

Know Your Business Laws

There are many laws—local, state and national—that regulate business.

Anyone planning to enter into business should acquaint himself with the regulations pertaining to his particular enterprise. It will be to his benefit to do so.

The zoning ordinance should be checked,

as the type of business proposed for a certain locale must meet the appropriate zoning classification.

Any construction, whether a new building or renovation of an old one, must comply with requirements of the building code. There are such things as lot lines, floor space, number of stories, kind of material to be considered.

BEFORE HE can open the doors of his establishment, the merchant has to buy certain licenses. In Birmingham, he has to obtain a merchant's license and a state sales tax license. The specific kind of license and the fee varies according to the kind of business.

Some laws spell out the kinds of insurance a businessman must possess. Others govern such things as fire protection and sanitation.

TAX LAWS are very important. The businessman must know what municipal, state and federal tax laws apply to his operation. He must know what taxes to pay, and when. He should understand assessment proceedings.

He must comply with federal income, employee withholding, social security, sales and personal property tax laws.

Furthermore, the merchant should understand the laws regulating procedures for going out of business. For example, there is a state ordinance that requires a businessman to file an inventory of his property and to pay a \$100 fee before he can advertise a "going-out-of-business" sale.

IT IS THE merchant's obligation to know and understand these laws. He should also be aware of whatever recourses are available in event he has any grievances.

For example, there is the zoning board of appeals to be consulted when a zoning problem is involved. There are adjustments that can be made when a hardship is determined.

Complaints on tax assessments can be taken to the board of review.

THESE ARE only a few of the general, basic laws pertaining to business. There are many more detailed regulations that cannot be listed here.

Each merchant owes it to himself to learn and understand the laws affecting his operation. Adhering closely to them will give him greater peace of mind and assure a more profitable operation in the long run.

ments the earlier findings." Enough is known to justify caution for young people who think they ought to smoke.

There is a sort of bitter, here-we-go-again flavor about the news that eight steel firms have been indicted on charges of fixing prices on steel castings. Two of the firms indicted this time were fined last year because they fixed prices on steel forgings. One wonders how many more revelations of the sort will come. A point must be made of the fact that indictment is not tantamount to conviction. The indicted firms may be innocent of wrongdoing. But this development gives rise to renewed concern about morality in big business—concern touched off by previous cases such as the one involving several large electrical companies. Many big business firms take great pains, these days, to proclaim a feeling of public responsibility. One of the best ways to make this attitude credible is to adhere strictly to the letter and spirit of laws regulating business.

A long ordeal on civil rights legislation is expected in Congress. The toughest part will be keeping cool amid all the hot air.

Now there are beer cans that don't even require an opener. We foresee intransigent invention as the next development.

Politics is the art of the possible—and sometimes of the plausible.

World production figures show that if the Russians are going to bury us, as Khrushchev promised, they'll need a lot better shovel than the one they're using.

Senator Morton says Goldwater has "more hard support" for GOP nomination than anyone else. Goldwater's soft sell is beginning to pay off.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Dave Breck's Answer

How He Views Role as City Commissioner

To the Editor:

In reply to the editorial in The Eccentric on June 26 entitled "Open Letter to Dave Breck," I would like to express my feelings regarding my responsibilities as a commissioner in Birmingham.

I ran for election to the Birmingham City Commission because of an affection for and pride in our community and strong convictions about its past and future.

These convictions include maintaining the unique residential atmosphere of Birmingham as well as a healthy, attractive business community.

MY CAMPAIGN slogan "Keep Birmingham Residential" was based on my belief that Birmingham is primarily a residential community, fortunately endowed with a great deal of natural charm and also an atmosphere which has developed over the years which is not duplicated in the Detroit metropolitan area. This environment has attracted the type of people who are a credit to the community.

"Keep Birmingham Residential" was not intended to imply that the merchants' interests should be disregarded. On the contrary, the downtown business section is mandatory for the well-being of our community, and I welcome the opportunity to provide warranted assistance to that end.

However, I am opposed to the expansion of further multiple and commercial development in Birmingham where the property can be used for more desirable purposes.

poses.

IF BIRMINGHAM develops into a sprawling shopping center but loses its dedicated residents, who will gain? Progress is a much-abused word these days—pulled out whenever it is necessary to push a pet project. My own definition of progress is: "Retaining the best of the past while moving forward," and basically this is what I am trying to do. I am attempting to represent all of the residents of Birmingham to the best of my ability.

ONE of the problems in our community is that there is not sufficient citizen participation and interest in our commission meetings. I propose that more residential associations be formed and their officers organize a Residents' Council.

The council members could attend commission meetings, report to their neighborhood groups and advise the commission of its position. This would help the commissioner who cannot and should not work in a vacuum.

The Chamber of Commerce is effective in presenting the merchants' viewpoint. A Residents' Council could be just as effective.

YOUR EDITORIAL suggests I have engendered resentment and that I should bring the rest of the commission around to my way of thinking by desisting from "stubbornness" or "grandstanding."

People need not feel resentment because their opinions are questioned. There

must be an honest exchange of viewpoints and respect for each other's opinions. My fellow commissioners are dedicated citizens voting their convictions. Each of us has the right to decide an issue according to the dictates of his conscience. A vote is an individual privilege and not a team maneuver!

RATHER THAN being the spokesman for the minority, as you have suggested, I believe I represent the majority of Birmingham residents who seek to preserve its special character.

However, I may be in the minority at the commission meetings, at least in regard to the proposed parking lot and the removal of parking from Maple.

Such a position is not the sure road to popularity nor has it thus far resulted in "good press." Nevertheless, I shall continue to express my view as long as careful study and close communication with the people convince me that is the correct one and in the best interest of our community.

MY TERM of elective office will not be characterized by the epitaph: "He was a nice guy—he voted with the team."

I plan to continue to gather the facts, define the problem, make recommendations and VOTE consistently with the platform on which I was elected and with which over three thousand people agreed.

DAVID F. BRECK
Birmingham city commissioner

Constructive Measure Solution to Smoking?

To the Editor:

The recent letter regarding suspension of students who smoke in school had a great deal of merit.

Is it possible that suspension could be replaced with a constructive measure, such as having the offender repair the damage that has been done to school property by thoughtless smokers?

The desks, window sills and other property that needs refinishing requires not only money from the board of education but also time of custodians who are needed in other places.

Sanding and repainting to the satisfaction of the schools would emphasize the wisdom of the rules. Suspension is not what this type of offender needs.

THE POINT of early education is excellent. Let's not stop with educating our children against early smoking. Let's extend this to the unhealthy and addictive practice of drinking too early and too much.

We can't just educate the student, we must educate the immature and scared parents of the community.

It is a shame that the schools must take on another job that parents should be doing, but such a great number of parents in our time are so disinterested in helping their children to become healthy, responsible adults there doesn't seem to be much choice.

THIS EDUCATIONAL program will have to be extensive and forceful in order to reach those who really need it, and to put some starch in the backbone of the "would-like-to-be-sensible" parents.

Many of our students have been saying these words to parents for several years. Let's seriously consider what these sensible and well-adjusted young people have been saying.

DEE DISE
Birmingham
(See PEOPLES COLUMN, 2B)

Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO

July 11, 1913

The Oakland Co. Horticulture Society met at the residence of R. J. Corryell on Saturday last. The heavy rain storm at the hour of meeting delayed the arrival of the fruit growing club but a short time and they were soon in the midst of the discussion of raising more and better fruit. H. J. Justice, professor of Horticulture at M. A. C., discussed "Cover Crops."

Art Robinson had a narrow escape from drowning at the mill pond a few days ago. He made a dive into deep water and became fastened at the bottom in some unaccountable way and could not rise. The boys missed him and rescued him after quite a struggle to get him loose. Never again for Art. His (See HAPPENINGS, 7-B)

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

The "stop smoking" clinic is a new phenomenon on the national scene. It follows, more or less, in the tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous and various group efforts to whack off excess poundage. Essentially, all such groups are up to the business of enforcing willpower. Through encouragement and challenge and a variety of little tricks, they seek to bolster the individual's ability to break a bad habit. In general, this is a good thing. It is worth noting, however, that although group therapy of this kind is helpful it is not the only way to deal with habits of over-indulgence. There is still the old-fashioned method of unaided individual exercise of will power. This is usually tougher than when the effort is supported by group participation. The point to be made is that if it is difficult or impossible to join a group to help curb smoking or drinking or eating, there is an alternative. With rare exceptions, anyone determined to lose weight or cut down on cigarettes and alcohol can do it. The basic method is to increase use of one key word: No.

For some years, the big gun leveled against excessive cigarette smoking has been the charge that it increases susceptibility to lung cancer. Despite a rear-guard action by the tobacco industry, this big gun loaded with a growing mass of research data has had a considerable effect on American attitudes toward smoking. However, tobacco sales have not declined. It is significant, though, that the American Heart Association is undertaking a new educational drive to discourage cigarette smoking, especially among teen-agers. This action is a natural follow-up on a report, issued by the heart group in 1960, the gist of which was that heavy cigarette smoking probably helps to bring on or accelerate coronary heart disease. "No evidence has become available since 1960," the heart association board said, "to contradict or invalidate the 1960 statement. Moreover, the additional evidence now at hand not only confirms but supple-

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



It's summer again. It is also vacation time. Time to try to pack everything you own into a small station wagon; except, of course, cares and worries; and strike out for the open road.

It is a mystery to me why any Michigander would want to take a summer vacation anywhere but in our own great state.

In minutes you could be on an expressway; pardon me, a throughway, and a short time later be in the land of woods and waters.

I realize that not everyone likes to vacation near nature. I have been told that some like to vacation in the city. I know a few people who don't eat meat, but I always felt they didn't know what they were missing.

THE INSPIRATION (this should bring letters) for my column this week comes from my surroundings. I have sneaked off early this year, and am leisurely typing this out on a wooded porch overlooking an upper Michigan lake. It is one of the most beautiful sights I have ever had the pleasure to see.

When I took leave of Birmingham, apparently I left behind not only my cares and woes but also my mind. Upon arriving at our cottage, I went over to pick up our boat. It was all tined up and ready to go, so I hopped into it, cast off the lines and pushed myself into the lake. It was then I realized that the keys weren't in it. Fortunately, a little boy with a rowboat heard my cries for help.

IT WAS doubly embarrassing because this year the State of Michigan is issuing stickers which must be attached to your boat to show that you are properly registered. I got my stickers and left them in a good, safe place—my office desk.

(They were still safe as I floated in the middle of the lake—in my desk, of course.)

I was on the horns of a dilemma, as my old college prof would say, because the sheriff was out on the lake and if I yelled for help too loudly he might have come to my rescue with a ticket.

AFTER BEING rescued, I climbed into the car and looked under the seat for the keys. They weren't there. I got out and, on my hands and knees, looked all around the car. Then my six-year-old pointed to the ignition and said, "Daddy, the keys are right there."

The next night my spouse and I went out to dinner. It was a beautiful meal with wine and music. When the waitress arrived with the check, I reached for my wallet and had a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach.

My wallet was apparently safe, too, because it was back on my dresser in the cottage.

I realized how valuable my spouse was, because they held her as security until I returned with my wallet.

TO ME, VACATION is the family, freedom from business cares that interfere with a good relationship between father and children, freedom from the telephone, freedom from meetings and the time to try to understand my children.

I don't think, in my humble opinion, there is any place in the world better suited for this than the woods and waters of Michigan.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

Mrs. Alexander J. LaPointe was working busily in her home at 690 Hanna, Birmingham.

She was running the vacuum sweeper at the time and did not see a woman entering her yard with a cart full of garden tools.

The woman—Mrs. James M. Anderson of 789 Southfield—planted a 30-foot flower garden without the knowledge of Mrs. LaPointe. When her work was finished, she left without a word.

But a neighbor lady across the street witnessed it all and subsequently informed Mrs. LaPointe.

"IT WAS a delight to find," said Mrs. LaPointe of the garden.

"It was such a work of love that I was just overwhelmed.

"She didn't let me know she was doing this; I suppose she was afraid I might stop her.

"She transplanted many things from her own beautiful garden . . .

"She just noticed that I had a vacant space and decided to do something artistic. I like everything she did and the way she did it.

"The effect is all green and white and harmonizes very nicely with our lawn, our house and garage.

"Mrs. Anderson brought her own equipment in her own lawn cart. In fact, she did the whole performance without my knowing it."

CALLING HER "such a charming person," Mrs. LaPointe said Mrs. Anderson has done "so much in the way of dressing dolls." (Her work with costume dolls has been featured in articles in The Eccentric.)

"I just wanted to voice my appreciation for a person who does such an act of love, such a kindness for a neighbor. I wish there were more such people; it would make our neighborhood so much more beautiful than it already is and make it an even more pleasant place to live."

So, how's that for a "good-neighbor" policy?

SOMEDAY TRADING stamps will replace money, I do believe.

The latest gimmick is a three-day weekend at a certain Detroit hotel for 13 books of stamps. For a couple, it would take 19 books.

Don't Just Look—Act



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