

### Eccentric: High in the Nation

In Seattle last Friday night, The National Editorial Association gave The Eccentric six awards for excellence, including second place in General Excellence.

These awards for typography, general excellence, classified advertising, newspaper promotion, use of photography and editorial page represent twice as many awards received by any other weekly, and for that matter, daily newspaper.

Naturally, we're proud of the many awards we've won. Together with the six awards we received in January from the state press association (including first place, General Excellence) and the School Bell Award from the Michigan Educational Association, we have received 13 professional citations so far this year.

**THIS IS UNMATCHED** by any other paper in the nation.

However, being given so many awards doesn't tell the whole story. It's what the award represents that makes the difference.

Awards for typography, general excellence, best use of pictures, etc., mirror the philosophy and character of the paper and what it offers its readers.

These awards reflect a newspaper which

is unusually well accepted by those who subscribe to it.

Along with its excellence in the mechanical departments, The Eccentric provides intimate coverage of the local scene. It covers the area more completely and in more detail than any other paper.

The Eccentric is looked upon by those who subscribe to it as their personal paper. It's close to them, they believe in it.

**THE ECCENTRIC** proudly accepts these new honors and in so doing, reaffirms itself to a continued effort dedicated to community service.

We have been able to maintain high standards because our community has given us the support that makes their attainment possible.

We pledge anew always to serve the best interests of our total community, readers and advertisers alike, who, after all, make possible the successful operation of our publishing enterprise.

We feel the honors we have received are explicit tributes to publishing integrity and high journalistic morality.

To these same references we shall continue to give our unflinching dedication and energies.

### A Need for New Taxes?

When George Romney became governor, the state of Michigan was \$85.6 million in debt.

Final figures aren't in yet but at the end of the fiscal year in June the state had recouped around \$56 million of it. This was not accomplished by slight of hand or even by improved governmental efficiency.

Before Romney was elected the state legislature enacted a series of excise taxes known popularly as "Nuisance Taxes". These new taxes along with a general upturn in the state economy, which brought in more sales tax, did the trick.

**IF THE ECONOMY** keeps improving at a moderate pace by next June the state deficit will diminish to around \$7 million.

With all this happening why should the state be talking about new taxes, particularly a state income tax?

The reason, pure and simple, is that the need for state expense is outgrowing new revenue. At the same time the deficit was going down, the state's budget was going up.

In 1962 the state general fund budget was \$510 million. Revenue was about \$566 million, hence a surplus of \$56 million.

**THIS YEAR** the state general fund budget is about \$550 million an increase of about \$40 million with no substantial new services or programs. The expected revenue will be about \$572 million. Still a surplus of \$22 million.

Next year the state general fund budget will increase over \$50 million and the surplus won't cover it and we will be back to deficit spending.

Why the new increase?

**WE WILL HAVE** to give schools about \$16 million more because of increased en-

rollment. The state pays \$224 less deductible millage per public school child under a school aid formula.

We will have to give our colleges and universities \$10 million more for the increased number of students entering college.

We will need \$17 million for funding state pension plans under the new Constitution.

Raises for governmental employees, new mental health programs and new legislation, including the new school bus law will take up the rest.

**THUS THE NEED** for new money.

At the same time Michigan has been losing jobs because of some of the taxes it assesses on business, which neighboring states do not levy.

To attract new industry something must be done about restructuring the tax picture.

This is why an income tax is upon us at this time.

The Eccentric has researched several plans. It is like working a jig-saw puzzle.

**TO SHOW YOU** the problem and give our readers a better understanding of the tax picture, we have in Section A, set forth the most talked about taxes and set up a little game called "Do-It-Yourself Taxes." It would be interesting if our readers would work out a tax program and mail it in. We will publish the results.

In working out the plan, the readers would better understand the problems and might in the long run help formulate a citizen-oriented tax program.

The success of the endeavor is directly related to the number of people who participate. We encourage all our readers to look it over and send in a solution.

### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Why A Golf Course; Where's City Pool?

To the Editor:

I am writing (to the Birmingham Commission and The Eccentric) regarding this news clipping telling of your appropriation for a second municipal golf course.

Why a second golf course? Where is the first municipal outdoor swimming pool? Birmingham has many facilities and advantages, but an outdoor pool is not among them!

My children have access to what is called an outdoor, indoor pool at the Derby Junior High School. However, the term indoor-outdoor is misleading. It is an indoor pool with one glass wall door that may be opened. Even this is quite limited.

Open swimming is permitted Monday through Saturday as follows: girls, 3:10-4:40; boys, 3:30-5:00 p.m. for a fee of 25 cents. The girls begin the swim for a period of fifteen minutes

and then clear the pool for the boys. The boys then swim for fifteen minutes. The pool is alternated every fifteen minutes between the girls and boys until about 4:45 p.m. when the pool is closed.

**I FEEL** a simple solution would be an outdoor pool where there would be no time restrictions and everyone in Birmingham could swim. We have a wonderful community, but lacking in this respect. Not everyone living here has their own pool or belongs to a private swim club.

You might study Dearborn's example. They have two fine outdoor pools. They are free to children under 17 and a fee of 25c is charged over 17. These pools have paid for themselves and are now making a profit for their city.

I strongly urge you to consider

my suggestion and act favorably on it.

**I AM ALSO** enclosing this article concerning limited terms on boards that serve the city. I approve and applaud Commissioner David P. Brock's suggestion that the terms should be limited. Fresh ideas are indeed needed on the plan board, and I have given you one to begin.

I'm sure in a city so civic minded and aware of public obligations as ours, finding new people to fill appointments could be very simple.

I am sending a duplicate open letter to The Birmingham Eccentric. Perhaps other citizens will agree with and support my proposal. Here's an opportunity for the city commission to be a hero to the small fry set!

MRS. SHIRLEY FITZGERALD  
1568 Yorkshire  
Birmingham, Michigan

## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

ONCE OVER LIGHTLY

A gal named Irma Davis used to share this page with us under a column called "Once Over Lightly". As you probably noted on Page 5A, Irma passed away last Thursday morning.

This was a gal of unusual talents. Not the type that is usually found on a weekly newspaper staff. She was more the type that would be found doing features for national magazines.

The Good Lord decides when our time is up, but it is too bad both for The Eccentric and our readers that He decided her time had come.

We will miss her tremendously.

BITS AND PIECES

My column a couple of weeks ago on whether the governor should march in the freedom parade in Detroit caught me a little short. It was written while on vacation and before it was published the governor had marched in Grosse Pointe.

My feeling hasn't changed that he should not have lent his mantle of office to a protest march, but every man is entitled to his own opinions and apparently Romney is a man of his own mind.

OLYMPICS

After all the furor of getting Detroit selected as the American site for the 1968 Olympic Games, which happened to all the publicity concerning our efforts to be the international choice for the site.

Nothing worse than being built up for something big, and then left hanging.

Maybe nothing's being done and that's why there is no news.

This is doubtful because someone must be working on plans for the presentation in Nairobi in October and someone's going to have to pay for it.

**WHEN THE BILL** to authorize a stadium for the Olympics was presented before the legislature last spring, it renewed an age-old fight about the location of the Michigan State Fair Grounds.

The proposed stadium would be built on the Fair Ground property, but the outstate farmers for years have been trying to move the fair outstate, closer to where the farmers are.

They felt that if a stadium was built in Detroit it would end the chance of moving the fair.

Their opposition to the bill wasn't because they didn't want Detroit to get the games.

That's politics.

## Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO

July 25, 1913

The Detroit Mayor, the Alderman, the City Attorney and a great big hunky majority of the people have all hollered "we want Municipal Ownership!" They have been yelling, crying, screaming, howling, roaring, screaming, howling, squawling, howling and many other things, and they don't rate at home. Why not? Politics.

For two or three weeks Miss Shattuck of the Post Office has been singing at the Family Theatre and giving good satisfaction. She has a sweet, strong voice for concert singing, and after the shyness naturally wears away, which it will in time, she is going to make a mark for herself in public singing if she so desires.

Do not on any account miss the grand opening of the new store of the new firm Messrs. Cobb and Jennell which occurs tomorrow Saturday all day long. Surely this day marks an epoch in the history of Birmingham; 2,000 invitations are out. Souvenirs for the ladies, and music afternoon and evening. The biggest thing that ever came to Birmingham either in a public or a private way.

30 YEARS AGO

July 27, 1933

A Birmingham school tax levy this year in the neighborhood of \$180,000 for both operating expenses and debt service, with a tax (See HAPPENINGS, 2-E)

## Mother Praises Work Of Big Brother Group

To the Editor:

This is an open letter to all mothers who are trying to raise sons alone.

Your son does not have to have "committed a crime, been in trouble with the law or referred by the courts" to belong to Big Brothers of America here in Oakland County.

I am convinced that this is the general consensus of opinion and erroneous impression given to the public by TV copywriters and word of mouth.

My son has belonged to this fine organization as a "Little Brother" for almost three years, and not because he showed signs of becoming a potential delinquent, but because his mother felt she could be doing him a gross injustice by not providing responsible male adult companionship for him.

**THE "MAGIC FORMULA"** of friendship is the key to the success of this fine agency—one now accepting one boy as he is, and asking nothing in return.

My son is an average boy who has been brought up, in spite of no father, with those virtues most to be desired in a child. Alone, no woman can take the place of a father and therefore "Big Brother" has inserted into his life a man to be desired in a child. Alone, no woman can take the place of a father and therefore "Big Brother" has inserted into his life a man to be desired in a child. Alone, no woman can take the place of a father and therefore "Big Brother" has inserted into his life a man to be desired in a child. Alone, no woman can take the place of a father and therefore "Big Brother" has inserted into his life a man to be desired in a child.

I am happy to be able to honestly say that the relationship between my son and his "Big Brother" is an excellent one and I am constantly amazed at the devotion and inspiration which this man so freely offers.

All children have problems, but often mothers are reluctant to see

that most of these stem from the lack of a fine male figure for them to evaluate and that their normal growing up problems are in no way related to delinquency.

**ONES AFFLUENCY**, or lack of it, has nothing to do with a boy's need to be accepted for what he is nor does a man have to be a counselor to be a friend to a lonely boy.

What a crime it is that there is always a third of "Big Brothers." Is there a man who cannot spare two hours a week to become a part of a venture as great as this? The rewards are immeasurable. Many such dedicated men are needed and any man will be a better father if he can qualify as a "Big Brother."

Think this over and call Big Brothers of Oakland County—FE 5-9974.  
Mother of a "Little Brother"  
KATHRYN FLOOD  
18 Stout Street  
Pontiac, Michigan

## Raven Coming To Our City; Regrettable

To the Editor:

What a price to pay for "Art" is this writer's feeling regarding the Raven Gallery moving from Detroit to Birmingham.

This is a move that the people of Birmingham will regret from the very first moment that they open their doors. For what is The Raven? Nothing more than a glorified hot-nick coffee house complete with a tax (See RAVEN, 2-B)

## Play It Safe—Learn Water Safety Rules

## From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Downpours and occasional floods do not obscure the fact that throughout the nation the water supply continues to move toward becoming a problem of major proportions. The United States Public Health Service is stepping up research looking toward reclamation of "used" water. This, it is believed, can be made to pay off, particularly in the arid Southwest. The water problem, especially because of the population explosion, is sure to be with us a long time on an ever-expanding scale. The profession of water engineering would seem to have an attractive future.

The incident had something of the quality of a boyhood idyll. There was a boy floating in the river on an inner tube. The boy's pet dog swam out and gave him a playful nudge, so that the lad fell over backward into the water. At that point, this episode changes from idyll to tragedy. The boy could not swim. Neither could his playmate, a few years older. By the time adult help was fetched, nothing was found but the inner tube; one boyhood had abruptly come to an end.

The point to be made is not in the least complicated. It has been made so many times that to make it again may seem almost insulting to readers' intelligence. But the point needs to be made again: In our day, no one need drown for lack of the ability to swim. There was an era when that was not so. But now the rudiments of swimming are so well known, and means of learning in classes or as individuals are so readily available in most communities, that everyone has a chance to acquire this important skill. To let a young person grow up without learning to swim borders on criminal negligence in these times.

Chicago's Mayor Daley is jeered off the stand at a NAACP rally. He blamed "a contingent of the Republican party." He's better look again.

Mikoyan says conditions are ripe for a test ban treaty. His idea that it all depends on the West is a little ripe, too.



ESTABLISHED IN 1878

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

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