

### The Prosecutor's 'Circus'

A sigh of relief can be uttered by our residents now that the Bloomfield sniper has been identified and taken out of circulation.

Outside lights can now be turned off and shades lifted.

Out of this whole unfortunate experience, we in the area have learned several things. Among them is the depth we have in local law enforcement.

Back in 1954 Bloomfield Township had one policeman and one police car. Now it has 19 policemen and 5 cars continually working in the area.

We have seen that they are backed up by the state police crime lab in technical areas and by the sheriff's department when more manpower is needed.

WE KNOW that the combination of services will work day and night to keep our residents protected.

For the capture of the sniper a tremendous amount of credit should be given to Chief Norman Dehnke and the Bloomfield Township Police Department.

Credit is also due to the state police and Sheriff Frank Irons for their support.

The sniper was caught through thorough police checking, not through hunches or surmises.

Having given credit where credit is due, we can't say that once the mystery was solved that we were impressed by the man-

ner in which it was relayed to the public. The tragic case should not be the occasion for elected officials to stage a publicity circus.

WE HAVE in mind the situation after the police had gathered the evidence and the county prosecutor stepped into the picture. With his many quotes and television appearances, you would think that he had personally obtained all the evidence, when in fact, he merely entered the case in the closing hours.

His statements to the press and radio about the confession were also in bad taste if the youngster is ever to get a fair trial as prescribed by our Constitution.

IT IS considered unethical for an attorney to comment to the press about a case in which he is involved. It is worse if the evidence is so spread across the pages of newspapers that everyone has a chance to prejudice the accused before he is brought to trial.

Right now, we seriously doubt that the sniper could be given a fair trial.

We hope the publicity will calm down and that the boy can be given the help and apparently so desperately needs.

Again, we commend Chief Dehnke, the state police and Sheriff Irons for their work in restoring peace and tranquility to our community.

### Old Law Library Nemesis

For many years Baldwin Public Library was able to service the reading needs not only of Birmingham but also of most of the surrounding communities.

The library was supported by city funds, non-renter fees and gifts from loyal supporters.

Birmingham is no longer the small town that it was when the library was formed. And the surrounding areas have grown to be much bigger than the home of the library itself.

LAST YEAR the library finally called for help. The library board said unless we get financial help from the outlying communities we can no longer extend to them library service.

Because they gave the outlying communities a couple of years to work out the problem, people sat back and did little. This is human nature.

Beverly Hills eventually worked out a contractual arrangement.

Bloomfield Township, together with the library board, hired Professor Weizman to do a survey of the needs of the area. The professor apparently was not geared to fast work.

IN THE meantime, the deadline was approaching.

So that the township would not be caught short, a group of citizens formed a committee to lay the groundwork either for an independent library in the township or a working arrangement with Baldwin with a new facility being built in the township.

The township board suggested to the citizens group that a special election on

millage be held this summer after all of the alternatives were worked out.

The committee did not feel that it should wait and under Michigan law petitioned to have the question put on the April 1 ballot.

THIS HAS created several problems. There are three Michigan laws providing how to set up a library—one enacted in 1867, and the other two in the early part of the 1900s.

The committee selected the 1867 law, which allows 50 people to petition to have a proposition put on the ballot and provides that if a majority of the electorate approves it, the township may levy a mill tax.

The problem is that subsequent to the law being enacted the 1908 Constitution was ratified which restricted townships to a levy of 15 mills. (Out of this 15 mills Bloomfield Township only receives 1.30 mills for operation. The remainder is split between the county and the school districts.)

THE QUESTION, then, is should the one mill come out of the 1.30 mills or should it be an additional mill? Township board members presume it is an additional mill, or else they will be out of business.

This is another example of how old laws on the books can wreak havoc on communities trying to do the right thing.

It is too bad that the committee couldn't have postponed its action until the legislature could straighten out the three library statutes.

Even after the election there will be a question of legality and the library millage will have to compete with Con-Con on the April ballot.

### From The Eccentric's Point of View...

It is estimated that the recent Kennedy budget, if adopted, will cost the people of Michigan 4.3 billion dollars. That is 4.3 times the amount of taxes collected in 1962 in Michigan for state, city, village, township, county and school taxes. It has been stated that Michigan pays into the federal coffers almost \$1.40 for every dollar it gets back—so of the 4.3 billions we may have to pay for his current budget demands, our State of Michigan might get back a trifle over three billions, if the former ratio of return still holds true.

Headline: Scientists Voice New Year's Disarmament Hopes. If voicing hopes were the ticket, the world would have been disarmed long ago.

Let us record this wintry, chilling fact: during most of the month of January, 1963, Michigan (indeed, much of the entire nation) experienced the longest cold spell in a half century. Birmingham got as low as 18 below zero. Much of the citrus crops of Texas, Florida and California were

ruined. Prices of citrus doubled. (Note: Not a single U.S. politician has come forth with a practical idea that promises to prevent another such cold spell!)

Whistler's Mother will follow the Mona Lisa to the United States. That's a woman for you—never content to let another hog the limelight.

Here's a novel idea for the busy housewife to use when her husband asks: "What have you done all day?" According to Insider's Newsletter, here is her reply: "I spent 250 calories chasing the dog out of your rose bed, burned up another 1,000 tending the baby and cleaning the house, used another 150 perounding the cleaner to get your gray suit back by Wednesday and 75 more convincing Mrs. Potts you didn't mean to be rude at church last Sunday."

The Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan has found that the richer you are the more apt you are to think that business conditions are good. Just what we had suspected.

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PUBLISHER: PAUL N. AVERILL  
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.  
MANAGING EDITOR: KENNETH R. WEAVER  
ADVERTISING MANAGER: ARTHUR SHAFER  
George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus



### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

#### 'Doctor Jeffers' A Friend Cites His Virtues

To the Eccentric:  
The Eccentric obituary said "Dr. Frederick A. Jeffers, 37 years with district Tuesday." It went on to review briefly his history during those short 37 years. I pondered on the shortcomings of such a small notice. The millions of nice things he should have said but couldn't due to the limitations of space. I feel a few of those things should be said.

FRED JEFFERS was a great many things to a great many people. He was the man who went out of his way to welcome new residents of Birmingham and to see that they felt at home.

He was the guy the Lions Club could always depend on to sell the most tickets and work the hardest on each and every program. He was the guy who always found the time, no matter how busy, to go up to camp Mah-Go-Tah-See and get it ready for the summer vacation which meant so much to hundreds of boys.

HE WAS the one the members of Pine Lake Country

Club came to know as "Mr. Entertainment" and showed their great attitude by electing him to the board even though he was a relatively new member.

Fred was a truly dedicated doctor of dentistry who never ceased in his search of improved methods and knowledge to better his ability and thus benefit those who came to know, respect and trust him.

HE LOVED his country and was terribly proud when notified of his appointment as a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve.

A FRIEND

### Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

#### 50 YEARS AGO Feb 11, 1913

The Birmingham Family theatre was opened to the public for the first time Wednesday evening. The theatre is modern in every respect and the safety of the patrons has been well looked after, as the ceiling is strictly fire proof having an asbestos roof. There are two fire escapes back of the stage and two exits in front, all marked by red lights.

Secret reports of the navy department and the state department from all the Central American capitals, except that of Costa Rica, tell of plans for a half dozen rebellions. The navy department took immediate steps to guard American lives and property by rushing orders to four warships to proceed to ports of Nicaragua and Honduras.

On Friday afternoon of this week the school board and the entire teaching staff will hold a reception at the new Barium school from 2 until 3:30. The building will be open for inspection and those interested in the school are invited. At 2:30 a miscellaneous program will be given by the pupils in the auditorium room on the second floor.

#### 30 YEARS AGO Feb. 16, 1933

The First National Bank of Birmingham, unexpectedly closed Tuesday along with all other banks, trust companies and financial institutions in the state by Gov. William A. Clegg's proclamation, opened at 1 p.m. Wednesday on a schedule adopted by the Detroit Clearing House Association to enable depositors to meet their obligations. (See HAPPENINGS, 7-B)

### Bloomfield Fire Dept. Praised

To the Editor:  
I wish to thank the Bloomfield Township Fire Department for the respect and carefulness in which they treated my home in a recent fire.

We may not have city size pro-

tection, but my neighbors and I were there at the equipment and manpower.

MRS. DONALD PARKER  
Clearing House Association to enable depositors to meet their obligations. (See HAPPENINGS, 7-B)

## Once Over Lightly

by IRMA N. DAVIS

When it comes to things mechanical, I am one of those people who thinks a monkey wrench is something you throw into machinery.

Other members of my family are similarly ignorant and sometimes usually answer our distress calls with an "Oh, it's you again."

There was the time, for instance, that we missed a number of high-minded situation comedies because Miss Nine thought the nice little, slits. Unfortunately, the little board of pennies was hardly enough to pay for the service call.

Our youngest stoutly maintains she was "just a little girl" when she taught us that the washing machine will not launder skates.

No one is quite sure just who used the dish-washer on our premises but the repairman said he "didn't suppose they were in there to be washed."

Small appliances, we have discovered, are not only less expensive to purchase but also cheaper to maintain—mainly because they don't have to be serviced on our premises.

side of the bread that's bugging the cheese. Our steam iron produces smog and an interesting texture on white-shirts and anyone crazy enough to use our electric heating pad is in for quite a shock.

A gal we know says she has an electric blanket that must have been delivered to her house by domain. You see, it only heats one side of the bed—preferably the side away from the occupant.

We've never quite figured out why these things happen to us but we do believe, one and all, in giving credit where due. And we'd be the first to admit that every single appliance we own has an infallible, built-in, guaranteed-for-life sense of timing.

The stove burners always go out of commission when we're expecting guests for dinner and at such times the well is apt to have an attack of dehydration and the electric coffee pot gets the hiccup.

Actually, I suppose we'd be lost without the conditioner, even though we threaten at times to bundle everything into the car and drop it all somewhere.

That wouldn't work, anyway. Our car has distributor trouble.

## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

Since 1954 the Republicans have been claiming that the Democratic Party is controlled by organized labor.

Self-respecting Democrats said it wasn't so. Then came the primary of 1960 that pitted Jim Hare and Ed Conners against John Swainson for the Democratic nomination for governor. Hare was the odds-on favorite.

However, the story goes that before the election Solidarity House pulled all the stops for Swainson because he said he would support their program.

Past history will show that Swainson was elected.

THE NEXT two years the influence of Gus Scholle and organized labor dominated the state capitol as never before. "Soapy" Williams, who had been elected before labor flexed its muscles in the party, was independent of labor on some issues. Swainson didn't act before he cleared with Solidarity House.

When Romney was elected, a lot of Democrats decided to change their image. Neil Staebler was among the leaders to minimize labor control.

Then came the state convention a couple of weeks ago in Grand Rapids. Joe Collins was the odds-on favorite this time to remain as state Democratic chairman. All of the political "bigwigs," including former Governor Swainson, were in his camp.

THEN FROM out of the blue Swainson switched to candidate Zelton Ferency. Shortly thereafter, Gus Scholle by coincidence also came out for Ferency.

No one else gave Ferency a chance, because organized labor didn't control the Democratic Party.

When the air cleared it was obvious that many Democrats had kidded themselves for a long time. When Scholle played a tune, many workers in the Democratic Party danced a jig.

Many people in the party still will not admit what happened. They blame the chicken. However, there is no substitute for votes and the few people tricked did not make the difference in the election.

THIS COMING week end the Republicans will also face a contest for state chairman. The race will not involve a difference of political philosophy; merely a race of personalities.

The two announced candidates are both Oakland County people: Art Elliott, former Oakland County chairman and Romney campaign manager, vs. Jack Gibbs, former Oakland County executive secretary under Elliott and later assistant to the state chairman.

Romney has indicated that he would like to see the Romney volunteers merged into a strong Republican organization.

Naturally, the best man to do this would be his former campaign manager, so don't be surprised to see Elliott get the proverbial hand on his shoulder at the eleventh hour to avoid the type of fiasco that rocked the Democratic convention.

## By KEN WEAVER City Beat

Selempophysies.  
What?  
Selempophysies.  
That's right, selempophysies. It's a word from space vocabulary. There are others just as strange sounding—like dysbarism, emissivity, coriolis and hyperoxia.

The words are tongue twisters and verbal strangers that people in the space industry must master.

CONSIDER THIS statement in a recent press release from Chrysler Corp.: "Young men and women through the ages have studied selempophysies without knowing it, despite the fact that the albedo of their united attentions often influenced them in a state of agraving."

What it means, say employees from Chrysler's Space Division, is that moonogazing couples have sometimes been known to get light headed.

Selempophysies, they explain, is the study of the moon's surface. Albedo is the percentage of light reflected from a body such as the moon; and agraving is the condition of no gravity.

HERE ARE other words that space age scientists, engineers and secretaries converse with every day:

Centripetal: (See TRIP It!) Any force which will pull a revolving body inward.

Spatiography: (Spaysh ee OGRAPHY) The geography of the space around us.

Gegenschein: (GAY ghen shine) The faint light area of the sky opposite the position of the sun in the celestial sphere. It is believed to be caused by the reflection of sunlight from particles moving beyond the earth's orbit.

Cryogenics: (kry oh GEN icks) The term refers to the branch of physics that relates to the production and effects of very low temperatures, often close to absolute zero.

Dysbarism: (DIS bar ism) A term used to describe a wide variety of symptoms within the body caused by changes in barometric pressure.

Hyperbolic: (hy purr BALL ik) This is the boomerang shaped curve described by an object in the gravitational field of the earth.

Emissivity: (Em iss IV ity) The relative power of any surface to give off heat, light or energy by radiation.

Ecliptic: (Eh KLIP ik) The great circle of the celestial sphere which is the pathway of (See CITY BEAT, 4-B)