

Let's Get a Peripheral Route

Out of the decision to retain parking on W. Maple, came a realization of the need to act with speed in the implementation of a peripheral route in Birmingham.

The peripheral route outlined in the Central Business District Development Plan would carry traffic around the downtown business section.

It would provide for a smooth flow of through traffic, thus eliminating the congestion—caused largely by east-west travelers—that now plagues the downtown area; yet, it would provide easy access to the business section.

As now proposed the route generally would follow this path: Brown to Brownell to Oakland to Chester and back to Brown.

TO DATE, the city commission has considered implementation of the plan for this route in the light of current funds available for capital improvements.

We would ask that the commissioners give thought to a different approach to financing this particular project.

To build the peripheral route in stages as funds become available under the present system will give us a time-consuming, piecemeal development.

THE URGENCY involved here, however, calls for a more expedient kind of action. There is, as we said at the outset, a need to act with dispatch.

To do so, and to get the job done fully

and adequately, requires a different method of financing.

The peripheral route will benefit the downtown merchants. There is no question of that.

But it will also benefit the community-at-large: By giving free and easy access to the downtown area and providing a by-pass for those wishing to pass through the center of the city without the hindrance of downtown congestion.

Thus, both the merchants and the community-at-large should pay for part of the cost of this development.

WE THEREFORE urge the city commission to give thought to ways of financing an early complete program that would involve the whole community over an extended period of time.

This, we believe, is a valid and fair means of getting the job done expediently, economically and efficiently.

We commend the commission for its record of protecting the residents from unnecessary community-at-large taxes. Yet, we feel that the present situation calls for renewed courage on their part in monetary matters.

We believe that the downtown traffic parking problem creates an urgency for early and decisive action to build a complete peripheral route.

We have belief in our commissioners to devise the necessary plan and we have faith in the public to support it.

Make It an Oakland Issue

The Eccentric was disappointed last week when the community college district was not approved by the voters of the four-county area, although the Birmingham area, overwhelmingly did vote in favor of it.

We were disappointed because as we stated two weeks ago, the community college system must be put into effect to relieve the pressures that our four-year institutions will face in the next couple of years.

EVEN THOUGH the district was not approved, we can't, however, be too hard on the voters. The election was held under authority of a state statute which was passed this year in the state legislature and which did not become effective until a couple of days before the deadline for filing a proposition for the ballot.

We can give the "no" voters the excuse that the election was too rushed and they did not have an adequate time to inform themselves of the facts.

The only problem with this excuse is

that the voters approved the first of two parts of the community college proposition which asked them if they wanted the district, but turned down the second part which called for the increased millage to pay for the system.

WE FEEL the "no" voters were shortsighted, because it will cost them more the long run without a community college system, since the costs of educating a child at one of our established institutions of higher learning is more than twice the cost of educating that child in a community college.

All is not lost by the vote last week. We will see the proposition again, probably next year at the school elections. Let's hope we will have more time to straighten the matter out.

After looking at the election results, maybe the proposition next year should limit it to Oakland County alone. It looks as if our Oakland County voters understand the costs of education better than some of the other counties.

They Are the Better for It

It's graduation time again in our community.

Last week our high schoolers ended what we hope will be only a milestone in their overall educational career.

Many local college students are also bidding their alma mater farewell after four years of toil, knowing that they are better prepared to face the world's problems than they would have been if they had quit school at the high school level.

We are fortunate in our community that the vast majority of high school graduates can and do go to college.

IT IS NOT with a snobbery that we can be proud of this accomplishment. The plain old facts of life today are that a student has a better chance of being successful if he has had a college education.

As a matter of fact, statistics show that

an average college graduate will earn over \$200,000 more in his lifetime than an average high school graduate.

When we look over the unemployment problem in Michigan, we don't see the college graduate waiting in line. It is the un-schooled person that is suffering.

IT IS a sober point to consider at this joyous time, yet each student's destiny may be decided at this point in life.

Congratulations are extended to those students who have reached the successful end of their present course of studies, in doing a good job to have reached this goal.

Good luck to our high school graduates, which includes the wish that they continue their schooling!

Good luck to our college graduates on their step out into the world of business!

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

So Khrushchev has accepted Castro's invitation to pay a visit to Cuba? Well, didn't the good old United States play host to the Soviet leader several years ago? But there is a big difference in the background of these visits. K came to the land of the free when he visited the U.S.A.; when he goes to Cuba he will be in a Communist environment—only 90 miles from the southernmost shore of the United States. (And all this accomplished by Communism without firing a gun!)

Rockefeller says administration proposals would mean unbalanced budgets until 1972. He wants to balance the budget by changing administrations.

Scientists warn that another ice age may come in 10,000 or 20,000 years. We promise to worry about it some time when more pressing dangers have been averted.

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

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Good Show, George; But—No Income Tax

To the Editor:

The following is a copy of a letter I have sent to Gov. George W. Romney.

Dear Governor Romney: In the short time that you have been governor, Michigan appears to be moving in the right direction to regain its national image and prestige. This change in direction is due largely to your efforts in presenting a fresh political approach to solving the problems of Michigan by encouraging more citizen participation in the affairs of state government. As you know, this approach is not only basic and fundamental but also essential to our democratic system.

The citizens of Michigan also respect your recent attitude towards fiscal reform—giving them a chance to learn the facts and express their ideas and opinions. Previously, we have had a battle of the pressure groups which has always had a vested interest in one tax plan or another. It is time to take this matter of tax reform out of "pressure group politics" and return it to the citizens at large for their decision.

IN SPITE of Michigan's economic and fiscal records which have been so outstanding and which has surpassed all expectations with some \$50 million surplus anticipated by this June 30, and the hopes for even greater prosperity in the next fiscal year, there still appears to be a concerted drive by certain legislative leaders to search out new and more revenues including possibly a state income tax.

I hope you and other legislative leaders are concentrating as hard on economy measures and cost savings programs to prove first to the citizens of Michigan that we do have efficiency in the operations of state government and that we are obtaining a dollars worth of services for each tax dollar spent.

IN THIS STUDY of fiscal reform, I hope that all the current forms of taxation such as 4 per cent sales tax, property tax, business activity tax, school tax, nuisance taxes, etc., are being thoroughly analyzed in connection with the basic needs of our schools, state and local governments.

As a result of this overall and comprehensive study, it is hoped that a sound, simple and equitable tax program would emerge. This tax program might very well call for a state-wide income tax that citizens everywhere could easily understand and control. Today, all we seem to advocate is more and more add-on taxes for all levels of government in the form of unlimited and uncontrolled income taxes. This is not very serious, since it encourages "blank check" government spending.

IT IS MY sincere hope that as a result of adopting the state's new constitution will also afford the opportunity for a vital step in fiscal reform. To sell and win approval of any tax reform program would certainly place Michigan's image among the states as fiscal reform. Best wishes for a successful "sales campaign" for fiscal reform.

As you know, this was a big selling point for the adoption of the new constitution. Here again, to act hastily to enact a state income tax without first implementing a complete reorganization of state government and complete revision of the tax structure is not only premature, but also illogical. Other areas that need serious study in any tax revision are the need for relief for the service professions (particularly in school taxes which are the severest portion of their property tax) and Detroit's need for: (1) better rates in welfare cost from 70 per cent city—30 per cent state) to 50-50; (2) a higher percentage return of the state's sales tax.

REGARDLESS of whatever the program is proposed for enactment, I sincerely hope the citizens of Michigan will have the opportunity to approve or disapprove it at the polls. I am confident that if the program proposed is sound, equitable and fair, the citizens of Michigan will meet their responsibility and approve it.

There is great challenge and future for a more dynamic Michigan providing the politicians will allow the citizens of this great state to have the opportunity to participate in such a vital step as fiscal reform. To sell and win approval of any tax reform program would certainly place Michigan's image among the states as fiscal reform. Best wishes for a successful "sales campaign" for fiscal reform.

GEORGE W. KUHN
Mayor, City of Birmingham

Township Fire Dept. Praised

To the Editor:

We wish to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Bloomfield Township Fire Dept. for the manner in which they fought the fire at our home on the night of June 6.

Due to their timely arrival and valiant efforts, damage was confined to the garage area.

The township has reason to be proud of this fine service organization.

Mr. & Mrs. RALPH GIBROUT
4363 Karen Lane
Birmingham

Support Is Added For Parking Lot

To the Editor:

For whatever it is worth, I wish to endorse the views and sentiments expressed by Frank Mulholland in the June 6 issue of The Eccentric.

And may I suggest that the arguments of those opposing the

Happenings of Long Ago

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
June 20, 1913

Plans for Birmingham's Fourth of July celebration were just about finished. The school children, escorted by the Fire and Drum Corps and the Boy Scouts will parade from the main school building to Maple Avenue. The children will sing a patriotic song at the new Barnum school and the Rev. F. E. Kraft will give a short address. Fireworks at 8 p.m. will start a very busy fourth for Birmingham.

Just imagine yourself aboard a parking lot in favor of retaining "the old village atmosphere" make no more sense than if they proposed to erect in the center of Sham Park.

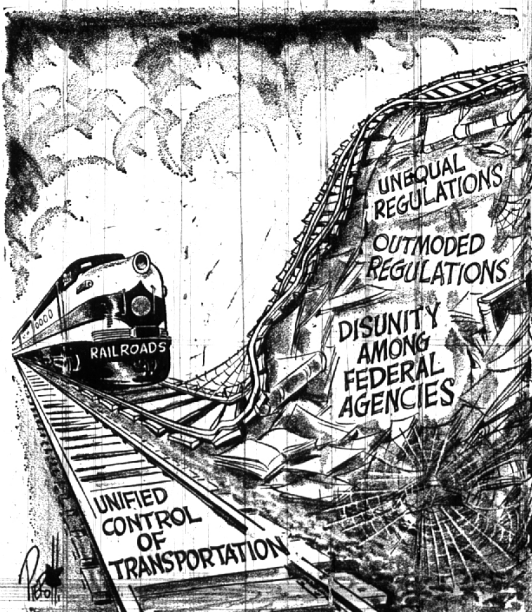
HENRY T. DAHLQUIST
854 Henrietta St.
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luxurious D. & C. Line Steamer on Lake Erie, right in line with the moon. Delightful to think about, more delightful to really enjoy. D. & C. steamers leave Detroit and Buffalo early every evening and arrive at destination early the next morning.

Woman suffragists, undaunted by the summer weather, are laying plans for another great march upon the national capital. Their start from New York will be made on or about August 1, when the suffragists from many other parts of the country will hear down on Washington to drive a victorious finish the recent favorable report of the senate committee on suffrage.

30 YEARS AGO
June 22, 1933
While near record-breaking temperatures kept the city sweltering. (See HAPPENINGS, 7-B)

Switch Needed Here



Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



What is a man's job around the house? Are there such things as men's jobs and women's jobs in keeping the home fires burning?

I've often heard women say to their husbands when the lawn isn't mowed that the house "looks like the blazes" because he didn't do his job.

I've also heard men criticize their spouses that the interior of the house is a mess, when in fact it is his clothes lying around.

Actually, I think society should come up with a list and define who should do what, or forget that anyone has any responsibility.

IN MY OWN family apparently I have the responsibility of keeping the garage clean. I am the first to admit that I can't think of anything I'd rather not do. As a matter of fact, when I do get around to cleaning it up, I get an urge to weld the garage doors shut so that no one can get in and mess it up ever again.

My other responsibility is the outside. It is not that I don't like to see beautiful things grow, I just resent them growing so fast.

To show that I have a green mind instead of a green thumb, I have solved the outside problem by reducing my responsibilities down to paying the boy next door for doing the work.

AT FIRST watching him work made me feel so guilty, that I would go out and play golf so I wouldn't be around. Now I have purchased a lounge chair and I sit and watch while sipping a nice tall glass of iced tea. Other than this I get very little satisfaction out of spending money these days.

When my spouse and I used to live in an apartment out in Ann Arbor, we got a new vacuum cleaner about the same time as we got new carpeting. To see how the sweeper worked, I tried it out the first night.

I don't exactly know how it happened, but I never relinquished this position of responsibility until we moved. The neighbors downstairs used to kid us, because they always knew when we were having company; there I was with vacuum sweeper in hand.

I GUESS I'm lucky that the garage and outside are my only defined responsibilities (obtained I am told under the natural moral law).

I know some men who are expected to make improvements around the home, like building breezeways, porches or extra bedrooms. I solved this problem early in our marriage by driving some nails in the wall with a silver picture in my office.

Really, working around the house is fun—if you have nothing better to do.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER



Mrs. Andrew R. Bodak is a woman who appreciates acts of kindness.

Last year, around Easter-time, she purchased a hat from a local store and it was delivered by mistake to another store. The merchants involved were exceptionally courteous and helpful to Mrs. Bodak in relocating the hat and getting it to her in time for Easter.

Now, Mrs. Bodak, who lives at 1375 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham, has words of gratitude for the Birmingham Fire Dept.

"My husband died on Jan. 22 this year," she writes. "He came home from work, had dinner and shortly thereafter complained of a pain in his arm. Need I say more . . . I had to be away for a time and just recently returned. All the while I was gone I kept thinking that I didn't even thank the fire department for all their efforts to save my husband.

"They answered the call immediately and even thought about calling Holy Name to send out a priest (Fr. McDonald). My neighbor (Mrs. Scott Dirksen) pitched in, also! "Please thank these people for me . . . I can't find the words."

THE PUPILS in Mrs. Jank's class, Room 207, at Adams School have words of thanks, too.

Seems they were a little surprised to see in this column in our June 6 issue portions of their essays on the qualifications of teachers and students.

"We were very surprised," the class wrote, "to see the article of 'What Makes a Good Student' and of 'What Makes a Good Teacher'."

"We went down to get the papers from our principal; that's when we found out about the article. It was a very nice surprise . . ."

THIS TIME of the year always brings a little nostalgia for me.

Summer vacation—school was out and it seemed like an endless time till it would start again.

There were walks along the railroad tracks, in spite of orders to the contrary. But how else were young people to get one point along the river, there was a thick woods. Somebody had hung a tire on a long cable from a branch high up in one of the trees. What fun it was to swing out on that tire and look at the bank far below!

We had our fun, too—swimming, playing ball, bicycle riding, kiddies' day at the amusement park and other such activities.

THE BEAUTY of it all, as I reflect on it now, was the absence of any consciousness of time. A day, a week, a month meant nothing to us. We weren't always looking to the weeks and months ahead.

We were content just to have fun.