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### A Problem Corner

The southwest corner of Big Beaver and Adams has been a matter of controversy for the last couple of years.

First, its owners requested that Bloomfield Township rezone it from single-family residential to commercial zoning. They planned at that time to make a neighborhood shopping center out of it.

The Township turned them down because the area was still residential in character; however, the officials recognized that it was a problem piece of land, inasmuch as it was a triangle bounded by the two throughfares and the Grand Trunk Railroad tracks.

SHORTLY AFTER turning down the commercial request, the Township rezoned the property to multiple family.

Because part of the property lies in the city of Birmingham, the owners then went to that community and requested commercial zoning for the portion in the city.

If they had been successful, they would have been in a good legal position to return to the Township and ask for the original piece to be commercial because the residential aspects had been broken.

Birmingham turned the owners down on their application for commercial but did rezone the land to multiple family.

IT WOULD appear that the problem was solved because the whole piece was now zoned multiple.

But a new problem arose in that Bloomfield Township's multiple zoning classification permits fewer units per acre than does Birmingham's.

So the owners petitioned the two municipalities to annex the portion lying in Bloomfield Township to Birmingham. If this were accomplished, then the whole parcel of land would be in one community, and by accident, of course, the community

that allows more units per acre in multiple housing.

THE ANNEXATION laws in Michigan favor a city over a township, because it has always been felt that a city offers more services and unincorporated areas were a drag on the county's various agencies.

This may be true outside but it certainly isn't true in Bloomfield Township, which offers most of the things we refer to as city services, such as water, sewers and paved streets.

Nevertheless, property may be taken from a township and, of course, from its tax rolls in one of two ways.

IF THE land is vacant, as the property in question is, and the city commission and township board agree to annexation, it is just a matter of drawing up the necessary papers.

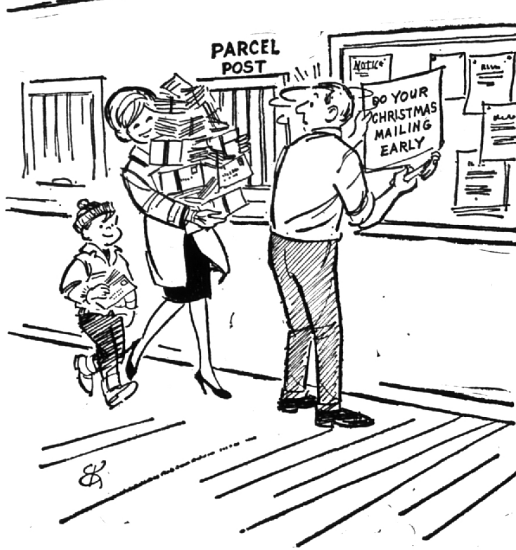
However, in this case the Township has turned down the petition.

This means that the owners will have to move someone on to the land and petition again. If 50 per cent of the residents of an area petition a city to annex that area, then the city fathers can call an election. If a majority of the city vote for it and a majority of the residents in the affected area vote for it, the land is annexed.

NATURALLY, THE people in the city would vote for it because it gives them more tax base and if there is only one person living in the affected area, he would vote for it too, leaving the township out in the cold. We believe this would be the case in the incident under discussion here.

We have seen Bloomfield Township turn down the first petition. It will be interesting in the coming months to see what does happen to the property at Big Beaver and Adams.

### Surprise Your Postmaster This Year



### Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



I was going over the annual reports of several small businesses the other day and I noticed one item in each company that year after year was getting bigger.

The increase was not related in any way with the profitability of the firm, but there seemed to be some correlation between this item and the number of employees. The item was simply "office supplies."

I asked a friendly accountant if modern office equipment was eating up more supplies, like paper and envelopes, faster than the old humans.

HE EXPLAINED that in the old days an employee worked 10 hours a day and brought his lunch. Unions got the workday down to eight hours plus time off for lunch. Then the coffee break snuck in and no one knew who was working what hours.

At that point a lot of companies started supplying coffee so that the employees wouldn't have to leave the premises.

The end of the year came along and they didn't know what to charge it to, so the poor "office supplies" account picked it up.

But bringing in coffee didn't end the problem because if you had coffee, you had to provide cream and sugar. And who likes a cup of coffee without a cookie or a sweet-roll?

PRETTY SOON the larger offices had to hire a purchasing gal just to keep the supplies up for the coffee breaks.

Business supply firms opened up branch offices handling office snacks, and their profits doubled. They were selling more paper cups than paper clips.

Creative men in the supply business stopped designing new duplicating equipment and started work on matching colors for office stationery so that if your coffee spilled, one would never notice it on coffee-colored paper. They brought out a coffee with cream-colored paper and a coffee with sugar-colored paper.

PENCILS WERE designed with spoons on the end. Offices were designed around a kitchen instead of a secretarial pool.

Desks were replaced with coffee tables. Famous designers came out with new clothes for secretaries while in keeping with serving coffee to customers while they are waiting.

Then a mean old man designed a machine that took dictation, filed papers, typed and had a pleasant voice on the telephone and it didn't drink coffee.



### City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

Some people think I should be a banana vendor. Perhaps they're right; but, as much as I enjoy that tropical fruit, I still prefer the writing business.

Reactions have been mixed to the piece that appeared here two weeks ago stating that there is no such thing as a good banana anymore.

A Rotarian told me at my Monday luncheon meeting that he had planned to stop at the store and buy a good ripe one for me. But he forgot about it!

A man from a banana company in Detroit called to invite me to come see how they handle the fruit. Needless to say, I will accept that invitation.

A friend asked if I had heard from the fruit vendors association.

A MEMBER of the Birmingham Woman's Club told me that she knew a man who went around to stores taking the temperature of bananas. Buy them green, was his advice, and keep them stored in a sack. They give off their own gases that aid the ripening process.

Some people agreed that it is difficult to locate good, solid bananas while others said they had no trouble at all. Some liked their fruit green; others a little on the soft side.

THE MANAGER of the supermarket where I buy most of our groceries said he had a call from his home office asking about the article. He sent them a clipping—something tells me there's going to be another letter in the mailbox before long.

My wife says the only difference in the bananas is that when they always tasted so good I was a kid—and what food isn't delicious to a youngster?

Well, so much for bananas.

AS FOR THOSE who believe I should be a vendor, I would have them know that as a child I helped my father not only in selling fruit and berries but also in picking them.

I remember well the backaches developed from bending over strawberry bushes and the needed fingers from plucking raspberries.

My father, two of my brothers, my younger sister and I all engaged in the fruit and berry picking. Besides the strawberries and raspberries, there were blueberries (we called them huckleberries), grapes, apples, cherries, peaches, pears and mulberries.

Somehow, I developed a reputation for stomach aches.

WHEN WE GOT back to town, we would travel up and down the streets selling our produce.

"Fresh fruit! Fresh berries!" I can still hear the call. And Mom in the hot kitchen with the big boiler, the pots and pans and strainers and glass jars and can lids and can rubbers. She used to kid Dad about selling the best and bringing the rest home for her to eat.

Ah, yes, those were the good old days. So don't anyone kid me about being a banana vendor. I might show him how it's done.

### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

#### She Likes Parody On 'Welfare State'

To the Editor:

In cleaning my drawer I came across this item which I can not resist to pass it on to you because it is just like an old shoe into the thinking cap of many millions of our citizens.

The author is unknown, but it is titled: "WELFARE STATE, A PARODY OF TYRANNY AND DECEIT."

"The government is my shepherd; therefore I need not work."

It allowed me to lie down on a good job; it led me beside still factories.

It destroyed my initiative; it led me in the path of a parasite for politics' sake.

Yes, though I walk through the valley of laziness and idleness, it will not harm me; for the Government is with me.

It prepared an economic utopia for me by appropriating the earnings of my grandchildren; it filled my head with false security; my inefficiency ran through over.

Surely the Government should care for me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in a fool's paradise forever!"

THE ABOVE is a parody, but let's look now at cold and sobering facts. Our national debt has increased from \$16 billion to more than \$300 billion in the last 34

years. The interest alone on the national debt now amounts to more than \$11 billion per year. The dollar is now worth 43 cents. We are paying three times more for commodities today than we have paid for some 25 years ago.

And speaking of taxes which have risen from a mere 1% to as high as 97% in many financial transactions, one is beginning to wonder where will this so called prosperity lead our country.

Prof. Alexander Fraser Tyler of Edinburgh some two hundred years ago made the following statement:

"From that moment when the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefits from the public treasury that Democracy always collapses and is followed by Dictatorship."

Our question is do we want Socialism and Communism to replace the free enterprise system which guarantees us freedom of choice?

LIVING ON borrowed money will result in runaway inflation and cheapening of the dollar. Prosperity is created by hard work and production and not by the handouts by the official class.

Bread and Circuses brought the downfall of Rome and it will do the same to U.S.A. In this respect equally guilty are perennial excessive demands of labor unions for higher and higher wages. Fool's paradise, indeed!

DIANA DARE

### Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO

November 27, 1914

L. M. Mundy, Birmingham excavations were begun for three big houses in Residence Park subdivision. This is the park-like property along Woodward avenue, across from the D.U.B. power house. The houses are to be of stucco, shingles and split field stone. Prices are not yet announced, but the first houses will be located on the first knoll, facing Woodward, with a view that is unsurpassed. There has already been built and finished, this year in Birmingham, about 35 houses. This batch of three will be counted in the big list that 1915 will see completed in our village.

The hoof and mouth disease of livestock which has caused a quarantine over Michigan and several states and has temporarily closed the stock yards at Chicago and Detroit, is not making any material difference with the business of local stock buyers. The latter are able to ship direct to packers and have been able to make usual shipments as far as the price does not seem to be affected by the quarantine.

The windows of all our dealers show that they are "to the manner born." We doubt if many windows excel in display those of well known firms such as J. C. Smith, Minor Grocery Co. in edibles, while in drugs, medicines, magazines, etc., Cobb & Jennelle and C. J. Shain are in the front, and for wearables, just note the Quality Shop and the Big Department Store. All fine and dandy.

30 YEARS AGO

November 27, 1934

A 21-year-old gridiron rivalry will be renewed Thursday morning on Pierce Field when the Marples of Baldwin High School and the Aarns of Royal Oak clash in their annual Thanksgiving Day game. Close to 3,000 fans are expected to be in the stands for the opening kickoff at 10 a.m. It will be the 23rd meeting of the two teams since 1913, and the 13th consecutive playing of the contest as a Turkey Day fixture since 1922. There was no Royal Oak-Birmingham game in either 1920 or 1921. Of the 22 games played since 1913, Baldwin has won 10 and Royal Oak has won eight.

If the Thanksgiving dinner for your family costs from \$4 to \$4.50 this year, instead of \$3.25 to \$3.75 last year—blame it on the turkey! A survey indicates that in local markets indicates that the average Birmingham family of four or five persons this year will pay from 25 cents to 75 cents more for its Thanksgiving feast than it did in 1953. Whereas turkeys last year were quoted in some Birmingham markets as low as 23 cents a pound, this season they are commanding from 29 cents to 32 cents and higher.

Sixty-seven needy Birmingham families will be provided with Thanksgiving food baskets this week through the efforts of the Community House and the generosity of co-operating individuals (See HAPPENINGS, Page 3-B)

### B'field Writer Explains Ideas on Individualism

To the Editor:

Jo Nichols of Franklin wrote a thoughtful, completely sincere letter (Oct. 29) which deserves the same kind of reply.

There is no argument that all Americans are interested in freedom. Some are more interested in it for themselves than for the fellow Americans. This is why we are having a "battle for civil rights."

The forces who backed Senator Goldwater are not interested more freedom for all Americans. They would deny freedom to those whose views do not agree with their own. They are America's worst enemies of freedom despite their pronouncements to the contrary.

IT IS TRUE but regrettable that individualism has been disappearing in this country. The blame cannot all be placed on big government. Big business and big labor are equally to blame.

Curtailed the responsibilities of the federal government alone would have little effect on the health of American individualism. What is needed is a massive attack on the ills and abuses of our mass advertising, our corporate and union practices and our educational system.

If we want to make a real start at making individualism respectable, let's clean out our schools of education which, with rare exceptions, are citadels of conformity.

As for the "welfare state," the question is not whether or not we want it. The question is: How much and desire for individualism and personal freedom? To hold out for returning to the complete and fair of yesteryear is to make like the ostrich with its head in the sand. This is pure fantasy.

DURING THE recent campaign the writer was appalled to discover that one of his children, a graduate of Seaholm High School, did not know the meaning of the term "welfare state." What is wrong with Birmingham's social studies teachers?

Are they too timid and textbook-minded that they are out of touch with the world around them? This one incident is enough to make one shudder.

Perhaps the simplest answer to Jo Nichols' letter is to state that the world is changing rapidly. There is a vocal yet fearful minority of Americans who cannot face this increasingly disruptive process.

A majority of Americans can face it, contend they will be able to meet each new challenge as it arises. This is the explanation for the outcome of the recent election— and a lesson for the next.

WILLIAM LYMAN  
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### Election Reforms Needed

One thing evident in the aftermath of the Nov. 3 elections is that we need to take a fresh look at our election laws.

The most frequent observation has been that insofar as national offices are concerned the campaign period was too long. Apparently, the electorate was ready to make its choice at least two weeks before the election date.

And there is reason to think that most voters had made up their minds even earlier than that.

Congress might well give thought to stricter controls of the national conventions, stipulating the dates that they should be held in order to avoid a long period between the nominations and the election.

ALSO, CONSIDERATION might be given to uniformity of election laws throughout the states, again insofar as national offices are concerned. For example, the primaries could all be staged on the same date. Too much time and money were spent this year on campaigns for the primary elections.

Certainly, one good reason why campaigns should be shortened is the cost of these quadrennial extravaganzas. Campaign financing is a subject in itself, an area in which reforms are clearly needed.

But it is evident that starting the candidates' travel and speech-making two or three weeks later than at present would substantially reduce costs.

THERE IS a tendency with this as with other problems to suggest that since the country has gotten along thus far under the present system we ought to let well enough alone.

The fact is that "well enough" is not very good. The fact is that the matter of political finances, bad enough decades ago, has become far worse in the age of air travel and television.

These are wonderful tools for the candidate, to be sure, especially one running for president; but they also are wonderfully expensive.

We understand that almost five million

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

California, presumably, has no more than its share of natural disaster. Yet there is a kind of regularity about the things that happen in California; they give rise to an odd feeling, elsewhere, that we've been through all this before. The recent mudslides are an example. It seems as though California is forever having brush fires in early spring and mudslides in the fall. And there appears to be a connection between the two kinds of disaster. The fires denude the hills, and that lets the autumn rains wash down floods of mud. This may be inevitable; there may be nothing anyone can do about it. But it is really true that there always have to be brush fires, and that when fires occur there must be avalanches of mud? It seems not unreasonable to believe that a well planned, concerted effort might curb this disastrous cycle.

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