Most people, from time to time, give way to an exchange of "flying words" when they feel affronted by what another person may say to them. Such situations usually arise from small disagreements, but they can result in some mighty hurtful words tossed back and forth. At such times, wisdom urges that one say little, or even remain silent—for it does take two to make an argument. One can't argue with silence.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Thursday, January 24, 1963 BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

School Bus Law Adopted in B'ham

After several months of controversy and discussion, Birmingham city commissioners passed a school bus ordinance Monday night by a 4-2 vote.

Commissioners Carl F. Ingraham and Charles Renfrew, who felt the ordinance would be more harmful than helpful, cast the "no" votes. Commissioner William E. Roberts was absent from the meeting.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said that the ordinance will agree with the new state motor vehicle code that goes into effect March 28.

The new ordinance will require a police record clearance and a complete physical examination for the driver.

IN ADDITION, drivers must pay a $3 fee for a school bus driver's license issued by the City of Birmingham. The license must be displayed while the driver is operating the bus.

The ordinance will apply only to those school buses that are operated by the schools, themselves, and not to those operated by commercial firms.

Ingraham felt its passage would tend to confuse motorists.

"Motorists will stop for some buses and not for others," Ingraham said. "I'm afraid that it will trap some child into injury."

UNDER THE ordinance, motorists must stop for properly marked school buses and the children leaving the bus must cross in front of the stopped bus.

Commissioner William H. Burgum said that he felt that the ordinance should be adopted because it would afford protection to the properly marked buses.

Commissioner Robert W. Page said he believed the adoption was necessary because many of the nearby communities have similar ordinances.

IN ADDITION to the provisions governing the driver, the new ordinance requires police approval of bus routes and bus stops.

Any person violating the provisions of the ordinance will be guilty of a misdemeanor and could receive a fine of up to $100 or a 90-day jail sentence, or both.

This and That

by George R. Averill

Few, if any, Michigan governors have been so detailed in their inaugural address as did Gov. George Romney. The first Republican in 14 years to hold that office, he required 58 minutes to tell the State Legislature the policies that he will support, and those he won't. Perhaps his most revealing and important statement referred to Michigan's financial plight; although he said he supports many programs that would help people, and others that would increase Michigan's physical properties, he emphasized that ". . . we can't spend what we can't afford." Mr. Romney revealed, too, that he has spent more than the usual number of hours to research Michigan's problems, together with many solutions for same—that alone ought to win the admiration and respect of every sincere citizen, regardless of "politics." Gov. Romney promises to be "a working governor—not a campaigning governor." That should spell out improvement in Michigan's variety of affairs.

From Paris comes word that several hundred French debutants, due to be presented this winter at the Paris opera, insist that any suitor-escort must take her to the opera in a classy, small sports car—never a big car, even a Rolls-Royce. One of the gals declared that she'd never go out on a date for the second time with a man who called for her with a sedan. (Will those fickle debs eventually insist on scooters?)

An admiral in the U. S. Navy recently stated that efforts to control weather during military struggles, so that bad conditions can be directed to the enemy, are being conducted. He believes that success in this direction can become of greater military value in changing war man-strategy than the results of the first nuclear bomb.

To be sure, there are times when Democrats properly become very upset and disgusted, and thus vigorously opposed to some of the policies and acts of Republicans. Likewise, there are times when the Republicans feel the same about some of the "goings-on" of the Democrats. Well, what's wrong with this? Nothing! It certainly is within the letter and the spirit of American civic independence that Democrats and Republicans (and all other citizens) may act thus—for this is but evidence that the competitive process is working in matters of self-government—without which American self-government will wither and die . . . and freedom and liberty will be a vanished memory.

SYLVIA HOLMES, 1646 VILLA, Birmingham, and her boss, City Assessor Clark Hagstrom check last minute changes in the city assessment rolls. The Assessor's Office is responsible for making up the Birmingham official tax roll and the sending out of the tax bills. A complete history and legal description of every parcel of land within the city limits is on file in the office.

EXCEPTIONAL PHOTO

Square Lake Rd. Widening Topic Of Hearing Today

A public hearing will be held at Pontiac today on the proposed modernization of 2.5 miles of M-24 (Square Lake Road).

The hearing will be held at 8 p.m. in the Pontiac City Hall.

The State Highway Department plans to rebuild M-24 as a six-lane divided highway between US-10 and I-75 at the southeast limits of the city.

The new highway would replace an existing three-lane pavement from Telegraph (US-24) east to Woodward (US-10 BR) and a two-lane highway from Woodward to Opdyke.

PRESENT traffic is now taxing the route to capacity, road officials said. Traffic studies predict an even greater traffic flow when the new highway is built to provide a cross connection between US-24, US-10 and the I-75 freeway, they added.

The proposed construction is coordinated with the Pontiac Highway Plan, already approved by that city.

The purpose of the hearing is to explain the major details of the proposed project and to hear testimony regarding the economic effect of the project on the community.

PROPOSED WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF M-24 IN OAKLAND COUNTY

Construction Of Homes Up In Township

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — House building in Bloomfield Township continued to boom in 1962.

A year-end report by the township building department shows 469 permits issued for new home building during the 12-month period. The figure was slightly above the 452 permits issued in the preceding year.

Additions to existing homes also increased. In 1962, permits for 146 additions were taken out, against 136 in 1961.

Twenty-nine cabanas and pools were added this past year. Twenty were added the year before.

ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL permits were slightly off in 1962. Permits for 14 were issued. There were 16 in 1961. Permits for schools and churches were also less—six last year, 11 the preceding year.

Permits for fall-out shelters decreased significantly. Eleven were sought in 1961—three in 1962.

Simple Formula Used In City Assessments

This is another in a series of articles explaining the various departments in the city of Birmingham. It deals with the work of the Assessor's Office.

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Land plus building equals the assessed valuation.

This simple formula is the basis for much of the work done by the Birmingham Assessor's Office.

The main duty of the assesor is to hold the equity on one parcel of land to the next so that all owners are carrying their just share of the tax load as prescribed by the ad valorem (tax on values).

THE POST of city assessor in Birmingham has been held by Clark Hagstrom since 1956. He came to Birmingham from a similar job in Ironwood, Mich.

Under Michigan's Home Rule Act the city of Birmingham has the power to do its own assessing. The job of the assessor can be either appointive or elective—in Birmingham it's appointive.

The guide to assessment, according to Hagstrom, is the general property tax law. It sets down what must be assessed and how it will be assessed.

All real and personal property within the city must be assessed on the tax day (Dec. 31) each year with a few exceptions.

Such properties as churches, nonprofit organizations and governmental properties are tax exempt.

BY LAW each businessman in Birmingham must file a financial statement with the assessor's office. From this statement his assessment is computed.

The statements are subject to audit. Auditing in Birmingham is done by the Oakland County Equalization Office.

Real property is assessed from the legal land description and the buildings on the property.

HAGSTROM works closely with builders, real estate men, private owners and the county registrar of deeds in obtaining legal descriptions of all types of properties.

Legal descriptions of properties are carried forward from year to year, Hagstrom said, unless the land is enlarged or divided.

The assessor's office maintains a field sheet on every legal description of property within the Birmingham city limits.

The sheet shows the history of the property, the street address, a drawing of the dimensions of the lot and a rough sketch of the building on the lot.

BIRMINGHAM carries on a program by which the assessor visits all properties about every three years. This is done to pick up an observed depreciation of the building.

Hagstrom pointed out that the observation does not necessarily change the assessment on the property.

All taxpayers have the right to appeal their assessed valuation to a board of review appointed by the city commission.

The board, of which Hagstrom is a member, meets each March to review any complaints on the part of the taxpayer.

THE ASSESSOR'S office makes up the official Birmingham tax roll and makes up the tax bills. The offices does not, however, collect any of the actual tax moneys; that is done by the treasurer's office.

In addition to making the regular assessments, Hagstrom makes up all special assessments requested by the commission for capital improvement.

Along with his duties as assessor, Hagstrom is a member of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors.

Next week's article will deal with the duties of the City Attorney.

Area Mothers Ready For March Tuesday

A band of Birmingham-Bloomfield area women will ask their neighbors Tuesday to "Give for the Life of a Child" in the 25th anniversary March of Dimes Mothers March.

In Birmingham they will be led by Mrs. Donald E. Twining, 459 S. Adams, and Mrs. R. Don Eberhardt, 647 Lakeview. They are co-chairmen for the door-to-door effort to raise $5,000 in the city.

Chairman in Bloomfield Township is Mrs. W. E. Givens, 3857 Lakeland Lane, Bloomfield Hills, also heading a drive to raise $5,000.

In Troy the chairman is Mrs. Carl Littleson, 1963 Butterfield, seeking to raise $1,600.

PROCEEDS WILL help to provide continuing care for persons who suffer from after-effects of polio and to finance research and treatment for birth defects and arthritis.

Serving as colonels in the Birmingham Mothers March are Mrs. Larry Kurber, 1756 Graefield; Mrs. Lawrence Miskell, 2623 Derby; Mrs. William Moore, 1898 E. Lincoln; Mrs. Gordon Love, 962 Albey; Mrs. Daniel Brodbeck, 887 Lakeview; Mrs. Robert R. Owen, 554 Fairfax; Mrs. Tobin Rote, 1420 W. Lincoln; and Mrs. Robert Hutchison, 793 Pleasant; Mrs. Pat Secontine, 1204 Edgewood; and Mrs. Bruce McClelland, 1007 Chester.

IN BLOOMFIELD HILLS and the township drive the colonels include Mrs. William Mosher, 540 Keswick; Mrs. Douglas Remy, 7169 Faircliff; Mrs. N. W. Reeck, 7350 Parkstone.

Mrs. H. A. Pries, 6011 Franklin; Mrs. Philip Caldwell, 3755 Peabody; Mrs. Angus Campbell, 4891 Keithdale; and Mrs. Richard McGraw, 1438 Sodon Lake Drive.

Mrs. George Vilican, 1911 Wake Robin; Mrs. Elmer Plaxton, 920 Southdown; Mrs. S. D. Steiner, 3690 Walbri; Mrs. Robert L. Templin, 3199 Pebble; Mrs. J. A. Mickelsen, 6635 Wing Lake Road; Mrs. Albert C. Carr, 6060 Franklin.

Mrs. Omer Petti, 115 Hamilton; Mrs. George Paige, 5385 Longmeadow; Mrs. James Ford, 4891 Burdey; Mrs. Dick Perry, 95 Manor Ct.; Mrs. Richard Hintermeister, 1644 Bracken.

Mrs. Charles E. Whitney, 3915 N. Telegraph; Mrs. William Roach, 2823 Lamplighter; Mrs. John Lyons, 2708 Brady, and Mrs. Lloyd Saulter, 2900 Lahser.

DECISION IS NO

Room Grows Cold, Talk Waxes Warm

BEVERLY HILLS—The discussion grew hotter and the room grew colder, but nearly 40 people turned out Monday evening in subzero temperatures to protest the clean-out of the South Berkshire Drain.

The council voted down the proposed clean-out after the public hearing had lasted an hour-and-a-half. During the discussion, the hall's thermostat was turned off so that residents could hear over the noise of the fan.

But as the village hall cooled off, opinions waxed warm. In the end, the two councilmen who voted against — and thereby defeated — the proposition felt that the dissenting residents formed too high a percentage of the total 156 property owners involved to be overruled. Only three or four people present were for the clean-out.

DR. DOUGLAS J. WOOD, who has worked over a year for the clean-out, pointed to a health hazard and safety hazard of standing water. The residents felt that the $15,000 necessary to dig a half-mile ditch was excessive and that they could more economically clean out their own portion of the ditch, individually.

Over 10 residents of Marimoor, Leemoor, Stellamar, Woodhaven, Vernon and Embassy, the streets involved, rose to speak their minds.

The proposition had been tabled over a year ago when residents objected. The vote was three "ayes" and two "nays," with two councilmen absent.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, Thomas Kaucheck, 31265 Stafford, requested that water for his home in the new water main system be speeded up.

Kaucheck outlined for the council the hardship he and his family are suffering due to the fact that they built their house believing that water would be there before the cold weather, and therefore did not provide facilities for water for the winter.

Councilmen pointed out that while they were all sympathetic to his problem, the water could not get there any faster. A period of three weeks was estimated as the earliest date on which the line could be built, connected and tested. Priority will be given to the connection if at all possible, they said.

ORDINANCE 68, on the Twelve Town Assessment, was presented for second reading.

The request for landfill permission by Harry Taran for his property, on the east side of Evergreen between the bridges between 13 and14 Mile roads, was granted according to the specifications set up where a road is included in Ordinance 63.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF the planning board for Metamora Green Subdivision and for parking area at the Wrigley store for new shops planned for lease by Allied Supermarkets, Inc., were accepted.

German Youth Visits U.S.; Wants to Come Back Again

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Township Editor

"The people over here are very friendly — I have to say that — especially to someone when they come from Germany. They want to show you things and help you.

"I don't think you'd find as much of that in Europe."

Werner Korsch, 24, of Munich, has found much to surprise him since arriving in the United States in August.

He has toured much of the west, from Los Angeles to Death Valley, and is presently the guest of Mr. and Mrs. John Jevitt in Lathrup.

HIS PURPOSE while here is to learn the language—although his English is almost flawless—and to learn about American markets; especially the methods of buying and selling.

Because he will some day work closely with his father in the management of a printing business in Bavaria, he is also studying printing processes in this country.

His father's firm specializes in the production of calendars, ranging from those used by advertisers to others made for purely decorative purposes. The latter group, which features "cats, dogs, flowers and advent calendars" are exported to England, France, Spain and the U. S., with "a few to Tokyo."

THE YOUNG GERMAN is being squired around the country by an associate of his host, visiting gift shows. He has just returned from Pittsburgh.

Although he hardly takes notice of the current freezing temperatures—having just received a letter from home in which the thermometer was registering 10 below ("in centigrades, of course")—he found the "tempo in business here much faster" than in his own country.

He was particularly surprised to find stores open on Saturday evenings and "even on Sundays. We don't have that."

BLOND AND TALL, Korsch was born in Schoenlinde, Czechoslovakia, where his father owned a printing plant. The family was "driven out after the war by the Czechs—all Germans were."

They lived for two years in East Germany and then moved to Bavaria where his father started over again. Today he is the owner of Adolf Korsch Publishing Co., employing about 100 persons.

Werner attended a graphics (See GERMAN YOUTH, 5-A)

GOP Convention Set at Pontiac

A call to the Oakland County Republican Spring Convention was issued this week by Charles L. Lyle, GOP county chairman. The convention will be held at Pontiac Northern High School at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

Conventioners will hear reports from the County Resolutions Committee, Business and Rules and the Credentials committees.

Delegates and alternates are to be selected to represent Oakland County at the Republican State Spring Convention on Feb. 15-16 at Grand Rapids.

Any interested Republican can attend both conventions.

Hay!

The estimated 5,000,000 hay fever victims in the United States are suffering from a misnamed disease. The ailment is neither characterized by fever, nor is it always due to the pollens of hay-producing grasses, which account for only 35 per cent of all hay fever cases.

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