

### Study Them Over; Then Vote

The successful administration of schools is an extremely important factor in the lives of our young people, since schools play such a major role in their development, in their growing to adulthood.

With this in mind, it behooves us to select the best qualified people to serve on our school boards. We need men and women of sound reasoning, of great vision and wisdom, who are capable of planning broad-range policies for the school districts.

On Monday, voters in the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills districts will go to the polls to elect two members (in each district, that is) for four-year terms.

IN THE Birmingham district, we believe the record of the incumbent, George W. Coombe, Jr., qualifies him for favorable consideration.

Likewise, we believe the incumbent in the Bloomfield Hills district, Dr. Charles L. Bowers, has demonstrated a thorough knowledge of school affairs and unquestioned skill in solving school problems. He, too, deserves consideration.

As for the second choice in each district, we suggest that the voters peruse the candidates' statements in Section CC of this issue.

Here are excerpts from the statements of other than the incumbents:

**BIRMINGHAM**

Mrs. Louise C. Adams—"I feel that we have a conscientious school board and I would appreciate the opportunity to work with them in formulating policy and in continually improving our school system."

William J. Berglund—"Careful, long-term planning is urgently needed in the Birmingham School System, particularly as it applies in the allocation of school attendance areas."

Richard R. Colbe—"There is need for the identification and selection of sound building sites, and plans for future school construction to avoid costly error and duplication of effort."

Dr. Charles A. Leach—"I am most interested in a quality program that will provide a child with the maximum opportunity for development commensurate with his abilities."

Mrs. Jutta Letts—"I believe in continuous evaluation of our school system, better communications for better understanding, wise expenditure of education dollars."

Mrs. Sally S. Saunders—"Serving on the board of education would be a gratifying experience, one to which I hope to bring some current knowledge of Birmingham's education system, a great respect for the achievements of the past few years and a resolve to improve areas which impair Birmingham's standing as a quality school system."

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS**

Richard H. McGraw—"The success of our future generations is largely dependent upon the quality of our present schools. Certainly, the quality of schools is affected by the proficiency of the school board members."

Arthur S. Randall—"With all of the new techniques being developed... it should be of the utmost concern of parents and individuals alike to see that all of our children are prepared with the best education possible to meet the challenge that lies ahead of our younger generation."

Robert E. Rutt—"A realistic capital expansion program must be formulated and placed into effect at the present time, if we are to meet the future needs of our children."

THESE ARE the candidates and, in part, what they have to say about serving on school boards. They have expressed themselves.

Now, it is up to the electors to familiarize themselves with the candidates and then go to the polls Monday and exercise the right, and obligation, of voting in school elections.

This acceptance of citizen responsibility is necessary to assure a continued successful administration of our schools.

### Getting Ready for Final Exams



#### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Businessmen Try to 'Make City Better Place to Live'

To the Editor: I am writing this in answer to WAP John's letter on 1-B in May 23 Eccentric, in which he said many things that hurt me both as a businessman and as one who was born and has lived here all his life.

I have, and every businessman in the town has, given and continues to give many hours of many days to make our town a better place to live for all citizens through our Chamber of Commerce, clubs and churches, our Michigan Week program, the Arts Festival and many other things which promote all of Birmingham.

They have given us help when it has been for the good of the whole community—but only when it was good for the total, not a portion of our community.

And I can remember when we were looked at by our commission with nothing but suspicion and were tolerated as if we had the black plague.

YET, if we did not have the healthy business district we have now and continue to do so, the individual's tax bill would take a very nice jump for the businessmen as a group pay the biggest share of taxes.

It has been for the good of the whole community—but only when it was good for the total, not a portion of our community.

And I can remember when we were looked at by our commission with nothing but suspicion and were tolerated as if we had the black plague.

YET, if we did not have the healthy business district we have now and continue to do so, the individual's tax bill would take a very nice jump for the businessmen as a group pay the biggest share of taxes.

THE ANNUAL halloween program was started and is still supported by our business community which keeps our children out of the streets and out of the houses and not bowing down to us; it is only thinking of our business community.

And as for the resentment of our citizens, I think I know quite a few of them. I know us and I know the business people give to our city. The merchandise money and prizes we give in the course of the year to many causes and we are glad to do it.

LOOK AT the board of directors and how helped on its fund drive. We would do our part. We love our town and want it to be a nice place to live for our children.

And we want a nice business district, one that's a credit to our town. We do not want more than we need, but we do want what is needed to make it a credit to us and our town.

meeting of the Board of Education last Thursday night when the question of a new contract threatened to open old wounds left by campaigns of the past two years.

Music-lovers of Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham who gathered in the auditorium at the Community House Tuesday evening to attend the benefit concert sponsored by the Oakland County Chapter of the Michigan Children's Aid Society, were gratified by a pleasing variety of a program rich in charm and class.

And if they do take the block in question, they will only be removing an eyesore that should be removed. Nine of the houses are to the point of falling apart and no one would be gained by restoring them.

Tearing these homes down will not make Birmingham a less nice place to live; for blight is like a cancer, if not caught, it can be fatal.

### Happenings of Long Ago

From the Files of The Eccentric

**30 YEARS AGO**  
June 6, 1933

Last Friday evening was most happily passed by about 50 invited guests assembled to enjoy a musical given by Lillian Munroe of Merrill Street, Birmingham. She was entertainer and hostess, performed her part and gave all the musical selections, nine in number, from memory. Miss Munroe is indeed an accomplished musician. She is an art pupil of Baby J. and her home and does credit to her teacher. The home was most handsome and artistically decorated with many flags and cut flowers.

**15 YEARS AGO**  
June 3, 1948

An official coordinating committee, composed of the city managers of Birmingham, Royal Oak, Berkeley, Clawson, Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge and Hazel Park, has been set up to effect uniform traffic ordinances and police record procedures in these several suburban communities. M. Shafter, Royal Oak city manager, heads this committee.

**OUR PLANNING** board does a wonderful job and makes sure residential areas are well protected. And as for a commission-created shopping monstrosity, I know the business district was created by men like my father, Mr. Ralph Wilson and many others who came out here as it was a nice place to live and do business.

And by firms like Jacobson's who couldn't have done more for our town if they had all their operations here.

**30 YEARS AGO**  
June 6, 1933

Fred W. Johnson of Adams road last night was elected president of the new Birmingham National Bank which will open next Thursday, June 15, in the First National Bank Building, Montgomery Ward, 207 Abbey road, was elected chairman of the Board of Directors, and Charles E. James, 419 Kenesaw avenue, conservator, was chosen executive vice-president.

**15 YEARS AGO**  
June 3, 1948

An official coordinating committee, composed of the city managers of Birmingham, Royal Oak, Berkeley, Clawson, Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge and Hazel Park, has been set up to effect uniform traffic ordinances and police record procedures in these several suburban communities. M. Shafter, Royal Oak city manager, heads this committee.

**YES, WE** have people shopping from out of town, but we need them for our stores for we cannot make a living without them and pay our taxes and I do not think our citizens want grass growing in our business streets.

Still, we can and do have a good, happy community, a good place to live and do business, where business people do their part.

But we will grow and expand and have problems which we must, and will, solve by working together not apart.

**30 YEARS AGO**  
June 6, 1933

Fred W. Johnson of Adams road last night was elected president of the new Birmingham National Bank which will open next Thursday, June 15, in the First National Bank Building, Montgomery Ward, 207 Abbey road, was elected chairman of the Board of Directors, and Charles E. James, 419 Kenesaw avenue, conservator, was chosen executive vice-president.

**15 YEARS AGO**  
June 3, 1948

An official coordinating committee, composed of the city managers of Birmingham, Royal Oak, Berkeley, Clawson, Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge and Hazel Park, has been set up to effect uniform traffic ordinances and police record procedures in these several suburban communities. M. Shafter, Royal Oak city manager, heads this committee.

**YES, WE** have people shopping from out of town, but we need them for our stores for we cannot make a living without them and pay our taxes and I do not think our citizens want grass growing in our business streets.

Still, we can and do have a good, happy community, a good place to live and do business, where business people do their part.

But we will grow and expand and have problems which we must, and will, solve by working together not apart.

**THE terms of a new contract** for Charles W. Crandell, superintendent of schools, loaned today a probable issue in the school district election next month, following a 20 through the air at more than 800 miles per hour while flying about a 30 feet above the ground.

**How would** you like to travel almost as fast as sound? Especially in a plane flying only a few feet off the ground. Gene May, who with his brother Jim, owns a service station at Hunter and West Maple, visited here last week and explained this sensation of being the test pilot of the famous Douglas "Sky Streak." He has sent this jet-propelled plane hurtling through the air at more than 800 miles per hour while flying about a 30 feet above the ground.

**LETTERS** from readers always are welcome, but they MUST be signed, although identities will not be divulged if the writer so requests.

**More People's Column Letters on 8-B**

### Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

One of the all time standard jokes is what a woman keeps in her pocket book, but the other day I happened to look in the glove compartment of my car and realized that I could no longer be critical of the fairer sex.

Not only had I accumulated all of the necessary booklets on how to clean the top of a convertible in a sleep storm and how to light a cigarette when the lighter is broken but also I found that I had enough trading stamps to furnish a room in my house plus gasoline charge slips dating back practically to the turn of the century.

I WAS ALSO fully prepared to stop at any bank in town and make a deposit with one of their special deposit slips and I had bribes in the form of five different types of candy to keep the children quiet on a Sunday afternoon drive.

Apparently my credit is good because I found five credit cards, as well as maps, matches, scotch tape, cigarettes, sun glasses, a hair curler and even a menu for a local pancake establishment.

ACTUALLY the contents of a glove compartment change over the years. I remember always had salt, paper napkins and those little containers of mustard and catsup. We spent half our lives eating at drive-ins and in the spirit of non-waste we never threw anything out.

In dwelling on the contents of my glove compartment I wondered whether the old surly with the fringe on top or my grandfather's horse and buggy had a comparable receptacle. I presume they didn't and that's why the older folks had to have bigger homes to store their collections.

I'VE NOTICED in the last couple of years, glove compartments have been getting bigger. I wonder if our automobile designers have traced back stamps in holes to the years when glove compartments were small. However, the present trend continues they will have to eliminate the trunk; and the luggage industry will just have to make their suitcases smaller.

I have kidded my spouse for the last time about her pocketbook but you know I am kind of glad that glove compartments are in cars. You just never know when you will be driving down the street and need some scotch tape, maps, matches, cigarettes, sun glasses, a hair curler or maybe even a menu for a local pancake establishment.

### City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

"One of the things I think makes a good student is if he or she is alert. He doesn't goof off all the time. I think if they're not hard-headed it helps."

This was one of the responses that the first grade teacher at Adams School got on a class assignment to describe "What Makes a Good Student."

Here are others:

"A good student is not like me, but I try to be. But sometimes I just dream away, thinking that I'm not a good student; but some time I get A, B, C and D. E. You can be terrific all the time. But a good student is one that is getting along with everybody but that is a disgrace."

"TO BE A smart man or lady you should go through grade school, High School, and College."

"The way I see it is that a good student is a student only when he does his homework and works hard on his studies. Then, again, on second thought, he ought to be taught to be respectful of school rules, to cooperate, work hard and so forth. After that if he isn't a good student, he is impossible."

"A good student must keep control over himself. I don't have a very bad temper and I wish I didn't. I get so mad at the littlest things. Then I'm mad the rest of the day."

THE TEACHER also asked her pupils to tell what they thought makes a good teacher. The answers are as precious as those above. Here are some of them:

"One of the things that makes a good teacher is he or she knows what they're doing or else da, da, da, da."

"It's not someone who is going to blow her top everytime you do something wrong, but someone that helps you to understand where your mistakes are so you won't do it again."

"A GOOD plan for me would be to (let) me go at my own speed. I am not a fast worker and I never will be. One teacher I had said to me, 'The only way you are going to get anywhere is to study and study hard.'"

"I had another teacher that told me the same thing, and now I think it is getting to me because I am getting better grades."

"Interests help too, like to teach me you usually have to get into something I like, because that's the way I have always been. But I hope I can break that habit, because if I don't I will be in real, real trouble."

"THE GOOD teacher helps the student if he has a problem. The teacher works it out with him. The teacher doesn't gab at him or if he gets reported doesn't rub it in."

"I think a teacher should get information and equipment on a subject that somebody isn't very good in. But she shouldn't pverdo it. A half an hour on each subject is good, because an hour or so on a subject can get boring (especially arithmetic)."

SO, NOW WE know what makes a good student and a good teacher.

Can't beat the wisdom of these youngsters, can we?

ESTABLISHED IN 1873

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 1225 Bowers Street, Telephone HW 6-1100

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

PUBLISHER: PAUL N. AVERILL  
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: HEAVY M. HOGAN, JR.  
MANAGING EDITOR: KENNETH R. WEAVER  
ADVERTISING MANAGER: ARTHUR SHAFER  
George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus