

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN,

Thursday, May 16, 1963

SECTION 8

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How's Romney Doing?

A common question today is "Has George Romney been successful in his first five months as Governor?"

The question is appropriate because he has just weathered his first legislative session, and many folks after his election felt that he might be out looking for a job after our "Neanderthal" legislature took him apart.

To be objective we looked over his State of the State message to see what last January he wished he could accomplish through legislative effort.

Then we looked to see what actually was accomplished.

THE GOVERNOR broke his requests down into four general classifications:

1. Fiscal Reform
2. Economic Expansion
3. Our Social Institutions
4. Our Political Institutions

Under the first classification he asked for a balanced budget, which the legislature gave him with some 13 million dollars to spare to be used to reduce the state's deficit.

Further fiscal reform was put off until a Special Session of the Legislature in the Fall at the Governor's suggestion, because he was not prepared to make specific recommendations at that time.

UNDER ECONOMIC expansion he recommended a 7 point program, including a new Economic Development Commission. The Legislature created the new commission and specifically appropriated money to begin the research he requested.

He also asked the legislature to improve benefit levels for the unemployed, while at the same time making employers' payments more related to how much they contribute to unemployment.

He also asked for a solution to the Fort-Canton situation which might allow labor unions to finance strikes with the unemployment compensation fund, so that "benefited" workers would be excluded from unemployment compensation, while "innocent" workers would be protected.

The legislature passed all three of these

programs. While neither labor nor management is completely happy with the results, no one is ever completely satisfied unless they receive all the benefits.

UNDER SOCIAL Institutions the Governor asked for and got appropriations for long range planning of capital improvements for education and mental health.

He asked for and got money to promote a community mental health program which has been successfully used in other states to lessen the need for more and more beds in our state hospitals.

He asked for and got a construction safety commission to protect workers from unsafe working conditions.

He asked for and got enabling legislation to bring Michigan under the federal Aid to Dependent Children of Unemployed Parents law. This particular bill has been challenged by the federal government as being discriminatory, however, this seems to be more political than substantial.

IN THE AREA of Social Institutions he asked for and did not get legislation creating a Civil Rights Commission and for legislation making it illegal to discriminate in the buying and selling of real estate.

He also asked for and didn't get a state minimum wage.

Under Political Institutions he asked for and got legislation to require two-year voter registration to lessen voter fraud.

He asked for and will shortly get legislation re-apportioning the state into new congressional districts. This particular bill will probably be the best congressional apportionment in terms of one man-one vote of all of the larger states in the nation.

He asked for but didn't get legislation to reform political party machinery.

IF YOU LOOK back over the points that he requested last January you will see that he has done extremely well in his first try.

He has accomplished things which the experts told him he could never deliver.

In answer to the persistent question of how Romney is doing in Lansing, we must say, "Pretty darn well."

Why Our Field Is Growing

Along with the growth of suburbs in recent years, there has been a revolution in the community weekly newspaper field.

As the suburbs have grown, so have the papers. The papers, expertly and extensively covering their local news, have gained in stature and prestige.

Papers like The Birmingham Eccentric, if we may be so bold as to say so, command recognition for the distinctive coverage they give to the hometown developments.

They are the news sources in their communities, and are recognized for it.

No longer are they dependent upon free filler material, on publicity handouts, to fill space. Rather, they have a problem of too much genuine local news to fill their columns.

THE SUBURBAN community weekly newspapers, again like The Eccentric, have made rapid strides in development, keeping pace with their community's growth.

Cognizant of the importance of giving their readers the best possible product, they constantly seek new methods of production, including tape, offset and other modern processes.

Such newspapers have their own photo departments, taking and processing their own pictures instead of relying on hand-outs. They have exceptionally-talented, highly-trained editorial staffs reporting

and interpreting the local news.

They accept the responsibility of providing community leadership and offer expert advice, based on facts, to solve community problems.

THE ECCENTRIC, for example, has six full-time reporters, one full-time photographer and one part-time librarian in its editorial department, plus 10 area correspondents.

Time and again The Eccentric has been recognized on both the state and national level for the excellence of its product.

Professional and trade groups often cite The Eccentric as an example of modern day suburban journalism.

SUBURBS NO longer are dependent upon the big cities; they are entities within themselves. Although some members of suburban families commute to the core cities for their earnings, their spending and their family interests center in their suburban homes.

The suburban community weekly newspapers realize this fact. This is why they devote their efforts, their time, their space to reporting and interpreting what's happening at home.

This is why they are so successful and will continue to be in the years ahead. It's a growing field; the opportunities and the challenges for the future lie here.

'Don't Just Sit There—Participate!'



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Sidewalk Defense Falls on 'Deaf Ears'

To the Editor:

On May 6, along with 100 other homeowners representing our area of Penobscot and Deerpark, I attended a city commission meeting for the purpose of asserting our views on a petition signed by 750 neighboring residents, without our knowledge, for sidewalks on our streets.

True, the children's safety comes first; but why sidewalks now, in a 12-year established neighborhood? As homes are erected, so should sidewalks, etc.

THOUSANDS of dollars will be expended on our expense, on the 1,700 dead-end blocks of Penobscot, where only 2 cars out of 10 leave for their respective jobs between 7:55 and 8

a.m., after the junior high students have passed on their way to Derby.

We were informed by letter a week in advance to attend and present our views points, but it was quite obvious from the start that our defense was falling on "deaf" ears and would ultimately have no bearing whatsoever on the outcome.

IS THIS an example of what is happening today slowly but surely to our local state and federal government? Is the citizen's say only a formality? Somebody will your rights be whittled away to a mere nothing?

Think on this!

JEAN HALE
1770 Penobscot
Birmingham

Look to Past Shows 'Birmingham Tragedy'

To the Editor:

Some 30 years or so ago a tragedy occurred in Birmingham; and because it seems pertinent today, I want to tell about it now.

This is how Woodward Avenue, especially the part that runs through the business section of Birmingham, looked at that time: When driving from Detroit on Woodward, one came to Birmingham and an avenue of very old and very beautiful trees. They lined

both sides of the street and continued right through the business section and out of town. Cars slowed down to enjoy the cool beauty of this avenue; Some people stopped for lunch and did some shopping.

Then about this time, people began to say "with so many cars coming, the avenue here is getting to be a bottle neck—it should be widened."

(See PAST, 5-B)

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

May 16, 1913

"A Quintessence of Nature's splendor" is the description that has been given of the remarkable colored views that are to be shown at the Methodist church next week. Professor Blosser, of Washington, has recently returned from Mexico, having been there in the thick of the revolution. His own camera made the rare views of that mysterious and fascinating country which will be shown by powerful electric light during his lectures.

MR. GEORGE B. DORT of Willow Brook, R. R. No. 1, is in trouble in Detroit. Mr. Dort has been foreman of a gang of men for two or three years in the Detroit Public Works department and did a vast amount of work for that city. He stands charged with padding the pay roll and is said to have taken some \$3,000 in that way. It is alleged work claims Mr. Dort, who says that when the proper time comes he will be able to prove himself innocent of any wrong doing.

Last week through the Village Improvement society, over 300 packages of flower seeds were distributed to school children. This week this same society with the help of Mr. Hewitt of the Civic League gave to the children 1000 silver pails. These were donated to the town by Siegel of Detroit.

30 YEARS AGO

May 18, 1933

Birmingham will have banking facilities again Monday for the first time in 22 years.

(See HAPPENINGS, 8-B)

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

A couple of weeks ago I was out of town, and got an emergency call from home. It seems that our 3-year-old "puppy" was missing.

It was a cold, rainy night and since "Whistle" is a fireplace type dog, my spouse knew something was wrong. After calling me, she called Mrs. Kocher who runs the Karmelkoti Shop over on East Maple and doubles as the Birmingham Humane Society.

This was not our first call to the gal that traces, ministers to, feeds and finds homes for stray dogs, cats and what have you.

HER OPERATION is non-governmental. The only funds she receives are those few donations sent in by happy animal owners and that which she and her partner, Mrs. Gladys Carl, can earn by such job as baby-sitting.

Considering the time, money and energy she puts into her work, her only compensation is the knowledge that animals are somehow better off.

I dropped by to see her the other morning to find out how her operation got started. She said that fifteen years ago she got involved in the county animal welfare society, and when that was split up, she inherited her area.

THE PURPOSE of her organization was to discourage cruelty to animals, but with her love for wayward dogs and cats, she found herself in the lost and found business.

Her "business" grew as the area grew.

She encouraged it because if the county pound gets a dog first, the animal has to be destroyed within 72 hours if the owner doesn't show up.

I asked about the future of her operation and she said to me, "If only we could get enough people together so that we could build a shelter. This would give us more time to find new owners for non-wanted animals."

MRS. KOCHER did find our Whistle that rainy night, just as he has found so many missing animals. She told my wife if she couldn't find the dog she would babysit so that my spouse could comb the neighborhood.

I know she is sincere because I've seen her in our neighborhood in the rain and late at night.

If she feels that The Birmingham Humane Society needs an animal shelter, I'm all for it.

As a matter of fact I just dropped a check in the mail to 275 E. Maple, and hope some of my neighbors will join me.

City Beat

By KEN KEENER

Other than for talks at church, Mrs. Loren Keenan of Bloomfield Township had never given a speech before a large audience.

Then came the day when she was called upon to substitute for her mother.

It happened like this:

The mother was to deliver the May Fellowship Day address before the United Church Women of Detroit at Faith Lutheran Church in the Motor City.

With 600 tickets sold, the event was a sellout—when the scheduled speaker was informed by her husband that they were going to Washington and she would have to cancel all appointments.

This is the sort of thing you can expect on occasion when your husband is the governor of Michigan.

With Mrs. Romney going to Washington, another speaker had to be found. Several names were suggested when somebody jokingly asked, how about Mrs. Keenan?

HUMOR SOON became reality and she was billed to fill the role.

"It was Mother's talk I gave," said Mrs. Keenan. "I learned it from her, from the thoughts she had written down."

It was a 25-minute speech. For two weeks she practiced by giving the talk to her two-month-old son and one-and-a-half-year-old daughter.

"The three-year-old and four-year-old wouldn't listen,"

HER SUBJECT was brotherhood. "We are all children of God; we are all unique, with special talent," she stressed.

As examples of the "several thousands who have participated" in brotherhood, she cited the Big Brothers—"who give up their time and of themselves."

"We need a strong belief in spiritual principles—that the worth of the individual is based on," Mrs. Keenan told her audience.

"The worth of the individual is intrinsic; we cannot diminish it. We should recognize our own worth and that of others and act accordingly."

"We sometimes deny our own dignity—like the voter who goes along with the crowd. Also when we fail to live up to the best that is in us."

THE KEENANS have lived in Bloomfield Township two years. Their home is on Brady Drive. Keenan, 30, is a stockbroker for Merrill Lynch Pierce, Fenner & Smith in Detroit.

Their children are Jody, 4; Brett, 3; Susan, 1½; and Billy, 2 months.

Mrs. Keenan didn't mention it, but a friend informed us that when she finished her address, the women gave her a standing ovation.

Michigan's new constitution abolishes spring elections. This should save Michigan taxpayers about one million dollars annually.

Michigan's Constitutional Convention had available to it research work of a staff headed by and readmitted from among members of the state's public and private colleges and universities. Also preliminary research work by six study groups, a Governor's commission and the aid of private Michigan foundations and organizations.

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Do You Remember?

Do you remember this old livery stable? Drop us a letter to the editor if you can be of any help.

Can you recognize any of the four men in the picture? Drop us a letter to the editor if you can be of any help.

