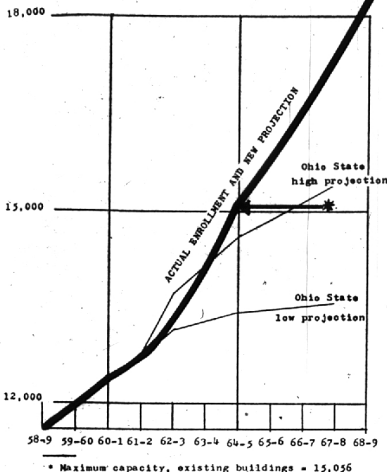




Fin School Needs On Growth



This is the first of four articles prepared for The Eccentric by the Citizens Committee for Birmingham Schools concerning the propositions to appear on the June 8 school election ballot.

Birmingham school district electors will have two Birmingham school proposals to consider when they vote on June 8.

One is a bonding proposal authorizing \$5,350,000. The sum will be used over the next several years to build two new schools, add to five others, build a fairly modest

administration building to replace the century-old Hill Building and to remodel and purchase major equipment for schools throughout the district.

Curiously enough, this building proposal will add nothing to the present tax rate as bonds authorized in 1953-54 are about to be retired and the same 6-mill tax now levied for building can be used to pay off the new bonds.

AN OPERATING millage proposal, however, which will also be on the ballot would increase the taxes levied for operating expenses from 21.31 mills to 26.91, a gain of 5.6 mills.

(A mill is \$1 per \$1,000 of state-qualified valuation. This valuation for real estate is about 50 percent of market value.)

Both the increased operating expenses and the need for new buildings are precipitated now primarily by one factor: ENROLLMENT IN THE BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS IS GOING UP. UP, UP, and the accompanying enrollment graphs show.

THIS GROWTH is primarily the result of home building. While new homes add to the total valuation of the school district, they do not add proportionately enough in relation to the number of new stu-

dents added to the school population.

It takes the taxes on a home with a market value of \$32,000 to support one child in the Birmingham schools. Most new homes, of course sell for less and/or add more than one child.

As a result, the state-qualified valuation per pupil in the district has dropped more than \$600 in the last two years and, according to estimates, will decline further in the next five.

ANOTHER KEY factor contributing to the need for an operating increase is the fact that state aid has dropped in the past 10 years

from 40.9 percent to 28.9 percent of the local school budget.

Each year for the past several years the Birmingham schools have enrolled more students than were anticipated in a professional survey and projection made by Ohio State University in 1961 (see graph).

The schools have done an outstanding job of fitting these students in: hiring new teachers for them, sometimes bussing students from a crowded school to a less crowded one. The schools have managed to do this without diluting the quality of education.

THE PUPIL-to-teacher ratio is currently down to 27.4:1 and curriculum improvements voters wanted when they approved additional school millage at the last election, in November, 1961, have been achieved. The limit of what can be done with present facilities and the level of operating funds has now been reached.

The 1961 survey predicted Birmingham schools would need to accommodate a minimum of 13,253 and a maximum of 14,968 next year.

Already it is known there will be at least 15,163 by next fall—2,900 more than the conservative figure and considerably higher than what was the expected maximum.

Within the next four years, 4,000 new students are anticipated!

See \$84,000 Cost To Bus Nonpublic School Students

It's going to cost the Birmingham Board of Education about \$84,000 to begin transporting nonpublic school students in September.

Asst. Supt. Norman A. Wolfe revealed a preliminary cost to the school board last week.

Of the total cost, Wolfe said, about \$40,000 will go for an increase in operating expenses and the remainder will be for the purchase of seven additional buses in which to carry the youngsters.

Under a new Michigan law, public schools must provide transportation for nonpublic students 1 1/2 miles and attend a nonpublic school within the district, starting in the fall.

Wolfe said about one-third of the school district's 3,000 nonpublic school students are eligible for transportation to their schools.

THIS WOULD make it possible, he said, for the transporting of those students in the Walnut Lake, Meadow Lake, Franklin, Valley Woods, Beverly and Greenfield areas with public school students attending Berkshire.

In the north Adams area a bus load will be transported separately to Brother Rice and Marian.

"Holy Name and Queen of Martyrs will begin at 8 a.m. and St. Regis at 8:30 a.m.

"This will make it possible for us to pick up mixed loads attending St. Regis and Holy Name from the (See STUDENTS, 2-A)

CAC, CDC, CRC: All for Community

By KEN WEAVER
Managing Editor

To bring the influence of a collective community conscience into focus on issues which affect the moral, economic and aesthetic characteristics of our area."

This is the announced statement of purpose of Birmingham's Citizens Action Committee, a group of representatives of several civic-minded organizations which seeks unified action toward community betterment.

In pursuit of its goal, the CAC attempts to involve as many groups and individuals as possible—to encourage them to do things themselves.

Thus, the creation of a Civic Design Committee by the CAC to develop ideas and concepts for future development of the city's civic center area.

This group of architects, landscape architects, artists, an architectural photographer and planners—all widely known in the metropolitan area and all residents of the Birmingham area—has been at work for several months and now is about ready to present its plans to the community.

HOW TO best do this? The CAC turned to the men who should know: the men in the public relations-advertising field, the promoters.

It appointed a committee of nine, called the Community Relations Committee, "to study and make recommendations on how to best interpret CAC programs and projects to the community as a whole," in the words of CAC interim chairman F. Ward Ouradnik.

Chairman of this group is Robert Kilpatrick, local manager for Michigan Bell Telephone Co. All of the members are recognized authorities in their field and, again, are local residents.

"The CRC has outlined a program," said Kilpatrick, "on how to best inform the many organizations and individual residents in Birmingham on the ideas, concepts and recommendations of the CDC.

"THIS PROGRAM includes tape and slide presentations and an in-

formational get-together of representatives of community organizations and other civic leaders to hear a first-hand report from the CAC on the CDC's ideas."

Kilpatrick was referring to a meeting set up for May 31 at Birmingham Country Club at Birmingham (See COMMUNITY, 2-A)

City Holds To Contract On Rubbish

The City of Birmingham is going to continue enforcing its present rubbish contract.

City commissioners Monday night turned down another plea by the Detroit Rubbish Co. to relieve it from its contract or make an adjustment in rates.

The commission also rejected three bids for a new contract that had been submitted by other rubbish contractors.

For the last five months Detroit Rubbish has been trying to get the City to do something about the contract.

L. J. Giacalone, owner of the firm, has said his business costs have increased about 40 per cent since the contract was awarded to him.

THE AGREEMENT provides that Detroit Rubbish Co. collect residential rubbish from Jan. 1, 1963, to Dec. 31, 1965. The cost to the City was to be \$152,000 plus a fee for rear door pickups.

Attorney Thomas Kavanagh admitted his client had "made a mistake" when he submitted his bid.

"He was wrong in not knowing enough about his own operational costs and in relying on the word of his employees," Kavanagh said.

Since the contract was awarded the firm's employees have unionized, Kavanagh said, after assuring Giacalone they were satisfied with working conditions.

IN HIS annual Kavanagh said (See CONTRACT, 2-A)

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Four Services In Centennial Kick-Off Show

The U.S. Marine Corps band will join forces with the Army, Navy and Air Force Wednesday night to present a fast-paced kick-off to Birmingham's centennial celebration.

The four branches of the armed forces will offer a band concert and drill exhibition beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Seaholm football field. There will be no admission charge.

In addition to the 50-member band, the U.S. Navy's Tars and Rifles Drill Team, the Selfridge Air Force Base's Ambassadors in Blue Drill Team and the Mobility Command Clowns are all scheduled to take part in the program.

Mayor Charles W. Renfrew will welcome the band to Birmingham and will introduce Miss Armed Forces, Diana Cernate, and her court of princesses to start the evening's festivities.

DUE TO difficulty in getting military air transportation, the concert had been an on-again-off-again proposition according to Royland A. Mewhort, general chairman of the Armed Forces Week Committee.

However, on Monday Maj. Gen. Alden K. Sibley, commanding general of the U.S. Army Mobility Command, obtained an airlift for the band and assured its appearance in Birmingham.

The concert program will include "The Armed Forces Week March," written exclusively for the Detroit Armed Forces Week program by Raymond J. Meurer, advertising manager and sales director of Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. (See SHOW, 2-A)



Ready for the Fair

Studying material concerning the New York World's Fair are Mr. and Mrs. Victor Hughes of Orchard Lake who have made reservation for The Birmingham Eccentric's "Family Tour of the World's Fair." Space is still available for the May 28-29 trip, at a cost of \$114.25 per person. Reduced rates are in effect for married couples. A coffee

hour will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at The Eccentric, 1225 Bowers, to allow participants an opportunity to become acquainted and to ask questions concerning arrangements. For more details and reservation, see coupon and advertisement on Page 8-CC.

Lathrup Asks 1/2-Mill Increase In Budget; Hearing Monday

By MARY BAHN
Staff Writer

A half-mill increase to provide weekly rubbish collection and year-round pick-up of yard trimmings is expected to gain approval of the Lathrup City Council when it meets to discuss the 1964-65 budget on Monday.

A public hearing at the AAA Building, 26026 Southfield Road, beginning at 8 p.m. will precede the vote.

The budget, prepared by City Administrator Jerald D. Stone, calls for a net tax rate of 13 mills, compared to 12.5 mills last year. The proposed income and spending is \$237,860, an increase of \$345 from last year.

Of this total, \$180,000 is allocated for the general fund, and \$57,860 for the department of public works.

THE MAJOR increase comes with the special one-mill rubbish collection fund, resulting in a revenue of \$9,200 which doubles the pickup on rubbish and extends the May-to-October yard trim collection.

The one-mill increase is reduced in reality to a half-mill as a 10 mill reduction in the Sanitary Sewer Debt Retirement Fund and a .60 mill reduction in the Storm Water Debt Retirement Fund is expected. This accounts for a \$6,000 savings.

The Evergreen Interceptor Fund will require one mill, or an increase of \$4,810, because of an anticipated deficit in the fund caused by increased payments of interest charged by the Oakland County DPW as a result of final construction figure adjustments.

Except for those changes, this year's budget will be much like last year's.

INCREASES in revenue are expected in these areas:

- Assessed valuation has risen by \$357,860 to \$9,450,920 due to rezoning on Southfield and 12 Mile Road and the addition of a \$100,000 office building.
- Record sales tax will provide \$2,560 in 1964-65.
- A record \$15,000 in court fines due to the opening of Southfield Road and the employment of a fifth policeman for 24-hour traffic enforcement.
- A \$5,000 refund from the storm water account.

THE \$7,000 increase in administration expenses is due partly to the tripling of election expenses because of the anticipation of three elections next year rather than one. This will cost \$1,800.

Financing for the proposed retirement plan for city employees has been allocated \$4,000, while city attorney fees will be raised (See BUDGET, 2-A)

Asks Historical Unit for B'ham

The City of Birmingham is thinking about establishing a historical commission.

Commissioners Monday night asked the administration to draft a possible ordinance to permit setting up such a group.

Newly-elected Commissioner Charles F. Clippert, who brought the subject up for discussion, said he thought this centennial year would be an "appropriate" time for the city to set on the matter.

"The idea is not original with me," Clippert said, "I think it was first suggested by The Birmingham Eccentric."

He said he would like the group to collect and preserve historical documents and possibly acquire property for the display of the documents.

"I WOULD like to keep in mind the interest that has been developing since the first of the year," Clippert said.

In some communities such commissions work in conjunction with historical societies made up of citizens members, Clippert said.

City's History Tied to Shain's

By LARRY EVOB
City Editor

An era will soon end in Birmingham.

When Shain's Drug Store closes its doors, it will mark the end of the oldest continuous business in town.

The familiar store at Maple and Pierce has been in operation since 1878.

The three-story building housed the town's first telephone exchange, the first Birmingham Eccentric was printed on the premises and it once housed the only soda fountain in the area.

Foster Toothacker, who has owned the business for 19 years, is going to confine his business efforts

to his other pharmacy at 800 S. Adams.

Toothacker purchased the store in 1945 from Charles S. Shain. Shain had become owner of the firm in April of 1906.

THE ORIGINAL owners of the building were Almon A. Whitehead and George H. Mitchell, the founders of The Eccentric.

During the days of Whitehead and Mitchell the "drug" store also featured paint and crockery.

The first telephone switchboard in Birmingham was located in the middle of the floor. Toothacker recalls. One of the clerks doubled as the operator.

Toothacker first went to work for Shain in 1922. After completing school and working at several (See HISTORY, 2-A)

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Shain's Drug Store as it looks in 1964.

Shain's as it was in the early 1900's. The Birmingham Masonic Lodge was situated on the second floor. Along with drugs, owner Charles J. Shain carried a complete line of groceries.