

Should We Support YMCA Drive?

"Physical facilities for group work services, whether provided by public or private funds, constitute an integral part of the community's total resources."

"Existing facilities of private agencies should be used wherever practicable to supplement public resources and vice versa."

This statement comes from a report entitled "Principles, Policies, Planning Criteria for Group Services." A study by United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit, it was dated February, 1963.

WITH THIS principle of use of existing facilities in mind, The Birmingham Eccentric reviewed the local YMCA's campaign to raise \$869,133 for a swimming pool, gymnasium and other facilities.

Are these services needed at this time? Are our present recreational facilities being used adequately? Are they being used to the maximum? Should our community support this campaign?

Answers to these questions should help us to decide whether to make a contribution.

YES, THERE certainly does appear to be a definite need for the Olympic-sized pool the Y seeks.

Surveys by University of Michigan research teams show a need for a pool that would be available for certain types of instruction during the hours of the day when present facilities cannot be used by the Y.

A check this week with the Birmingham Recreation Dept. and the Birmingham School District's athletic department pretty well substantiated the need for greater swimming facilities.

There are four public school pools now and there will be a fifth when the new Berkshire junior high is completed. But these are already fully scheduled, or nearly so, during the school hours, evenings and week ends for the entire year.

They are used during the day, of course, for normal student instructional purposes. They are used in the evenings and on week ends for municipal and other public programs.

IN THE summer the pools are turned over to the city recreation department for day-long use in its public swimming programs.

The local YMCA has in the past few years conducted a summer program involving private pools.

Last year, 24 such pools were utilized;

Let's 'Accentuate the Positive'

The human potential is such that only man's talent for self-destruction endangers his progress to wondrous new heights—in science and technology, at any rate—during the next few decades. This insight of a not so distant yesterday has become today's commonplace. Everyone knows, by now, that in what one shrill observer calls the age of overkill man is more than ever his own worst enemy.

There is much to be said for the psychological exercise of lessening the threat of destruction by focusing on possible developments. In simpler terms, this is nothing more than the old business of accentuating the positive.

ONE SUCH ACCENT is to be found in recent stories about surgery to rejoin severed or nearly severed limbs. A boy's arm cut off by a train last May was put back on and thus far the surgery appears successful. Early in January of this year, a team of surgeons re-attached a man's leg

weekly enrollment in classes at these pools numbered 272; and in all 2,176 people made use of them in an eight-week period.

Studies of Birmingham and the immediately surrounding communities show that there are groups who would make use of a pool during the day if one were available—during the time when present facilities are used by students.

THERE IS need, then, for a pool at the Y and evidence that it would be widely used—for family swimming, for youth swimming instruction, for physical fitness and for regular recreational purposes.

The Y's plans call for the pool to be in operation from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays.

Whereas present facilities will provide accommodations for up to 1,076 persons, the Y pool would accommodate up to 2,800 per week.

ALTHOUGH WE recognize the need for a swimming pool, we see no great demand for a gymnasium at this time. Information gained from the surveys does not seem to substantiate this need.

Yet, in view of the Y's plans for an extensive physical fitness program (massage room, sun alcove, hot vapor room, exercise room, etc.) and in view of the national emphasis placed today on health-building projects, we submit that there is merit to the plan for a gym.

NOW, THEN, should our residents support the fund drive?

Yes. We are quick to defend our residents in any such campaign because we realize how often such requests are made of them.

Many of the people who live in our community are the leaders who actually plan and work for the various fund drives in the metropolitan area.

Besides their personal efforts, these same individuals are asked time and again to make financial contributions. We think they should be recognized for this fact and should be dealt with fairly. And in this case, we think they should know that their money will go for a worthwhile project in their own community.

WE HAVE perused the information gained from studies of recreational facilities and needs in our community. We have checked with the authorities involved—and it is our conviction that this YMCA fund campaign should have our support.

which had been never severed at mid-thigh. Though success is not assured, the doctors are optimistic.

[Such feats of surgery are no more extraordinary than many others, but their special drama is inescapable. The idea of restoring severed limbs has been a dream for centuries. These early examples of realization of this dream are cited because they hint at further wonders that will surely come to pass as medical science rapidly improves on its methods and develops new approaches to ancient problems.

MANY OTHER examples of man's swift increase in knowledge and capability could be mentioned. The point we make is that such advances give some reason for optimism about the fate of the human race. Such wonders make it mandatory to put from our minds the very thought of war as a solution of our problems. War, far from solving anything, would put the quietus on human development for a long time to come.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

A Midwest coin shortage threatens to affect Christmas trade. This may mean an expansion of credit—if that's possible.

The decline in the birth rate won't last, say population experts. It will start to shoot up again in the late 1960s. This prediction is for the birds—mainly the stork.

The life of the modern U. S. business cycle, from humble beginning to larger security of its

little and even big organizations, is shorter—that is, the time from start to insolvency... taxes and labor and political conditions being what they are.

The Russians are reported catching supplies in Cuban caves. This may be so. The Comies are great at going underground.

If a tax cut does what it's supposed to do, business will push ahead. If it doesn't, the administration may be pushed to the wall.

ESTABLISHED IN 1878

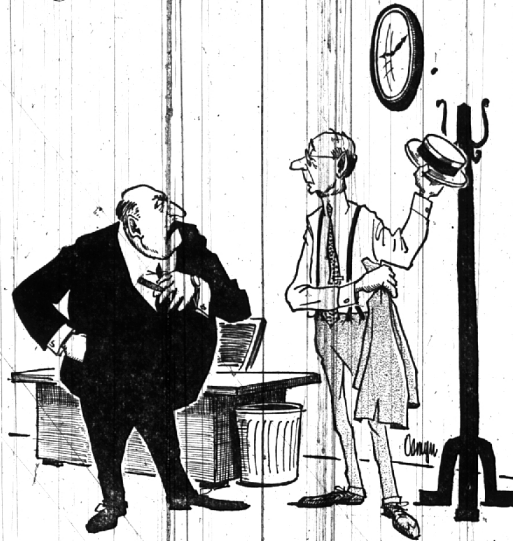
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'How Long Are You Going to Use Daylight Saving Time as an Excuse for Being Late?'



Blakeslee Hardware Photo Stirs Memories

To the Editor:

In your paper of April 18 you had a picture of the old Blakeslee Hardware store asking if anyone knew who the three men were who appeared in the picture.

The center one is Dean Johnson, son of Dr. Dan Johnson, who was owner of the Johnson and Shaw hall. The building was later known as the O'Neal Building on Woodward and Maple.

THE OLDER man is Bill Bang whose sons operate the Bang Florist Shop on Wil-

son.

But we do remember The Blakeslee Hardware very well as my family were here many years and my grandmother Grinstead was one of the six early settlers of this town of Birmingham along with Hamilton and Willis. They migrated here from New England state.

MY GRANDPARENTS settled on the old Indian Trail in Southfield some 150 years ago—as near as we can figure.

ALVIN A. MUDGE
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Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
May 2, 1913

Two men were taken away from the Cincinnati mine of the Monongahela River Consolidated Coal & Coke company at Fairview, Pa., the scene Wednesday of a disastrous explosion. Suffering untold agonies from exposure and from the shock of an explosion that is known to have claimed the lives of 95 miners, the two men, Charles Crawl and Philip Legler, each thirty-six years of age were brought to the surface almost unconscious.

The revenue cutter Unalga has been ordered to stop at Kodiak, Alaska, for an investigation of the conditions on Kodiak Island, where natives were made destitute by the eruption of Katmai volcano last June.

Not a whistle sounded, not a single squint from the water boys last Thursday night and hardly a soul knew that at midnight Messrs. Erwin & Smith lost their slaughter house and contents by fire. The loss is estimated at \$1,000. Two dressed beefs were consumed as well as nearly \$400 worth of hides. It is supposed to be the work of an incendiary as no fire by them had been in the building for days. No insurance.

30 YEARS AGO
May 4, 1933
Leaders in the movement to (See HAPPENINGS, 7-B)

Cites Problems of Today's World

To the Editor:

Will you please thank Rev. Glass for the words he spoke (and which you printed on April 11) on "Stealing."

More and more am I becoming delighted with the turn in events in regard to how our ministers, priests and rabbis are discussing via pulpit and press, not only things pertaining to the Old World but also they are facing many of this world's problems.

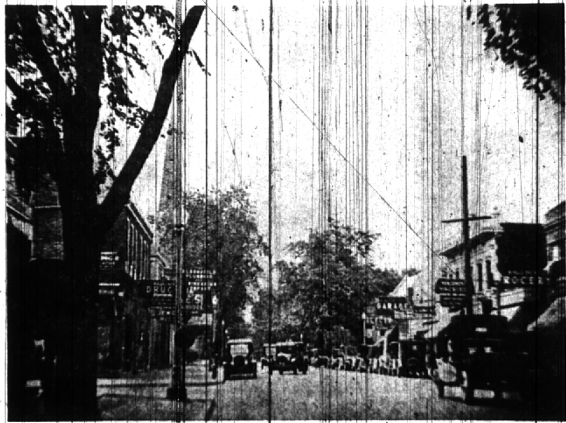
EVEN though, at times, it seems our current dilemmas exist without any solution, how do we know but if, all of us, religious and lay folks, really became concerned, they wouldn't hang onto us like

nagging headaches, shooting pains through our moral fiber of today's society in this year of 1963?

MRS. R. E. VOGT

Wins Third Prize

The Michigan School for the Blind announced today that Timothy Kennedy won a third place ribbon in the 17th annual youth talent exhibit held in the Lansing Civic Center last week. Timothy, an eighth grade student at the school, is the nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Berry of Birmingham. His entry was in metalwork and was a hot plate and stand.



Do You Remember?

Here is an early view of Maple, looking west from Pierce. What do you recognize in the photo? When was it taken? Can you identify some of the stores, the churches? What model and make are the cars? Why

not write your answers and send them to the News Room, The Birmingham Eccentric, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham, Mich., and share your memories with other readers?

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



The legislature was supposed to be finished with its work for the year Friday afternoon, but some problems developed.

The State of Michigan inherited an extra congressman as a result of the 1960 federal census, but the Republican legislature and a Democratic governor couldn't get together to decide where the new district should be.

Governor Swanson vetoed two Republican bills last year putting the 19th Congressional District in Oakland County.

When George Romney was elected everyone thought the problem was solved because he certainly would not veto a Republican redistricting of the state.

THE PROBLEMS arose when the legislators, themselves, couldn't agree on the best plan. Some were motivated by the desire of going to Washington themselves, others merely wanted their own congressman to have a district that was so safe that he could be elected from jail if he necessarily arose.

The Senate finally did pass a plan an hour before its deadline. This turned out to be just a jumping-off point because in order to get enough votes in the House of Representatives it had to be changed completely.

A new plan was passed by the House, again just an hour before deadline.

Because the bill that passed the House was different than the bill that passed the Senate, a committee of both senators and representatives was appointed to work out the differences.

THIS COMMITTEE hadn't reached agreement when Friday midnight had rolled around, so the session was extended to Saturday.

Finally, a plan was arrived at and submitted to the Senate Saturday afternoon. The Democrats tried to filibuster, but the committee's report was finally adopted.

The new plan broke Oakland County into the two new districts. Each district should contain about 411,000 people since there are about 7,800,000 people in the state and 19 districts.

Oakland County's population in 1960 was 690,000 people which would entitle it to slightly over 13 1/2 districts.

THE PLAN puts the four southeastern townships (Bloomfield, Troy, Southfield and Royal Oak) and the cities contained in the township areas into the 18th District.

The rest of the county was joined to neighboring Livingston County to form the 12th District.

When the Senate adopted the plan it was rushed over to the House for its concurrence. The votes were all lined up and everyone was ready to go home.

All of a sudden a Democratic member found a flaw in the plan. It was enough to throw the whole thing out. One township was included in both the 18th and 19th Congressional districts.

The Republicans hemmed and hawed but finally admitted that the committee report would have to go back to the Senate for correction, but the Senate had already adjourned until June 4.

With no other alternative the House packed its bags and headed for home Saturday night, knowing full well that they might have to start all over again in June if some incumbent congressman didn't like his new district or a legislator committed to vote on the new plan should die or be otherwise unable to attend the session in June.

What was this one township in the whole state that was placed in two districts and caused the problem? It was our own Bloomfield Township.



By KEN WEAVER City Beat

This is a true story. It didn't happen here; it didn't happen in this area; but it's the kind of thing that could happen to anyone anywhere.

There are the facts, changed only enough to protect the innocent:

Fay and Ralph had been married a couple of years when she discovered that her husband was a drinker. This came as a shock as she had had no previous indication that he "guy touched the stuff," let alone got drunk.

But for the most part she mastered the problem; she kept him under control.

As time went on, Fay became the leader, the backbone of the family.

After nine years of marriage, their first child was born. Within seven more years, they had five children.

DURING THIS period, Fay and Ralph were building a firm foundation. Ralph had a low-paying but steady job as his driver-mechanic for the local transit company.

Soon they were able to start a small gas station out in front of their rural home. This became Fay's pet project. She ran the business.

When cars pulled in on the drive, it was she who dropped whatever she was doing and dashed outside—while Ralph was still searching the house for his cap.

Slowly, the place prospered. In time, Fay and Ralph put up another building, a garage. In the evenings and on week ends, Ralph did mechanical work. He was slow but skilled; his efforts paid off.

They built another addition and Ralph quit his bus-driving job to spend all of his time in the garage.

TIRING OF his wife's dominance in their affairs, Ralph became discouraged and took to drink again. And, while drunk, he was arrogant and obstinate; nobody was going to tell him what to do. His work began to slip.

Practically free of parental supervision, the children began to run wild. The oldest, a girl, 12, soon got "boy crazy."

Discipline was lacking; the children grew accustomed to getting what they wanted, when they wanted it and doing nothing more than what they wished to do.

(See CITY BEAT, 8-B)