

IN THIS SECTION:
Editorial
School News
Church
General News

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN,

Thursday, March 14, 1963

EDITORIAL

SECTION B

We Need Those Judges

There are bills before the state legislature to give Oakland County two additional circuit judges.

The county presently has five circuit judges who hold court in the new courthouse tower on Telegraph Road.

A circuit court is the basic trial court in the Michigan judicial system. We have many lesser courts around the county such as justice of the peace courts and municipal courts, but all of their judgments are subject to review by the circuit court.

OAKLAND COUNTY Circuit Court is the second hardest working court in the state. Only the Washtenaw County judge hears more cases per judge than our own jurists, and the legislature last week gave Washtenaw an additional judge.

Last year 7965 cases were started in Pontiac. 7138 were disposed of by our judges or an average of over 1100 a judge. The state average is 805.

The problem is that even though our judges are handling more cases than our counterparts in other counties, the backlog is starting to pile up because of the number of new cases being started. In addition to our five judges, the Supreme Court had to assign visiting judges numerous times last year to assist us.

WE HAVE our choice of supporting more judges or asking the people to wait a longer time to have their case heard. In

Wayne County, this period is in the neighborhood of fifteen months as compared to the five-and-a-half-month average in our county.

It is not enough to say that our judges will just have to hear more cases, because apparently they are disposing of a lot more than the average. It is time we recognize our responsibility to relieve this case load because delayed justice can result in no justice.

THERE ARE, of course, problems with having two judges. The salary of a circuit judge is \$23,500 of which the county pays \$11,000. The county must also pay additional administrative expenses for staff for the new courts. But the ways and means committee of Board of Supervisors said we can afford it.

The problems are more than just money. When the courthouse tower was built, one extra court room was constructed. Additional court room space will not be available until another wing is completed, so that one of the new judges would only have temporary quarters. However, Oakland County put up with this before in the old Court House.

IF OUR country was founded on the democratic principle of equal justice for all, we must make justice available.

We encourage the legislature to act with dispatch and commend the Board of Supervisors for their support in the matter.

Just Doing Their Job

Some towns, like Birmingham, have a law against leaving a car with the keys in the ignition; others don't.

In towns that do, a man who gets a ticket for breaking this law may feel justified in griping about police who can't find anything better to do. He may argue, with what he feels is righteous indignation, that instead of picking on him for violating a silly rule they ought to be out preventing theft and other wrongdoing.

This is exactly what the police are doing when they enforce such statutes. Anyone who thinks otherwise had better pay attention to an FBI report that 350,000 auto-

mobiles were stolen in the United States last year.

A SUBSTANTIAL number of these thefts, which represent a nine per cent increase over 1961, were made easier because of what FBI Director Hoover calls the "careless and lazy" drivers who left their car doors unlocked or the keys in the ignition.

Hoover reports that in an "alarming percentage" of the stolen car cases the ignition key had not been removed. The lesson is plain. No statute should be needed to prod motorists into taking this sensible precaution.

monogrammed thumb tacks. A battery-operated electric back scratcher is obtainable, as are music box cuff links, a "thingamabob" that lifts toast out of the toaster, a parking meter timer to avoid tickets, a watch stand with a built-in night light.

And so on. And so on. And so on, into the thousands. It's enough to make a man lie awake nights wondering who thinks 'em all up, who makes 'em, who buys 'em. One thing is sure: In an age that can produce both an electric back scratcher and a device to test for microscopic life on Mars, we need have no fears about any decline in human inventiveness.

Headline: Tshombe Aids U.N. In Congo. Next thing you know, Khrushchev will be wanting to hold hands with Kennedy.

Minnesota legislators consider a bill to permit sale, in that state, of colored oleomargarine. Dairy interests prepare for butter's last stand.

France may hold out for the Skybolt missile. De Gaulle thinks we're nuts for giving up on Skybolts.

A Wisconsin congressman proposes legislation to ban detergents that don't decompose quickly in sewage systems. That should put Congress in a lather.

Meals for the fighting man of tomorrow will come in three categories: Ready-to-eat, heat-and-eat and ready-to-cook. In other words, just like home.

A few tax loopholes are expected to be closed by the 88th Congress, but income taxes will continue to leave holes in family budgets.

Retired persons are sought by the Peace Corps. It's getting so you can't loaf in good conscience even in your old age.

ESTABLISHED IN 1878

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press
Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

Published every Thursday at
Birmingham, Mich., in The
Eccentric Building,
1225 Fourth Street
Telephone MB4641 1100



A. FURNISH: PAUL N. AVERILL
ASSOCIATE FURNISH: HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.
MANAGING EDITOR: ROBERT R. WATKINS
ADVERTISING MANAGER: ARTHUR SHAFER
George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus

The Coming of Spring



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Suggest Alternate Site For City Parking Lot

To the Editor:

The property owners on Townsend request that you publish the following letter, addressed to Mr. Robert A. Thom, chairman of the Citizens for Action Committee:

Dear Mr. Thom:
We would like to express our agreement and sympathy with the objectives as stated by you at the meeting before the Birmingham City Commission on Feb. 14.

As property owners in the block south of Shain Park and as area residents of long standing, we should like to echo your sentiments and indicate our support of the program in general.

As property owners in the affected district, it might well be argued that we "have an axe to grind" and that any suggestion might make would have an underlying selfish motive. However, we should like to protest that the following thoughts are motivated by a sincere desire for the maintenance and improvement of the City of Birmingham's identity.

IT IS regrettable that the growth of population in many cities of the United States has been so rapid as to make proper planning either impossible or at best a secondary consideration.

Unfortunately, in many areas where city planning has been pursued, results, while perhaps production models of efficiency, have also produced monsters of sterility. We believe that the aspects of grace and charm in a community are not only essential for the satisfaction of the esthetic sense of the people that are in the community but also these aspects are of prime importance in any community's commercial development and prosperity.

FEW PEOPLE want to live, work and shop in or on an army base and yet they are undeniably efficiently designed and planned, with careful thought given to transportation, education, recreation, housing and shopping. They lack any esthetic value and it is this lack that makes them undesirable places to live; whether they be maintained by the military or be turned back for civilian occupation, as has happened in many places throughout the United States in recent years.

We would like to suggest that your comment at the meeting directing the thoughts of the various committees and the commission toward the esthetic aspects of (See **PEOPLES' COLUMN**, 4-B)

Vesteyear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

March 14, 1913

The big banquet to be given by the Citizens League at the First Presbyterian church Monday evening, Mar. 17, at 6:30, will afford the old and the new residents of Birmingham and vicinity a not to be missed opportunity to get together on the common ground of good fellowship and good cheer, and to do honor to an old Birmingham man who has made good.

Regular red robin red breast has been first reported as "seen" by Mrs. Frank Stannard of Birmingham Heights, the finest subdivision of Birmingham, proved so by Mr. Robin's choice of his first appearance. Mrs. Stannard saw this harbinger of spring Tuesday of this week and a few others have since made the same report.

For the first time since the militant women of England inaugurated their campaign of violence as a means of getting the ballot, suffragettes made a personal attack on King George in London. If the attempt had not been expected and police arrangements had to be made to the British monarch might have been the same report. (See **HAPPENINGS**, 7-D)

Once Over Lightly

by IRMA N. DAVIS

Fame has its drawbacks.

I found this out in the fourth grade though my reputation as a celebrity rested strictly on the location of my birthplace.

Even today, the words South Africa seem to conjure up a glamorous image in people's mental eyes, yet when I was a child it was even more true. I quickly learned that my friends would believe just about anything and I was quite ready to tell them exactly that.

But when one is the more glibly, Elizabeth, asked me what I "was doing out there," I really got carried away. I had only been there a short time and was a second grader when she put the question.

"WELL," I REPLIED, "looking around" was my business.

"What do you mean?" she came back.

"Well, I worked for the king and queen," I quoth.

I then launched off hoping she would pursue me. She did.

Then I spun my web of lies and deceit. I described myself as a charwoman—named Lady something or other—who had the privilege of sweeping up all the palaces. In the summer, I swept through the seaside courts; in the winter, I broomed out the main castle.

My audience was again but somehow seemed a little disappointed. Only a charwoman? "Yes, but a royal charwoman," I explained. "I got to keep all the diamonds and rubies I found on the floors."

THIS WAS some king and queen. So loaded with jewels and tributes were they, that they dropped their better-shelter wherever they walked. There were so many baubles that no one really ever counted them but there were zillions and

trillions of them being around.

I told her I gave most of the one I snagged to poor people but that I still had a few tucked away.

"They may come in handy," I added.

I was quite the heroine, of course, though I was also hard put to it to put off Elizabeth's hints to come over and see my jewels. I implied that invitations from royal charwomen had to go through channels.

She never did seem to find the right channel until we were studying South Africa in the fourth grade, a whole two years later.

AS WE DISCUSSED the subject in class one day, she held up her hand.

"Yes, Elizabeth," said the teacher who was somewhat of a celebrity herself. We all whispered that she was an ogre and we approached her classes with trepidation.

Irma worked for the queen in South Africa. She was the royal charwoman and she got all the jewels she could find. She still has some at home," said this informer in the breathless flow of words that characterizes the bearer of good tidings.

"Well, Irma," said Miss Stern—she fitted her name—"Is that right? Would you like to tell us about it?"

And that's when I first learned that crime doesn't pay. Not even in jewels.

WHILE THE more sophisticated students snickered I made my confession.

From then on, my tales about my birthplace were prosaic and truthful and so dull that even I completely lost interest in them.

Except when it came to telling about the lions and wild animals.

Did I ever show you the scar on my arm from one of them?

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



I had the opportunity last Thursday evening to observe a public hearing before a legislative committee in Lansing on a proposed bill that would make it mandatory for the people to vote affirmatively before water systems could be fluoridated.

The testimony before the committee did not really shed light on whether the bill should be enacted or not, but it was sure a rip-snorter on the pros and cons of fluoridation. Actually, the only thing missing from the hearing was a high wire act. All the other elements of a circus existed.

THERE WERE quotations on the rise of the national debt, the tactics Hitler used to take over Germany and how the Aluminum Company of America set up a huge conspiracy to get all water fluoridated so that they could sell a waste product—none of which got down to the basic point, should medication, in the form of fluoridation, be forced on people without giving them a choice?

The proposed bill says a vote must be taken first. In principle, very few people can quarrel with this. However, the bill raises some serious local problems. Birmingham buys its water from Detroit. Bloomfield Township and Bloomfield Hills will probably do likewise in the near future.

IF THE PROPOSED bill is passed, what happens if the citizens of Detroit vote for fluoridation and the citizens of Birmingham vote against it? Apparently, we would have to go without water until a new source is found. The subject of fluoridation is a very technical one. I, as a layman, am certainly not in a position to say that it is good or bad. My dentist tells me that Birmingham well water was naturally fluoridated for years, and that's why our generation has such good teeth.

AFTER HEARING the testimony that the ingredients used in fluoridation are the same as that used in rat poison, I just wonder why I've felt so well all these years, not knowing that I'm on my deathbed.

So that the public could better understand the problems involved, it is too bad that the emotionalism and fanaticism can't be eliminated and let the experts tell us whether it is good or bad.

I am in favor of letting the people decide their own fate but I am intellectually insulted by the tactics and propaganda that opponents of fluoridation have been using to fight it. After all, I'm a big boy now.

By
KEN
WEAVER

City Beat



ROBERT KIRSTEN



RICHARD KIRSTEN

"Let's be a bit more careful, huh, when we shake our worried heads and sigh: 'Gee, the school kids today just aren't studying or learning hardly as much as we did.'" Ruth (Mrs. R. E.) Vogt is a Bloomfield Township woman who gets aroused, intellectually and emotionally, over such criticisms. She thinks we take too many matters like this for granted.

SHE COMES to the defense of today's high school youngsters with an example of two area boys. They have written poems for their advanced English class which received "excellent comments from an instructor who is most careful of what he praises."

The boys, 17-year-old twins, are Robert and Richard Kirsten, seniors at Farmington High School.

Their poems:

THE DEATH OF A FOREST

The fire burns and glows among the rocks
And silently its embers float up high
Into a deathly sky, to throw its locks
Of smoke into exotic dance and die.

The show goes on alone and no one sees
The loveliness that slumbers there,
But as the leaping flames spit at the trees
All living creatures flee in dark despair.

For suddenly the dance will stop and in
Its place a demon, cold and menacing,
Will change the beauty of the scene within
And add confusion to the ember's sting.

The rape is done, deception leaves the scar
On all lovely living things, a mar.

Robert Kirsten

OH, FUTURE WHAT DO YOU HOLD?

What does the future hold for me?
If I could choose, would I be free
To mold my life without the hand
Of those whose deeds I understand?

Could I alone walk straight enough
Not vary when the road gets rough?
Right now I'm lost and quite in doubt
I even know what life's about.

But I'll plod on and try to be
A man, with goals set high and see
That I divide the good from bad,
And compensate the help I've had.

Richard Kirsten