

## The Game Is for the Boys!

Think of the boys, and end your squabble.

This is our advice to the feuding administrators of the baseball leagues for boys between the ages of 8 and 16 in the Birmingham area.

In a front-page news article last week, The Eccentric reported on charges made by two of the leagues against the third one.

In our news and editorial coverage of

## They Have It

An essential quality of an effective administration is the ability to compromise.

With pride, we point to the Birmingham Board of Education and school administrators as possessing this ability. It is evidenced in their decision to revise the controversial plan for changing school boundaries.

As originally presented, the plan proved extremely unpopular to parents of children in the Harlan School area. Less strenuous in their objections were Westchester and Bloomfield area residents.

THE ECCENTRIC endorsed the original proposal and urged the parents to accept it, believing that it was the best possible method to meet the growing needs of the district.

But we are pleased that the school officials, in reconsidering it, were able to effect a compromise, rather than arbitrarily and stubbornly adhering to the first proposal.

The board and the administration demonstrated quite convincingly that they stand ready to do whatever they can to effectively and efficiently fulfill the requests of the district's residents.

We are fortunate in Birmingham to have board members and school administrators of such high caliber.

AS WE commend them, however, we caution the parents that they cannot necessarily expect as favorable a decision next year.

They must face up to the fact now, and be ready to accept it, that circumstances next year may not lend themselves to the same type of compromise as effected this time.

Again, we commend the Birmingham Board of Education and school administrators for their professional, and sympathetic, handling of a difficult, emotion-packed situation.

They deserve our respect, our support and our cooperation. They have proved again their sincere dedication to and interest in dealing with local school problems.

their activities, we will not side with one league against the other. Our concern is for the boys; we believe strongly that the boys must not suffer from the quarrels among their leaders.

FRANKLY, WE believe the differences are nothing more than petty grievances and could easily enough be worked out if the officials—the fathers of the ballplayers—would but give constructive thought to solving their mutual problems.

We urge the officials to effect a compromise to solve their differences. It might be well, too, for them to comprise a code of ethics in respect to recruitment and fund-raising efforts.

SURELY, THERE are enough boys in Birmingham and the immediate area to support all three leagues. (Actually, there is a conflict in ages, 13-15, between only two of the groups.)

Each league should be able to enlist qualified players without attempting to raid the ranks, or potential ranks, of the other.

Perhaps, the three groups could establish a board, or council, to coordinate their activities so that one league would not gain an unfair advantage over the other. This is an adult way to approach such matters.

WE WOULD remind the administrators that these ballplayers are at an age when they are easily influenced in their behavior, in their concepts of good and bad.

This is the age when they develop the characteristics of sportsmanship that will guide them in future years. It is only natural that they follow the examples of their leaders. It is only natural that behavior patterns acquired from adults (especially from parents) carry over into their ball-playing habits.

WE BELIEVE in clean, healthy competition between the leagues as well as between the individual teams. All of the actions of the organizers should be out in the open and above board.

There should be no behind-the-scenes maneuvering, no devious methods to lure one boy from one league to the other.

Indeed, there should be no need for such tactics.

CONSEQUENTLY, we say to the leagues' officials:

Think of the boys, of their future, of their development as they advance through the various levels of league play. Forget petty differences and work together to solve the problems—for the benefit of the boys.

the casual assumption that "self-expression" through painting or horn-tooting is a sign of cultural maturity. The truth is that, though such things may be both pleasant and rewarding they do not necessarily have any connection with the lonely, perceptive, often agonizing world of the true artist. Mass culture has its benefits, and should not be scorned. But neither should it be equated with the creative spirit.

The postponement of elections again in South Korea is not surprising. When a military junta takes over, it always seems to have a lot of trouble finding time for elections.

A columnist says Harold Wilson, the new British Labor party head, may change if he becomes prime minister. Uh huh; for one thing, he'll get some more grey hairs.

Clothing say an FTC order is confusing. They're right — but if people start demanding clarity in government orders, the federal machinery will grind to a halt.

Goldwater sees "an invitation to disaster" in stepping up the shift from planes to missiles. For an Air Force Reserve general, that's pretty moderate talk.

Every life makes a good story when distilled into literature. The trouble is, those with the most interesting lives often lack good distilling equipment.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has launched a submarine to study underwater life. It differs from the Polaris subs, handling mussels instead of missiles.

## 'Quit Squabbling; Let's Play Ball!'



### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Privilege Bears Cost, Says foe of Bus Bill

To the Editor:

Just received a letter from our Bloomfield Hills School District stating that State Senate Bill No. 1144 was quietly introduced which would make it compulsory to transport nonpublic school children to schools of their choice, no matter where the school is located (within an eight-mile limit of the district's boundaries).

In our district this means a raise in our property tax of at least \$40 per year, which is unthinkable. But beside this point, it is a pity that so-called men of responsibility would be so confused as to promote such a bill, because

this is definitely against all sensible reasoning.

OUR NATION has a better record of educating the masses than any other nation of the world because of our public school system. We should fight to keep this system strong and not let it be torn apart by those near-sighted people who would emasculate it by this sort of division.

If people wish to send their children to private or parochial schools, then they should be willing to pay for the extra privileges all down the line.

MRS. MARGARET WOODSIDE

## Groups Laud Paper's Staff

To the Editor:

I wish to express my appreciation to the staff of The Birmingham Eccentric for the consistently high grade news treatment you've given to the activities of the Committee for the New Constitution.

To have our programs reported fairly, accurately and frequently has meant a great deal to the Oakland Citizens League and men laboring in the vineyard of good government.

We don't begrudge the long overtime hours spent on these public service causes when we find the citizens responsive to our objectives. You have helped us gain an ever-widening degree of public acceptance for our work.

We have a vote of appreciation to your excellent editorial staff.

WILLIAM H. MCGAUGHEY  
Oakland Citizens League  
380 S. Bates  
Birmingham  
(See PEOPLE'S COLUMN, 8-B)

## Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

April 4, 1913

Now we are to have a real Election next Monday with three tickets in the field. We still say the old reliable G.O.P. ticket will poll the most votes. The Progressives have hopes and while there is life there is still hope. The Democrats hope to slip one in when the rest are not looking.

At no time in the past have our farmers been handicapped as they are this spring by the condition of Woodward Avenue from Royal Oak to and through Birmingham. The actual loss would pay for good roads. "Good Roads" suggests the name of Horatio S. Earle, who has made a life study of road building. Mr. Earle will tell some inside history regarding the present condition of our roads, all advocates of good roads should hear this lecture.

The Family Theatre Co. is right up to the necessities and demands of the day. All receipts of this popular play house last Monday night went to the Flood sufferers and totalled over \$80.00. That is not all, six reels were run, two more than for (See HAPPENINGS, 8-B)

## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



Last Monday's election climaxed an era in our community which was highlighted by the best relations ever achieved between the Birmingham City Commission and the merchants and residents.

This situation was in a large part achieved and cemented by a vivacious gal who served as our mayor for the last three years. Unfortunately, Mrs. Howard Willett, better known as "Twink," decided not to seek re-election.

She has served the community on the Commission for eight years and decided, in her words, "to take a sabbatical" so that she could devote more time to other community projects that she has had to bypass over the last several years.

SHE SAID that she "would like to step back and see objectively what has happened to our community over the last eight years."

"The city changes slowly and we who are on top of it don't always notice the change."

During her tenure Birmingham has changed. One only has to look at photographs of our community then and now to see the physical change. But more important, Birmingham has felt a spiritual change.

FOR YEARS Birmingham's mayor was the commission member who garnered enough votes so that he could preside at the commission meetings.

When Twink became mayor, she had the time to devote to the job, so that it was more than just jangling a gavel on Monday nights.

She created an image. Public officials outside of Birmingham remembered her at municipal meetings as a sparkplug with a lot of personality. They thought of all Birmingham possessing these qualities.

WE WERE NO longer north of Detroit and south of Pontiac. We were Birmingham, with the greatest public relations person possible.

Her energy excited the merchants into improving our shopping area. She worked with them. Attended their meetings. And we will see results of this emerging in years to come.

She excited citizen groups into working harder for our community.

She excited the commission and city employees into doing a job of which the electorate could be proud.

THE JOB of course, is not done. Birmingham must still improve their shopping area to attract more high class specialty shops. This is the only way we can fight off the move to shopping centers we have seen in our neighboring communities.

But under the mayor's direction we have begun well.

Let us, the citizenry, make sure that Florence Willett's sabbatical doesn't become retirement. Let us hope that she returns to our political scene in the near future.



By  
KEN  
WEAVER

## City Beat

If you want to talk to people who know what they are talking about, talk to members of the Birmingham League of Women Voters.

Last week, I commented here on how well Mrs. George W. Romney knows her subject—state government.

Well, since then I've had lunch with three LWV members and discovered that they are just as well versed in their subject—the constitution on which we voted Monday.

THESE GALs told, without boasting, of the many debates between their members and people opposed to the new constitution.

One of the things they found in common was that they were better able to maintain their composure because they knew what they were talking about.

It was their opponents who became emotional in their presentations when they ran out of knowledge.

THE LOCAL league was very influential in getting the Constitutional Convention started in the first place and actually conducted the campaign to get the new document adopted.

League members, dedicated to the work of improving government, are quick to emphasize that they are not a social organization. They are a nonpartisan civic organization, seeking to motivate the citizens to greater interest and participation in government.

Talk to any league member and you'll find that she knows what she's talking about. Talk to their husbands and you'll find, in many cases at least, that they rely on their wives for recommendations when it comes to election time.

AN INDIANA printing firm sent along this little puzzle the other day:

That that is that is that is not is not that it is. How do you punctuate it?

That that is, is; that that is not, is not. Is not that it? It is.

WHAT'S HAPPENING to the Birmingham-Bloomfield area?

In the last few months, we've had a window breaking spree, two killings, a bank robbery and a missing boy. Is it coincidence to have so many of these things in such a short time? Or is it a trend? Is it any indication of the continued growth of this area? What can we expect in the future?

It's something to give thought to, anyway.

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

It seems worthwhile to note that a radio announcer in Flagstaff, Ariz., has been elected tribal chairman by the Navajo Indians. His was an upset victory over the much older incumbent, Paul Jones, who had held the office for eight years. Such an election is accepted as a commonplace in that part of the country where the reservation sprawls over 16 million acres extending into Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. Some circumstances of the election may come as a bit of a surprise to many in other regions, however. The tribal chairmanship is a powerful, \$20,000-a-year post for which there is sharp rivalry. To facilitate making the choice, 96 polling places were established for the 73,000 Navajos on the reservation. It is even more interesting that polling places were also set up in Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Albuquerque, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Oakland. These were for the accommodation of Navajos employed or transiently resident in those cities. Several of the candidates provided transportation to the polls. This was one indication that the tribe's politicians are learning the white man's ways. Such imitation may be flattering, but let's hope the Navajos learn to make better use of the franchise than the palefaces have.

There has been much talk of a "cultural explosion" in the United States. Statistically, to be sure, such cultural manifestations as interest in painting, music and literature are on the upsurge. If a recent poll's conclusions can be believed, some seven million households now consume original works of art; 10 million adults paint; 11 million play a musical instrument. This is noteworthy, even when considered alongside other findings: 50 million adults read comics, 72 million watch Westerns. But the fly in the ointment is

A columnist says Harold Wilson, the new British Labor party head, may change if he becomes prime minister. Uh huh; for one thing, he'll get some more grey hairs.

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## THE GOLDEN YEARS

A Protestant minister, who says his business is the moral and spiritual but not the economic, has a retirement problem. It concerns money.

He and his wife live in a home that is provided by his church. He is scheduled to retire nine years from June, 1963. At that time his church pension, plus his Social Security, will total about \$375 a month.

"Now, the question I want to ask," he says, "is this:

"Would it be wise for my wife and me to invest in a home now, and rent the home to a reliable party? We would use the rent to help pay upkeep and monthly payments on the mortgage. "Or would it be wiser to save up our money and buy or build a home when we retire in 1972?"

IT IS the opinion of this columnist that he should forget the house. There are three reasons:

1. The Dull and Practical. A house built now could be old-fashioned in nine years, and the lot on which it stood could be in slums by then.

Single-family homes have seldom been considered good investments for extra income. Getting steady tenants for nine years would be a problem.

Collecting rent would be a bother for anybody—and for a minister it could be awful. He's not emotionally fitted to be a landlord.

Also, how does he know how he'd like his eggs fried nine years from now; or how he'd want his living room?

2. Perspective. People along in their 50's, getting their first sniff of retirement, will frequently start acting like squirrels—gathering leaves for a nest and collecting nuts like mad. They start hedge-

ing everywhere and hoarding dime.

THIS IS small thinking, especially if there are nine years, or even five to go before retirement. Especially if there is to be a retirement income of \$375 a month, or even \$250.

Life is not over yet. The richest years may lie ahead.

Anybody who has been reasonably successful up to this time should be thinking, "What now do I do?" Not how to dig a hole, or buy a safe little house to crawl into.

Thinking big is the most needed, and most neglected, talent of people in their 50's.

3. DREAMS. A minister—or anybody else—who has nine years to go before retirement, who will get \$375 a month at that point, and who can save \$100 a month until then, is very rich.

For \$200 a month the minister and his wife can live comfortably in the sunshine states. With \$375 they can be wealthy.

Furthermore, the saving of \$100 a month, or \$1200 a year, can add up to \$10,800 in nine years—and with compounded interest in a savings and loan association, to a great deal more.

THE MINISTER might well consider second-class passage on an ocean liner to the Holy Land, to live and study for two or three years on his fine pension, and then come home to lecture and write.

Life hasn't stopped at 50, or 55, or 60, and there's no sense in planning a hole to crawl into for protection. It may be the best time of life for thinking big.

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