Record

(Continued from 1-A)

BOTH McGAUGHEY and Henry S. Booth, a founder and past president of the league, responded with letters to The Eccentric this week.

McGaughey cited the league's accomplishments of 1963, including its part in a successful campaign for ratification of the new state constitution.

He felt that the Lane report gave only "a partial view of the work of the board and the involvement of members." He also pointed out that he had discussed with Coro Foundation officers the possibility of further assistance to the OCL.

IN HIS letter, Booth said the opening sentence in last week's Eccentric article gave an erroneous impression about membership participation.

Both also said the Coro researcher, an intern in public affairs, presented no new, constructive suggestions for the league.

The Eccentric's article, an election of officers and plans for 1964 are expected to be among the topics of discussion at the OCL board of directors meeting at The Community House on Jan. 8.

McGAUGHEY'S letter follows, in part:

"In news and editorial columns, The Birmingham Eccentric has faithfully and accurately reflected the league's progress over the past 12 months. Yet, a new subscriber might conclude from your Dec. 27 article that the league struck out whenever it went to bat in 1963.

"Did it really? Or did it bat in some impressive runs, including a couple of homers?

"Your regular readers probably will recall that the Oakland Citizens League last spring supplied the top leadership in the united effort of key Oakland County nonpartisan groups to turn out the vote for ratification of Con-Con.

"IMPORTANTLY AS result of the active direction supplied by Henry Scripps Booth and F. Ward Ouradnik, past and current presidents of the league, hundreds of citizens were mobilized for the educational and promotional jobs which enabled Oakland County to roll up the most impressive plurality of any county in the state on April 1.

"On Sept. 21, the league again provided the foremost leadership for another united effort, the bipartisan Citizens Political Forum, which attracted more than 500 citizens.

"THE FIRST county in the state to organize a study committee to seek implementation of the home rule provision of the new constitution was our county, under the leadership of our league.

"Whatever its early organizational faults, the league-inspired and now enlarged home rule study committee currently provides the only common ground in the county for Democrat and Republican leaders to pool their thinking and take concerted action on this important issue.

"The league has been more concerned in 1963 in getting results on programs in the public interest than in building up a treasury or swelling its membership rolls, although both finances and membership have improved as result of a program of accomplishment.

"NO ONE pretends that the 26-year-old league can't stand improvement. That is one reason why we invited the Coro Foundation to send a trainee here at league expense to probe, analyze and recommend.

"The young trainee's report was based on observations made during a seven-week period which followed a period of intense activity on the Con-Con ratification and which preceded the 26-group effort to make the Citizens Political Forum successful.

"Because of its limited focus, the Coro report gave only a partial view of the work of the board and the involvement of members.

"THE BOARD'S point-by-point 'rebuttal' was intended to put in perspective the overall program of the league in 1963, so that those unfamiliar with the league's revitalization efforts would know that a great deal was done to strengthen and improve the league in the latter half of the year.

"At the October meeting of the board of directors of the Oakland Citizens League, the report was accepted in good spirit, with the acknowledgment that the league should always remain open to criticism from within or without.

"SUBSEQUENTLY, I met in San Francisco with Coro Foundation leaders and expressed the hope that the Foundation again would make available to the league one of its governmental interns. Mr. Donald Fletcher, Coro president, previously had thanked me in writing for taking the time to comment on the trainee's experience in Oakland County, as this evaluation was considered a beneficial part of the training process.

"While I no longer am active in the Oakland Citizens League because of my new job outside Michigan, I am confident that the OCL will continue to serve an important function in Oakland County and the state of Michigan, and I will continue to support it in any way I can."

IN HIS letter, Booth said:

"Your article on a citizens' organization designed to promote good government recalled 26 years of effort to counteract general apathy toward governmental matters. Consequently, your opening sentence—"The Oakland Citizens League lacks citizen participation"—made an erroneous impression, as did other statements in the article.

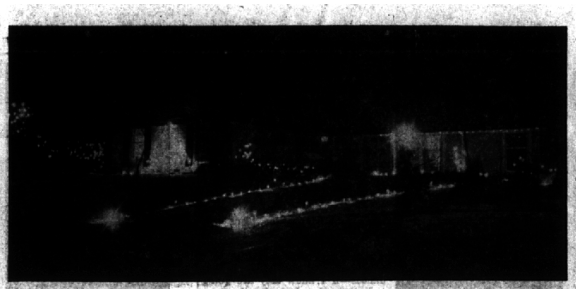
"In 1937, several of us felt we should do something about our own ignorance and rather casual attitude and hoped to develop a league to help others, as well as ourselves, solve common interrelated problems. It has been a struggle.

"ALTHOUGH Oakland is a populous and generally prosperous county, it is so big that widespread participation is difficult. The apathy of busy people provides insufficient financial support for the league to do a bang-up job for citizens who won't or can't properly inform themselves and act.

"Nevertheless, the record proves the worth of the idea, and the effort continues.

"Unfortunately, the Coro Foundation intern whom we hired to analyze the league and you quoted in your article, came up with no new, constructive ideas. All were discussed through the years, many tried.

"The Eccentric has given the underpinning excellent support because it has appreciated the need for such an organization. What we need more than ever today is ideas on how to stimulate active concern in citizens, for with an 'I mean business' kind of financial support to Oakland Citizens League it will be able to do the kind of job which should be done."



ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Knob Hill Winner

Winner of the Knob Hill Homeowners Association contest to beautify the homes in the subdivision with Christmas decorations was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Solski of 5349 Van Ness Court. Runnerup was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCarthy of 5448 Van Ness Drive. Judges for the contest were the Rev. T. H. Michael Nesbitt of Christ Church Cranbrook, R. A. Teague, chief stylist of American Motors and Dave Philpo, township editor of The Birmingham Eccentric.

Hogan Heads Mich. Week For Oakland

Appointment of Henry M. Hogan, Jr., as Oakland County chairman for 1964 Michigan Week, May 17-24 inclusive, was announced today by John S. Pingel, Southeastern Michigan regional chairman.

In making the announcement, Pingel, executive vice president of Ross Roy, Inc., Detroit advertising agency, said:

"As Oakland County chairman, Mr. Hogan's duties will include naming and coordinating the activities of two deputy general chairmen, a county product and achievement chairman, and approximately 18 community chairmen in Oakland County's principal areas."

TWO WEEKS ago, Pingel announced the appointments of Detroit Postmaster Edward Baker and Mt. Clemens banking executive A. DeWitt Brewer as chairmen for Wayne and Macomb counties.

A practicing attorney, Hogan is a member of the Birmingham law firm of Emery, Parsons, Bahr, Hogan & Tennant. He is, in addition, associate publisher of The Birmingham Eccentric and a member of the Michigan State Legislature as representative from the Third District.

Married, and father of three, he lives at 400 Dunstan Road, Bloomfield Hills.

Out-Patient Clinic Suggested For Pontiac

Pontiac State Hospital is being considered as Oakland County's first out-patient clinic by the Community Mental Health Board, according to chairman Paul N. Averill.

The feasability of this first community clinic, either on a permanent or temporary basis for the hospital, is being explored to reduce the number of commitments by treating mentally ill persons before their cases become too advanced and require lengthy hospitalization.

AVERILL SAID that although outpatient clinics at general hospitals might be better received by the public, the state hospital can provide immediate services which should be used.

The eventual plan, he said, would provide several clinics in different parts of the county as soon as a shortage of psychiatrists could be reduced.

Said Dr. Harry Arnkoff, resident psychiatrist at the hospital, "later we may be able to develop a program whereby medical doctors would be trained to provide early psychiatric treatment of less severe cases."

ARNKOFF ESTIMATED that the proposed clinic at the hospital, including additional staff, would cost $75,000 annually. The state is expected, under a new state aff, to contribute between 40 and 60 per cent of local costs.

Board member William Wagner noted that Oakland County this year is spending about $814,900 for mental care under existing programs.

This figure includes $431,500 for patients in state institutions, $194 000 for emergency treatment of patients in private hospitals because state hospitals are filled to capacity, $124,000 for youngsters committed here by juvenile courts, and $65,400 for Oakland child guidance clinics.

The Birmingham Eccentric classified ads get quick results because they're set in easy-to-read type and reach over 70% of the Birmingham-Bloomfield area. Place a Want Ad yourself in the Eccentric's busy Classified Supermarket, Dial MIdwest 4-1100 for fast results.

St. Joseph's New Staff President Is Dr. Hassberger

Dr. J. B. Hassberger of Birmingham has been elected president of the staff at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac.

Dr. Hassberger, who has offices in the Reid Building, 620 S. Woodward, has been on the staff of St. Joseph's since 1930.

A pediatrician, Dr. Hassberger was graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1925. He interned at University Hospital in Ann Arbor and served his residency in pediatrics at James Whitcomb Riley Hospital in Indianapolis, Ind.

IN HIS position of staff president, Dr. Hassberger will have overall charge of medical staff organization and will serve as chairman of the hospital's executive committee.

Dr. Frederick M. Adams, 800 S. Adams, Birmingham, was named president-elect of St. Joseph's and will succeed Dr. Hassberger at the end of the year.

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