Is Our Society Immoral?

A newspaper columnist recently answered in the affirmative the question: "Do we live in an immoral society?"

With due respect to the views of the writer, we disagree. The citations of instances of immorality and of crime, which represent the exceptional behavior of 140,000,000 people, do not convict the American people of having an immoral society.

We are afraid that many people who conclude that the present era represents a new high in immorality and criminality, are not very well acquainted with the record of the human race in past years. They do not make allowance, in our opinion, for the circulation of news which today reports more fully the immoral and criminal acts of social exceptions.

As an illustration of what we mean, the modern newspaper, aided and abetted by the radio, makes crime news available from coast-to-coast and from border-to-border. An atrocious crime, committed in any American State, is current news throughout the nation within twenty-four hours. Not many decades ago, the same crime would have been a local sensation, but hardly known outside the State where it occurred.

The same observation applies, we think, to news items that depict immorality. People in the public eye, and they number thousands, have little privacy as the public demands the most intimate details of their lives. Publicity given to such incidents easily persuades individuals that immoral practices are on a rampage. The silence that covers similar acts in the lives of those who lived decades ago is mistaken for innocence.

Even War Crimes Do Not Pay

A Japanese colonel, who commanded the Japanese during the occupation of Hong Kong, has been convicted of responsibility for cruel and inhumane treatment accorded Allied prisoners of war. The verdict of a British court is that he be hanged.

We call attention to this verdict because it is the tenth death sentence inflicted by the British in Hong Kong upon fifty-one Japanese defendants. The trials sprung from the treatment accorded British and other prisoners of war by the Japanese in Hong Kong when their power was supreme and they could do anything they wished to demonstrate their hatred and contempt for the white race.

It is well for Americans, when they read about war trials and sentences of death, to remember the atrocities, brutalities and inhumanities practiced by our enemies in various areas of the world. The Japanese in the Far East and the Germans in Europe ran a neck-and-neck race for supremacy in the mistreatment of those in their power.

"WHAT IS THE DANGEROUS AGE?" WELL, among adults, it is that time or times when men and women let their passions, their prejudices, their selfishnesses, and a host of other negative qualities get the upper hand. More folks are ruined by being intolerant, for example, than are led down the path of destruction by blondes, the experts tell us.

Weather From The Pole

During the next three years, the Canadian Government will establish nine new weather stations in the Arctic area. The United States will cooperate by providing technical personnel until Canadians can be adequately trained for the work.

One of the stations, in the vicinity of the Eureka Sound, about 600 miles from the North Pole, is expected to be in operation this summer. The Canadians hope to exchange weather information with the Russians, who have a large number of outposts on the other side of the Pole.

It will take some years to determine the advisability of expanding weather reporting operations in the Arctic regions, but it is believed that valuable weather information can be acquired. The observations will also assist in determining the feasibility of air routes across the Polar Regions.

Since modern weather forecasting is largely based upon the observations of trained observers and the calculations affecting air masses, the wider the range of reports that are available, the more accurate the predictions can be. The establishment of such stations and the adequate predictions of weather trends take some of the romance and mystery out of forecasting but they add considerably to the accuracy and utility of weather information that often helps farmers to avoid crop losses.

105 to End; 250 Remain

News comes from Washington that President Truman will declare the national emergency ended before July 31st. This will automatically end some 105 war-time laws, although some of them will continue six months.

The end of the emergency will affect powers granted under the "limited" emergency declared September 8, 1939 and the full emergency proclaimed May 27th, 1941. Apparently, it will not affect some 250 or more laws based on "the duration of the war," which, apparently, will remain in force until the war itself is officially ended.

WE LEARN THAT BIRMINGHAM, BY JUNE 1, will have 455 additional pairs of telephone lines to Detroit, and 300 to Pontiac. This area certainly is growing . . . . and, as the old saying goes, "people will talk!"

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material providing it has news value; and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited superficially so that they conform to general newspaper style. Any erroneous reflection 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
April 1, 1897

Plenty of houses in town to sell but none to rent.

An application for a license to run a ferry boat on some of our streets has been refused by the council on the grounds (to be found later) that Noah had a cinch on the whole business.

Two days on the road from Detroit to Birmingham with five horses of our own and two more we hired, seven horses for one moving van. Such roads! ! ! ! and that driver's condemnation was more forcible than polite.

A farmer who recently moved into town not only brought his horse, cow, calf, pig, chickens, etc., with him, but brought his hay stack and weighted it down with rails at that. His neighbors want to sell.

Now is the season of the year when the innocent granger taps his forehead significantly, and his maple trees with an auger, buys brown sugar at two cents per pound and—attends church every Sunday.

48 x 28, that's the size the upright of Mr. Geo. Shain's house is to be. This will be a fine frame residence and Mr. Shain being an expert workman knows how to have it all in fine style. September (1897) sees this building completed and it will make the fourth fine dwelling owned by Mr. Shain in the booming burg of Birmingham.

20 YEARS AGO
March 31, 1927

Maps and diagrams are being prepared by the village today for the pavement of West Ruffner street, from Woodward to Grant avenues. The concrete will be 36 feet wide, the commission decided Monday night, with curb and gutter.

One woman's name is included on the list of six citizens for commissioners which are in circulation today. Mrs. Arthur Halgren, 518 Lakeview avenue, may be Birmingham's first woman commissioner.

The first definite step towards the completion of the proposed village fire hall, for which a $40,000 bond issue was voted last July, was taken Monday night, when the commission declared a public hearing for Apr. 26, at 8 p. m., on the closing of Henrietta street from Martin to Merrill streets.

5 YEARS AGO
April 2, 1942

For the second year in succession, Carolyn Kane, 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Kane, 419 Lake Park drive, has been adjudged first-place winner in the annual patriotic essay contest sponsored by the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and The Birmingham Eccentric.

For the second time in the history of the Johnson Memorial Award, a double winner was announced, Jo Armstrong and Paul Kelley receiving the honors in the twelfth annual selection.

No more tire thefts have been reported since last week. First description to reach police of the man who may be responsible for recent thefts here came Saturday night from May Roberts, 648 Lincoln. She said that at 10:20 p. m. as she drove into her driveway, a man ran out of the garage and jumped a rear fence.

It was like finding the bones of a well-picked chicken, when on Friday afternoon Alvin Bomisch, 28050 Bell road, found a set of wheels for a Dodge car. We need not waste space telling you that the tires were gone.

Improvement of Cole Street to Be Decided At April 14 Hearing

Advisability of proceeding with the improvement of Cole street, between Adams and Torry, will be determined at a hearing April 14, the city commission has decided.

Tentative plans prepared by the city's engineering department would require an estimated expenditure of $11,509.85 for the improvement of the street with curb and gutter, gravel with a 2-inch bituminous surfacing.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the performance of the conditions of the mortgage made by Roseland Park Realty & Investment Company, a Michigan corporation, to The Mortgage and Contract Company, a Michigan corporation, dated February 28, 1944, recorded March 2, 1944, in Liber 1607, pages 79-82, Oakland County, Michigan, Records, which mortgage was assigned by The Mortgage and Contract Company to New York Life Insurance Company, a New York corporation, by assignment dated September 9, 1946, recorded September 15, 1944, in Liber 1678, pages 91-92 Oakland County, Michigan, Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due on the date of this notice the sum of five thousand thirty-two and 59/100 dollars ($5,032.59) and the attorney's fee provided by law.

Notice is hereby given, that by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, on Monday, June 9, 1947, at 12 o'clock noon, Eastern Standard Time, the undersigned will, at the Easterly or Saginaw Street entrance to the County Building, Pontiac, Michigan, that being the place where the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland is held, cause to be sold at public auction to the highest bidder the premises covered by said mortgage and hereinafter described, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount so as aforesaid due on and secured by said mortgage and any additional amount due thereon and secured thereby at the time of said sale, including interest at the rate of four and one-half per cent (4½%) per annum and all lawful costs.

The premises to be sold are described as follows:

Lot two hundred twenty-nine (229) and the south one-half of lot two hundred thirty (230) of McGiverin-Haldeman's Berkley Subdivision of the east one-half (½) of the west one-half (½) of the southeast one-quarter (¼) of Section seven (7), Town one (1) North, Range eleven (11) East, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 34 of Plats, page 9, Oakland County Records, situated in the City of Berkley, Oakland County, Michigan.

Dated March 1, 1947.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,
Mortgagee.

VOORHIES, LONG, RYAN and McNAIR,
Attorneys for Mortgagee,
2646 Penobscot Building,
Detroit, Michigan. 51-52-11

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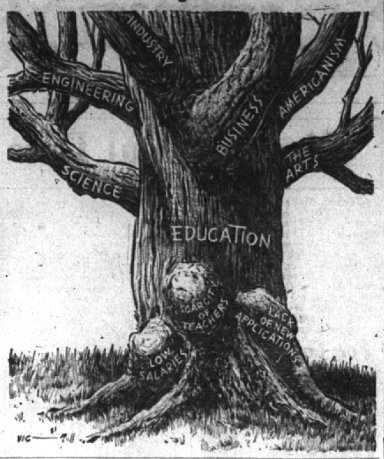

People's Column

March 22, 1947

To the Editor:

It seems to me that the Non-Partisan Rally to be held at the Community House March 31st at 8 p. m. is one of those healthy American projects often too little appreciated by us.

Here's the opportunity to meet and evaluate the seven candidates for the two vacancies on our City Commission. Questions will be assigned to each candidate and answered. An open forum will follow under a moderator's guidance and any pertinent information should be forthcoming during this period.

The rally is sponsored by several groups in our town, namely: the Birmingham Real Estate Board, Retail Merchants Association, Rotary Club, AAUW, League of Women Voters, Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Birmingham veteran groups.

Any qualified voter should anticipate such a meeting in order to choose the men best qualified to serve the City of Birmingham.

Such a man is delegated by each of us to disburse sums of public money. Surely, it is worth while to see him, hear him, question him, and evaluate his qualifications before you cast your vote.

HELEN W. GENUNG
850 Fairfax

P.S. stands for Prompt Service which you will get by using Eccentric Want Ads.

Name Officers for Proposed Medical Center in Hills

Howard L. McGregor, president of the National Twist Drill and Tool Company, of Rochester, has been named president of the Bloomfield Medical Center, the newly elected board of trustees have announced.

Vice presidents elected are: Irving B. Babcock, president of Aviation Corporation; Walter O. Briggs, Jr., vice-president and treasurer of the Briggs Mfg. Co., and Peter J. Monaghan, Jr., attorney.

A. D. Freydl, vice president of the National Bank of Detroit, becomes treasurer and Edwin A. Tomlinson of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, is secretary. John R. MacManus is assistant treasurer.

Plan Spring Fund Drive

The other trustees include E. R. Breech, Dr. Hugo A. Freund, Alfred G. Wilson and William R. Yaw.

The Bloomfield Medical Center will be located a quarter mile north of Square Lake Road on the east side of Adams on an 85-acre tract donated by the Walter O. Briggs family, and will serve Bloomfield Hills, Pontiac, Rochester, Birmingham and surrounding areas.

The officers and Trustees are formulating plans for a fund raising campaign during the spring.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Animals, like humans, have distinctive character traits. A picture such as this usually paraphrases the expression, "playful as a kitten."

PET PERSONALITIES

SEVERAL months ago a newspaper story appeared which concerned a talking dog. It was offered in good faith. Still, it was hard to believe.

But whether or not you place any credence in such a story, the fact remains that animals aren't unlike humans. Anyone who ever has owned a pet will attest the fact that they understand commands, that they have distinctive minds and characters, that they are subject to moods and are capable of a variety of expressions.

These facts are important when you approach the business of photographing pets. For just as a good informal portrait of Uncle Dick or Cousin Sue tells something of his or her character, so pictures of pets should be indicative of the nature of the animal.

As a result, many of the rules which apply to making informal portraits of people also can be applied to taking snapshots of animals. For example, take close-ups. Shoot at sufficiently close range so that the animal is the most important part of the picture—not a small figure lost against a background of trees or shrubbery.

Second, insure naturalness. Trying to make pets pose is, if anything, even more difficult than trying to make Uncle Jim relax when he faces the camera. As a result, it's wise to have a pet occupied—playing with a ball, feeding, sitting up for a cookie. This enables you to pre-focus your camera, call the animal, and shoot when he's advanced to take the "ball" you've offered.

Third, convey an idea or tell a story. Notice in today's snapshot how the kitten, pushing at a door, seems to sum up the phrase, "playful as a kitten." Let your pictures show the animal's mood, expression, or character.

This, you'll discover, is the secret of the best animal pictures. A dog may have dignity, a cow calmness, a lamb an almost childish helplessness. The team that pulls a wagon has a look of patient plodding. Monkeys are mischievous. Animals—all of them—have distinct traits. Your best snapshots of them will show these.

John van Guilder

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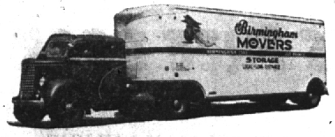

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