

### League, Forum Lauded

Another public service was rendered by the Oakland Citizens League when it staged the second annual Citizens Political Forum on Oct. 21.

As chairman George J. Fulkerson of Birmingham pointed out, 18 service-community organizations cooperated in making the forum possible. These groups deserve public recognition for their part in providing an opportunity for citizens to hear and quiz the candidates from both major parties at one session.

More than 600 Oakland County residents attended that session, which fact attests to the popularity and worth of the event.

THE OCL also provides a public service in its ratings of candidates. Actually, this is a service for its members which the league makes available to the public through the news media.

The league, thus, does the research for the voters to help them in determining which candidates are better qualified.

Here is how the OCL operates: Its Candidate Investigation Committee requests a biography from each candidate and an opportunity to interview each. It then rates the candidates on the basis of 10 points for education; 15 for experience (business, political, civic and other activities); and 75 for interview (based on answers to questions pertaining to the office sought and current issues).

TOTAL POINT ratings are then given for each candidate, with a "preferred" designation going to the one with the highest number of points unless his opponent was not rated. In that case, the one is given the numerical rating and the other is designated N.R. (not rated).

When there are no more than three points separating two candidates for the same office, "no preference" is designated.

That the OCL makes an honest and determined effort to be fair and objective goes without question. Yet, there have been criticisms.

One of these has been the use of the "preferred" rating. We understand that the OCL board is considering whether to discontinue this practice. We deem it advisable.

After all, if the league desires to be

truly objective, the numerical rating should suffice. Its members, and the public, can make their own interpretations.

THE REQUIREMENT for a personal interview is a good one. If the league is to rate candidates, it should know them personally. Yet, we can see the difficulties encountered by incumbents who cannot leave their office due to governmental business.

To date, this has not been a serious problem because it has occurred only on rare occasion. When it does happen, however, we believe the OCL should consider the record of the person in office and compare it with the qualifications of the challenger.

IN MOST cases, there is sufficient reliable information available to permit a rating of the incumbent; especially if he has been in office over a period of time.

Though we believe the league should in such instances excuse the incumbent from the personal interview, this should not relieve him of the obligation to make an honest effort to be available.

The challenger should not have to face what might well be an emotional experience, particularly if it's to be his first such interview. That is not also expected of his opponent.

IN THE PAST, the OCL has been accused of being a Republican organization. This has not been necessarily so; yet, it is understandable that the criticism was made in view of the fact that active Republicans have consistently outnumbered the active Democrats in this county.

However, this picture is rapidly changing; and the league has enrolled more Democrats and is urging them to be active in the organization. There is a determined effort to make the league even more objective and nonpartisan than it has been in the past.

We believe in the purpose and function of the Oakland Citizens League; we commend it for its political forum and urge it to continue programs of this type, along with its ratings, in the future. We see it as another worthwhile community service organization that deserves public support.

### All for One

Last Saturday night more than 5,000 children celebrated Halloween in downtown Birmingham. They dressed up, paraded stuffed animals with hot dogs and donuts, saw movies—and by the expressions on their faces had a very good time.

While they were so occupied, they didn't have time to soap windows, destroy property or otherwise get themselves into trouble.

This celebration didn't just happen. It wasn't the result of a fairy godmother waving a wand.

FOR THE 28TH time the chamber of commerce, merchants and service clubs of this community rolled up their sleeves and produced something of which our community can be proud.

Hundreds of adults helped to make it a success by chaperoning, passing out food, judging costumes and the like. We also wish to pay special tribute to the committee that worked a month and a half to make it a success. And by singling out some people we can show our readers what had to be done to put it across.

FIRST, WE WOULD like to salute Postmaster Rollie Reese, who this year was in charge of cooking the food, but who also through the years has been the mainstay of the celebration. With the exception of last year when he was seriously ill, he has been at the pots and pans every year since the inception of a local celebration.

Clarence Kraft had the responsibility of purchasing or otherwise securing hot dogs, candy, donuts and cider, not only for the kids downtown but also for the dances at Barnum, Derby, Berkshire and Seaholm Schools.

Bob Faulkner had the job of selecting and wrapping some 300 prizes and Art Blakeslee had the responsibility of seeing that they were passed out.

ROCKY CRAIG WAS in charge of properties, which included setting up the food lines in Parking Lot No. 5.

Darryl Brustle of the police department saw to it that routes were cleared of traffic and policemen were stationed where necessary.

Don Martin of the recreation department sent out flyers, prepared gift tickets and

acted as the parade marshal. The forestry and public works departments provided the necessary trucks and maintenance work.

Ross Wagner directed activities at the parking lot, a job he has done for many years.

Bill Beck handled the complicated job of disbursing the tickets to the children.

DICK ERNST COORDINATED the PTA's, for supplying manpower and judges.

The school district was well represented by Walter Piel who coordinated the requests from the schools, which had their own celebrations and the dissemination of tickets and information to the schools that participated downtown. Also assisting were Mrs. Carol Darling, Robert Ford and Roy Vannette.

Bob Bogan at the Community House helped with the tickets for children of non-participating schools.

And Knowles Smith and the chamber of commerce staff sent out finance letters and handled all of the small details that have to be done to finalize the program.

THIS COMMITTEE could not have operated without the wholehearted financial and physical support of the local merchants. We cannot stress this too much since we seem to be in an era when local businessmen are more often criticized than praised.

The celebration was a success—because all of these groups and individuals worked together in a community effort. Birmingham can again be proud of itself.

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

Mississippi Gov. Paul Johnson says Goldwater "has backed off the states' rights issue." Maybe he's just trying to back into some Northern votes.

Motorists will pay \$6.5 billions in highway-user taxes. Everything about the auto business is big—from car sales to traffic deaths.

Oceanography may be more important than the moon. That's good. Russia's ahead in the moon race, but our scientists seem to be at sea a lot.

### Getting Ready for Winter



### YESTERYEAR HAPPENINGS

50 YEARS AGO  
November 6, 1914

The third drag hunt was held by the Bloomfield Hills Hunt Association last Saturday. Thirty-two horses were entered and practically all of the riders took the jumps. The week end hunt are followed by house parties at the Detroit Automobile Club, Pine Lake Club and the Bloomfield Hills Golf Club.

Election as usual in Michigan is intensely Republican in Oakland County. The Progressives are not as strong as they were two years ago, and the entire Republican county ticket is elected by a majority vote. The Republican ticket, including A. D. Kidder, both of Royal Oak Township, seemed to get the entire vote for their township. We should worry.

Harold Storz, son of Louis Storz, of Royal Oak, was accidentally shot in the hip by David McCassey while hunting in the woods north of Royal Oak Oct. 30. The Storz boy was in the lead and had just fired his gun when it is said the McCassey boy tried to lower the hammer of his fire arm. The weapon was discharged and the shot entered the Storz boy's hip, shattering the hip bone and injuring him seriously.

30 YEARS AGO  
November 8, 1934

Whatever the rest of the state and the nation may do, Birmingham remains Republican by a majority of about 2 1/2 to 1. This was established on the basis of complete unofficial returns from the

### Scout Leaders Study Camping

If the more than 28,000 Boy Scouts and Explorers in the Detroit Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America were asked to pick out what they considered to be the most important adult Scout leaders meeting held in the council, a vast majority would single out the Council Camping Conference that took place at the Charles Howell Scout Reservation at Brighton, Saturday.

The boys would be quick to say that the thing they enjoy most about Scouting is camping, and therefore the Council Camping Conference, which was attended by over 100 key volunteer Scout leaders who head up the year round camping program in the fourteen districts of this, the largest Scout council in the nation, is the most important meeting they could pick.

James R. Bradburn, chairman of the Council Camping Committee,

city's five precincts in Tuesday's election, with Frank D. Fitzgerald receiving 1,721 votes for governor, to 704 for Arthur J. Lacey. Other GOP candidates led here by similar top-heavy margins.

A curfew law to keep boys and girls off the streets at night may be the city's answer to the problem of how to prevent a repetition of the Halloween demonstration here Wednesday night of last week, which resulted in considerable property damage and ended in nearly 100 boys spending most of the night in jail. By resolution, the City Commission instructed City Manager James W. Barry to submit such a curfew ordinance.

Plans for the formation of a permanent committee of depositors of the First National Bank of Birmingham, which was closed in the banking crisis over 18 months ago, are to be crystallized in the next few days according to George E. Averill, publisher of The Eccentric, who is calling the group together in response to popular demand.

15 YEARS AGO  
November 3, 1949

Electors of the Birmingham school district will go to the polls Monday to decide whether the district will embark upon a \$3,100,000 school building expansion program. The proposed plan calls for a new \$2,714,000 high school at Cranbrook and Lincoln, a new elementary school to cost \$235,700 on the Terry location and a \$75,000 room in addition to both Franklin and Walnut Lake schools.

### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Sees Domination Of Citizens Unit By Republicans

To the Editor: Is it not irresponsible journalism to print an article on the front page of your newspaper on Oct. 22 entitled "Broomfield, Kuhn Win Preference Ratings by OCL?"

The article would give the impression that this organization is a nonpartisan, independent committee. The OCL is obviously a Republican-dominated committee that wishes to guise themselves as independents.

Your coverage on the front page implies your endorsement as well! MRS. BERNETTA MILLER 6024 Brook Lane West Bloomfield Twp.

Letters from readers always are welcome. But they MUST be signed, although identities will not be divulged if the writer so requests.

An uninvited guest proved to be the feature attraction at the Halloween party Monday at the City and Country School in Bloomfield Hills. The little fellow, a tame raccoon, ambled into the scene as the surly youngsters were playing their outdoor games. Games took second place on the program at once as the children flocked around their visitor. Mr. Coon even entered the school with the children and drank cider from a cup.

At a meeting Tuesday evening, Birmingham merchants made final plans for their "Christmas Preview," which will be held Monday, Dec. 5, from 7 to 10 p.m. The business committee of the Chamber of Commerce has been working on the idea of a preview to acquaint nearby residents with what the local merchants will offer for Christmas shopping.

### City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

One of the most frequently heard complaints of the election campaign was that it was an emotional one.

I submit that this was probably a good thing for the American people; that it was high time we did get emotional about something once again.

Ever since World War II we had had a "so-what" attitude about government, about freedom, about citizenship, about patriotism, about work, about responsibility.

And this was not an intelligent or inquiring "so-what" attitude. It was an indifferent one. The emotions were subdued.

THERE WERE, I believe, two major reasons for this: We were tired of four years of war and we were being told over and over again that we should make decisions based on reasoning rather than emotion.

Consequently, the American people became apathetic, about everything.

If the nomination of Barry Goldwater did nothing else, it opened the emotions of the people once again. Yes, it was a dirty campaign but I maintain that something constructive may yet emerge from it: A greater maturity of the American people because they did indulge in emotions.

Perhaps now they will rise a little further above dirty politics and will no longer tolerate it.

EMOTION IS a stimulus for thinking. Now, more than at any time since Franklin D. Roosevelt's election, the American people are thinking seriously and intelligently of their way of life. It's not just a cliché anymore.

Now they are seriously concerned about their specific freedoms—what freedoms were guaranteed by our constitution, which ones we still possess and how to preserve them.

I think the American people are probably more concerned about their federal government right now and in what direction it is heading than they have been in two decades.

AND I BELIEVE this would have come about regardless of whether Mr. Goldwater or Mr. Johnson was elected president.

It was bound to happen because the American people became emotionally aroused during the emotional election campaign.

I submit that this is good for our country, that we will have a resurgence of power—power of the people which in turn will restore our power as a nation among nations.

### Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

BITS AND PIECES, HUNKS AND CHUNKS The roarback season is over and no matter how the results turned out, the majority of people are thankful it is passed.

This last campaign has probably seen more of this animal than any other in the last several years. This is probably because it was a personality fight and every time something was said that hurt a man's image, one of his assistants would "roarback" with a new charge against his opponent.

COOPERATION When one of our amateur theater groups had the misfortune of a fire destroying part of their playhouse, the other group stepped forward and offered the use of theirs.

This St. Dunstan's was able to put on "The Moon Is Blue" at the Village Players playhouse last week end, while their playhouse is being put back together.

The gesture was a fine example of the spirit of cooperation, but it also engendered jealousy.

When the St. D's people saw the wonderful facilities that the Players have, some of them thought it wouldn't be a bad idea to slow down work on their playhouse and try to use the Village Players until they were kicked out.

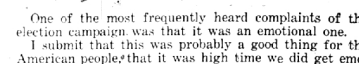
PARKINGHAM One of the Birmingham city commissioners who has been accused of not knowing that there is such a word as "yes" when voting does have a positive side.

Last year in order to take some delinquents off the street, he started the "Parkingham Olympics" which is an all-day athletic affair. The participants are neither the juveniles nor the senior citizens we hear about, but that group that's always getting into trouble known as the "not so young adult set."

The trophy for the day is really measured more on capacity than physical prowess.

To top the Olympics, the "Lord High Commissioner," as he calls himself, invited a group the other night to attend what they thought was a political rally, and they ended up at a local dance studio learning the Charleston.

A good time was had by all, except the instructress.



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