

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press is Democracy's First Line of Defense

Michigan's State Fair

For months agitation for removal of the Michigan State Fair from Detroit to some other city has been going on.

Originally started as a method of bringing the country and the city folks together, the Michigan State Fair has changed from its original purpose.

As Michigan industry grew, the products of factories were added to the various farm displays; both exhibits, of course, were of some interest to all who attended the Fair.

There really is a proper place for such an activity as a State Fair, but it never will be a real asset if allowed to operate as in the past.

If some out-State city gets the Fair, then it will naturally decrease in attendance, in variety of exhibits. It will cease to have the potential value that, properly operated, it could and should have if kept in Detroit.

Free Election Fervor

The insistence of democratic people that other nations hold "free elections" would be more reasonable if there was assurance that the people in other countries would intelligently participate in such balloting.

The fact of the matter, which is often overlooked, is that the process of democracy, or the self-government of people, requires time and training. Even in the United States, there are millions of Americans without any intelligent conception of the part they should play if our government is to be efficient and effective.

Let us assume, for example, that the Sultan of some backward region would suddenly become converted to the virtues of democracy and order a "free election." The natives would have no conception of their privilege and the chances are that the "free election" would develop into a farce of the first magnitude.

In the old horse-and-buggy days it was the capitalist group that was accused of enjoying "special privileges." Now that pendulum swings to the other end of its arc, and the self-government of people, requires time and training. Even in the United States, there are millions of Americans without any intelligent conception of the part they should play if our government is to be efficient and effective.

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Good Books To Read

It is not our custom to advertise books in these columns but we think a project, recently initiated by the Harvard University Press, deserves some attention.

The university plans a series of books to give intelligent Americans an insight into the problems that confront the United States in its relations with other nations. The volumes will attempt to interpret living peoples and their customs, as well.

Whether our readers know it or not we have attempted, in our discussion of world problems, to present the viewpoint of other peoples. It is only through an understanding of the thinking and difficulties of other peoples and governments that we will be able to make probable the future peace of the world.

For the same reason we have disapproved the efforts of some Americans to stir up ill-feeling against our Allies, and other peoples, through appeals to the prejudices that every intelligent person knows are inevitable in connection with our relations with other lands.

It is an old speculator's truth that "few people ever bought at the lowest price and sold at the highest." Now that we face a national period of inflation, which will include the stock market, that old saying will be good to remember. Another saying is that "what goes up must come down."

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Too Bad It Disappears So Quickly



Bits of Birmingham

(Continued from Page 1, Part 2) line and from boys they see coming and going that the company is made up largely of those Birmingham school boys and their relatives, who are now getting home in increasing numbers from the war.

Oakland county has again received quite some honor. Charles N. Gayton, Pontiac, has been invited by Governor Harry Kelly to be one of 54 drafted board members of the county.

To a lot of Birmingham people who have been to the Blossom Festival at Benton Harbor an annual one, the announcement that the festival will not be revived will come as a bit of disappointment.

Some Birmingham folks are blaming this week's chilly weather on City Manager Harold H. Cowan, who was seen about the streets with his high beaver cap on his head.

Christmas cards come and go the most simple, yet appreciative, came this week from Charles M. Zeigler, state highway commissioner, and his State Highway Department.

In Birmingham homes where the making of Christmas cards has long been an annual occasion, the news that the sugar famine likely will continue even though 1947 is not very present.

With the football season and deer hunting over and over, many Birmingham game fans are again talking about baseball and that opening game of the Tigers will play at Briggs Stadium on April 16.

A special testimonial of appreciation is expected to be received by Birmingham servicemen from President Truman. The Army and Navy this week made the joint announcement that they will give to the men in the Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard who have or will receive honorable discharge, two complete copies of the testimonial.

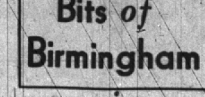
STATE OF MICHIGAN, in the Probate Court of the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office, in the County of Oakland, Michigan, on the 23rd day of November, A.D. 1945.

It is Further Ordered that public notice be given by publication in this issue of the Birmingham Eccentric of the names of the persons named herein, and that they be and they shall be and they are hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE for each issue of The Eccentric is five o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Please get your "copy" to us in time each week for publication. Thank you!

blood" had not been surrendered to a marine corporal and a private first class had been hunting rabbits. Gen. Rockey's former state major said, "The village gunmen shot them down in cold blood. The private was killed.

Happenings of Long Ago



50 YEARS AGO

December 19, 1895 "Just think of a Trolley party to Detroit in the near future—special car, your best 800—hold hands, Myum, myum."

"To worry a stinky man send him a bundle of newspapers containing advertisements of Christmas gifts."

"There are people who cannot distinguish between the notoriety and a real desire to reform something."

"Thin or gray hair and bald heads, so displeasing to many people, are marks of age, may be averted for a long time by using Hall's Hair Renewer."

"The family Yule-time tinkle of the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle was heard for the first time yesterday when the tripod was set up in front of the Kresge store on Woodward avenue."

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which will read: "Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out the task we now look to you for leadership in the example in further, exalting our country in peace."

While his mother was giving a shower for his former girl friend, a local boy called to give her the news of his approaching discharge from the Navy. The call proved to be rather lengthy when every girl at the shower demanded to say "hello" to him.

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MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY LISTEN TO THE "SPONG SPINNERS" on Michigan Bell's New Radio Program, "NUMBER PLEASE," Mon., Wed., Fri., 6:15 P.M., 1945

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