

Hail to the Chief — Our Mayor!

Birmingham Mayor Florence H. Willett has decided to not seek re-election as a city commissioner.

She has served her city faithfully, honorably and effectively. Since her first election in 1955, she has consistently given more of her time and talents to her city than could be asked or expected.

She has helped to create a favorable image of Birmingham.

Mrs. Willett says she is taking a sabbatical leave from politics; this means the community can again ask for her services in the future.

WE BELIEVE that she has fully earned that sabbatical. The community owes her a vote of thanks, as well as an opportunity for a rest from civic responsibility.

Cognizant of her interest in her beloved city, we know that Mrs. Willett will remain active in many civic endeavors as time goes on. This will be to the community's benefit.

Indeed, Mrs. Willett emphasizes that she is not retiring. She wishes to continue to serve the community in some capacity, perhaps as a member of a municipal board — such as the planning or zoning appeals board.

This certainly would be very much in order, considering her background of experiences as commissioner and mayor, her talents and her enthusiasm.

MRS. WILLETT'S decision means that there will be at least one new face on the commission after the April election. It opens the door to new candidates.

Will there be another woman?

"I'm hoping that women will be coming forward," says Mrs. Willett, the first woman to serve Birmingham as mayor.

Just having women on the commission isn't the point, she stresses; it's having

women with "a very definite contribution to make" to the community.

We agree.

AND WE note that the same holds true for men. Let qualified men and women interested in the development of their community step forward now to offer their leadership.

Let people who live and work in our community, who have an active interest in it as well as a stake in its future, offer their services.

We say, let Mrs. Willett's dedication to the task serve as an example, an inspiration to others in the community.

ONE THING that every one of us must remember is that no man engaged in the business of making a living for his family can give as much time to the job that Mrs. Willett has.

But any man, or woman, can profit from her example of leadership and devotion.

Organizations that have found Mrs. Willett available for speaking engagements and the like must realize here and now that they cannot expect a man to have the same amount of time available.

If the leaders of the various organizations will take cognizance of this fact now, they may prevent disappointments at a later date.

MRS. WILLETT is not retiring; she is taking a leave of absence from politics.

Perhaps she will again serve on the commission; or move on to the county, state or national level, although she insists that she has no ambitions along these lines at this time.

We are pleased to have her as our mayor and will look forward to her continued interest and participation in municipal affairs.

It's Still a Bargain



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

What Should JFK Be Disturbed About?

To the Editor:

There was at least one humorous aspect of your commentary of Jan. 3 concerning weak minds.

You seem to feel the President is because he is not "disturbed over the nation's steady drift into socialism." "This & That" neither defines socialism nor delineates the drift, so how are we to know what the President should be disturbed about?

CONGRESSMAN Morris K. Udall (D. Ariz.) recently discussed the following notion of creeping socialism.

All of the nation's communications, mines, factories, railroads and airlines, pointed out the congressman, are privately owned.

IN FACT, only 12 per cent of the tangible assets and 17 per cent of the land in the United States are not privately owned. The top 9 per cent

of the population owns 46 per cent of the nation's private assets.

And the hallucination of "welfare state" spending, which apparently has transfixed most self-styled conservatives, amounts in fiscal 1963 to merely 7 per cent of our federal budget. This compares with 44 per cent in 1939 — obviously we are drifting in reverse.

AS responsible arm of the loyal opposition you are obliged to criticize the Administration.

It would seem, however, that you could find enough credible facts of policy without tilting at windmills which may have an emotive appeal, but which obviously cannot survive the most cursory examination and certainly do not bring us any nearer the truth.

JAMES K. FLACK, JR.
507 W. Brown St.
Birmingham, Mich.

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

Jan. 17, 1913

Mrs. Della A. Dufrene, aged 60, and one of Birmingham's most respected residents, was struck by a south-bound D. & F. P. car at 8 o'clock Friday evening at the Lone Pine crossing just north of this village and received injuries from which she died a few minutes later. Mrs. Dufrene, who was the wife of George W. Dufrene, had been spending the day with her daughter, Mrs. J. D. Smith of Lone Pine road.

In spite of the inclemency of the weather, a large and appreciative audience greeted the first appearance of the Birmingham Choral Society on last Friday evening. The society was fortunate in securing the spacious auditorium of the Methodist church, as a large auditorium is necessary in order to get the best effects on chorus work.

Despite the optimistic dispatches from London belittling the Rumania-Bulgarian territorial imbroglio, the Germans believe that situation to be the most acute. It is feared that the Balkan situation now seriously menaces the peace of Europe.

30 YEARS AGO

Jan. 19, 1933

Final revision of Birmingham's proposed new city charter is expected to be made at a meeting of the charter commission to be held in the Municipal Building at 8 p.m. today. A definite date for the special election at which the charter will be submitted for approval or rejection, and at which Birmingham's first city commission and justice court judge will be chosen, will probably be set, according to Harry Allen, charter commission chairman.

The first bachelorette service ever to be held for a mid-year graduating class of Baldwin High School will be observed Sunday evening in the First Methodist Church in honor of the seniors who will graduate.

(See HAPPENINGS, 7-B)

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

History was made last week when the Michigan House of Representatives set in motion machinery which might end up denying a legislative seat to an elected representative.

The constitution of the state gives the legislature the right to "judge the qualifications" of its members. This matter has never before the state supreme court so that no one really knows what it means.

ON THE OPENING day of the session, before any members were sworn in, a motion was made to delay the swearing in of Leonard Walton, a representative-elect from Wayne County, until his "qualifications" could be investigated.

Walton has been arrested for an election law violation and is scheduled for trial sometime in February.

It is alleged that he used the word "re-elect" in his campaign material when in fact he had never held the office. A 1960 Michigan law makes a fraudulent claim a crime.

WHAT MAKES it historic is not that Walton did or did not commit a crime, but that a person elected by the people can be denied the right to serve them without any further action on their part.

The motion to exclude him passed and the rest of the members of the House of Representatives were sworn in. Then a resolution was passed setting up a committee to investigate Walton's qualifications.

If the committee reports back to the House that Walton is "unqualified" to serve, and the membership approves the report, Walton's seat will be declared vacant and the governor must call a special election to fill the seat.

THE PEOPLE behind the move to unseat Walton claim that he was elected because of a misrepresentation and that the people of the district should be entitled to vote for the office again.

Walton's backers say he isn't guilty of the charge and even if he were, it is not so large an offense that his whole future career should be ruined by unseating him. His future is now in the hands of the investigating committee and you will probably read about their report within the next couple of weeks.

If he is unseated he will be the first person to be denied a seat in the House of Representatives by a vote of the membership.

By
KEN
WEAVER

City Beat

You talk to Bill Burghum in his office for an hour, and you leave thinking "what a nice guy he is."

This is the kind of impression Bill makes on you. He's the wholesome, pleasant kind of person who leaves you feeling warm and good inside.

Bill leans back in his chair, and you notice that he is a big man; that he looks much like an athlete.

And as he discusses city business and his work, you think of him as a fullback with a quarterback's mind.

Bill Burghum, Birmingham city commissioner, mayor pro tem and construction company vice president, is all wrapped up in municipal affairs, his job and his family. His job takes him on trips to Buffalo, to Washington, to Cincinnati, to Florida.

You suspect that Bill enjoys those Cincinnati trips best.

En route home, he frequently will fly on to Indianapolis, then drive 40 miles to DePauw University at Greencastle, Ind., to spend an evening with his son.

Then he catches a midnight plane out of "Naptown" (the Hoosier capital) for Detroit and home again.

He reminds you of your brother who will leave Chicago in midweek to drive to South Bend to see your ailing mother. Maybe he can only stay a couple of hours because he has to get back in time for work; but, make the trip he does.

They are men of this ilk.

TALK TO Mayor Florence (Twink) Willett for an hour and you walk away smiling. She has this effect on you.

She is a gracious, charming, intelligent woman with an extraordinarily good sense of humor.

She impresses you with her frankness, her devotion to the community, her interest in people, her home-derived wisdom.

Mrs. Willett stands tall and straight. There is a twinkling in her voice that suggests that she is a quite happy person.

She leaves you feeling happy, too.

THEN THERE is Bill Roberts.

He is short and stocky, and is more likely to leave you chuckling over something.

Bill has a dry sense of humor; unless you concentrate closely, you may miss it altogether.

Bill, engaged in the business of selling insurance, was prompted by fellow businessmen to run for election as a commissioner nine years ago.

It takes Bill a half-hour to walk from his office in the Wabek Building to the bank two blocks away. Why?

Because he knows so many people who stop him along the way to say hello and to talk about their city.

Yes, Bill is a businessman and a friend of businessmen; but he insists that as a commissioner he represents all of the citizens.

TALK TO Bill, Bill and Twink for an hour each and you'll have a lot to talk about yourself.

Movie Guide Introduced

You will notice a new feature this week in Section D, our Arts of Living section. Through cooperation with the Parent-Teacher Committee of the PTA, we will publish each week a movie guide of the pictures to be shown in our local theaters the following week.

Normally, a feature such as this would be locally written, since most of the material in our paper is locally-oriented and locally produced.

The bridge feature in our Arts section could have been syndicated; but we preferred one that was locally done. Our commentary columns, book reviews and the like are locally written.

WE HAVE purposely done this, because we felt that our readers prefer this type of material to the many standard "canned" features to which we could subscribe. We believe that this is one of the reasons that our paper is considered as one of the outstanding suburban weeklies in the nation.

In the case of movies, it apparently is impossible to have local parents screen all

of the pictures before they come to Birmingham.

Faced with the decision of using outside sources or not having a guide at all, we decided that because movies constitute one of the strongest influences in the community on teen-agers the public service factor far outweighed the fact that the guide was not locally produced.

WE ARE not implying, of course, that the quality of the reporting of the services we will use are inferior. Both the Legion of Decency and the Film Estimate Board of National Organizations which publishes the so-called "Green Sheet" are well respected sources.

It is our hope that the PTA eventually will be in a position to organize a group of parents to do the job themselves. Because of the influences of movies, we feel that the effort, although very time consuming, would be rewarding to the community.

Until this is done we will use the outside source.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

A young male Washington, D.C. stenotypist can manipulate his mechanical shorthand gadget at the average rate of 280 words a minute, and has upped that to 320 words in a contest. That's faster than any average woman can talk.

Jack Dempsey says it's too early to tell how good Sonny Liston is. His opponents have less doubt—maybe because the view from the canvas is clearer.

Man's boast is that he now has almost complete control of his environment. Tell it to the fellow shoveling his drive after the latest foot-deep snow.

The first snow of the winter is always a wonder to behold. And it sets a lot of people to wondering when they can expect spring.

The ceiling on income tax deductions for medical expenses has been doubled.

But that's one deduction we'd just as soon not take full advantage of.

You note that the Kennedy administration wants a tax cut that the citizens who earn the money have more of it to spend so that their spending may help to increase U.S. production—thus bringing about greater prosperity. If this is true, then why the high taxes and extravagant governmental spending in the first place?

Iowa conservation officials are seeking a state law requiring inspection of all deer taken with bow and arrow. Seems that some deer are shot with rifle bullets, then arrows are stuck in the bullet holes. (Poor Robin Hood, ah?)

U.S. high school principals and coaches are launching a program to prevent their top athletes from smoking or drinking alcoholic beverages; also, not to allow themselves to be used in advertisements for the above items. Coaches, too, are requested not to smoke in the presence of the athletes, thus, setting good examples. (Footnote: nothing was said about improving the educational curriculum, though.)

CD Training Director Retires; Says 'Thanks'

To the Editor:

I wish to announce my resignation as director of training for the Civil Defense Medical Emergency Program for Oakland County, sponsored by the Oakland County Health Dept., effective Jan. 1.

I want very much to thank all those who have worked with me over a period of years to make this program effective and useful to the people whom we were trying to serve.

The nurses who for several years drove many miles at night in any type of weather to meet their assignments, who demonstrated over this period of time their deep interest and dedication to the cause they sincerely believed in:

Mrs. Sam Wallace, R.N., Royal Oak

Mrs. Frederick Mack, R.N., Royal Oak

Mrs. Stanley Lundsten, R.N., Huntington Woods

Mrs. Kenneth Fox, R.N., Oak Park

Mrs. Phillip Sternfeld, R.N., Oak Park

Mrs. Bernard Reardon, R.N., Berkley

Mrs. Jared Welsh, R.N., Birmingham

Mrs. Hoyce Wrather, R.N., Birmingham

Mrs. J. H. Nimmo, R.N., Birmingham

(See DIRECTOR, 5-B)



Once Over Lightly

by IRMA N. DAVIS

When one is a member of the very junior set, a birthday is regarded as something to celebrate, myself starting at a much older family member who would just as soon forget the whole thing.

Hence, when my birthday arrived recently, Miss Niner took over as a one-man hand, planner and master of ceremonies.

After making various arrangements, including a widespread broadcast of my age, she suddenly discovered that she had overlooked a present.

LACKING A CHAUFFEUR, she cast a recruiting eye my way and shortly thereafter I found myself standing at a toothpaste display in a drugstore while she scouted the premises. Naturally, I was cautioned not to "look."

Eventually, she lifted the ban but just long enough to borrow some money until we got back home. I went back to the toothpaste and gathered from the sound effects that Miss Niner had arrived at the cashier's.

BUT NOT for long.

"I don't know what to do," said a little voice at my elbow. "I bought your present and then I saw something better."

After a briefing on refunds, Miss Nine disappeared again but came back wearing a wobegone face.

"They gave me back 48 cents but I have to have 60. I'm all mixed up."

We repeated the borrowing act but this time I tucked the remaining change in my purse, nine cents, into her hand, "just in case."

THE CLERK obligingly gift-wrapped Miss Nine's final purchase and the exciting stage of dropping hints began.

Among other things, I learned that her first choice, quickly exchanged, had been a chocolate Christmas tree.

Back home, she raised her purse and settled her. (See ONCE OVER LIGHTLY, 5-B)

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