

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

Commissioners Still Silent

Although it may develop that there were extenuating circumstances behind City Manager Donald C. Egbert's admission that the city violated its charter in not advertising for bids on road construction, it still remains that the City Commission this past Monday evening permitted the matter to go by with still no comment.

Brought out at last week's meeting, commissioners said that lateness of the meeting prevented them from discussing the matter fully. It was announced that it would be covered at the next meeting. However, commissioners failed to bring it up as had been scheduled.

We do not propose at this time to enter into an argument over why the city chose to ignore the charter provision. What we are concerned with is the bold fact that the city commission has not yet admitted to the citizens of the community the seriousness of such a violation.

Birmingham enacted its charter as a guide and control over the actions of its public officials, either elected or appointed. The city also has ordinances which control the actions of the community for the good of that community.

Those who violate these ordinances are subject to penalties. They were enacted and are to be enforced. Otherwise, they should be removed from the statute books.

So it with the city charter. If city officials violate any of its provisions, they should be reprimanded in some form or another so that such practices do not become commonplace. On the other hand, if certain provisions have proven to be harmful to the city, then those provisions should be amended to the best interests of all.

Commissioners owe the community some form of explanation other than silence. If there are facts in the case which need considerable further study, the public at least will know that the matter has not been forgotten.

At the present time, the average citizen undoubtedly has the impression that the commission does not feel the charter violation worth bothering about.

They should try to explain this, for instance, to the fellow who has just paid a dollar fine for a few minutes' overtime parking. He doesn't think his violation is worth bothering about, either. But he pays.

Local postal officials are again reminding residents that October 15-November 15 is the time for mailing Christmas packages to the men who are still serving in the armed forces overseas. The war is over, certainly, yet if one looks around the neighborhood, he'll find some familiar young faces missing—faces that are now overseas. These servicemen will welcome any thoughtfulness on your part, such as a small Christmas remembrance or greeting card.

Not Propaganda

For some reason, the idea is being circulated in the United States that the European crisis represents some clever propaganda on the part of greedy Europeans to mitch the United States.

Facts and figures assembled by responsible Americans make little impression on those who are already convinced that Americans are incapable of protecting themselves from being "outsmarted."

It would be unfortunate if any considerable portion of the American public jumps to the conclusion that distress, suffering and starvation in Europe is a myth and not a reality. The results in international affairs would be uncomfortable to this country, if not disastrous.

Vice-Admiral Sir William George Tennant, of the British Navy, visiting in this country, says that atomic bomb, or no atomic bomb, navies will be needed as long as supplies are carried by sea.

The Admiral organized the Dunkerque evacuation and later commanded the battleship Repulse, which was sunk by the Japanese. He is an experienced seadog and understands some of the functions of sea power.

When aircraft carry the bulk of the cargoes of the world, it will be time enough to believe that navies are obsolete. So long as the commerce of the world and the supplies of war must move on floating ships, so long will the nations of the earth maintain navies to contest the supremacy of the seas.

Denouncing the U. S.

There is something ludicrous in the bitter charges hurled against the United States by Bulgaria, Rumania and Albania.

It is apparent, of course, that the little nations are following the bidding of Moscow which is outdoing all of them. Whether the Soviet propaganda campaign is having any appreciable effect upon the peoples of the world remains to be seen. Certainly, the United States needs to offer the fullest information about American plans to all people in order to counteract the propaganda.

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Any anonymous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, or corporation, standing or appearing in the columns of The Eccentric, will be gladly published upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO October 15, 1907

The Northville milk dealer who has opened a route in Birmingham is delivering daily to his customers. He carried the milk in a straw strapped to his back, using a bicycle for transportation.

Thad Ross and Tom Doyle went rabbit hunting. They saw two "wild" turkeys, and not being busy, shot them. The next day the boys respectfully requested that each gentleman pay one Ebb Voorhies, (who happened to own them) \$5 for the bird he had shot.

Will Wright, the town's famous ball player, Mrs. Wright, and all the little Wrights are at their home here for the winter season. He has been in New Jersey with his team for some time.

Last week the electric trolley to Detroit was shut down for an over-night repair job and everyone rushed for the 10:45 train, only to find it had been discontinued.

We can't figure out why Bro. Orr, with his usual eye to business, didn't offer cut rates on 750 feet of straw, located about 150 feet from the engine house, and was put out by housewives carrying water in dish pans.

20 YEARS AGO October 30, 1927

The milk service has been discontinued at the Adams school. The children do not really need the additional food value of the milk bought regularly, while the children who were undemourished and thin left it entirely alone.

Two little birds—song birds—cost \$75. Charles Robert of Royal Oak, Mich., had a pair of birds and turned his rifle over to the court for having shot the birds, while the children who were undemourished and thin left it entirely alone.

The initial steps have been taken to get new street signs for Birmingham. James W. Parry said that 150 signs could be posted at the main intersections for a cost of about \$1,000.

Al. O. Wright has returned from a trip to France and reports that the rumors concerning the "balties" in the French front and American tourists are just that, rumors. He said that he has never been detained finer than in French hotels and inns.

Bonds have been issued by Birmingham, Sparks and Birmingham for the new high school, recently erected at Chesterfield and Oak streets. The total bond issue, covering all costs is approximately \$232,000.

5 YEARS AGO October 15, 1942

Charles J. Shain has been elected to serve his third term as president of the Retail Merchants' Association. The election was held Tuesday evening at the Community House.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Schjolin have received word that their Christmas card, mailed last November, has just arrived in Sweden. The card was a beautiful, original creation, and Schjolin suspects that because its handwriting made it was suspected of carrying some secret message.

Mrs. Olive Deane Hornell will open her series of lectures at the Baldwin library Wednesday afternoon. The topic for the series this year is "Books for Victory."

The Baldwin Student Council has announced an unusual session for the next dance. In cooperation with the national drive to get metal scrap, the council has decreed that scrap and scrap alone, will be the admission price.

Youthful shoppers spent a busy week end in Birmingham, when 18 pens and ballpoint pens were stolen from Wilson's drug store. They were also active in Shain's, LaBelles and the Wabek Pharmacy.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

WESTBROOK STREET IMPROVEMENT Notice is hereby given that Special Assessment Roll No. 281, heretofore made by the assessor for the purpose of assessing the cost of constructing each gutter, armpit and blacktop on Westbrook Avenue and Terry road on Terry road and Cole, is now on file in the office for public inspection.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS COLE BLACKTOP-TERRY TO 27-30 Birmingham will meet Monday, October 13, 1947, at 8 P. M. in the Municipal Mission Room in the Municipal Building in the construction of certain improvements to Cole Street, between Terry and the Municipal Building in and City of Birmingham.

IRVING E. HANLEY, City Clerk. October 9, 1947.

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The Corner Grocer



Can Obtain War Medals at Pontiac Recruiting Post

World War II veterans of Birmingham who have been authorized by the War Department to wear the Victory Medal or the American Defense Medal, may now obtain the medal at the local Army Recruiting Station at 53 1/2 W. Huron St., Pontiac, it has been announced by M/Sgt. J. D. Carpenter, NCO-in-Charge.

Although several million veterans have cared the right to wear one or both of those medals, Sergeant Carpenter explained, the medals have only recently been coined by the United States Mint, and general distribution has not as yet been made.

As part of their club work in becoming acquainted with youth of other lands, the Gra-Y clubs of Quorton, Adams, and Pierce schools are having a contest. The idea is for each member to identify each of 26 different boys, pictured on a large poster, as to their native land. The boys write the number of the picture opposite the name of the country in which they believe the pictured boy lives.

Army veterans may apply for the medal in person or by letter. Those applying in person are advised to bring with them their original discharge certificate, the certificate in lieu of a lost or destroyed discharge, or a suitable authenticated statement of service issued by the War Department.

Something to sell? Then try Eccentric Want Ads.

Advertisement for a Water Softener You Don't Have To Buy! Our Water softeners are installed and exchanged regularly for only a few cents a day!

Advertisement for INSULATE your HOME with BALSAM WOOL. U.S.G. GLASS WOOL SQUARE FOOT 5¢. Extension LADDERS Per Foot 75¢. Quarter Inch PLYWOOD 30 x 62 in. sheet \$3.35.

Advertisement for BRUCE FLOOR CLEANER Gal. \$1.95. Picni-Kook The Ideal Grill For Out-Of-Doors. Cooking Designed for Wood or Charcoal. SAW HORSE BRACKETS SET \$1.00. We Have White Porcelain Medicine Cabinets.

Advertisement for LAWSON & SON. 484 Forest. BUILDERS SUPPLIES. Phone 1111.

Advertisement for RESTAURANT OPERATION SCHEDULE. So You'll Find Them Open When You Go to Your FAVORITE EATING PLACES.

Advertisement for THE NORMANDY. "Where Five People Dine" LUNCHEONS, DINNERS, S.W. Cor. of Woodward & 12 Mile Rd. PLEASANT RIDGE. Daily Hours, including Sunday: 11:30 A.M. to 9 P.M. CLOSURE DAY ON TUESDAY. We cater to clubs, societies, weddings and other special groups. CALL R.O. 9468.

Advertisement for CORNING'S El Patio. WOODWARD AVENUE AT COOLIDGE HIGHWAY Near Birmingham. SEA-SHORE DINNERS. Open at Noon Daily and Sunday. PHONE ROYAL OK 9772. NOONDAY LUNCHEONS 75¢.

Advertisement for FOX AND HOUND INN. JOHN INGLESBY, Prop. Woodcrest at Leola, La. 84. SERVING DINNERS - Sunday - 12:30 until 8:00 p.m. Week days - 6:30 until 11:00 p.m. Monday - Closed All Day. Fine Liquors - Good Food. Phone - 2366.

Advertisement for MINTS ICE CREAM CO. 1360 S. Woodward, Birmingham. WEEK DAYS 11 A. M. to 9 P. M. Including Saturdays. CLOSED ON SUNDAYS.

Advertisement for WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT. A SAVINGS ACCOUNT BUILDS FOR YOUR FUTURE. Nearly everyone wants to save... yet many people fail because they don't adopt a definite savings plan, and then stick to it.

Advertisement for MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY. How many of these does your telephone save you every day? Imagine trying to see in person everybody you talk to on the telephone in a single day. Think of the time and the shoe leather... the gasoline or carfare it would take! We've installed thousands of new telephones in recent years. And thousands are still to be installed for folks now waiting for service.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Pictures of children, such as this, are universal favorites with camera users. By including the wheeshtrow and top in the picture, the photographer has increased its interest and appeal.

What Do You Shoot? were more popular, with mountains trailing behind. When it comes to subject matter, people-as might be expected—ran away out in front. Over two-thirds of all snaps viewed included people in them. And the greatest proportion of people were children in the "small fry" class.

One of the surprising things, however, was how many snapshooters failed to take advantage of simple tricks for pleasing children. Over half the pictures of children simply showed a little child alone—no playing, not engaged in any activity, but with a toy or pet. And it was not in this group—but among the 25 per cent that pictured a child with a toy or pet—that the best shots were found.

Of pictures without people land scenes and scenery, were in the minority. Flowers, plants, trees, and shots of people's homes were other popular subjects. All in all, the survey seemed to show a lot of variety. Enough to make you ask yourself: how your own subject matter matches up with other people's.