

A free, responsible and aggressive Press is democracy's first line of defense

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
March 15, 1894
"Maple Sugar social with buck-wheat butter cakes."
The M. E. Church has an ob- stinate fight on its hands and the Circuit Court is soon going to get interested.

and it meant just that Friday afternoon to the boy who spelled it correctly—the only boy to win a grade spelling bee in Birmingham schools. He is Donald Champney, 11 years old, a sixth grade pupil at the Adams school.
To assist in reducing the teach- er-load at Quanton school for the 6-A grade, Supt. Howard D. Crull was given permission Tuesday night by the Board of Education to engage another teacher on a half-day basis.

30 YEARS AGO
March 14, 1914
"The name, 'Village Players,' has been adopted by the dramatic society of Birmingham which was recently formed and the parts assigned for the first one-act play, which will be presented the last Wednesday in March."

RATIONING AT A GLANCE

Processed Foods—Green stamps K, L and M good through March 20. Blue stamps 4B, 8B, C8, D8, and E8 are good through May 20. Meats, Fats—Brown stamps Y and Z in Book Three are good through March 20. Red 16-point stamps A8, B8, C8, D8, E8, and F8 are good through May 20. Waste kitchen fats are redeemed at two ration points plus four extra ration stamps.

"The Birmingham 'sons' were the guests of honor last Thursday evening in the Miceebae hall when the members of the volunteer fire department acted as hosts."
The Exchange Club held its regular weekly luncheon at the Masonic Temple Tuesday noon and listened to a fine talk by Dr. Har- dine of Detroit.
"News that will be welcomed by residents of this vicinity was given out yesterday when the local First National Bank announced that they are now able to make first mortgage loans of unlimited amount."

5 YEARS AGO
March 15, 1939
"The last word was 'Success'."
PECK'S
Cash and Carry
Suits, Topsuits, \$1.09
Plain Dresses
CLEANED and PRESSED
For Delivery Phone 230
WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

You Folks who live outside of Birmingham ought to be interested in the subject of fire protection. For, really, you haven't very much of it now. Especially in the City of Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Village; you who depend upon Bloomfield Township fire fighting equipment are quite vulnerable to the destruction of fire hazards.

This was proved March 2 when the home of Mrs. Marylynn K. Nelson, on Manor road, was destroyed. We are informed that this fire could have been put out easily if the Town- ship's pumper had been connected to the Birmingham hydrant; or if the pumper owned by Bloomfield Hills had done so; but neither pumper did so—because the Town- ship's pumper, although Perry Vaughan, Supervisor, says that it has a 2½-inch hydrant connection, failed to make the connection; because the Hill's pumper doesn't carry such size connection, since it is standardized for 1½-inch hydrant connections in keeping with its own policy.

But when the Bloomfield Village volun- teer department arrived on the scene, it got right busy with its 2½-inch connection, ran it from a Birmingham hydrant on the west side of Woodward avenue, north of Oak street, made traffic go over a detour—and finally put the fire out.

Birmingham's fire department, although called, did not respond, in keeping with a policy set up many years ago to hold it within the city limits, for the protection of the property that supports it by taxation.

Insofar as the Nelson fire is concerned, direct responsibility lies with the Bloomfield Township unit of government; it needs, among other things, better training of its fire- fighting personnel; it needs more than the 200 paid members it now has; and it ought to obtain official approval from Birmingham for the use of the latter's most available water supply, when necessary.

As a matter of fact, City Manager H. H. Corson informed us yesterday that such water supply is available to adjacent units of gov- ernment, as in the Nelson fire.

For many years, when Birmingham was a village, it sent its fire equipment outside the town village; it did so because it wanted to be neighborly. In many cases people who received such service later refused to pay for it, although some did. Birmingham con- tinued to grow, finally supplanted its volun- teer department with a paid crew; then it adopted the policy of not going outside its own boundaries to fires.

However, about ten years ago Birmingham, realizing a moral responsibility in aiding out- side areas in case of fire, presented a plan to the nearby Townships of Bloomfield, Troy, and Southfield; it suggested that these three- mits chip in and buy a pumper, to be kept in the Birmingham firehouse. Birmingham would, with its own men, use this pumper to respond to outside fires, also use it for its own fires, if necessary.

The three Townships rejected the proposal. We are publishing this comment merely to present, briefly, the existence of fire hazard to property outside of Birmingham. Many of you who read this live in areas without

adequate fire assistance, as the Nelson fire proved.
What are you going to do about it?
We suggest that you contact your officials; suggest a meeting between them and the officials of Birmingham or Bloomfield Hills, to see if a better plan of fire protection for the whole area cannot be devised.
Now is the time to do this, Folks—not when your house is on fire.

Americans Use "Rocket Guns"
While we hear of the "bazooka" used as a tank-destroyer represents an early American use of rocket artillery.

From the South Pacific comes information that rocket guns were used from ships at the New Britain landings at Arawe and Cape Gloucester and at Sidor, New Guinea.

Correspondents say that at Arawe the rockets burned everything over wide areas of the beaches and that at Sidor the entire landing was literally covered with flames before the troops reached the beach.

It might be a good idea for Americans, when they read about German rocket devices, to remember that these weapons deliver a powerful explosive without the weight of heavy artillery. This means that rocket weapons can be utilized from ships and that, because of reduced weight, greater explosive force can be hurled against beach positions.

WE SEE WHERE SOME OF THE REPUBLICANS in Michigan are trying to prevent political Boss Frank D. McKay from retaining his place on the National Republican Committee. More power to them—and to the other ex- periences we've had with the Grand Rapids gentleman have proved in years gone by.

MICHIGAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE 31 MEN with the rank of General in this war. It's a good idea, too, that it has a lot of privates in the ranks. It's on the list of battlefields that the worst of enlisted men is really seen and recognized.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Michigan Mirror

Non-Partisan State News Letter

Memories of old-time melodramas are being re-lived at Lansing, the state capital.

The reason: Prosecutor Kim Sigler, State's Witness Charles He- mans, et al, and their sensational theatricals of purported graft in the law.

In the Gay Nineties era that preceded the Hocking silver screen, a traveling troupe of actors would present in the town open house state thrilling dramas as "East Lynn" and "The Midnight Express." The villain would con- spirator, and Little Nell would be rescued just in the nick of time from the path of a thundering midnight train.

And then there was the tear- jerker, "Uncle Tom's Cabin or Life Among the Lowly," that progandized masterpiece from the theatrical mind of Barrist Beecher Stowe which was produced in an earlier day, about 1850, and be- came an ever-popular experience. Nick Carter, too, was a part of this period in American history.

We do not want to suggest that the Lansing hearing before Judge Leland W. Carr, small and un- dramatic melodrama and illusion, it was no laughing matter. But the melodrama is, nevertheless, possessed the allegorical spirit of those sensational plots in which Little Nell is saved from the clutches of the villain, or the sweet, innocent heroine pitched against a harsh, cruel world.

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Next, on the list of characters, is the lobbyist. He represents what the "vested interest" and hence is usually portrayed in the role of the vil- lains. He is depicted as a man of no real home or tie to the soil.

The "vested interest" furnishes the tainted money whereby the lobbyist, or the corrupt politi- cian, representative or politician, to corrupt themselves.

The role of the hero is found, individually, as the characters enter the stage, in the justice who is determined to see justice triumph over evil, and in the prosecu- tor who seeks in turn to ferret out the conspiracy and to save Little Nell.

The heroine, of course, is the People of Michigan who would be wronged by the villainous forces.

All of this takes place in the first act, to be sure. You must wait until the third act, but the denou- cement just before the final curtain falls with a bang.

In the Lansing melodrama, how- ever, the villain is the victim of the villain, as the victim of the villain exists at the state capital. In fact, he declares he has been a victim of "corruption" whereby the lobbyist forced him to part with the tainted money, etc. Furthermore, it is dis- closed that the lobbyist, as a payoff man who turns state's witness, is to receive immunity from punish- ment.

Suppose, for example, that you started taking pictures of Jane when she was a tiny baby, then her first birthday cake, her first Christ- mas, and perhaps many other "firsts." Comes time for her to graduate from grammar school, and that, in any child's life, is a real milestone. You have a brilliant thought: "Wouldn't it please Grandmother to receive a nicely arranged album pictures Jane's life up to and through her graduation?"

You look through your album and find some grand old-time pictures. Here's Jane in the arms of her father for the first time. Here she is giving a big smile to Grandmother and Grandfather in recogni- tion of their first visit. Remember the first Christmas when you snuggled the picture of Mother holding Jane in her arms to be thrilled by the bright lights, the glistering tinsel, and the colorful decorations?

And so you go on through the album reviewing the highlights of Jane's life, as well as the family's, over a period of several years.

THE SOWERS



AGRICULTURE LABOR MANAGEMENT

Yes, Lansing, the capital city, is being treated to high drama in 1944. The next acts are being awaited amid strident suspense.

Well, hang on to your seats, folks. Until the last acts of the drama when the curtain crashes down, you'll probably have to wait for the answers.

Making Headway
"Your husband's studio prosper- ing?" His young bride was asked.
"Indeed, it is," was the confident first birthday cake, her first Christ- mas, for he told me last night that they had to appoint a receiver to assist him."

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



Save and preserve your negatives for future use. 4 negative album is as important as one for prints.

Do you keep a file of your neg- atives? If you don't— you should.
"Wait," you may say, "I make it a point to put a print of every good picture I make in my album and in that way I keep a complete record of all my pictures." Bravo! That is an excellent idea but, nevertheless, you should go a step further and preserve the negatives because some day you are going to want some extra prints and the only way to get really good prints is from the original negative.

So, be sure to save your nega- tives. They can be kept in envelopes if you wish but a better and more convenient method is to put them in an "instant" negative album. Within the covers there are bound glassine envelopes to protect your negatives and there is an index sys- tem which will enable you to quickly locate them. These albums can be purchased from most dealers in photographic equipment in various standard sizes.

But whether you use the album or some other system, save and preserve your good negatives for future use.

If you happen to be numbered among those who do save their negatives, here's a bit of advice to you. Look them over because the chances are you'll find some for- gotten pictures which may recall to someone in the Service some joyful event of days gone by. Have prints made and send them along. Pictures—don't forget—give a lift to those in the Service.

John van Oulder

From 595th Place to 230th Place among the nation's banks in 5 years

Table showing bank deposits from Dec 31, 1943 to Dec 31, 1938. Columns include Date, Deposits, and Amount.

A RECORD OF PROGRESS made possible by our depositors
On July 1, 1938, the Wabek State Bank of Detroit first opened its doors to the public.
At the end of our first half-year, on December 31, 1938, we showed deposits of \$8,597,728.79, for a standing of 595th among the nation's 13,000 banks.
By December 31, 1943, Wabek had climbed to 230th position, with deposits of \$55,897,470.48! Thus, in the short span of five years, we have overtaken and passed 365 of the nation's larger banks—an average of ONE BANK PASSED EVERY FIVE DAYS DURING THIS PERIOD.

We are, of course, proud of this outstanding record. But of far greater importance is the fact that this continuous growth has been made possible by a constantly increasing number of people who have found here a banking relationship that is both friendly and efficient.

People's Column

To The Editor:
I am writing you in the Chamber Amendment authorizing a Retirement System for City Employees.
Knowing that the people desire a description of this plan and the reasons for proposing it, we shall present its main features as briefly as possible and try to make it interesting as well.
Firstly, we have unanimously submitted a retirement system to the people. We have lagged behind other cities in this respect. Some of them are our neighbors. We think it is progressive. We believe it is fair to both the employee and employer alike. We know it is in keeping with the spirit of good public government. It is not new. Retirement plans in industry, in the teaching profession and other groups are quite common. Large cities have long had them for police officers and firemen. Some do not include public employees. Should they ever be included, some fair coordination with local plans would follow.

The plan will be financed by a pay roll deduction from the employees and 8.48% of pay roll contributed by the City, starting July 1, 1944. These two will provide sufficient to meet the monthly retirement pay of present and future employees as they reach com- pulsory retirement age.
The amounts paid vary with the length of contribution and the average pay they received during the last ten years of their employ- ment. In all cases it is much less than they received as employees. The ceiling for present employees is \$8,000.00 per year and the maximum is \$100.00 per year. For one example, a present employee 47 years old who has received the city average of \$2,200.00 per year, upon his retirement at age 60 would get about \$222.00 per year. Other examples could be (Continued on Page 5, Part 2)