

**Rotarians Hear  
Insurance Man**

Tracing the history of mankind from the days of the earliest man to the present day, when to gain personal economic security, countless tens of thousands of human beings allowed themselves to be slaves to a ruling class, then we come to a nation like Europe and England where for the same reason serfs became the near-chattels of kings and nobles; then to the days of George Washington and the United States, when the United States, when Thomas Jefferson proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal, and are endowed withinalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." E. P. Balkema, Detroit insurance authority, told Birmingham Rotarians Monday night, that "security of man kind has been the prime thought of man kind, and to maintain that security is the best example of the personal and professional ethics of the person." Mr. Balkema, Michigan manager for the Northwestern National Life Insurance Company, was introduced by Rotarian Clarence Kraft.

The speaker pointed out that the founders of the American government did most to liberate human beings from enslavement by creating charters such as the Constitution, which stands being possible by the development of a land rich in natural resources, plus the institution of a system of government and liberties that allowed for the development of the individual toward life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

He declared that the best assurance of maintaining democracy is the security of the individual, emphasizing this by referring to the Declaration made by Adam Smith, British economist 174 years ago, that "a nation is no stronger than the individual strength of its people."

Mr. Balkema offered statistics that show the United States to be the world's greatest producers and consumers of necessities and luxuries. He stated further today we must make the nation strong against outside aggression, and argued that the best way to accomplish this is to make our citizens strong and capable of meeting any emergency, against the potential economic distress that is bound to start after the present emergency is over.

**Happenings  
of Long Ago**

50 Years Ago  
June 11, 1891

The Franklin Cornet band was scheduled to give an open-air concert in Birmingham June 11. Citizens of Birmingham, and especially those living on the main streets, turned out in the business center, and cut the long grass in front of their homes.

Saturday was a gala day for Birmingham. The program included the Bloomfield High race meet before Squire Jones, the Detroit Bicycle Club races, and the regular Saturday influx of farmers.

Free and graphic account of the trials and tribulations "over the side" at the M. E. Church, Friday.

The William Riffenbarg's home, the south end of the village, was almost completely demolished by flames last week. Mrs. Riffenbarg, with her two boys on an errand to the attic, and a boy who had tipped over a lantern. Some confusion developed concerning the alarm, and it was some time before the call was received. Since Birmingham had no fire department, the fighting was not as efficient as possible, according to The Times. It is added that Wainwright and Mrs. Riffenbarg were heroes of the day.

25 Years Ago  
June 9, 1916

Two weddings headlined the events of June 9. Miss Nellie Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neumann, was married to David A. Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Anderson, at the First Baptist Church. On June 9, Robert Bird home on the Van Road was the scene of the marriage of Jemima Wood and Hope Ferguson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Ferguson, who have arrived home from the summer from her school work at Mrs. Asa J. Bigelow had left for Boston, Mass., where she was to spend the summer with her daughter, Mrs. Bertha Neff.

Robert C. Harris, of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Harris, of Woodward Avenue, had returned for his summer vacation from the Golden Gate School in California.

5 Years Ago  
June 11, 1936

Elsie Miller, won two out of six sets in the final match of the girls' tournament conducted by the Girls' Athletic Association of Birmingham High School. This victory places her the senior high school sectional tennis champion.

Miss Miller, graduate of Birmingham High School, was selected to give a piano recital on Sunday, June 15, at the Women's Club in Detroit.

Over 100 local veterans were given an average of one ten fifty dollar adjusted sum towards their share of the payment.

Father Alexander J. Brunetti, three years assistant pastor of St. Name Church, died Tuesday, June 16. He was 33 years old and had celebrated the third anniversary of his ordination on

# Greetings To the Class of '41

From

Birmingham Merchants



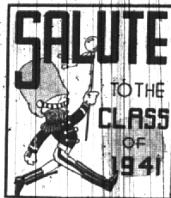
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INC.

190 West Maple Ave.



The  
Parisian Bootery  
West Maple Avenue

GREETINGS  
Class of '41

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Maxwell Shop

West Maple Avenue



Van's Pharmacy



KAY BAUM SHOP

81 West Maple

Birmingham



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CLASS OF '41



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