Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Sigler Is Needed!

With the international frictions between nations going on what appears to be hell-bent for another war; with affairs within the United States in turmoil and distrust; with the clash of the Carr-Sigler Grand Jury personalities resulting in dismissal of special prosecutor Kim Sigler, with its consequent impact of disgust and distrust upon Michigan people—well, the future looks somewhat gloomy.

There has been, for a dozen years in the nation, a deterioration of public and private morale.

A majority of national leaders, playing the old game of politics, have led a campaign to bring a stigma upon American business and industry. The masses of workers, aided by government and led by radical leaders, have drifted away from the old-fashioned beliefs of self-reliance, thrift, initiative, etc.; they have been told that, by supporting the demagogue, they can attain "the abundant life."

So goeth the picture . . . familiar to all who observe and read the signs of these times.

But let's get down to Michigan's State problems.

Right now we witness the dismissal of Sigler, whose 28-month record as special prosecutor did more to clean up our Legislature than any past efforts ever did; a State Senate "investigating committee," led by a former Macomb County prosecutor who, during his term of office there, failed to wipe out gambling activities, was responsible for Sigler's dismissal.

Sigler is admittedly one of the ablest criminal lawyers ever to rise up in Michigan; he stands for "kicking out the crooks," "sending more crooks to prison"; he is, so far as the rights of the plain citizens of Michigan are concerned, their only able existing barrier against the future activities of certain bribers and corruptionists in high places.

Although Michigan elects an Attorney-General, and each county elects and supports a prosecuting attorney, whose combined duties are to prevent the rise and spread of illegal activities, not much is done by them to restore and maintain law and order.

At present, a Grand Jury is being set up within our own county of Oakland . . . what for? . . . to eliminate present alleged gambling activities that have not been stamped out by any law-enforcing agencies already within the county.

Sigler's name in Michigan today is synonymous with law-enforcement; we join with countless thousands of other Michigan people in believing that Sigler yet can and ought to do a job for Michigan.

He ought to become Michigan's next Attorney-General, or even its Governor.

If he does announce for the Governorship on the Republican ticket, he'll get plenty of state-wide support.

Michigan very seriously needs a Defender of Decency and Honesty in Government.

If he decides to run for Governor, his campaign will be a lively one.

If he is nominated and elected . . . well, we believe Michigan will become a part of the U.S.A. where gamblers and bribers and similar crooks will not take up permanent residence . . . unless, under Sigler's efforts, they obtain free board and room in a State prison.

Your City Commission

Four candidates are offering themselves to fill two vacancies on the Birmingham City Commission, the election for which occurs April 1.

They include incumbents Milton F. Mallender and Ralph J. Coryell; George G. Steelman and William L. Martin are the new entrants in the picture.

Personally, The Eccentric, since it is the only Birmingham newspaper, generally does not take sides in what ought to be a friendly, neighborly contest for City Commission places. We believe that local people, having been given the issues and personalities in the matter, can and will make their own choices.

However, we are declaring this very minute that Birmingham has neglected the doing of many things in recent years, only part of which may be condoned because of the war emergency; Birmingham now faces its most rapid period of growth and expansion, yet has done too little to prepare for them.

That is, largely, the Commission's job.

Mayor Moody, in his personal leadership for the past year, has shown an accelerated tempo on the Commission; he is, by nature, a chap who wants action. But he cannot cover any more ground than the remainder of the Commission will cover with him.

Milt Mallender, born and raised in Birmingham, has proved himself progressive; he possesses ideas, and he is willing, in open meeting, to express them. Those who now and then attend Commission meetings generally remark: "that chap Mallender is doing a good job." The Eccentric, incidentally, thinks so, too.

We have known Ralph Coryell for 25 years; Ralph is a fine man, loyal to the best in citizenship; but he does lack the personal power to become articulate and aggressive. We have told him so, within the past week, in person.

Steelman is an able automotive executive; he and Bill Martin each have revealed themselves as desirous of "keeping up with the times."

Each of the four candidates is telling you, the voters, what he stands for in the way of meeting Birmingham's immediate and future problems.

The Eccentric suggests that you give attention to their utterances, their plans, their promises, their records; then go to the polls April 1 and vote!

It's YOUR CITY, Folks . . . no better or no worse than you want it to be.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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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.

People's Column

Gentlemen:

Because of the deplorable condition of the streets in Birmingham, I hope that a complaint would be welcomed by your paper.

There has been considerable cars stuck in the mud and chuck holes on Chesterfield, immediately behind my house, and other streets are equally as bad and dangerous. They are Fairfax, Redding road and Quarton road.

I do not understand why the streets have been allowed to get in this condition, and I'm wondering if there is any program to eventually make improvements.

It seems to me a community such as Birmingham, with the type of people and homes, could expect much better road conditions to reach their homes.

Yours very truly,

Joe L. Newnam
1493 Fairfax road.

DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS is five o'clock Tuesday afternoon of the week in which you wish them published. Phone them in, as you desire.

49,867

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 7th day of March A.D. 1946.

Present: Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of William H. Fielding, Deceased.

William A. Fielding, administrator of said estate, having filed in said court a petition praying that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands against said deceased by and before said court.

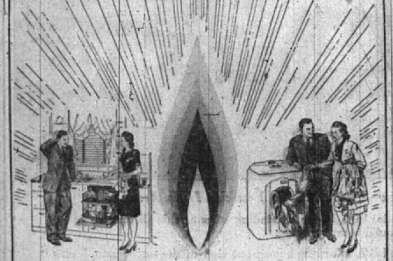
It is Ordered, That two months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

It is Further Ordered, That the 3rd day of June 1946 at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said deceased.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

MR. WILLIAM A. FIELDING
2321 Joyce Road
Pontiac, Michigan

Ecc. 51-52-1



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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
March 19, 1896

"The Chicago Express, west bound, due here now at 9:31 p. m., will leave here at 9:40 p. m. on and after March 20th."

"A debate between the high school pupils of Birmingham and Pontiac is one of the good things ahead of us. Let 'em come."

"Birmingham has a Dramatic association and is now in line for a few plays which the company propose to present to our people at popular prices. Look out for the best talent in Birmingham on our local stage."

"A chance to do good when deserving is to see the W. D. C. tomorrow evening at Library Hall. This is the young people of Walnut who have undertaken to get an organ for the school and church and have so far proven to the public that they give in return for what they receive full value. Give them a lift."

"The Misses May and Florence Lanabury are promoters of a children's Leap Year party which comes off tomorrow, Friday evening, at National hall. A large number of the little folks with a sprinkling of the adults to look after the youngsters will make a very pleasant affair indeed."

"The people of the Presbyterian church of this place have long felt the need of an additional room for prayer meetings and other purposes, and the ladies have decided to inaugurate a movement to secure one by having a grand rally and social at the church next Wednesday evening, the 25th of March. The ladies say a good time is in store for all. All the members and friends of the church are invited to be present. A program will be given and refreshments will be served. Admission—a cup and a saucer."

"Teachers attention! There will be an examination of teachers for first, second and third grade certificates, also for admission to the Agricultural College, held at Pontiac Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27, 1896, commencing at 8:30 o'clock, local time."

20 YEARS AGO
March 19, 1926

"Seven fires, in scattered sections of Birmingham and nearby, took place during the past week. The total damage amounted to approximately $800.00, while no lives or adjacent property were jeopardized."

"Through the talent of the Mabel Guess Musicale Studios of Detroit and under the supervision, in Birmingham, of Ella Dorothea Clixby, a recital by her piano pupils is scheduled for tonight, March 19, at the Community House."

"As no bids on the McCarthy and Gardner houses and garages on Merrill street, which had been advertised for sale for the last two weeks, were received by the school board by Monday night, the time limit set for the receiving of such bids, these buildings in all probability will be wrecked."

"Five Birmingham public schools will compete today in the Detroit News spelling contest, according to information given out by Clarence Vliet, superintendent of schools. They are Adams, Barnum, Baldwin, Hill and Pierce. Lee A. White of Brookside drive, Birmingham, and a member of the Detroit News staff, is in complete charge of the spelling contest, which is statewide in scope."

"In order to insure the distribution of its annual Directory of Birmingham and Bloomfield township, The Eccentric this week started a canvass of residences in the village, seeking the name, occupation, and address of every person over 18 years of age. This canvass will be continued until the entire district is covered."

"If the 45 people who have sent in their 'straw votes' in the Eccentric's canvass of opinion regarding the operation of a motion picture theater here on Sundays are indicative of the local sentiment on this momentous problem, then Birmingham will ultimately be in favor of a Sunday theater. Although 45 votes have been mailed or brought into the Eccentric office during the past few days, a large majority of them favor the Sunday plan, to be exact, 36 of them, while the remainder, 9 votes, are opposed to Sunday operation."

5 YEARS AGO
March 20, 1941

"Tonight and Friday night 'Tish,' all-school play, will be given at 8 o'clock in Baldwin High auditorium."

"At the Southeastern Michigan Band and Orchestra Festival held in Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor, last Saturday, Baldwin High School band was rated first division in sight reading and concert playing."

"A junior R.O.T.C. unit, unofficial as yet, has recently been established in the community by a group of high school youths. Since its beginning a week ago, ten boys, 17 and 18 years of age, have joined this organization. Stewart Linton, Robert Foley and Laurie Hall are the leaders of the group."

"A new policy for the Birmingham Theatre was announced today by Howard Holub, manager. Instead of having two changes of program weekly as in the past, new pictures will start Friday and will be shown for an entire week, he said."

"The Bloomfield Theatre is open for business; in fact, it opened on schedule last Thursday evening although only at 4 p. m. a week ago was decision made by the projection men's union to allow the theatre to open and to negotiate afterward. E. J. Hudson, president of the United Detroit Theatres, is still dickering with international officers of the union over the point of hiring a stagehand at the theatre. The manage-

'Hey! Where You Guys Taking Me?'

Bits of Birmingham

(Continued from Page 1, Part 3)

place where he had been buying food for some time. But the store did look different with its new shelving and displays so handy for the customer. "Really, you can't blame some of the folks. I hardly knew the place myself the morning after the change from the old fixtures had taken place," declared Sam Bruni. "The new, modern equipment gives us a lot more room for stock and also for the customer," he said.

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Members of the Oakland County Engineering Society held their annual ladies' night dinner at the Birmingham Community House last week with places marked for 140. H. H. Corson, Birmingham city engineer, assisted with arrangements and F. W. (Duke) DuBois was toastmaster. Featuring the program of the evening were the stories in pictures of hunting and fishing in Alaska, presented by George O'Neil, freight claims agent for the Pere Marquette railroad company. Mr. O'Neil has made frequent hunting and fishing trips to Alaska and Birmingham members of the society report his program a highly interesting one. "The fish and wild game certainly grow larger in Alaska than around any of the Oakland county lakes where a lot of us have to do most of our fishing and hunting," declared Corson.

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The members of the county Bee Keepers' Association are inviting persons interested in bee keeping, or persons just starting in this industry to attend a special educational meeting of the association at the Bloomfield township hall on Telegraph road at 7:30 o'clock on Friday evening, March 22. The association members declare "No one is going to get stung. "It's to be a straight educational session in charge of local members, and it will be primarily a special beginner's school of instruction."

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We heard it said by Wayne Mortimer, of Mortimer's Men's Shop, 136 North Woodward: "I have been very interested in reading The Eccentric's series of articles about Birmingham schools. This condition is something residents of the city should be made aware of; we should correct it as soon as humanly possible."

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Lou Hascall says that the trap shoot enthusiasts are enjoying the sport at the local range on the first and third Wednesdays of each month and nearly every Saturday afternoon. "We are able to get a few more birds and more shotgun shells so the sport is picking up again," Hascall told this Wanderer the other day. "We have a fairly good sized club membership and anticipate an increase as the real spring and summer shooting season opens."

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Spring is here. According to the Naval weather men in Washington it arrived in Birmingham at 12:33 o'clock this morning, March 21, for its annual visit of about three months. But as for the kind of weather the season is going to bring, this Wanderer is told that Birmingham can expect just about most any kind. "No one can tell what's ahead in the weather line," one resident said.

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Bargain Hunters will again be interested to know that the annual Tax Sale is on in Oakland county. The list was printed by the Holly Herald and copies can be purchased at the Birmingham business office and at the Bodine News.

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Stretches of water out along Henrietta street are not ditches but rather are the sidewalks along the side of the street, the City Commission was informed Monday evening. A group of residents along the street had petitioned for street improvements and the matter was up for discussion. "That's why we feel we need street improvements," declared one resident. "The street is so much higher than the sidewalks that the latter now appear to be ditches, and in many places are deep with water."

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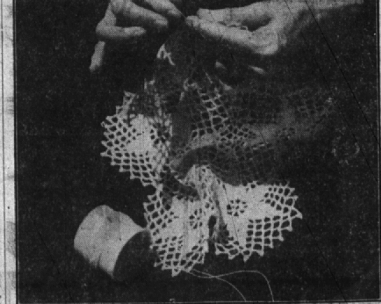
Recently the Presbyterian Men's Club learned a lot about Japan when it had Vernon C. Glenn, of Lone Pine court as its evening speaker. Tonight the club is turning to China and Dr. George W. Shepherd, Detroit, will be the speaker. The Men's Club invites anyone who wishes to hear Dr. Shepherd's talk, which will follow the regular March dinner. The address likely will open at about 7:45 or 8 o'clock. Dr. Shepherd was social and economic adviser to Chiang Kai-shek for six years. He is to take for his topic "The Triangle in Asia—Russia, China, America." It is said that a number of Birmingham young men, lately home from service in the Pacific war area, likely will want to hear Dr. Shepherd, and some of the club members are arranging to bring their sons with them to the dinner.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



Interesting hands like these make fascinating subjects for close-up pictures.

STICKING to one method of picture taking, and one type of photography, is a habit common to many amateur photographers.

That, of course, is a pretty good habit. And yet every camera owner who wants to progress photographically should do some experimenting, because only through trying new techniques and investigating new methods can we expand our ability to make better pictures.

For instance, if you haven't done so as yet, you might try making some real close-ups of small subjects such as a miniature china dog, attractive flower arrangements, or interesting hands—as in our illustration this week. If your camera will focus on objects as close as two or three feet you're all set for that kind of work. If it won't, get yourself one of those handy close-up attachments which slip over the lens, and you'll be able to make pictures at very close distances no matter what type of camera you own.

However, here are a few additional tips for better close-up picture making. Usually it's best to work with the camera on a tripod or some other firm support to avoid camera movement when you're critically trained on a small subject.

Next, make it a habit to work with small lens apertures to achieve the maximum depth of field—or range of sharpness—in your close-up snapshots. For example, a small lens aperture, with the resulting wide range of sharpness, made the interesting detail in our illustration.

Finally, choose simple backgrounds for your close-up work. In our picture the black dress contrasts strikingly and most pleasantly with the elderly lady's hands and the lace she is working on. Medium toned cloth or cardboard usually serves very well if you have to provide a suitable background for your small subjects.

Try some close-up snapshots today. You'll discover that they're fun to make, and they'll really sparkle in your snapshot collection.

John van Guilder

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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 of other days they will be open to serve you. Check the list carefully when you plan your dinner engagements.

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