

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

Cooperation Birmingham's recently organized Chamber of Commerce has listed its objectives as follows: (1) fact-finding, (2) publicizing of these facts, and (3) providing a means of action on these facts, as desired by the citizens of the community.

As explained by a spokesman for the Chamber's interim board of directors, the organization will devote considerable time to the study of various civic problems now confronting the area. Various committees will survey the particular situation and obtain as many facts, pro and con, as it can concerning the problem.

Then the organizational setup will, through the newspaper, bulletins or other means, or any combination of these outlets, make the community aware of these facts. Then the Chamber will stand by should the community decide some action is desirable, he declared.

If the new Chamber steadfastly sticks to these announced objectives, it will afford the Birmingham area a means of evaluating its problems with the opportunity of doing something about them. No one can deny there are problems. The city government has them, the resident has them, the local merchant has them. And given the facts, together with a means of acting upon them, the area can be relied upon to move forward.

It won't mean Birmingham will become a paradise overnight. It will mean, however, that Birmingham and vicinity can tackle its predicaments one-by-one, provide the best possible solution, then advance to the next matter.

All forward-looking citizens will see to it that the Chamber sticks to these announced objectives; they also will earnestly cooperate toward the solution of these local problems once pointed out.

It must task the patience of Secretary of State George C. Marshall in his efforts to get Soviet Russia to co-operate for world peace. Some of these days Gen. Marshall will resort to his military training and train the guns of democracy's convictions against the totalitarianism that this last World war has fought to defeat.

Restoration of price controls and rationing is being sought by some of President Truman's supporters. Which brings up the question: Are we still at war? ... and with whom? (The answer is: we have not won the peace and the reason, chiefly, is the attitude and activities of Soviet Russia.)

What has happened to the proposed project to improve Oak Street, between the Rouge and Woodward?

Hot weather makes cold weather attractive, and vice versa.

The Meyers Maj. Gen. Bennett E. Mess Meyer makes a somewhat sorry picture as he reveals the details of his wartime activity before the Senate subcommittee investigating war profits.

The officer seems to have taken care of himself while other Americans were fighting. He also had an eye out for his friends, male and female.

The lurid details should not mislead anyone into believing that he was, or is, a typical example of officer-conduct during a great war, despite the several decorations that he was awarded.

The suspicion that there are other, and undisclosed, "heroes" of the same type, however, should be removed from the public mind, even if it takes a general inquiry into the conduct and profits of desk-warriors and their friends.

Birmingham's PTA Council announces that 2,371 members of the local school PTAs set a new membership record for the school district. Now, if those same 2,371 were to cooperate unanimously on a survey of the needs of their school district—as concerns both school-operation and curriculum—then take affirmative action on those needs, the Birmingham school district would be second to none in the nation.

The United Nations, an organization set up to prevent war, recently agreed to the partitioning of Palestine; now the Arabs and Jews, both age-old inhabitants of that land, are fighting a bloody war with the United Nations looking on. How plausibly hypocritical mankind still can be!

Christmas is close at hand. If people paid as much attention to the real significance of the meaning of Christmas as they do to the purchase of gifts, human beings would build a better world.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO December 10, 1927

Two Birmingham men, John Savage, superintendent, and C. M. Whitehead, engineer, met death and several others were injured last week when two cars on the electric line from Detroit to Pontiac collided head-on at Bloomfield Center.

In spite of the dullness of the year, Birmingham has watched the erection of 17 new homes, two brick stores, a church and an agricultural shop.

If we had time this week we would run a picture of the hole in the ground made by William Ertly when he was thrown from his buggy while his horse was in the process of running away.

All our simrods are home again, and the most of them came back loaded down with venison and tales of the north woods.

One Birmingham man was fined \$50 for selling liquor on Sunday and another was invited to spend 90 days in the City of Detroit, as a guest of the city, for stealing a horse.

20 YEARS AGO December 4, 1927 R. S. Phillips of 509 Ridgedale, reported to police Sunday morning that someone stole his overcoat while he was attending services in the First Methodist Church.

Police today issued a warning youngsters and parents that the ice on Quanton Lake is not yet thick enough for skating.

Chief James Anderson, in releasing the police report for the past month, pointed out that the "honor" spot went to those motorists who insist upon ignoring red lights.

Ralph Macduff, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Macduff of Kennasaw avenue, has been elected editor of the Morgan Park Military Academy year book.

Mrs. Norman James extinguished a fire in the basement of her home before firemen arrived at the scene.

Arnold W. Berard, director of the bands at Adams and Baldwin schools, announces that uniforms will be supplied to the band members.

A Pretty Kettle of Fish



will be supplied to the band members. He expects that they will be ready for delivery by spring.

5 YEARS AGO December 10, 1942 The subject of uncleaned sidewalks came before the City Commission Monday night.

Santa Claus paid his first visit of 1942 to Birmingham Saturday when he appeared at the Birmingham theatre.

Rice A. Howell, secretary-treasurer of the Birmingham Goodwill League, has announced that their charitable work in Birmingham has cost the organization \$1040 this year.

A friend stopped in one of the drug stores last week in search of some gum. He found that all they had was some "stuf" made in Lansing, which he strongly suspects was left over from the last war.

As a special Christmas present to the men in uniform Miss Eleanor Stanton, new manager of the Bloomfield Theatre, announces that two free tickets will be given any service man on Furlough here.

Have You Met... The Kennedy family, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Kennedy and their children, who are living at 1936 Fairview road.

With the first on-the-campus checkup of subsistence payments scheduled this week, Veterans Administration said today it will continue to make every effort to every school and college in Michigan during the first week of each month of the 1947-48 school year.

VA said the monthly visits are designed to eliminate even the most inbred resistance to subsistence payments to veterans studying under the G.I. Bill.

VA representatives preparing the monthly surveys are prepared to expedite action to remove the cause of any delays in payments to students.

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THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN Notice is hereby given that on Monday the 15th day of December, 1947

MIRRORED SHOTS A FRIEND of mine came upon another point to remember. This is that you must both the subject and the reflection be sharp focus.