

Proposals

(Continued from 1-A)

age was voted in November 1961, (2) 1.5 mills now levied expires next year and (3) the per cent of the school budget received from the state is going down. State aid has not kept pace with rising per pupil cost.

2. How much will the tax raise cost? In mills: 6.5 per \$1 of state equalized valuation (about 2.5 for each \$1 of market value of a house).

3. Who pays mills? How much in dollars and cents? 97 cents per week (\$50.40/yr) increase for a house that sells at 18,000; \$1.61 per week (94/yr) for a house that sells at \$30,000.

4. Isn't Birmingham's school tax rate high? Not compared to others in Oakland County. Out of 30 districts Birmingham is 14th with its current operating and building rate total of 26.31 mills. The highest rate is Oak Park's 33.51 mills. Seven districts pay more than 20 mills.

5. How does Birmingham's per pupil cost compare? On the low side compared with many other good suburban schools across the country. Costs here are \$561 per pupil this school year. By comparison: Great Neck, N. Y.—\$1,200; Palo Alto, Calif.—\$755; Dearborn—\$788; Evanston, Ill.—\$700; Montclair, N.J.—\$525; Groesse Pointe—\$579.

6. HOW DO teacher's salaries in Birmingham compare with other school systems? The local salary scale is in the upper 30 per cent in this area and well above the national average—as it must be to get the kind of teachers residents here have indicated they want.

The salary scale does not allow Birmingham to compete for outstanding teachers beyond the midwestern area.

7. Why do more students raise the tax rate? Don't new homes add to the tax base but not in proportion to the number of students they bring. It takes taxes on a \$32,000 house plus state aid to support one child in school. 4.2 of the 5.6 mill increase is needed just to provide the teachers, supplies and maintenance to keep the present program going for the expanding student population.

8. Isn't state aid going to be increased? Yes, but only about \$3 per pupil.

The proportion of the school budget paid by state aid has dropped from 49.9% in 1954 to 28.9% this year.

9. DO RESIDENTS of all parts of the school district pay their fair share of school taxes? Yes. The state-equalized valuation adjusts assessed values in Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Beverly Hills, etc., to 50% of market value. The same school tax rate is then levied against state equalized valuation so taxes don't change even if assessment rates change or vary.

10. Our schools are too fancy. Can't we build cheaper ones? The board of education's record in cutting building costs in the last few years is impressive. Meadow Lake school cost \$12.83 per square foot against an average cost in Mich-



EGENTRIP PHOTO

They're on Their Way

Ready to leave for New York are the participants in The Birmingham Eccentric's family tour of the World's Fair. The group left by bus from The Eccentric Tuesday morning for Metropolitan Airport, then flew to New York for a three-day tour of the fair. They will return tonight.

ign for elementary schools of \$13.61/94. ft.

11. Wouldn't it be cheaper to build here two story schools? As many architects will argue for one story plans as for two. Two-stories take more foundation, less space to stairways, require extra fire proofing and cost more to insure. One story uses more land (which is a small cost factor here), have more roof, may cost more to heat but are considered much safer for young children.

12. WHAT CURRICULUM improvements are planned? 0.7 of the 5.6 mill increase will be used to extend team teaching, start programs at the elementary level for the academically able; strengthen pupil services by adding remedial reading specialists, special education teachers, and elementary librarians to the system staff; make more use of programmed instruction; employ some teachers during the summer to do curriculum development and planning.

13. Have any actions been taken on the citizens' curriculum study committee's recommendations? Most of the recommendations of the citizens' secondary study made in 1961 have been put into effect with the aid of the millage increase of 1961. A number of the major recommendations of the elementary study will be implemented with funds provided under the June 8 operating millage proposal.

14. When can the bussing of children from their neighborhood schools to more distant schools be ended? About 400 children will have to be bused next year from the Valley Woods and Beverly areas to Baldwin, Adams, Quartan and Midvale. Assignments to junior and senior highs will be disrupted until more classroom space and teachers can be provided.

Deed

(Continued from 3-A)

THE BAFFLING restriction problem was laid aside temporarily last week by Mayor Richard Cogger when he wrote an open letter to residents explaining the need for new municipal facilities.

Major points were: "Inadequate space with people crowded together. They are in an old former store location which is dirty and ramshackle."

Police headquarters: "Located in an open room with no privacy. Our facilities for handling juvenile

15. WILL ENROLLMENT increase ever end so costs can level off? Professional studies indicate an enrollment of 22,000 when the district is fully built up (assuming present zoning requirements remain unchanged). With 18,000 expected by fall 1968, the end is in sight!

16. When can voters expect the next millage vote? In 1967 when the 11 mill levy voted in late 1961 expires. At that time school needs will have to be reviewed.

17. If one is satisfied with the schools now, why vote more money? Because the schools can't stay as good as they are now with more students in the same space, taught by an insufficient number of teachers. Classroom space on hand will accommodate only 15,058 (with elementary art and music rooms converted to classrooms). Next fall's enrollment will be 15,168.

18. Why vote yes? For all the practical reasons above, plus the belief that the pursuit of excellence in education is worth the money and effort it takes.

problems are nonexistent and this handicaps our juvenile office very much." DPW: "Has no home at all."

MUNICIPAL Court: "We set up court in a make-shift manner in an auditorium in the Lathrup school... costly, and lacks the dignity that a court should have."

Lathrup Council: "Held by the grace of the AAA in the basement of their new building."

Civic organizations: "Have continual problems with locating adequate places to meet."

Recreation program: "handicapped by the lack of adequate land space."

The University of Michigan's Institute of Science and Technology conducts an industrial development research program to aid the growth of Michigan industry.

Both optical and radio telescope equipment is used in University of Michigan astronomical studies.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

(Continued from 1-A)

Raps Increase In Commercial Development

To the Editor: Four years ago last month we were moved to Michigan from our suburban Illinois hometown. We carefully selected what we felt was the perfect community for our family; studied schools, churches, shopping areas, before pinpointing one home in the one area we thought best for us.

Although there was already a small group of neighborhood stores on the north side of Maple a block away, it simply didn't occur to us that the town fathers of a community the calibre of Birmingham would entertain any suggestions of further commercial development in the lovely residential sections outside the periphery of the main business district.

A few weeks ago we were shocked out of our confidence that the status quo would always be carefully maintained, to find there are a few commissioners on our town's board who may not agree with this viewpoint.

HOW IS IT possible that the speculative venture of one individual is being considered more important than the investments of the hundreds of families who will be adversely affected if this error in past planning is not corrected before it is too late?

Birmingham has a business district second to no other suburban shopping area of its kind, less than a mile away, and yet on June 1 we may be asked to accept the infiltration of more business in the midst of one of the most desirable residential sections in town.

If you were in the same place we are, where our greatest single investment is in our home and property, how would you hope to have your city commission vote? For your greatest possible protection, of course!

Our thanks go to those commissioners who are already in favor of rezoning this property to residential—and our prayer for renewed consideration on the part of

Paving

(Continued from 1-A)

to establish a necessity for the project. The Commission was not drawn up by the engineering department, but the cost would have been split with the property owners paying 85 per cent and the City 15 per cent.

City Manager L. R. Gare had recommended the assessment district not be set up until the spring of 1965 and no construction work would be done until then.

All of the streets were considered under one project, Gare said, because it would be "more attractive" to contractors and a better price would be obtained.

BECAUSE OF recent sewer assessments in the area, Gare had also recommended the payments be extended to a period of up to 10 years in order to make it easier on the benefitting property owners.

Edith Hawkins, 347 Catalpa, told the Commission she was definitely opposed to the project. "That area will remain a slum" the residents can't improve their homes because the cost of the paving is so high," she said. "If you improve the property when you raise the taxes," she added.

Ingraham said he didn't want anybody to feel that that section was a slum area.

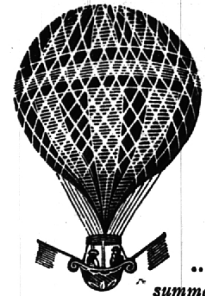
"This is not the feeling of the commission at all," he said. "We had nothing to do with any articles that appeared in 'The Eccentric.' "You people are as much a part of the town as anyone else and I might resent this improvement if I lived in that area just because of the articles," he added.

SEVERAL petitions were submitted by the residents of the area opposing the project. Preliminary estimates by the administration showed between 40 and 50 per cent of the property owners are opposed.

Gare said about four per cent of the residents on Bird signed petitions both for and against the paving.

the commissioners who are still undecided. Mr. & Mrs. Peter Zimmer 653 Larchdale Drive Birmingham

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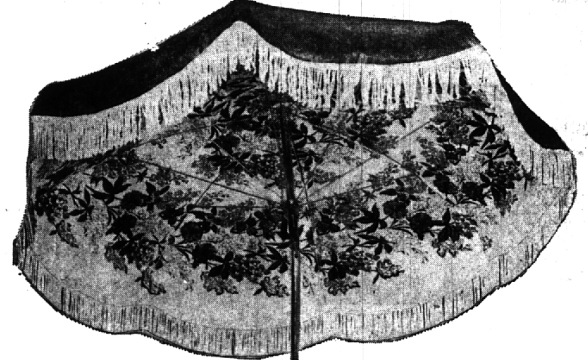


Those who have already attended the World's Fair know it to be exceedingly colorful. However the proprietor suggests that his sport jacket collection is an interesting rival, much easier to inspect and invest in.

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