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PAGE 2, PART 2 Wednesday, December 31, 1947 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

Efficiency Survey for City Depts.

The city commission last week, in reviewing the \$2,006 expense involved in re-laying the 236 feet of Abbey road sewer, came up with the suggestion that perhaps the City of Birmingham should hire a firm of analysts to check each and every city department, evaluate departmental procedures and personnel, with the ultimate aim of recommending to the city commission any efficiencies that could be effected.

We agree wholeheartedly with this suggestion. Most wide-awake private enterprises, particularly the larger ones, periodically hire these experts to evaluate business methods and personnel in order to determine whether the organization is functioning as effectively as possible.

The City of Birmingham does an annual business in excess of \$800,000, as reflected by its current budget. The city is asked to perform certain services for its citizens, who make this possible through the payment of taxes and a few other revenues. The city should try to perform these services as economically as possible so the "customers" will get as much back from their tax dollars as they can.

Birmingham has grown pretty rapidly in the past decade and a half. From all reports, it will grow tremendously in the next few years. There are bound to be city departments that already overlap in the performances of their duties, of departments that are underequipped, of personnel that are overburdened with a multitude of assorted responsibilities. These can be pointed out in such a survey and corrected for better efficiency.

Birmingham taxpayers certainly would not object if the city commission authorized the expenditure of several thousand dollars for such a survey. The results would be of advantage to city officials and the citizens, both of whom would know how effectively the tax dollar was being spent.

That there always is much latent generosity in the average human heart is revealed by the response of local people to the Junior Chamber of Commerce's campaign to collect food for needy Europe. This idea, patterned after the Friendship Train, originated by the Birmingham Chamber, and is spreading over most of Michigan. It is a splendid idea; it will do its part in assisting hungry Europe to resist the evil forces of Communism. Human generosity, a quality that is divine in origin, does more than mere words in bringing about the brotherhood of man.

Both world wars produced something like prosperity for American farmers, probably the most peaceably-minded people in the nation.

The Use of Springdale

Springdale Park, the only Birmingham-owned area designed for the out-of-doors recreation of its citizens, was acquired some years ago when Birmingham became a city; at that time a division of property jointly owned by the then village of Birmingham and Bloomfield Township took place. The Township unit relinquished all title to Springdale Park, and since then more and more people have sought its golf course, its picnic tables and out-of-doors fireplaces.

Now comes the time when local authorities must decide whether or not individuals and groups, living outside Birmingham, may continue to use it—the reason being that so many non-residents use it that too few local taxpayers can have access to its facilities. All of which only proves that public recreational areas are vital to the health and well-being of most folks who populate the earth in this dizzy portion of the 20th Century.

Catastrophe Possible

The world is headed for catastrophe unless the United States continues its initiative in world affairs and its policy of "containment" for totalitarian government, declares Secretary of State George C. Marshall, who blames Russia for the failure of the world to get back to a peaceful status.

Mr. Marshall reminds his fellow-Americans that the collapse of former great powers has thrust the United States into a position of "outstanding leadership in world affairs."

There are few to doubt the correctness of this assertion, but there are many who profess to believe that our "leadership" should consist of sitting down, holding our hands and bemoaning the general condition of the world.

Such "leadership" will get neither us nor the world back on its feet. To accomplish results, action, not idle talk, must accompany good, sound leadership.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material provided such material is of general interest. Contributions are usually edited sparingly so that they may be read by the largest possible number of people. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person or organization will not appear in the columns of The Eccentric without the consent upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.



Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO December 31, 1897 Birmingham Chapter, OES, received its charter and initiated about 40 local men and women into membership last Wednesday evening. The meeting was presided over by the most worthy grand matron, Mrs. Ida Joslyn of Northville. Mrs. A. C. Tibbals was elected worthy matron, and I. N. Baker worthy patron of the new chapter.

Last—A weight with strap attached. Leave word at the post office where it can be recovered. Because my horse is young and skittish, I need this badly.

If Bloomfield Center can be lighted by electricity, why not Birmingham? It is one of the Birmingham resolutions the Board can make.

You can now walk past the post office with perfect impunity. Whitehead & Mitchell have placed boards over their slippery stone walk.

J. H. Heavener, that genial traveling salesman from Royal Oak, has been helping his wife apply fresh paint and new paper to the inside of his home. A right-nice job was done, according to J. H.

20 YEARS AGO December 29, 1927 E. C. Olin of Southfield avenue is not sure whether he saw the first robin of spring, or the last robin of the fall, but he did see one Christmas day, busily eating at an apple in his neighbor's yard.

The annual report of Baldwin Library shows that 1927 was the largest year in its history. Mrs. Nancy B. Thomas stated that the activities of the past year, and the inquiries she has had, indicate that the coming year will be even larger.

The Birmingham Theatre will inaugurate a new plan this evening when a midnight show is staged as a part of the community's New Year's Eve celebration. Seven vaudeville acts, an orchestra, and new films are planned for the program.

Girl Scouts, representing the six local troops, will join Pontiac Scouts today in an entertainment being given for the youngsters in the Children's Hospital of Michigan at Farmington.

Harry Krull of Lakeview avenue has been elected manager of the United Title and Guaranty company of Detroit.

5 YEARS AGO December 31, 1942 A modern version of the empty pocketbook trick was used on Purdy street last week when small boys left coffee bags of sand on the side of the street. Women shoppers stooped and picked them up, only to discard them a short distance away.

Probably the first Birmingham man to traverse the new Alakaka-Canaan road is Turner A. Duncan, who has just returned from an inspection trip of the famous highway. He is an engineer for the Yellow Truck and Coach Co.

Birmingham Retirees held their annual Father and Son Christmas banquet Monday noon. Howard R. Estes served as program chairman.

The fire department sirens will not sound this year at midnight, as is customary, according to Chief Vernon W. Griffith. Only in the event of a general alarm fire or blackout will they be used.

The subject of vandalism was brought up at the city commission meeting Monday night when it was reported that several street signs

Vic Yet says



VETS! REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE OR PHOTOSTATIC COPY, WHEN APPLYING FOR GI BENEFITS! Radio waves may help weathermen with their forecasting. New York inventor has been awarded patent of process using high frequency radio waves to determine what kind of air masses are overhead and roundabout. By studying signal strength, data is provided on relative humidity, temperature and pressure of intervening air masses.

had again been turned around in spite of a recent warning. Other acts of vandalism have been noted throughout the city and persons are warned that they will be punished to the full extent of the law if this practice continues.

People's Column

To the Editor: At this time of the year when the Christmas spirit is uppermost in the thoughts of millions of people, it was somewhat of a shock to visit the Bloomfield Theater and discover that one of the vilest pictures imaginable was the current entertainment.

The title of the picture: "Ride the Pink Horse." As to the author of the script I am uncertain, but the picture was directed and the leading role played by Robert Montgomery. On occasion Montgomery looked mentally unbalanced and it would not be unduly harsh to question the stability of a mind capable of directing such material.

Almost everyone is heartily sick of the killing profession; with exceptions, such as persons who compile stories of "Ride the Pink Horse" type. The "Birmingham Eccentric" has done many fine things for our City. To a community that is doing its best to foster the finer things in life, it is my belief that a public protest through the medium of your columns is in order.

JAMES M. ANDERSON 789 Southfield Road.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



Snapshots like this are a year-round joy. A few simple rules, carefully followed, will help you get such pictures.

For the New Year each picture we make. A little care in lining up pictures should mean an end of shots in which the subjects are "behind." Fifth, let's check exposure and focus before every shot. A pocket exposure guide will help with the former and the latter is simply a question of judging the camera to subject distance accurately. Sixth, let's keep our camera clean. A dirty lens means a cloudy picture. So let's keep the camera in a case, let's keep the lens wiped clean with lens tissue or a soft, clean cloth. And seventh, let's keep our fingers out of our pictures—there's no need to let a finger project out over the lens. By holding our cameras in the manner recommended by the maker we can avoid this and be sure we hold them steady, too. For all in all, good picture taking starts with studying details like these. And there's no better time than now to put your best foot forward.

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BIRMINGHAM VETERANS Compiled from Various State and National Veterans Information Centers. Beginning tomorrow, Jan. 1, it will be necessary for veterans wishing hospital care or outpatient treatment for service-connected disabilities to await formal approval of their claims according to announcement from the Veterans Administration. This ruling puts an end to the prima facie system which has permitted veterans whose ailments were apparently service-connected to receive medical care before official action had been taken on their claims. Principally affected by the ruling will be the home-town care by contract hospitals and in civilian hospitals. Under the system which ends Dec. 31, veterans could apply for medical treatment whether or not they had filed claims for disability. If their condition, on the surface, appeared to be connected with their service (as in the case of gunshot wounds kicking up, or a recurrence of malaria), V.A. could give the veterans immediate authority to get care from their home-town doctor or to check them into a civilian hospital for emergency treatment. In ending the system Dec. 31, V.A. took the position that there has been ample time since the end of hostilities for emergency or clearly defined service-connected cases to have received treatment. In the case of any applications received by V.A. after the deadline, veterans will have to await formal approval of their claims. Emergency treatment can still be obtained at V.A. hospitals, however. There were 1,300 combatant ships in the Navy at the height of World War II. That "Mackinac Island" Picture NOW THE BIRMINGHAM 'THIS TIME FOR KEEPS' Gorgeous Color Musical