

LWV Rates Three Cheers

If we were to give a "community service of the year" award, it would go to the Birmingham-Bloomfield League of Women Voters.

There is no other organization in our community that can equal the League's efforts in the past year toward better government through informed citizenry.

We have always held a high regard for the LWV; nevertheless, we are still amazed upon reviewing its accomplishments this past year. During this time the League has:

- Written a series of articles for this newspaper detailing county home rule.
- Prepared at the request of the board of education a public information brochure on the Birmingham Public School System.
- Completed a study of the Bloomfield Hills Public School System from which, at the request of the school board, a similar brochure will be developed.
- Completed a study of Oakland County government preparatory to a study of home rule for the county.
- Completed a study of Bloomfield Township government, preparatory to studying possible alternate forms of government.
- Completed a study of initiative and referendum in Michigan cities and recommended to the Birmingham City Commission that a provision for I&R be incorporated into the city charter.
- Produced Voters' Guides for four elections.

Produced "SUFFRAGETTE '64," a dramatic review of women's role in government and politics.

• Supported the governor's tax program and Birmingham school millage and supported or opposed numerous pieces of state and national legislation, based on stands from previous studies.

• Concluded two-year studies on U.S. foreign economic policy and the United Nations and began the first year of a two-year statewide study of welfare.

THESE PROJECTS exemplify community service of the highest order. This is one organization that the Birmingham-Bloomfield area citizens can rely on when it comes to governmental information. In many instances, LWV members know as much as or even more than some of the people who help to make our laws.

One of the essential points to remember about the League is that the stands it takes are based on consensus of the membership. This does not mean a majority vote; rather, it means that the LWV members, upon reviewing a study, talk to the point of greatest agreement.

NEXT WEEK is League of Women Voters' Week. We urge the citizens of this area to join us in giving recognition to this organization for the service it has rendered to our community in the past year.

Citizen praise, though unsought by the League, is certainly deserved. For we are fortunate, indeed, to have the League of Women Voters and the information it consistently provides for us concerning our government.

And Now for the Campaign

What was probably the wildest primary election in the annals of our state is now history, and we are not unhappy with the results.

With few exceptions, the candidates we favored have been nominated by their respective parties and, since this is exactly a two-party area, most of the Republicans nominated will represent us in the future. We do not say this because automatically we feel that the candidates the Republicans put forth are the best, but we are being realistic in a community that votes overwhelmingly Republican.

WE CONGRATULATE Gov. George Romney on his not-too-difficult victory, and salute Elly Peterson on her uphill climb to eliminate her two male rivals. As a practical matter, her battle has just begun if she has hopes of defeating former communityite Philip A. Hart for the United States Senate seat.

Congressman Broomfield had no trouble taking the GOP nomination over his challenger, but he will face probably the most able opponent in his long history of elections when he battles Asst. Secretary of State Frank Sierawski in November. Mr. Sierawski is the man who more or less runs Jim Hare's office, which is considered the best run department in the state.

IN THE 19th Congressional District, we saw what we would consider an upset when Richard Kuhn dumped former Birmingham resident Jim Dickerson. Having seen Kuhn perform in the Constitutional Convention, we have grave doubts that he is the man for the job. He will face Auditor General Billie S. Farnum, who won the Democratic nomination.

Of the seats won in the local Senate and House race, we think that William Hampton will do a great job for our area. Not having endorsed Mayor Robert Huber of Troy for the Senate seat, we still have reservations on how he will fit in in Lansing.

APPARENTLY the bug that hit the state to turn out incumbents did not strike Oakland County, since all of the incumbents were renominated.

We feel the new nominee for prosecutor, Robert Templin, is equipped to do an outstanding job. He will be faced by an able Democratic challenger, Jerome Bronson.

We might congratulate the Democratic Party at this juncture for nominating what we feel is the best slate they have put forward in many years. If we are to have the two-party system in Oakland County, it must be done with able candidates.

We are pleased to see that the appointed circuit judges—Moore, Thorburn and Pratt—led the ticket in their race. All three are exceptionally well qualified.

IN THE COURT of Appeals race, we were surprised by the support that Beverly Hills resident Thomas Kavanagh received. Since he and Judge O'Brien of Ann Arbor were the only two people endorsed by the AFL-CIO, we should have assumed that they would get a large labor vote. Even though Tom Kavanagh was a leader, we feel that Judge Quinn of Caro, McGregor of Flint and State Sen. Farrell Roberts, from our area, are the most qualified.

The only surprise in the local election was Mrs. Horace Sheldon leading the Bloomfield Township Library Board race. Mrs. Sheldon was one of the library's hardest workers when it was formed last year.

AS OUR front pages have stated, incumbent Township Treasurer Arno Hulet beat off challenger Chad Ritchie in a spirited battle.

Thus, with the primary history, we will face a harder, more intensive partisan struggle leading up to the November election. With such a late primary, the campaigning time will be less, which might be a refreshing thing.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Politics has become so fascinating, we know one fellow who went a whole day without talking about his favorite baseball team's pennant chances.

Wallace quits the race and says he'll back the most conservative candidate in support of states' rights. That makes his endorsement a non-mysterious mystery.

Nasser swears to support Soviet foreign policy, and gets a \$277 million loan. But it's not fair to say that's his price; he got the Aswan dam, too.

Headline: "Vacationing Youths Raise Jobless Ranks." Some of them also raise Cain.



COMMUNITY SERVICE
LWV member Mrs. Robert J. James hands voter guide to Mrs. Shiela Holstin (left) while Mrs. James M. Scott, voter service chairman looks on.

YESTERYEAR HAPPENINGS

50 YEARS AGO
September 11, 1914
The veterans wish to thank host Worcester of Birmingham Inn Lane, for the good time and pleasure he gave them on the day of the big parade in Detroit last week. He took us in his auto to the Encampment, drove us in the parade, brought us our dinner, took us to see and hear the old soldier fiddler at the Temple Theater—and back home all without incident.

"The Last Volunteer", a great

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Buildings Fit In, Yes; But Good Quality?

To the Editor:

The two new commercial buildings pictured in your Aug. 20 issue under the caption "The Changing Scene" warrant brief comment. The one being constructed across from the municipal building shows a recognition by the architect of the existing architecture in the area. The building will be architecturally compatible with its neighbors and will make a positive contribution to the downtown Birmingham environment. This does not mean that its design is of exceptional quality—it is not.

Little good can be said for the building going up on Adams Road. It is compatible only with its ugly neighbor across the street to the south. Except for what it will produce in tax revenue, it will make no contribution to the Birmingham community. It is just as well the architect remain anonymous.

WILLIAM LYMAN

picture of womanhood and true bravery, will be the special feature at the Family Theater, the evening of Sept. 14. This intensely human patriotic drama is the story of Prince Ludwig, a young man who is tired of the pomp and show of the royal court, and who decides to get away from it all for a while. Mr. Schram is a citizen of Birmingham and has come to stay. He is the proprietor of the finest play house in Oakland County. He allows nothing in his pictures to offend the most fastidious taste. The large number of autos nightly outside of his theater proves the popularity of the Family Theater.

Probably by the time you read this, gas for cooking and lighting purposes will have been piped well within the city limits of Birmingham. The pipes are being laid by the Pontiac Gas Company. Several applications for its use have already been made and most of our citizens are anxiously awaiting the big day.

30 YEARS AGO
September 13, 1934
City officials are sitting tight and awaiting the reaction of the public to the plan announced last week, which, if adopted, would enable the Birmingham fire department to guarantee protection to property outside the city limits within a travel radius of nine minutes from the Municipal Building. City Manager James W. Parry said a passive, receptive attitude has been adopted as the only means whereby the city can determine whether the demand for the service will be great enough to pay for its operation.

Three nights of gala, worthwhile entertainment, replete with a variety of laughs, thrills and novel amusements for both young and old, are promised by the sponsors of the Fall Frolic which opens tomorrow.

Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills, always loyal to Alex J. Groesbeck in his political campaigns, Tuesday gave that candidate majorities of more than two to one in his unsuccessful bid for the Republican gubernatorial nomination. Virtually the entire list of present Oakland County officeholders will stand for reelection in November as a result of Tuesday's primary, which brought out a much lighter vote than usual.

15 YEARS AGO
September 8, 1949
School district electors will vote Monday, Nov. 7, on the proposed \$8,100,000 school expansion program. It was decided by the Birmingham Board of Education at an informal meeting at the Hill School Tuesday evening. This decision will be formally approved at the regular meeting of the board on Sept. 20. Superintendent of Schools Dwight B. Ireland said yesterday morning. Included in the program will be a new high school, elementary school and several new classrooms.

Our new, local telephone building is not only one of the most modern exchanges now being completed, but it also enjoys a second distinction. According to local Bell Manager Walter E. Frazier, the brick used locally can be found only in one other place in the world: the penthouse atop the Netherlands Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati, O.

Locations of two of the three new US-10 traffic signals have been decided by the State Highway Dept. (See HAPPENINGS, 2-B)

'What Happened to Summer?'



Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



Got myself involved in a wager the other day. Seems my week-end driving companion to the northland felt that I was carrying too many pounds and volunteered to give up smoking for 30 days if I shed 15 pounds in the same period.

Not being a smoker of cigars, I felt mine was the harder bargain. So I wanted to be sure that if I succeeded he would have to pay a high price. We finally decided on a just penalty for the loser. He will have to push a peanut with his nose across the Birmingham Commuter Station lobby some weekday evening at 6 o'clock.

YOU CAN BE SURE that if he loses we will have a photographer at the scene to record the historic event. The reason I'm so cocky is that I have located witnesses who have seen him puffing, while I stripped off 10 pounds the first week.

Cheerful as I may be, I never really realized what was involved in losing weight. I am a food lover and have never had a problem with my waistline before this summer. While you should never try to reduce as much weight in as short a time as I undertook without seeing your doctor, I did the next best thing and asked a textile salesman what my diet should be.

HE HAPPENED to have a diet in his pocket and away I went.

It was one of those low calorie but high protein diets. Never having really to care about calories before, I started carrying a little book around and every time I even had a drink at the water cooler, I duly noted it.

The hardest day was the first day when all I could eat were eggs and cucumbers. The only satisfaction I had was at dinner that night when I blew smoke from a cigar—I didn't want into my worthy opponent's face.

He countered by eating eight desserts bite by bite in front of me.

AFTER ABOUT THREE DAYS of eggs, I started feeling a hard surface surrounding me, which later I discovered was the formation of a shell.

I switched to steak and cucumbers and other than the occasional urge to snitch a bite every so often, I'm shedding pounds at a tremendous rate.

One of the by-products of losing weight, however, is that you become grumpy, on edge and dream about nothing but the next meal. I sometimes delay my breakfast well into the morning so I don't have to wait so long for lunch.

I'm sure the loss of weight will be good for me if my family can last just a couple more days. Then, on to the commuter station.



City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

In this column in our Aug. 20 issue I proposed the establishment of a Community Day.

Several people have commented about the proposal. There seems to be a general attitude that it would be a good idea. What is lacking so far is a response to accept leadership.

My concept of Community Day is one of seriousness and fun. I'd like to see short talks by governmental and civic leaders, school officials, business and industrial executives and the like.

In the first column I suggested people like John B. Smith, superintendent of schools; Birmingham Mayor Charles Renfrew; and Virgil LaMarre, president of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

COMES NOW a letter from Roger H. Crimmins, president of the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce, saying that he hoped the Jaycees "would also be considered as an organization worthy of being included in the short talk agenda of your proposed Community Day project."

Most assuredly. In fact, I'd like to see the Jaycees accept the sponsorship of such an event. They are a youthful, vigorous organization that should have the talent and the desire to promote a Community Day.

And they are a fun-loving group.

ONE THING I think a community rally should not be is an all-government affair. There should be something to bring out the patriotism in us, yes; but there should also be something light and gay.

A day of stiff and formal activities would flop, unquestionably. But a day of serious purpose, mixed with humor and fun, could lead to a tradition.

I'd like to see this come about. How about it, Jaycees?

TWO YEARS AGO, the Birmingham Rotary Club initiated a Career Day at Seaholm High School.

Rotarians obtained consultants from various professions and occupations and talk to the students. Each student was given an opportunity to sit in on three discussion sessions. They were able to ask questions about the types of careers they were interested in.

How successful was this project? Was it something that the young people had to do or was it something they wanted to do?

According to Seaholm Principal Ross Wagner and counselor Merle Smith the reaction from the student body was highly favorable. The students actually looked upon Career Day as something helpful to them.

SO, THE ROTARIANS decided to continue the project. Last year, Career Day was held at Groves High School. Again, the response was excellent.

Now, the Rotarians are busy again preparing for Career Day. It will take place at Seaholm on Nov. 23.

What pleases me so much about this entire affair is the willingness—or rather, the desire—of so many of our business and community leaders to give of their time and efforts to help these young people in making the difficult decision of choosing a career.

Their efforts exemplify Rotary's motto: "Service Above Self."

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