

### The Township's Future?

Homer Case, Bloomfield Township's Supervisor, appointed a committee to investigate and make recommendations on the form of government the residents of the township should have in the ensuing years. At first it seemed funny that a township supervisor would allow a group of citizens to even think about any other form of government than townships, but the foresightfulness on Case's part is commendable. The reason is simply this: Township government is designed for sparsely populated rural type areas.

**TOWNSHIPS ONLY HAVE** the powers given to them by statutes, and those statutes do not adequately face things like the needs for water, sewage and road maintenance.

A rural area has mostly farms so a community water system is neither needed nor financially practical because of the space between homes. So why do townships need water legislation? The same is true for sewers, and road maintenance is merely scraping the dirt roads once a year.

Compare this with Bloomfield Township. The Township is about equal in population to the city of Birmingham.

**MANY OF ITS RESIDENTS** are former Birminghamites, and practically all of them have moved from a community that provides "city services."

When they moved in not too many years ago they had dirt streets, a water pump and a septic field.

Slowly after the dust from the road had ruined their drapes and rugs, and after the

water table kept getting lower and lower because of the increased use of wells, and after several visits by a plumber because their septic field was inadequate, the residents called for their old services.

**THE TOWNSHIP** wanted to give the people these services but there were many problems—most of them financial.

After setting up many special assessment districts, seeking more tax millage from the people at election time, (because townships cannot raise over a pittance without vote of the people) and bending statutes that just didn't have Bloomfield's problems in mind, the township board has finally provided "city services."

But now they must maintain them on a township's budget.

This is why, to face the future, Bloomfield will have to get out of the statutory township business. If it doesn't it will be requesting more funds from the voters every election.

**THE ALTERNATIVES** are clear. They can become a charter township which gives them more flexibility both in levying taxes and a certain amount of "home rule," that is power to make internal laws instead of relying entirely on state statute. The township can also become a village or a city.

We are hoping that the committee Supervisor Case appointed is doing their homework and will come up with sound recommendations. And not in the too far distant future.

We feel that Bloomfield is rapidly outgrowing statutory township form of government.

### A New Tradition

The Meadow Brook Music Festival is half over for this year, but the roots it has developed in its short life promise a great tradition for our area.

Detroit has been known as a culturally starved community. In the last several years with the Met making an annual visit and the construction of the Fisher Theatre and the development of other cultural programs, the city is changing its image.

The important thing, of course, is not necessarily the image. It is, are the people of this area going to have the opportunity to fulfill their cultural needs to become better, well rounded individuals, and a week at the Met and one new theater cannot do this.

When the Meadow Brook Festival was

suggested it was met with great enthusiasm, and yet everyone knew that it would rise or fall not on the idea, but on how well it was done.

The first half of how well it was done is now history and our area can be justly proud that it has been outstanding.

Not only do we now have four weeks of the finest instrumentation and voices available to the world here in our backyard, but also we have a firm foundation for the development of other arts through the expansion of the newly constructed facilities on the Oakland University campus.

We commend the various people who have worked so hard to accomplish this, and the people of our area will be better for this effort.

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

There is nothing very original about cautioning vacationers against driving when drugged by lack of enough sleep. There is nothing very original, either, about cautioning people not to jump from high buildings. The latter is a sure way to disaster. Driving while groggy from lack of sleep is not quite so original, but it still takes its toll in injuries and death. The key fact is that severe fatigue slows down reaction time. That is often the factor that makes the difference between a narrow escape and a smashup. This is directed to vacationing drivers because they, more than others, are likely to get an early start and drive until late. Cutting an hour or two from the driving day slows down progress a bit. It may also save lives.

**Murder was committed in our country last year at a rate averaging almost one every hour the year 'round.** Almost 400,000 automobiles were stolen, and there were almost a million burglaries. All told, the Federal Bureau of Investigation says, serious crimes occurred at the rate of four per minute. The amount of serious crime in the nation last year increased by 10 per cent over 1962. Moreover, the upward trend has been going on for some years. The FBI reports that whereas the population has risen eight per cent since 1958, serious crime has increased 40 per cent, or five times as fast. The United States is not alone in experiencing a steady crime increase. For example, at about the time the FBI figures came out the annual report of Scotland Yard said that serious crime in London rose to a record level last year. It is noteworthy that a similar theme runs through the comments of FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover and Sir Joseph Simpson, London's Commissioner of Metropolitan Police. Hoover

complains that whereas many "impassioned and articulate pleads" are made in the criminal's behalf, the victim often tends to be overlooked. Sir Joseph complains that ever-tightening rules of evidence make it increasingly difficult to convict those accused of crime. These views reflect the frequent complaint of law enforcement authorities that laws protecting citizens' rights often tend to hamper the police. The matter cannot be lightly dismissed, however. Something clearly needs to be done to curb the rapid increase in crime. The doctrine of "equal protection under the law" is often invoked in behalf of lawbreakers. It must be invoked with at least equal zest in behalf of those victimized by crime.

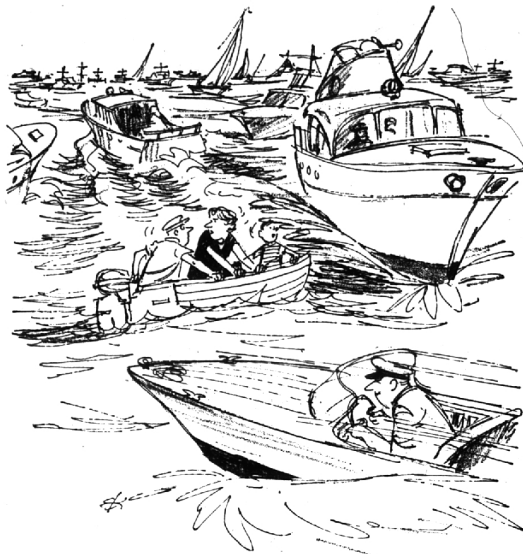
Khrushchev takes a roundhouse swing at Goldwater. President Johnson probably wishes he could muster that kind of opposition.

The Harlem rioting probably does come mostly from racial tensions—but it also makes a dandy excuse for a lot of ordinary, old-fashioned looting. President Johnson sees a new era of co-operation in the nation. Senator Goldwater can't see this—not even in the Republican party.

A revised estimate shows that federal spending by mid-1965 will be \$700 million less than anticipated. So turn on the lights again, Mr. President.

The Senate passes the anti-poverty bill, but most Republicans vote no. They have nothing against helping the poor, but they're opposed to helping the Democrats.

### How About a Traffic Light?



#### PEOPLES COLUMN

### Urges Rigid Control of Law Covering Faulty Headlights

To the Editor:

I am writing to you concerning a matter which seems to me the most flagrant violation of traffic or motor vehicle regulations. I refer to the vast number of cars driving with headlights that blind, confuse, or otherwise create hazards on the streets and highways.

We all are familiar with the oncoming car with the high beam bright lights on — you've done it and I've done it. And, as soon as we have become aware of this condition we hasten to lower the beam.

But what of the many drivers who have one low beam light burned out and in order to have two headlights they merely keep their high beam lights on.

**THEN THERE** are the many, many who have one low beam light which is cock-eyed and pointing up at an angle which is as blinding, or more so, than a high beam light. The only way these lights get that way is by being jarred out of position, but evidently there are

many drivers who never check their lights against a wall which pretty clearly indicates the order or disorder of their lights.

There are also the foreign car drivers. It appears that there are many of these cars which have their light beams set too high.

I'm not against foreign cars in fact my son drives one. However, it is evident that, foreign or domestic, new or old, there is a need for some enforcement of the rules concerning headlights. If a person can afford gasoline for his car he certainly should afford proper headlights, whether burned out or in need of adjustment.

I am hyper-sensitive about this. I know, as I am afflicted with multiple sclerosis and light sensitivity is a common manifestation of this disease.

**I AM ALSO** advised by my Ophthalmist, Dr. Lawrence Richard in the Croston Bldg., that as we get more mileage on

our eyes the color pigmentation fades which makes everyone's eyes more sensitive to light. I'm sure you have noticed how deep blue a baby's eyes may be, and in an older person they often look washed out they have faded so much.

This, of course, is brought about by A-G-E, and no one has beat this yet, Ponce de Leon to the contrary, not withstanding.

All I'm hoping is that you may agree with me that this headlight situation is a definite menace and may institute some enforcement.

It is my thought that this would be far more valuable than the diligence with which your men write parking tickets.

Parking tickets are very necessary but overtime or improper parking, I'm sure, never caused the accidents and fatalities that blinding headlights have.

**H. STUART MAISE**  
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### YESTERYEAR HAPPENINGS

**50 YEARS AGO**  
August 7, 1914

Deputy Sheriff Webster Bray made a quick capture of two men last Friday supposed to be horse thieves wanted in Mt. Clemens. Bray spotted the men driving down the street after receiving word. After a race in an auto south on Woodward avenue, the two men were caught. Both men were from Detroit and were armed with .22 calibre revolvers but had no chance to use them. It is thought the horses driven by the two Italians are the ones stolen from Mt. Clemens Thursday evening. A gray horse hitched to the buggy — also said to be stolen — was nearly exhausted and showed marks of blows from a whip.

Gas for August seems an assured event. Pipes are already laid some distance south of the Kimball farm on Woodward avenue, south of Pontiac. High pressure gas mains have been laid by the Michigan Lighting Company from the gas works in Pontiac south on the Franklin road, to the South Boulevard, then east on the boulevard to Woodward avenue. This route was necessary because of the pavement on South Woodward avenue in Pontiac. The main is supposed to reach our village by August 15. Next year it is planned to supply Royal Oak with gas for heat and light.

At a meeting of the Citizens' League of Birmingham held on Monday night of this week, it was agreed that a committee of three be appointed to investigate, obtain

information and make recommendation with reference to a commission form of government for the village.

**30 YEARS AGO**  
August 9, 1934

Remodeling work on the Bloomfield Township garage, which will eventually house the city's offices, including the police and fire departments, has been continuing in spite of an anticipated setback because of finances, and officials expect that it will be ready for occupancy shortly after Sept. 1. The garage came to the city under terms of the settlement for the division of joint assets and liabilities of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township.

For the third successive year, the opening of the public schools here has been postponed. At the regular meeting of the Board of Education last week it was decided to make the opening date Sept. 17 instead of Sept. 4 as had been originally planned. Members of the board expressed the opinion that this move, in addition to allowing an extended vacation for students, will save the board at least \$5,000 in salaries alone.

The Birmingham Exchange Club scored its second triumph in a series of three matches for the Weibing Brothers service club trophy at Oakland Hills Country Club. Exchange golfers won an easy victory with a team total of 727. The Exchangeites scored 60

strokes better than the Lions golfers, who were second with 787. Rotary placed third with a total of 802.

**15 YEARS AGO**  
August 4, 1949

Victory Day services, sponsored by the Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Wives of Michigan, will be held on V-J Day, Sunday, Aug. 14, at the impressive "Four Freedoms Memorial" and veterans' plot at White Chapel Cemetery, E. Long Lake road in Troy township. Among the celebrities who will attend the observances are Governor G. Mennen Williams, Elliott Roosevelt and Maj. Gen. Lester J. Whitlock of Ft. Riley, Kan.

The Lincoln-Purdy interceptor sewer project will be completed this year, but it will cost the city and property owners in the assessment area almost twice as much as the cost had originally been estimated more than two years ago. This was discovered Monday evening as the city commission approved the awarding of a \$78,784.44 contract to a Detroit sewer contractor.

The Birmingham Police Department defeated the Sheriff's Office in a slow-fire pistol match at the Birmingham police range last Thursday by a score of 70 to 645. This was the first match for the local police. Chief Ralph W. Mosley led the field as he captured first place honors.

### Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

I'm sorry that more than a month will transpire between the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, because I'm waiting to see what the Johnson supporters will come up with to promote their man.

The Goldwater people to this point deserve a gold star for ingenuity.

For a mere \$3 a case you can now purchase "Goldwater" which is sort of an effervescent orange-flavored ginger ale. Also for a mere pittance you can get a little button with the inscription AuH-O, which are the chemical symbols for gold and water. Scientists swear that these two ingredients won't mix, but then a lot of scientists don't get out of their laboratories.

For \$3.25 you can purchase a "Conservative Cookbook," the proceeds from which go to the Goldwater campaign. It includes Mrs. Goldwater's better recipes, one of which is called "Johnson Steak."

For the real devotees you can purchase gold hairspray for your neighbors and social acquaintances know where you stand in the coming campaign. I'm not sure whether our local merchants have stocked them but true Goldwater supporters have gold vests, gold shoes and gold hats.

**IF YOU'RE SO INCLINED** don't forget your copy of "Hello, Barry," which is a song quite similar to the hit in the Broadway musical "Hello, Dolly!"

For the kids there are gold balloons, styrofoam balls with inspiring messages, and gold whistles too. Not worth reporting on are the many bumper stickers, posters for your living room and regular type buttons which any ordinary candidate would pass out.

**I THINK THE THING** that has impressed me most about the supporters of the Junior Senator from Arizona is their intensity. If only you could can or bottle the devotion he has built up in his followers and market it for other politicians, you could retire at an early age. This intensity is probably why they have taken the time to develop these gimmicks.

To match this activity the President is going to have to come up with more than LBJ All the Way."



One night when sleep was slow in coming I picked up the book "A Summer Place," by Sloane Wilson, and started to read.

Two or three hours later I finally put the book down.

Basically, the plot concerned the marital difficulties of two families frequenting a summer resort in Maine. It seems that as teen-agers, Sylvia and Ken fell in love and had an affair. But stubborn, spoiled, society-conscious Sylvia decided to marry Bart. After a few years of aimless wandering, Ken married Helen for companionship.

Needless to say, there was little happiness in either family.

**SEVENTEEN YEARS** later, they meet again on the island resort in Maine. Sylvia and Ken engage in a love affair. Bart becomes a hopeless alcoholic; Helen, a vindictive woman.

Finally, there are divorcees and Ken get married.

From their original marriages, Sylvia has a son and Ken has a daughter, who as adolescents become quite fond of each other and as teen-agers fall in love.

Both families are strongly opposed to the young pair seeing each other. Besides not believing in the depth of love in two people so young, the parents see too many difficulties ahead because of their own previous mistakes. Yet, as it always is, two young people in love are ingenious at finding ways in which to meet.

They do. And the ultimate happens. They have to get married.

**FINALLY, OUT** of all of the disillusionment, disappointment, apprehension and confusion, reason and common sense prevail. The young ones are married and set out to make a new life for themselves.

For the most part, I believe, this story is unrealistic. The set of circumstances with the 17-year-period in between are too unlikely.

But the problem of the two young people which brings the book to its conclusion is very real.

Who is to say when two people are actually in love? Where do passion and infatuation end and love begin? How is maturity measured?

**GENERALLY,** I suppose, it must be considered that the age of 18 or 19 is too young for marriage. Immaturity is probably the chief reason. There should be a few more years for self-enlightenment and self-enjoyment before the responsibilities of marriage are undertaken. Yet, this does not hold true for everyone. There are some people at this age who possess intelligence, reason and patience sufficient to deal with marital responsibilities.

Certainly, there are some 18- and 19-year-olds capable of achieving a successful, happy marital relationship. And they should not be deprived of the opportunity.

**THE DIFFICULTY** comes in knowing when two young people actually possess this capability. It certainly is not an easy decision for parents to make. I suppose the nearest that anyone could come to giving advice is to say, "Don't be too sure too quick, whether in favor of or opposed to marriage. Try to look for positive signs of an enduring love. Don't be opposed to it only on the grounds that they are too young."

Whatever the circumstances, parents should look for the reality of any situation. Then, accept it.

And if the problem is so perplexing that they can't sleep, they can always reach for a book on the shelf.

### The Birmingham Eccentric

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