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Mr. Smith Has Ideas About B'ham Schools' Reputation

By LARRY EYOE
City Editor

The fine reputation Birmingham schools have built up over recent years won't slip if John Smith has anything to say about it.

Smith, 55, is the new superintendent of the Birmingham Public Schools. A graduate of the Harvard University School of Education, he will take over the reins of the 14,000-student system Sept. 17.

He replaces Otis M. Dickey

who has resigned after three years as superintendent. Dickey will become superintendent of schools in Cherry Creek, Colo., near Denver.

"THE BIRMINGHAM schools have a fine reputation and I will make sure that reputation does not slip," Smith said. "If there are ways to improve the system they must be done."

"A school system is just as good as the community wants it to be."

He feels that any superintendent's prime job is to get the feeling of the community toward education.

"This does not mean asking for community aid in everything such as the selecting of teachers or the adoption of textbooks, but the citizens must demonstrate interest in schools by passing both the board of education and administration for quality," Smith said.

"This makes for good environment."

SMITH IS coming to the \$25,000 post from the superintendent in Greenwich, Conn. He said he made the decision to come to Birmingham based solely on professional considerations.

He feels Birmingham is a community that "wants to move ahead vigorously toward educational excellence."

The new superintendent was in town for one day Tuesday to meet with top school administrators and to attend the June meeting of the board of education.

ALTHOUGH He believes there are many goals and objectives of education, there are no substitutes for three things:

"The job of the schools is to develop a youngster to the fullest ability. The graduate must be able to read critically, think analytically and communicate clearly."

"If a school system can accomplish these, there is no need to worry about the other educational goals because they will accomplish themselves."

SMITH'S CAREER in education dates back to 1934. He served until 1943 as a teacher and supervisor in various Massachusetts school systems.

IN 1943 he was named superintendent of schools in Stockbridge, Mass., a position he held for seven years. He later served as superintendent in Foboro and Lexington, Mass., with two years out to work on his doctorate at Harvard.

An originator and developer of the team-teaching concept (normal-

ly, the use of two teachers in a class) in the elementary school, Dr. Smith has gained a national reputation in this field.

"THIS MIGHT imply that teachers never worked together," he said—but was quick to point out this is not what it means at all.

"There are many types of team-teaching but all have two basic characteristics—(1) to utilize teachers more effectively to bring about a better quality of

instruction and (2) regroup from a fixed number in a class based on ability," he said.

"Team-teaching stresses the strength of the teacher," he said. Along with his team-teaching work, Smith was a pioneer in the field of foreign language courses in the elementary grades.

SMITH BELIEVES strongly in communication between the school administrators and the public.

(See SMITH, 7-A)

Jurors Deliberate On Fate of Thorson

The Detroit Recorder's Court jury trying to decide the fate of Robert M. Thorson began its second day of deliberation Wednesday morning.

The six-man, six-woman jury

nightly during the three-week trial.

Thorson, 31, of 2352 Buckingham, Birmingham, is accused of the murder of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Dorothy M. Thomas, in age Detroit home on Dec. 8.

Mrs. Thomas' body was found

by Detroit police beaten and strangled on the morning of Dec. 4. Two weeks later, Thorson was called to police headquarters with his wife, Joan, to discuss "new evidence" and was arrested after several hours of questioning.

BULLETIN

At 2:19 p.m. Wednesday, the Thorson jury returned to the courtroom and informed Judge Davenport they were unable to reach a decision.

"That's not a good enough reason," the judge responded. Defense attorney Kohl immediately asked the judge to order a mistrial. Judge Davenport denied the motion.

He sent the jury back for further deliberation at 2:25 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., the jury returned to the courtroom and informed Judge Davenport they were unable to reach a decision.

"That's not a good enough reason," the judge responded. Defense attorney Kohl immediately asked the judge to order a mistrial. Judge Davenport denied the motion.

He sent the jury back for further deliberation at 3:35 p.m.



ROBERT THORSON

Auto-Truck Crash Fatal To B'ham Man

A 23-year-old Birmingham man was killed in Madison Heights Tuesday night when the car which he was driving ran into the rear of a cement-mixer.

Dead on arrival at William Beaumont Hospital was Robert Anthony Spalding of 956 Forest. The accident occurred at 9:32 p.m. at about one-quarter mile north of 12 Mile Road on Stephenson Highway.

BECAUSE THERE were no passengers in the Spalding car, police are unsure of exact details of the accident. The driver of the truck was Richard Bartch of Madison Heights. The truck was owned by the Harris Concrete Supply Co.

(See CRASH, 2-A)



JOAN THORSON

No Smoking for Children? Then What About Parents?

In recent weeks, both the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills school boards have adopted resolutions pertaining to students smoking in secondary schools. In an editorial on Page 1-B in today's paper, The Eccentric contends that enforcement is necessary in the homes to make this ban effective. But what do the students, themselves, think of the school's policies? What are the opinions of church and PTA leaders? The Eccentric will present their views in a series of articles which begins here today.

By BETH SHOTKA
Staff Writer

What do student leaders think about smoking restrictions on the home level now that school authorities have banned smoking in the high schools?

Student leaders at Groves, Seaholm and Bloomfield Hills High schools were asked their opinions of how the problem of children smoking can be handled in the home.

Dick Peckham, student congress president for the second semester at Seaholm High School, said he takes everything back to the home level, including smoking.

"Parents tell kids smoking is wrong; however, they don't quit themselves. Parents must set an example at home," he said.

PECKHAM SAID he feels the problem is that high school students are immature. They follow the leaders. If leaders smoke, they in turn follow the example.

"More kids with an individual outlook are needed," he declared. Peckham said that many students affected by the no smoking policy at school have continued smoking after school hours. This is because some parents are not aware that their children smoke.

From this he drew the conclusion that restrictions at school have not affected students who smoke away from school.

He said that the majority of students who smoke at school are trouble-makers and the only way to

curb smoking is to strictly enforce school policies.

THE BIRMINGHAM Board of Education adopted a policy on smoking that subjects students under 18 found smoking or in possession of tobacco to a three-day suspension for the first offense and five days for each additional offense.

Students over 16 will face five-day suspensions for the first offense and 10-day suspensions for the second offense.

Third offenses will result in suspension for the remainder of that semester.

(See SMOKING, 2-A)



Dr. John B. Smith, Birmingham's new school superintendent: "A school system is just as good as the community wants it to be."

Dr. John B. Smith, Birmingham's new school superintendent: "A school system is just as good as the community wants it to be."

Housing Protest March Scheduled for B'ham?

A report that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People would stage a protest march on housing in Birmingham was neither confirmed nor denied by the group Wednesday morning.

Birmingham city officials said they had not been contacted by the NAACP for a parade permit. A spokesman for the NAACP contacted by The Eccentric Wednesday morning said the group would march in Grosse Pointe Park.

He said the group would not comment as to whether the group would parade in Birmingham.

ABROHAM CULMER, housing chairman for the NAACP and Edward Turner, executive secretary of the group, were not immediately available for comment.

The group has vowed to stage protest marches in suburban communities to protest against discrimination in housing. Last week several hundred Negro and white paraded through Dearborn. There were no reported incidents.

Birmingham City Manager L. R. Gare said if the group asked for a

parade permit "we would grant it as long as all the rules and regulations pertaining to it were abided by."

Parade permits in Birmingham are issued by the police department.

GARE SAID that if the group wanted to march on a Friday or Saturday when the downtown area is crowded the City would tell them where to march.

Mayor William H. Burgum concurred with Gare's opinion.

"We would issue a permit to parade to them like any other group as long as they comply with the requirements to issue such a permit," the mayor said.

Assessment To Be Set for City Projects

The Birmingham city assessor was ordered to prepare the assessment roll for three sewer projects totaling \$24,100 by city commissioners Monday night.

Necessity for the projects had been determined by the commission several months ago.

The largest project is the \$151,000 S. Eton relief sewer in the area east of Torry between Lincoln and 14 Mile, including both sides of Eton.

Cost of the project will be assessed on a basis of 85 per cent.

(See PROJECTS, 5-A)

Gifts Total \$193,493 in YMCA Drive

Contributions totaled \$193,493 today in the Birmingham YMCA Capital Fund Campaign.

The Y is conducting a drive for funds for a gymnasium, swimming pool and other facilities for expansion of its building at 409 E. Lincoln. Total need has been placed at \$889,133.

General chairman William E. Roberts said that 12 individual contributions have been received in the Advance Gifts Division of the campaign, totaling \$160,375.

HE SAID 104 gifts have been made in the Y Members Division, amounting to \$18,770. Donations in the Y based on staff category total \$14,173; and in the clubs and organizations division, \$175.

Roberts said several contributions have been made in the form of stock certificates which the Y is converting at once. He said other potential contributors may wish to consider this form of donation.

Board Gets Tough On Secret Groups

The Birmingham Board of Education announced Tuesday night it would crack down on fraternities and societies in the coming school year.

Membership in fraternities, societies and other secret organizations within the Birmingham Public Schools is prohibited by state law and by the policy and rules of the board of education.

An originator of position and intent of policy, Trustee Pell Hollingshead said the Birmingham Board of Education "definitely intends to enforce this law."

HOLLINGSHEAD said by state law it is illegal to give a student credit for subjects taken in school, to promote a student or to graduate any student who knowingly violates the law.

He said the Birmingham schools had no alternative but to deny class credit, promotion or graduation to any pupil who knowingly "is or remains a member of or aids or solicits other pupils to join a prohibited fraternity, sorority or other secret society or organization."

STATE LAW defines the prohibited organizations as any group "whose active membership is composed wholly or in part of pupils of public schools of this state and perpetuating itself by taking in additional members from the public schools on the basis of the decision of its membership."

Hollingshead said a fraternity, sorority or secret society does not exist if the statutory prohibition because:

1. It has an incidental charitable program on which its members work.
2. Its active membership is drawn from a wide area and includes persons who are not enrolled in the public schools.
3. It has an alumni group who occasionally meet with the active membership.
4. It was organized outside the public school system and holds its meetings and functions apart from the public schools.

HOLLINGSHEAD noted, however, that church-centered or sectarian organizations were not covered by the prohibition.

"It has become increasingly clear to the board of education that these presently exist, outside the regularly approved school program certain organizations drawing membership from the public schools whose characteristics appear to be:

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Board Gets Tough On Secret Groups

those prohibited as fraternities, sororities or secret organizations," he said.

He said recently jackets, rings and other insignia of membership in such organizations have been openly displayed at school functions. He said these signs of secret organizations were appearing even

P.O. Zip-Code Starts July 1 In the Hills

The new five-digit Zip-Code, designed to speed mail deliveries and reduce the chance of misdirected mail, will go into effect in the Bloomfield Hills postal district July 1.

Postmaster Herbert J. Dible said the Zip-Code for Bloomfield Hills will be 48013.

Dible stressed the importance of all citizens learn this Bloomfield Hills Zip-Code number and using it in their return address on all correspondence.

He said that in answering mail, Zip-Codes taken from return address on incoming mail should be used.

THE PLAN, Dible said, will for the first time permit the post office department to short-cut repeated address reading.

"The address on mail must often be read as many as eight or ten times by postal employees to get it to the proper destination," Dible said. "Each handling slows the process of mail dispatch and adds to the opportunity for human error."

"With the Zip-Code, a clerk need only to glance at the code to know immediately to what national area, state and post office the letter is destined," Dible said.

He said in many cases the code will cut mail delivery to as much as 24 hours.

Announcement was made last week that the Zip-Code system will go into effect in Birmingham on the same date, July 1.

B'field Youth Accused Of Selling False ID's

Federal authorities have arrested a 19-year-old Bloomfield Township boy for printing and selling false identification cards.

Gary Lewis Kasco, 3793 Lincoln, was arraigned Friday in Federal court, Detroit, on the charge. He was released on \$1,000 bond after demanding examination.

FBI agents in Detroit said Kasco had sold false identification cards

to more than 50 persons, mostly teen-agers, living in the Birmingham area.

Investigation by Birmingham police and FBI agents disclosed that the teen-agers, including several girls, were purchasing the false identification for anywhere between \$2 and \$10.

THE IDENTIFICATION was a used by the teen-agers, mostly high school students, to attend night clubs and to buy alcoholic beverages.

Bernard C. Brown, special agent in charge of the Detroit FBI office, said the girls were buying false driver's licenses from Kasco which would indicate their year of birth to be 1942 or earlier. This, he said, would make them of legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages.

Brown said the matter was first brought to the FBI's attention after Birmingham officers had seized large quantities of printing equipment.

The equipment, Brown said, had been set up ready to print false Selective Service cards and other forms of identification.

BIRMINGHAM police seized more than 1,000 blank Selective Service cards from Martin Holt.

(See YOUTH, 4-A)

IN THIS ISSUE

Birmingham-Bloomfield turns out for annual Hunt Fair. See 1-C.	Local golf pro and his wife bring professional rodeo to Detroit. See "Speaking of Sports" on 1-E.
Amusements	6-A Editorials
Art for Art's Sake	7-D Movie Guide
Arts of Living Page	1-D Nature Now
Business News	4-B Obituaries
Calendar of Cultural Events	3-E Potpourri
City Beat	6-D Real Estate
Classified Ads	6-B Society
College News	1-B Sports
Down to Earth, Eccentricities	4, 5, 6-E Theaters
	B, CC That and That
	6-D Yesteryear Happenings
	1-B

GARY L. KASCO