

Why Vote for Township Library

The electorate of Bloomfield Township will face two local propositions on the April 1 ballot besides the question of the new Constitution and various elections for public offices.

The fate of these two propositions will decide whether the township residents will continue to have library services available to them.

Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham can no longer take care of the needs of both Birmingham and the rapidly expanding surrounding areas. If the township voters do not approve the propositions, they will be cut off from the Baldwin Library on July 1, 1964, with no place to go.

THE PROPOSITIONS do two things. First is the library tax question. If passed, this will provide for a one-mill tax on residents' property for 10 years.

This one mill will amount to about \$1.88 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation or about \$13.16 per year if you own a \$25,000 home.

This mill would raise slightly over \$100,000 for the operation of the library.

The second proposition would allow the township to tax above the constitutional limitation of 15 mills for this purpose. This is necessary for the aforementioned one mill to be validly collected.

IF BOTH propositions don't pass, the library is out. If they do both pass, the township board would appoint a temporary library board to start work on the machinery of setting up a library.

The Eccentric believes that the whole metropolitan Birmingham area should come under one library authority to avoid duplication of effort. But this is not practical at this time because the township has

nothing to offer Baldwin Public Library until it has some facilities.

Therefore, we recommend to the residents of Bloomfield Township that they approve both propositions and start to work on library facilities with the hope that in future years the whole area may be adequately served by merging the facilities.

Hot Opinions

It is possible, if one can manage the necessarily objective stance, to marvel at how some people can be so positive about the rights and wrongs of political situations.

Though editorial writers are often accused of such an attitude, no man with any humility at all in his makeup can long write editorials without developing a lively sense of how much more he ought to know than he can ever know.

We have in mind persons who, out of misguided partisanship or mere spleen, indulge in the most uncompromising derogatory comment about those who differ with them.

They allow no hint that there might be a grain of truth on the other side; they declare without the slightest qualification that if only this or that were done, the situation would be taken care of at once.

RECENTLY, a politician in one large Midwestern city attacked a proposed new criminal code as worthless and called the distinguished men who had devised it after long thought "mushheads."

Public outrage forced him to back down and admit that his criticism had been, at best, intemperate. The trouble is, a lot of intemperate and blindly opinionated critics never have the grace to back down.

'If You're Spring Cleaning, Honey, I'll Take the Boss OUT to Dinner!'



By HANK HOGAN

Love Letters

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I had a discussion with several state legislators recently as they were piling up their constituents' mail in front of them. They apparently like to receive comments from the "grass roots" as long as it isn't part of a promotion.

THEY HAD four general tips to people who want their opinions legitimately considered.

The first was, don't send your letter to their home. Legislators spend their week in Lansing so your mail is delayed if sent to their home. Also, their spouses have to spend the week trying to sort the "fan mail" from the household bills and when he arrives home for the week end, the last thing he wants to see is a pile of mail.

The best way to reach him is to direct your letter to the legislator at the State Capitol, Lansing, Michigan.

SECONDLY, when you write and say, "I'll be watching the record to see how you vote on this matter, and I will take it into consideration at the next election," make sure that you have written your own representative.

Many times the writers don't know exactly who their legislator is and a barrage of this type of mail might even kill your favorite bill.

Thirdly, on the "most favorite" list is when two people in one family write two letters on the same subject. If the legislator reads his mail he is not fooled by twice as much mail because the return addresses and common postmarks give it away. They advise the family to save fives cents and sign their letter jointly.

LASTLY, there is no statutory requirement that you start your letter off with, "I am a voter and a taxpayer." There are very few people who take the time to write their legislator who aren't.

The legislators enjoy hearing from the home folks as long as their requests are reasonable and not part of a campaign to force a legislator to make a decision on anything else than the merits of the proposal in question.

Churchill, Yes; Others? Maybe

Sir Winston Churchill is going to be the first honorary citizen of the United States. Congressional approval of this honor was not unanimous, as sponsors of the measure had hoped, but at any rate there was a thumping majority.

Perhaps it is as well that there were a few dissenting voices. Not because Churchill does not deserve this unique honor; if any man deserves it, his wartime contributions to the cause of freedom which is our national cornerstone makes him that man. Dissent may serve the salutary purpose of putting up a caution sign against letting the Churchill episode serve as an easy precedent.

REP. WALTER Rogers of Texas put the matter neatly by way of explaining why he intended to vote against the measure grant-

ing this honor to the former British prime minister:

"I think Churchill is one of the greatest statesmen who ever lived. But I cannot in good conscience say that we in this country can grant honorary citizenship to anyone elsewhere in the world."

There is no substantive reason why this cannot be done, if the national legislative body and the chief executive approve. But certainly Rogers and others of more or less like mind have this point in their favor—that honorary citizenship should be awarded only to the most extraordinarily qualified persons.

The granting of such citizenship to Churchill should not be allowed to become a precedent for other such honors. The more often we hand out citizenship, the cheaper it will become.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

'Parental Pressure' Blamed in 'Tragedy'

To the Editor: The resignation of the superintendent of schools makes me ashamed to be a citizen of Birmingham.

Although the parental pressure groups responsible for this tragedy represent only a small portion of the voters, the shame of permitting such a situation to develop must rest with each one of us.

Perhaps it is time that we should all appraise our community attitude and realize that overt support of five officials is incumbent upon each one of us. This does not negate our right to express an opinion, but it is fundamental decency to expect

that opinion to be voiced with dignity and restraint.

ALL THE efforts of a plan board to create a physically beautiful city will be for naught if our community image is to be one of arrogant rudeness.

Those of us who sincerely wish the continued development of the school system will be wise to visibly support our administrators. We are fortunate to have an excellent school board; instead of carping criticism let us make sure that they and the people whom they employ receive our complete support.

PORTY YEAR RESIDENT

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
March 21, 1913

There will be an address in Birmingham Saturday night April 5th at 8 o'clock. Dr. H. A. Miller of Olivet College will speak upon the social and industrial justice to be obtained through agrarian politics. The high purpose of the great national organization now being perfected is bringing out a new type of politician.

Despite the fact that a majority of the senate committee on the agricultural college are personally opposed to President J. L. Snyder, of the Michigan Agricultural College, and some of the members of the house committee believe that a change in the management of the institution would be desirable, every effort will be made by the two committees to secure the increase of appropriation asked for by the state board of agriculture.

310 Howard, Steals from the barn of Charles A. Brush, Woodward Avenue, just north of our village, a very fine single harness. Mr. Brush will pay the reward of ten dollars for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the thief or thieves. Now, all you local sleuths get busy.

30 YEARS AGO
March 23, 1933

Figures which form the basis of a plan for re-opening the First National Bank of Birmingham were being checked today by a member of the Chief Examiner's Staff of Chicago, following appointment of Charles E. James as conservator for the institution. Mr. James, a Birmingham resident for seven years, and one of the bank's directors, was appointed conservator by the Department of the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington.

One of the most intense and spirited campaigns in the history of local elections was foreseen today as the 17 candidates for Birmingham's first Commission under the proposed new city charter, and the four candidates for justice of the Municipal Court, prepared to carry their fight to the polls in the April 3 balloting.

A resolution calling for the immediate dismissal of Albert W. Noonan as city assessor because he has been in the habit of punching the Municipal Building time clock from 15 minutes to an hour and a quarter late every morning, was voted down by the Commission Monday night, 5 to 2. None of the members sympathized with Mr. Noonan's tardiness but opposed his dismissal last week, registered Birmingham voters on April 5 will be asked to approve, or reject, three bond issues which would permit

15 YEARS AGO
March 18, 1948

In addition to the two city charter amendments, which were examined last week, registered Birmingham voters on April 5 will be asked to approve, or reject, three bond issues which would permit

'Petty Selfishness' Caused Resignation

To the Editor: Things certainly have come to a pretty sad state when the petty selfishness of one or two groups of people can drive out our new and very capable superintendent of schools and perhaps even several members of our school board to decide that they will not run again.

Confronting the school board and the school administration in regular meetings with suggestions, gripes, etc., is the right of every taxpayer, but harassing them at their homes is something entirely different—and the way of unreasoning and irresponsible people!

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I AM VERY sorry to see Dr. Dickey tender his resignation. I feel that he has done a tremendous job for all of us that even better things would have developed.

It is my great hope that he will reconsider and stay with us for a long time. Personally, I greatly admire the members of our school board. They work much harder than any of us really comprehend and it's a dirty job in the back to have to contend with the malcontents who for the most part are acting upon half-truths.

CHICK HOLMES
31745 AUBURN DRIVE
BIRMINGHAM

Questions Board Action in Letter On Bus Measure

To the Editor: I have just finished reading a letter sent to residents in the Bloomfield Hills School District, regarding Senate Bill No. 1141, known as the "Fair Play Bus Bill." I simply cannot understand how the Bloomfield Hills Board of Education could sanction such a discriminatory letter.

It is a shameful thing when the educators of our young people will sign their names to such a document. It makes me doubly grateful for the opportunity of sending my children to parochial school.

AS LONG AS I am paying approximately \$600 in school taxes, I feel that I am supporting the school bus system as well as the school educational system and I should have a choice in whether or not I use either one.

When and if the proposed library is built (with the aid of our taxes), is the Bloomfield Hills Board of Education going to send another letter suggesting it be used only by public school students?

Some Words Of Advice

To the Editor: Quickly said:

1. Re Mrs. Quanton whose demise you reported: she was a second cousin of Miss Clara Benedict, 82, of 352 N. Woodward, Bham. Mr. Quanton died accidentally while picking apples; he fell when the ladder broke; it pierced his lung.

2. If Mr. Romney wants to help the Northern Peninsula he should cut the Mack bridge toll to \$2.

3. I don't favor widening Maple On Woodward between Oakland and Vinewood the gulch should be removed by raising the road-level between aforementioned streets.

I favor I-beam construction, leaving the present road for parking below.

THURE ROSENE
710 WOODWARD
BLOOMFIELD HILLS
(See PEOPLE'S COLUMN, 5-B)

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

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From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Frank Lane, never loath to state an opinion, says that spring training is 50 per cent ballyhoo. He says that ball players could get in shape in three weeks instead of six. The former general manager of the Chicago White Sox, St. Louis Cardinals, Cleveland Indians and Kansas City Athletics, now general manager of the Chicago Zephyrs, does not sell ballyhoo short, however. He thinks spring training is of great promotional value and whips up interest in the sale of tickets. This is true. And baseball is not the only business that employs ballyhoo, although in some quarters it is "public relations," "promotion," or maybe "consumer education." To call it ballyhoo is, perhaps, a discredit to the deft art of sales stimulation, but baseball fans will forgive Lane for employing the word. Reports from the training camps, ballyhoo or not, make sweet reading to the diamond bug.

The fastest and fiercest thing that swims, writes William J. Cronin in an outdoor magazine, is the killer whale. It eats whatever it can catch and is one of the most terrible predators in existence. But before human beings start pointing an accusing finger at this terror of the deep they might hearken to Dr. Carlton Ray, associate curator of the New York Aquarium. The killer whale, he says, helps control the balance of nature in the ocean, whereas man, "the most rapacious predator on earth," seldom serves nature's purpose.

A Department of Labor manpower expert says that anyone now working can expect to be displaced from his job three times before he retires. What'll be tough is landing that fourth job.

Floods in one part of the country, drought in another. Weather is like some consumer goods: there's enough of it, but distribution is uneven.

The number of females is growing faster each year, says a research organization. No man who tries to get a seat on a bus will dispute the finding.

Castro demands that relatives of ransomed prisoners buy their way out of Cuba. He may find that prisoners have an awful lot of relatives.

January is the birth month of Benjamin Franklin. Which is a reminder that these days you don't even have to fly to a kite to get a shock.

The U. S. Chamber of Commerce calls for a less bulky federal budget. What we'd like to see is one whose totals weren't quite so bulky.

Soon there won't be enough shopping days before Christmas to buy the greeting cards.

A Georgia high school football star is expelled because he married, and grid fans are irked. Without football, how can the lad build his character?

Jazz behind the Iron Curtain shows how effective Radio Free Europe is, says an official. RFE's new theme: Freedom and all that jazz.

Washington observers feel the swift, firm U.S. action on Cuba caught the Russians by surprise. It caught most Americans by surprise, too.

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By KEN WEAVER City Beat

"Okay, lady, we're through now. We'll be back tomorrow and take care of those repairs for you," said the man from the furnace company to my wife.

Tomorrow came—and no furnace repairman. "That's the trouble with these repairmen and servicemen," said the Mrs. "They think that because we're housewives we'll be here every day and they can come back anytime."

"They don't think it makes any difference what time they get here. They don't believe it's important to us, that it makes any difference with our work day."

THEY ARE so wrong. Little do they realize the pressures under which a housewife works from day to day, especially when there are a couple of children around.

And more especially when those youngsters are like Jeff and Laurie.

Jeff, a sweet, lovable, blue-eyed blond is as mischievous as any 19-month-old boy can be.

Laurie, a sweet, lovable, brown-eyed brunette, has the more sophisticated ways of a three-year-old for getting into her mother's hair.

WHEN YOU'RE working away and all of a sudden you realize that Jeff is awfully quiet, you know he's doing something he should not.

Such as dragging the vacuum sweeper out of the closet and taking it apart.

Or opening the drawers in the chest in Laurie's room and throwing her clothes on the floor.

Or crawling into, and getting stuck in, the magazine cabinet.

Or pulling the pots and pans out of the kitchen cupboard.

Or pulling scraps of paper out of the wastebasket and throwing them about the house.

Or climbing (and falling) into the bathtub.

AS FOR LAURIE, who insists she's "a good girl most of the time," she likes to help Momma.

I mean, what kind of pressure is it when you're trying to clean up the breakfast dishes and there's little Laurie right under your nose trying to shove her play cup under the faucet so she can wash it?

Laurie likes to cook, too. So, when Momma's trying to prepare a meal, there's Laurie right alongside her in the kitchen. Does she cry when she wants a certain utensil and Momma tells her no, that Momma has to use it now? Huh!

LIKE JEFF, Laurie sometimes goes off to play by herself. When you get around to checking up on a box?

(See CITY BEAT, 2-B)