

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

Search For Prosperity

As millions of fighting men shift from uniform into civilian clothes and other millions of war workers turn to production of peacetime goods...

In six to twelve months industry will be busy making up for the war years manufacturing the things that millions of Americans want to buy.

What will happen after next year is anybody's guess. Much will depend upon the action of business itself.

Students Should Study

A back-to-school drive, aimed at increasing high school enrollment by 250,000 students this fall, has been sponsored by the Children's Bureau of the Labor Department and the Office of Education.

In prewar years, high school enrollment hovered around 7,250,000 boys and girls, but last year it dropped to about 6,000,000.

EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS EVERY REASON TO EXERCISE prudence to avoid accidents: make your contribution to national safety and your own welfare.

While there is an economic argument for every individual securing as much education as possible, this is not the only reason an individual should continually seek to become more intelligent.

THERE IS GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE CONDUCT of elections in a representative form of government; the ballot box being the fundamental source of popular self-government.

THE TIME TO SAVE MONEY IS WHEN YOU HAVE some money to save; not next year when you expect to have plenty.

SAVE YOUR PENNIES... AND THE TAX COLLECTOR will take care of the dollars.

Why People Leave Rural Areas

Senator George L. Ruffolo, of Maryland is disturbed over the war-speeded tendency of the nation's population to leave the rural areas for city life.

The drift from the farm has concerned many people for many years, but it continues unabated and there is little chance of stopping the trend until the economic rewards that come to farmers make agriculture more attractive as a source of cash.

The country has become a very attractive place of residence since modern inventions and developments have made it possible to enjoy electricity, telephones, radios and other conveniences, on the farm.

This brings us back to the basic complaint of farmers, that their incomes do not equal those of other industries.

The income of agriculture has been well below that of other economic activities. Constituting one-fourth of the population, the residents of rural areas have not enjoyed anything like one-fourth of the national income.

EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS EVERY REASON TO EXERCISE prudence to avoid accidents: make your contribution to national safety and your own welfare.

WE MAY NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT INTERNATIONAL affairs but islands brought from the ships by American blood should fly the Stars and Stripes forever.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributions material... 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 expunged upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Oh, Yeah!



People's Column

To The Editor: This letter is being written to you as a plea for better streets in Birmingham.

Birmingham, as you know is a city of great potentialities. The fine residential, home-making potentialities of this area are known to many, many present residents of Detroit; people from other parts of the nation who moved into the Detroit area also learn about the virtues of Birmingham.

You, perhaps, because of your position in the City Government, have heard the undercurrent of complaint and dissatisfaction about the condition of our streets.

Under present methods to obtain street improvements, it is apparently necessary for some aggressive citizen in each section to be improved to get a petition signed by most of the owners of the property facing that section.

Another method is for the City Commission, on their own initiative, to declare an assessment area for a particular section to be re-surfaced and the property owners pay the entire cost.

Since Birmingham may be about to enjoy considerable growth, now is certainly the time to adopt a scientific ten-year plan for permanent street improvement.

The following plan is offered for your consideration. It is proposed that: (1) A scientific study of traffic conditions be made by actual count, so that the streets with the heaviest traffic be accurately known.

- (3) The City Commission to establish at once the assessment areas for each section to be paved. (4) One half or more of the cost of the improvements made under the plan to be paid by the City. (5) The full plan showing each year's anticipated work to be published so that all may follow the progress of the plan from year to year.

Funds for this work could be obtained from the following sources: (1) Municipalities are expected to share to a much larger degree in the funds collected by the State from gasoline taxation.

(2) Birmingham's bonded indebtedness is now being rapidly reduced, thereby releasing funds formerly paid as interest.

(3) Increased assessments caused by new building, now that building materials are again available.

Sections not involved in the plan (part sections involved in the plan which desire the improvement to be made earlier than planned) would, of course, have the former method by petition to rely upon, whereby the assessment area would pay the entire cost of the improvement.

Your thinking and action about this plan or some similar plan is important. Your decision will be awaited with friendly interest.

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO Sept. 12, 1895

"A man who owns a lot in the cemetery objects to having his annual dues because he has no use of the lot."

"Everything happens when one goes a visiting or camping out. Mr. J. E. Quick and family had been away from home some time when some unkind soul stole all of his poultry and inside of three days more their old old family Angora cat, Colonel Tom, panned in his checks. Whatever Mrs. Quick's family say when they return?"

20 YEARS AGO Sept. 11, 1925

"Woodward avenue from Birmingham to Detroit was opened to traffic yesterday afternoon by County Engineer L. V. Belknap, giving traffic from the city the direct route to Detroit for the first time since the first of July when blockades were placed at Lincoln avenue and the Eleven Mile road to allow the road contractors to complete their work."

"Preliminary school business of assigning classes and lessons when the schools opened last Tuesday morning was at a standstill during the first day while superintendent, principals and teachers applied their efforts to keating the total number of pupils by several hundred entries attending the local schools."

"Village manager Harry S. Starr's recommendation to the commission that a zoning ordinance be drafted and adopted here in five fast steps toward community progress, in this day of booming real estate transfers, when the tendency to plot lands rather than miscellaneous regarding zoning is evidenced, there should be some definite policy adopted by the officials of the community to protect the home owner against property depreciation."

5 YEARS AGO Sept. 12, 1940

"Birmingham Eclectic Monday noon returned to the community meeting place at the Community house, following a month of meetings held at Devon Gables. It took on the nature of a sort of having been separated during vacation periods."

"The second annual Mid-West Architectural Conference opened today at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, with 200 members from fifteen states expected to be in attendance."

"New St. Hugo of the Hills Country Day School will open Monday to elementary students. The new \$125,000 school building, which is the gift of Walter Q. Briggs, will become the nucleus for the planned education center of the St. Hugo Hills parish on Odyke road."

"Like reports of air raids in Europe, disagreement existed today over the true score of Lions-Exchange baseball game played Wednesday afternoon at the Exchange Club party at Green Lake Country Club. Exchangeites claimed victory by 20-10 score, but Lions say it wasn't so. Dave Anderson, of Exchange, beat all Lions at Golf."

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