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### The 2 Best-Suited for the Job

Because we felt that the next three years could be the turning point in the direction that our community takes, both in solving our downtown problems and in better developing our cultural resources, the editorial staff of The Eccentric invited in each of the six candidates for the Birmingham City Commission to obtain a comparative evaluation of them in terms of what we feel are Birmingham's future needs.

The interviews were very productive in our minds. We spent approximately a half-hour with each candidate asking questions which we had designed to test the depth of understanding of how the city works and what they would do to improve those workings.

OF THE SIX candidates we feel that Mrs. William A. (Ruth) McNamee and Mr. Robert Page offer the most to the electors of the city to sit through a very trying three years.

We have endorsed Mrs. McNamee because she possesses not only a very thorough understanding of the operation of the city, which she has apparently derived as an observer for many years for the League of Women Voters, but also because she has a very positive approach to the shortcomings of our community.

She felt that the most pressing problem facing Birmingham is its total image. And we agree with her. Are we to be known as a city bickering over parking lots, while both our commercial and residential areas deteriorate, or are we going to contain but improve our commercial areas, at the same time encouraging improvement of our residential areas through the recognition and development of our cultural values?

MRS. McNAMEE has devoted much of her ten years in Birmingham to such community projects as The Community House, PTA, Boy Scouts, League of Women Voters and her church.

We feel that because she is not otherwise employed she will have more time to devote to city work and will bring to that work a vitality that is presently needed on the commission.

We have endorsed Robert Page, who is an incumbent, because he, too, impressed us with his knowledge and philosophies of city government.

Of course, we have the advantage with an incumbent of knowing from experience how he reacts to the city's problems.

MR. PAGE HAS served on the commis-

sion for four years. At present he is mayor pro tem. Before being appointed to the commission he served for seven years as a member of the planning commission.

He understands the problems of our downtown area and we hope will take positive steps as a leader to implement some sort of development plan for our heart area, including a more organized civic center.

By selecting two of six candidates we do not mean to imply that the others are not fit for public office. We feel that the city is fortunate in having such a high class group of candidates and they all are to be congratulated for their interest and willingness to serve.

WE FEEL THAT Charles Clippert will in the future offer much to our community. We feel that his past contribution and involvement in community activities has not been as great nor his understanding of the needs and problems facing downtown Birmingham not as broad as the candidates we endorsed. Possibly this is due to the short duration of his residency here and the fact that he works outside of the area. We were otherwise impressed with him.

We realized that we have not endorsed the other incumbent, Ralph A. Main. This was a very hard decision, because Mr. Main has spent many years serving both Birmingham and Oakland County.

While the city owes a debt to Mr. Main for past services rendered, the needs of Birmingham for the next three years are extraordinary and require dynamic leadership. We honestly feel that those we selected are better equipped to meet this challenge.

AS TO THE REMAINING candidates, we felt that Mrs. Charles T. (Pat) Grissom, while being very active in our community for the short time she has lived here, was not as well versed in the problems of city government as some of the other candidates.

Mr. Stanley Fiol is very forceful on the points he deems of prime concern for the city, but we felt that the overall depth of his understanding of the powers of a city commission were not at the level of the selected candidates.

The decision was difficult because of the above-averaged candidates. But we feel that Birmingham will face many important problems in the next three years and that Ruth McNamee and Robert Page possess both the knowledge and the enthusiasm to do the best job for Birmingham.

### Poor Call Puts B'ham Out

There is no point in belaboring what happened to Seaholm in the state basketball tournament two weeks ago. They were declared ineligible because one of their team members had participated in "an athletic competition not sponsored by his school."

No matter how much we yell poor call, the referee—or, in this case, a state athletic committee—has the last word.

But our hope in bringing it up one last time comes in the spirit akin to that when you show the umpire movies of a game the next day revealing that the man he called out was obviously safely on base.

OUR HOPE in reviewing it once more is not that the state officials will say they are sorry and invite Seaholm to play the Class A champions to determine the real champs.

We only hope in some small way that the members of the committee have a chance to reflect so that some other school is not treated as badly as Seaholm was. We say it was a poor call.

Not because the team's center didn't play with a church team one Sunday afternoon and was spotted by apparently someone in a rival camp and that observer waited a couple of weeks to report it.

While we think the state regulation is altogether too strict, still it is the regulation and everyone must live with it.

THE POOR call came when the entire team was disqualified in the middle of the tournament.

The state regulation is specific in that any student who participates in any athletic exercise that contains any one of nine possible elements of some sort of official game, like advertising, officiating, timing or scoring shall be ineligible in that sport for the rest of the season.

The regulation says nothing about his team being disqualified.

We feel that the ballplayer honestly did not know he was violating a state regulation. But by stretching the technical definitions he was guilty.

FOR THIS honest mistake a group of officials destroyed the hopes and dreams of all the other team members who had done nothing wrong.

It's too late now to give Seaholm a chance to prove its worth, but maybe we can show those officials verbal movies of yesterday's game to show them that their's was a poor call.

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

Congress was able to adjourn its 1963 session Dec. 30, but opened its new one a week later. If it were paid only on the basis of its actual accomplishments, some people would argue that it should get about half-salary. Many others, though, will declare that Congress appears not to have accomplished much; yet its delaying attitude has been a protection against higher taxes and more and more centralization of government in Washington, D. C. In brief, "Congress has slowed, slightly, our drift into the Socialist-Welfare status."

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

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### A Funny Thing Happened on the Way To the Bank



### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

#### Calls for Support Of RR Legislation

To the Editor:  
As the representative of the Reading Railroad System in the State of Michigan, I would like to call to your attention an urgent matter which concerns not only the railroads of the United States but also every man, woman and child in this country.  
Last week, Cong. Orin Harris of Arkansas introduced legislation in Congress (H.R. 9903) which would implement certain portions of the late President Kennedy's proposals to overhaul our archaic system of transportation regulation.

H.R. 9903 is designed to insure more equal treatment of the public carriers by the government through greater reliance on the forces of competition.  
This will be accomplished by a reduction of regulation by exempting from minimum rate regulation carriers not present in the carriage of certain bulk and agricultural commodities.  
At present, the transportation of these commodities by water carriers is exempt from all rate regulation under the Interstate Commerce Act, but this exemption is denied to all other modes of transportation including railroads and motor carriers. Extension of this exemption to all other carriers would correct this inequity.

THIS LEGISLATION is expected to come up for a vote on the floor of the House in the next few weeks; therefore, it is important that our congressmen be advised by their constituents that this important legislation be approved.

If enacted, this bill will be an important step in helping the railroads to overcome some of the financial difficulties that have arisen during the past several years and at the same time have a definite effect on the economy of this nation by reducing our cost of living through a reduction in the total transportation costs of U. S. shippers.  
Will you lend your support to the railroads of America by urging your associates to write today to their congressmen in behalf of this very important legislation.

THOMAS J. WHITE  
District Sales Manager  
Reading Co.  
Detroit, Mich.

#### Resident Praises 2 City Departments

To the Editor:  
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Birmingham police and fire departments for the speed, efficiency and competence with which my call was answered one recent Saturday morning.  
It seemed almost unbelievable that both departments could have been here in so few minutes. When a person asks for help and needs it, it is a wonderful feeling to know it is there.

MRS. PHILIP CAREY  
764 Lakeview  
Birmingham  
(MORE PEOPLE'S COLUMN LETTERS ON 8-B)

#### Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO  
March 27, 1914  
We are sorry to announce the disappearance of J. M. Kelly, manager of the Michigan State Telephone Co., of Birmingham and Royal Oak, who has been gone since a week ago Sunday night with no trace of his whereabouts. His strange disappearance is the talk of the town and Mrs. Kelly has the sympathy of the entire community in her sorrow. The Auditor of the company is in charge of the offices.

Deputy Sheriff D. W. Webb informs us that the arrests and complaints made by him are caused by numerous complaints mailed to the Prosecuting attorney of the several misdemeanors committed in his district. The prosecuting attorney gets after Webb and Webb in turn is bound to get after the law breakers. They do say private poker and bridge games for prizes are under the ban.

A meeting of representatives of all the churches held last Thursday evening decided upon Sunday April 19, the first Sunday after Easter, as special Go-To-Church Sunday in Birmingham. Let everybody brush up and go to one or another of the local churches that day, whether he has ever seen the inside of a church or not. Every Sunday is a Go-To-Church Sunday but that day is special.

30 YEARS AGO  
March 29, 1934  
Every boy and girl in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township, between the ages of (See HAPPENINGS, 8-B)

### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

#### Can Have 3-Story Units And Yet a Fine Community

To the Editor:  
In reply to the recent furor over the Bloomfield Hills zoning ordinance to allow three-story apartments, I would like to add my opinion, too.

Recently, citizens everywhere are becoming more aware of the population "explosion" and the consequent loss of free land everywhere. My husband and I have lived in Grosse Pointe for four years now and have recently bought an old house in Bloomfield Township.

One of our major reasons for leaving Grosse Pointe was the lack of available recreation space anywhere! No vacant lots for children to run on, only the streets, and a carefully manicured park-beach area for the summer.

We have seen only too well what the results are of the need for land in the future and

prefert) and along with it, the lack of community planning and foresight to save some open land.

HERE IN Bloomfield Hills, you still have the chance to make your community everything that a good suburb can be. I don't believe, in the long run, a community's best interests can be served by carving up the whole area into one-half or one acre single-residence plots.

Everywhere now people are beginning to explore new ways of keeping a community residential and yet preserving a little of the open land, too.

I think the Bloomfield Hills Commission is to be commended for taking a serious look at what is going to be needed in the community in the future and

trying to find solutions to these problems.

And here is where the three-story apartment idea can have its place.

SURELY, THERE are people who do not wish to keep up an acre of land and yet who would appreciate living in such a beautiful community as Bloomfield.

The exciting part of the three-story apartment idea is that it perhaps can be a means of saving some of this open land around us!

For example: The apartments could be planned to have the same amount of space around them as a whole subdivision would have. In other words, the same amount of land would be made available per person as if they lived in a subdivision. (See UNITS, 8-B)

### Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

If you ever get the urge to carry a gun around, I might advise you to consult an attorney first.

Michigan has all sorts of gun laws. Some pertain to buying them, others to keeping them and still others pertain to carrying them.

Normally, if you wanted a small gun like a pistol, you'd go out and buy one. Before you can do this in Michigan, the law says you must get a permit from your local police department.

This permit is good for only 10 days, so if you are show in making up your mind, you're well advised to shop around first, before securing the permit.

WITH PERMIT in hand you can then purchase the weapon.

Now since you don't have a concealed weapons permit, all you can do with the gun is take it directly home. It is both against the law and considered a waste to stop off at the bank on the way home. Particularly if you are carrying your treasure tucked in your belt or in your purse.

Once home you must comply with the state law. This says that you should have your weapon inspected by your local law enforcement department to see if it is safe. The inspection law presents a problem, because to get it to the police department you might again violate the concealed weapons law.

MR. HOGAN THIS LAW says that you may not carry small guns concealed on your person, or in or around an automobile.

So to get the gun down for its safety inspection, apparently you must strap it on the outside of your coat and either walk or ride a horse down to the police station. If you get this far and get the inspection certificate, you are entitled to take the gun home and place it on a shelf.

You may not take it off your property unless carried in full view and, of course, never in an automobile. If you want to use the gun for target shooting, hunting or protecting yourself from robbers or restless Indians, you must apply for a concealed weapons permit.

TO GET this valuable document you must be cleared by the state police as well as convince a three-man licensing board up in Pontiac that you are a responsible person and have a need.

All this seems like a lot of trouble, but if you are determined enough, you might after several months' work be in a position to carry your own gun around. Of course, the urge may wear off by this time.

If you want to avoid all the trouble, your attorney can suggest two ways of getting around these laws. They are simply: join either the army or the police department. Both of these groups are exempt from the laws. However, both these alternatives do seem like a lot of trouble just to be able to carry a gun.

### City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

The thinkers are at work in the cave. The thinkers? People like O. A. Luckenbach, Carl Luckenbach, Harry VanDine and Alice Burlingame. Members of the Civic Design Committee, they are giving thought to the future development of Birmingham. (See story, Birmingham Eccentric, Feb. 6, Page 1-A.)

There's something about the atmosphere of the place, about their attitude and spirit that exudes confidence, spells success.

They may be thinkers working in a cave, but there's nothing "cave-man" about their ideas.

AND THERE'S another group of thinkers working hard and diligently for Birmingham. It's the Birmingham Centennial Committee, headed by former Mayor Florence H. (Mrs. G. Howard) Willett.

Helping her to program a memorable and meaningful centennial observance are people like Bob Kenning, assistant city manager and chairman for Michigan Week; James K. Flack, historian extraordinaire; and Audrey Mauerer, publicity and public relations chairman.

Still others are Carl Barton, Robert Bender, Sam Mitchell, Ward Ouradnik, William Yaw, Walter Pil, Homer Armstrong, Harlan B. Ritze, Robert Kilpatrick and William Whitfield.

ONE OF the objectives Twink Willett has set for this centennial year is the creation of a swan fountain. Some few years ago, local sculptor Marshall Fredericks designed such a fountain and there has been much talk about it ever since—but little action on the community level.

This writer, for one, hopes Twink Willett will see the dream reach fruition this year.

The men-to-Mars program is slowed down as part of the economy drive. It'll take longer to get to Mars, but we may get to a balanced budget faster.

Mints have trouble getting new machines to make coins. Maybe manufacturers who can make machines to mint coins ask more coin for them than the mints make.

The Burlington Liars Club says Richard K. Burlin of Chatham, Mass. is 1963 champion liar—but then who can be sure the club is telling the truth?

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