

"I Cannot Complain" When Maurice Chevalier, the French actor, recently returned to California, after an absence of twelve years, he was promptly dunned for \$20,918, unpaid State income tax for the year 1935.

The singing Frenchman explained that he returned to France that year and didn't realize he owed a tax. However, he paid it with the remark, "I cannot complain. California has been good to me."

The expression of the well-known French movie actor can well be the remark of Americans who are called upon to pay heavy income taxes. After all, cannot we all admit: "I cannot complain. The United States has been good to me."

The idea of paying heavy taxes is not one to increase merit, but it is just as well for us to understand that good government, including domestic peace and external security, has its price. We receive very definite benefits from our system of government and the proportionate benefit received varies very often with the incomes received by various citizens.

Despite the chronic complaint against paying taxes, the average citizen gets as much for his tax receipts as for any money he spends. While everyone is interested in eliminating graft and waste, where these occur, we should not overlook that, in paying taxes, both state and federal, we contribute our share to many enterprises that contribute to the welfare of less fortunate citizens.

Beggar Worth \$150,000 A woman, recently found wandering in the streets of Philadelphia, homeless and apparently penniless, was subsisting on scraps begged from restaurants.

When the lady was transferred to a hospital, it was discovered that she owned investments valued at \$150,000. Similar instances crop up in the news every once in a while. Just what mental procedure moves such wealthy individuals to exist on a poverty-stricken basis remains a psychological puzzle.

No business will ever grow to its utmost unless somebody is willing to give it more than he or she is paid to give. Similarly, a community will only grow in proportion to what its residents put into it in the way of unpaid services, above and beyond their local tax payments.

Over in Windsor, Canada, citizens are reported to be coming into Detroit to purchase food they cannot get at home. Which reminds us of early war days when the situation was in reverse—only then food was less expensive than it is today.

Atomic Proving Announcement

Ground for a proving ground for atomic weapons and other beneficial nuclear products will be created on Eniwetok atoll by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission arouses considerable speculation.

Navy officials point out that Eniwetok is roughly half way between Hawaii and the Philippines and far enough away from land areas to prevent the possibility that prevailing winds might carry radioactive particles.

The official notice is taken as some proof that the United States is determined to maintain its lead in the production of atomic weapons. There is much speculation as to just what is behind the experiment that will follow the completion of construction projects now under way.

The problem of stream pollution has been a big one in Michigan for many years; it has been big largely because it has been neglected. The present Sirging administration expects to do something constructive about solving it.

Do you believe that the nastiest man or woman on earth is he or she who tells little children that "there ain't no Santa Claus"? The little tots, of course, will learn the facts soon enough.

It's too late to do much good this year, but next year we plan to have a nice balance saved before Christmas.

Many war veterans are expected to believe they have the gratitude of their countrymen whether they have homes to live in or not.

No matter what we look for, the year 1948 will have its share of surprises. Also its average of disappointments.

If you have managed to live this long, amid the welter of accidents on the highways, it is time to drive carefully.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributions material providing it has news value and suggestions are welcome. Contributions are usually edited finally so that they conform to general newspaper style. Any erroneous references 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.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO December 17, 1897

A coroner's jury, along with officials from the street railways office, are continuing their investigation of the horrible accident which happened last week, just north of the village. No verdict has been reached, as yet, as officials continually follow new trails of evidence in trying to determine the cause.

I will give 25c for the return of my kitten, "Blodgett". He's all black and about as big as my two fits, Emeline Mitchell.

Members of the physics class who are in the study of the subject of heat. Not much in accord with our outside conditions right now.

"Dock" Bray, seven-year-old son of Mrs. Mary Bray, suffered a deep rash on his knee last Sunday, which required medical attention, when he fell on some broken glass, in some of the shanty at a village the size of Birmingham must endanger its citizens in such a manner.

The town of South Lyon last week paid its bounty of woodchuck scalps, amounting to \$142.50. This represents a lot of woodchucks, and a lot of hard work and a lot of money to protect their farms from these burrowing animals.

Do you wish to have a very happy paper next week? We very fine! Just drop in the office and register your name. Several Birmingham residents lost money, as stockholders, in the Beef & Provision Company's oil-tire plant in Detroit last week. The \$40,000 fine is believed to have been set deliberately.

20 YEARS AGO December 15, 1927

Post office employees and store clerks are working overtime in Birmingham swings into its full Christmas stride. Extra clerks and trucks have been acquired to do the postal efficiency, while stores are reorganizing open evenings to accommodate shoppers.

The severe wind storm, the worst to strike here in years, cost work and injury to a camper, as it tore its way through the city and surrounding countryside, Saturday making it almost impossible to walk or drive. Trees were uprooted, and the large store windows endangered by its force. Property suffered its battering effects in every section of the city.

If you are a family of five, you can Christmas dinner this year, will cost just about the same as the new plates you must buy soon for the family car! Local merchants have estimated the cost at \$11.38 for five, including all the nuts, fruits, and extra goodies that go to make Christmas dinner something extra special.

Members of the Community House staff and the organization connected with it have announced their holiday slogan to be "Merry Christmas for every child in Griffitts," says the Rev. Frederick K. Snow, not one child will be left out to be a cheerless, thrifless, or shivering child.

At the completion of the fire inspection here, city officials announced that there has been no change in the Birmingham rating. It will remain in the seventh class bracket for another year, at least.

5 YEARS AGO December 17, 1942
Capt. Walter Jensen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Jensen of Kennesaw, Ga., who is stationed in India with the Army Air Force, was written home that he has recently been promoted to the rank of captain. The visit was out of standing to the captain in that it gave him his first meal inside a house since he left Birmingham, made him the guest of one of the "red" men in the world, and found him riding on the rails of the Potomac Electric Power Co.

More than 200 persons staged a last minute rush on the ration board Monday to secure sugar and coffee ration coupons. Erik Bergshagen, an officer of the Danish Army of World War I, will attend a dinner in New York this week which Lauritz Melchior, famed Metropolitan singer, will give. All guests will be officers of the Danish army who are now residents of the United States.

Because of soft metal being used in posts, a number of Birmingham streets appear to be leaning. The young "Super Men" of the city are amusing themselves by twisting the signs around. It's not at all amusing to a stranger in town.

G. W. Patterson passes on a bit of friendly advice to localites who wear gloves when putting logs on their fireplaces. He did the other night, then put the gloves into a closet, which shortly turned into a smokescreen. A spark, it seems, lodged unnoticed in the fabric of the gloves. There was no damage done to the house.

The annual Christmas Carol Sing will be held in the Civic Park on Christmas Eve, December 24. Profero will direct the singing, assisted by A. W. Berard, who will direct the brass orchestra. All are welcome, and urged to attend.

Conditions Make Strange Bedfellows

CALL THE MARSHALL PLAN TO DRAW MY BATH, WILL YOU?



BIRMINGHAM VETERANEWS

Compiled from Various State and National Veterans Information Centers

Veterans are advised to take a good look at wills and powers of attorney drawn up while they were in the service, and rescind those which are outdated and do not represent their current desires.

In many cases, servicemen and women executed wills and had them witnessed by people who were not even casual acquaintances and who have since become widely scattered. Too often requests were received daily by the Army for help in locating witnesses, witnesses cannot be located wills usually cannot be admitted to court.

In many cases where a veteran executed a power of attorney giving an immediate member of the family the power to take care of certain property owned by him, the veteran would now regret to rescind such power of attorney and reassign control of the property.

However, many of these powers of attorney are still in force and have either been forgotten or they are no longer binding. The legal rights of veterans owning property might be seriously impaired by the attorney-in-fact under outstanding powers of attorney if executed after the veteran's return to civilian life.

- 1. Have a good will.
- 2. Know where it is kept.
- 3. Know who has carried out the wishes of the executor.
- 4. Avoid useless guardians for minor children.
- 5. Have proper witnesses who are known and can be found.
- 6. Make sure the will will be recognized in the state where there is property.

Brigadier General Joseph A. Cranston, Officer in Charge, Michigan Military District has announced that the Army is seeking immediate enrollments and advancement at the Army Officer Candidate School starting January 15, 1948.

Young men between the ages of 20½ and 23 years, either former enlisted men or those with previous military experience who are interested in the Army as a career and who have the required mental and physical qualifications, may enroll in the Army in the grade of sergeant and proceed directly to Officers Candidate School upon graduation. They may enter a two-year program of study for a year of Reserve Officer status, during which four they may, through competition, obtain a Regular Army Commission.

The Army requires replacements for 2000 officers announced of which West Point can furnish only 600. The remaining 1500 yearly vacancies must be filled by officer graduates from ROTC Colleges and Universities, from persons serving in committee posts, and from enlisted personnel.

Full information may be obtained at any U. S. Recruiting Office, from the Senior Instructor, Organized Reserve, 493 Federal Building, Detroit, or Headquarters, Michigan Military District, 474 Federal Building, Detroit.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT
BENNYVILLE-GRANT TO EDGEWOOD
Notice is hereby given that Special Assessment Roll No. 237, heretofore made by the City of Birmingham for the purpose of defraying the cost of constructing and installing a concrete and asphaltic concrete on Bonnaville between Grant and Edgewood streets, and for the purpose of public inspection.

Notice is also hereby given that the Commission of the City of Birmingham created by Ordinance No. 114 of 1947, at the P. M. to review said assessment roll, will be given to all persons interested to be held on December 18, 1947.
IRENE E. HANLEY, City Clerk.

NOTICE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
Please to Take Notice that on Monday the 15th day of January, 1948, at nine o'clock in the forenoon of said day at the City of Probate at the Court House in the City of Pontiac, County of Macomb, Michigan, I will make application for the Receivability of Probate in and for said County, to change my name and my name of ALICE HANLEY WILLIAMS to ALICE HANLEY WILLIAMS and ELIZABETH SON RAMMOND ALICE BLAND HANLEY WILLIAMS and ELIZABETH RAMMOND ALICE BLAND HANLEY WILLIAMS.
Foster, Michigan, December 8, 1947.

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Christmas is rush time for Long Distance too

Every year on Christmas Day, Long Distance lines are like crowded highways. And Long Distance calls, like cars, are "bumper to bumper." Some calls, caught in the rush, may be delayed for hours.

But if you'd like, to call someone—and don't mind the possibility of a delay—we'll do our very best to get you call through.

Better yet—why not call the day before or after Christmas when the lines are not so crowded? Best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



A sky filter over the camera lens helped to produce the cloud effects which lend distinction to this snapshot.

FILTER FACTS—AND FACTORS

of any subject. Of all filters this is the one used most commonly.

Then there's the G filter—a deep yellow filter which helps cut through ground haze at shots of distant landscapes. There's also the Polarizer, which resembles a filter and which is used to darken the sky or to cut down unwanted reflections.

Since most of these filters hold certain wavelengths of light, exposure must be adjusted to compensate for their use. This is done by a filter factor. The filter factor is simply a number which represents the amount by which you increase your exposure when a particular filter is used with a particular lens. For example, when making outdoor pictures with a common soft film the factor for a K2 filter is two, which means exposure is doubled.

Information about filter factors for different films is packaged with the filters when you buy them. You can also buy handy, inexpensive guides which help you remember. The big thing to remember, however, is that you will learn about filters by using them. And that they're simple to use.