

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

We Can Do It, But Will We? The "Friendship Train" which traveled across the nation recently did not enter the State of Michigan.

However, we in Birmingham now have an opportunity to share our more fortunate circumstances with the color-starved people of France.

Since the "Motor Caravan" idea was originated by the Birmingham Junior Chamber, it would be nice if our local contributions were greater than any Michigan city of comparative size.

Can we in Birmingham do it? Will we do it?

Our Thanks, Mr. Mailman! Today is the day before Christmas. For the past couple of weeks everyone has been receiving more than the usual amount of mail, consisting primarily of Yuletide greeting cards.

Gov. Kim Sigler is opposed to the unnecessary centralization of governmental responsibility for the rendition of public services. He believes that the closer government is to the people, the better democracy will work.

This grand little city of Birmingham has, indeed, a fine future ahead of it—provided there is planning and vision by its leaders.

and the names of my wife and children from JOHN WILSON WILLIAMS, ELIZABETH BLAND WILLIAMS, and JOHN WILSON HAMMOND ALICE BIRD HAMMOND and ELIZABETH HAMMOND.

Waiting for Egbert's Report Some of our local businessmen ask if the city is now figuring out how much of an assessment the business section will have to bear in the development of any new city-owned parking lots.

Quarton School's Safety Program recognition from the Michigan Automobile Club for the school's traffic safety program. Quarton teachers and children are to be congratulated on its success; it is to be hoped that the other schools in the Birmingham district—or in the nation, for that matter—achieve such glorious results with traffic safety education that these youngsters will carry with them for the rest of their lives the advantages of such training.

Secretary of State Marshall recently told his countrymen that Soviet Russia apparently doesn't want world peace. That should put every American on the alert to the fact that the issue from now on is: Democracy versus Totalitarianism.

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



Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO December 24, 1897 After hearing the testimony of Frank McHugh, crowman of one of the ill-fated trolleys which crashed near here two weeks ago, a coroner's jury was unable to reach a verdict.

Our passenger depot is very becoming in a new coat of paint which seems appropriate at this festive season of the year.

A communication from Troy Township has reached us, about a show and two people named "Pat" and "Mick" Sam. Since no name was attached to the interesting article we sadly laid it away in the waste basket.

Two weeks ago a pleasant gentleman stopped at the home of Marion White and asked for work, giving his profession as a horse trainer. Last night he left, taking with him Mr. White's roadster, which he drove to Kirk White's where he stored a horse and harness. The Franklin-Southfield telephone wires were cut, and he is believed responsible, so no warning could be given authorities of his deed.

50 YEARS AGO December 21, 1927 "I have been in a lot of jails, but never in one with wallpaper before," was the comment of the vagrant who presented the temporary quarters of the Birmingham Police Department Thursday night.

The memory of Martha Baldwin was revived at the opening of the new library last week, when a special program of her favorite music was presented. The village is proud of the new building, and proud of the woman whose memory will be always held dear.

Place a candle in your window from Dec. 29 to Feb. 2, 1948. The memory of Martha Baldwin was revived at the opening of the new library last week, when a special program of her favorite music was presented.

Many persons have the mistaken idea that there is reduction in price if they buy their dog tags early. This is true, only in that it will save them the penalty fee, assessed if they do not buy their tags before the closing date.

A review of the gridiron season shows that the Birmingham gridmen were really on their toes, for they scored 188 points against 78 of their opponents.

Thieves stole carpenter tools valued at over \$200 from the new home of Fred Quarton last week. The tools had been left on the job by the workmen, and were taken after the thieves had pried out a rear window.

5 YEARS AGO December 23, 1942 Birmingham's first volunteer for the R-C Corps has passed with flying colors, and is off for training in West Virginia. He is Tyson, a boxer owned by John A. Burton of Merrill street.

Ten tons of pickles, plus one truck, went on a skidding spree here Friday night, and after hitting four cars, came through with all pickles intact. In attempting to pass a fleet of six army trucks, the driver lost control of his vehicle,

striking the other cars. No one was injured.

Police Sgt. Grant Springstead asks all parents to warn their children about using their sleds in the street. There have been no such accidents here, and all would certainly like to see this record maintained throughout the winter.

Compliments are being offered Miss Ruth Foucher for the pretty decorations she has arranged in the juvenile section of Baldwin Library. She explained that the children are due credit, too, for after their Saturday morning story hour they helped cut out paper snowmen, pine trees and angels, which were used to make a gay Christmas border around the room.

The Birmingham Male Chorus is asking for more talent. With so many of the young men entering the armed forces, and the older members pushed by top-speed days, the chorus is asking for more talent.

A sterilized, collapsible, disposable nursing bottle for babies is being marketed by a Chicago manufacturer, using plastic from long trolleys cut into bottles from around metal fixtures containing nipple, torn away after one use. Cost, \$1 for 100 "bottles."

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



Picnic pictures tell a fine story—one that you can heighten by good grouping and by shooting at the proper moment.

PICTURES AT PICNICS

THERE'S not much doubt that interest because, automatically, they tell a story. How well they tell it, though, depends entirely on how well you use your camera. Not that there's anything tricky here, however. It's largely a matter of grouping your subjects wisely, of catching them naturally posed.

Last month, you recall, we talked a little about taking pictures of groups. One of the points made at that time was that the subjects should be all facing the camera, that it was generally best to have one person in the group doing something and the others watching him.

On Collage Paper

Bruce Randall has been named to the news writing staff of the Denisonian, official paper of Denison University at Granville, Ohio.

The City Commission of the City of Birmingham will meet Monday, December 29, 1947 at 8:30 P. M. in the Commission Room in the Municipal Building to consider any objections to the construction of certain improvements on Lincoln Avenue described herein; and to the creation of a special assessment district, created to defray the cost of construction of addition to the improvement proposed under Special Assessment No. 284, to provide a complete concrete parking curb with curb, 4 1/2 ft. in width between curbs, together with concrete drainage structures and appurtenances on Lincoln Avenue from Adams to Woodward Avenue.

The Commission proposes to create a special assessment district to defray the cost of the construction and said special assessment district shall consist of the following described property: All of Lot 17 and Lot 18, except that part in Michigan State Highway Improvement District of Wood Adams Park Subdivision, and all of Wood Adams Park Subdivision, all in the Woodward Avenue Subdivision, all in the City of Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan.

December 21, 1947 IRVINE R. HANLEY, City Clerk.

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