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

"Penniless" Actor Left Fortune

It is difficult, at times, to explain the behavior of human beings. Men and women become obsessed with an idea or an ambition and endure almost any hardship in an effort to make it real.

The other day, Conrad Cantzon, a "hit" actor, died after spending many years on the road, where he had one meal a day and often slept in railroad stations to save hotel expenses.

When he died the Actors' Fund of America paid his funeral expenses, but later, in cleaning out his apartment, an agent of the Association came across a will, revealing that the man had left a fortune.

No relatives could be located, nor could anybody figure out how he obtained the money, but savings accounts in eighteen banks totalled $100,000 and there were bundles of gilt-edge stocks and bonds to boost the estate to $226,608. For the past several years the actor lived in a four-room apartment but, it is reported, slept on a newspaper spread on the floor to save laundry expenses.

After this recital of his habits and wealth, the reader will probably be interested to know the beneficiary of Mr. Cantzen's fortune. Here is what he did with his money:

He left it to buy foot wear for needy actors so they would never look "on their uppers" as he had looked most of his fifty years of job hunting. "Many times I have been on my uppers," the will explained, "and the thinner the soles of my shoes were, the less courage I had to face the manager in looking for a job."

Windmill Generators

The Weather Bureau is making a special study of winds and if the results are encouraging a test will be made of the possibility of building enormous windmills for the purpose of producing electricity.

The Federal Power Commission, we are advised, has been studying the subject for several years under its mandate to investigate all possible means of producing electricity. A wind turbine, with giant propellers and designed to be almost as tall as the Washington monument, might produce 5,000 kilowatts of electric power, according to those who think they know something about the possibilities of such an operation.

Of course, everything depends upon the availability of winds to turn the propellors. This explains why the Weather Bureau has been asked to look into this phase of the problem. Until the study is completed there is no use to get excited but, just the same, there is no reason to laugh off the idea.

Betting Is Big Business

Horse-racing, and its accompaniment of betting, is getting into big business. In the State of New York, during the present year, $421,156,932 backed the judgment of various citizens on the thoroughbreds.

The State of New York managed to acquire $27,215,140 from its split of the proceeds, including six per cent of the amount of money wagered. Statistics reveal that some 4,350,382 fans attended the races and this seems to indicate that they bet, on the average, $100.

Ten Years Or More

The occupation of Germany will probably last ten years or more, according to General Joseph C. McNarney, now commanding American forces in Europe.

General McNarney thinks that there is the probability that the occupation will be much longer in order to give the Germans time to establish themselves along democratic lines and to perfect a self-supporting economic program.

He also favors a plan to permit families to join those in the forces of occupation as soon as possible, but he frankly admits that this can hardly be done during the present winter.

In the meantime, he continues the denazification policy set up by General Eisenhower, emphasizing that "the German people must realize that they are responsible and that their debt has not been paid."

Should Stay Home

A dispatch from London says that an American committee is expected in great Britain for the purpose of protesting the English policy in Palestine.

Included among those listed as on the committee are three Congressmen who have no business whatever on the junket. Even other Americans, listed as private citizens, could contribute to international good will by permitting the government of the United States to handle the matter.

It is safe to say that if a committee of eminent British citizens happened to come to the United States for the purpose of protesting our policy in the Philippines, or elsewhere, that they would be given the proverbial Bronx cheer and told where to go.

Oceans Conquered

The Army Air Transport Command announces that the number of trans-Atlantic flights has been cut to a daily average of nineteen crossings.

This compares with thirty-five a day three months ago. The figures indicate the development of aircraft to a point where a transoceanic trip is a matter of routine.

GREAT BRITAIN'S LABOR GOVERNMENT plans to nationalize many economic activities that have been under private control; if that were being done in the U.S.A. it would be labelled "socialism."

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-228 North Woodward Avenue
Telephone 11, 12 and 13

GEORGE R. AVERILL — Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL — Business Manager
H. LEE NORTH — Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BUEGGE — Advertising Manager
CLAUDE E. WALKER — Production Manager

Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Oakland County)		(Outside Oakland County)	
One Year	$2.00	One Year	$2.50
Six Months	1.25	Six Months	1.50
Three Months	.75	Three Months	.85

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.

'Happy New Year---1946 Speaking'

What Your School Board Is Doing . . .

Regular meeting of the Board of Education December 18th at 8:00 p. m.

Bid of Jaqua Studios in the amount of $150.00 to repair curtains at Barnum Junior High accepted.

Resignations of Mrs. Geraldine Gibson, Miss Shirley Dalby, Mrs. Gerta Houck, Miss Carol Metzger and Mrs. Corrine Hoffer accepted.

Appointment of Mrs. Arnold Berndt to assist Miss Roulet in Modern Dance classes approved.

Appointment of Mrs. Lorraine Schuessler as cafeteria manager and a transfer of $1,000.00 to cafeteria account to assist in operation approved.

Purchase of a portable scaffold at a cost of $297.60 approved.

Payment of bills, including payrolls, in the amount of $48,662.34 confirmed.

Accounts payable in the amount of $5,619.73 approved.

Requisitions in the amount of $4,757.93 authorized for purchase.

Cranbrook Man Is Head Of Museums

The Midwest Museums Conference, representing museums and their staffs from eight states, has just closed its 18th annual session which was held in connection with the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Robert T. Hatt, director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, was re-elected president and Mrs. Helen Coutts of Detroit, secretary.

Five vice-presidents elected were Paul Angle, director, Chicago Historical Museum; Dr. Bruno Gebhard, director, Cleveland Health Museum; Dr. W. C. McKern, director, Milwaukee Public Museum; Verne Patty, curator, Indiana State Museum; Willard Wichers, Netherlands Museum, Holland, Michigan.

Interest Shown In Army Recruiting

Sgt. Byrum C. Doyle, recruiting officer in charge at the Army recruiting station office in the Community House, reports considerable interest among Birmingham young men.

With considerable experience himself Sergeant Doyle has been able to explain Army life, duties, educational advantages and other phases of Army work to the younger applicants.

His work took him with the 349th boat company; the 226th Harbor Craft school for gas and Diesel engines; the Port Battalion training school for welding, cutting, carpentry and other work. He also served with the 169th quartermaster company, the 7th headquarters special training battalion; the 1081 engine maintenance company at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. Some of his work was in South Carolina, other parts of it in Texas and still other areas.

Strictly Fresh

THE tipoff to seriousness of the atomic bomb question is that the Alamogordo test turned hair gray on cattle. If the cows are that worried, this is no time for the rest of us to take a smug attitude.

* * *

Reports that a Republican researcher has been sitting in on the Pearl Harbor inquiry lead to just one conclusion: although the nation as a whole was not prepared in 1941, the G. O. P., at least, does not intend to be caught without ammunition in 1948.

* * *

Armouncement that Deanna Durbin's 1944 income was $326,000 puts logic in the odd turn some of the current strikes are taking. You have to put on an act to get in the big money.

* * *

What with one forecast and another, this postwar life is very confusing. Brig.-Gen. Leonard P. Ayres, the economist, forecasts a boom if things go right. Dr. Vannevar Bush, the atom scientist, forecasts one if they don't.

* * *

There is an ominous connection between a Civilian Production Administration official's announcement that clothing shortages will end in a year and predictions that we'll be in a boom by the end of 1946. If both these advices are true, we'll be all set to lose our shirts.

The cottontail rabbit is second in importance to the pheasant among Michigan farm game species.

Bits of Birmingham

(Continued from Page 1, Part 2)

mitted to a group of friends the other night that, back in Cook County, Illinois, he was one of the best "A" students in the schools he attended. "Only," smiled Mr. Lyle, in telling it," in my day the 'A's' I received were for 'absent'."

—o—

Without the use of color, Christmas would be stripped of much of its pomp and glory. For example: if Dad were handed a pair of wool sox without wrappings, the gift would be prosaic, indeed; but put some nifty paper around it, a bit of colored ribbon, a vari-colored address tag . . . and you give him more than a pair of wool sox! Indeed, you give him some of the warmth and spirit of Christmas.

—o—

If any citizen happened to wander over to the municipal building Monday night expecting to attend the meeting of the city commission, he had a rather long wait for the commission postponed its meeting to last night because of Monday night being Christmas Eve.

—o—

Michigan's second largest industry—the tourist and resort industry—is in large measure dependent upon the abundance of fish and game.

Temple Sign Company
SIGNS OF ALL KINDS
Screen Processing - Truck Windows - Banners
Goldleaf - Outdoor Signs
"No Job Too Big or Too Small"
SOuthfield 3446
26540 Lahser Road, Corner Lahser and Northwestern Hwy.

IF YOU HAVE FREQUENT COLDS
To Build Up Your Resistance
TRY
SHERVAC Vaccine Tablets
For the prevention of colds
THEY HAVE PROVEN of BENEFIT to MANY
30 Tablets $1.20 — 60 Tablets $3.00
Wilson Drug Co.
Woodward at Maple — Phone 2505

RESTAURANT OPERATION SCHEDULE
So You'll Find Them Open When You Go to Your FAVORITE EATING PLACES

Knowing that you do not want to waste time and tires, the restaurants listed in this advertisement are letting you know what days they are closed and what hours at other days they will be open to serve you. Check the list carefully when you plan your dinner engagements.

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 TUESDAY
We cater to clubs, societies, weddings and other special groups.

CORNING'S
(EL PATIO)
Woodward Ave. at Coolidge Highway
Near Birmingham
"It's always Dinner time at Corning's"
Champagne and Ale Served
Open at Noon Daily and Sunday
Phone Royal Oak 0772

BROOKS COFFEE CLUB
FOR MEMBERS ONLY
Noon to 7:30 10 to Midnight
Holidays, 7:30 to Midnight
CLOSED TUESDAYS

MINTS ICE CREAM CO.
1360 S. Woodward, Birmingham
WEEK DAYS 11 A. M. to 9 P. M.
Including Saturdays
CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

FOX AND HOUNDS INN
JOHN INGLESON, Prop.
Bloomfield Center
Woodward at Long Lake Rd.
SERVING DINNERS
Sundays—12:30 until 8:00 p.m.
Week days—5:30 until midnight
Mondays—Closed All Day
Fine Liquors — Good Food
Phone B'ham 3290

KINGSLEY INN
N. WOODWARD
at Long Lake Rd.
Open Daily from 12 Noon to 2:00 a.m.
Closed Sundays for Alterations
For Reservations
Phone B'ham 8039

PINEWOOD NO. 3
"Just Good Food"
TELEGRAPH AT MAPLE RD.
Steak - Chop - Chicken Dinners
85c to $1.25
Open 10:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M. Daily

MODERN
FIREPROOF CONSTRUCTION

Local and Long Distance
Moving
STORAGE
Birmingham 10240
GAUKLER
Storage Co.
8 Orchard Lake Ave.
PONTIAC

There isn't always room for one more

THERE isn't room for one more in this bridge foursome—even for a kibitzer ... all he does is cause trouble for the players. And one appliance too many on an electrical circuit may be the cause of that troublesome blown fuse. Many people are accustomed to inadequate wiring. But overloaded circuits are not your only handicap to home happiness if you have inadequate wiring. It may mean improper distribution of outlets—not having the electric roaster where you want it, because there's no outlet convenient—or maybe Dad can't plug in his new electric shaver where he wants it. For tomorrow's electrical living, an adequately wired home should accommodate a new frozen-food cabinet, electric range, automatic laundry, electric dishwasher and many other electrical appliances that will make living more pleasant and easier. And, of course, if your plans for tomorrow include a brand-new home, it's doubly important that your plans and specifications be checked for adequate wiring.

This is one of a series of advertisements prepared in cooperation with the electrical contractors in your area in the interest of insuring adequate wiring for every home. When you build or remodel, be sure your home is properly wired. For wiring recommendations, call your local Detroit Edison office.

THE DETROIT EDISON CO.

BIRMINGHAM MOVERS
MOVING • STORAGE • CRATING
277 PIERCE ST. PHONE 1343

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
December 26, 1895

"Congress took as joyfully to that long holiday as though it had actually been to work."

"This is the season to remember that it is not only 'more blessed to give than to receive' but it is also more satisfactory, to the giver."

"The fellow that put a nickel in his mother-in-law's coffin, 'so's the old lady'll have money to burn' deserves high rank among the world's meanest men."

"T. A. Ward presented us with a lovely little boutonniere of pansies last Saturday, Dec. 21. Talk about your southern climate! What's the matter with Michigan?"

"Just wait until you see our new power house go up—$5,000 without the machinery will build a building that will not be equaled in our day again in Birmingham."

"Fears are entirely groundless and the citizens living along the banks of the water (River Rouge) need not worry, as the stream is not navigable by the largest sized gunboats of the British Navy above the site of the electric railway plant. Of course the smaller ones will come up the Rouge and we must strengthen our coast defence through the Wooster farm and at the water works. The places are now being strengthened and we are sure we can repel all invaders."

"Lettuce is useful to those suffering from insomnia."

"A few drops of benzoin placed on cotton and put in or around a tooth that is aching will almost instantly stop the pain."

"Clear, black coffee diluted with water and containing a little ammonia will clean and restore black clothes."

"The proper way to roll an umbrella is to take hold of the ends of the ribs and the stick with the same hand, and hold them tightly enough to prevent their being twisted while the covering is being twirled around with the other hand."

—o—

20 YEARS AGO
December 23, 1925

"In the presence of 500 people, Thursday night, the new Pierce street grade school was formally presented to the Board of Education."

"In order to give its employees a holiday, the Eccentric will be closed Christmas Day, and will not open until the following Monday. This week's issue bears the date of Wednesday, December 23, so that it will reach subscribers before Christmas."

"The growing movement on the part of the churches to end all wars might be appreciably advanced if they would end war among themselves."

"Mohammedans of Morocco usually divorce a wife after living with her four or five years, thus displaying greater patience than most Americans."

"Women members of a London church went on a strike because one of the congregation said they 'looked like chorus girls'."

"A young gorilla was recently transported from Amsterdam to London by airplane and appeared to enjoy the trip."

"Monkeys are being trained to do useful work in the coconut groves of Pattini province, Siam."

"Mrs. Ralph L. Polk, of Lone Pine road, will give a supper and movie party for her children and their friends at Bloomfield Hills club Tuesday evening."

"Noel Dwelley, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Dwelley, celebrated his seventh birthday at a party Saturday afternoon."

"Members of the Birmingham Rotary club Monday noon enjoyed a few minutes of childish fun when numerous presents—none of them costing more than 25 cents—were exchanged."

—o—

5 YEARS AGO
December 23, 1940

"Birmingham has few factories—in fact, is not anxious to have them, but one shop visited last Friday afternoon was really working at full tilt. The shop is that of Holmes Craft Products, Inc., specializing in toys, and you've all seen the place—the cement block building with the red-painted wood peak on North Woodward avenue, just outside the city limits."

"Thursday is the last day for registration of aliens, Postmaster Joseph A. Byrne warned Saturday."

"Our suggestion to Italy, in its efforts to defeat the valiant Greeks, is this: Move Mt. Vesuvius over to Greece and make it erupt sufficiently to flow hot lava all over the ancient country. That's about the only way Italy will be able to win."

"A few days ago most of New England was shaken by what is said to have been an earthquake. But it probably was only the heavy sighs of Republicans as they reviewed the recent victory of Roosevelt along the rockbound coast."

"A perfectly giant spray of mistletoe hung in the center of the dance floor Saturday evening when another of those popular Community House dances was held for the young crowd."

"The Good Citizen Award which is offered annually by the Piety Hill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, has just been conferred upon Doris Frankline, Baldwin High School senior."

"Are you interested in peanuts? No? Well how about spices, or crime, or horses, or Indians? These and many more are the topics of term papers, the grand finale of English VIII, 12-A high school English course."

A SAVINGS ACCOUNT BUILDS FOR YOUR FUTURE

Nearly everyone wants to save . . . yet many people fail because they don't adopt a definite savings plan, and then stick to it.

If you haven't made much headway in saving . . . to buy the things you want, or to weather the "rainy day" you don't want . . . try this plan: Open a savings account with us—a dollar will start it—then add something every payday. Stop in today . . . let your friendly Wabeek State Bank help you realize these plans for the days ahead.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT
BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING