# Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric Happenings

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

Thursday, December 4, 1947 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

Dalton Trusted

A Friend

Chancellor of the
British Exchequer, represents something
of a personal tragedy, but it could not
be availed except by violating the stern
British tradition which binds those holding his position not for divulbe any infor-

British tradition which binds those holding his position not to divulge any information as to the budget in advance of its presentation to the House of Commons. It seems that Mr. Dalton, walking into the House of Commons and on the way to make his budget report ran into a personal friend of sixteen years' standing, who happened to be a newspaper man in whom he reposed complete confidence. In a jovial way, the Chancellor of the Sxchequer talked carelessly about a few items in the budget, not dreaming that any publication would result. It happened that the newspaper man dashed to the telephone, caught the presses of his evening newspaper, stopped and slapped in a small item at the bottom of the back page telling some details of the budget which, up to that time, and not been read in the House of Commons.

It is this sort of thing which tends gen-It is this sort of thing which tends gen-erally to discredit newspapers in the minds of most public officials. If a news-paper reporter is told something in the strictest of confidence, it is his obligation not to reveal it until his news source gives him permission. On the other hand, if the reporter surmises that what he about to be told is so newsworthy that he about to be told is so newsworthy that he must write a story about it immediately, he should warn his source that anything he is told will be printed.

If the source chooses, then, to remain silent, it does not prevent the reporter from attempting to obtain the news story from other sources.

from attempting to obtain the news story from other sources.

Public officials and the press should and can work together to keep the general public informed on governmental matters. Some things cannot, for various reasons, be revealed immediately. A good newspaper reporter will either respect his confidences or else he will not permit himself to become a confidant. himself to become a confident.

We see where local clergymen are go-We see where local clergymen are go-ing to conduct a survey among school children to determine how many of them are regular church-goers. It should be remembered that children, particularly the younger they are, are noted for their truthfulness. It is to be hoped that be-cause of this truthfulness no embarras-sing statistics will result.

"All the gadgets a homeowner wants built into his home add tremendously to the final cost of the house," a Detroit architect told local Rotarians last week. This is not to be confused with the pur-chaser of a new model automobile, who pays for his new car and gets many gad-gets he doesn't want.

Just a Matter of Bookkeeping which will be used to advance monies to future assessment districts, has been established by action of the Birmingham city commission. An initial \$25,000 was plumped into the account, and money already advanced to current assessment projects, when paid back to the city, will go into the new revolving fund to help build it up.

While this new procedure appears to be pretty involved, especially to the average citizen, it should be explained that the action amounts to little more than a new method of bookkeeping on the part of city officials.

of city officials.

Previously, all advances to special assessment districts came out of the city's surplus fund account. These "advances" are those amounts which the city puts into a special assessment project before the property owners have paid in their entire assessment. This permits the project to be placed under construction. entire assessment. This permits the project to be placed under construction much sooner than if such an advance were not made. Currently, the city will advance 25 per cent of the project cost, such amount being paid back to the city as property owners complete their final installments.

At the present time, city commissioners At the present time, city commissioners are not able to determine, unless by time-consuming examination of the city's surplus fund account, just how much in "advances" the city has undertaken, nor how many more the city, can financially permit.

However, by setting up a special "spe-cial assessment revolving fuult" as a separate account on city books, the com-mission and other city officials will be able to tell at a glance how the special assessment picture looks.

The average political campaign is enough to convince us that uniformity of thought is impossible among human

### The Birmingham Eccentric

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Telephone 11 GEORGE R. AVERILL PAUL NEAL AVERILL GEORGE WM. AVERILL HAROLD P. BUERGE

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## Party-line sharing helps bring telephones to many more waiting applicants

SUPPOSE you had a choice—either hav-ing an individual line and denying some friend a telephone, or sharing a party line so that your friend could have ser-vice too.

We're quite sure you'd prefer to share service the "party-line" way. That's why most folks feel we're right in limiting new residence telephones to party hines when-ever by so doing present equipment can be made to serve more people.

It's through the co-operation of folks on party lines—many of whom, we know, would like to be on a line of their own—that we're able to bring telephones to a lot of other families sooner,

It will be a great day when we again have all the cable and central office switching equipment we need to furnish everyone the kind of service he wants, when and where he wants it. And we are doing everything we can to hasten that day.

# of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
December 3, 1897
Wonder when that dead cat on diddle street will be buried? It's seen there a week; should be most time for interment.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. McMillan are the proud parents of a great big baby boy born last week. The baby weighed 14 paunds and 13 ounces, with a chest measurement of 16 inches.

A local lady has received a letter from a friend in France. Mme. According who writes that she is a few mice. She sells to dectors among hypsicians, as well as to museums, and small boys. She did not express any opinion as to what the latter buy the mice for.

E. J. White stopped in to tall us to watch out for a very hard win-ter. Just in from one of his trap lines, he reports that the beavening as as building their homes high, and with exceptionally thick walls, and that does not mean nice weather nor an early spring.

5 YEARS AGO
December 3, 1942
The Birmingham Michigan Bell
Telephone company has been
awarded the Minute Man Flag for
employee participation in the war
bond program.

Miss Eleanor Stanton of Detroit has been named manager of the Bloomfield Theatre. She is the first woman to receive such an appoint-ment.

Proving that the new blackout regulations do have teeth, Associa-ate Justice J. W. Taylor toola-fined two residents \$5 each for violation, and gave suspended sen-tences to several others.

We take the censorship bit in our teeth and announce to the public, in spite of the fact that enemy agents may read this paper, that we had quite a snow fall last week. We also predict that there will be more snow before spring!

Cleverly designed corsages, made of war saving stamps are being sold locally and are suggested to all as the ideal Christmas gift for the ladies in the family.

Two hundred pounds of old silk stockings have been shipped from Birmingham to take their place on front line defense. They are used for pewder bags, both in the field of action and aboard our big bat-

### People's Column

A small boy, a warm smilts, and a "steely wisapped gift—tagether they make a fine anaphot for a polotographic Christmas Card.

CHRISTMAS AHEAD

As a man who leaves his shopping prints may be slipped into an open-press my appreciation for the grade christ mass along which was given by the same and had my the same and the same time, photo and the same and the same and the same time, photo and the same time, photo and the same and the same and the same and the same

American Economy's Siamese Twins



to watch out for a very hard winter. Just in from one of his trap lines, he reports that the heavers with exceptionally those high, and that does not mean nice weather mer an early spring.

20 YEARS ACO
December 1, 1827
Priday will be a big day to many local motorists when the new Ford goes on display. The new model, setulpped with the same gear shifts are expecting big crowds to view them.

Temporary quarters for the Birmingham community House rearry, is not of the most talked of topics of the day, and local dealers are expecting big crowds to view them.

Temporary quarters for the Birmingham police station have been secured at Martin and Herrietta, The personnel and equipment will move into their new home shortly.

Rederick Ca-18 Balderia Herrietta, Horn the control of the local football team for the coming season.

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## Camera Corner





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