Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By GENE ALLEMAN

Our introduction to Yankee Springs, one of the new recreational playgrounds of the Lower Peninsula, was unique to say the least.

With a tent, bed, wood stove and other camping equipment packed into a sturdy two-wheel trailer and cool fall weather in prospect for the week-end, we pulled into Wayland en route from Grand Rapids to Barry County.

Like Joe Doaks everywhere, we were bound for a recreational outing.

Rollo Mosher, editor of the Wayland Globe, was startled to see us. He promptly volunteered to serve as our guide. "The blue gills are really biting now," he confided, and, like the salesman who had also sold himself, added, "By golly, I'll go fishing with you myself!" Which he did enthusiastically.

Mosher told how a Yankee Springs farmer came in the newspaper office one day with copy for a sale ad. It read like this: "For sale: 160 farm in Yankee Springs, as soon as any there, which isn't saying a nell of a lot."

* * *

Yankee Springs has been given the title of being a settlement that lost itself.

Consisting of 4,194 rolling acres of glacial sand and gravel, topped thinly with some black soil, the region was once on a stage coach trail between Battle Creek and Grand Rapids. It got its colorful name from the "Yankee Springs House," a tavern and six log cabins operated by "Yankee Bill" Lewis which was advertised by its owner as having "seven stories—each on the ground."

In 1855 when a new plank road was built over a shorter route between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, the traffic disappeared. For nearly 75 years, the farmers eked out an existence from the sandy soil. Yankee Springs was forgotten.

In 1934 the U. S. Resettlement Administration declared the area "submarginal" and started buying the old farmsteads and removing the farmers to better land. In August, 1936, the National Parks Service took over the program and continued work in erosion control and plantings of native trees shrubs and imported pines. Fences were removed, and buildings razed.

Two organized camps were built. One was located on the east shore of Chief Noonday Lake; the other is on the east shore of Long Lake.

At Murphy's point, a slender peninsula of land that juts into the heart of Gun Lake, the park service sought to create a recreational center. A bathing beach was built at some expense, complete with a bathhouse. Adjoining this is an ideally situated picnic grounds, overlooking the lake. On the opposite side of the point is a camp site whose only handicap is its smallness.

It was there, near the lake shore that we pitched our wall tent, 10 by 12 feet; set up a fish shanty stove and soon had a cheering fire going, while the missus unpacked the cooking utensils and prepared the evening dinner. The wind was cool to chilly. In the evening we built a campfire outside, as a new moon cast silver reflection upon the waters of the lake. The war seemed far distant. It was good to get away from the city.

* * *

Needs of the outdoor camper are comparatively few. Yet they are quite important to the increased use of recreational areas, such as Yankee Springs.

The camper wants access to safe water. He wants sanitary facilities, and these do not need to be of the modern kind you expect in your own home. He prefers to have his camp site at some interesting scenic spot—possibly a lake, stream or forest. Water offers opportunity for boating, fishing, and bathing. The forest offers a chance for long hikes down well-marked trails.

Having camped in practically every part of Michigan, from the tip of Keweenaw down to Yankee Springs, we have come to the conclusion that possession of land for recreational needs is not enough. Unless the land is utilized, the investment does not bring maximum return of benefits to the people in whose name it is held. Parks and all recreational land must be developed. Until adequate facilities are provided, state parks will not be used to their greatest potentiality.

* * *

The State of Michigan, having undertaken a program to acquire the Porcupine mountains as a "timber museum," and to create a chain of recreational parks in a wide arc about Detroit, now faces the necessity of adopting a realistic plan for development of these areas whereby the people will be attracted to make use of them.

The state conservation commission is recommending that the legislature at its 1945 session, authorize a five-year plan for state park improvements. The cost would be a little more than $3,000,000 a year. This fund would go to provide sewage disposal, water systems, electricity, installations, nature areas, camp grounds, beaches, foot trails, saddle trails, park drives, highways, buildings and furniture.

Furthermore, it would be statewide. All sections would be benefitted.

With adoption of such a program, Michigan would take the national leadership in modern state parks. It has been suggested that a small fee be charged for daily use of camping facilities, the fee to be on a camp basis. A cost of 25 cents daily "per camp" would be the height of reasonableness. Revenue would assist maintenance of facilities.

As a veteran camper of many years' standing, we acclaim the commission's program. It should pay dividends in health and dollars to Michigan. It would be an additional asset to Michigan as a vacation land.

P.S.—We might add that the bluegills were biting; that Mosher cleaned 'em and the missus fried 'em right on the fish shanty stove in the tent. And by the illumination of two candles—since the gasoline pressure lantern declined to do its stuff—we dined on fresh delicious Michigan bluegills, topped with thick sliced ripe red Michigan tomatoes and climaxed with luscious Michigan muskmelon. Verily, Michigan is THE state for real living!

The percentage rise in employment of women in the last four years is nearly equal to that for 40 years, 1900 to 1940, according to the Retaining and Reemployment Administration.

SALVAGE MEMO

TIN CANS—Rinse after using. Remove label, open bottom end and flatten with foot. Place at curb for last City collection day of the month. Keep dry; keep separate from rubbish.

WASTE FATS—Strain and keep cool. Turn in to your meat market when you have a few pounds. Rancid fats not wanted.

SCRAP METALS, GLASS, RUBBER—Leave at curb on your last City collection day of the month. Copper engraver's plates and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, SCRAP PAPER—Pick-up of these may be arranged for by calling the Salvage Desk, at the Municipal Building, Phone 1230 between the hours of 8 and 5 o'clock Mondays through Fridays. Regular city curb pickup first Friday of each month.

American Newspapers

From October 1 to October 8 the newspapers of the United States are observing "National Newspaper Week." So, for our comment on the subject, we'll let two distinguished Americans give you their views on the part newspapers play in a free nation.

President Roosevelt Says:

"The Free Press of America is a living symbol of democracy, and as such, it is in the forefront of democracy's battle for survival. It is helping to win that battle and will help to win the peace and a better and freer world in the future.

"The press of America has upheld the hand of the soldier at the front and the worker on the production line. By providing the people with honest news, it has enlightened the minds of the people and strengthened their will. It has loyally shared in the sacrifices imposed by the need to ration essential materials. It has gladly and voluntarily abided by a code of censorship.

"The American press has met the test of our greatest national crisis with courage, loyalty and integrity, and to the members of the Newspaper Association Managers, as representatives of that press, I am happy to send greetings."

Governor Dewey Says:

"National Newspaper Week serves to call the American people to a re-examination and revaluation of the free press which serves them so well and which has contributed in so many important ways to the winning of the war.

"As American troops help liberate Europe, it would be well if every citizen of America would study what happened to Continental Europe, where the press developed very differently from that of America and Great Britain. The press of Europe grew soft and cynical in its dependence for income upon the subsidies and patronage of special pressure groups and blocs. Advertising never developed to the point of establishing an independent financial foundation. So the press of many European countries became merely propaganda sheets for various blocs and political groups. Freedom of the press, as America knows it, became unavailable. The kept press of the European blocs thought it could not afford freedom. Events demonstrated that it could not afford to do without freedom.

"The freedom of press and speech amendment was added to our youthful Constitution because of a deep-seated fear of government dominance. The founding fathers wrote a defense in the fundamental law against the arbitrary suppression of a free press by government, such as had taken place at times in England before and during Colonial days. They were determined to leave no loopholes for such development here.

"The dictators have given the world a bitter and bloody demonstration that government tyranny is still the great enemy of free press and speech. Measures to suppress completely the freedom of the press were carried out by every one of the dictators as natural and essential steps to their success.

"To the publishers and staffs of America's newspapers, our people are indebted for a great service of enlightenment. As custodians of a public trust they have given America by far the freest, most interesting and most informative press in the world. I know our publishers and editors will hold high that precious tradition."

Men Face Death And God

In a report to the War Department, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Poling, who toured the Pacific theater as an envoy of the President, assures American fathers and mothers that they "need have no fear that loved ones will forget their God."

We doubt that American fathers and mothers require any assurance on this point, but it is interesting to note that Dr. Poling finds that Army chaplains are "performing one of the greatest services of all times."

We have always found it difficult to understand the fear of some Americans that our soldiers and sailors will drift away from God while engaged in the service of their country. Certainly, men who look death in the face daily are inclined to think of eternal verities. In fact, many fighting men have given more serious thought to religious matters than they would have done at home.

PART OF THE DECK USED BY THE NEW DEAL since 1933 could be used to play according to Hoyle, so to speak, but, as time went on, and the cards got into unwise and speculator hands, the game became "stacked" against the tried and trusted rules of America—and plenty of people lost. What we need now is a change in the shufflers; America still has plenty of "play" for honest work among its people.

TO BE SURE, WAR DESTROYS MUCH OF civilization, but it also produces some evolutionary improvements in international thinking, not to overlook progress in some branches of science. As war becomes more and more destructive, man is forced to set up preventive measures against another war, for self-preservation.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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All newspaper and advertising copy must be in The Eccentric Office by Wednesday noon to obtain insertion for that week, except Classifieds—4 p. m.

The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, and University Press Club.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material providing it has news value; and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited superficially so that they conform to general newspaper style. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
Oct. 11, 1894

"Will Wright and family are in town again."

"Miss Maude Camp has been quite sick with the jaundice."

"It is getting approaching winter as the cold nights we are having testify."

"Mrs. Lydia Musgrave has returned from her northern trip and is well pleased with her visit."

"The Tennessee bank president who directed that a supply of fishing tackle be placed in his coffin after death, must have had an odd conception of the hereafter."

"The wrecks which strew the Atlantic coast as the result of that West Indies hurricane are few compared with the number that will be found the day after the November political storm."

"Wanted, a school Marm in Southfield fractional district No. 2. Apply to Frank Bassett, Director. Here's a good chance now girls for a pleasant and profitable situation for the winter."

"Found in Southfield, a lady's purple braided shoulder cape. The owner can have the same by calling at this office, depositing 25c to pay for this notice, prove property and go away happy. Try it."

Mr. C. A. Tibbils is now farming on a highly scientific scale. Not long ago he brought to us one of the largest, prettiest and most perfect pansy blooms we ever saw. It was an out of door production, and following close on this was a curious apple formation that was very grotesque, unique and wonderful."

20 YEARS AGO
Oct. 10, 1924

"An increase of 166 pupils is reported to be registered in the Birmingham school district over the number registered at the same time, October first, last year."

"Resulting from the noticeable success shown in the formation of a number of service clubs in Birmingham, a movement was started last Friday noon to form an organization of the younger men of town."

"New officers were elected and this year's work finished at a meeting of the Charles Edwards Post of the American Legion, in the Community house Wednesday evening."

"To assume responsibility for all the Boy Scout work in the Village, the Birmingham Council of the ... at a meeting in the Community House last Saturday."

"Twelve months from now the Grand Trunk Railroad probably will be using its new right-of-way a mile east of Woodward avenue and the state of Michigan's highway department will be completing plans for widening the east side of Woodward avenue where the Grand Trunk tracks now lie."

"William M. Brewer, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Auditors, gave an interesting talk Tuesday noon at the regular meeting of the Birmingham Exchange club."

5 YEARS AGO
Oct. 5, 1939

"Although parallel parking along Woodward avenue is now an accomplished fact, Birmingham merchants are still hopeful that angle parking can be restored, and there was a report current Wednesday that petitions would be circulated asking action."

"The heaviest mail he has ever received is pouring into his office protesting against repeal of the arms embargo, Rep. George A. Dondero told The Eccentric today."

"Officials of the committee which is arranging details for the Hunter boulevard-wider Woodward celebration here Nov. 3, met Tuesday night and continued their planmaking for the banquet, historical pageant and speaking program."

"A series of teas for workers in the annual Red Cross Roll Call in Birmingham was announced this week. The Roll Call will start Oct. 16."

"Members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce have set Nov. 10 as the date for their charter presentation ceremony at which time national officers will officially present the charter to the local chapter."

"A child should be given a reasonable amount of freedom, the Rev. Warner L. Forsyth told members of the Adams School Parent Teacher Association held at that school Monday evening."

"Members of Troop Seven of the Girl Scouts are making plans for a trip to Greenfield Village."

TICKLERS

30 States Are To Name Governors At Fall Elections

In thirty states this autumn there is being waged spited bi-party contests for the office of governor. This governor matter is not confined to Michigan. Some elect officers in the spring.

New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, West Virginia, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Colorado, Utah, Washington, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina and Florida.

Louisiana had its gubernatorial election last spring and in May installed radio announcer James H. Davis, Democrat, as successor to Gov. Sam H. Jones, Democratic incumbent.

Kentucky and New Jersey inaugurated new Republican governors.

Twelve other states have holdover governors, hence no elections this year. They are Alabama, California, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wyoming.

South Carolina's present governor, Olin D. Johnston, whose term expires January, 1947, won the Democratic nomination for U. S. senator, defeating veteran Senator "Cotton Ed" Smith, and will vacate the governorship when he takes his Senate seat Jan. 3.

Five Democrats and 13 Republican governors are seeking re-election. They are:

Democrats—Sidney P. Osborn Arizona; John J. Dempsey, New Mexico; Howard McGrath, Rhode Island; Herbert B. Maw Utah; and Coke R. Stevenson Texas.

Republicans—John C. Vivian Colorado; Raymond E. Baldwin Connecticut; Walter W. Bacon Delaware; Dwight H. Green, Illinois; Andrew F. Schoeppel, Kansas; Harry F. Kelly, Michigan Edward J. Thye, Minnesota; Sam C. Ford, Montana; Dwight Griswold, Nebraska; M. Q. Sharpe South Dakota; Arthur M. Langlie Washington; and Walter S. Goodland, Wisconsin.

RATIONING AT A GLANCE

Meats, Fats—Red stamps A8 through Z8 and A5 through K5, good indefinitely. No new stamps until Oct. 29.

Processed Foods—Blue stamps A8 through Z8 and A5 through R5, good indefinitely. No new stamps until Nov. 1.

Sugar—Sugar stamps 30, 31, 32 and 33, each good for five pounds indefinitely. Sugar stamp 40, good for five pounds of canning sugar through February, next year.

Gasoline—In East Coast states, A-11 coupons, good for three gallons each through Nov. 8 in states outside the East Coast area, A-13 coupons in new "A" book, good for four gallons each through Dec. 21.

Fuel Oil—Period 4 and 5 coupons and new period 1 coupons good throughout coming heating year.

Shoes—Airplane stamps 1 and 2 good indefinitely.

Plentiful Food—Onions.

Overseas Christmas Package Mailing—Oct. 15, last day.

Use Same "A" Coupon Nov. 9

The 17 East Coast states and the remainder of the country will get together on the same "A" gasoline coupons Nov. 9, when "A-13's" in the renewal ration books will be good throughout the country, the Office of Price Administration has announced. The last strip of coupons in the books of East Coast motorists, the "A-12's," will not be used. Only three of the "A-13's" will be good for East Coast motorists, because they will be used only for six weeks. On Dec. 21, all "A-13's" will expire throughout the country, and on Dec. 22, "A-14's" will be good. East Coast motorists will be advised locally to apply for renewal of their "A" rations before Nov. 9. Motorists in the rest of the country already have their new ration books.

Fuelough Rations Increased

Inasmuch as processed foods are now valued only in multiples of 10 ration points, the rations of these foods for service men on leave or furlough for 72 hours or more have been increased from eight to 10 points for each nine meals, OPA announces. Civilians eligible for temporary food rations will be issued increased food rations on the basis of 10 points for each seven days.

What Your City Commission Is Doing . . .

Oct. 2, 1944

Bills approved totaling $767.45.

Request from R. C. Davies for improvement of part of Oak Street under special assessment, referred to the city manager for estimate of cost.

Question of victory gardens for 1945 referred to the city manager, giving him power to designate the locations of city property available to the public.

Mayor empowered to employ counsel in an ordinance violation case now pending before the local court.

License of a taxicab driver revoked upon recommendation of Chief of Police.

Taxicab drivers license issued to Carl O. Sterling, Richard F. Thomas and Irene L. Dunckin.

IRENE E. HANLEY,
City Clerk

NO HUNTING—NO TRESPASSING signs on sale at the Eccentric Office—

Such Popularity Must Be Deserved

People's Column

Dear Editor:—

My brother, Dr. Frank L., has just mailed me a late copy of The Birmingham Eccentric. All that looks familiar to me is your notes of "50 Years Ago."

Forty years ago, we bought the Dr. Swan farm of 80 acres adjoining the north limits of Birmingham.

Through Martha Baldwin we sold a piece to The Birmingham Cemetery Association.

Later Martha Baldwin and I bought 11 acres on Harmon street just west of Woodward avenue and platted it into lots.

Mr. Edgar Poppleton (your Eccentric records will show he was an esteemed citizen and had to shoot a burglar dead who was trying to enter his office at night) well, he said we couldn't get any buyers past the River Rouge and now look at it.

Later part of this addition became part of the nucleus of the Baldwin high school.

In 1910 Guy L. Watkins, the Shetland pony man, and I opened the Oakland Realty office in the old Library building at Maple and Woodward avenues.

Birmingham was then just a "street car town" with very muddy streets.

Anyway, we had beautiful Maple shade trees and a nice gravel road to Detroit, also artesian water and sewer system to offer purchasers.

The adv. of Elmer Huston looks natural in your paper today.

"Tempus fugit," time flies, you say. Oh, yes! Time stays, we go.

Sincerely,
NELSON SHATTUCK,
2815 Reservoir street,
East Hollywood,
Los Angeles, Calif.
Sept. 28, 1944.

DATES SET

Annual Farmers Week at Michigan State college will be held on the campus January 30 and 31 and February 1, according to an announcement made by Ernest L. Anthony, dean of agriculture and chairman of the Farmers Week committee. Work of planning the program for this year's event will get underway as quickly as a program committee can be appointed.

"A FRIENDLY BANK"

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

Pay By Check!

Cancelled checks afford the safety of a receipt for each bill paid—and your check stubs detail each expenditure. Open a Pay-As-You-Go Checking Account with as little as $1.00. No minimum balance required.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

RESTAURANT OPERATION SCHEDULE

SO YOU WILL FIND THEM OPEN . . . WHEN YOU GO TO YOUR

FAVORITE EATING PLACES

So that you will not be disappointed at finding your favorite eating place closed when you go there to eat, the Restaurants listed here are publishing their operating times. Knowing that you do not want to waste time, gasoline and tires, they are letting you know what days they are closed and what hours of other days they will be open to serve you. Check this list carefully, it will help you plan your dining engagements without disappointments . . .

THE NORMANDY
LUNCHEONS • DINNERS
S. W. Corner of Woodward and 10-Mile Rd.
PLEASANT RIDGE
Daily Hours, including Sunday
Luncheons 11:30 A. M. to 2:30 P. M.
Dinner 5:00 P. M. to 8:30 P. M.
CLOSED ALL DAY ON TUESDAYS

CORNINGS' *El PATIO*
Woodward Ave. at Coolidge Highway
"It's always Dinner time at Corning's"
Champagne And Ale Served
Open Evenings and All Day Sundays
Closed on Mondays
We Cater to Groups
Phone Royal Oak 9772

BROOK'S COFFEE BAR
Woodward ave. near 12½ Mile Rd.
WEEK DAYS—12 Noon to 7:30 P. M.
10 P. M. to Midnight
SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS
7:30 P. M. to Midnight
TUESDAYS—Closed All Day

DIXIE DINER
255 E. Merrill
WEEK DAYS 6 A. M. to 8 P. M.
Including Saturdays
CLOSED ALL DAY SUNDAY
And Every Evening

KINGSLEY INN
N. WOODWARD
at Long Lake Rd.
Open Daily from 12 Noon to 2:00 a. m.
CLOSED ALL DAY SUNDAYS
For Reservations
Phone B'ham 9039

PLAN YOUR EATING OUT ENGAGEMENTS
from the INFORMATION LISTED IN THESE ADVERTISEMENTS

MIL-PEX COFFEE SHOP
138 S. Woodward in Birmingham
Open at 6 a. m. and Close at 2 a. m.
Daily Except Sat., Sun. and Mon.
Saturday Open 'til 2 a.m.
Sunday Open 'til 1 a. m.
Closed All Day Monday

MINTS ICE CREAM CO.
1360 S. Woodward, Birmingham
WEEK DAYS 11 A. M. to 8 P. M.
Including Saturdays
CLOSED ON SUNDAYS