953.

Since 1957 Birmingham has been purchasing its water from the city of Detroit through the South Oakland County Water Authority. Detroit water is bought at a cost less than that of building and maintaining a treatment plant.

The water enters the city through three mains along 14 Mile Road.

NOW THAT all of Birmingham's water comes from Detroit, seven of the wells have become inactive. However, the city of Troy purchases water from the Wakefield well.

Although inactive, two of the other wells are kept in working order in case of an emergency.

The city's first elevated storage tank was installed in 1925 at what is now the center island at Hunter and Ridgeland. This tank was moved to the DFW yard on Eton in 1937 to make way for the Woodward Avenue by-pass.

A second tank was erected in 1950 east of Hunter and north of Maple and a third one was constructed in 1950 alongside the Grand Trunk tracks just south of Derby Junior High School.

THE FLOW of water into the city is controlled from a small tiled room at the Adams Fire Station.

A uniformed fireman is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week watching the huge devices that record the water consumption.

By pushing a button he can open valves that could allow the city to use up to 9,000,000 gallons of water a day.

Next week's article will deal with workings of the meter department and how you get your water bills.

B'ham Region Of Torch Drive Tops '62 Goal

The Birmingham region of the United Foundation Torch Drive went over the top again this year. A total of \$180,902 was collected.

Bloomfield Hills led the way with \$78,500. Birmingham contributed \$32,802. Other area contributions were Franklin, \$5,221; Beverly Hills, \$7,850; Bloomfield Village, \$16,905; Wing Lake, \$4,733; Oakland Hills subdivision, \$9,907 and the remaining area, \$4,804.

Oakland County's part in the drive was also successful. The amount raised was \$35,528, compared with a goal of \$32,909.

TURKEY

MICHIGAN

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