

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

Sigler's Critics

One of the chief tricks of persuasion under severe criticism of any act is to project into the argument issues that will distract attention from the main criticism.

This we see being done today by certain people who, apparently, are not in sympathy with the activities of the Grand Jury started two years ago by Judge Leland W. Carr, now presided over by Judge Coash, of Ingham County.

Macomb County, by the way, for years has been suspected of allowing gambling to operate within its borders.

This current "smear" campaign followed by a few hours the recent discharge of Sigler's case against Frank D. McKay, Grand Rapids millionaire political leader in Michigan. It was the first reverse Sigler met in his two years of prosecuting law violators in Michigan.

Right now Sigler has obtained evidence of wholesale gambling in many places in Michigan. He plans to prosecute the offenders involved. Sigler also has the confessions of certain people who are said to have bribed a Michigan Legislature when a bank regulating bill was up for consideration.

These cases are of tremendous importance to the people of Michigan, who are entitled to have their rights protected against the selfish interests of any group.

It is claimed by Johnston's Senate Committee that Sigler was extravagant in spending the Grand Jury's funds. This Committee has said a single word of approval of what good Sigler did achieve in sending law violators to prison thus far; nor have they admitted that the existence of the Carr-Sigler Grand Jury did much to eliminate possible further graft and bribe-taking by any other weak Michigan Legislators.

We do not know in any detail whether or not Sigler was justified in spending some of the Grand Jury's funds extravagantly; that phase of the situation is always subject to scrutiny by the Grand Juror himself, who has been present Supreme Court Justice Carr, and of late Judge Coash.

Johnston's Senate Committee apparently is interested in discrediting the entire Grand Jury system, especially this Grand Jury in which Sigler is the State's prosecutor; naturally, the public is interested in "Why?"

There now exists between Sigler and Judge Coash strained relations; the Judge has practically relieved Sigler of his job, so Sigler is currently asking the State Supreme Court to take over. The situation is critical.

We are reminded of James Russell Lowell's immortal words: "Truth forever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the throne."

As a law-abiding, tax-paying citizen, you want justice and decency in Michigan, folks. You can, right now, assert your desires by writing, writing, or telephoning the State Supreme Court, Lansing, Michigan, that you want that judicial body to defend your rights; you can help Sigler by letting him know how you feel on the subject; he can be reached: c/o Olds Hotel, Lansing.

And, since Lieut. Governor Vernon J. Brown is a candidate for Governor this fall, why not contact him, too? He can play an important part in this situation, and wants to.

Veterans Education

The presidents of American colleges and universities are concerned over the inability of their institutions to accommodate the growing number of veterans desiring to complete their educational programs.

The general consensus of opinion is that housing is the problem to be met and some institutions are purchasing Government trailers, barracks, Quonset huts and surplus hospitals to use as temporary dormitories.

In other institutions, it is planned to increase the size of classes, to add new instructors, and to continue all-year sessions. This last item will automatically enable colleges and universities to increase their capacity fifty per cent.

In this connection, we understand that some institutions of learning, which operated upon a continuous schedule during some war years, have abandoned the plan. This, in our opinion, is a serious mistake.

Veterans, returning from the war, after giving some years of their lives to the nation's service, deserve special consideration. Institutions of learning should accommodate their programs to the veterans' needs and keep the year-around program in operation. This will enable the veterans to complete their education and get back into civilian life as much as a year earlier than under the two-semester plan.

Traffic Laws

The adoption of a uniform traffic law throughout the United States is urged as a means to save immense sums of money through the elimination of accidents, which will save man-labor, vehicle loss and injury to individuals.

It is estimated that 30,000 persons will be killed in the United States, during 1946, through automobile accidents. This is a fearful toll that is being paid, not so much for speed, as for a failure to enact and enforce vehicle codes and traffic laws.

THERE IS NO SINGLE SOLUTION TO THE VARIETY of problems that may arise between management and labor. All that government should do is to create a set of equitable rules for both sides; then let their respective talents and abilities arrive at solutions. Neither side should be allowed to "hit below the belt."

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributions of material providing it has news value and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited and appear in the columns unless otherwise specified.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO March 12, 1896

"Miss Minnie Hunt brought into our sanctum one day last week a beautiful spray of apple blossoms. They grew stately and luxuriant upon a spring planted in a box of water. Rather early in the season for apple blossoms but they are beautiful just the same."

"And the next pleasant event will be a penny social given by the ladies of the M. E. church at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Peabody, Wednesday evening, March 13. Don't forget your penny at the door. Snapper only 10 cents."

"Born to Mrs. Fred D. Hoffman, Sunday afternoon—a brand new, nice, happy, healthy baby girl. Daddy wears a 7 1/2 smile, four thickens, all the time."

"A man and his wife can get a chance to get a fine situation on one of the best farms in this section, at good wages, by calling on George H. Mitchell at the P.O."

"A stranger would think that there was a Pingree button factory in our midst but it is not so. George H. Tomlin, in his high 'Ping' and has already received two consignments of the buttons now worn in this village and has more coming. George threatens to form a Pingree club in our midst when the times get so tight which says will not be long."

"Bright green cards are out, issued by 'The Good St. Patrick,' requesting the pleasure of your company at Liberty Hall, Tuesday evening, March 17, 1896. Dancing is from 8 to 1 p.m., good music and refreshments."

"The annual village election was held here Monday last and 22,000 voters cast their ballots. Two tickets in the field, 'The Regular Citizens' and 'The Law and Order' tickets. The election was quiet and the day was a fine one. The mysterious Australian ballot is becoming popular with voters as only five tickets were thrown out on account of irregularities."

TWENTY YEARS AGO

March 12, 1926

"Too bad that every time the fire whistle blows it doesn't mean a honest warning. One with collapsing walls and roofs and leaping roaring flames—at least that's what the small fry of the town seem to think to have heard their remarks in front of the E. L. Ballou's on the Pontiac avenue Friday morning when the fire department answered a call from here that was apparently a false alarm."

"Mary Pickford, foremost screen actress in her new screen feature, 'Little Annie Rooney,' a United Artists Corporation release coming next Friday evening, March 19, to the Baldwin High School auditorium, for the benefit of the United Detroit Hospital."

"Robert D. Lynd, local secretary of the Y.M.C.A., gave a brief summary of the history of the Young Men's Christian Association here members of the Birmingham Rotary club last Monday noon."

"Although the Eccentric's special 'Dollar Day' edition carried complete reports of the results of the annual township primary and the village election, for the benefit of foreign subscribers it perhaps necessary to publish again a short summary of the results."

"Next Tuesday evening in the Masonic Temple will be held the first Annual Mother and Son Banquet, given by the James S. Hasberger chapter of the order of DeMolay. This affair will be different from the Father and Son Banquets inasmuch as only mothers of DeMolays can attend."

FIVE YEARS AGO

March 13, 1941

"The Birmingham Bloomfield Hills Unit of the British War Relief Society is sponsoring a lecture by J. Albert Bennett, English authority on antiques. The lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, will be given at 2:30 Friday afternoon at the Community House."

"A large recreation building to contain a bowling alley and other amusements, is being planned for the site of the old city hall. The building will be located at a time and place to be announced and several plans, just all claims and demands against said site have been allowed for sale."

"It is Ordered, That two months from this date, the 15th day of the 6th day of May, 1941, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, the examination and adjournment of the probate court be held at the residence of the deceased."

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate. JOHN E. MARTZ, Attorney at Law, 27 East Exchange Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich.

For Her, War Is Never Over



History Notebooks

On Display This Week in the Public Library

By LINDO MOORE. Any dark rumors that have been going around about whether high school students really study or not, can be scotched right now. All you have to do is drop into the Public Library and view the display of "Renaissance Notebooks" there this week.

These notebooks are a regular assigned part of the work for history classes under the direction of Mrs. Carol Darling. They must include essays on famous men, historical events and the cultural advances of the period. The same old stuff father and grandfather and great-great-grand-pappy had to study before them—but done with a new lively touch.

The outstanding thing about these little books is the originality of decoration displayed by most of them. Many contain pictures obtained from the Metropolitan Museum, or from advertisements. Several contain illustrations of maps and initial letters in the style of ancient manuscripts. Many include original work in watercolor, pen and ink. One is bound in velvet, lavishly trimmed in silver leaf, which he "dove" and developed, taking some by hand.

The books will be on display for the first of this week at Baldwin Public Library.

QUARTERBACKS MEET

The Sideline Quarterbacks Club held its monthly meeting Wednesday, March 6, at 8 p. m. in Baldwin. Most of the discussion had to do with the proposed stadium at the former football stadium at the approximate cost of \$200,000.

SERVING IN JAPAN

Aj Shova Army Base, formerly one of Nippon's largest air transport facilities at Sogawa, Hiroshima of Birmingham, one of 18 Japanese-American soldiers, now designs winter coats, stoves, furniture, news equipment and other items for 4th Air Force troops. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Toshima was a structural engineer in Detroit prior to joining the Army.

Let Want Ads help you as they have helped others!

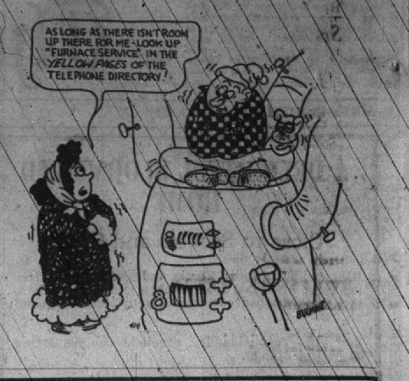
THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

A synchronized flash lamp brightened the shadows and helped make this a better picture. Not more than five to ten feet. To determine the correct exposure for such pictures—and our illustration is one of this type—first set the camera for an ordinary snapshot exposure and then make the picture ordinarily use for making the picture. That will give you a general, good, over-all exposure for the highlights, sky and background—points which will not be appreciably affected by the flash.

When that basic exposure has been determined, drop a white handkerchief over your flash reflector, and about the picture you wish to take. The handkerchief will cut the light from the flash in half, and yet still allow enough flash illumination to reject the shadows without making them appear unacceptably bright.

Try unsynchronized flash the next time you go out picture-taking outdoors. You'll find it will enable you to get good snapshots under conditions which would have given you trouble before.

John van Goolber.



Advertisement for Birmingham Moving and Storage Co. with text: 'IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO MOVE EITHER IN THE NEAR FUTURE OR DURING THE SPRING WE URGE YOU TO CALL US IMMEDIATELY'

Advertisement for Wabek State Bank of Detroit with text: 'IT'S EASIER TO BANK BY MAIL'

Advertisement for Restaurant Operation Schedule with text: 'So You'll Find Them Open When You Go to Your FAVORITE EATING PLACES'

Advertisement for Gas with text: 'GAS THE MAGIC FLAME THAT AIDS MEN OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY TO BRING YOU BETTER, HAPPIER, CAREFREE LIVING!'