

SCRAP BOOK

1954 Thru 1958

Greenberg

—Photo by Kileen

WOMEN VOTERS TO HEAR REPORT ON PROJECT

Decatur League of Women Voters will meet Monday at 9:30 a. m. in the all-purpose room of the YMCA. The Educational Committee will inform the general membership of the results of the local project: "A Study of the Budgetary Procedures and Tax Structure of the Decatur Public School System."

Women Voters Compare School Operations Costs

By Barbara Hill

Of The Herald and Review Staff
Decatur School District 61 compares favorably in cost of operation with 20 other districts of about the same size in nine states, according to statistics gathered in a survey by the League of Women Voters.

The League survey began in 1953 as a routine study of the budgetary procedures and tax structure of the school system, undertaken by the committee on local projects.

The conclusion reached from this general study was:

"That the budgetary procedures of the Decatur public schools system are modern and well suited to the need. The tax structure appears to be a fair allocation of monies coming from a comparatively even distribution of the tax load."

During the course of its study the question of the merits of the special charter district, under which Decatur schools now operate, as opposed to the community unit district, was brought up by a group of citizens. The league, therefore, included in its survey a study of the special charter district in relation to the community unit district.

It's conclusions, voiced at last month's hearings on the special charter before County Supt. of Schools Robert Ernest, were as follows:

"That having uniform school systems in the state would facilitate the work of the state Department of Public Instruction, and that the community unit district is definitely an advantage for rural areas where consolidation lightens the burden of the taxpayer. But, for a district the size of No. 61, the merits of the special charter as regards annexation and detachment, buying of property and lack of involvement in general school laws outweigh the advantages of the community unit district."

In testimony at the hearing,

Decatur	20-Town Average
\$186,658,154.00	\$114,070,483.80
No. of Students	11,681
Real, Personal Property Tax Revenue	2,479,441.48
Total Revenue	3,512,537.66
School Tax Rate	1.40
No. Tax-Supported Schools	25
No. of Teachers	405.5
Amt. of Bonded Indebtedness	2,783,000.00
Cost of Instruction	2,412,091.83
Cost of Maintenance	153,703.08
Total Operating Costs	3,261,729.37
Teachers' Salaries	2,080,882.91
Administrative Salaries	130,109.32
Assessed Valuation per student	15,979.63
Assessed Valuation per building	7,466,326.16
Cost of Instruction per student	206.49
Cost of Maintenance per student	13.15
Cost per student from property tax	212.26
Total Cost per student	279.23
Avg. Maintenance Cost per Bldg.	6,148.12
Bonded Indebtedness per student	238.25

League representatives also pointed out that the number of pieces of school legislation passed at each session of the Legislature indicated that considerable experimentation is currently going on with Illinois school law and that Decatur will be better off if not experimented on.

In its survey, which it has now written up in chart form, the League committee contacted the departments of public instruction of nine states in the Middle West and its fringes and asked that the departments forward a group of questions to two or three systems in the state with populations of from 70,000 to 100,000.

Choice of the districts was left entirely up to the departments of public instruction. Those which later submitted answers to the League's questions were as follows:

Madison, Wis.
Racine, Wis.
Lansing, Mich.
Jackson, Mich.
Kalamazoo, Mich.
Topeka, Kan.
Altoona, Pa.
Harrisburg, Pa.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
St. Joseph, Mo.
Springfield, Minn.
Cedar Rapids, Ia.
Davenport, Ia.
Sioux City, Ia.
Muncie, Ind.
Hammond, Ind.
Terre Haute, Ind.
Covington, Ky.
Springfield, O.
Lakewood, O.

In its report the committee was careful to point out that in this case the figures may be slightly off to some extent.

Despite careful wording of the questions, there may have been some misunderstandings resulting in figures which do not show quite the same thing from all districts.

The committee feels, however, that the statistics collected are extensive enough to get a good average for comparison and the drawing of general conclusions.

Most of the statistics requested were for purposes of general comparison. A few were aimed specifically toward giving the League information for its stand on the spe-

cial charter.

From the latter, the following information was obtained:

In none of the other districts is a referendum required for the purchasing of school sites. (Under community unit law a referendum is required before the purchase of any school site, unless a previous referendum has given the school board the right to purchase sites without referendum.)

In most of the other districts annexation disputes are settled in the courts, or directly by the state. In only one state is the county involved.

In all but one of the states, the number of members on the board of education is regulated by the state to the extent of setting minimum and maximum numbers.

The general statistics, which show Decatur's school system in a highly favorable light, are as follows.

The figures are for the 1952-53 school year—since those were the latest available at the time the League began its questioning.

Figures involving the number of students—average cost per student of various phases of operation—include grades 1-12 only, since the League did not know whether the systems queried offered kindergarten, special education and adult education.

In its 1952-53 tax rate of \$1.40 per \$100 assessed valuation, Decatur was among the lowest of all the districts. Only one of the 20 had a lower rate.

The 1953-54 tax rate in the Decatur schools is \$1.54. With the financing of the \$7 millions bond issues to be taken care of, the 1954-55 rate will be about \$1.60—still lower than many of the out-of-state districts even if they have had no corresponding raise in rate during the past year.

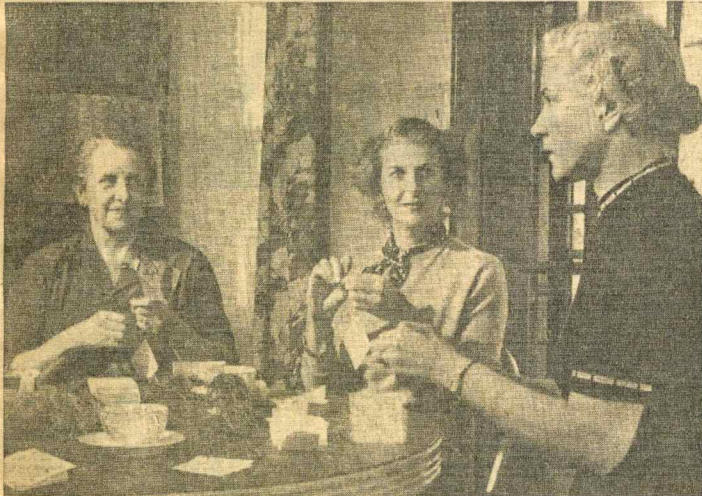
Members of the local projects

committee wh
for the League

Mrs. Robert L.
Mrs. Haskell C.
Mrs. Hanley E.
Mrs. Lowell C.
Mrs. Gerald C.
Mrs. C. F. G.
Mrs. Perley I.
Mrs. R. E. H.
Mrs. Clifford
Mrs. John D.
Mrs. John D.

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GET OUT THE VOTE TAGS PREPARED

Members of the League of Women Voters put strings through tags they will distribute to the public schools this week. The tags urge parents to vote in the bond issue referendum election Tuesday. They will be tied to the children's coat buttons Monday by their teachers. Working on the tags, left to right, are:

Mrs. H. A. Olendorf, Mrs. Frank Schroeder and Mrs. Richard Wood.

(Herald and Review Photo)

ue Made orrection rustees

League of Women Voters by they did not make "regarding the d of School Trustees re. Review Wednesday. s story concerned the a of the proposed Decatur school district on Board of School Trust referred repeatedly to tion sheet prepared by Women Voters." ue of Women Voters epare the information John Donovan, League id. "The League is not any of its statements in on because we do not our statements are in-

mation sheet referred to ed by the Decatur Par Association. It was in- tended to furnish a summary for use by PTA groups in considering the referendum scheduled for April 14.

The basis for the erroneous report in the Wednesday Review was a statement by an assistant in the office of Macon County Supt. of Schools Robert B. Ernest. This statement was attributed to "local school officials" because it was believed to be Ernest's opinion. Lester Grant, superintendent of Decatur schools, did not make the "correction statement," though he was quoted as saying, "I am not anxious to perpetuate an error." County Superintendent Ernest's

assistant said the state school code provides that the proposed Decatur community unit district could be represented by four members on the County Board of School Trustees.

The League of Women Voters concludes from the state school code that "representation on the board would not be fair to the Decatur district since it has over half the county's population but would have only one of seven members on the board."

Mrs. Donovan said both the League's interpretation of the school code and the opinion expressed by Ernest's assistant are supported by legal sources.

"A definite interpretation of this section of the code will never be possible until it is tested in a court case," Mrs. Donovan said. "There are, at this time in the state of Illinois, probably as many practices of operation under this law as there are opinions about it."

An effort to get Ernest's opinion on this question brought a report from his assistant that Ernest preferred to quote directly from the school code "since his position in the forthcoming referendum is neutral."

4/2/54

League Corrects Statement on School Trustees

Provisions for election of the County Board of School Trustees have been incorrectly stated in several meetings recently. School officials said yesterday error gained wide circulation it was included on an information sheet prepared by the League of Women Voters. The League is anxious to make correction on all its pamphlets facts about community unit districts and the Decatur special district. County board is a relatively governmental body which will perform the duties of the old school trustees on July 1. State school code provides members shall be elected in the county. No more than one member may be a resident of one congressional township.

This means the proposed Decatur community unit district, which would lie in portions of four different congressional townships could be represented by four members on the county board.

Seven community unit school districts in Macon County, not counting Decatur, include territories lying in two or more congressional townships and have the opportunity to elect as many representatives to the board.

Only the Lakeview Community Unit lies wholly within the boundary of a single township, which also includes portions of the Argenta, Cerro Gordo and Mt. Zion unit districts.

The League's information sheet incorrectly states:

"The County Board of Trustees, which will be set up after July 1, will be made up of seven elected members from the nine school districts in Macon County. No school district may have more than one of the seven members."

Congressional townships are composed of 36 sections of land and the boundaries do not coincide either with political township or school district boundaries, local school officials pointed out yesterday.

The Decatur special charter district, is located mainly in the Decatur congressional township, 16N, Range 2E. Portions of the district lies in three other townships, 17N, Range 2E; 16N, Range 1E; and 16N, Range 3E.

Residents of the Decatur district now have no part in electing trustees to the county board because the county board has no power over a special charter district.

In the event Decatur voters approve the formation of a community unit district in the April 14 referendum, however, the city's schools will be governed by the county board and Decatur residents will vote in future elections of its members.

Lester Grant, superintendent of Decatur schools, said yesterday he has repeated these facts incorrectly in public statements in presenting the League's report to local organizations.

"I am not anxious to perpetuate an error," he said yesterday after he discovered the mistake.

May 21, 1954

Voter League Reaffirms Stand for City Manager

The League of Women Voters board of directors yesterday reaffirmed its belief that a council-manager form of city government is preferable to the commission form of government.

Mrs. John Donovan, League president, announced the League's position on the city manager type of government following a board meeting yesterday afternoon.

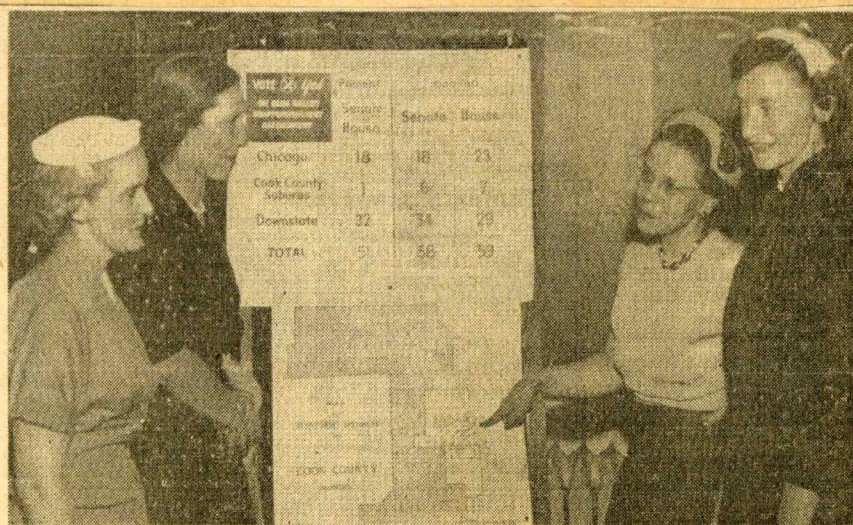
The League completed a study of the council-manager government in February, 1953. At that time the League stated publicly its belief that

the manager type of municipal government would be a definite improvement over the commission form.

Mrs. Donovan said the League will cooperate with other groups and individual citizens of Decatur to undertake local action aimed toward adoption of a city manager here.

"The League directors feel that now is an opportune time for city-wide work to begin if Decatur citizens wish to hold a referendum on the proposal before the 1955 city election," she said.

May 23, 1954



Decatur Women Join in Reapportionment Drive

Three Decatur women, right to left, Mrs. John Donovan, Mrs. H. W. Gibson and Mrs. Ayrlie Morris, far left, are shown with a Rockford woman, Mrs.

James Holland, at a meeting of the League of Women Voters in Springfield last week. Leaders of the group met to plan their cam-

paign for the adoption of the Blue Ballot Reapportionment Amendment at the Nov. 2 general election.

June 19, 1954

Vote to Be Called On City Manager

Petitions to Go Into Circulation Next Week

By John R. Harpster
Of The Herald Staff

Petitions calling for a referendum on the council - manager form of government for Decatur will be circulated here beginning next week.

The decision was made last night at an organizational meeting of the "Friends of the Council-Manager Form of Government."

The meeting, initiated by the Association of Commerce and League of Women Voters, was attended by about 20 representatives of various Decatur organizations.

Harold Pogue, A of C president who is serving as temporary chairman of the group, said an estimated 2,500 signatures will be needed if the referendum is to be called.

The Junior Association of Commerce has volunteered to prepare and circulate petitions and David Behnke has been named chairman of the project.

Behnke said work on the petitions will start today, with circulation beginning as soon as possible next week.

Behnke and Graham Bradley, Jaycee president, said they will aim for 3,000 signatures by July 15.

Walter Morey, attorney for the A. E. Staley Mfg. Company, is assisting the Jaycees in preparation of the petitions.

A change to the council-manager form of government would not affect the present city council.

But at the city primary next March 1 and the general election April 19 voters would choose six councilmen and a mayor instead of the present four councilmen and a mayor.

Then, the council would choose a city manager to administer ordinances and policies made by the council.

The city manager would appoint his own department heads, replacing the present system under which each councilman heads a city department.

If unsatisfactory, the manager can be fired by the council without notice.

If the Jaycees gather their petitions by July 15 it could still be as late as the middle of December before the referendum is held.

Once gathered, the petitions would be filed with the county court.

The county judge then would order a hearing in not less than 10 days nor more than 30 days.

If, after the hearing, the petitions were found valid, the judge would instruct the city council to call the referendum in not less than 30 nor more than 120 days.

If council - manager government is to go in effect here next spring, when a new administration takes over the city government, the referendum must be held in advance of the city primary and general election, Pogue said.

The Illinois council-manager law, passed in 1951 for cities with less than 500,000 population, provides that the new form of government cannot go into operation until the expiration of the current term of the incumbent mayor.

Pogue and others taking part in last night's meeting stressed that the move to change Decatur's form of government is not meant as a criticism of the present administration.

"We feel a good job has been done with the type of government we have and this is merely an attempt to improve the form of government," Pogue said.

A subcommittee was appointed by Pogue to recommend a permanent chairman for the organization.

Its members are:

Harold Osgood, chairman
Mrs. Donovan
James E. Key
Walter Morey
Graham Bradley.

The subcommittee will meet Monday night and another meeting of the full committee will be held as soon as it decides on a permanent chairman.

Attending last night's meeting were:

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Robert Stroyeck, AFL, United Auto Workers
Edgar H. Allen, A of C
Charles Riley, president, Labor's League for Political Education
Galen E. Shater, A of C
Harold M. Osgood, A of C
Walter Morey, Rotary Club
J. E. Key, AFL Auto Workers
F. M. Lindsay, president, Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers
Graham Bradley, Junior Chamber of Commerce
David Behnke, Junior Chamber of Commerce
Tom Palmer, Junior Chamber of Commerce
O. W. Diehl, A of C
Mrs. G. D. Cox
Mrs. Robert E. Lewis
Mrs. Adam Wakeman, Decatur Council,

Parent-Teacher Association
Edward Lindsay, editor, Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers
Daisy M. Uphouse, Business and Professional Women's Club
Mrs. Dorothy Morris, League of Women Voters
Mrs. Clifford Smith, League of Women Voters
Mrs. William R. Winn, League of Women Voters
Mrs. John Donovan, League of Women Voters
Don Robinson, Kiwanis Club
Only the Association of Commerce, the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women's Voters have endorsed the council-manager form of government.

Council-Manager Plan Vote Asked in Decatur

Petitions Start In Next Week

A group organized last night as "Friends of the Council-Manager Form of Government" decided to put referendum petitions in circulation next week.

About 20 residents launched the move to give Decatur council-manager government in the meeting initiated by the Association of Commerce and the League of Women Voters.

Harold Pogue, A of C president, was named temporary chairman. He said some 2,500 signatures will be needed to bring the issue to a vote.

Decatur Jaycees volunteered to prepare and circulate petitions and put David Behnke in charge of the job. He said preparation of petitions would start today for circulation as soon as possible.

Walter Morey, attorney for the A. E. Staley Mfg. Company, will draft the petition.

The group stressed that the move for a city manager isn't meant as a criticism of the present city administration.

"We feel a good job has been done with the type of government we have," Pogue said. "This is merely an attempt to improve the form of government."

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Mrs. William R. Winn, League of Women Voters
Mrs. John Donovan, League of Women Voters
Don Robinson, Kiwanis Club



Mrs. John J. Donovan, president of the League of Women Voters, was the first citizen to sign the petition for a referendum on council-manager city government this noon. Looking on is

David Behnke, chairman of the Jaycees committee to circulate the petitions. Mrs. Donovan is also a leader in the newly-organized "Friends of the Council-Manager Form of Government" group.

Council-Manager Petitions Go Out

Signatures Sought To Insure Validity

Petitions calling for a referendum to adopt a council-manager form of city government were put in circulation this noon.

David Behnke, chairman of the Jaycee committee to gather some 2,500 petition signatures, said the drive will reach full-scale proportions tomorrow.

Five hundred petitions with space for 25 names each were delivered by the printer this morning. As many signers as possible will be sought to insure validity of the petition.

The petitions were ready for noon meetings of the Rotary and Lions Clubs today, and Behnke said Jaycees will distribute the blank forms to plants as rapidly as possible.

Behnke said officers of the League of Women Voters are planning either a downtown petition campaign or a house-to-house canvass. The Jaycees will have petition booth downtown Saturday, probably in Central Park.

The blanks are available at the Association of Commerce office in the Decatur Club Building, both for signers and persons wishing to gather signatures.

Behnke said July 3 has been set as the target date for completion of the petition drive.

A "Friends of the Council-Manager Form of Government" group,

organized in a meeting initiated by the A of C and the League of Women Voters late last week, is pushing the move to give Decatur a vote on having a city manager.

The petition asks County Judge Gus T. Greanias to order a vote on the question, "Shall the City of Decatur adopt the managerial form of municipal government?"

If the petition is found valid in a court hearing, the court will order the city Council to call a referendum in 30 to 120 days.

Committee Meets Tonight To Consider Chairman

A five-member subcommittee named to recommend a permanent chairman for the Friends of the Council-Manager Form of Government group will meet at 7:30 p.m. today in the Association of Commerce office, Chairman Harold Osgood said.

Members of the subcommittee, appointed by Harold Pogue, temporary chairman, are:

Mrs. John Donovan
James E. Key
Walter Morey
Graham Bradley.

June 21, 1954

City Manager Vote Petitions Distributed

The campaign for a referendum on council-manager city government shifted into high gear today as petitions went out to plants, clubs and scores of residents.

David Behnke of the Jaycee petition committee said 180 sheets with space for 4,500 signatures were mailed to Jaycee members last night, and plans for a petition booth in Central Park Saturday are going ahead.

Mrs. John J. Donovan, president of the League of Women Voters, said the League would mail petitions to its members today and ask them to gather signatures in their neighborhoods.

Petitions were circulated at meetings of the Rotary and Lions Clubs yesterday noon, and Behnke said 60 signatures were obtained with no refusals right after the blanks were received from the printers.

He couldn't estimate the number of names gathered so far, with no reports in yet.

Goal of the drive is a minimum 2,500 valid signatures, but petition blanks have been provided for 12,500 names and backers will push for as many signatures as possible to assure success.

All petitions are to be in by July 3, after which they will be examined, bound and filed in County Court for a hearing. If the court finds the petition valid, the City Council will be ordered to call a referendum in 30 to 120 days.

The campaign is sparked by the Friends of the Council-Manager Form of Government, a group organized last week under sponsorship of the Association of Commerce and the League of Women Voters.

Petitions are available for either signature or circulation at the A of C office in the Decatur Club Building, headquarters for the campaign.

A subcommittee to choose a permanent chairman of the council-manager committee opened talks last night. Subcommittee Chairman Harold Osgood said the permanent chairman to take over from Temporary Chairman Harold Pogue, A of C president, hadn't yet been named today.

June 22, 1954

Political Action Needed

Editor Lindsay Speaks to Voter League

Eighteen women representing local League of Women Voters organizations from Springfield, Champaign-Urbana, Alton-Wood River, Danville, Lincoln and Decatur yesterday attended a regional meeting in the home of Mrs. John Donovan, Decatur League president.

Edward E. Lindsay, editor of the Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers, was guest speaker for the morning session.

Lindsay characterized the League as a unique organization with great strength in helping people make political decisions but said he felt the League was less effective in the action area.

He indicated, however, that perhaps this is as it should be and that direct action should be left to the political parties.

Lindsay recommended that to be most effective the League should have members from all precincts and take its action on the precinct level.

He pointed out that the present crisis in our national government is due in part to the fact that neither

party stands for a particular governmental philosophy. He predicted more difficult times ahead and suggested that the League might be active in clarifying party labels at all levels of government.

The home town is the place to cure political ills, Lindsay concluded.

Discussions during the meeting were led by two members of the League state board. They were Mrs. Ellis Harris, Chicago, membership chairman, and Mrs. Ermick McDowell, Lake Bluff, finance chairman.

Miss Roberta McGowan of the state officer staff also was present at the meeting.

The meeting closed with a resume of League history by Mrs. Richard Murphy of Champaign-Urbana.

Mrs. Murphy concluded that the discussion of politics within the family circle is one of the most vital things in our life and that we must not let our governmental offices get into bad situations because "we didn't know."

August 11, 1954

Women Voters Present League's Organization

The League of Women Voters will have an informal meeting for prospective members Tuesday at 9:30 a. m. in the home of Mrs. G. R. Cohn, 777 S. Monroe St. Women interested in the organization are asked to call Mrs. Perley Lupton, membership chairman or

Mrs. John Donovan, president.

Five League members will give information concerning the organization. They are:

Mrs. Floyd Birt, "Purpose and History of the League of Women Voters";

Mrs. Ayrle Morris, "Program of the League";

Mrs. Neal Doubleday, "Policies and Action";

Mrs. George Kuhns, "Finance";

Mrs. Fred Schudel, "Publication."

June 6, 1954

Women's Influence Is Surprising

German Visitor Credits
Tin Cans, Ready-mix

By Barbara Hill
Of The Review Staff

Surprise that women in America have so much economic influence while, at the same time, there are few women in high public office was expressed this morning by Miss Irmgard Muehlhaus, German woman visiting here as the guest of the League of Women Voters.

"Our economic minister told me of the great influence of American women," Miss Muehlhaus said, "and I was astonished to find that there are more women in public office in my own country than here."

Miss Muehlhaus, who is district women's secretary of a consumers cooperative in her home town of Bocholt, arrived in Decatur last night and this morning began her tour of the city with Mrs. Perley T. Lupton and Mrs. John Donovan of the League.

They took her first to the Macon County Building, where she visited the jail and the county and city offices.

During her stay here she also is scheduled to see the public library, the YWCA, Girl Scout Little House, special education rooms at Washington School, the Farm Bureau and any other local industries or institutions in which she is interested.

Miss Muehlhaus already has visited many of the country's largest cities and has been amazed by the stores and the variety of goods sold.

She credits the tin can and the packaged mix with giving American women much of the free time they use in extending their economic influence.



Sheriff David M. Peters shows Miss Irmgard Muehlhaus of Bocholt, Germany, how a tear gas gun operates. Mrs. Perley T. Lupton, left, and Mrs. John Donovan, League of Women Voters members who this morning escorted Miss Muehlhaus on a tour

of the County Building, look on. German police have tear gas guns mostly in the trouble areas near the Iron Curtain and in Berlin.

Among the other wonders of the U.S.A. Miss Muehlhaus lists the free public libraries and museums. In Germany, she says, such institutions are not admission free.

The tremendous number of new one-family houses being built here amazed the German woman. In her country, she explains, new housing is in the form of multiple dwelling units and each family is not so

anxious as the American family to have its own home.

Middlewestern farms have, with their acres and acres of flat fields, astounded Miss Muehlhaus, who is used to the small, cut up fields of Germany.

While she is in Decatur Miss Muehlhaus particularly hopes to visit a number of women's organizations. Although she has been sur-

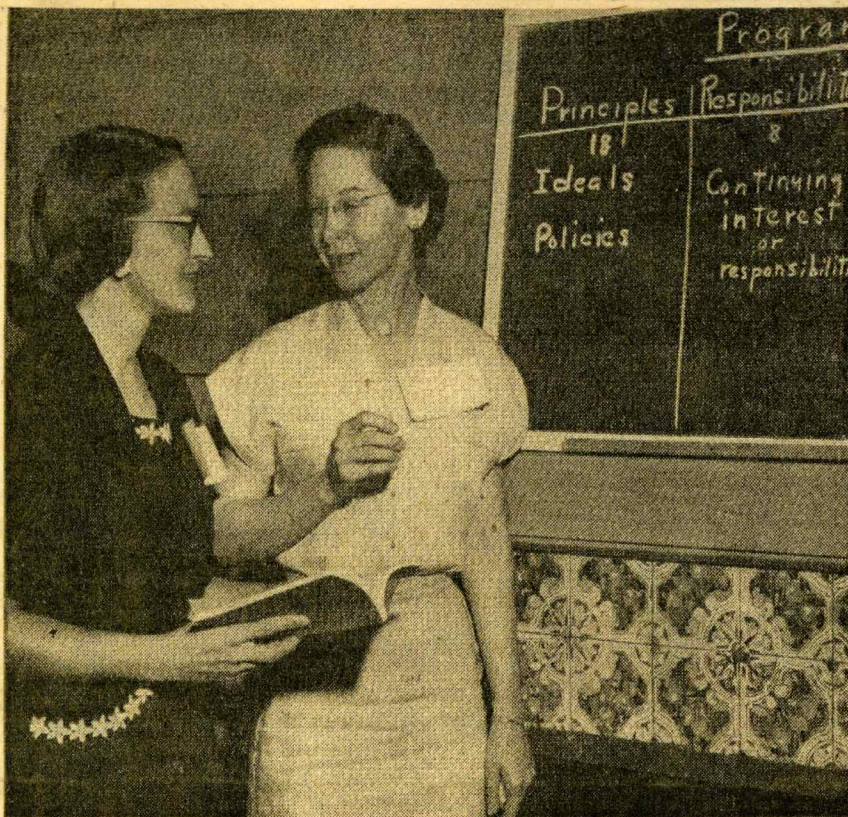
prised and pleased with the number of social organizations, her particular interest is in groups that are active politically, socially or economically.

She will leave Decatur June 8 to continue her tour in the East.

Miss Muehlhaus is traveling in this country under the guidance of the American Council on Education, Washington, D. C.

Here are members of the advisory committee charged with directing a move for the council-manager form of government in Decatur. Edwin G. Allen, chairman of the Friends of the Council-Manager Form of Government, will head the committee, now making a study of the proposal. A public hearing on a petition calling for a referendum on the plan has been set for Aug. 9 before County Judge Gus T. Greanias. The advisory committee serves as a steering body for the various interests working for the change in city government.

August 12, 1954



Mrs. Fred Schudel, left, who is publications chairman for the League of Women Voters, discusses the organization of the group with Mrs. James W. Carroll, a new member. The program of the League was explained to prospective members at a meeting yesterday.

Women Voters Tell Group's Work

Prospective Members Hear President and Chairmen

The program of the League of Women Voters was explained to prospective and new members yesterday in the home of Mrs. G. R. Cohn, 777 S. Monroe St.

President Mrs. John Donovan recalled how the National League was formed in February of 1920 following the enactment of the 19th amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving women the power to vote.

The purpose, she stated, was to educate the new women voters and to work for needed legislation. The continuing political goal of the League, she pointed out has been:

"To let the people know,

"To make people care,

"To help the people act."

A non-partisan group, the League is open to all women of the community.

Mrs. Aylie Morris explained the program of the League.

The women do not try to cover the civic water front, she said, but select a few important issues at a time. Government principles are supported by the organization as a whole which give authority for adoption of local, state and national current agendas.

The local League has given sustained attention and study to the City Council manager plan which is now under consideration for Decatur.

On the state level, the group works for basic constitutional revision measures such as the reapportionment amendment, Mrs. Morris explained to the new women.

World trade and relationship between individual liberty and public interest head the national program.

For next year, the local League plans: A study of local welfare and continued consideration and action where approved by membership of school financial problems and organization, yesterday's speakers said.

Also on the program were: Mrs. Floyd Birt, Mrs. Neal Doubleday, Mrs. George Kuhns and Mrs. Fred Schudel.

August 16, 1954

Campaign For Blue Ballot Starts Today

A committee to promote adoption of the reapportionment amendment will begin its campaign today.

The group, known as the Illinois Committee for Constitutional Revision, is seeking a favorable public response at the Nov. 2 election for the amendment, which comes out on a blue form. It would make representation in the state legislature dependent upon population. The issue is opposed by those who fear such representation would give the Chicago area too much voice in state government.

E. E. Penhallegon, co-chairman of the committee, with Mrs. H. W. Gibson, both of Decatur, and Mrs. W. C. Morse, Mattoon, are seeking to arouse public interest in the issue.

A speaker's bureau has been organized, and a schedule will soon be announced of talks to be given before civic groups. A series of programs that will be intensified toward the end of September and through October has also been worked out, Penhallegon said last night. A movie depicting the advantages of population representation has been acquired by the committee and will also be available to interested groups.

The committee began its campaign at the state fair, where it set up a booth. Material was handed out, and the film was exhibited twice. Penhallegon said the League of Women Voters and Junior Association of Commerce were also stepping up their programs in support of the proposed amendment.

Beginning tomorrow registered voters of Macon County will begin to receive information on the amendment through the mail, according to regulation. The information is strictly objective and does not purport to take a stand one way or the other. It will take a few days to get all the 58,000 envelopes delivered, County Clerk Laurence Tangney has explained.

September 1, 1954

Friends of Council-Manager Begin Campaign With Letters to 2,700

The Friends of the Council-Manager Form of Government organization is starting its educational program with letters to the 2,700 signers of petitions for the council-manager referendum.

Chairman Luther Roehm of the public information committee said the letters include question and answer sheets and a request that signers authorize public use of their names as supporters of the change in city government.

Later, Roehm said, the group plans a general circulation of information by mail. The present mailing is hoped to stimulate further questions and answers for the more general program.

Roehm said the greatest problem that supporters of the council-manager government face is the lack of

knowledge of most people on that form of government.

He said the Friends group wants to build up as large a public information program as possible so that there will be an informed vote in the referendum.

The referendum date has not yet been set by the City Council, but present indications are that it will be in mid-October or later.

Petition signers also are being asked to use the information they receive in enlisting support from their friends and neighbors.

They will receive a general statement about the council-manager form of government prepared by the League of Women Voters, and two question and answer sheets, one in an Association of Commerce newsletter and the other prepared by the Friends organization.

September 4, 1954

League Dinner Tickets Ready

Tickets will go on sale next Tuesday at Stauber's for the League of Women Voters "blue ballot" information dinner, to be Sept. 16 in the Decatur Club.

Reservations are \$2.50, which represents the cost of the dinner alone. The dinner is being sponsored as a non-profit, community service by the League, which is backing state congressional reapportionment.

Two speakers, termed by the League "the state's most competent" will talk on the pros and cons of the reapportionment amendment which will appear on the blue ballot at the November election.

Samuel W. Witwer, of Riverside, chairman of the Illinois Committee for Constitutional Revision, will speak in favor of the amendment.

State Rep. Paul Powell, of Vienna, will speak against reapportionment.

The amendment would give the densely populated Cook County area a majority in the House but retain the downstate majority in the Senate.

September 14, 1954

BLUE BALLOT DINNER

Tickets Available Through Wednesday For Meeting

Tickets to the dinner meeting Thursday on the blue ballot reapportionment amendment may be obtained through Wednesday evening.

League of Women Voters representatives yesterday said that interest in the blue ballot debate is high.

Samuel W. Witwer, chairman of the Illinois Committee for Constitutional Revision, will speak on behalf of the amendment and State Rep. Paul Powell, Vienna, Democratic minority leader in the House, will oppose it.

Tickets are available from:

Mrs. H. W. Gibson

E. England Penhallegon

Mrs. F. A. MacKay

Mrs. Perley T. Lupton

Mrs. J. W. Hurley

September 16, 1954

Blue Ballot Dinner Tonight

Two men who are among the top leaders in movements both for and against the blue ballot reapportionment amendment will discuss the proposal at a dinner meeting here tonight.

They are Samuel W. Witwer, chairman of the Illinois Committee for Constitutional Revision, in favor of the amendment, and State Rep. Paul W. Powell, one of the most outspoken legislative leaders against it.

Approximately 125 reservations have been made for the meeting, which the League of Women Voters is sponsoring in the Decatur Club ballroom beginning at 6:30 p. m.

League officials say that this is apparently the only such meeting planned to bring together such spokesmen as Witwer and Powell.

Witwer, a Chicago attorney, headed the committee in the successful campaign for the Gateway amendment to the constitution in 1950 and has continued to be active in supporting changes under Gateway provisions.

Powell, a Democrat from the 51st District and minority leader of the House, has been active in organizing opposition to the amendment among Democratic legislators.

September 17, 1954

Opponents in Blue Ballot Debate Charge Scare Tactics Being Used in Campaign on Proposal

**Witwer, Powell Heard
By 125 at Dinner**

By Don W. Roberts
Of The Herald Staff

Opponents in a debate on the merits of the blue ballot reapportionment amendment last night charged that scare tactics were being used in the campaign on the proposal.

Rep. Paul Powell of Vienna said a warning of court action forcing election of legislators at large if the amendment fails "is a scare to try to force the reapportionment plan, in my opinion."

Gov. William G. Stratton voiced this warning at a meeting in Springfield Wednesday night. Powell opposes the amendment.

Powell said he is not opposed to reapportionment, but only to a plan which gives control of one house to one county. Both Cook County and Downstate should propose changes which make changes in their own areas.

Samuel W. Witwer of Riverside, chairman of the Illinois Committee for Constitutional Reapportionment, placed the scare label on the contention of opponents that the reapportionment plan would rob Downstate residents of a portion of the revenue they now receive.

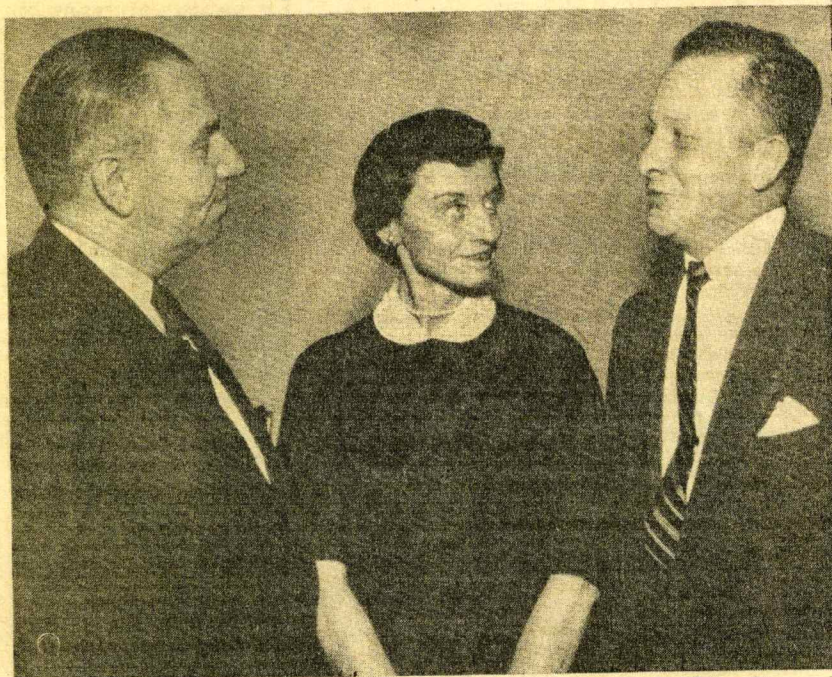
"The distribution of public money is governed by the Legislature. Bills must be passed by both houses. I resent the inference that Downstate senators will sell you out, and Downstate would have permanent control of the Senate."

Powell said court action to force reapportionment has been tried before. "There has been no successful action to date. I don't know why after 53 years we should become so alarmed." Witwer had mentioned the governor's statement.

Gov. Stratton told a group of newspaper editors and publishers that if such legal action were brought, courts would have to order statewide elections, which would give control of both houses to Cook County.

Answering a question, Powell said he will not be bound by the Democratic state platform, which supports reapportionment, charging it was adopted in the Cook County convention this week with "a stacked deck." "They didn't try to bring it up in the Springfield convention," he said.

Witwer, who spoke first, said one of the greatest challenges to freedom is on the local level, and that where the constitution recognizes the votes of equal citizens shall be of equal weight, there are shocking disparities in representation.



Opposing forces size each other up prior to last night's debate on the blue ballot reapportionment. Rep. Paul Powell, left, opposes the amendment, and Attorney Samuel W. Witwer, right, favors the proposal. Mrs. John J. Donovan, center, chairman of the League of Women Voters, who sponsored the meeting, presided. (Herald and Review Photo)

The 1½ million Downstate citizens who have the same legislative representation as another half-million citizens have become third class citizens.

Witwer said the amendment is a "fair, realistic compromise" on the basis of the facts of political life, not giving Cook County control of both houses, assuring Cook County of a "fairer shake" in the legislature and assuring Downstate control of the Senate.

Downstate could not lose Senate control except through another constitutional amendment, Witwer pointed out.

He said those who argue the amendment will give Cook County control of the Legislature know the argument is "falacious, and nevertheless they try to steer us toward sectional bias and animosity."

"By and far, over the years, suburban Cook County has sided far more frequently with Downstate than Chicago colleagues," he said.

Powell countered that from his 20 years experience in the Legislature that Cook County members jump through the hoop with no exceptions on important legislation when the whip is cracked.

He said that if the amendment is adopted, Cook County would, never give up control of the House, regardless of future population changes.

Powell defended his stand against the amendment against what he said were charges of being "selfish and un-American."

"If I am selfish, then why did I vote for adoption of the resolution putting the amendment on the November ballot," he asked. He pointed out that he said at the time he would oppose adoption of the amendment because he did not believe in the type of the proposal.

Witwer had said most of the opposition to the proposal has come from Downstate legislators of both parties, though he said not all of them are necessarily selfish or cynical.

Powell charged that most newspapers are not giving both sides of the controversy and questioned where the money is coming from for the campaign, for the proposal.

Witwer said "what little money" there is comes from both Chicago and Downstate supporters, and that many of 77 organizations backing the amendment are distributing literature.

Powell mentioned cocktail parties among the functions sponsoring support of the reapportionment move, and Witwer said he hopes certain meetings of Powell and his colleagues were "as bone dry as our meetings."

The League of Women Voters sponsored the meeting, attended by about 125 persons in the Decatur Club ballroom.

September 19, 1954

City Manager Is Zonta Topic

Zonta Club will have dinner Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Decatur Club. Three representatives from the League of Women voters will talk on the "Council Manager Form of City Government." Speakers will be Mrs. Clifford E. Smith, Mrs. Gerald Cox and Mrs. John Donovan.

September 24, 1954

League of Women Voters Answer Zonta Questions on City Manager

By Mildred Sutherland
Of The Herald Staff

Why should Decatur voters favor a Council-manager form of government? Because Decatur is in a period of expansion which brings many problems and needs the most efficient type of government. And because eminent men with experience do consider it the best form of government found thus far.

This was the opinion expressed by three representatives of the League of Women Voters for Zonta Club, women executives, last night in the Decatur Club.

Mrs. John Donovan, Mrs. Gerald Cox and Mrs. Clifford E. Smith gave the program with Mrs. Donovan asking questions such as the average man on the street might ask. Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Smith gave the answers which have been arrived at from studies made by the League since 1951.

The next question answered was, "Why Change Now?" The League members pointed to the election coming up next April. The change must be made now or wait another four years.

They stressed a number of advantages of the four-member council and mayor who would make the city policies and the city manager who would act as administrator over

the present form of government:

Elected council members would think in terms of my city, not my department.

With a manager who has oversight of all departments, there is one big government not five small ones. (Meaning the five present departments).

There is better representation of the people since there are elections every two years instead of four.

Since the city manager does all of the employing, there would not be any patronage system.

Experience shows that councils are often made up of a combination of business, labor and women attracting high caliber persons since the work is only part time.

In answer to the question, are trained city managers available? Mrs. Donovan said several large universities are giving graduate courses in the work, and there are many large cities employing assistant managers. Both make a field for a city the size of Decatur to choose from.

In conclusion, Mrs. Smith said it was not their idea to oversell the idea, but merely to study all angles and present them to groups. A very small percentage of towns adopting the Council-manager form of government have reverted to their original type, the women said.

October 26, 1954

Issues, Not Looks

The League of Women Voters is the one organization in the United States determined that candidates for public office should discuss issues.

Too many candidates would like to slide into office on the basis of the size of their family, their oratorical abilities, their devotion to God, mother and country, or their wavy white hair.

But the ladies insist that the candidates stick to the issues. By distributing questionnaires to candidates, the league forces them to take a stand.

Anyone who read the full page of questions asked by the League of Women Voters of Macon County of persons running for the state legislature and county offices and the candidates' answers, published in the Sunday Herald and Review, is a better

informed voter.

The questions ranged from court reform to legislation controlling subversives, from the size of the county treasurer's office to the election code.

Few of the questions went unanswered. It is difficult for a candidate to dodge the pertinent kind of questions the League of Women Voters always asks.

Every year a greater percentage of the candidates answers the questions. Soon every candidate may be replying to them.

Now that the League of Women Voters is getting the views of candidates on the important issues before the voters, perhaps it should try to work out a way to get candidates to perform on their promises.

Impossible? Never underestimate the power of a woman!

November 27, 1954

Council-Manager, For and Against

OVER the weekend the question whether Decatur should adopt the council-manager form of city government was debated in newspaper interviews and paid advertisements, in radio and television panel discussions, and in brief "spot" appeals to vote for or against the council-manager proposal in Tuesday's referendum election.

On the eve of that election the lines are rather well drawn. Those who favor the change, and those who would keep the present commission form, have expressed their positions in public statements, in letters and in literature circulated through the mails and in door-to-door deliveries.

Those Decatur voters who have not yet made up their minds and who confess that they are "confused" by the claims and counter-claims made by the opposing sides, should stop to consider just who is supporting either side in the controversial discussions.

Important among the advocates of the proposal to change to the council-manager form are:

Mayor Robert E. Willis and former Mayor Charles Lee, experienced and successful in city administration under the commission form.

Community leaders in all fields of endeavor who have served without pay on special committees to study such subjects as the city's water problem and the city employe salary classifications, and as members of non-salaried boards and commissions.

Students of government, including Association of Commerce groups and the League of Women Voters.

Leaders in the opposition to the change to the council-manager form include:

Three commissioners on the present City Council who apparently are chiefly interested in keeping their jobs and their salaries.

Macon County's Labor League for Political Action, a minority labor group.

The Retail Liquor Dealers Association.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:

Your Editorial of November 4th, "City Manager?", implies in the manner and type of question posed, a good deal of misconception about the Council - Manager Form of Government.

1. "A manager who has possibly never visited the city?" the operation of cities throughout the United States is similar in form. Municipal problems are the same problems wherever you go. They vary only in degree according to the size of the city or in acuteness depending on how long the problems has existed unsolved.

There are many men available throughout the U.S., trained by universities in the theory of city operation and who have tested those theories by practical experience as managers or as assistant managers. The fact that the city manager may not know we have a Transfer House before he sets eyes upon it, is not important. The important thing is that he will know the efficient and economical methods by which a city should be run.

School Boards frequently hire superintendents who have never seen the physical lay-out of the schools they are to superintend, but they do know the method of school operation because such operation is similar wherever they go. Industrial plants hire personnel unacquainted with the plant

but who know the particular phase of the work with which they are hired to deal.

2. "A man who will control our money?" The city manager will not have control of city money. The amount of revenue upon which the city will operate will be determined, within the limits of law, by the Council. Council must approve the city budget, pass the appropriation ordinance, and will supervise the spending of that money through monthly reports submitted by the city manager for Council's approval.

3. "Will control—, the police department, fire department?" Control of hiring, promoting and firing is vested in the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners which is a civil service set-up for firemen and policemen. The members of this Board are appointed now, and will be appointed under the Council - Manager Form of Government, by the Mayor, not the city manager. If it fails in its responsibilities, it will be Council's duty to investigate it, not the city manager's.

4. "Also need to hire department superintendents —" Your statement of salaries for department heads, I would presume, is intended to convince people that a city manager would hit Decatur like a tornado, — ousting city employees over night to bring in high priced people. A competent manager will ease his way along, learning to know the people in the city government, the physical lay-out, and the traditional way of doing things. Where he finds efficiency and good operation, he will keep it. It takes time and it costs money to train new people. Where he finds salaries too low for the type of work turned out, he will urge improvement. Advancement in his chosen career depends upon a good showing. Chaos in city government would only hurt his own standing.

5. "A local leader?" No man or woman in the City of Decatur, trained in the theory of city operation or who has had the practical experience of managing an entire city government, has as yet appeared.

6. "7 man council — authority to fix their own salaries." Following a change to the Council-Manager, the practice in Illinois is for the incoming Council to meet with the outgoing Council to set Council salaries. Since the incoming Council, under the Council - Manager Form of Government, is a part-time public serv-

PAGE TWO

LETTERS (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

ice position, salaries are intended to represent no more than out-of-pocket money.

Our present Commissioners have, time and again, demonstrated themselves reasonable men, desirous as all people are, of being commended for their public actions. They are not rascals. There is certainly no reason to assume that the incoming Council would be comprised of rascals. To so imply reflects on the honesty and integrity of every citizen in the city for they are all potential candidates.

7. "Taxes?" We know that current revenue is not enough for our present Commission Form of Government; not because our Commissioners are incompetent men, but because the very structure of the Commission Form of Government is inefficient and expensive. Whether improved methods of operation under the city manager will make our present city revenues adequate is a moot question. It will be proved or disproved only through trying it out.

An increase in some form of taxation, probably other than property, will come shortly if we retain the Commission Form of Government. It may not come until after our 30 year old, inadequate fire equipment breaks down during a disastrous fire, but it will come or we will suffer a further decrease in city services.

Had Peoria citizens petitioned their Council for removal of the added taxes, Council would have responded to majority opinion. They did not so petition and today they are very proud of the fact that Peoria won the 1953 national award from the National Municipal League and Look Magazine as the "All America City."

8. Responsibility for taking control of city government from the people under any form of government, lies not with the form of government, but with the people themselves. If the citizens are indifferent or willfully ignorant of their city government, then control will be vested in those who are interested.

Mrs. Virginia Gibson
160 E. Kellar Lane

Friends, Foes of City Manager in Final Tries

Advocates and opponents of the council-manager form of government got in their last campaign tricks on television and radio last night.

Friends of the Council-Manager Form of Government turned directly to Ashland, Wis. to dispute part of an opponent's contention that this type of government has failed in a "great many" places.

David Beggs III had listed that argument as one of four against council-manager government and cited Ashland as one such city.

Walter Morey of the Friends group, on a later telecast, said he talked by telephone to the Ashland city manager, who said referendums to return to the commission form have been defeated every two years since the council-manager form was adopted in 1948.

Morey quoted the manager as saying the referendums were proposed by "one prominent but disgruntled citizen." Morey added that of 1,200 cities with council-manager government, only about 50 have abandoned it.

Beggs' other arguments were that the council-manager government is contrary to basic democratic principles, that it subjects a city to "a long list of nuisance taxes" without referendum, and that there is no need for the change here.

Beggs' appearance was sponsored by the Friends of Good Government for Decatur.

On the Friends of the Council-Manager program, Mrs. H. W. Gibson asked if the opponents contend that the Legislature is undemocratic, if the courts do not know what democracy is, when they say the proposed form of government is undemocratic.

Beggs said the law does not establish qualifications for the manager. Mrs. Gibson said the law does not set qualifications for commission council members, either.

Finance Commissioner Don F. Davis, in a radio appearance opposing the change, also cited possible nuisance taxes under council manager government and said "we would do well without the extra services if it means added taxes."

Davis contended that in the ad-

ministration of laws there is the most opportunity of favors and the most injustices are done. This power would be in the hands of one man in council-manager government, he said.

On another radio program, Robert Grohne said the commission form attracts to the council professional politicians on the basis of patronage and political influence.

On a council-manager council, he said, a much larger group of community-minded citizens can serve.

Commission councils, Grohne said, base plans on the four-year period between elections. Important problems can be shelved when an election is too near to risk decisions.

Davis, with Rex Cochran, Grohne, J. M. Berulich and Mrs. Bernice Miller, appeared on time allotted by WSOY for a discussion of both sides of the issue.

TV Panel, Ad Bring Sharp Reactions

A television panel discussion and a newspaper advertisement brought sharp reaction yesterday from both supporters and opponents to the council-manager government move.

Two City Council members voiced objections to the label of "obstructionist" pinned on them by Edward Lindsay, editor of Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers, on the Sunday panel.

Health Commissioner Cody R. Holmes called it "one of the biggest lies I believe I've listened to in this campaign," while Street Commissioner Lyle Kirby said he didn't think the term fair.

Lindsay, one of the panel members favoring the change, said the two commissioners, along with Finance Commissioner Don F. Davis, have acted as an obstructionist group within the Council the last 14 months.

Holmes said there have been more improvements in the last 14 months completed than by any other Council.

President Harold Pogue of the Association of Commerce took exception to remarks of Attorney James E. Henson on the panel and to a newspaper advertisement placed yesterday by council-manager opponents.

The advertisement, carrying the names of Davis, Holmes and Kirby, listed several things mentioned in a recent community Thanksgiving luncheon and asked, "With this record of achievement, where is the necessity for a change in the form of your city government?"

Pogue said the advertisement was obviously an attempt to mislead the people by a group trying to take credit for all of Decatur's accomplishments in the past year.

He expressed doubt that the commission government could take credit for new sewers, an alert Association of Commerce, and the fact that the lake didn't go dry.

Pogue said in a letter to Henson that "it will be a sad day for Decatur and its people when we no longer can count on their interest and work in voluntary groups."

Henson, an opposition member on the Sunday night panel, had called for a restriction of the influence of the Association of Commerce and the newspapers in Decatur affairs.

"You as a spokesman for those who would discourage this citizen interest will have to shoulder the responsibility for the disastrous consequences of such a policy, if it is followed," Pogue wrote.

PAGE SIX

THE DECATUR

"The Community Paper"

Voters to Decide Tomorrow

Between the hours of 6 a. m. to 5 p. m. Tuesday Decatur voters will decide whether their city shall continue with the commission form of government or change to the council-manager form.

It is worth considering that the number of cities now having council-manager form of administration is 1,200 and steadily growing while only 800 have commission form and the number is decreasing.

In city after city where students of city administration have thoroughly investigated the several kinds of government, the council-manager type has been acclaimed the most business-like and progressive.

Over the week end there have been discussions on radio and television, advertisements in newspapers, letters to the editor, and direct mail appeals. Outstanding in this barrage is

the opinion of two men who have been head of the Decatur government, Mayor Robert E. Willis and Former Mayor Charles E. Lee. Both say the council-manager type is preferable to the present commission form.

In opposition are three city commissioners who for one thing have their jobs at stake; the Retail Liquor Dealers Association, and Macon County's Labor League for Political Action, a minority labor group.

Most impressive in this campaign is that those groups like the League of Women Voters, who have studied city government, those who have given their time and ability to serve on citizens committees, and those who have investigated cities under both forms of administration, are recommending that the council-manager type of government is the kind of administration that a progressive, growing city like Decatur should have.

Decatur Residents Decide Tomorrow on Form of Government

Polls Open In 44 Precincts From 6 to 5

Decatur voters go to the polls tomorrow to decide whether the city shall change from commission to council-manager government.

The question before voters is: "Shall the City of Decatur, Illinois adopt the managerial form of municipal government?"

A "yes" vote is for city manager, a "no" vote against the change.

Election Facts

Polls will be open from 6 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Map of precincts and list of polling places on page 3.

Qualified Decatur residents who have lived in Illinois a year, Macon County 90 days, and the same precinct 30 days, are eligible to vote.

Registration is not required. All taverns in the city will be closed during voting hours.

How many will vote—and how they will vote—is anybody's guess.

Before the absentee voting deadline Saturday, 127 absentee ballots were cast.

There were 67 absentee votes on the public housing-daylight item referendum, when some 14,300 ballots were cast. There were 172 absentee votes in some 12,000 counted in the tax referendum. There were 320 absentees when some 23,600 voted in the 1951 city general election.

The figures show how the ratio of absentee voting to election balloting varies. An average for the three elections is about 90 votes for each absentee ballot.

That would indicate a vote of only around 11,400 in tomorrow's referendum, but observers expect the total to be higher than that.

Pogue Says Anti-A of C Remarks Were 'Unfortunate'

Association of Commerce President Harold Pogue today made a quick reaction to Attorney James E. Henson's television plea for restriction of "the influence of the Association of Commerce and the newspapers," in Decatur affairs.

Henson's remarks were made yesterday in a TV discussion of a proposed change to council-manager government for Decatur.

In a letter to Henson, Pogue said the remarks were "unfortunate."

"It will be a sad day for Decatur and its people . . . when we no longer can count on their interest and work in voluntary groups," Pogue said.

"If your advice is followed, the Decatur community will be retarded in its growth and in the development of services and improvements . . . You as a spokesman for those who would discourage this citizen interest, will have to shoulder the responsibility for the disastrous consequences of such a policy, if it is followed."

Pogue listed 16 accomplishments which he said were the results of efforts of the A of C, "often in the face of violent opposition." These included Lake Decatur, Lake Shore Drive, the airport, sewage disposal plant and new

TV Talks Give Pros, Cons

City Government Topic for Panel

Friends and foes of council-manager government for Decatur gave their views last night in a television panel discussion.

Speaking against the change were Finance Commissioner Don F. Davis and Attorney James E. Henson. Speaking for it were Edward Lindsay, editor of Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers, and Mrs. H. W. Gibson of the League of Women Voters.

The program was broadcast from station WTVP. Robert L. Shade, station news director, was moderator.

Lindsay and Mrs. Gibson stressed the efficiency of the council-manager form of government, while Davis and Henson pointed

sional approach from someone especially trained in government."

Opponents to Change On Television Tonight

Opponents of council-manager government for Decatur will present their arguments in a television program at 7 p. m. today from station WTVP.

David Beggs, III, spokesman for the group, will be introduced by Donald Jones, Decatur attorney.

The opposition group is organized as the Special Friends of Good Government in Decatur. Beggs said it is a diverse group of local residents who have no common interest except opposition to the council-manager form "at this time." Beggs said representatives of labor, business and the professions are included.

Beggs, a Decatur resident who teaches school at Pana, said the TV program was arranged to allow the organization to present its reasons for urging defeat of the council-manager proposal in tomorrow's referendum.

Page Advertisement Brings Reaction

Leaders of the council-manager movement today took issue with a full-page advertisement placed by Commissioners Cody Holmes, Don Davis and Lyle Kirby under the headline "You cannot argue with success."

Listing things mentioned in the community Thanksgiving luncheon last week, the ad asks, "With this record of achievement, where is the necessity for a change in the form of your city government?"

President Harold Pogue of the Association of Commerce said the ad was "obviously an attempt to mislead the people."

What the council-manager foes were doing, Pogue said, was trying to take credit for all of Decatur's accomplishments in the past year.

"They're saying, in effect, 'these things could not have come without a commission form of government,'" Pogue observed.

He didn't think the commission form could take credit for things like new sewers that brought the Caterpillar plant, an alert Association of Commerce, and the good fortune that Lake Decatur didn't go dry.

The point of the ad, Pogue said, is "entirely erroneous," from the heading right on down. "You can argue with success," he said. "Russia has been pretty successful, and certainly we don't agree with her methods."

Mrs. John Donovan, president of the League of Women Voters, said friends of council-manager

to the accomplishments of the present commission form.

Lindsay characterized the council-manager plan as "a more efficient form of city government" which puts voters in the position of stockholders who select a council which acts as a board of directors and chooses a manager to carry out its policies.

"This is the way nearly every successful organization operates in the United States," he said.

Mrs. Gibson said the League of Women Voters has found the council-manager form "the most efficient, democratic and economical" type of city government.

She said the drive here for a change in government was originated by the League, and not by "the Lindsays, the Association of Commerce or the west end" as council-manager opponents claim.

Davis said activities of the city during the last 20 or 30 years show that it has a modern form of government, not an outmoded one.

Lindsay said the present City Council made a good record during its first two years. But in the last 14 months, he said, Davis and Commissioners Cody R. Holmes and Lyle Kirby have acted as an obstructionist group.

Henson argued that the present Council has done a good job and "differences of opinion on the council are healthy."

"I'm opposed to one-man government," Henson said. "I believe that the power to make all appointments is too much authority for one man."

In closing, Henson called for defeat of the Council-manager proposal and restriction of the "influence of the Association of Commerce and the newspapers."

Council Members Hit 'Obstructionists' Use

Two members of the City Council bristled this morning at being called "obstructionists" during a television debate of the proposed change to council-manager government yesterday.

Health Commissioner Cody R. Holmes said the term, used by Edward Lindsay, editor of Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers, is "one of the biggest lies I believe I've listened to in this campaign."

Street Commissioner Lyle Kirby said, "I don't think it was fair for them to call us that."

In a TV discussion yesterday, Lindsay said that Kirby, Holmes and Finance Commissioner Don F. Davis have acted as an "obstructionist group" within the City Council for the last 14 months.

Kirby charged that the "obstructionist" tag was hung on the group because they are opposed to the proposed change to the council-manager form of government.

"I've always been for the best interests of Decatur," Kirby said. "Never, at no time, have I ever cast a vote against what I think are the best interests of Decatur. I love Decatur."

Kirby said he opposes council-manager government because he "knows personally that it is more costly."

Holmes said "I don't know where Mr. Lindsay gets his opinion that three members of the council have been obstructionist. I believe everyone around this table agrees that we've had more improvements in the last 14 months

The question before voters is: "Shall the City of Decatur, Illinois adopt the managerial form of municipal government?"

A "yes" vote is for city manager, a "no" vote against the change.

Election Facts

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Registration is not required. All taverns in the city will be closed during voting hours.

How many will vote—and how they will vote—is anybody's guess.

Before the absentee voting deadline Saturday, 127 absentee ballots were cast.

There were 67 absentee votes on the public housing-daylight item referendum, when some 14,300 ballots were cast. There were 172 absentee votes in some 12,000 counted in the tax referendum. There were 320 absentees when some 23,600 voted in the 1951 city general election.

The figures show how the ratio of absentee voting to election balloting varies. An average for the three elections is about 90 votes for each absentee ballot.

That would indicate a vote of only around 11,400 in tomorrow's referendum, but observers expect the total to be higher than that.

Pogue Says Anti-A of C Remarks Were 'Unfortunate'

Association of Commerce President Harold Pogue today made a quick reaction to Attorney James E. Henson's television plea for restriction of "the influence of the Association of Commerce and the newspapers," in Decatur affairs.

Henson's remarks were made yesterday in a TV discussion of a proposed change to council-manager government for Decatur.

In a letter to Henson, Pogue said the remarks were "unfortunate."

"It will be a sad day for Decatur and its people . . . when we no longer can count on their interest and work in voluntary groups," Pogue said.

"If your advice is followed, the Decatur community will be retarded in its growth and in the development of services and improvements . . . You as a spokesman for those who would discourage this citizen interest, will have to shoulder the responsibility for the disastrous consequences of such a policy, if it is followed."

Pogue listed 16 accomplishments which he said were the results of efforts of the A of C, "often in the face of violent opposition." These included Lake Decatur, Lake Shore Drive, the airport, sewage disposal plant and new industries.

Mayor, Former Mayor Speak for City Change

Mayor Robert E. Willis yesterday branded as "not true" statements that Decatur has good municipal government.

In a television appearance yesterday, Willis said, "We have heard a good deal about how cheap it is to live in Decatur and about the fine City Council we have," yet "every Councilman has spent the past three years telling the people how cruelly we are limited because we are short of money."

Willis and former Mayor Charles E. Lee discussed tomorrow's council-manager referendum in a broadcast yesterday afternoon from station WTVP.

Willis said complaints from councilmen about limited financing have been silenced recently, but are certain to arise again, either from present Council members, or their successors.

Lee said he thought the council-manager plan permits "a profes-

Schaub Newspapers, and Mrs. H. W. Gibson of the League of Women Voters.

The program was broadcast from station WTVP. Robert L. Shade, station news director, was moderator.

Lindsay and Mrs. Gibson stressed the efficiency of the council-manager form of government, while Davis and Henson pointed

sional approach from someone especially trained in government."

Opponents to Change On Television Tonight

Opponents of council-manager government for Decatur will present their arguments in a television program at 7 p. m. today from station WTVP.

David Beggs, III, spokesman for the group, will be introduced by Donald Jones, Decatur attorney.

The opposition group is organized as the Special Friends of Good Government in Decatur. Beggs said it is a diverse group of local residents who have no common interest except opposition to the council-manager form "at this time." Beggs said representatives of labor, business and the professions are included.

Beggs, a Decatur resident who teaches school at Pana, said the TV program was arranged to allow the organization to present its reasons for urging defeat of the council-manager proposal in tomorrow's referendum.

Page Advertisement Brings Reaction

Leaders of the council-manager movement today took issue with a full-page advertisement placed by Commissioners Cody Holmes, Don Davis and Lyle Kirby under the headline "You cannot argue with success."

Listing things mentioned in the community Thanksgiving luncheon 1 week, the ad asks, "With this record of achievement, where is the necessity for a change in the form of your city government?"

President Harold Pogue of the Association of Commerce said the ad was "obviously an attempt to mislead the people."

What the council-manager foes were doing, Pogue said, was trying to take credit for all of Decatur's accomplishments in the past year.

"They're saying, in effect, 'these things could not have come without a commission form of government,'" Pogue observed.

He didn't think the commission form could take credit for things like new sewers that brought the Caterpillar plant, an alert Association of Commerce, and the good fortune that Lake Decatur didn't go dry.

The point of the ad, Pogue said, is "entirely erroneous," from the heading right on down. "You can argue with success," he said, "Russia has been pretty successful, and certainly we don't agree with her methods."

Mrs. John Donovan, president of the League of Women Voters, said friends of council-manager "have never argued that we don't have good government.

out its policies.

"This is the way nearly every successful organization operates in the United States," he said.

Mrs. Gibson said the League of Women Voters has found the council-manager form "the most efficient, democratic and economical" type of city government.

She said the drive here for a change in government was originated by the League, and not by "the Lindsays, the Association of Commerce or the west end" as council-manager opponents claim.

Davis said activities of the city during the last 20 or 30 years show that it has a modern form of government, not an outmoded one.

Lindsay said the present City Council made a good record during its first two years. But in the last 14 months, he said, Davis and Commissioners Cody R. Holmes and Lyle Kirby have acted as an obstructionist group.

Henson argued that the present Council has done a good job and "differences of opinion on the council are healthy."

"I'm opposed to one-man government," Henson said. "I believe that the power to make all appointments is too much authority for one man."

In closing, Henson called for defeat of the Council-manager proposal and restriction of the "influence of the Association of Commerce and the newspapers."

Council Members Hit 'Obstructionists' Use

Two members of the City Council bristled this morning at being called "obstructionists" during a television debate of the proposed change to council-manager government yesterday.

Health Commissioner Cody R. Holmes said the term, used by Edward Lindsay, editor of Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers, is "one of the biggest lies I believe I've listened to in this campaign."

Street Commissioner Lyle Kirby said, "I don't think it was fair for them to call us that."

In a TV discussion yesterday, Lindsay said that Kirby, Holmes and Finance Commissioner Don F. Davis have acted as an "obstructionist group" within the City Council for the last 14 months.

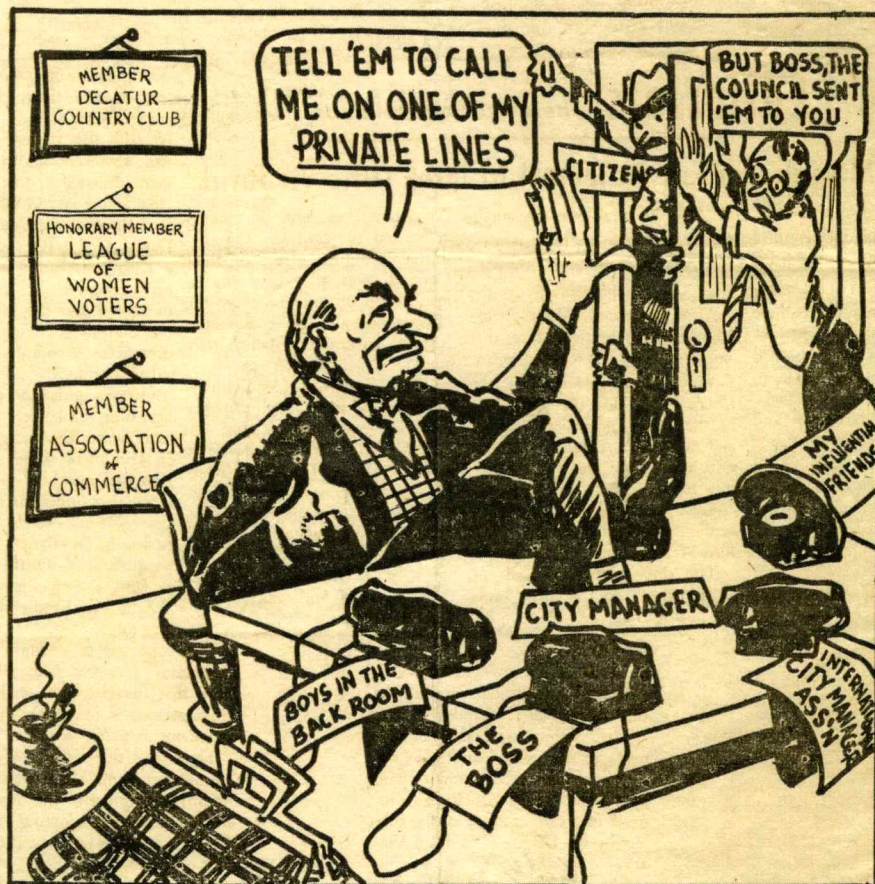
Kirby charged that the "obstructionist" tag was hung on the group because they are opposed to the proposed change to the council-manager form of government.

"I've always been for the best interests of Decatur," Kirby said. "Never, at no time, have I ever cast a vote against what I think are the best interests of Decatur. I love Decatur."

Kirby said he opposes council-manager government because he "knows personally that it is more costly."

Holmes said "I don't know where Mr. Lindsay gets his opinion that three members of the council have been obstructionist. I believe everyone around this table agrees that we've had more improvements in the last 14 months completed than any other Council."

THE BIG BOSS!



Vote 'NO' Nov. 30th

DECATUR HERALD



Government Forms Discussed by TV Panel

This was the scene last night in the WTVP television studio during a panel discussion on the council-manager form of

government. Left to right are Edward Lindsay and Mrs. H. W. Gibson, who spoke in favor of the change to council-man-

ager government; Moderator Bob Shade, and Finance Commissioner Don F. Davis and Attorney James E. Henson, who

represented the opposition.

(Herald and Review Photo)

Editorials: These Are Our Opinions

Council-Manager Plan Rejected in First Time Around

AMONG the reasons offered in explanation of the 2 to 1 rejection of the Council-manager form of government for Decatur in Tuesday's referendum, two are outstanding:

1. Decatur has been blessed with good city administration in recent years under the commission form of government and many voters asked: Why change?

2. Opponents of the proposal to change over to a council-manager form, with a policy making Council and a hired city manager as administrator, were able to cultivate an effective tax scare.

Discussion of the comparative merits of the council-manager and

commission forms was discouraged in a storm of personalities, extraneous issues and irresponsible charges, particularly in the field of taxation. Voters were frightened by threats of taxes that might someday be proposed.

Since three members of the Council who led the opposition to the council-manager proposal are expected to seek re-election next spring, they have an obligation to provide the kind of government that will justify the faith of those who supported their view in the referendum.

The three were accused of "obstruction" on the City Council during the last 14 months.

Now that they are no longer compelled to consider the immediate political effect of their Council votes, they have an immediate opportunity to prove the effectiveness of the commission form of government, which they prefer.

Those groups and individuals who believe the council-manager form of government is best for cities the size of Decatur have lost a first skirmish. They have learned a lot. They will try again in due season, encouraged by the historical record which shows that Decatur noisily rejects a good idea when it is first proposed and then, in calm and sober mood, embraces it.

its policies.

"This is the way nearly every successful organization operates in the United States," Lindsay said.

Mrs. Gibson said the council-manager form was found to be the "most efficient, democratic and economical" type of city government in a careful study of the subject by the League of Women Voters.

She said the movement for the change in government here was fostered by the League and not by "the Lindsays, the Association of Commerce or the west end" as council-manager opponents claim.

ning to insure "orderly ent of residential, com-nd industrial areas."

iy said the present city made some outstanding ac-ments during its first two; that in the last 14 months y of the council, Commis-Davis, Cody R. Holmes e Kirby, has acted as an onist group.

in argued that the present has done a good job and ifferences of opinion on cil are healthy."

and taxes under the coun-ger form also were used ents against the change.

on said there is no assur-t council members' salaries any lower under the coun-ger system because there strictions on salaries.

so questioned whether De-n find a "superman city" who can handle all ad-tive duties.

"I'm opposed to one-man gov-ernment," Henson said. "I be-lieve that the power to make all appointments is too much authori-ty for one man."

Davis said that under the coun-cil-manager form there would be nothing to prevent the manager and council from adopting various "nuisance" taxes without the con-sent of the voters.

Mrs. Gibson answered Davis' comment by saying that a referen-dum would still be necessary to in-crease any of the major taxes.

In their closing remarks Hen-son called for defeat of the coun-cil-manager proposal and restric-tion of "the influence of the As-sociation of Commerce and the newspapers," and Lindsay point-ed out that the city's accomplish-ments in recent years have been based on the work of citizens' committees, "many of them Asso-ciation of Commerce committees."

January 9, 1955



Dr. Royden Dangerfield

Dangerfield Is Speaker

Dr. Royden Dangerfield, director of the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs, will speak at a Thursday luncheon meeting of the Decatur League of Women Voters in the Decatur Club.

Dr. Dangerfield will discuss "What World Trade Means To You" as the opening activity of a League trade survey. The Decatur group has assumed responsibility for the survey in the 22nd Congressional District. It will cooperate with other League groups in Champaign, Lincoln and Mattoon.

The actual survey will begin later, probably a few weeks from now.

Dr. Dangerfield has studied in Switzerland and England and served government and military organizations in the Far East and Europe. In addition he is author of several books and articles on history, economics, political science and trade.

The Thursday luncheon at 1 p. m. in the Decatur Club is open to both men and women of the community. Reservations for luncheon should be made Mrs. James W. Hurley, 15 Main St., by Tuesday. Tickets are \$1.50 each.

January 16, 1955

PEOs Have Women Voters And Scandinavian Programs

BC Chapter of PEO will meet at 1:30 p. m. Monday in the home of Mrs. R. E. Greenfield, 288 S. Westlawn Ave. Mrs. John Donovan will be in charge of the program entitled "The League of Women Voters and the Community." Mrs. William Winn will assist. A tea will follow.

January 16, 1955

'World Trade Survey' Is Topic For Women Voters Unit Study

"World Trade Survey" will be the topic for unit meetings of the League of Women Voters this week. The discussions are in connection with Dr. Royden Dangerfield's talk for the League on world trade at a luncheon last Thursday in the Decatur Club.

Mrs. E. L. Simmons, 610 Southmoreland Pl. will be hostess to a League meeting at 1:30 p. m. Thursday. Mrs. H. J. Pettee and Mrs. R. E. Greenfield are on the committee.

Mrs. Walter Morey and Mrs. Arthur Adelman are in charge of the unit meeting at 9:30 a. m. Wednesday in the YMCA. Another group will meet at 7:30 p.m.

January 2, 1955

Contesting Candidates in Tuesday's County, District and State Primaries

Decatur Voters Reject Council-Manager Form For City Government

Democrats Tangney, Alsop Peebles Win County Posts

Decatur Rejects

Macon County Democratic

Springer Wins By 25,000

Heavy Morning Turnout Reported In Primary Vote

Editorials: These Are Our Opinions

U.S. Senate, Legislature and Sheriff Races Hold County Primary Spotlight



Are You 'For' or 'Against' a Change?

FOR the establishment of a community unit school district with authority to levy taxes at the rate of 1.50 per cent for educational purposes and .25 per cent for building purposes and the purchase of school grounds.

AGAINST the establishment of a community unit school district with authority to levy taxes at 1.50 per cent for educational purposes and .25 per cent for building purposes and the purchase of school grounds.

Decatur's Special School Charter Faces Test at Polls

School Board Vote Light in Noon Report

Canvass to Decide Demo Sheriff Race

hool Charter Wednesday

the Big Vote

Polls Six Times in 1954

usual strong resistance to tax increases. They turned down both measures. The maintenance tax proposal was defeated 2,955 to 1,802, and the swimming pool idea, 3,510 to 1,308, or about three to one.

have affected Decatur's form of government. The proposition was: "Shall the city of Decatur adopt the managerial form of municipal government?" Opponents of the Council-

Here We Go Again

Editor, The Herald and Review: Recalling South Shores Sam's interest in the County Bridge project a couple of years ago, I wonder if we might have some information on the progress of the Nelson Park bridge. How soon, Oh Lord, how soon? I understand we could get to town by way of Lost Bridge. But I can't find it. Decatur Nelson Park Neil

Your newspaper either (1) did not do a good job of reporting. If (1) then the state's attorney has a duty to do. If (2) then there should be a retraction. Decatur, R. 8 Adam Smith

TV Checks Pollio?

ABSENCE

Editor, The Herald and Review: All statistics gathered to date show that the most intelligent families are the smallest, while the least intelligent are the largest. Could this be a contributing cause in the increase of crime and juvenile delinquency in the past few years? Harrisburg, Pa. G. C. Miller

Size of Families

On the domestic front, labor legislation is always good for a hassle and next year should be no exception, with the Democrats again in control of Congress. It will be a three-phase battle at least. Phase I—Whether or not to revise the Taft-Hartley labor law. Phase II—Whether or not to raise the minimum wage above the present 75-cents-an-hour level. Phase III—Whether to increase unemployment insurance payments and broaden coverage. A special task force under ex-President Herbert Hoover's Commission on Reorganization of Government will submit its report on this subject early next year. At stake here is the problem of how big or how small the federal government's role should be in public power and reclamation developments. Trying to make the Post Office Department self-supporting by raising postal rates enough to cover mail handling costs will bring the usual resistance from pressure groups that want subsidized service. There is never a dull moment in sight for the New Year in Washington. Jean Burden in the New York Times

Along with this and the consideration of the foreign military assistance program, Sen. William F. Knowland may have a chance to get in his suggested complete reappraisal of American foreign policy. The Democrats would probably help him. On the domestic front, labor legislation is always good for a hassle and next year should be no exception, with the Democrats again in control of Congress. It will be a three-phase battle at least. Phase I—Whether or not to revise the Taft-Hartley labor law. Phase II—Whether or not to raise the minimum wage above the present 75-cents-an-hour level. Phase III—Whether to increase unemployment insurance payments and broaden coverage.

Women Voters: More Home Rule Needed

The Decatur League of Women Voters believes Decatur should have more home rule.

This opinion was formed on the basis of a study conducted last spring and summer on the physical and fiscal structure of Decatur's commission government to determine if more home rule could help solve its problems.

Whether the League will throw its weight behind a move in the Legislature this spring to give more home rule to Illinois cities has not been decided.

The time may not be ripe, the League feels, and legislation offered on the problem may not be adequate or at all satisfactory.

"Home rule" for cities, as defined by the League, means that the cities control their own affairs subject only to broad constitutional and statutory regulations.

Purely municipal affairs would be left to Decatur citizens alone. Legislators from Chicago or Cairo or Peoria would not have to worry about making laws which would apply to Decatur.

This is just what happens under the present law, the League points out, because the Legislature is responsible for uniform legislation to cover all cities in the state. Such laws are complicated, difficult to understand and almost always contain sections that are not applicable to all cities; yet the entire law must be obeyed by all.

How has the direct legislative action of the General Assembly hurt Decatur?

These are the ways listed by the

League:

Increasing of police and fire salaries without providing a method of raising the extra money.

Setting of an unrealistic 2½ per cent debt limitation that has forced creation of two extra districts—the Park and Sanitary Districts—in Decatur

Creating of special funds with earmarked money which has resulted in a rigidity of city operation

Usurpation of control of taxable items by the Legislature

Requiring that appropriations be within 10 per cent of actual cost on motor fuel tax money preventing an overall survey of budgetary operations at the beginning of the year

Requiring that appropriated funds may not be shifted between departments, resulting in unbusinesslike rigidity of budget

Not allowing cities to initiate annexation proceedings where it seems desirable

On the other hand, the League points out, the state does not give help to the cities in areas where it probably should.

It could do service by formulating uniform audit reports and requiring that cities submit audits upon such reports so that comparisons could be made between city operations figures.

It could require townships and counties to set up codes like the cities on health, safety and beauty

so that when adjacent areas are annexed they do not present almost insurmountable problems to the city.

It could define clearly areas belonging under state or local control and those falling under joint

control.

The advantages the League of Women Voters feel would be gained by Decatur under home rule are these:

The city could choose any form of government suited to its needs without restriction of artificial standards set by the Assembly.

It would not have to wait for Assembly grants of authority to start needed new municipal enterprises.

Duties and responsibilities of those in authority would be clarified.

Most responsible officials could be secured since the responsibility for local affairs could no longer be charged to the Legislature.

It would stimulate more local citizen interest in city affairs.

It would result in less ambiguity in the state laws.

It would give legislators more time to consider matters of general statewide importance.

Members of the League committee which worked on the problem and wrote the report recently submitted are:

Mrs. H. W. Gibson, chairman
Mrs. Floyd Birt
Mrs. Gerald Cox
Mrs. John Donovan
Mrs. Eugene Dorsey
Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt
Mrs. Charles Griffin
Mrs. J. W. Hurley
Mrs. Berley Lupton
Mrs. Percy Lupton
Mrs. Ardie Morris
Mrs. C. M. Nicholson
Mrs. Fred Schudel
Mrs. A. C. Tick
Mrs. William Winn
Mrs. John DeBoice

January 16, 1955

February 2, 1955

League to Ask Candidates' Views On Water Supply, Revenue, Home Rule

The League of Women Voters has asked mayor and commissioner candidates to discuss water supply policies, city revenue or home rule at the Feb. 17 candidates' meeting.

Each of those seeking nomination for mayor or commissioner will have five minutes in which to outline his platform. Police magistrate candidates have also been invited to appear on the platform.

Dr. Daniel Gage of Millikin University will be the moderator.

There are three candidates for mayor, 18 for commissioner and four for police magistrate.

Under the water supply topic, the League has outlined the major points in the program now under way. Candidates have been asked if they think these policies are adequate, or whether they should be changed.

The second discussion point asks if city revenues are adequate to take care of proposed salary increases for city employees, open three fire stations and replace old equipment, and increase the number of police.

Other items in the revenue section are to clean, maintain and extend sewers, finance the five-year street program and alleviate present parking problems.

The candidates were then asked if they favor increasing revenues, and if so, by what forms of taxation; or whether they would do nothing about the revenue situation.

Under the home rule question, they have been asked if they believed detailed legislative and administrative control of cities should be vested in the General Assembly.

If not, the League wants to know what phases of local administration could be more effectively handled if city officials had a freer hand.

February 3, 1955

A Look At City Primary Candidates

It is true that some men make a better first impression than others.

Few employers would consider hiring a man for a responsible job on the strength of a five-minute interview. A longer acquaintanceship with some knowledge of background and work record seems desirable.

Decatur voters will be able to get a better look at city primary candidates when they appear in the high school auditorium on Feb. 17.

The candidates are invited by the League of Women Voters, which for the last several years has done the community a real service by sponsoring these pre-election meetings.

Each candidate will be given five minutes in which to outline his views on water supply policy, city revenue, home rule and other important local issues.

On the basis of these answers, Decatur voters may secure help in making up their minds as to the most desirable nominees for mayor, commissioners and police magistrate.

This five-minute appearance, together with other information concerning individual candidates which will be available during the primary campaign, will help guide voters who want to elect the best possible City Council to run Decatur for the next four years.

Decatur citizens interested in good government owe it to themselves to attend this meeting.

February 6, 1955



Mrs. Thelma Entler, occupational therapist at Decatur and Macon County Hospital, shows some patient handcraft work

to members of the League of Women Voters who toured various welfare and health agencies today. Mrs. Ayrle Morris, chairman of the welfare com-

mittee, is next to Mrs. Entler and Mrs. John Donovan, president of the League, is third from left in the front row.

(Herald and Review Photo)

Voters League Makes Tour

Twenty-four members of the League of Women Voters today were touring Decatur's family, dependency, and some of the health agencies.

The tour was sponsored by the Council of Social Agencies. Robert L. Harlan, assistant executive secretary, escorted the party.

This morning they visited the Illinois Public Aid Commission, Decatur and Macon County Hospital and the Community Clinics, and the Salvation Army. At the Salvation Army, where the group stopped for lunch, representatives of Family Service and Catholic Charities explained their programs.

This afternoon the group was to visit the Day Nursery and the Girls Welfare Home.

Later tours will be arranged for other Decatur agencies.

Robert L. Staley, executive secretary of the council, pointed out that the council conducts a continuing study of the agencies' programs and finances and coordinates activities.

Decatur, according to Staley, is the smallest city to have a Community Clinics; is the smallest city to have an adequate Day Nursery program, and that few cities of Decatur's size have either a boys home or girls home, while Decatur has both.

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Decatur citizens interested in good government owe it to themselves to attend this meeting.

February 7, 1955



League Plans Candidates' Meeting

Mrs. William R. Winn (left) chairman, and Mrs. Thomas McCracken of the League of Women Voters meet with Dr. Daniel Gage, professor of history at Millikin University, who will

be moderator for the League's candidates' meeting Feb. 17 at Decatur High School. Other committee members are Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt, Mrs. H. W. Gibson, Mrs. James W. Hurley

Mrs. T. L. Hurst, Mrs. Nat Kessler, Mrs. Perely Lupton, Mrs. Ayrle Morris and Mrs. S. Schudel.

(Herald and Review Photo)

February 10, 1955

Candidates To Give Views On 3 Issues

Candidates in the March 1 city primary election will be on display next week at a public meeting arranged by the League of Women Voters.

The candidates will be asked to present their ideas on three major city problems: Water supply, city revenue and home rule. They also will be asked to answer questions submitted by the audience.

The meeting is set for 8:15 p. m. Feb. 17 in the Decatur High School auditorium. Mrs. William Winn, chairman of the meeting, said 22 of the 25 candidates have promised to be present.

Each mayor and commissioner candidate will be allotted five minutes to outline his platform. Police magistrate candidates will be introduced, but will not speak. Dr. Daniel J. Gage, history professor at Millikin University, will be moderator.

After the speaking, questions submitted by the audience will be put to the candidates. The questions will be written on blanks provided on the program. A committee of League of Women Voters members will screen the questions, Mrs. Winn said, to weed out the inappropriate ones.

The audience also will answer some questions. The League has prepared a questionnaire asking what methods are preferred for increasing the city's income. The choices are:

- Increasing property taxes
- Increasing water rates
- Increasing liquor license fees
- Adding a city sales tax
- Adding a wheel tax
- Adding a cigaret tax.

The Woodrow Wilson Junior High School band will provide music before the program begins.

When Candidates Face the Voters

THE League of Women Voters is one of the few organizations in the country interested primarily in presenting non-partisan forums in which opposing candidates for public office are given a chance to face the voters and express themselves on the issues of the moment.

Candidates welcome this opportunity to present their individual cases. This is direct selling — the most impressive kind — and any thoughtful, sincere candidate should be prepared to deliver.

Such a meeting will be held on March 11 in the Decatur High School auditorium under the sponsorship of the Macon County League of Women Voters. Democratic and Republican county, district and state candidates are invited.

They will be asked to comment on the issues of the moment. Candidates will

Water, Decatur. Phone 43

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DAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1955

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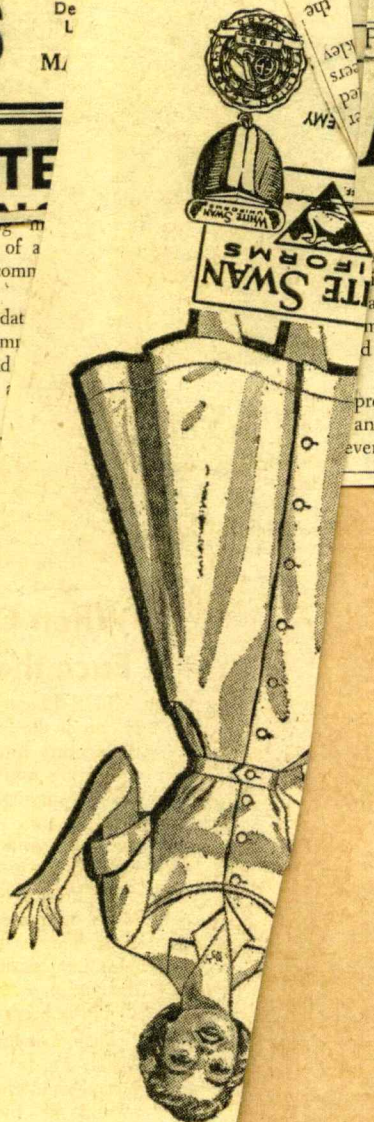
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Meeting Tonight

Primary Candidates Will Appear To Give Views

The League of Women Voters of Decatur are having its seventh meeting tonight at Decatur High School auditorium to hear the viewpoints of primary candidates for mayor and commissioner. The meeting will begin 8:15 and is open to the public. Twenty-one of the candidates running in the March 1 primary will appear. Dr. Daniel Gage will serve as moderator.

Each candidate will be given five minutes to discuss one of the questions which were put earlier to the candidates by the League.

1. Do you believe the water policy set up for the next 30 years is adequate or would you modify it in any way?

The League outlined the ten-year water policy as: gates on Lake Decatur dam, expansion of the water treatment plant, ponding of water behind second dam, and other retails of thirty year policy to insure adequate water supply for Decatur.

2. Do you believe that present city revenues are adequate?

(a) take care of all proposed salary increases for city employees.

(b) open the three closed fire stations, equip and man them as well as replace the present year old fire equipment.

(c) Increase the membership of our police department to insure adequate city coverage.

(d) Clean, maintain and expand our system of sewer main laterals.

(e) Finance our present street program to insure adequate streets and subways to keep traffic moving.

(f) Alleviate our present parking problems.

The question further asked the candidates, "If you do not believe that present city revenues cover the above items, what forms of taxation should be added to increase the city revenue, or should nothing be done about the above items."

3. Do you believe that the legislative and administrative control of cities should be in the General Assembly? If so, what phases of city administration do you feel would be handled more efficiently if city officials had a freer hand?

This question regards "h



Decatur, Illinois, Friday, February 18, 1955.

THE DECA

Voters Hear Decatur Candidates

Wide Variance Offered
By Meeting Speakers

By Bill Hinds
Of The Review Staff

Voters were offered a wide range of choices last night as mayor and commissioner candidates gave their views on running the city.

All three mayor candidates and 16 of 18 commissioner candidates spoke at the League of Women Voters meeting in the Decatur High School auditorium. About 300 persons attended.

Taxes and water supply were the two problems most often mentioned by the candidates. Answers to the money problem ranged from a sales tax and city income tax to "we have enough money now". Ideas on water supply included continuing the present program and "going up north and catch



toilets can't afford inside plumbing."

To Homer L. Chastain, candidate for re-election as commissioner: How soon will we get water in Forest Knolls? Answer: "Spring."

To Enoch Pinkston, commissioner candidate: Who will finance the parking building? Answer: "I have a financier willing to build it and municipal auditorium, too, after he gets his money back at a small rate of interest he'll turn over to the city. The interest would be 4 per cent."

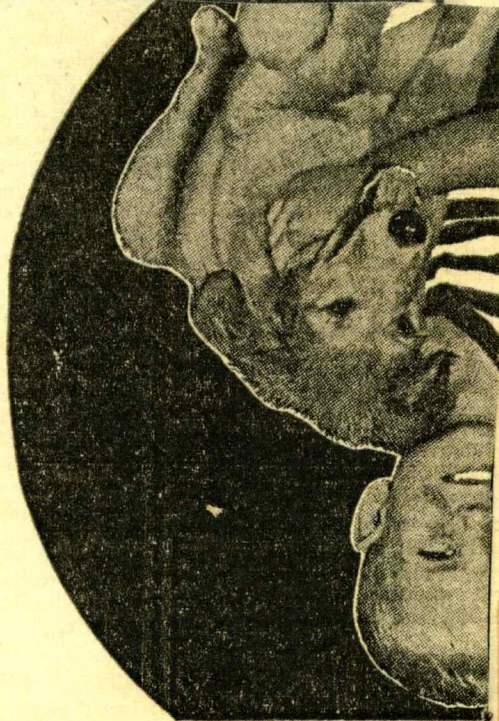
Magistrate Hopfuls There

Three of the four candidate police magistrate appeared on stage at the meeting of city candidates last night in Decatur High School Auditorium. They at

will be buried Saturday in the J. J. M. Sons chapel with burial in the Owaneco Cemetery. Fr

AND, IT WAS A

"OH BOY!
MY BUDDY
IS HOME
AGAIN..."



BROWNIE		Form Doors \$13.50	5 Sec.—Complete with Hardware	Garage Doors \$53.50
		White Pine 1 1/8" thick	\$15.00	
COAL • FUEL OIL				

February 15, 1955

City Candidates Give Platform Ideas

The three candidates for mayor and 18 for city commissioner nominations in the March 1 city primary are given a chance here to state briefly some of their platform ideas.

Commissioner candidates have also designated their preference in department assignment if elected. Where there is more than one preference, the first listed is usually the first choice.

The candidates also are expected to give some of their views at a meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters in the Decatur High School auditorium at 8:15 p.m. Thursday.

Mayor Candidates

Don F. Davis

Finance Commissioner Don F. Davis, completing his first term on the City Council, has called for further economies and continuation of programs started by the present Council.

He includes in these programs water supply, off-street parking, street and railroad grade separations. He also feels that a knowledge of city finances, current needs and problems are necessary for the office.

Davis advocates sanitary lateral and storm sewer programs, improved public relations, centralized purchasing, civil service for city employees, identification of all city cars and social security for city workers (this would need enabling legislation).

In addition to further economies, Davis says that additional revenues must be found to increase fire and police department personnel.

Roy F. Morville

Roy F. Morville intends to carry through the plans for two new grade separations. He says he would make some personnel changes in the police department and make the force larger and better.

He believes a candidate's views on finances can't be completely formulated until he gets in office and has a chance to study them.

In view of the success of the municipal parking lot, he believes the city should have more of them downtown. Taxes, he says, will eventually have to be raised if the city is to perform added services.

Clarence A. Sablotny

Clarence A. Sablotny, former

county treasurer, endorses the City Council's water supply program and the advisory committee's recommendations for future developments.

He says the Grand and Garfield grade separations must be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible. Among major street developments should be widening and improving Broadway from Pershing Road to Lake Shore Drive.

Sablotny says the need for downtown parking is urgent. He favors the program now underway and believes its progress should not be slowed by "quibbling over unimportant details."

He says it is ridiculous to pretend the city can meet its lack of firemen and policemen without an increase in revenue. He will study various means of obtaining revenue and present factors on which the people can make a decision.

While differences of opinion are bound to occur among members of any City Council, Sablotny thinks a frank and straightforward approach can settle these differences in a beneficial way.

Commissioner Candidates

James L. Atkins

James L. Atkins (health, street) believes at least a four-story structure should be built on the city parking lot to provide more downtown parking.

He favors continuation of present plans for the water supply program, possibly with a second dam and waterworks for emergencies and expansion, and carrying out the grade separation program.

Atkins thinks a more modern traffic control system is needed and that police and fire departments should be brought to full strength. Like past City Councils, he would be governed to a large degree by recommendations of civic committees and competent engineering firms.

Charles E. Buckley

Charles E. Buckley (street) says one of the city's needs is a shake-up of the police department which he describes as "one of the most discourteous in Illinois." He also advocates enlarging the department by about five men. At least two of the closed firehouses should be re-opened, he says. He believes that raising the Lake Decatur Dam should be postponed and priority

given to building another dam upstream from the present lake. For parking relief, he believes that private capital, especially downtown stores, should participate.

Homer L. Chastain

Commissioner Homer L. Chastain (water) has said he is primarily interested in re-election to continue the water supply program recommended by the citizens advisory committee. He favors the bond issue for grade separations, a street program generally following recommendations in the Lochner report, and the present off-street parking plans. The new City Council, he says, should continue to hold expenses down and seek all possible means of additional revenue so that fire and police protection can be improved.

Carl L. Cordes

Carl L. Cordes (prefers at this time not to state his choice of departments) favors dredging Lake Decatur to increase its storage capacity and advocates another dam in the Rea's Bridge vicinity. He wants more off-street parking downtown, financed by private capital. Although he personally looks with disfavor on daylight time, he says it should be decided upon by the public in a referendum. He says the city must seek other sources of revenue besides property taxes.

Matthew O. Finnegan

Matthew O. Finnegan (health) thinks that the city should operate its own garbage collection service when this is financially possible. He favors multi-story structures for downtown parking, developed through private capital.

He believes the city must have more revenue and that a city sales or income tax would be the most equitable source, though he would have no objection to a cigaret tax. He also wants to increase the strength of the fire and police departments, and reopen as many fire stations as possible.

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Herbert E. Hill

Herbert E. Hill (street) backs present water supply plans, including two more reservoirs eventually. Some means must be found to restore fire and police services which have been eliminated. Streets and alleys should be cleaner. Hill would work in harmony with other commissioners, although it might at times result adversely for his own department. Strict economies should be observed in all departments, he says.

Cody R. Holmes

Commissioner Cody R. Holmes (health) says the city definitely must have more revenue, that present general fund income has been spread as thin as possible. He favors a half-cent city sales tax over a cigaret tax or other such taxes because the sales tax would be shared equally by all and because relatively small levies on each person would result in a large income. With additional revenues, Holmes would reopen as many fire stations as possible. He would impose new taxes only after they have been approved by referendum.

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Paul H. Kalem (health) advocates free garbage disposal service as a means of improving the cleanliness of the city.

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Forest L. Kirby (streets) has called for an adequate long range street program for a rapidly expanding city, adequate water and sewer facilities for industrial and residential use, more city or privately owned parking lots, and subways at high traffic count points to relieve traffic tie-ups and provide a higher safety standard.

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February 13, 1955

WOMEN VOTERS

League Units Study Structure Of Welfare Services

League of Women Voters will have unit meetings this week with the subject for discussion "Structure of Welfare Services in Decatur and Macon County." The League welfare committee with Mrs. Ayrle Morris as chairman has completed a survey of the structure of both our public and private welfare services.

Reports on this survey illustrated with visual aids will be given Wednesday at 9:30 a. m. at the YMCA and at 7:30 p. m. in the Decatur Public Library. The Thursday afternoon unit meeting has been cancelled due to the League's candidate meeting on that night.

Committee members reporting on public welfare agencies will be Mrs. Thomas McCracken and Mrs. Donald Lambka. Reporting on private agencies will be Mrs. Ralph Frederickson, Mrs. E. B. Freyfogle and Mrs. Herbert Lord Jr.

Mrs. Kirby Riley will report on related welfare services such as those sponsored by churches, schools and service clubs. The discussion leader will be Mrs. Ayrle Morris.

February 17, 1955

17 Candidates Talk Tonight

Three mayor candidates and 14 candidates for commissioner will appear tonight at a League of Women Voters meeting in the Decatur High School Auditorium.

Each speaker will be given five minutes to state his qualifications and air his views on water supply, home rule and ways to increase the city's revenue. After all have spoken, there will be a half-hour period of questions by the audience.

The meeting will begin at 8:15 p. m. Dr. Daniel Gage, head of Millikin University's history department, will be moderator.

Four candidates for police magistrate will appear on the stage tonight, but will not speak.

Tonight's list of speakers represents all the mayor candidates and all but four of the commissioner candidates.

February 17, 1955

Chance to Size Up Decatur Candidates

At 8:15 p. m. today in the Decatur High School auditorium, candidates for nomination to city offices in the March 1 primary will present themselves, their qualifications and their opinions to the voters.

The size of the field—three candidates for mayor and 18 for commissioner—limits the public "interview" to five minutes for

each candidate. But this introduction will afford Decatur voters a chance to size up the men who want to run the city government for the next four years.

The League of Women Voters is doing a public service by sponsoring this meeting. The candidates are bidding for responsible jobs, and responsible citizens will want to hear what they have to say.

many are given a chance here to state briefly some of their platform ideas.

Commissioner candidates have also designated their preference in department assignment if elected. Where there is more than one preference, the first listed is usually the first choice.

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PENNEY'S

ALWAYS FIRST QUALITY!

you're wa

when you buy on Penney's

L

Perfect for Spring . . .

Men's Flannel Suits

\$35

A quality suit for smart men embodying the latest up-to-the-minute fashion styling. The Spring forecast gives these suits the Number One spot. In light blue, tan and grey. Sizes 34-44 in regulars, shorts and longs.

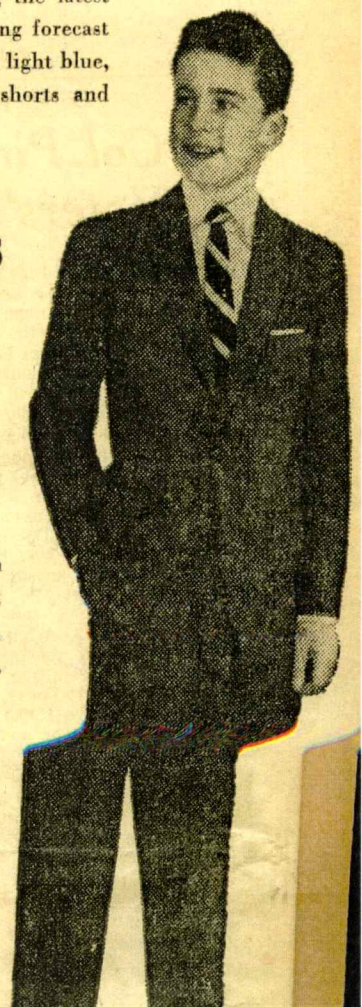
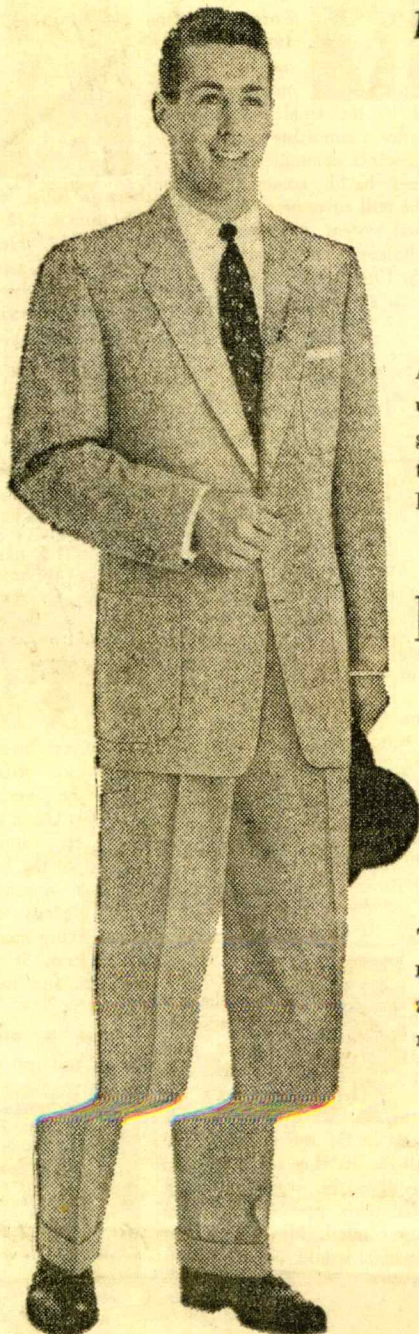
Street Floor

Mix Match Trios for Boys

24⁷⁵

Two outfits in one! Smart dark splash ripple rayon-acetate sheen matching-suit and light contrasting slacks. Trim 2-button model in navy, brown, others. Sizes 10-20.

Basement
Basement



Pictures, Sketches of Candidates in

To aid Decatur voters in knowing the candidates seeking election in Tuesday's primary election, these "thumb-nail" biographies are offered.

Most of the material contained in the sketches was supplied by the candidates themselves. In some cases further research was made by The Herald and Review.

For Mayor

Don F. Davis, 43, is completing his first term as city finance commissioner and seeks the office of mayor. He has been employed in the finance office since 1940 when he was named assistant city clerk. He was city clerk



from 1943 sioner in l of Fredoni in Decatur high school education. has not l fairs. He a daughter Harrison

Roy F his first



erates a his hom houn St children entire sewer system should be He atte under the jurisdiction of one Gordo High where has no of eith

Clar former



his first bid for election to a city office. A native of Decatur, Sablotny has been associ-

Homer L. Chastain, 52, is completing his first full term as commissioner, although he served a year previous under an appointment to fill a vacancy. As water commissioner, he has helped plan the raising of Lake Decatur



and remodeling the waterworks. He favors continuing present city council policies. He is a professional engineer and was associated with his own firm until a year ago. He was born and educated in Kansas and came to Decatur in 1926. He and Mrs. Chastain live at 1015 W. Forest Ave. They have three daughters. Chastain is a Republican.

Carl L. Cordes, 50, is a partner in the B&C Garage and has been a resident of Decatur since 1928. His pres-



service during World War I. In his campaign, he says the city must have more revenue and favors a half-cent sales tax rather than a cigaret tax. He and Mrs. Holmes live at 2227 N. Water St. and have two married daughters, one in Decatur and one in Alaska.

Paul H. Kalem, 45, a plant employe of the A. E. Staley Mfg. Company, is making his fourth try for a City Council post. If elected, he would prefer the health department. In 1947, he won one of the eight nominations but failed in the final election. He was once a candidate for Republican precinct committeeman. If he becomes health commissioner he says he will advocate a free garbage disposal system operated by the city. Kalem is married and lives at 759 S. 19th St.



Frank P. Peck, 64, is a Decatur Township constable seeking elec-

tion as street commissioner. Peck, who has been active in the local Republican organization, was re-elected to a second term as constable in 1953. He was born in Joliet and has lived in Decatur, at 1224 E. Whitmer St. since 1922. He is a veteran of world War I, serving as a motor instructor and later flying instructor in the air service. He sees three

daughter and lives at 2620 N. Church St. He proposes a realignment of city finances to permit opening of at least one of the closed firehouses. He promises co-operation with all agencies in extending the city's sewer system. O'Malley is a veteran of World War II, serving with the medical corps in Europe.

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DECATUR ADVERTISER

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Col. Pinkston Answers Voters' League Questions

Col. Enoch Pinkston answered a questionnaire sent out by the League Of Women Voters to all candidates in the coming Primary election on March 1st. Col. Pinkston, a candidate for commissioner returned the questionnaire with the following answers:

Question 1.—What administrative position in the city government do you feel you are best qualified to fill?

Health Department.

Question 2.—Do you believe the entire sewer system should be under the jurisdiction of one authority?

Yes.

Question 3.—What methods do you propose for opening, equipping and staffing the three closed fire stations?

Twenty five (25%) per cent increase in liquor and amusement

licenses. Tobacco and cigarette tax to be used to open one or more stations.

Question 4.—Do you believe the City Council should establish a water board? Why? If not, why?

Yes—experienced and qualified persons should be appointed on the board.

Question 5.—Are you in favor of centralized purchasing, centralized inventory and bulk buying? If so, what division of the city government do you believe should have charge of such a program?

Yes—Finance department.

Question 6.—Do you believe the present water policy is adequate or would you change it anyway?

Yes—I am for a water board to study all questions as to our water system.

Question 7.—If you believe

present city revenue to be inadequate, what sources of revenue do you think could be increased or added?

Yes—the City of Decatur should receive a larger per cent of the State Sales tax.

As a part of Col. Pinkston's campaign is an idea that a Municipal auditorium be built "to relieve the situation of our juvenile delinquents who are so unconsciously neglected by many citizens and parents." This, Col. Pinkston said could be paid for with private investment.

He believes in an adequate police and fire department and recommends that there be one fireman and one policeman for every 1,000 people in the city.

"I have advocated and recom-



firm and has been in the grocery business for more than 20 years. He now has his own store. He

was born in Decatur and has lived here all his life. Lee says he would prefer either the water or street commissioner's post if elected to the city council. He says he has ideas which would be helpful in

mend an 'auto motel' to store and park 1,000 automobiles to relieve congested parking areas." This too, could be done with private investments.—Political Adv.



the street department. He has been town ship highway foreman and superintendent of streets and sewers. Before up street and highway he worked as a master. He is a brother of David, former sheriff now of the Legislature. He believes in improved planning for city streets and, if possible, more streets. Peters is married, has six children, and lives at 2244 N. Union St.

Enoch P. Pinkston, 69, auctioneer and real estate salesman, is

seeking the post of health commissioner. He advocates cleaner streets and alleys and believes more attention should be given juve-



THU

February 27, 1955 (Continued)

	1. What administrative position in the city government do you feel you are best qualified to fill?	2. Do you believe the entire sewer system should be under the jurisdiction of one authority?	3. What methods do you propose for opening, equipping and staffing the three closed fire stations?	4. Do you think the City Council should have a board? Why?
JAMES F. LEE	1. I know that I am qualified for either of the four council positions, but especially water. We must have water to draw more industry to our city and I have some good ideas on the matter.	2. No. It takes cooperation.	3. I think all the departments should be brought up to standard if the finances are available, and if not means should be taken to do so. I think closer cooperation with the people would decide this.	4. I do think it is advisable to have a board. They should be on the council on a regular basis. I must be convinced that King how he made it, and by the city . . .")
JACK W. LOFTUS	1. Finance Commissioner.	2. Yes, I believe that consolidation under one authority would result in better and more economical sewer service to all concerned. With proper planning it should not involve any additional tax.	3. The answer is purely a matter of finances. In my opinion, the state legislature must provide adequate amendments to the statutes to enable the cities of Illinois by increased home rule, to secure necessary additional revenue for police and fire protection.	4. Yes. To make three boards. Enlarge and supply. (B) (C) Establish present court completed the contracts for item. Consideration for not commendation establishing board.
CHESTER L. MARKWELL	1. The position I feel I am best qualified to fill is public health and safety.	2. The entire sewer system should be under the jurisdiction of the council as a whole, which must work together.	3. I would like to see all three—open two stations manned by white men, one station manned by colored men. We have one colored policeman and one colored deputy sheriff. Their work is satisfactory so why not colored firemen?	4. The City Council should establish a board to find the income, but not a board.
D. M. O'MALLEY	1. Commissioner of Health and Safety by training and experience.	2. Sanitation is of prime interest to me. In the light of past operation I would approve an overall sanitary disposal authority of some sort.	3. It is not a question of method, more of finding needed revenue, hamstrung by state laws as a city administration's one partial solution is to effect as much economy in all departments as possible to make funds available for the fire department.	4. I would like to see a board composed of people of all social classes willing to sacrifice for the city without
FRANK P. PECK	1. Street or Health.	2. Undecided.	3. Increase in sales tax.	4. Yes, I would probably
ROBERT O. PETERS	1. Street Department.	2. I believe the entire sewer system should eventually be under one head because it would be more economical and efficient. People who have paid for their sewers should not be charged further, however, this should be decided by the people of Decatur.	3. Up to this time, the closed fire stations have not caused increased fire insurance rates in Decatur. I believe that the fire houses should be opened progressively as population increases; equipment purchased and personnel trained as needed.	4. Yes, a non-political board to maintain income.
ENOCH P. PINKSTON	1. Health Department.	2. Yes.	3. Twenty-five per cent increase in liquor and amusement licenses, tobacco and cigaret tax could be used to open one or more stations.	4. Yes. If I were a person on the board
EARL V. SMITH	1. My first choice is the Department of Public Property, waterworks included. I was commissioner over this department eight years. Second choice is Department of Health and Safety, fire department included. I was commissioner over this department three years.	2. Yes, all sewers should be put in the department of streets and public improvements using the present sanitary board as advisers.	3. I know that the Health and Safety Department should be appropriated more money out of the general fund and some of the waterworks money received from the sale of water. Fire protection on lake frontage, lake equipment, waterworks etc.	4. Yes, a chief waterworks from the Decatur—most of them are tall pointed by with each other for one.

ds do you pro- equipping and closed fire sta-	4. Do you believe the City Council should establish a water board? Why? If not, why?	5. Are you in favor of centralized purchasing, centralized inventory and bulk buying? If so, what division of the city government do you believe should have charge of such a program?	6. Do you believe the present water policy is adequate or would you change it in any way?	7. If you believe the present city revenue to be inadequate, what source of revenue do you think could be increased or added?
the departments up to standard available, and if be taken to do operation with side this.	4. I do think it would be advisable to have a water board, but they should be obligated to the council on their findings. Water must be conserved. I advise you to read II Kings, 20-20. ("... and how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water into the city...")	5. I am not in favor of centralized buying. I am in favor of centralized inventory. I am not in favor of bulk buying as you would not buy things for your home that you do not need. Finance Department.	6. I think the present water policy may be all right but we should have a larger supply so we would not be in fear of a shortage. Space does not permit me to give my idea on this matter.	7. The present revenue may be inadequate unless handled properly, as taxes seem to be in extreme now. But without further study I would not care to comment on this matter just now.
s purely a mat- ny opinion, the st provide ade- to the statutes of Illinois by , to secure nec- venue for police	4. Yes. The advisory committee made three recommendations. (A) Enlarge and improve our water supply. (B) Increase water rates. (C) Establish water board. The present council has already completed the second item; has let contracts for the start of the first item. Consequently, I see no reason for not accepting the full recommendation of the committee and establishing some type of water board.	5. Yes. I believe that logically it should come under the jurisdiction of the Finance Department. However, I would agree to putting it under any department on which the rest of the council members would agree.	6. I believe that the present water policy is adequate and would change it in no other way than to establish some sort of independent outside agency to carry out the policy without fear of interruption every time a new council is elected.	7. City revenue is definitely not adequate. Our best hope is for the state to increase the sales tax and refund a certain portion to the cities on a per capita basis. Failing that, our only other relief will be for the people of Decatur to decide for themselves, by referendum, the manner in which revenue is to be increased.
to see all three is manned by ion manned by ive one colored colored deputy is satisfactory firemen?	4. The City Council should establish a water board. They can find the information the council wants, but not over a three-man board.	5. I believe such a program as centralized purchasing, centralized inventory and bulk buying must be handled by the financial department.	6. I feel as though the council must call and listen to men with more water experience and what we really need for our city.	7. More city revenue should be provided by the legislature.
estion of meth- g needed reve- state laws as a 's one partial as much econo- nts as possible ilable for the	4. I would welcome a water board composed of civic-minded people of stature who would be willing to serve in an advisory capacity without salary.	5. Modern operation demands such a department, the office of the finance commissioner seems the most logical spot for purchases. However, certain limitations dollar wise would have to be imposed.	6. I do not believe in the whole cloth that it is entirely sound—there is nothing that can not be improved on, but since certain plans are in operation and possess some merit I would not approve in the public interest an abrupt change.	7. Without a complete financial statement of past operation I am not sure whether they are adequate or not, like any business many services and expenses might have to be curtailed because of income. Sources of revenue depend entirely on what the state legislature does or does not do.
les tax.	4. Yes, because a water board would probably be more capable.	5. No.	6. I think the rates could be raised as we have very cheap water rates compared with even smaller places.	7. Tavern and pinball machines license could be increased and parking meters increased.
ime, the closed not caused in- ce rates in De- the fire houses progressively as es; equipment sonnel trained	4. Yes, citizens advisory group—non-political, more efficient, maintain control over water rent income.	5. Yes. Finance Department.	6. Not adequate. Establish water board; non-political body; more efficient; control over water rent income.	7. Believed adequate. Increased population will bring increase of tax income. Believe State Legislature should adopt law giving to cities half-cent refund on two cents per \$1 sales taxes now being collected. There should be no increased taxation without voters
per cent in- l amusement li- nd cigaret tax en one or more	4. Yes. Experienced and qualified persons should be appointed on the board.	5. Yes, the Finance Department.	6. Yes, I am for a water board to study all questions as to our water system.	7. Yes, the city of Decatur should receive a larger percentage of the state sales tax.
the Health and should be ap- oney out of the some of the received from Fire protection ake equipment,	4. Yes, a board composed of chief waterworks plant engineers from the different cities around Decatur—men who know what they are talking about—and appointed by the local city council with each council member voting for one.	5. Yes, composed of the five council members each member to do his own buying up to \$500 and over that bids to be asked on all purchases to be open to the public at all times as present state law rules.	6. Before answering I would check very carefully the present water policy and let the public know the truth of the findings no matter who it affects.	7. Mayor and his new city council members should check carefully each of the five city departments and if waste of any kind is found should be corrected immediately. Tell the public backed with facts and then let the public decide.

Meeting Reveals The Better Men

—By Edward Lindsay

THURSDAY night's public meeting for candidates in the city election, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, was a remarkable experience for those who were there.

The most outstanding point to me was that all three of the candidates for mayor and 16 of the 18 candidates for commissioner turned up to speak their pieces.

My first impression was to be astonished that I had written "KN"—meaning "know nothing"—after the names of nine of the 19 candidates who spoke.

In looking at these notes, I began to think that the public schools and the newspapers had done a lousy job of explaining the powers and operating procedures of the city council, and its members.

ON SECOND thought, I decided that this judgment was too harsh.

This because all but three of the candidates who spoke had some awareness of the fact that the operation of city government is a major responsibility; that, in the main, the present City Council has done a good job and that additional services cannot be provided until and unless additional funds can be provided for the operation of city government.

Of the three candidates who did not recognize this point: one was a city commissioner before the war and is not aware of the additional demands that have been put upon city government since that time; and the other two either were completely oblivious to what is going on in town or were afraid to take a position in even the most general terms.

The higher level of understanding of city problems among even the least informed candidates in Decatur can be understood best by a comparison with Springfield.

In Springfield there were 32 candidates in last Tuesday's primary. Every one of these, except those who are members of the present Springfield council, took the public position that city government there has plenty of money to perform all the necessary public services.

The fact is that Springfield, like Decatur and nearly every other municipality in Illinois, has found that the demand for services has far outdistanced the city's ability to pay for them.

IN AN effort to be helpful to any of you who did not attend the Thursday evening meeting, I feel an obligation to give you an appraisal of the candidates as I got it in the meeting.

Two of the three candidates for mayor, Clarence A. Sablotny and Don Davis, appeared to be well informed and responsible in what they said.

Boy F. Morville finally made it plain that his principal motive for running for mayor is to get even with the Police Department for some real or fancied grievance.

Among the candidates for commissioner, the following made good appearances. They were at least reasonably well informed and showed the capacity to understand and take a rational position (without reference to whether or not I would agree with it, or you would) on any question that might come up. The names are presented alphabetically:

James L. Atkins
Homer Chastain
Matthew O. Finnegan
Herbert E. Hill
Cody R. Holmes
Forest Lyle Kirby
Jack W. Loftus
Donald M. O'Malley

Two were not present at the meeting. Carl L. Cordes sent word that he was ill. Chester L. Markwell did not reply to the League of Women Voters invitation to appear and did not appear.

THE candidates who obviously were not well informed as to the facts with which the City Council must deal, or who were making a deliberate effort to mislead the audience, or were not able to express themselves in terms that could be understood because of inexperience in public speaking, were:

Charles E. Buckley
Pledger L. Hensley
Paul H. Kalem
James F. Lee
Frank Peck
Robert O. Peters
Enoch P. Pinkston
Earl V. Smith

As I thought about the meeting afterwards, it occurred to me that we would have more responsible citizenship if community meetings of this sort could be conducted once a year, rather than on the eve of the major elections only.

February 27, 1955

4 Voter League Members Going To Conference

Four Decatur members of the League of Women Voters will attend a regional conference Monday through Wednesday in St. Louis.

The meeting is one of 14 nationwide conferences to discuss projects on the Freedom Agenda program. Many organizations, including the League, are cooperating in local projects designed to promote larger understanding of freedom in society.

The Decatur chapter of the League is assisting in a trade survey to determine the effect of international trade on local industry and business. This topic will be a conference subject on the Tuesday program.

Attending the regional conference will be Miss Anna Lord Strauss, national League leader and past president, and Mrs. Orville Foreman of Jacksonville, national union service chairman. Both women are on the Freedom Agenda committee.

The Decatur women attending the meeting will include:

Mrs. C. M. Nicholson
Mrs. H. W. Gibson
Mrs. S. A. MacKay
Mrs. Nat Kessler

March 1, 1955

Leagues Meet For Survey

Members of the Decatur, Lincoln, Mattoon and Champaign County Leagues of Women Voters will meet Wednesday to initiate their portion of a national League survey project.

The session will be at 10 a. m. in the Decatur Club, with a luncheon at noon.

Purpose of the meeting will be to train volunteers from the 22nd Congressional District in methods of interviewing area industrial, agricultural and mining leaders for the League survey on the effects of foreign trade on these fields.

In charge of the training session will be Miss Roberta MacGowan, state League secretary, and Miss Lily Eide, both of the state office in Chicago, and Mrs. Edward C. Albers, state international relations chairman, of Champaign.

Mrs. F. A. MacKay is chairman of the local league committee for the survey.

Downstate League members will attempt to interview officials of all firms employing more than 100 persons.

March 21, 1955

Women Voters to 'School'

11 Decatur League Members to Springfield

Eleven members of the Decatur League of Women Voters will attend a legislative school in Springfield tomorrow.

This will be one in a series of five started March 8 for Illinois leagues, with about 12 different leagues represented at each school. The same type of meeting will be held Wednesday.

Tuesday at 10 a. m., the wo-

men will attend Senate and House meetings and in the afternoon will be present for committee hearings. At 6:30 p. m., the league representatives will give a dinner in the Washington Park Pavilion for the senators and representatives from their districts.

The purpose of the schools is to give the women an opportunity to see state government in action and to become acquainted with the legislators.

Those from the Decatur League who will attend are:

Mrs. John Donovan, president,
Mrs. C. M. Nicholson,
Mrs. Forrest Martin,
Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt,
Mrs. William R. Winn,
Mrs. Ayrle Morris,
Mrs. H. W. Gibson,
Mrs. T. L. Hurst,
Mrs. E. H. England,
Mrs. David Beggs Jr.,
Mrs. W. H. Gardner.

April 1, 1955

Women Voters Elect

Mrs. H. W. Gibson Named New President

Mrs. H. W. Gibson was elected president of the Decatur League of Women Voters at an annual luncheon meeting yesterday in Decatur Club. Other new officers to serve with Mrs. Gibson are: Mrs. James W. Hurley, first vice president in charge of the local bulletin; Mrs. Frederick S. Schudel, second vice president in charge of public relations; Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt, secretary and action chairman; and Mrs. G. R. Cohn, treasurer.

The following directors were elected during the meeting: Mrs. James Leigh, finance; Mrs. Forrest Martin, membership and units; Mrs. Thomas McCracken, state constitutional revision; Mrs. Charles Griffin, local government; Mrs. F. A. MacKay, international trade; Mrs. Arthur Adelman, league publications.

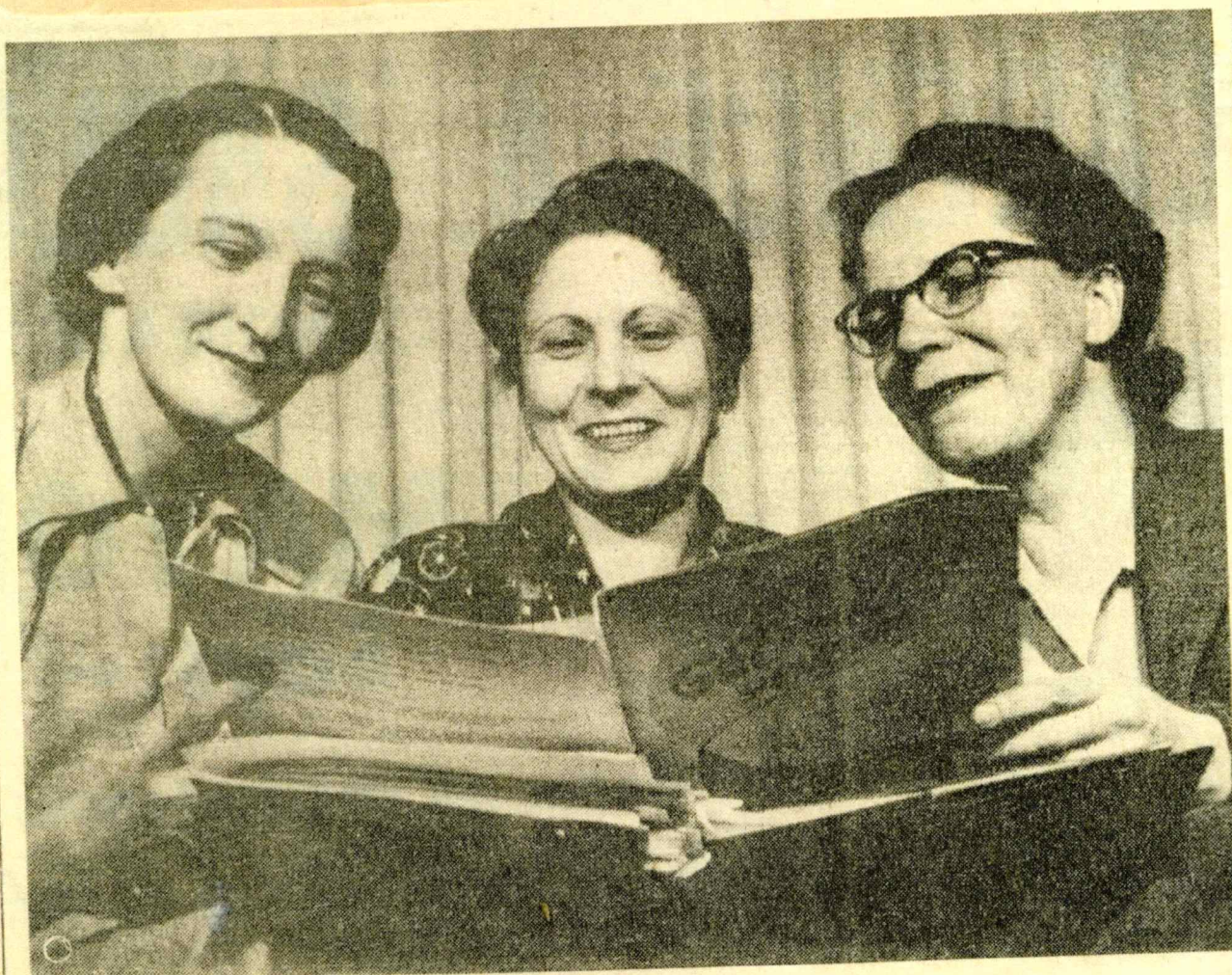
Mrs. Gerald Cox, Mrs. Neal Doubleday and Mrs. C. M. Nicholson are on the nominating committee for 1955-56.

Appointed directors are Mrs. Ayrle Morris, local welfare chairman; Mrs. William Winn, voters service; Mrs. Clifford E. Smith, individual liberties chairman.

The league adopted the following new items for the local agen-

da: a study of local welfare with action where indicated; and analysis, with action where needed of governmental units within the county.

April 3, 1955



League of Women Voters Elects Officers

New officers of the Decatur League of Women Voters are shown going over plans for the coming year. Left to right are Mrs. Frederick S. Schudel, sec-

ond vice president; Mrs. James W. Hurley, first vice president, and Mrs. H. W. Gibson, president. Officers were elected Friday at the League's annual

luncheon meeting.

(Herald and Review Photo)

April 10, 1955

Women Voters League Starts Trade Survey

Representatives of the League of Women Voters will conduct a trade survey on industries in the 22nd Congressional District, Mrs. H. W. Gibson, League president, announced.

Officials of 27 industries in Macon County are scheduled to be interviewed in an effort to determine what favorable or adverse effects international trade has upon their operations.

Mrs. Gibson said, "The league members will act simply as reporters. Whatever the league's position

on the different aspects of the trade issue may finally be, this collecting of facts is to be done on a completely objective basis. Nothing in the fact questionnaire can possibly become public knowledge. And the opinions of the respondents interviewed will be treated with complete confidence."

Questionnaires were sent out last week to firms in the 22nd District who employ more than 100 people. Interviews started this week.

This is the first time the league has attempted to examine foreign trade in the light of its total effect on a given area. Although national statistics for imports and exports are available, there are no area studies for Illinois. Replies on the interviewers' fact sheets will provide statistical information that has not previously been available.

The League's interviewers will be:

Mrs. G. R. Cohn
Mrs. William R. Winn
Mrs. Clifford E. Smith
Mrs. John Donovan
Mrs. Nat Kessler
Mrs. Ralph Fredrickson
Mrs. H. W. Gibson
Mrs. Fred Schudel
Mrs. Arthur Adelman
Mrs. William H. Gardner
Mrs. Lowell Gill.

Questions asked local area firms will include information about their total employment and import or export business.

Of particular importance, the following question will give local-area representatives a chance to express their opinions on foreign competition:

"In general, where domestic industries are adversely affected by import competition, do you think it is up to the federal government to do anything in the interests of the country as a whole?"

The 27 firms scheduled to be interviewed in Macon County are:

General Electric
Caterpillar Tractor
Beatrice Foods
Houdaille-Hershey
Marvel-Schebler, Borg Warner
Chambers, Bering & Quinlan
Decatur Pump
Decatur Milling

DHL

NEW

ST - ALWAYS

Decatur, Illinois, Friday, April 15, 1955.

Voters Hear Welfare Talk

Three members of Decatur League of Women Voters attended a luncheon meeting today in the Urbana-Lincoln Hotel of Urbana as guests of the Champaign County League.

Mrs. Ayrle Morris, Mrs. C. M. Nicholson and Mrs. Forrest Martin went over to hear Dr. Otto L. Bettag, director of the state department of public welfare.

Dr. Bettag was to talk on the accomplishments of the department up-to-date and for future plans with special emphasis on mental health.

April 17, 1955

Voters Meetings On New Officials In City Rule

Decatur League of Women Voters have scheduled three unit meetings this week.

The subject for discussion at each will be "Where do our newly elected officials fit into our city government?"

Mrs. Charles Griffin will be in charge of the meeting at 9:30 a. m. Wednesday in the YMCA. At 7:30 p. m. Wednesday, Mrs. Gerald Cox will be chairman of a unit discussion.

A third group will meet at 1 p. m. Thursday in the home of Mrs. E. W. Jokisch, Jr., 33 Southmoreland Pl. Mrs. Donald Lambka will be in charge.

April 17, 1955

Governmental Series Starts On WCIA Today

A series of educational programs, designed to promote better understanding of our governmental and political system, will be

5:15—Zippo the Clown
5:30—Sportsview
5:40—Weather
5:45—Telenews
6:00—Superman
6:30—Tony Martin
6:45—News Caravan
7:00—Caesars Hour
8:00—Medic
8:30—Robert Montgomery
9:30—Badge 714
10:00—Mr. District Attorney
10:30—Damon Runyon Theater
11:00—News, Weather
11:15—Stop the Music
11:45—Film
12:15—Weather

presented by Television Station WCIA, Champaign.

The series will start at 3 p.m. today and be presented Sundays thereafter through May 29.

To encourage the organization of discussion groups in various communities, different towns will have charge of the program.

The schedule of topics and communities in charge of the programs are the following:

April 17, Bill of Rights, Champaign League

April 24, Where Constitutional Liberty Came From, Danville League

May 1, Freedom of Speech and Press, high school students in charge

May 8, Constitutional Liberty and Seditious Activity, Peoria

May 15, The Constitution and Congressional Investigating Committees, Decatur

May 29, The Constitution and Loyalty Programs, Springfield.

Prof. Halbert E. Gulley, of the University of Illinois speech department, will be moderator for

April 23, 1955

LEAGUE TELEVISION PROGRAM TOMORROW

The second in a series of educational programs, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, will be broadcast at 3 p. m. tomorrow by television station WCIA Champaign.

The Danville League of Women Voters will be in charge of this week's program, which will center around a pamphlet entitled, "Where Constitutional Liberty Came From."

Pamphlets dealing with various aspects of our government and political system were written under the sponsorship of the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund, supplemented with about \$45,000 from the Ford Foundation. The joint project is called the "Freedom Agenda."

The television programs discuss these research pamphlets on different aspects of freedom and are presented to encourage the organization of discussion groups in various communities.

High school students will be in charge of the May 1 program, entitled "Freedom of Speech and Press."

May 8, 1955

Voters League Sends Six to State Meeting

Six delegates from Decatur will attend the convention of the League of Women Voters of Illinois in the Illini Union on the University of Illinois campus in Urbana Tuesday through Thursday.

They are Mrs. H. W. Gibson, Mrs. John Donovan, Mrs. James Hurley, Mrs. Fred Schudel, Mrs. Thomas McCracken and Mrs. Forrest Martin. Mrs. Donovan has been nominated for a director of the state board.

Theme of the three-day meeting will be "The State of the State". Highlights of the program are:

Tuesday morning—Registration begins at 10:30 with a buffet luncheon set for 11:30.

Tuesday afternoon—Business session

Tuesday dinner—Dr. Royden Dangerfield, director of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, and professor of political science at the U of I, will be speaker using the convention the as his subject.

Wednesday luncheon—Dr. Joseph Pois, former state director of finance and now vice president and treasurer of the Signode Steel Strapping Co. of Chicago will speak on "Revenue".

Wednesday afternoon—Business session.

Wednesday dinner—There will be a dramatic presentation of the history of the Illinois League and its contribution to the state of the State.

Thursday morning—Election of officers and directors.

Thursday afternoon—After the close of the last business session, Prof. Arthur Bestor Jr., professor of history at the U of I, will talk on "A Positive Approach to Loyalty". He is past president of the Illinois State Historical Society and author of many books, his most recent one on "Educational Wastelands: The Retreat from Learning in Our Public Schools."

Delegates from more than 60 Leagues will adopt by-laws and revisions.

May 12, 1955

Mrs. John Donovan Named Director At State Voters League Session

Champaign, May 12 (AP)

Mrs. Robert J. Phillips of St. Charles today was re-elected president of the Illinois League of Women Voters at the concluding session of the annual meeting.

The league listed two items for major attention this year: basic constitutional revision to provide a coordinated, flexible state fiscal structure; and basic revision of the judicial article of the state constitution to provide court reorganization and non-partisan selection of judges.

The group also listed two new items among its continuing projects: protection of minority groups against discrimination; and support of measures to improve public health.

Other officers elected were:

Mrs. Harper Andrews, Kewanee, Mrs. Clarence Goelzer, Highland Park, and Mrs. G. E. Steckmesser, Downers Grove, vice presidents; Mrs. Jack A. Willcox, Rockford, secretary; and Mrs. John Van Prohaska, Chicago, treasurer.

Directors named were:

Mrs. Ronald J. Christie, Glenview,

Mrs. John J. Donovan, Decatur,

Mrs. Remick McDowell, Lake Bluff,

Mrs. Robert C. Peabworth, Riverdale,

Mrs. John S. Perry, Moline,

Mrs. James A. Velde, Lake Bluff.

May 12, 1955

Conventions

Mrs. John Donovan Elected Director by State Voters

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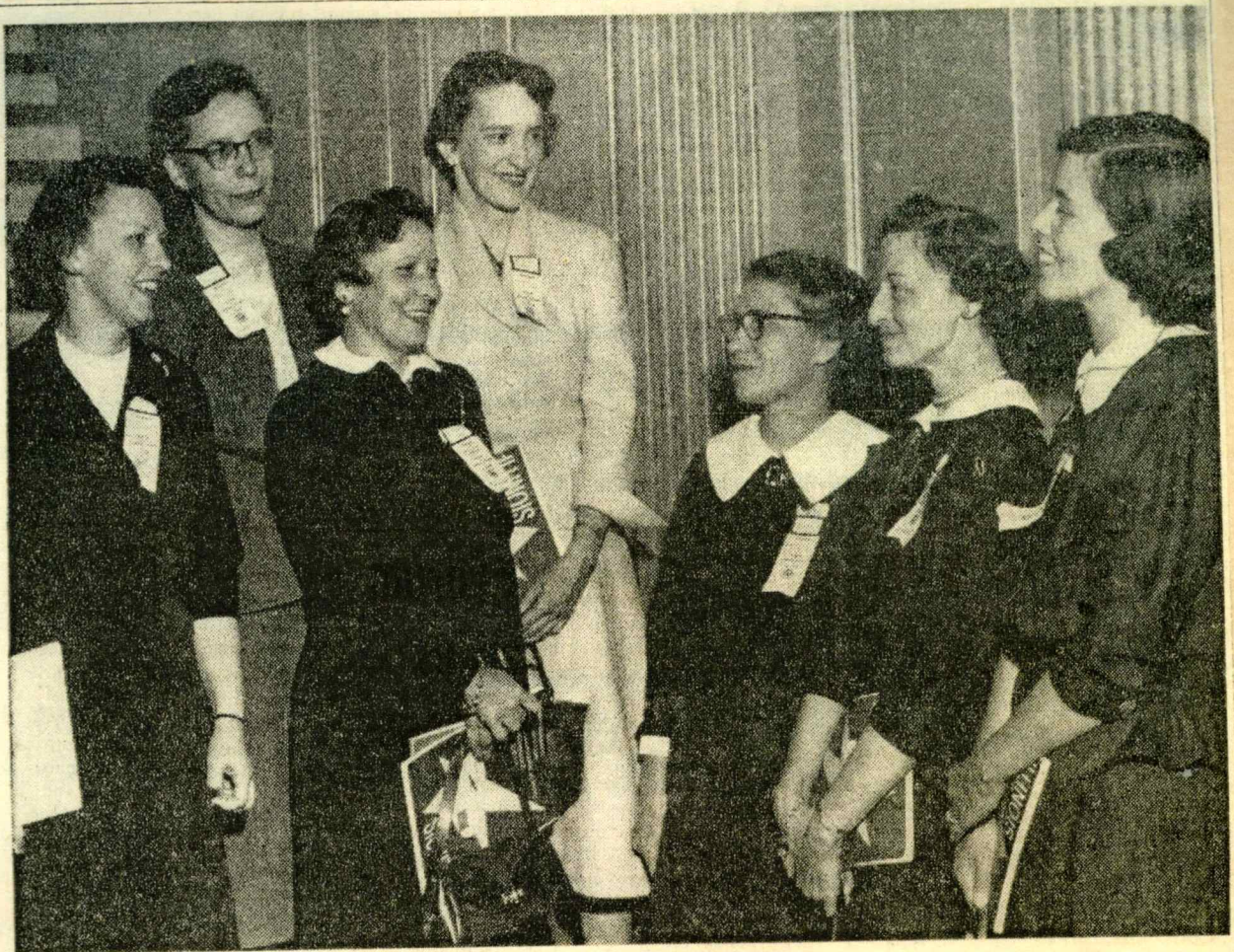
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May 12, 1955



Voters Delegates in Urbana at State Convention

Decatur delegates attending the League of Women Voters State convention in Urbana Tuesday through today confer

with the state president. They are, left to right front row, Mrs. Forrest Martin, Mrs. J. W. Hurley, Illinois President Mrs.

Robert J. Phillips, Mrs. John Donovan, Mrs. Thomas McCracken, back row, Mrs. H. W. Gibson and Mrs. Fred Schu-

del. Mrs. Donovan is on the slate for state director. Election was to be this afternoon.

(Staff Photo)

May 15, 1955

Voters League Has Luncheon

Decatur League of Women Voters will have a luncheon at 1 p. m. Thursday in the Pastel Room of the Hotel Orlando. This will take the place of regular unit meetings.

Reports on the state convention last week in Urbana will be given in the form of a skit by the delegates.

Women not contacted are to call Mrs. E. J. Cresswell, 220 Delmar Ave., and those unable to attend the luncheon are welcome to come for the program.

May 16, 1955

League of Women Voters To Hear Report in Skit Form

Decatur League of Women Voters will have a luncheon at 1 p. m. Thursday in the Pastel Room of the Hotel Orlando. This will take the place of regular unit meetings.

Reports on the state convention last week in Urbana will be given in the form of a skit by the delegates.

Women not contacted are to call Mrs. E. J. Cresswell, 220 Delmar Ave., and those unable to attend the luncheon are welcome to come for the program.

Coffee Hour For Thursday

League of Women Voters is inviting interested Decatur women to a coffee hour Thursday at 10 a.m. in the home of Mrs. G. R. Cohn, 777 S. Monroe St.

There will be a presentation of "Let's Talk League" given by:

Mrs. John Donovan,
Mrs. James W. Hurley,
Mrs. Ayrle Morris,
Mrs. James C. Leigh,
Mrs. William Winn,
Mrs. Fred Schudel.

WOMEN VOTERS TELL OF LEAGUE AT COFFEE

Forty-one Decatur women heard, "What the League of Women Voters Do" at a coffee Thursday morning in the home of Mrs. G. R. Cohn, 777 S. Monroe St. League members, their guests and interested persons attended.

The following members spoke:

Mrs. John J. Donovan, League history

Mrs. Ayrle Morris, program
Mrs. William Winn, voters' service

Mrs. Fred Schudel, publications
Mrs. James C. Leigh, finance
Mrs. James Hurley, membership

Schroeder farm south of Burton-view. They are the parents of four children, Lowell, Jo Anne, Norman and Marvin.

Individual Liberties

To the Editor:

The League of Women Voters wishes to express appreciation for your excellent news and editorial coverage of the Decatur Forum on Individual Liberties which will begin October 5th and 6th.

May I call to the attention of your readers (both the men and the women) that the discussion groups seem to be starting at just the right time, the first week in October. The new Constitutional Rights Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee will begin hearings October 3. The chairman, Senator Thomas C. Hennings of Missouri, has announced that his group will inquire into such matters as freedom of religion, press, speech and assembly, and observance of guarantees against unreasonable searches and seizures, including the related question of wire-tapping.

People who join the discussion groups, and everyone in the community is invited, will be better able to express their opinions to their congressmen when legislation concerning constitutional questions on these subjects and other related ones come up in the next Congress.

Decatur Mrs. C. E. Smith

Of Women Voters to Conference

League of Women Voters will have a regional conference in Lincoln Friday to exchange ideas and discuss the national program item on "Individual Liberties" and "Freedom Agenda" project.

Three members of the Decatur League who are attending include:

Mrs. John J. Donovan, state membership chairman

Mrs. James W. Hurley, first vice-president

Mrs. Clifford E. Smith, chairman of individual liberties, who will be a panel member in the morning discussion. The meeting will be from 10:30 a. m. until 3:30 p. m. with luncheon at the Hotel Lincoln.

Mrs. Harper Andrews, state individual liberties chairman, will preside.

Decatur, Illinois, Sunday, September 18, 1955.

Decatur Forum On Liberties Sets Meetings

The Decatur Forum on Individual Liberties, consisting of two discussion groups on constitutional and individual liberty, were announced today by the Decatur League of Women Voters.

The Decatur Public Library and the YWCA are cooperating in the two discussion programs.

The discussions are open to both men and women, Mrs. Clif-

An excerpt from one of the pamphlets used in the Forum on Individual Liberties is printed today on page 47, the first page of the editorial section. The pamphlet is by T. V. Smith.

ford Smith, chairman of the League's Freedom Agenda, stressed.

Sessions for each of the discussion groups will begin in the first week of October and will consist of six meetings.

The YWCA will begin its sessions at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 5, under the leadership of Miss Gertrude Hill, former Decatur High School history teacher. She will be assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Nat

Smith. A session discussion group at the library will begin at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6 with Dr. Daniel Gage of the University as leader, assisted by Mrs. Neal Doubleday.

Scheduled

Discussions will be on these

topics: "Bill of Rights and Our Liberties." What it means to live in a free society. "Where Constitutional Liberty

Came From." The origins and meaning of our Bill of Rights and constitutional government.

"Freedom of Speech and Press." The guarantees of society.

"Constitutional Liberty and Seditious Activity." Individual liberty and governmental security.

"The Constitution and Congressional Investigating Committees." Individual liberty and congressional power.

"The Constitution and Loyalty Programs." Public employment and governmental security.

Pamphlets explaining the subjects in brief form are available at \$1.50 a set. They will also be available for use in the library's reading room.

Registration for the sessions may be made at either the library or the YWCA. If sufficient interest is shown in these first discussions, others may be started, the League spokesman said.

Two Groups Formed

If a person for any reason misses one of the sessions of his group, he may attend the session of the other group, Mrs. Smith said.

The Decatur Forum on Individual Liberties is part of a national project, the Freedom Agenda. It is under the sponsorship of the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund, Inc., a research and educational organization founded by the League.

Mrs. Smith said the purpose of the Freedom Agenda is to promote general public understanding of the need to preserve our individual liberties while at the same time maintaining our national security against Communist attack.

Women Voters, Y.W.C.A., Library Organize Forums

The League of Women Voters, Inc., a research and educational organization created by the League of Women Voters of the United States. No particular point of view is promoted. More than a hundred other organizations have expressed an interest in the program and several hundred communities are participating in it. The purpose of Freedom Agenda is to promote general public understanding of the need to preserve our individual liberties while at the same time maintaining our national security against Communist attack.

The YWCA will begin its meetings Wednesday evening, Oct. 5, at 7:30. The series will end Nov. 9. The discussion leader will be Miss Gertrude Hill, formerly a teacher of history in Decatur High School. She will be assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Nat Kessler.

The Public Library meetings will open Thursday evening, Oct. 6 at 7:30 and will continue each week through Nov. 10. Dr. Daniel Gage of Millikin University will lead this group, and will be assisted by Mrs. Neal Doubleday.

If you start with one group and find that you must miss a meeting, then it is permissible for you to make up that meeting by attending the other group.

The basic material to be studied and discussed is in six pamphlets with the following titles:

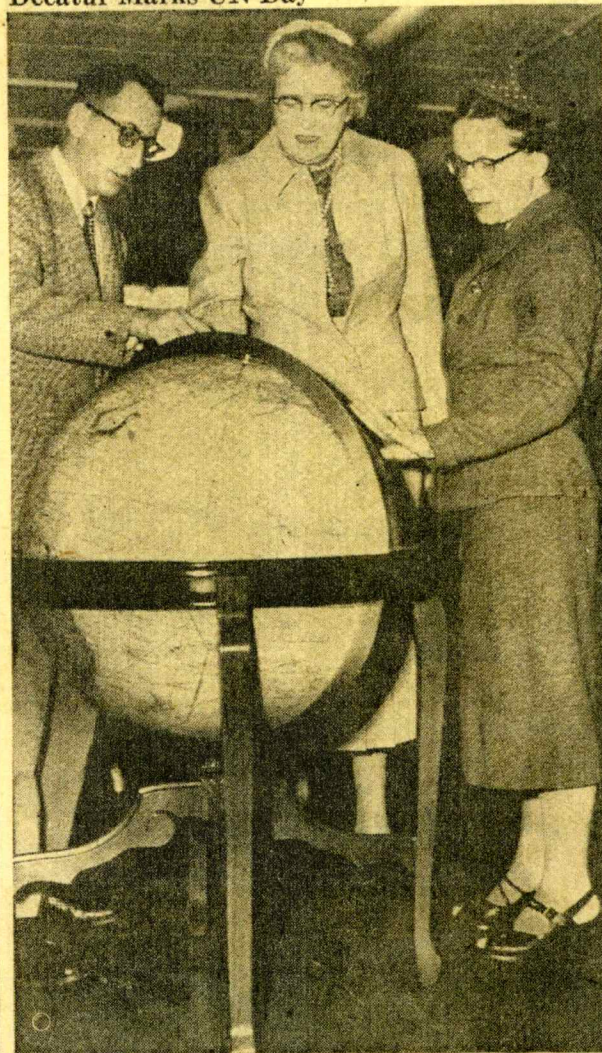
1. The Bill of Rights and Our Individual Liberties (What it means to live in a free society).
2. Where Constitutional Liberty Came From (The origin and meaning of our Bill of Rights and constitutional government).
3. Freedom of Speech and Press (The great guarantees of open society).
4. Constitutional Liberty and Seditious Activity (Individual liberty and governmental security).
5. The Constitution and Congressional Investigating Committees (Individual liberty and congressional power).
6. The Constitution and Loyalty Programs (Public employment and governmental security).

All the pamphlets are designed primarily to fill the great need for thorough and systematic coverage of these subjects in inexpensive and relatively brief form. Each has been written by an authority in his field and each lists suggestions for further reading, if desired. The set of six pamphlets may be had at the cost price of \$1.50. Copies will also be available at the Library for use in the reading room.

Men and women interested in registering may visit or phone the YWCA or the Library. Early replies to this invitation will be appreciated. It is hoped that the interest generated by these pilot discussion groups will lead to the formation of many others during ensuing months.

The Decatur Forum on Individual Liberties is a part of a national project called The Freedom Agenda Program. It is under the sponsorship of the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund,

Decatur Marks UN Day



Gordon Weel, book manager at Haines & Essick's, points out a spot on a 25-inch globe to Miss Florence McConnell, center, president of the Business & Professional Women's Club, and Mrs. Virginia Gibson, president of the League of Women Voters. The globe will be used

in a panel discussion Thursday night in the city's United Nations Day celebration in Johns Hill Junior High School. Mrs. Gibson will moderate the discussion and Miss McConnell is one of the panel members. Haines & Essick's is lending the globe to the group.

(Herald and Review Photo)

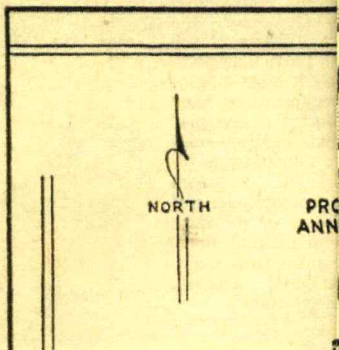
League of Women Voters THE LAST DAY! BE HERE

Shall the area known as the Larkdale Addition be annexed to the city of Decatur?

This is a short and unofficial version of the huge ballot that will greet city voters on Oct. 4.

"Larkdale" is actually only the extreme northeast segment of the proposed annexation, but it is also the reason for annexing the property leading to it from the present northeast limits of the city.

Adolph H. Lubin of Springfield wants to develop the Larkdale Addition into an area which



DECATUR

NORTH-FRANKLIN

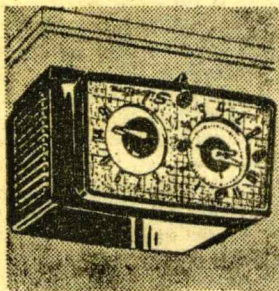
2 FREE HRS. PARKING

Sensationally low priced, yet smart looking. Awakens you automatically. Shuts itself off. Plastic cabinet.

1488

Reg. 22.95

Clock Radios



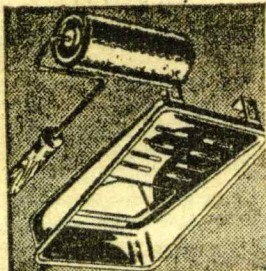
Lowest price we know for a practical paint set. 7-in. roller with dynel cover; tray tinned for service.

88c

Reg. \$1.19

Paint Roller Set Complete

Amazing Value!



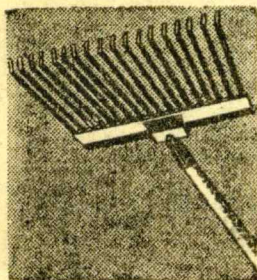
Official size and weight. Tough, hard wearing—looks and feels like leather. Strongly stitched Valve type bladder. White, black stripes.

Flexible steel tines wear long—er, and make raking easier. Wood handle is smoothly polished for comfort.

77c

18 Spring Steel Tines

Dunlap Lawn Rake

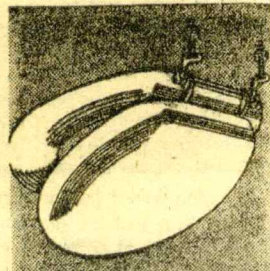


Smooth hardwood stock. Seat and cover have chrome-plated brass hinge and fittings. Fits standard bowls.

388

Reg. \$4.98—Save \$1.10

Homart White Seats



Outdoor ball, goal and net. Official size and weight rubber covered ball takes roughest outdoor play. Rigid 18-inch steel goal.

machine washable plastic jackets



2.99

3.99

collar, cuffs and bottom g-fit. Solids and handsome combinations. Boys' 2-6X.

Wrap style for girls with self-button front. Two generous pockets. Pastels, white and two-tones. 3-6X.

CHILD'S DENIM JEANS

Sizes 1-6 **98c**

FITTED MUSLIN SHEETS

Full Size **1.67**

MAGAZINE RACKS

Wrought Iron

69c

UTILITY TABLE

Three Shelf

3.88

LARGE BATH TOWELS

99c

SMART HAND TOWELS

47c

TRIMMED WASH CLOTHS

19c

10.69

6 qt. reg. \$11.98
Give the family a real treat with home made ice cream from one of these Maid Honor freezers. Buy now and



Size of School Board

To the Editor:

Prior to the referendum of November 17, 1953, at which time the community decided to retain the special charter of school District 61, The League of Women Voters of Decatur endeavored to find the proper size of a school board.

We wrote to agencies, both public and private, concerned with education; we wrote to school boards in Illinois, both community unit and special charter districts; we telephoned

Sunday, January 22, 1956.

over 2000 citizens of the Decatur area to ask their opinion.

We found there were no criteria to establish one size of a school board as more satisfactory than another—all sizes have their advantages and disadvantages.

In view of the total result of our work, the League could only come to the conclusion that the size of a school board depends upon the preference of a majority of the school district's citizens.

The League has no stand on this issue and no worthwhile information to offer the voter.

This is not to say that the issue is unimportant. It is extremely important. The League sincerely hopes that every voter will express his or her preference on January 31 and that the resulting school board may proceed with its work confident that it has substantial community approval.

Mrs. H. W. Gibson
Decatur President

Mental Health Report to Be Discussed 1/56

A report on mental health will be one of the discussion topics for monthly unit meetings of the League of Women Voters of Decatur Wednesday at the YMCA.

Discussion leaders at 9:30 a.m. will be Mrs. E. L. Simmons, a member of the Illinois Association for Mental Health board, and Mrs. Lyle Huff, secretary of the Macon County Mental Health Association.

For the 7:30 p.m. meeting, the discussion leaders will be Mrs. Ben Nolen, the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs state chairman for mental health, and Mrs. C. F. Duewer, mental health chairman for the PTA in Decatur.

The other topic is "Opposition to constitutional changes that would limit the existing powers of the executive and the Congress over foreign relations."

Mrs. F. Hanly Brock is the discussion leader for this topic at the morning session, and Mrs. Perley T. Lupton at the evening session.

The public is invited to the meetings. Mrs. Forrest Martin, membership chairman, will arrange for transportation if needed.

Women Voters Units Meet 7/56

The League of Women Voters will have monthly unit meetings Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the YMCA. A panel will discuss "The Organization of a Political Party In Illinois".

Members on the morning panel are Mrs. William Kuntz, Mrs. James Key, Mrs. Charles Griffin, Miss Grace Bridges and Mrs. William Winn. The evening panel will be: Mrs. E. C. Stivers, Mrs. Hilmer Landholt, Mrs. James Hurley and Mrs. H. W. Gibson.

"The Continuing Responsibilities item", Measures to counteract inflation and deflation," will be discussed by Mrs. Gerald Cox and Mrs. R. E. Lewis.

The League workshops have been making a study of election laws with special emphasis on permanent registration and correct voting procedures.

Women Voters Elect Officers On Wednesday 3/56

The end of the year meeting of the Decatur League of Women Voters will be at 1 p. m. Wednesday in the Hotel Orlando, Mrs. H. W. Gibson, president, announced.

It will be a luncheon meeting.

The program will include a "cracker barrel quiz" on political parties. It is an audience participation event.

Officers will be elected and a local agenda, incorporating matters the League will study during the next year, will be adopted.

Members and prospective members are invited.

Women Voters in Champaign Guests at Luncheon There of Women's League 11/56

Six members of the Decatur League of Women Voters were guests of the Champaign League for a luncheon meeting today in the Urbana Lincoln Hotel.

Guest speaker, Mrs. Louis Leonard Wright, midwest director of the institute of international relations. Her topic was "United Nations". Mrs. Wright was United States delegate to the World Health Assembly in Rome and also representative for United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization in Mexico City, Paris, France and Beirut, Lebanon.

Following the program, league members interviewed Cong. William Springer.

Decatur members who attended are:

Mrs. John Donovan
Mrs. H. W. Gibson
Mrs. Forrest Martin
Mrs. William Gardner
Mrs. Clifford Smith
Mrs. J. W. Hurley

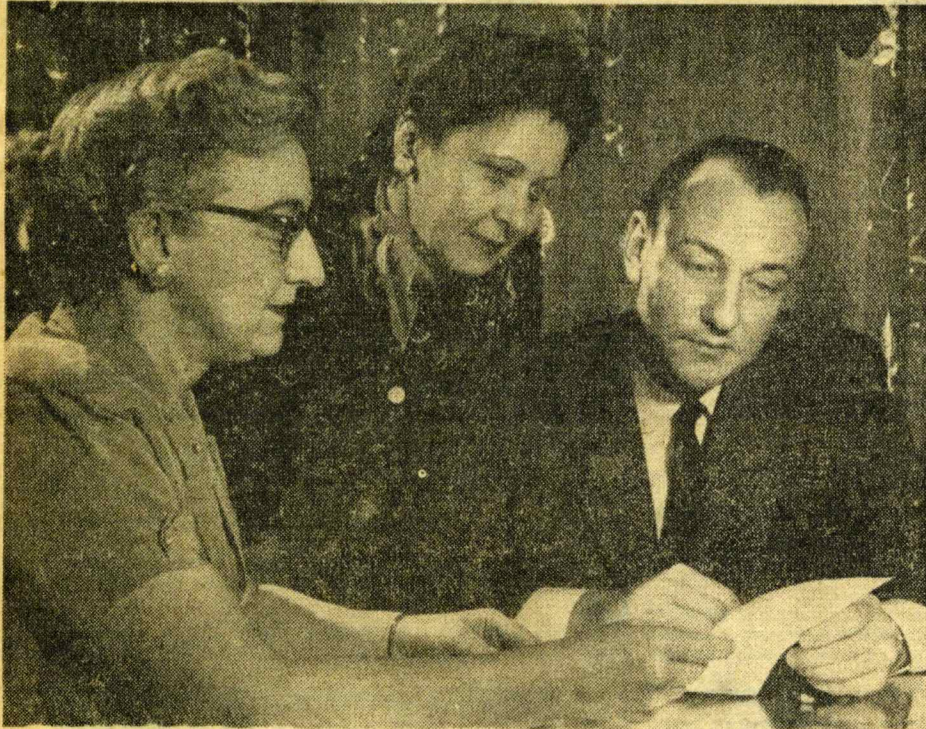
League of Women Voters To Discuss Revenue Amendment 10/56

The League of Women Voters will have a unit meeting Wednesday with the morning session at 9:30 a. m. in the YMCA. The evening meeting will be at 7:30 in the home of Mrs. Arthur Adelman, 2275 W. Forest Ave.

There will be discussion on the Revenue Amendment to be voted on in the November election. The meeting is open to the public.

3/56

Candidates Meeting Planned



Mrs. Clifford Smith, Mrs. Jim Hurley and Bob Shade go over plans for the candidates meeting March 8 sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Mrs. Smith is chairman of the meeting, to be held in Decatur High School auditorium, and Shade will be moderator. Candidates from both political parties have been invited to attend.

3/56

CANDIDATE TO APPEAR Daly Notifies League He Will Wear His Uncle Sam Suit

Lar Daly of Chicago, candidate both for President and Governor on the Republican ballot in the April 10 primary, has notified Mrs. Clifford Smith he will attend a meeting of candidates here on March 8. The meeting in the Decatur High School Auditorium will be sponsored by the Decatur League of Women Voters.

Daly said he will appear in his "Uncle Sam" outfit to emphasize his America First platform.

Today, Daly asked County Clerk Tangney for assistance, which would keep Tangney's office staff busy for a time.

Daly asked for a copy of the entire list of around 56,000 Macon County registered voters, lists of all candidates, precinct committeemen, descriptive literature about Decatur and Macon County and any other material which would be helpful to his campaign.

Sachs to Talk At Meeting

Morris B. Sachs of Chicago, candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor, has accepted an invitation to appear in Decatur March 8 in a meeting of candidates sponsored by the Decatur League of Women Voters.

The meeting, to be held in the Decatur High School auditorium, will follow the usual pattern, giving candidates of both political parties opportunity to appear, discuss issues suggested by the League and answer questions submitted from the audience.

Mrs. Clifford E. Smith said Sachs is the only candidate for governor who has given assurance he will attend. His Democratic opponent, Herbert C. Paschen, Cook

WEST: Lovely 6 room home, 3 large bedrooms, living room and dining room has carpet, large sun room, full basement, cabinet type gas furnace. Overmantel, Call for appointment. \$8,000. Call for details. With small down payment. Priced below and comfortable. It can be purchased gas heat, 3 bedrooms. This home is clean 1 ROOM COTTAGE, all modern with \$1000 DOWN

League Invites Board Hopefuls

Candidates for Decatur's first seven-member board of education have been invited by the League of Women Voters to appear at a public meeting in Decatur High School Auditorium.

The meeting will be April 4 at 8.15 p.m.

Thirty-four candidates filed petitions. Filing closed at noon yesterday and candidates have until noon Saturday to withdraw.

At the meeting each candidate will be given two minutes to answer the question: "Do you believe you have the experience and qualifications to make you an effective school board member?"

Robert L. Shade, Decatur school board member.

In addition to the questions allotted each candidate, questions and answers to questions are planned.

Questions will be asked of persons attending the meeting. "We hope the candidates will be confined to questions or issues and not to qualifications and views on school questions in a public meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters."

Otto C. Keil, president of the present three-member school board, told about 500 persons attending the meeting that a merit pay plan for teachers is a "coming thing."

He is a candidate for the new board to be elected April 14.

In answer to a question, Keil said the importance of merit pay for teachers is being recognized more and more all over the nation.

"Here in Decatur we have a growth pattern used to help correct weaknesses in teachers," he said. "It would be an easy transition from this to a merit pay plan."

Dr. Carl P. Birk, a candidate who campaigned in 1954 for abolition of Decatur's special school charter, said the special charter with the new seven-member board "should favor Decatur."

April 5, 1956.

DECATUR HERALD

500 Hear Candidates' Views on School Questions

By Wayne W. Krows
Of The Herald Staff

Twenty-five candidates for Decatur's new seven-member Board of Education last night stated their qualifications and views on school questions in a public meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

Otto C. Keil, president of the present three-member school board, told about 500 persons attending the meeting that a merit pay plan for teachers is a "coming thing."

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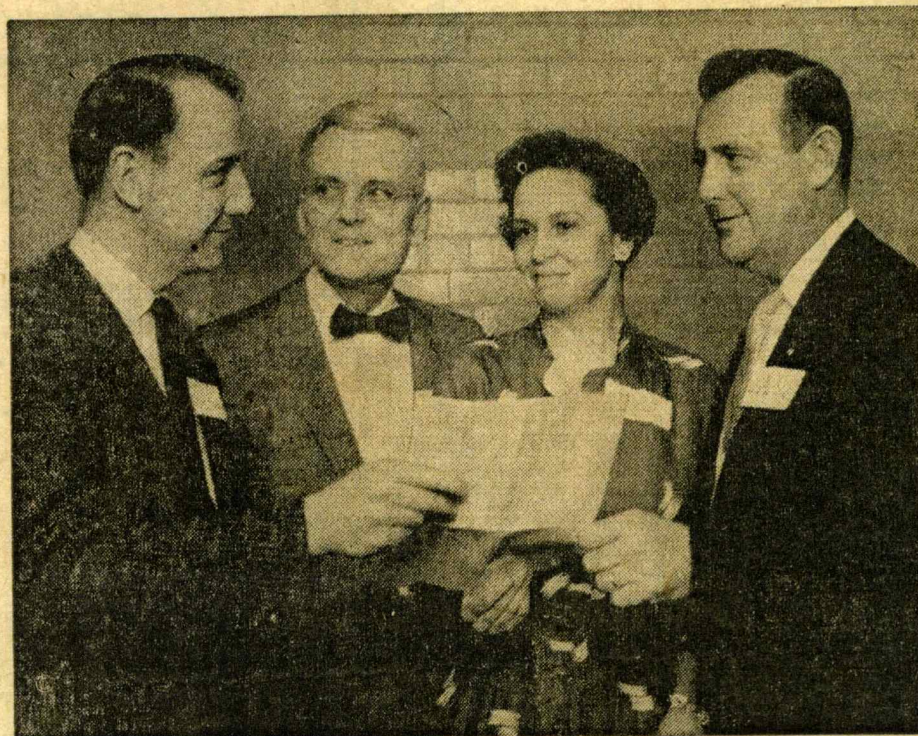
'For 7-Member Board'

Dr. Birk said the 1954 effort was "primarily a fight to get a seven-member board" rather than a campaign against the special charter.

Enlargement of the board without giving up the special charter was made possible by a new state law and approved in a recent referendum.

Asked whether the larger board will hinder the making of decisions, Keil said "It will delay important decisions."

The matter of possible school economies was discussed by several candidates including Arnold W.



Robert L. Shade, left, and Mrs. William R. Winn, second from right, talk with two school board candidates at last night's public meeting in the Decatur High School auditorium. Shade

was moderator of the program, at which candidates explained why they feel they would make good school board members. Mrs. Winn is a member of the League of Women Voters, which

sponsored the program. The two candidates shown are Otto C. Keil, second from left, school board president who seeks re-election, and H. Allan Todd right.

(Herald and Review Photo)

objective of a school board to watch all expenditures," and he suggested that certain economies might be made in the heating of school buildings.

Candidate Ralph E. C. Fredrickson said he has no objection to the present program of religious education offered Decatur school children outside of school hours.

He said he favors religious education "but much prefers to see it carried out by the churches" in-

Frank H. Byers
Roy W. Chapman
Ralph M. Colburn
Mrs. Ida B. Coppenbarger
Hoyt O. Coverstone
James C. Filson
Dr. George D. Flaxman, a member of the present board
Loren E. Grabb
E. Arden Hamman Jr.
Donald A. Jones
Mrs. Lois Karch
Robert B. King
Eugene J. Moore
William L. Rotz Jr.
Paul Smallwood
H. Allan Todd
Richard C. Watson.

The following candidates did not appear at the meeting but the first six sent statements which

Dr. John S. Kapernick
Robert H. Kramer.

Absentee Ballots Available For Election

Ballots for the April 14 election of seven members to a new Decatur Board of Education are available now for absentee vote at the Public School office.

Eligible voters who will be out of the school district on election day may cast absentee ballots until 5 p.m. April 11. Mailed requests for absentee ballots must

is, Sunday, July 8, 1956.

Survey Shows State Favors Foreign Trade

Increased foreign trade, both import and export, is favored by a majority of Illinois manufacturers and farmers, according to a state-wide industrial and agricultural survey made by the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

A poll of 714 major manufacturers showed 85.4 per cent felt interests of the United States would best be served by increased foreign trade. The 438 farmers who were interviewed favored increased foreign trade by 76.2 per cent.

The Illinois survey, which began in February of 1955, was to determine what favorable or adverse effects international trade has upon local communities of the state.

The Decatur League was responsible for the 22nd Congressional District and Decatur women conducted the interviews in Decatur, Tuscola, Mattoon and Warrensburg. The interviews were confidential and firm names were not published.

Results of the Illinois survey have been compiled and published in a pamphlet entitled: "Illinois Trader."

Copies of the pamphlet are available from the Citizen Information Service, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 1. Single copies are 75 cents with a 20 per cent discount on orders for 100 or more.

In favoring increased foreign trade, one business man commented: "We can't isolate ourselves; we must cooperate to live. We can't sell to others unless we buy from them; besides we need foreign commodities."

Decreased international commerce was considered in the nation's best interests by only four per cent of the industrialists and 4.4 per cent of the farmers.

One of the dissenting voices gave this opinion: "The United States should depend on its own natural resources and those of the Western Hemisphere. In the event of war, we should not be dependent on foreign trade."

Decatur, Illinois, Sunday, July 15, 1956.

WOMEN VOTERS Open Membership Drive At Breakfast Thursday

League of Women Voters will begin their annual membership drive at a breakfast, Thursday, at 9:30 a. m. in the Colonial Restaurant.

The league is a non-partisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. All women twenty-one years

old and over are eligible to become members. Interested women are invited to attend this breakfast. Transportation will be furnished by calling Mrs. H. W. Gibson, league president.

LEAGUE WOMEN TO MEET IN BLOOMINGTON

Ten Decatur representatives of the League of Women Voters will attend a regional conference Monday at Bloomington.

The conference will feature discussion of an amendment to the Illinois tax revenue article, proposed to make a more flexible and equitable tax system in the state.

League members scheduled to attend from Decatur are:
Mrs. H. W. Gibson, president
Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt
Mrs. Loring Unger
Mrs. Charles Griffin
Mrs. William R. Winn
Mrs. Forrest Martin
Mrs. James W. Hurley
Mrs. E. J. Cresswell
Mrs. John Stoune
Mrs. John Fairs

WOMEN VOTERS Have Program Conference Session In Chicago Today

Several members here from the League of Women Voters will attend the all-day luncheon meeting to be held in Chicago today. Both candidates for the state governorship are scheduled to speak at lunch.

Mrs. John J. Donovan, member of the state board; Mrs. William Winn, regional chairman of the state organization committee, and Mrs. C. F. Gilbert, first vice-president of the local league are attending from Decatur.

Talks will be given by Dr. Richard Brown on "What's Ahead for Illinois" and Dr. Dexter Perkins whose topic will be "Popular and Foreign Policy."

6 Appointive State Offices Are Proposed

Chicago, Oct. 30 (AP)

A school administrator suggested today that six state offices now filled by election be made appointive.

Dr. Richard G. Browne of Springfield, executive officer of the Illinois Teachers College Board, said the six offices are those of state treasurer, auditor of public accounts, attorney general, secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction, and clerk of the Supreme Court.

Citing constitutional reforms he said are needed in Illinois, Dr. Browne said, "Let us hope that the indefensible double executive structure of Illinois can be remedied by following the established principles of the short ballot."

He noted that proposals have already been made to make the treasurer and auditor offices appointive.

"And there are equally good reasons, very strong reasons, for making the superintendent of public instruction a professional appointee of a state board of education," Dr. Browne said.

Burdens Voters

"And I see no good reasons why the voters should be burdened with the election of a clerk of the Supreme Court, or secretary of state, and probably the attorney general," Browne told a meeting of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

"And more than one study commission has recommended an appointed board of trustees for the

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U.N. Observer Is Voters League Speaker on Tenth Anniversary

League of Women Voters of Decatur will observe its tenth anniversary at a membership luncheon Thursday at 12:45 p.m. in the YMCA Building.

Twelve of twenty three charter members, including five past presidents, all residents of Decatur have been invited as special guests. Representatives from eleven down-state Leagues will be present.

Mrs. Oscar M. Reubhausen, of New York City, a member of the national board of the League will be the speaker. Mrs. Reubhausen, has been an accredited observer at the United Nations for the League of Women Voters of the United States since 1946.

Representing the League, she has made Congressional committee appearances in favor of the Trade Agreements program and the Organization for Trade Cooperation.

She was made chairman of the conference group in 1956, and is also a director of Letters Abroad.

Mrs. Reubhausen, a Vassar College graduate, formerly did research in administration of government for the Spelman Fund of New York, and in 1941 served as private secretary to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air.

League work has taken her to Europe eight times and to Venezuela and Central America, as well as to many areas of the United States. Part of her job is promotion of a better understanding of the U.N. by helping local League groups.

As a member of the national staff of the League from 1943 to 1946, Mrs. Reubhausen wrote many of



Mrs. Oscar M. Reubhausen
(Photo by Bradford Bachrach)

its publications in the field of economics and foreign policy.

Blue Ballot Approval Advised By A of C Groups

Three committees of the Decatur Assn. of Commerce have recommended that the amendment to the revenue article of the state Constitution be passed.

It will be submitted to voters Nov. 6 in the form of a "blue ballot."

The amendment seeks to bring about a change in property taxation under which intangibles, such as stocks and bonds might be more fairly taxed, according to its proponents.

They also contend that it would afford protection against any form of graduated income tax, "including those which might be levied under the present revenue article."

The committees which will ask the A of C board of directors to support their actions are:

Legislative
Taxation
Retailers.

Henry H. Bolz, executive secretary of the A of C, said the endorsements were not unanimous in all committees.

By supporting the amendment, the committees here line up with the Chicago Assn. of Commerce and Industry, the Illinois League of Women Voters, the Illinois Retailers Assn. and the state Farm Bureau.

Opposed to the amendment are the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Manufacturers Assn.

Women Voters Begin Study Of Revenue

A basic study of revenue opens at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the YWCA under the sponsorship of the League of Women Voters of Decatur.

The series will be held on six consecutive Tuesdays. The public is invited and a special invitation has been extended to P-TA groups since the revenue item is on the state P-TA agenda.

An analysis and discussion of the Revenue Article of the Illinois Constitution are planned for the session this Tuesday.

Other subjects for the following weeks will include sources of income levied by Illinois statutes, the assessment of real and personal property in Macon County, and the local budget.

The concluding session will be a study of the changes involved in the proposed Revenue Amendment to the Constitution which will be voted on in the November, 1956, general election.

Discussion leaders at the meetings will be Mrs. H. W. Gibson, Mrs. Perley Lupton, and Mrs. John Donovan. Mrs. T. G. McCracken, constitutional revision chairman, is in charge of the series.

ALD AND REVIEW

Mrs. Gibson to Be Speaker At YW Luncheon Wednesday

Mrs. H. W. Gibson, president of the League of Women Voters, will be the luncheon speaker for the YWCA public affairs session Wednesday noon, according to Miss Gertrude Hill, chairman.

Mrs. Gibson will discuss the two state ballots, with emphasis on the Blue Ballot. She will also review and compare the two party platforms.

Luncheon will be served

promptly at 12 noon. Reservations should be phoned to the YWCA by Monday evening. Any women interested in the discussion of these state and national issues are invited to attend.

WOMEN VOTERS

Have Program Conference Session In Chicago Today

Several members here from the League of Women Voters will attend the all-day luncheon meeting to be held in Chicago today. Both candidates for the state governorship are scheduled to speak at lunch.

Mrs. John J. Donovan, member of the state board; Mrs. William Winn, regional chairman of the state organization committee, and Mrs. C. F. Gilbert, first vice-president of the local league are attending from Decatur.

Talks will be given by Dr. Richard Brown on "What's Ahead for Illinois" and Dr. Dexter Perkins whose topic will be "Popular and Foreign Policy."

For FAIR TAXES

This ad placed by Ruby Eberidge for Citizens For Eisenhower, 150 N. Merchants

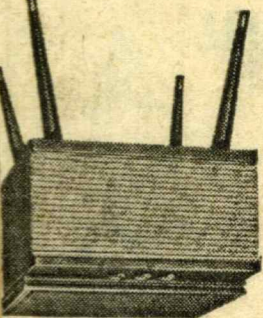
INDEPENDENTS NOTE!
Stevenson said in July, 1952, "I am mentally, physically and temperamentally unfit for the Presidency."
His action in 1956 has proven this to be his most truthful statement
RETAIN PROVEN LEADERSHIP IN THE WHITE HOUSE . . . VOTE FOR EISENHOWER
November 6

BIG DRIVE-IN PARKING LOT

PEACOCK



143 N. Main



3 speaker hi-fi

CHUCK ROAST MEAT

23c

39c

KRESGE'S CHRISTMAS CARDS

INDIVIDUAL CARDS 3/5c to 10c ea.
PACKAGES 10c - 25c - 50c
BOXES 29c - 59c - \$1.00
KRESGE'S 5-10c Store
315 N. WATER

PHILLIPS' MILK OF MAGNESIA

LAXATIVE

EFFECTIVE GENTLE

FOR CHILDREN - ADULTS



gown of gold tulle with a cum-
merbund of antique gold velvet and
bustle. She wore a matching
feathered headband, and carried a
basket of chrysanthemums in aut-
umn colors.
Bridesmaids were Miss Nancy
Smith, and cousins of the bride,
Miss Beverly Strack, Miss Linda
Strack and Miss Sue Ellen Wetzel.
Their mint green tulle gowns
were identical in design to that of
the matron of honor.
Peggy Sue Garrett was flower
girl and Bobby Kuntz was ring
bearer.

THURSDAY
Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.; Teen Age
Committee, 1:30 p.m.; Regular swim-
ming classes as scheduled; Young Adult
Council, 5:30 p.m.; Centennial, 8:15
p.m.; Swim Team, 5:30 p.m.
FRIDAY
Housewives Swim, 9:30 a.m.; Regu-
lar classes as scheduled; Plunge, 5 p.m.;
Teen Town, 7:45 p.m.
SATURDAY
Yotes, 9:30 to 12 noon; Regular
swimming classes as scheduled; Plunge,
10:30 a.m.; 1:30 & 3 p.m.; Bible
Class supper, 5:30 p.m.

FLAG TO SCOUT TROOP 1
Tuesday at 7 p. m. to the Boy
Scout Troop 1 of Johns Hill Jun-
ior High School by the Asahel E.
Keynolds Circle, Auxiliary to the
Grand Army of the Republic.
Members and friends are invited.
Circle members will meet Wed-
nesday at 2 p. m. in the Decatur
man's Club building for an in-
terest. A report will be read by
Harry Bateman from the Wo-
men's Council.

Forsyth Couple Marks 50 Years
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Knack-
rubs of Forsyth will observe their
50th wedding anniversary next
Sunday in their home. A dinner
s planned for the immediate fam-
ily.
The couple was married Nov.
13, 1906 in West Salem. Seven
children were born to them, the
six living are:
Mrs. Herschel Harsbarger of
Alwood; Alberta, Bloomington;
Virgil and Mrs. Wayne Laughlin,
Decatur; Mrs. John McKinney,
Forsyth; and Clyde of Pekin.
They also have nine grandchil-
dren.

Forsyth Couple Marks 50 Years
er, Zane Nolen and Gene Tobill.
guests: Roger Bottrell, Gary Coop-
man. The following ushered
Montel Nohren served as best
James Baugher of Windsor.
was dressed in a replica of the
Candy Sue Jones, flower girl,
green.
Linda Neal's gown was lace mint-
green. She wore a lace headband
and chose a brown and white
in autumn gold, Miss Betty
Mont orange, Miss Sheri Jones
Connie Cooper was dressed

The League of Women Voters
will hold the second of two unit
meetings Wed., covering a long-
term study of Macon County gov-
ernment which will be reviewed.
The public is invited.

1/14/57

Voters Set Meetings

League of Women Voters January unit meetings will be held twice on Wednesday. All members are urged to attend at least one.

The first is at 9:30 a. m. in the MCA and the second at 7:30 p. m. in the home of Mrs. C. M. Nicholson, 215 Park Pl.

The program is a discussion of "The League's Continuing Responsibilities."

League of Women Voters Backs Naming Assessment Supervisor

Present assessments of Macon County properties amount to the subsidization of some property owners at the expense of others, according to the League of Women Voters.

The League recently completed a study of real estate assessments, after which it supported creation of the office of county supervisor of assessments.

The office was created by the County Board of Supervisors during its meeting last week. The assessment supervisor's job, when the office is activated, will be to equalize real property assessments throughout the county.

The League of Women Voters says that present assessments are "unfair and unrealistic."

The League's study, carried out with the cooperation of local real estate agents, covered 178 city properties recently sold.

Ranges From 15 to 112 Per Cent

It showed that the assessed valuation of the properties ranged from 15 to 112 per cent of the price at which they were sold. The assessment on 89 of the properties was below 43 per cent, while on the other 89 it was above 43 per cent.

The only properties studied by the League which were assessed for more than their sale price were those which sold for more than \$20,000. The assessment range in this class was from 37 to 112 per cent of the sale price.

The range was from 17 to 79 per cent for homes from \$2,400 to \$7,999; from 15 to 68 per cent for homes from \$8,000 to \$10,000; from 27 to 69 per cent for homes from \$10,001 to \$12,000; from 18 to 93 per cent for homes from \$12,001 to \$15,000, and 25 to 73 per cent for homes from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Dividing the city into four areas, divided by Main Streets,

the northwest ranged from 73 per cent; in the north from 17 to 79 per cent, in the south from 16 to 69 per cent, southwest from 25 to 112 per cent.

That this range in assessments can result in unfair tax shown by one case reported by the League.

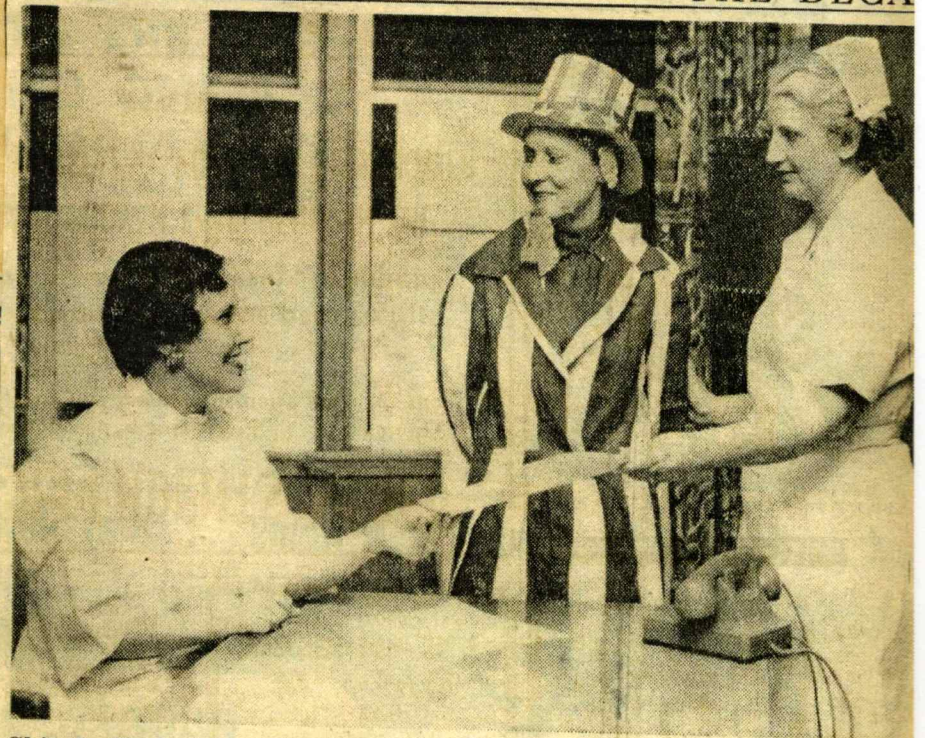
It involved two homes which sold for \$21,500 and \$285. The second was assessed at 52 per cent of its price and the owner paid 112 per cent of its assessed value. The first owner was taxed \$65.

While the League's study, in itself, was not enough for conclusions to be drawn, it believes that the information gathered, in addition to that compiled by a special Board committee, presents an accurate picture of the assessment situation.

The League believes that equalization of assessments near 50 per cent of actual value will yield additional tax income, and may in some cases justify a lowering of the tax rate.

March 21, 1957.

THE DECATUR



Skit Is Prelude for Voters' Meetings

Appearing in a skit "Uncle Sam Visits His Psychiatrist" left to right are: Mrs. Thomas Hurst, Mrs. James Hurley as Uncle Sam, and Mrs. Kirby

Riley. The skit was a prelude yesterday to the League of Women Voters meetings on "The Federal Loyalty-Security Program." The morning unit met

in the YMCA, and there was an evening meeting in the home of Mrs. Edgar Bachrach, 168 W. Wood St.

(Herald and Review Photo)

DECATUR SUNDAY HERALD AND REVIEW

League of Women Voters Study 'Federal Loyalty-Security Program'

League of Women Voters unit meetings are set for Wednesday.

The 9:30 a. m. session will be held in the YMCA. At 7:30 p. m. another group will meet in the home of Mrs. Edgar Bachrach, 1680 W. Wood St. The subject will be "The Federal Loyalty-Security Program."

As a prelude, a skit "Uncle Sam Visits His Psychiatrist" will be presented by Mrs. James W.

Hurley, Mrs. Thomas L. Hurst and Mrs. Kirby Riley.

Workshop results will be given to members by the resource committee:

Mrs. Clifford Smith, chairman
Mrs. H. G. Bolton
Mrs. Gerald Cox
Mrs. Neal Doubleday
Mrs. Nat Kessler
Mrs. James Leigh
Mrs. Helen Miller
Mrs. C. M. Nicholson

Supervisors Questioned

the survey results furnished The Herald and Review.

Questions were phrased to require "yes" or "no" answers.

Qualified answers were frequently given to a question concerning support of decisions of the county Zoning Board of Appeals.

Qualified answers are indicated by an "x" in the table.

3/31/57

- ## Editorials: *Our Opinions*

Adopt the short ballot for Illinois state government.

Adopt council-manager local government.

ists of Decatur Residents in Township Election

the city of opportunity to politics and to interest in the election next

The City of Decatur occupies more than half of the area of Decatur Township. The city also extends into three other townships, Hickory Point, South Wheatland, and Iowa. Cou-

Such a city can become a separate township by action of the County Board of Supervisors.

County Board of Supervisors. If the City of Decatur became a separate township, all of the \$150,000 a year in township road and bridge funds would be paid to the township outside the city.

road and bridge tax paid by residents within the limits of the City of Decatur could be used on city streets.

Now, only half of the road and bridge tax paid by Decatur residents is used on city streets, and the other half is used for city services. Those in the rural type areas within the township would feel more at home if their

supervisor and the other half is used on areas were attached to adjoining
wers to five township roads outside the City townships.
policy of Decatur. Decatur residents are making a gift of \$75,000 a year
Supervisors. Because this issue is so clear-

cut for residents of the City of

the public assistance laws of Illinois state three objectives for the relief programs: 1. Help make persons self-supporting. 2. Main-

...ed rehabilitation program—to search out the so often hard to find square holes for these square people who signate hane. But there ever.

States that federal and state governments should be local communities should be the unfortunate ones that make but not late and make but not late.

Illinois), 103. Each case has to be considered individually. Today's poor people are largely the unfortunate misfits in a society that is becoming more and more divided.

0001-5017/00/0000-0000\$05.00/0

4/29/57
Decatur, Illinois, Sunday, April 28, 1957.

Called Meeting Monday for Women Voters

A called meeting of the League of Women Voters is scheduled for Monday at 10 a.m. in room 227 of the YMCA. The meeting is to consider a call for action of House Bill 185 which provides for an "Illinois Equality of Employment Opportunity Commission."

Members are urged to be present, or to notify any board member, or call Mrs. H. W. Gibson who is president.

Women Back Fair Work Legislation

The Decatur League of Women Voters has given its support to proposed fair employment practices legislation now before committees of the Illinois Senate and House.

Mrs. E. J. Cresswell, secretary, yesterday said 95 per cent of the League members who attended a recent meeting voted in favor of the proposed bill.

Results of the vote have been sent to Rep. George M. Grandfield of Decatur, who serves on the House industry and labor relations committee.

Mrs. Cresswell said the League will ask other Decatur area legislators to support the bill if it is approved by the committee.

"The Decatur League of Women Voters has 10 years of background study in the area of civil liberties," Mrs. H. W. Gibson, president, said.

This background, she said, served as the basis for the decision to support the current legislation.

League of Women Voters groups in other Illinois cities are taking similar action, she said.

The proposed legislation is aimed at securing equality of employment opportunity regardless of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry. The bill would establish an Illinois Equality of Employment Opportunity Commission.

Reasons Listed

The Decatur League of Women Voters gave the following reasons for supporting the legislation:

1. Since the Decatur League was organized in 1946 education has not materially changed the picture in the Decatur area
2. Discrimination by business and industry causes the Decatur High School distributive education program to discourage Negro children from participation
3. Nationwide there has been no repeal by any of the 12 states and 30 cities that have enacted such laws
4. It is better for the states to handle the problem than to encourage the federal government to do so by default of state action
5. It provides employers, desiring not to discriminate, protection against prejudices of their customers
6. The world has become too small for us to continue to preach democracy and fail to practice it

Voters Have State Meeting

In Chicago for the opening sessions of the League of Women Voters 28th biennial convention starting today are five delegates of the Decatur League:

Mrs. L. L. Colvis
Mrs. John Donovan, state board member
Mrs. John Fairs
Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt, second vice president
Mrs. H. W. Gibson, president

Attendance to the three-day convention in the Congress Hotel is expected to be 500, delegates from 62 Leagues in the state. The schedule began with registration at 9:30 a. m. today followed by a series of sessions Mrs. Gibson will attend one of the meetings for League presidents at which the retiring state president, Mrs. Robert J. Phillips of St. Charles will preside.

Delegates will elect officers for the next two years and adopt a program for support to cover three items:

Promote citizen responsibility for court reorganization and non-partisan selection of the judiciary
Improvement of election laws and procedures

Evaluation of public school finance.

On the slate of nominations for state officers is Mrs. Donovan for president, who is a past president of the Decatur League.

DECATUR HERALD

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On the slate of nominations state officers is Mrs. Donovan president, who is a past president of the Decatur League.

DECATUR HERALD

Women Voters Elect

Chicago, May 15, (AP)

Mrs. Harper Andrews of Ke-wanee was elected president today of the Illinois League of Women Voters. She succeeds Mrs. Robert J. Phillips of St. Charles.

The league at its 28th biannual convention adopted a resolution supporting a proposed state constitutional amendment for judicial reform.

Other officers elected to two year terms included:

Mrs. Ronald J. Chrisie of Glenview, Mrs. John J. Donovan of Decatur, and Mrs. Remick McDowell of Lake Bluff, vice-presidents.

Mrs. Robert Pebworth of Riverdale, secretary, and Mrs. Edwin Swick of St. Charles, treasurer.

5/21/17

6/5/57

3

Mrs. Van Wyck Heads Judicial Reform Group

A committee of Macon County citizens was formed yesterday to work for adoption of judicial reform.

Mrs. Allen Van Wyck was named chairman.

The committee will work to support and provide education about judicial reform.

Now, judicial reform is in the hands of a joint Senate-House Committee of the General Assembly.

Harold Pogue, Decatur businessman, recently accepted an appointment from a state citizen's committee which is backing judicial reform.

He called the meeting of the Macon County people yesterday. The local committee will meet again at 4 p.m. May 29.

The House-Senate Committee is scheduled to report on the judicial amendment Thursday.

The work of the local committee will partly be determined by the report of the General Assembly committee.

All the people who met yesterday, with the exception of Edward Lindsay, editor of Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers, represented groups whose state organizations have come out for judicial reform.

Lindsay, a backer of the proposal, spoke to the group.

Committee Members

- On the committee are:
- Mrs. Allen Van Wyck
- Carl R. Miller, a member of the state committee which drafted the proposed amendment
- Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt, League of Women Voters
- Mrs. H. W. Gibson, president of the League of Women Voters
- Mrs. F. Hanly Brock, legislative committee chairman of the American Assn. of University Women
- Gordon L. Davis, Decatur Education Assn.
- Bennett Bradley Jr., Junior Chamber of Commerce
- Austin Buchanan Jr., Junior Chamber of Commerce
- Carl Damery, Macon County Farm Bureau
- Roy Schilling, Decatur Council of the Parent-Teacher Assn.
- H. K. Williams, president-elect of the Assn. of Commerce
- Henry H. Bolz, executive secretary of the A of C

League Outlines Year's Work

State Vice President Speaks To Board Today

The League of Women Voters of Decatur has as its guest Mrs. Remick McDowell, of Lake Bluff, one of the vice presidents of the Illinois League. Mrs. McDowell is the house guest of Mrs. G.R. Cohn, 777 S. Monroe St.

A buffet luncheon at the home of the local League president, Mrs. H. W. Gibson, 160 Kellar Lane, was given today for Mrs. McDowell and local board members. Mrs. McDowell spoke to the board concerning League work.

The local League is planning to publish this year a handbook on government in Macon County. In the spring the candidates' meeting will again be held, and candidates' questionnaire will be put out as part of the Decatur League's

voters' service work in the community. Study during the next year will also encompass election procedures, in addition to the fields listed below.

New officers and board members who will serve during the next year, their position on the board and the work they will be responsible for are:

- Mrs. H. W. Gibson president
- Mrs. Loring Unger, first vice president, program and units.
- Mrs. C. F. Gebhardt second vice president, judicial item chairman and public relations
- Mrs. E. J. Cresswell, secretary, action chairman
- Mrs. G. R. Cohn, treasurer
- Mrs. James Leigh, finance
- Mrs. John H. Fairs, bulletin
- Mrs. Ralph Frederickson, public school finance
- Mrs. Clifford Smith, federal loyalty security program

Mrs. L. L. Colvis, membership

Mrs. H. G. Bolton, township study

Mrs. T. L. Hurst, voters' service chairman

Mrs. Porter French, water study

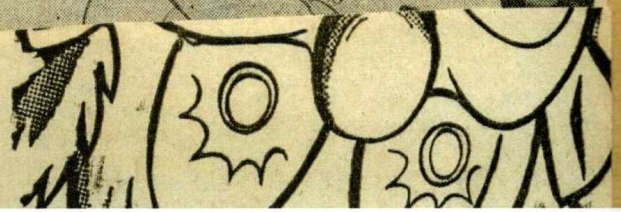
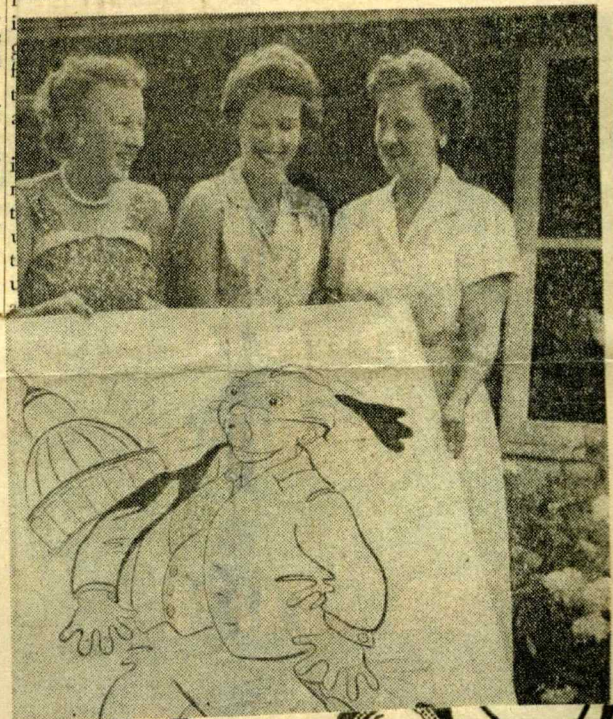
Mrs. Edward Booth, publications.

Women Voters Hold Coffee

The annual membership coffee of the League of Women Voters will be held at 9:30 a.m. Thursday at the home of Mrs. John Fairs of 43 N. Country Club Rd. "The Letter," a skit given at the state convention in Chicago, will be presented.

In charge of arrangements for the coffee are Mrs. L. L. Colvis, chairman, and committee members Mrs. Richard Wood, Mrs. Russell West, Mrs. Edward Stivers, Mrs. Richard Holscher, Mrs. Arthur Adelman, Mrs. Harold Brintlinger and Mrs. Robert Crawford.

Decatur, Illinois, Friday, August 2, 1957.



Aug. 15, 1957

Who Pays Your Taxes?

The question is a good one—Who pays your taxes, or, Whose taxes do you pay?

It seems that in many, many cases one equation or the other applies.

A report by an active group in Decatur came into our hands showing a total of 178 city properties having been examined.

This report shows that properties were assessed from 15 percent to 79 percent of actual purchase value.

The report, after much excellent detail, asks: "If the assessed value of your property is below 40 percent of what you paid for it, are you being subsidized? If it is above 50 percent, are you paying your tax bill and part of your neighbor's tax bill?"

Sept. 19, 1957

Salt Creek Pool Again in U.S. Planning

A water conservation pool on Salt Creek near Kenney is now being included in a restudy of the Illinois-Sangamon River basin by the U. S. Corps of Engineers.

Previously a so-called "dry dam" with no water storage area was planned for Kenney. "We must build all dams for the storage of silt," he pointed out. D'Alba mentioned briefly the Lake Decatur dam and its changing water storage capacity due to silt and sedimentation. It has been reported that Lake Decatur has lost about 5,942 acre feet to siltation.

Aug. 8, 1957

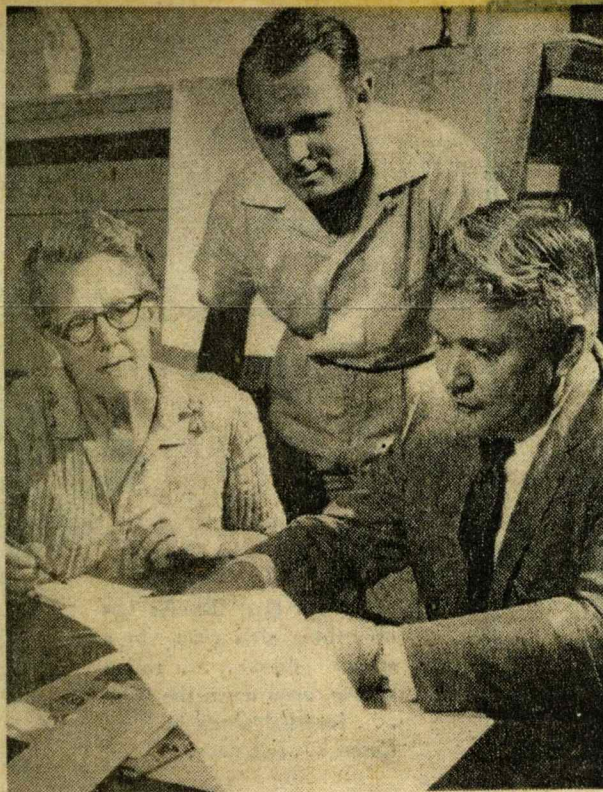
Women Voters Plan Fund Drive To Aid Work

Walker H. Mills will give an informal talk to 25 members of the League of Women Voters on Tuesday at a 9 o'clock breakfast at Greider's Cafeteria.

After the talk the group will disperse to solicit for several hours in the annual league fund drive. Approximately \$900 must be raised over and above dues in order to carry on local activities. The League budget is met through dues and contributions from individuals who value the non-partisan public service.

In addition to candidates meetings and candidates questionnaires, the league will conduct studies in six separate phases of governmental problems, and hopes to publish a handbook on government in Macon County.

1450 E. William, Ph. 8-8311, 8-5121
Chas. or Norma Seliz 2-3724
James Grubker 2-4355
ATTENTION
SOUTH SHORES: 27 3rd Drive
Attractive 2 bedroom modern Cape
Cod. Garage. Exclusive.
DUPLEX
ROOM modern Duplex located
Northwest. Only \$2,000 down. A
wonderful buy.
MERCER
1000 N. College Realtors Ph. 4484
Mercer 7246
3-1310
84-19
JARGAIN: Northwest, 9 room in-
room, Gas heat, 2 car garage. Close
in North. \$1,000 down. Exclusive.
Mercer 5484, 8-6596.
JARGAIN: Near MacArthur School.
4 room, \$400 down on contract.
Auction Realty, 8-0223.
84-19
JARGAIN: 8 room income property,
only \$7500. N. Yates Realty, 3-2047.
84-22
BURICKS: Fine locations, 2 and 3
bedroom, \$130 to \$170 down, same
monthly, Box 509 Herald-Review.
84-19
BRICK RANCH
NORTH: 3 bedrooms, built in stove
and oven in beautiful kitchen
living room
ton, D. C.



A group of Decatur residents last night met to act as a citizens committee on various problems, including taxation, the possibility of a city manager form of government and forming a City of Decatur Township.

Checking tax figures are Mrs. Lucy Oplinger, former member of the Decatur Board of Education, Leonard W. Sturm and Harold L. Turner, who originated the idea.

(Herald and Review Photo)

Citizens Group Urges City-Township Action

By Norman J. Puhek
Of The Herald Staff

A citizens committee last night voted to appear before the County Board of Supervisors in September and urge the formation of a City of Decatur Township.

The group, which met at the request of Harold L. Turner, Decatur businessman, also discussed taxation, criticized the city administration and talked about how a city manager form of government might relieve some of the problems they see.

The action on supporting a City of Decatur Township came at the request of F. M. Lindsay, president of Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers.

Under the plan, certain township offices would be abolished and their duties taken over by the city. Resulting savings have been estimated at \$75,000 to \$100,000 a year.

The matter came before the County Board in June. At that time the Board referred it to a committee, instructed to report back in December.

The city-township idea was sup-

names and introduced by Democrats on the Board.

Since the Board committee was formed, it has not met, according to Harry E. Johnston, chairman.

Lindsay said there is no need to wait until December. He also said there has been much study on a city-township and it should be created.

Lindsay's motion asked the group to sponsor a plan to make the city of Decatur co-existent with Decatur Township.

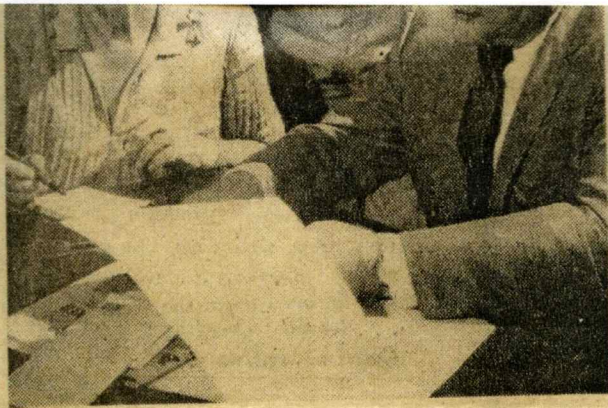
The Board meets Sept. 10 and a number of the 25 present last night indicated they would attend the meeting.

Lindsay also said that other persons interested in the idea will attend.

Taxation Outlined

Mrs. H. W. Gibson, president of the League of Women Voters, discussed taxation. She said that many portions of it are regulated by state laws and beyond reach of local government.

She said a city manager form of government probably would not result in much smaller tax bills, but might be more efficient, and



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The city-township idea was supported by a petition bearing 800

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She said a city manager form of government probably would not result in much smaller tax bills but might be more efficient, and more economies would be practiced.

Mrs. Gibson said citizens could take action on some taxes and City Council moves through petition and ultimately referendums. She also said that a bloc of 15 persons probably could control the annual town meeting when taxes are levied.

Turner said his reason for getting citizens together was because his taxes have been going up, because he wants to learn about the and what can be done at the "grass roots level."

He said he believes taxpayers are more agitated now than before and that a committee of "arous

Herald & Review

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Voters League Region Meets Here Monday

League of Women Voters of Illinois will have a regional meeting in Decatur Monday from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. in the YMCA building. Members from Champaign County, Danville, Galeburg, Lincoln, McLean County, Peoria and Springfield will meet with the Decatur group.

The meeting, under the direction of Mrs. Ellis H. Harris of Northbrook and Mrs. Remick McDowell of Lake Bluff, is one of six such meetings being held throughout the state during the month of September.

In the morning session, one group will discuss the League work in the field of individual liberties with Mrs. Harris in charge. Another group, under the direction of Mrs. McDowell, will consider memberships, types of meetings and discussion techniques.

After lunch in the YMCA, there will be a film on discussion techniques and then a sample League meeting on individual liberties.

The meetings are designed to be helpful to local League presidents and chairmen of unit, membership, program, discussion, and individual liberties. The meetings are open to all members.

Decatur, Illinois, Tuesday, September 24, 1957



Voters League Has Regional Meeting

Leaders of the League of Women Voters regional meeting in the YMCA Monday are, from left, Mrs. Ellis Harris of Northbrook, director of the state

board; Mrs. H. W. Gibson, president of the Decatur League; Mrs. Remick McDowell of Lake Bluff, state vice president; and Mrs. O. E. Schlachter, Decatur,

chairman of arrangements. Individual liberties, memberships and discussion techniques were on yesterday's agenda.

(Herald and Review Photo)

Citizens Committee

The group of individuals attempting to breath life into a citizens committee to study and help correct the tax assessment problem, or problems, should be praised highly for their efforts, and the next meeting of the group should have several hundred taxpayers from all walks of life in attendance.

There should also be no obstacles thrown in the path of such a worthy cause by those who have their own projects to further and are seeking additional help and strength in pushing them across.

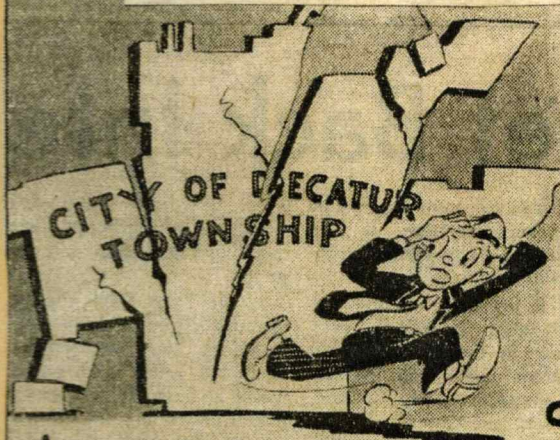
There are many problems in this, and all other communities, that need study and work, however, a group wishing to serve their community and their fellow taxpayers in the basic problem of taxes, should have no one attempting to weaken their position by introducing their own pet project to take time and effort away from the main issue—taxes.

With several hundred people, from all levels, showing a distinct interest in making the group into a solid, permanent organization, there should be much of value to the community accrue from their efforts. And, as time goes on they can, and probably will, make exhaustive studies of many other important issues and offer their help to the proper officials.

Notice of the next meeting should be the signal for every taxpayer in the community to set aside that time to attend and determine for themselves whether or not they believe such a group could serve usefully in the attempt to bring the tax picture in proper focus.

TOWN TOPICS

Decatur, Illinois, Sunday, September 15, 1957.



ATTEMPT TO CREATE A CITY OF DECATUR TOWNSHIP FAILS



COUNTY BOARD TURNS DOWN WAGE BOOST REQUEST



Will Lawyers Support Court Reform Effort?

By O. T. Banton
Of The Herald and Review Staff
Chicago, Aug. 31

The Illinois and Chicago Bar Assns. will meet in Chicago Saturday to decide whether or not to support the judicial reform amendment that will be subjected to a statewide referendum in November, 1958.

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BUSINESS MACHINES
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courses will be offered in
September 9, at 7 o'clock.
100

We Specialize in
WHEEL CHAIR
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Try Before You Buy
New Low Rates
Roth Johnson Drug Store
143 N. Water St.
Dial 2-0189

Women Mobilize On Waterfront

GOVERNMENTS on all levels are now concerned with the conservation of water, a prime natural resource which can no longer be taken for granted.

Nature's balance has been disturbed by modern ways of living, and of making a living. The demands of industry have drained streams that once supplied water in plenty to the people who lived on its banks. Concentrations of population have made it necessary to bring water from great distances for drinking, for household and industrial use.

The clearing of forests and the tilling of the soil have hastened the erosion of land and the silting of streams and impounded lakes. Increased use of water in manufacturing, in air conditioning, in automatic household appliances and more baths, has lowered water tables and taxed the wells and reservoirs that once provided all the water needed in a community.

The water situation is now being studied by national and state governments. Local governments must do more than study the situation; they must provide water, and make certain there will be water in the future. In hundreds of Illinois communities the water problem already is at the tax and bond issue stage of solution.

Government agencies may as well face up to their responsibilities to provide and to conserve water. They are going to be—shall we say?—encouraged, to do that duty.

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization of women established to study and act on governmental issues, has made a national project of water conservation.

Public officials, newspaper editors and political leaders have admiration and a healthy respect for the energy and for the dedication of the women of the League when they tackle a problem, or adopt a cause. We can expect unremitting action on the waterfront.

City-Township Proposal

Once again we say the proposal for a City of Decatur Township may be a good one. However, we hasten to add, we doubt if anyone knows for sure if that is true.

We believe that it will take time to study the proposition from all angles before anyone can make a competent evaluation. All the good points, and bad ones alike, must be found and balanced one against the other, before approval or disapproval can be offered by anyone. The fact that it might have proven to be either right or wrong some other place has to no bearing what-so-ever on the local situation, because every community has conditions peculiar unto itself.

We are more than happy with the fact that the County Board of Supervisors have a committee appointed to give lengthy study to the problem, with instructions to report their findings in detail at the December meeting of the board. The fact that the committee is composed of members of one political party, should have no effect on the findings what-so-ever. It is an issue for or against the best interests of their constituents, and if they were to let political inclinations prevent their making an honest report, they would prove themselves not worthy of the trust placed in them by the voters.

We do not believe they will do such a thing. Their individual records indicate they will be honest and straightforward in their study and report of the proposal.

We believe the committee will make an exhaustive study and prepare themselves to make a comprehensive report and recommendations at the December meeting . . . and that will be plenty fast for a good job.

THE DECATUR

"The Community Paper"

Tax Multiplier a Penalty for Apathy 9/28/57

Officials of Macon and a number of other Illinois counties are understandably disturbed over the report that their tax multipliers may be increased.

Of tax multipliers tentatively assigned by the State Revenue Department to 63 counties, all but two are higher. This means, of course, that individual property tax bills in those counties will be higher next year.

Macon County's multiplier (1.0204) already is higher than the perfect "one," which means assessed valuations assigned to local properties are not keeping pace with actual market values. Now Macon County seems destined for another increase in its multiplier.

Macon County's multiplier (1.0204) already is higher than the perfect "one," which means assessed valuations assigned to local properties are not keeping pace with actual market values. Now Macon County seems destined for another increase in its multiplier.

Not all of this is the fault of local assessors. Under the quadrennial system of assessing, valuations naturally fall behind the market in a time of rising property prices.

But Macon County could contrive to hold down its tax multiplier. It has the weapon with which to do so.

That instrument is the office of county supervisor of assess-

ments, now permissible under state law.

One reason why Macon County's assessments are unrealistically low in some instances, necessitating a higher tax multiplier, is that several of the individual township assessors are not listing property on a fair and equitable basis. Similar properties in different townships vary widely in assessed valuation.

A Macon County assessments supervisor would have the authority and the desire to standardize assessments among the 17 townships, which ought to have the effect of satisfying state officials that this country was assessing for tax purposes on an equitable basis.

The Macon County Board of Supervisors has the power to create a county assessments supervisor. But so far the members, while claiming they recognize the need, have been unable to find the time or money with which to create this valuable office. As a consequence, Macon County property owners may be penalized by a higher tax multiplier and correspondingly higher tax bills.

A general study of township government is scheduled this fall and winter which will include a study of a City of Decatur Township. Until the study is completed, the League cannot take a stand for or against this issue.

Decatur, Mrs. H. W. Gibson.

9/4/57 Judicial Reform Start Needed

The Illinois and Chicago Bar Assns. can delay for more years a start on judicial reform in Illinois if they do not back the judicial reform amendment provided by the state Legislature that adjourned July 1.

The amendment is fine as far as it goes but it does not go as far as the bar associations wanted it to go. That should not be a barrier to accepting the first action toward the complete reform that is needed.

At this stage, after many years of talking about judicial reform, half a loaf is better than no loaf. With half a loaf written into our state Constitution it is possible to campaign for the Legislature to complete its job.

The court reform amendment that will go to a state referendum in November, 1958 covers chiefly a unified court system. The

selection and tenure of judges was not touched upon other than to leave such action to future legislation.

Such a division in the process of getting court reform in Illinois had been discussed. It was feared by some that if the selection of judges was not changed from the present selection under political parties, that it never would be changed once part of the reform had been adopted by the public.

That may be true or the advocates of court reform, by getting half the job done, may have a good foundation for a campaign for some future Legislature to complete the job.

It will be a mistake for the two bar associations next Saturday to turn down what has been gained just because the whole reform program was not included.

Women Voters Studying River Basin Planning

"Little Drops of Water" will be the subject of the League of Women's Voters unit meetings Wednesday. The morning unit will meet at the home of Mrs. Porter French, 130 N. Westlawn Ave. at 9:30 a.m. and the evening unit at the home of Mrs. William Winn, 2090 W. Riverview Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

River basin planning and how costs should be shared will be discussed by the League members, led by the members of the Water Resources committee. The committee includes:

Mrs. Floyd Birt
Mrs. L. L. Colvis
Mrs. G. J. Cresswell
Mrs. John Donovan
Mrs. William Hipsher
Mrs. W. F. Kuntz
Mrs. Hilmer Landholt
Mrs. H. J. Pettee
Mrs. Thomas Protzman
Mrs. Porter French, chairman.

YW Luncheon Wednesday

Topic Is Pros and Cons of City Manager Plan

Pros and cons of the city manager form of government will be debated at the January Public Affairs luncheon at the YWCA at noon Wednesday, according to Mrs. Nat Kessler who is in charge of the meeting. Mrs. H. W. Gibson, president of the League of Women Voters, will present the points for the plan and Marshall Susler, Decatur attorney who has made a study of the city manager form, will, for the sake of argument only, take the negative viewpoint.

Luncheon will be served at noon promptly, with the meeting closing at 1:30 p.m. Reservations must be called in to the YWCA by noon Monday.

Discuss City Manager Plan

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Luncheon will be served at noon promptly, with the meeting closing at 1:30 p.m. Reservations must be called in to the YWCA by noon Monday.

DECATUR SUNDAY HE

Voters League Topics Concern Election Ballots

January units of the League of Women Voters will meet Wednesday to discuss laws concerning registration, marking and counting ballots.

Morning group will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the home of Mrs. Forest Martin, 235 Park Pl. and the evening group will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Gerald D. Cox, 834 W. Division St.

Material on the short ballot, consolidation of elections and the absentee ballot will be presented by Mrs. William Winn, Miss Grace Bridges, Mrs. E. C. Stivers and Mrs. Robert Cole.

League Of Voters To Hold Talks On Ballot Marking

January units of League of Women Voters will discuss laws concerning registration and the marking and counting of ballots January 15 in meetings at two places.

The first will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the home of Mrs. Forest Martin, 235 Park pl., and other meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Gerald D. Cox 834 W. Division st.

Mrs. William Winn, 2080 W. Riverview st., Mrs. Grace Bridges, 262 S. Union st., Mrs. E. C. Stivers, 2034 W. Forest st., and Mrs. Robert Cole, 1123 W. Macon st., will present the material.

Brief discussions of the short and absentee ballots and the consolidation of elections also will be discussed.

Landholt to Speak To Voters League

The League of Women Voters will have its general membership luncheon at 12:45 p.m. Thursday in the YMCA.

Hilmer Landholt, state's attorney, will speak on "Township Government."

Reservations for the luncheon close Wednesday. They are being taken by Mrs. L. L. Colvis.

Women Voters Ask Candidates To March Meet

Candidates for nomination to state and county offices in the April primary election will be presented next month to area voters in a public meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Decatur.

The meeting to acquaint Decatur and Macon County voters with candidates on both tickets will be held at 8 p. m. March 20 in the Stephen Decatur High School auditorium. In all, 40 candidates have been invited.

The response shown by the candidates so far, according to Mrs. Thomas L. Hurst, voters service chairman, has been good. With several days to go yet, there have been few refusals.

The candidates will be seated on the stage and introduced to the audience from there.

Due to time limitations, only the candidates for "policy making" offices will be allowed to speak briefly. These are the candidates for state and U. S. representatives, state central committeemen and representative committeemen.

After introduction of the candidates and a number of brief talks, the session will be given over to questions from the audience of any of the candidates.

This, said Mrs. Hurst, has proven the most popular feature of the meetings in the 10 years that they have been presented locally.

Women List Questions for Candidates

Twenty-nine candidates who will be voted on in the April 8 primary election have accepted invitations to appear Thursday night at a public meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

The open meeting will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Stephen Decatur High School auditorium.

The meeting is sponsored annually by the League of Women Voters, as a service to the public, so voters may hear statements from the candidates and question them on campaign issues.

Candidates for Congress, the state Legislature and party offices will speak briefly and candidates for county offices will be introduced.

Persons attending the meeting

will also receive programs containing information about the duties of each office, the salary paid, and information about candidates for it.

The four candidates for U. S. representative have been asked to comment on U. S. foreign policy, telling which aspects they are in agreement with and which they are most critical of. Three will appear and the fourth has submitted a statement.

The six candidates for 47th District representative in the General Assembly will be asked to comment on one or more of these questions:

1. What is the most urgently needed constitutional revision, other than the judicial amendment?
2. Do you plan to support the judicial amendment?
3. What is the state's responsibility for a strong foundation program in Illinois schools?
4. Do you believe the present organization for administering welfare services is effective?

Wednesday, March 19, 1958.

30 Candidates To Attend Voter Meeting

Thirty of the 40 candidates on the two Macon County primary ballots will attend the League of Women Voters public meeting Thursday night.

The meeting is to start at 8 p. m. in the Stephen Decatur High School auditorium.

Candidates for Congress, Legislature, and party offices will speak briefly. Other candidates will be introduced.

Candidates who have accepted invitations to appear, as listed by the League, are:

Congress

Robert B. Borchers (D)
Charles Henry Kelly (D)
Dr. Carlton H. Myers (D)
State Central Committeeman
Roy R. Anthony (D)
Tom E. Grace (D)
Thomas F. Walsh (D)

State Representative

John W. Alsup (D)
Paul H. Ferguson (D)
George M. Grandfield (R)
Robert W. McCarthy (D)
John R. Muehlebach (D)
Barrett F. Rogers (R)
Representative Committeeman
J. Fred Richter (D)

County Judge

Gus T. Greanias (R)
Orville S. Kahn (D)

County Clerk

Wayne N. Mercer

Sheriff

Shirley L. Bishop (D)
Fred O. Hale (R)
Pledger H. Hensley (R)
Dyle Kirby (D)
Lee A. Miller (D)
John E. Prescott (R)
Emery M. Thornell (R)
L. F. "Larry" Withrow (D)

County Treasurer

Ray A. Dillinger (R)
C. W. Peebles (D)
Floyd R. Van Hook (D)
County School Superintendent
James R. Belt (D)
William R. Woodward (R)

A statement from Rep. William L. Springer (R-Ill) will be read at the meeting.

None of the three candidates for state treasurer or the three candidates for state superintendent of public instruction will appear.

Local candidates who have indicated they cannot appear for various personal reasons are George P. Johns for Republican state central committeeman; Pete Mattchen for Republican representative committeeman, and County Clerk Lau-

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1958

DECATUR, ILLINOIS, TH

Candidates Meet Tonight

Voters can question candidates for the April 8 primary election at a public meeting in the Stephen Decatur High School auditorium at 8 p.m. today.

Twenty-nine of the forty candidates have indicated they will be present at the meeting, which is sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

Candidates for Congress, the state General Assembly and party office will speak, and those for county office will be introduced.

Questions may be submitted by those in the audience to any of the candidates. Robert L. Shade will act as moderator.

The public candidates' meeting is regularly sponsored by the League of Women Voters so voters may acquaint themselves with the candidates and their positions.

Advertiser

Thursday, March 20, 1958

Reporter

Ralph

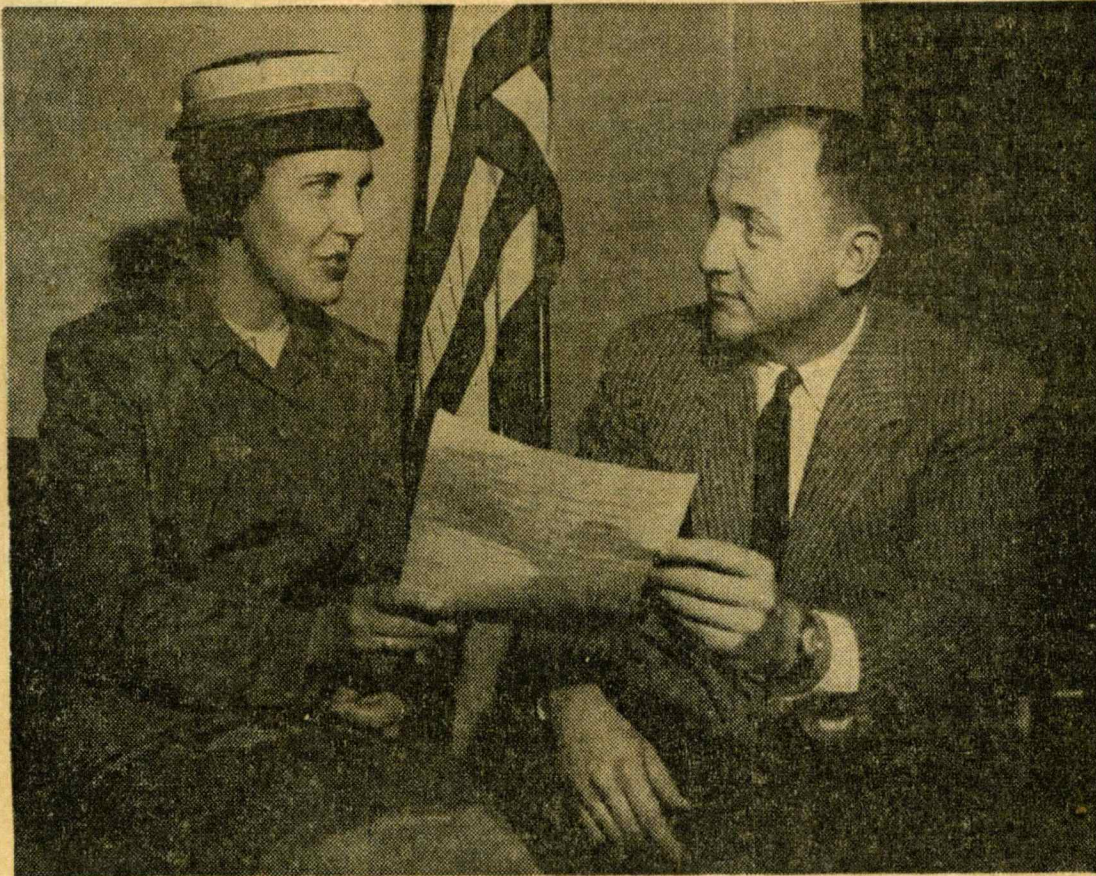
'Your Date With Tonight At Ste

Listen to Town & Country Reporter Monday through Friday on WDZ at 12:25 p.m. Bring your Town & Country news items to Ralph Colburn, Standard Hatchery Feed & Seed, 919 E. Wood st.

George Vest of 3212 Lakeland Road, who used to work with us here at Standard, is doing real well with the Country Life Insur-

at the Salen March 22. On have a Chick and Carnival at 5 p.m. The cated one mill and 36 and t

Frank M. celebrated his Sunday in t



Mrs. Thomas L. Hurst, chairman, and Robert L. Shade, moderator, for tonight's public meeting, "Your Date With the Candidates," at 8 o'clock in Stephen Decatur High School Auditorium look over the program and discuss procedures. The meeting is sponsored as a service to voters by the League of Women Voters of Decatur.

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in paper

Primary Candidates Appear; To Give Election Views

"Your Date with the Candidates" is the theme of the public meeting sponsored, as a service to voters, by The League of Women Voters of Decatur at the Stephen Decatur High School Auditorium tonight at 8:00.

This meeting gives the voters an opportunity to hear and question the candidates who will be voted on in the Primary Election, April 8.

The League, a non-partisan organization, sent letters of invitation to 40 candidates, those seeking their party's nomination for office of U. S. Representative from 22nd Congressional District; State Representative from 47th District; State Treasurer; State Superintendent of Public Instruction; County Judge; County Clerk; County Treasurer; County Sheriff; County Superintendent of Schools; and to candidates seeking election to party position of State Central Committeeman for 22nd Congressional District and Representative Committeeman for 47th District.

Those who will speak briefly will be candidates for U. S. Representative, State Representative, State Central Committeeman, and Representative Committeeman.

Speeches by candidates for party offices will be a special feature of this meeting. All other candidates will be introduced and along with those who speak will answer written questions put to them by the voters during the last half of the meeting. Moderator will be Robert L. Shade.

Printed programs will be distributed at the meeting to give aid to the voters. They contain information about the duties of each office, term, and salary and pertinent political information about all the candidates.

Candidates for Precinct Committeeman will be given identification badges to wear at the meeting, since they will be elected at the primary. The Stephen Decatur High School band, under direction of Glenn W. Johnston, will play preceeding the meeting.

Candidates for United States Representative have been asked to comment on any phase of the following:

1. With which aspect of United States Foreign policy are you most in agreement? Of which are you most critical?

2. In what domestic legislation are you especially interested?

Candidates for State Representative have been asked to speak

on one or more of the following:

1. In the field of constitutional revision what, in your opinion, is most urgent other than the judicial amendment?

2. Do you plan to support the judicial amendment in your campaign?

3. As you see it now, what is the state's financial responsibility for a strong foundation program in all Illinois schools?

4. Do you believe that the present organization for administering welfare services in Illinois is effective?

Candidates are:

U. S. Representative
(22nd District)

*Robert B. Borchers
*Charles Henry Kelly
*Dr. Carlton H. Myers
William L. Springer

State Representative
(47th District)

*John W. Alsup
*Paul H. Ferguson
*George M. Granfield
*Robert W. McCarthy
*John R. Muehlebach
*Barrett F. Rogers

State Treasurer

Louis E. Beckman
Joseph D. Lohman
Warren E. Wright

**State Superintendent of
Public Instruction**

Lar (America First) Daly
Gerald W. Smith
George T. Wilkins

State Central Committeeman
(22nd District)

*Roy R. Anthony
*Tom E. Grace
*George P. Johns
*Thomas F. Walsh

Representative Committeeman

Pete Mattchen
*J. Fred Richter

County Judge

*Gus T. Greanias
*Orville S. Kahn

County Clerk

*Wayne N. Mercer
Lawrence Tangney

County Sheriff

*Shirley L. Bishop
*Fred O. Hale
*Pledger H. Hensley
*Dyle Kirby
*Lee A. Miller

*Joe Peters

*John E. Prescott

*Emery M. Thornell

*L. F. "Larry" Withrow

County Superintendent of Schools

*James R. Belt

*William R. Woodward

County Treasurer

*Ray A. Dillinger

*C. W. Peebles

* Will be at meeting.

Illinois Has Candidate *Decatur Review*

Voters League Chooses National Nominee *2/18/5*

Mrs. H. W. Gibson, president of the League of Women Voters of Decatur, have received notice that Illinois has been honored by the selection of Mrs. Robert J. Phillips, St. Charles, as the nominee for the president of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Election will take place at the national convention of the League in Atlantic City, April 21 through 25.

Mrs. Phillips is immediate past president of the Illinois League, 1953 to 1957, and a member of the national board since May 1957. She has been a member of the League since 1926, the year she graduated from Knox College, Galesburg. Upon graduation from college, she joined the staff of the Illinois League where she remained until 1933. In 1929 she helped to organize the League in Elgin and also was president of the Glen Ellyn League. She is now a member of the Geneva - St. Charles League. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips have a married daughter and three grandchildren, and a son who is in his third year at Arizona State College. Mr. Phillips is an investment dealer, and the family lives at "Windswept" a six acre country home.

If elected, Mrs. Phillips will serve as the national spokesman for approximately 130,000 members in all the 48 states, Hawaii and Alaska.

League Studies Local Township Government

The present form of township government in Macon County will be discussed by members of the League of Women Voters on Wednesday.

The Unit meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the home of Mrs. Edward Booth, 328 N. Edward St., and at 7:30 p. m. in the home of Mrs. Kirby Riley, 4 Kater Dr.

Committee members who have been studying township government are:

Mrs. Lowell Gill
Mrs. M. N. Bennett
Mrs. Don Livergood
Mrs. E. C. Stivers
Mrs. William Kuntz

Mrs. Thomas Protzman

Mrs. E. J. Cresswell

Mrs. Loring Unger

Mrs. Charles Griffin

Mrs. H. W. Gibson.

Unit chairmen, Mrs. Hilmer Landholt and Mrs. Gerald Cox, will be available to help any members in need of transportation.

Outline Platform

Voters League Has Election

Mrs. L. L. Colvis has been elected new president of the League of Women Voters.

Her slate of officers for the coming year includes:

Mrs. Robert L. Cole, first vice president

Mrs. T. L. Hurst, second vice president

Mrs. Gershom Cohn, treasurer

Mrs. H. H. Gilson is retiring president.

Plans of the group for the year include:

A continuing study and analysis of governments within Macon County with action where indicated

Study of urban renewal and analysis of Decatur's needs for an effective urban renewal program

A study of Decatur's water resources with special emphasis on the Big Creek development.

Other projects the group will continue to support are:

School financial and organizational needs where such support is deemed in the best interests of the community

Council - manager form of government in preference to the commission form of government

Sewer system which provides all citizens of the Decatur Sanitary District with adequate sanitary facilities

Continued action in the field of geriatrics and mental health.

Women Voters Name Mrs. Colvis As President *Decatur Adventure 4*

Mrs. L. L. Clovis, 559 S. Taylor st., was elected president of the League of Women Voters in an election held last week.

The League intends to study during the year such questions as: Urban renewal and analysis of Decatur's needs in such a program; Decatur's water resources, with special emphasis on the Big Creek development; sewer and sanitation facilities; school financial and organizational requirements; the council-manager form of government as opposed to the commission system; and continued development of geriatric and mental health projects.

Also elected at the meeting were:

Mrs. Robert L. Cole, 1st vice president

Mrs. T. L. Hurst, 2nd vice president

Mrs. Gershom Cohn, treasurer.

Retiring president is Mrs. H. H. Gilson.

