

IN THIS SECTION:  
Editorial  
Church News  
General News

### The Role of Newspapers

Next week, Oct. 11-17, is National Newspaper Week and an appropriate time to discuss just what newspapers are, what they are not and what they are trying to do.

Newspapers are an expanding—not a declining—business.

Newspapers are not monopolies; they face ever-increasing competition from many diversified sources.

Newspapers are progressive and alert to technological change.

They are the result of historical forces which are constantly altering the conditions of American life. They have lasted because they best serve the public.

Newspapers are constantly improving their editorial product.

**NEWSPAPERS ARE** concerned as much with liberties of others as they are their own. The newspaper is the written expression of freedom of speech, indispensable in a free society.

Newspapers provide a record of history and a textbook of life. They are, therefore, an important tool for any education that relates classroom objectives to the world in which today's students may live as adult citizens.

They offer increasing opportunities and rewards to talented young people seeking lifelong careers.

**NEWSPAPER JOURNALISM** maintains high standards in its aim to communicate information to the public. Journalism taught as communication is an important classroom tool.

Newspapers offer advertisers a unique range of services to produce more productive advertising. And advertising, effectively used, is productive.

### It's Called Passing the Buck

We may have come to the end of a vicious circle in Bloomfield Township.

For the last several years the schools, the township and the county road commission have been arguing over who should pay for the traffic control devices outside of schools.

The debates have been very interesting, but unfortunately the children have been ignored through the whole thing.

How it came about was this. In the middle of the thirties the citizenry transferred the power to own and operate its roads away from the township and gave it to the county.

**THE TOWNSHIP UNDER** present law has no right to erect signs by the side of the road or restrict traffic in any way other than enforcing state statutes and township ordinances.

When asked by parents or school authorities for red lights or speed signs, the township's answer has been that this is not within its jurisdiction.

The county road commission has never said that this is not its responsibility but it practically takes a traffic fatality to spur the commissioners into action. They claim that they have so many schools to

Classified advertising is the people's marketplace. It offers a wide variety of channels for selling many kinds of goods and services quickly, efficiently and inexpensively.

Newspapers publish news of crimes and trials because it is in the public interest to do so.

**NOW, LET US** look more specifically at the suburban community newspapers—weeklies like The Birmingham Eccentric.

They generally concern themselves not with national and international news happenings but rather, they devote their coverage and editorial attention to the local community.

This is the purpose and function of suburban community newspapers; this is what their readers expect of them as the communicators of local events.

**THE USUAL** pattern for this type of product concerns prosaics:

Proceedings of local government; activities in the schools and churches; victories and defeats of the home-town athletic teams; the glories of their heroes; projects of local clubs; civic endeavors; local business, industry and employment; local births, marriages and deaths.

The suburban community newspapers strive to cover all of these unfulfilling, not because they are "important" in the sense of preserving or shaping the nation's ideals of liberty but rather because this is their function, their responsibility, their challenge as the home-town paper.

Thus, it becomes evident that the suburban community newspapers are as much a part of the fabric of freedom as the big metropolitan dailies.

take care of that their budget can't provide for them and still maintain the roads.

**THE SCHOOL BOARD** in Bloomfield Hills got an opinion from its counsel that the board couldn't legally contribute to pay the cost of traffic control devices.

Thus you have the township and school people saying they can't legally do anything about it and the county, on the grounds of lack of funds, doing little about it.

In the meantime, children still have to go to school without many safety precautions.

**THE REASON WHY** the problem may be coming to an end is not because the school district in Bloomfield has recognized the danger to children and done something about it or that the county has discovered funds.

The township board has reversed its position and has decided to pay for the erection of the signs.

As Supervisor Homer Case said, "You can fight for principle just so long, and then you have to start saving lives."

It is too bad the other two public entities don't see it this way and chip in.

### What Resolutions Are

There is apparently a question on the part of some of our readers as to how we stand as to initiative and referendum as it applies to resolutions of the Birmingham City Commission.

We didn't discuss this in our editorial of two weeks ago because that editorial was in the nature of an explanation to our readers as to what was involved in the subject matter to be presented to the voters next April.

Initiative is the power of the voters to propose and enact or reject ordinances, and referendum is the power of the electors to repeal laws passed by the commission.

The commission has authorized a proposed amendment to the city charter that would provide for I&R to be placed on the April ballot.

**THE CITY** commission's ballot proposition does not include resolutions.

You will notice that we did not say that the commission's proposition would exclude resolutions. Resolutions are merely statements of intent of the commission.

Since the commission is the elected representative body of the people, it would not make sense to let the citizens initiate a statement of intent of the commission.

Resolutions are not like ordinances which are laws that control the activities of the citizens.

They are positions of the commission. If you allowed initiative, these would be positions of the citizens.

**AS TO** referendum, since resolutions are not laws but statements of intent, it would also be illogical to allow citizens to countermand the intent of the commission.

If the intent of the commission is to do something, letting the people vote on this would not change the intent, it would merely show displeasure which the citizenry can already do at the polls.

As far as we can tell, the only reason that anyone would want to bring resolutions into initiative and referendum would be so that they could harass a city commission.

**THIS IS** not the purpose of initiative and referendum. Its purpose is to give the people the right to redress their grievances when oppressed by an unpopular law.

It should only be used on those few occasions when a public body might not be responsive to the will of the majority.

We must be very careful that it cannot be used as a tool to thwart the will of the majority.



### YESTERYEAR HAPPENINGS

50 YEARS AGO  
October 9, 1914

The sewer people have begun work on Woods and Avenue. Their great big ditcher makes the gas company's machine seem like an infant, both machines perfect in their respective positions, while Woods and Avenue "looks like war." Now when these two improvements are finished, Woodward Ave. is ready for its last and final improvement, and that is paving.

Charles Smith of Brown Street has started in a business that will make Birmingham pure, undefiled and sanitary. He has gone into the garbage business. He will sell you a galvanized pail for only 75 cents and for 25 cents a week will gather the contents and carry it away and make a clean job of it. Everybody should patronize this great and needed improvement.

Political posters have found their

#### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

### Raises a Question On 'Treason' Book

To the Editor:

In the Sept. 21 issue of The Eccentric a letter appeared advising all voters to read "None Dare Call It Treason" by John Stormer. The writer deplored the fact that much of the information had not been fully publicized in local newspapers.

I wish to reply that I am glad not all of this book has found its way into an objective paper such as The Eccentric. Let me comment on but one chapter—"Subverting Our Religious Heritage"—the only chapter I feel qualified to comment on.

IN THIS chapter the author makes the very questionable as-

### 'Poor Judgment' Claimed in B'ham B-2 Zoning Case

To the Editor:

Commissioners David E. Brock and Carl F. Ingraham showed extremely poor judgment and disregard for the public interest in supporting the attempt by Cranbrook Realty Co. to obtain a B-2 zoning classification on the small triangle of land in Birmingham just north of the Grand Trunk viaduct on Adams Road.

Anyone who has examined this property closely is aware of the hazardous situation that would result from any concentration of traffic at this blind spot on Adams.

**THE LOGICAL** development of this property and the adjacent property in Bloomfield Township to the north is multiple-family dwellings with vehicular access confined to the parcel located in Bloomfield Township.

Mayor Charles W. Renfrew and the other members of the city commission are to be commended for having recognized this rather obvious fact.

**WILLIAM LYMAN**, 2355 Hickory Bend, Bloomfield Township

**APPARENTLY** our scholarly Missouri author never read as far as the RSV's Matt. 1:23 ("Behold, a virgin..."). Or maybe the Communists were only interested in corrupting the Old Testament!

I'd rather get my religious information in church and my political information in The Eccentric.

**DR. GEORGE SCIENK**, (Assistant Professor-WSU) 12520 Heverly Road, Beverly Hills

### STRICTLY FRESH

Political conventions require a great amount of know-who on the part of participants.

When grown-ups are holding a



conversation, children should be herded where they can't be seen.

Some men can usually tell just what kind of time they are having at a party by the looks on their wives' faces.

The most valuable secretary is the one who can type right.

### Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



Last week in Chicago I attended a dinner at which General Eisenhower was the principal speaker and was fortunate enough to sit next to the speaker's table.

This is the second time lately that I have had the occasion to see the fine old gentleman, and each time McArthur's phrase about "Old Soldiers never die, they just fade away" popped into mind.

Politicians will tell you that as a President, Ike was a failure, but I don't think the American people feel that way.

**THIS IS A MAN** who has lived, slept and eaten integrity, honesty, love of motherhood and anything else we hold sacred.

Whether you call it the father image or what have you, this was a man you had faith in to keep the nation out of peril.

It's disturbing to see him now, because he is fading away. And there is no one on the national political scene who can capture the respect or love that this man has engendered.

It is said that Eisenhower was to blame for Nixon's defeat and Scranton's failure to be nominated. In both cases, it was felt he didn't come out in time to help these individuals.

**AS I LOOKED** at him I thought of the story about the clergyman asking the dying man if he renounced the devil.

The man replied, "Padre, at a time like this, I can't afford to alienate anybody."

This, I'm sure, was in the back of Eisenhower's mind in both the Nixon and Scranton incidents. He doesn't mind fading away.

But as he fades from the scene we are losing something. Something we Americans need. A security.

**YOU CAN'T LOOK UP** to a man who has made his fortune by political wheedling and dealing, nor can you look up to a man who surrounds himself with people of extreme political beliefs which in some cases are so impractical that they are laughable.

And, of course, the pot shots they are taking at each other don't improve the situation.

We are told in this election that at last we have a choice instead of an echo. But what a choice!

For all his failures I'm still an Eisenhower man, but unfortunately he's not running this time.

**Legal rulings** in the past few years have made law enforcement more difficult in this country. Indeed, things have become so bad that there's a joke going around that says when you're planning a crime, you'd better hire a lawyer first to go along and advise you on your rights as you're committing the offense.

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Arthur E. Moore told of this joke in making these points in a recent talk before the Birmingham Rotary Club:

"The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the federal constitution now controls the law of arrest under due process."

"A state-convicted felon may assert his rights even after state Supreme Court conviction, by applying in Federal court for a writ of habeas corpus."

"... Unreasonable search and seizure is now a Federal question."

"Confessions, though only by interrogation, involve Federal due process and may not be obtained by any means 'inherently' (indirectly) coercive."

**"IF A CONFESSION** is not voluntary, the conviction must be reversed regardless of the other evidence."

"Even interrogation and solicitation of a confession of one under arrest or indictment who is not first furnished counsel may be held excluded."

"When an auto driver is stopped for a minor driving violation like running through a stop sign, the officer may search only when a full arrest is made and then only for the fruits, contraband or instrumentalities of the crime involved."

"The search must be made at the time and place of the arrest if the search is made incidental to the arrest."

**JUDGE MOORE** told the Rotarians that the citizenry in general does not know of these laws and that "many law enforcement officers have not learned how to live with them."

He went on to say: "Even the guilty are afforded a presumption of complete innocence; a publicly-hired attorney is furnished if needed; a full jury or nonjury trial is provided; and the right to appeal to the highest constitutional court, if convicted, is afforded."

"The guilty have the unqualified support of that splendid organization, the Civil Liberties Union, who will act promptly and efficiently against illegal or judicial oppression."

"Even the prosecuting attorney has a duty to protect the guilty as well as the innocent in affording him full constitutional safeguards and rights."

**THE JUDGE** said that in the big cities "political ward-heads and do-gooders have so pampered the masses of less desirable citizens that even the better citizens have begun to refuse to help law enforcement officials."

"Some even urge the demonstrators on to new acts of civil disobedience, insurrection and law violation under

(See CITY BEAT, 4-B)

### The Birmingham Eccentric

Published Every Thursday

Established 1878

PUBLISHER: PAUL N. AVEILL  
ASSISTANT PUBLISHER: HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.  
MANAGING EDITOR: KENNETH R. WEAVER  
ADVERTISING MANAGER: ANTHONY SHAFER

George R. Azevill, Editor Emeritus

