

Now It's Pontiac Airport . . .

When the county first announced its plan for a jet airport in the northeast part of the county some six months ago, The Eccentric as a public service did some extensive research on the subject's pros and cons, which it shared with its readers in the form of a series of articles.

When the research was completed, we felt that there were several unanswered questions which should have been answered before the county voted to go ahead and spend any funds.

THE MOST IMPORTANT of these was whether the airlines would go along with the move. Our research showed that no airline had either committed itself or even was favorably inclined to split its operations among two airports.

Airlines have found in other cities that split operations are unpopular with the passengers who have to change airports and are costly to the airlines which need to duplicate staff and services.

ALSO, WE FELT that a need for this type of airport in Oakland County had not been established. There was still Willow Run and the possibility of use of Selfridge Air Force Base in the far future if a second jetport was needed.

Finally, the Federal Aviation Agency looked the site over because it was ex-

pected to contribute the lion's share of the funds and as of now has turned thumbs down.

The jet airport issue seemed dead and the county was left owning a hunk of real estate which it claimed was salable.

WITH PEACE and tranquility back on the scene, the City of Pontiac has announced plans to enlarge its Municipal Airport, providing it can get financial assistance from the county.

The ultimate plan, again, would be another jet airport.

We certainly would rather see this airport expanded than a new one erected, at least from the cost angle, if a second jetport was needed.

WE REALIZE that there is a need for secondary corporate type airports to allow private industry to stork their planes away from busy commercial traffic, but Pontiac Municipal Airport was expanded for this purpose not too long ago, and it has yet to materialize as a major corporate field.

We would like to take the position here any money is expended by the county for any jet airports that the board of supervisors has the responsibility to show the citizenry the need for such an expenditure. As of yet, this need has not been shown.

Reporting the Local Arts

We recently read about a little known artist named Gaston Tyko who made a drawing of Pablo Picasso while the master was eating at a cafe.

He presented his work to Picasso, who in turn made a quick sketch of Tyko and gave it to the young artist.

Tyko's work was a perceptive view of the great Spaniard, whereas Picasso's sketch of Tyko was merely a bit of hatching.

As might be expected, no one has offered Picasso anything for Tyko's work, but someone offered Tyko \$2,000 for the Picasso piece.

It probably would have been better for the person who wanted the hatching to sell Picasso something on credit and then frame the check with which Picasso paid the account. If all he wanted was Picasso's name, it would have been much cheaper.

THE BIRMINGHAM Eccentric instituted an "Arts of Living" section last spring to try to report and interpret some

of the creativity in our own community.

However, when you create a feature such as this, someone has to take the responsibility of finding what is art.

It's easy to find critics who dislike what is new and different simply because it is new and different. It seems to be fashionable to patronize that which is old, traditional and already accepted.

This means, of course, that the rising young artist has to not only prove his worth, but also overcome this natural prejudice.

In our own community we have many "unknowns" who can produce works of art superior to some "masters" yet not accepted because there isn't a famous brand name on it. And usually by the time a name is established, it's too late to take advantage of the individual's talents.

We hope the community through the "Arts of Living" section has an opportunity to enjoy and contribute art as they like it and not particularly art as people think they are supposed to like it.

Device Reduces Car Exhaust Fumes

Though not everyone is entranced by the news that 1963 model cars are going to be longer and flashier than ever, one item about them should win universal favor. A device to recirculate exhaust fumes and thus reduce air pollution will be standard equipment on all autos coming off American assembly lines.

One remarkable thing about this crankcase ventilating device is that it costs only

about four dollars. Considering that, it is even more of a mystery why the automakers had to be prodded into installing this equipment. It is nevertheless gratifying that future cars will have the device.

The fumes recirculator has not yet been perfected. It reduces air pollution by only about 35 per cent. But it is a big step toward cutting down the amount of noxious gases in our towns and cities.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Many a good citizen's heart leaped in wild surmise, no doubt, when Commerce Secretary Hodges testified that some 5,000 employees in his department ought to be fired because their jobs were no longer necessary. His remarks before the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee tended to confirm what a lot of Americans have long suspected—that government agencies have more people on their payrolls than are needed to do the work. Hodges testified that 10 per cent of the 30,000 workers in Commerce are "doing jobs started 40 years ago which just aren't needed." The implication was that if he had his way about it, they would be promptly cashiered. But there's many a slip 'twixt implication and action. Though the Washington deadwood badly needs trimming, there is only a remote chance that the job will be tackled.

U. S. Dept. of Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman is the object of much criticism these days, largely at the moment because of the Billie Sol Estes mess. How unfitting is his name in relation to that recently defeated Kennedy agricultural bill, so strongly supported by Freeman, a bill that was said to place the American farmer and dairyman in a "straight jacket of bureaucratic imprisonment." Orville Freeman would, of course, retain his name—but 'twas said the farmers et al would really cease to be American freemen.

Women's fashion experts, recently assembled in convention in New York City, revealed that they plan to pattern some of Midway's garments after the assorted garb of a variety of "lowly U.S. workers." For example, the working habiliments of cowboys, truck drivers, lumber jacks, coachman's jacket, reporter's trench coat, grandpa's night shirt and even a poor man's patched breeches (britches, too) are to be the models for the immediate future fashion offerings. Well, so what? If such habiliments are good enough for men to go around in, they ought to add something to the otherwise indigenous lustre of femininity.

Wall Street business establishments cling to a deer strong in marble fireplaces, roltop desks, dark paneling and old oil portraits. At least these offices must offer some atmosphere of character, though perhaps gloomy, stability when the ticker tape on the exchange floor jumps about.

Major league ball players favor two all-star games because this fattens their pension fund. It also slims down public interest.

The sentence of three Ukrainians to death for an apple swindle seems harsh. After all, they were just trying to prove that there's sugar in fruit.

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The Bible—Spur to Human Achievement

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Fluoridation Doesn't Answer Decay Problem

To the Editor:

As a mother of four children, I am surely as interested as any dentist in preventing tooth decay. I, therefore, studied available literature with the aid of my physician. All information indicates that fluoridation of our city's water supply is not the answer.

Fluoridation is even harmful to the very children who are meant to benefit from the treatment.

The California State Board of Health issued on fluoridation in 1958 by Malcolm Merrill, director of public health, says that continuous consumption of fluoride in excess of one part per million (ppm) does not further decrease the incidence of dental caries, but does increase the risk of occurrence of objectionable dental fluorosis, and is detrimental to health.

This means that if any child gets more than one quart of water per day fluoridated at one ppm, for any amount, he would be consuming in excess of the recommended daily dose.

USE WATER in the preparation of instant nonfat dry milk powder and consequently consume more fluoride in warm weather, the above mentioned California Health Department resolution recommends that climatic conditions, consumption be increased to three-quarter litres per day. This would be equivalent to drinking water fluoridated at four ppm.

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Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

Sept. 6, 1912
Declaring that every woman in the land should go to a surgeon for a corset prescription as she does when she is ill, Dr. P. Martin, in a surgical clinic at the Post Graduate Hospital of Chicago, talked confidentially to the visitors at the Surgical Congress of North America on the subject. "A corset is a splint," was the way he drove home his argument. "You would not advise a patient to go to an instrument shop to pick out his own splint for a deformed limb. Why should we allow our patients to splint their bodies without scientific directions."

Ohio women lost their fight to have equal suffrage incorporated in the constitution of the state. The cities of the state uniformly voted in favor of all amendments but suffrage. The farming communities voted against the amendments as a whole, but there was considered little likelihood that they could offset the big urban majorities.

30 YEARS AGO

Sept. 8, 1932
Approval of a recently completed charter for the new city of Bloomfield Hills will be asked of the voters when they go to the polls Saturday. The single voting booth in the Barbour Building will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. In addition to accepting or rejecting the charter, the voters will be asked to select five men to form the first city commission and to elect a justice of the peace to preside over the municipal court. Eight candidates are in the running for commissioners, and two for justice.

A Birmingham youth's role in the recent rescue of a lost Marine detachment in the Nicaraguan jungles is related in letters received here by his family. The youth is Gilbert Mintling, of 20 Townsend St. An interesting description of the daily routine at the camp and of other such details as the men's wardrobe is included in another letter. Mintling says that some of the officers own horses, monkeys, parrots, snakes, a bird, a lap dog, small deer, tiger cubs, banana rats, iguanas and armadillos.

15 YEARS AGO

Sept. 4, 1947
We hasten to commend the "Little Below the Knee Club," reportedly organized in Dallas, Tex. by thirteen hundred women who are trying to instigate a nationwide revolt against the proposed long-skirt fashion. The women make the very sensible argument that if fashion decreases long skirts for women it will necessitate throwing away entire wardrobes. A more practical observation is made by Mrs. Warren A. Woodard, president of the organization, who insisted that the women will wear the clothes they look best in, and asked: "Why should a girl cover up her legs—they may be her best selling point."

Martha F. Bennett announced this week the opening of the Q&A Lancers Shop at 15 Woodward Square, part of the building formerly used by the McClain-Ball Company. The shop is to be an exchange store which has had all kinds of merchandise which individuals make as a hobby or as part-time employment.

Comedy Corner



"What's the idea of hitting me for a handout, Homer? You must need glasses!"

THE GOLDEN YEARS

By THOMAS COLLINS

"Maybe you have written something like this before but it would have been back a few years when I thought the sort of column you write was silly.

"Well, it's serious to me now and I need advice on setting up a retirement course in an adult education school. Can you give me guidance?"

"Try this. Determine first whether you want a course for people already retired or for people about to retire. If the former, your pupils will be mainly lonely oldsters who attend because it is somewhere to go. In the case of the latter, with the pension still to come, will be more apt students.

Have classes two evenings a week if you can. Once a week doesn't hold together. Six weeks is too short. Three months would do better.

Two-part courses of three months each would be fine, and effective. Make the "major" in your retirement course the "What to Do" lessons. You could divide these into three segments: jobs; volunteer civic activities; and loafing.

In the jobs category pupils would be assigned to find job openings in the community—by contacting employment agencies, personnel managers and bosses of small business houses. The jobs to be sought should be evening or weekend jobs so the pupils, since they are still working, could take them. For the volunteer civic activities, the instructor,

with a few phone calls, can find spots in charity work for as many pupils as he has. During the evenings when the pupils do not attend classes, they should fill the volunteer jobs.

For the loafing candidates, it is suggested that they be seated at the rear of the room to do nothing and be asked nothing. They will just watch the others.

The "minors" in the retirement course might be these:

Wills—A half-dozen lessons will be needed, showing who needs a will, what wills can and can't do and the state laws governing them. A member of the local bar association may be guest instructor . . . probably for free.

Life Insurance—Many three lessons will be sufficient, with local insurance executives—again for free—telling the many ways the pupils can convert their policies into methods more appropriate to their pension years.

Investments—Most of the pupils wouldn't be bothering with a retirement school if they had more than \$10,000 or so. Therefore, a savings executive of a local bank or an executive of a local savings and loan association would make the best instructor. Health—Seek as instructors officials of any insurance company dealing with health insurance. For a copy of the new Golden Years booklet by Thomas Collins, send 35 cents in coin (no stamps) to Dept. NNWS, Box 1672, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N. Y.

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



I took my advice a couple of weeks ago and attended a state political convention. I chose the Republican Convention which was held in Detroit.

The purpose of the convention was to select nominees for the offices of secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer, auditor general and for two "non-partisan" Superior Court posts, as well as to come up with a party platform.

BY THE TIME I arrived on Friday night the "ticket" apparently had already been selected, because the candidates touted early in the evening as being endorsed by Romney eventually were nominated in the open convention.

I suppose that the candidate for governor should have some say as to who his team should be, but if it is decided in the back room before the convention, why bother having a convention?

THE "TEAM" selected, however, appears to be capable and well balanced geographically. Romney wanted "experts" for each position. A capable attorney was selected for attorney general and an outstanding accountant was selected to be auditor general. If these men are successful, it will be a refreshing experience to have such qualified men in office rather than some political hacks we have today.

The one quality that is missing from the Romney slate is a man of conservative philosophy. Stockmeyer as nominee for secretary of state is known as a Detroit liberal. Allen as state treasurer is known as a Kalamazoo liberal. Seelman as auditor general was considered as a liberal independent in Grand Rapids.

IF ROMNEY is to be successful in solving the financial problems of the state, he must start with what he, himself, calls "spending reform."

Spending reform is a most difficult thing among men of liberal philosophy.

Romney, himself, in the occasions that I have heard issues discussed with him does not seem to be of a liberal philosophy. He seems to be a crusader that wants to clean up a mess, not enlarge governmental services to win more votes for a political party in the next election.

HIS POLITICAL advisors, however, have had the reputation of being politically liberal. I hope this slate of candidates are his choices and he does not fall heir to the rut Swainson found himself in when people in the background were doing the selecting for him.

Michigan needs leadership, but not the backroom kind of leadership we have seen. Michigan doesn't need anymore people to tell us how to spend money, we need a few to show us how to save a few pennies.

By KEVIN WEAVER City Beat

Perhaps the U.S. should have a national executive director.

This, perhaps, a startling statement; but comparisons of U.S.-Russian space accomplishments and other recent developments suggest that the time has come to review our system of government.

Many times our government has been criticized for the gap between the U.S. and Russia in the space race.

As with the presidents before him, President Kennedy has experienced some difficulty in getting his programs through Congress.

The thought arises that the main fault may well be in the system of government, itself.

PERHAPS WE should make the presidency an honorary position, giving the Chief Executive such public relations duties as entertaining and visiting heads of state.

Then we could elect a new man every four or eight years and not be unduly affected by any loss of continuity in government.

On the other hand, if the Federal Government operated more like many city governments—such as Birmingham—with a manager at the controls, perhaps there would be more continuity.

Perhaps there would be more effective operation of government due to the longevity of the chief operating officer and the consistency of his programs and policies.

THE MANAGER could be given the title of U.S. executive director, national director, country manager or national manager. The title is unimportant; it's the job, itself, that holds significance.

His function would be to study problems and make recommendations to the Congress, then carry out the directions of the Congress.

Of course, there would have to be safeguards to prevent any move toward dictatorship. This would mean giving greater power and control to Congress.

Yet, the problems of today seem to indicate that some fundamental change in our government is needed. Switching to a manager-legislature system might be the answer.

I THINK BIRMINGHAM serves as an excellent example of the management of the city manager-city commission type of government.

We are fortunate to have such an honest, efficient, economy-minded governing body. As for the latter point, a city commissioner commented recently that "we have undependent our budget in the majority of the past several years."

It must be remembered, of course, that the federal government operates on a much bigger scale than any city government. Yet, there may be lessons to be learned from the smaller operation that would be applicable to the larger ones.

THE IDEA of a national executive director appears worth exploring, anyway.

As long as we keep in mind the preservation of our freedoms, there is no harm in considering the possibilities in a change of government.

Any change must guarantee those freedoms.