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The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN,

Thursday, September 5, 1963

EDITORIAL
 SECTION 8

Poised, Ready for Action

The Citizens Action Committee is ready to act.

With approval from the Birmingham City Commission, the committee will research and develop ideas for beautifying Municipal Parking Lot No. 1 and the proposed lot south of Shain Park.

To get information and suggestions, the CAC will utilize resources available locally, as well as contacting other sources. It will avail itself of the services of Baldwin Public Library, the state universities and local architects, designers and landscape specialists. It also will contact authorities and experts in other cities.

The CAC is a group of civic-minded Birmingham area residents, who represent several local organizations. They serve as an excellent example of what local citizen interest can accomplish through use of local resources.

That the CAC is responsive to the desires of the people is evident in this statement

Who Is Responsible?

Since the food poisoning incident a few weeks ago at Orchard Lake, where more than 150 persons were stricken after eating food at a religious convocation, there has been much concern as to who is looking out for the public to prevent this type of thing from happening in the future.

Basically, the question is: Who is responsible to see that food served to the public is properly handled?

It is not only the question of whether the food is good to begin with and also whether the kitchens are clean, and whether the cooks are wearing sanitary type clothing, and so forth.

The City of Birmingham has solved this problem with a local ordinance, as has Bloomfield Hills.

The unincorporated areas such as Bloomfield Township do not have any laws pertaining to food handling.
 Nor does the Oakland County Health

Dept. have any rules and regulations concerning the problem.

The Township could pass an ordinance, but who would enforce it? They do not have a health man on their staff.

They might pass such an ordinance and ask the County Health Dept. to enforce it for them, but wouldn't it be easier for the County to set up rules and regulations and thus have them uniform throughout the county?

WE'RE SURE the County Health Dept. will say that they do not have the staff to handle it. But it makes more sense to have the county add a couple of men to its staff than to have every municipality have one of their own.

It is too bad that a situation such as that which happened out in Orchard Lake has brought the question to a head. It should have been faced and solved long ago.

It is something that must be done soon. And we nominate for the job the Oakland County Health Dept.

last October were withdrawn from the campus in token of the change that has come about. And in the neighboring state of Alabama Negro students were quietly registered at the state university. Violence and hatred do not obscure the light that is coming.

When anything happens for the first time in 80 years, even if it be only a sneeze, it is news. Something considerably more interesting than the most explosive sneeze has occurred for the first time in 80 years: the trumpeter swan, which is the largest and one of the most beautiful of the globe's waterfowl, has successfully nested east of the Rocky Mountains. Though this event may seem rather trivial in a world beset by a variety of staggering problems, that very circumstance gives it special importance. There is satisfaction in knowing that men, for all their belligerence and weaknesses, have in them still a concern for the natural world. The trumpeters are being established in their hereditary prairie nesting grounds again. Score one for life and beauty.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

When in doubt as to a winning candidate, politicians used to say, pick a general. It has worked several times. In its 20-year existence over a century ago the Whig party elected only two presidents but both were generals, William Henry Harrison and Zachary Taylor. In recent years, after the Republicans lost five presidential elections in a row, they turned to General Eisenhower and won two of the most decisive victories of all time. How the GOP is out of power again and the 1964 field is open. It is being suggested that the party may well nominate Gen. Lucius D. Clay. What are General Clay's views on current issues? Few know. But his friends will say that that was long true of General Eisenhower, too. The GOP seems now well supplied with office holders who would not object to a presidential election. But for no reason or another all are rejected. General Clay's name may come up.

Freeman will study Soviet agriculture. They come here to find how we produce surpluses. He'll try to find out how they produce shortages.

New Internal Revenue expense account rules will say deductible items must be "associated with" business. This does not include monkey business.

Some people vacation on houseboats. Others vacation off relatives.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

How Another City Handled The Drag-Racing Problem

To the Editor:
 For some strange reason, I feel compelled to write to you regarding your recent articles concerning "Woodwarding."

No, I am not writing to condemn you or tell you to "go to hell" but rather to congratulate you on your reporting of this ridiculous and dangerous sport.
 I am not some old fuddy-duddy against all human beings (and that's what they when some guys aged 12 and 20, commonly known as "teen-agers." Nor am I some jerk from a little hick town how he likes to get something about which I know nothing.
 I am a 17-year-old high school senior.

shocked me the most but instead that was the location — Woodward Ave. This was my first contact with "Woodwarding."

LIVING in a small town with not much else to do and a natural proclivity to desert, hard-surfaced back roads, dragging is not new to me as was the idea of doing it on a busy highway such as Woodward or U.S. 30. Soon several roads in this area required repavement as good drag surfaces and there were nightly displays of a car's top performance and ability. Finally the inevitable police crackdown came.

Offenders didn't even have to be apprehended on the spot. License plate numbers were recorded and the dragsters caught later. Heavy fines (\$100), notification of parents and sometimes the suspension of a driver's license followed. Parents of other occupants of the cars were also notified.

I've known several girls who were forced to break up with their boyfriends by their parents when they were notified that their daughter had been involved in a drag race.

BUT THE kids are not the only ones at fault. Parents need to be more concerned about what their kids are doing and where they're going and whom they're going with, especially when a car is involved.

How many parents know that their daughters are pick-ups at drive-ins or that their sons are out tearing up city streets with the family car?

But let me ask you this:
 HOW MANY parents are sitting home too worried about how deeply in debt they've gotten while trying to keep up with their neighbors in Franklin, Bloomfield Hills or any of the hundreds of surrounding subdivisions to wonder or worry where their teen-agers kids are and what they're doing?

Or how many mothers are too concerned with the problem of whether they should have their hair tinted or streaked at their next weekly beauty salon appointment to check up on what their daughters are doing that night "with the girls"?

NOW THAT you have stirred up this hornet's nest, many parents after reading these articles will say "Good my kid," "Johnny or Ginny wouldn't think of such a thing," and go back to worrying about their debts and their hair appointments.

Your next job is to make these parents sit up and realize it is their kids!

I sincerely hope you will know you can. Congratulations to City Editor Larry Eves. —KENNETH U. MCLELLAND, Vassar, Michigan

Claims Secret Clubs Create Friendships

To the Editor:
 How many people realize that this very newspaper was named after a secret society?
 The founders of The Eccentric, George Mitchell and Almeron Whitehead, were members of a secret society called The Eccentrics. I am sure that these nine young men, including my great-grandfather and his brother, would have been surprised to know that today their club would be illegal.

They seemed to think that it was perfectly all right to choose their own friends and call themselves a club if they felt like it.

WELL, TODAY is not the 1860's or '70's, and we still like to think it is our right to pick our friends. It's too bad that so many people don't understand these clubs and the friendship they create.

I AM SURE I will remain close friends with some of these young men throughout my life. I am truly sorry to read about the actions of the school board. I feel that they will regret these actions because they will be depriving many high school young people from a rewarding experience.

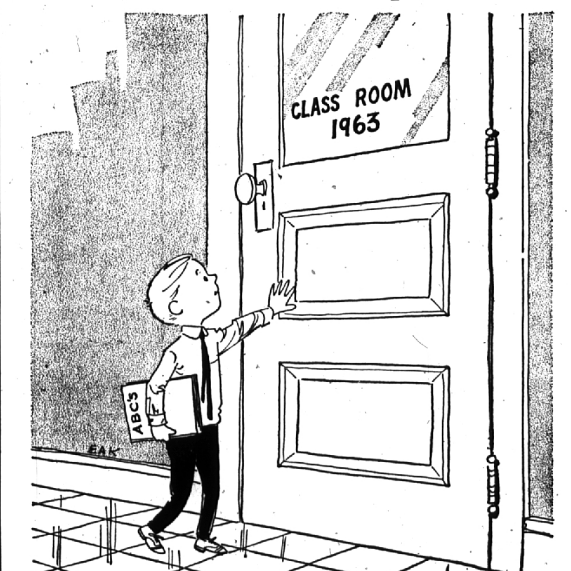
Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO
 Sept. 5, 1913

Now Birmingham is straight towards the crown of a large city. With sewers assured and soon to be built and with gas from a wealthy firm that can furnish it in all quantities at a fair price, we are on the road to a great city. With our schools second to none in the state, with our water the best used anywhere, with electric light and power unlimited, now we will have gas for heating and lighting. Now we will next have Woodward avenue and Maple avenue paved and then watch us grow.

Samuel A. James, the veteran basket maker of old Oakland County is still on earth and making baskets, all kinds of the good old fashioned split baskets. He makes market baskets, hampers, bucket baskets, all styles and sizes. (See HAPPENINGS, 3-B)

New Worlds to Conquer



Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

The governor has indicated that he may request the legislature to take the appropriation for the operation of the State Police out of highway funds, instead of out of the general fund.

He has this power under the new Constitution because "highway purposes" will now be defined by the legislature.

Some people have heard objecting to the use of highway funds for other than concrete and bridges, particularly those in the road building business, but this only points out the evils of "earmarking."

BEFORE THE NEW Constitution was ratified almost two-thirds of the state's revenue was earmarked; that is, it was put into separate accounts and could not be used for anything but the purpose for which it was collected.

The gas and weight taxes were earmarked for highway purposes. Michigan has had great financial difficulties over the last decade. One of the biggest problems was its lack of financial flexibility.

While we were having "payless paydays" we were also spending millions of dollars to build the finest expressway system in the land. None of the road money could be used to relieve the state's financial problems because they were earmarked.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION does not substantially solve the earmarking problem, except to allow the legislature to define the use of some of these earmarked funds. This makes us a little more flexible.

The people objecting to the use of highway funds for safety purposes, such as for the State Police, don't seem to mind these same funds being used for road-side tourist information centers and rest areas on the expressways.

They defend their position by saying that taxes collected from transportation should remain for the betterment of transportation.

THE ARGUMENTS against the use of these funds for safety purposes just don't stand up. First of all, the State Police patrol these highways and make them safer; therefore, as legitimate a highway purpose as tourist stands.

Secondly, it is just a coincidence that gas and weight taxes happened to be earmarked for highways. We do not put all of the taxes we collect on the sale of alcoholic beverages in a special account for the betterment of the liquor industry; nor do we hold apart all of the funds we collect from business, such as the franchise tax or the business activity act, for the use of developing new business in the state.

AFTER LOOKING the controversy over, I'm afraid I have to agree with the governor that it's more important to save a couple of lives than to build a couple extra miles of concrete.

More important to me as a taxpayer, it looks as if the first step in using some of the formerly "untouchable funds" to operate necessary services of our state, and the increased flexibility we can derive, will help eliminate future "payless paydays."

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

The kids start school this week. And now comes a period of nostalgia, adjustment and mixed emotions.

There must be some unanimity of thought among mothers on the subject, though, judging by a pair of poems received by this newspaper.

The first, written by Elizabeth Van Loan, our correspondent for the West Bloomfield area, reads like this:

FOR WHOM THE SCHOOL BELL TOLLS
 Though Mother's Day is solemnized
 On a veridant day in spring,
 With scent of lilacs in bloom,
 And robins on the wing;
 Mother's Day, for me, arrives
 The day the school bell tolls,
 When, with my children all aboard,
 Away the school bus rolls.

The second is by Dorothy Aust of Livonia, free lance author whose poems sometimes are used by this newspaper and who has discussed her poetic efforts on various television programs.

The poem:

TEACHERS, THEY'RE ALL YOURS!
 We took them to the carnival, We've nursed them through
 And took them to the zoo. the measles
 We kissed away the salty tears, And through the chicken pox.
 When knees got black and blue. But when September fifth comes around

We've heard their yells all summer long. Vacation starts for us
 Most welcome sight to mothers all
 We've refereed their fights. The school board's yellow bust
 We've them stay up very late On hot and sticky nights.

We love our little darlings, BUT
 And shoes. We're glad there is a rule
 Pulled burrs from tangled That every fall each girl
 locks. and boy

For boys who may have new ideas of mischief to pull on the teacher, a poem submitted by Jacob A. Dean is offered.

Dean, 85, of 723 Ann St., Birmingham, remembered the poem the other day and recited it at home. He then was asked to write it down. Elizabeth Van Loan, 17, of Moore's Junction Country School in Aracac County, It reads:

HOW WE BOYS LICKED THE TEACHER
 I was a boy of 17, ungainly, dull and tall, as green as any garden but I thought I knew it all. I went to school at Plamo. I chopped the wood and chored for Septikana Wilkinson to pay him for my board
 (See CITY BEAT, 3-B)

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