



The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

Smith to Teachers: 'We Educate for the Unknown'

The new boss talked to his employees Monday afternoon.
Dr. John B. Smith, Birmingham's new superintendent of schools, met with the administrators and teachers at Graves High School and asked their cooperation and faith in helping him make the system offer "the highest quality of education possible within the resources of our community."

He said even with his little knowledge of the Birmingham system he is convinced the quality of education offered to the youth of this area is high.
"I am concerned with what is going on in the classroom and you (the teachers) have control over that," Smith said.
"It is what goes on in the classroom that counts—everything else

is secondary—and I want to do everything possible to see to it that this activity is geared to the fullest development of each youngster in our schools."
Official philosophy and objectives of the Birmingham schools were cited by Smith as primary reasons why he accepted the job to become head of the 14,000-student district.
"THEY SEEMED to fit in nicely with a point of view I wrote of a few years back which I have con-

tinued to believe in," Smith said. "American democracy is founded on the worth and the dignity of the individual."
"With this as a foundation, public schools have accepted the responsibility for the development of each individual according to his interests and capabilities."
He said this means the schools are charged with the physical, moral and intellectual growth of every youngster to the limits of their capacity.

AN ATMOSPHERE must be created in which each individual will permanently be encouraged to learn by himself and to be always intellectually curious, he said.
The development of such an atmosphere becomes a "grave responsibility of each teacher," Smith said.
He said the schools accept the responsibility for the training of each individual boy and girl, but recognize there is a sharing in this responsibility with the family,

church and various community agencies.
"In some instances, other organizations are more capable than the schools for certain phases of education and in these areas the schools cooperate," Smith said.
IN A TOTAL school program an atmosphere of rigorous application to the task at hand must prevail by both the staff and the student body if the goal and objectives are to be accomplished, he said.

"It is essential that education be recognized as a serious function although this does not mean that there cannot prevail a pleasant and happy climate.
"Education is a privilege, a right and a responsibility that cannot be ignored or delegated," Smith said.
He stressed the point that changes in education come slowly. He believes one reason for this is the fact that each adult thinks that his schooling was completely satisfactory.

"TODAY WE ARE educating for the unknown."
He said it was clear that teachers were no longer educating youth to associate with just the peoples of the United States but with the United Nations.
He pointed out that Birmingham differs little from any community in our country and the problems are essentially the same as they are throughout the country.
"But because we are so intimate— (See SMITH, 2-A)



THIS IS HOW the Detroit Dragway looks on the day of a race. Here, two automobiles at the starting line; they take off when the traffic signal turns green and race against each other and the clock for a quarter of a mile. The cars

Who Has the Money for a Drag Strip?

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

A drag strip in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area would be an expensive undertaking, according to the owner of the Detroit Dragway.
Gil Kohn, president of the Detroit Dragway, said he has invested almost \$500,000 in his strip near Wyandotte in southern Wayne County.

in the foreground are waiting their turn to "drag." Since the strip in southern Wayne County opened in 1959, not a single fatal accident involving an amateur driver has occurred.

"THE NOISE coming from a drag race is quite loud," Kohn said. "We often get complaints from persons who live two or three miles from our strip."
He noted that community reaction to a drag strip is not always favorable. Property owners are often concerned about the strip attracting an undesirable type of person.
Kohn suggests, however, that if a strip is ever built in this area it would stand a better chance of success if it were owned by a private corporation rather than as a civic undertaking.
He believes individuals would have a tighter control on how the strip would be run in making sure it was in top condition both for better racing and as a safety factor.

100 mph from a standing start and need a lot of room a stop," Kohn said.
Stock cars, he said, usually have top speeds in excess of 100 mph.
Many of the cars that compete at his strip each week are "just boys with their own or their father's automobiles," Kohn said.
For \$4 a boy can begin dragging at 9 a.m. on a Sunday and is out.
(See DRAG STRIP, 2-A)

B'ham Town Hall Opens 10th Season

Cornelia Otis Skinner will open the 10th Birmingham Town Hall series at the Birmingham Theatre on Oct. 10.
Miss Skinner, who also appeared in the first Town Hall series in 1954, will present "The Wives of Henry VIII." She will give a repeat performance on Friday, Oct. 13th.
The five other guests who make up the remainder of the 1963-64 season include Dr. Max Lerner, Fr. Joseph Dustin, Joe Callaway, Pauline Frederick and Professor John Ciardi.

Half or Whole, More Police Help Needed

By DAVE PHILPO
Township Editor

LATHRUP — The city council last night about adjourned and fractionally Monday night—but the meeting was not concerned entirely with mathematics.
City Administrator Jerald D. Stone recommended the addition of an officer to the police force; the council claimed that only half a policeman is really needed; and all wondered where the money for another man would come from.
STONE CONTENDS that an additional officer (bringing the force to five) is a priority item and should be paid for from the contingency fund and accounted for at the end of the 1963-65 fiscal year.
Mayor Richard N. Cogger is concerned about the source of the money. He opposes tapping the contingency fund.
"Right now I'm not too sympathetic to adding a fifth man," he said. "I think we should dig for another solution. Maybe we could train someone for the job part-time."
STONE ANSWERED that "you just can't go out and buy half a policeman" and said that someone

PTA Council Backs Ban on Secret Clubs

Birmingham's PTA council has come out in support of the Board of Education's position on smoking and membership in fraternities and sororities in the public schools.
At the group's first meeting of the fall semester, resolutions were passed backing the school board in their efforts to ban fraternities and sororities and to prohibit the use of tobacco by public school students.

Sky High Problem

When Birmingham's municipal building chimney needed repairing this week, the fire department was pressed into service to aid in the project. The department's 75-foot aerial ladder was the only piece of equipment in town that could reach to the top of the chimney.

Family Flees Blaze; \$15,000 Home Ruined

Birmingham fire officials are still investigating the cause of a blaze that did an estimated \$15,000 damage to a home at 800 Abbeey early Friday morning.
The blaze, at the home of Michael M. Michaels, broke out in the basement of the two-story structure but its origin has been undetermined.

Townships Seek County Aid at School Crossings

By SAVILLA SLOAN
Special Writer

Who should pay for a traffic signal erected primarily as a safety device for school children crossing heavily travelled roads?
This question went unanswered at a Bloomfield Township meeting Monday night at which the township board passed a resolution asking the Oakland County Road Commission for additional safety measures at Daniel Whitfield School on Orchard Lake Road.
West Bloomfield Township board members also took up the problem of traffic safety at school crossings at their meeting last week. They adopted a resolution asking the road commission to reduce speed limits on Walnut Lake Road in the vicinity of Green School, and in front of the Keith Elementary School, now under construction on Keith Road.

They accepted the responsibility of stop light maintenance?" he asked. Township board members agreed with Case.
HOWEVER, they were in sympathy with the safety measures asked by the PTA group and backed their request by unanimously resolving to ask the road commission to put them into effect.
Several reasons for extending

The recent widening of Orchard Lake Road would accentuate the problems for school children crossing the road they added.
CASE EXPLAINED to the audience he had recently written all four school districts operating within Bloomfield Township limits asking if they would share with the township the cost of installing and
(See AID, 2-A)



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Change It to 'democratic'

What a difference a capital letter can make!
It can change the entire meaning of a word.
Take for instance the word "democratic." Give it a capital D and it has reference to the Democratic Party.
This is what happened in this week's Birmingham Eccentric. In the first paragraph in the story "League Never Takes a Stand Without Careful Study First" on Page 4-B, the word "democratic" has a capital D.
It should be a lower case d. The League prides itself in its ability to remain nonpartisan. The Eccentric realizes this and regrets the erroneous partisan reference.

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County Policy: No Money for School Signals

Where a traffic signal is operated essentially for pedestrian purposes, Oakland County Road Commission policy for a number of years has been to neither pay for its installation nor its maintenance, according to County Traffic Engineer Robert Osgood.
He said that, to his knowledge, the county does not presently bear the cost of operating any of the 10 or so traffic signals it has permitted to be erected for school purposes.
Where they are located in a town, city or village, these agencies are paying for their operation.
Two townships—Waterford and Pontiac—are also paying for a school signal light located within their boundaries, he said.

B'field Village Land Purchased By School Board

The Birmingham Board of Education has completed the purchase of property at Quanton and Covington roads in Bloomfield Village for a proposed junior high school.
When constructed the new school will be the fourth junior high school in the Birmingham School District. No date for the start of construction has been set by the board.
In other business at Tuesday night's meeting, the board learned that all but four teaching vacancies have been filled for the 1963-64 school year.
DIRECTOR OF Personnel Kenneth Nagley said there were still openings for three elementary I-I elementary instructors and the position of elementary reading consultant was still to be filled.
He said the Birmingham School System now has 700 professional staff members, including two permanent substitutes in the Birmingham Junior High School, Nagley said.
In a report for Daniel Nesbitt the board was told the administration is studying the size of classes to remain nonpartisan. The Eccentric realizes this and regrets the erroneous partisan reference.

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