

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

Russian vs. U.S. System No one is going to dispute the fact that today the average American is confronted with prices that make his weekly income look mighty small compared to what it was a number of years ago. And this fact has resulted in many of us thinking that something has seriously gone wrong with American democracy.

However, we should like to make a comparison we believe will show that matters are not so bad as many would point them. Have you stopped recently to compare the purchasing power of the American dollar with the Russian ruble? It will graphically illustrate the advantages of American democracy over that of Russian totalitarianism.

Using figures recently compiled by the U. S. Labor Department, the average Birmingham citizen is still 10 times better off than the average Russian, and our standard of living is about 1,000 per cent higher.

Here is how, according to the Department's figures, American buying power of \$50 a week compares with that of a Russian making the equivalent, or 120 rubles per week.

- 1. A Birmingham housewife can buy 390 loaves of bread while her Russian counterpart can buy only 23 loaves.
2. She can purchase 500 pounds of sugar with her husband's weekly pay, while the Russian woman can buy only 17 pounds.
3. The average American's pay is equal to 275 quarts of milk purchased in Birmingham, while the Russian equivalent is only 16 quarts when bought in Moscow.
4. The American husband can step up to a Birmingham meat counter and with his \$50 can take home 82 pounds of beef; at a Moscow meat market, the Russian would get only 10 pounds of meat for his 120 rubles.
5. An American can buy over 70 pounds of butter while the Russian would be lucky to get 4 pounds.

If you were thirsty and a half cup of water were set before you, you could react in two entirely different ways: you could complain that the cup was only half full, or you could be thankful that it was at least half full.

Today our wants are only half satisfied; we should be grateful indeed that they are not completely unsatisfied.

Both the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills planning commissions better get busy on the proposed "greenbelt" border for our two communities. If Detroit annexes that territory to the east of Birmingham, we'll be only about a five-minute drive from the metropolis and its accompanying troubles.

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GENERAL AUTO SERVICE Erich (Dutch) Kuth Oliver Cornwell WOODWARD AT FOREST PHONE 336

Wild Life Diminishes Wildlife on the North American continent is diminishing very fast, according to the foremost authorities on fish and game.

The reason is not hard to discover. There are too many human beings, with better instruments of destruction and transportation. In many cases, woods are violated by rapacious sportsmen who have no interest in the preservation of wildlife.

Recent conventions found some criticism leveled against stockmen and agencies building dams and other public works. The charge is that little attention is being paid to recreational and wildlife values and that there has been unnecessary destruction of wildlife.

We do not intend to get into any argument about the protest reported. There are two sides to the proposition, but practically everyone in the nation can agree that greater attention must be paid to the conservation of wildlife.

Her Fifteenth Divorce Something of a record is reported from another State, where a woman is now suing for her fifteenth divorce.

The lady has not had that many husbands because she married one of them twice and another three times.

She still thinks that the "right man" might come along. Evidently, the lady is something of an expert in the matrimonial line of else the men in her neighborhood are suckers.

If the Board of Education's proposed high school driving course succeeds in toning down the future of young drivers, the money involved in conducting the course will be well spent.

Teachers' salaries have been generally increased throughout the nation, according to various surveys, but this does not mean that pupils will find it easier to learn.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Long before there was an "iron curtain" in Europe there were "iron rugs." Dealers nicknamed certain types of Oriental rugs as "iron rugs" because of their great durability. John E. Mertz, Atty., 727 Pemberton Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich., No. 1,696. STATE OF MICHIGAN v. The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

It is Further Ordered, that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, once each week, for the period of four weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Oakland, Michigan, on the 31st day of October, A. D. 1947. It is ordered, that the undersigned do hereby appoint for hearing said petition, the 31st day of October, A. D. 1947.

SUBURBAN WINDOW CLEANERS ARTHUR ZETTEL 1619 Cole Birmingham Phone 2186

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO October 29, 1897

A would-be burglar entered the sleeping quarters of Mr. and Mrs. George Ferguson last Monday night, and being afraid to make a noise, struck a match to find his way. The result was a fire, and the match and the sudden pin-point light woke Mr. Ferguson who sat up in bed and asked what the unwelcome visitor wanted. Apparently his wants were few, for he took off at a dead run, and for all anyone knows, is still running.

Miss Edith Hamlin of the City Bakery has asked us to announce her new bread prices. Beginning Monday you may purchase this delicious bread for a loaf, or six loaves for \$1.00.

Due to a mistake of ours, the well-known Joe Brooks has for sale in drier and better than ever. He gave us the ad two weeks ago, but we ran it under Henry Miller's name. Now we want you all to know it's Joe's wood, and it's had two additional weeks in the sun and wind.

A war is being waged here on nickel-in-the-slot machines. These "guinea bandits" swallow your coins in an endless stream, and are so well fixed that when they do stop off the operator has a heart attack.

E. P. Barrows, who moved away from here 53 years ago, is visiting his cousin, Mrs. A. L. Perkins. He tells us it would be impossible to recognize the town and admit that he honestly believes all the changes made have been for the better. That is really a pat on the back, since most people return to their old home town with a feeling of being disappointed in the progress or less nice to the dogs. Thanks, E. P.!

20 YEARS AGO

November 3, 1927 Young gobbs invaded the village, as you'd know, and one gang did not behave as usual. These were bold, bad gobbs who went from door to door demanding food, and creating property damages in all parts of the village. A quick roundup by the police and a trip to headquarters was finally handed out as their "reward."

Gov. Fred Green and the world famous fish, William Brock and Edward Setze, will be among the prominent guests of Birmingham for the Prosperity Week celebration. Green will speak before a large audience in Civic Night, and the two fliers will conduct a thrill air circus later in the week.

The three new traffic lights installed on Woodward avenue began their job of handling local traffic today. They are being added to work with the old light at Maple, and when the new are made, a motorist maintaining a speed of 22 miles per hour may get a ticket for a length of time without once having to stop for a red light.

The First Baptist Church is sponsoring a Community Brotherhood club for the village. Membership in the Brotherhood is now limited to the men of that church, but will be open to any other church, provided they are really interested in a civic-minded social life.

James Lawson, state representative, will be the guest speaker at the Civic League Tuesday. His topic will be "Citizenship" which will outline the best traits of a really good citizen.

5 YEARS AGO

October 29, 1942 There was little need for a westerner to be shown locally last week when our police department had a small rodeo all its own. Patrolman Ralph Bell corralled a black cow that was wandering around Emma avenue parking lot in a garage until the owner could be located.

That some people are displeased with the condition on Woodward during doorbells. A sign at the window is likely to startle me and I'll look from my book to see a Jack-o-lantern grinning at me. Or, if I venture out of the house, a sheeted figure will whip at me.

We see no way to derive pleasure from some of the local actions, but apparently someone does. The latest act of vandalism was the complete destruction of a business sign in front of the office of a well known retailer.

With all the shortage of candy and sweets these days it was a real blow to learn that the 21 boxes of candy found along the Grand Trunk tracks Sunday were no longer fit to eat.

New we've heard everything. A Birmingham soldier boarded a Grayhound bus in Detroit last Sunday, leaving his bag near the driver, and taking about the only available seat, away in the rear of the coach, where he had found that during the trip someone had made off with his bag.

A new defense class has been started here which will teach women to make their household equipment more efficient. This will ease the labor situation greatly, and save vital materials.

A new-type alarm switch for commercial or home freezers warns of mechanical difficulties and provides ample time for emergency repairs before food spoilage starts.

Danger of Getting Wound Up Too Soon



People's Column

To the Editor: Sincere greetings from California, and it is with great happiness that I am here and able to write this letter.

You no doubt read in the papers or heard over the radio of my recent narrow escape. Yes, it was all true! The kidnaping, threats with a gun, the blow on my head, the writing of my name with a bullet, the wild ride, and then bound and gagged.

Two days after the kidnaping, Chuck and I had our name legally changed to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Edward Charles. This petition was on file for a month and has not yet bearing on the kidnaping. We will use this name in our profession.

RUTH CHARLES (formerly Ruth Minks) 628 W. Stocker Birmingham 2, Calif.

CLASSIFIED ADS must be at The Eccentric office by five o'clock Tuesday of the week you wish them published. You may phone or bring them in.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Advertisement for camera equipment and services, including a list of items for sale and contact information.

Another Season - A Host of Pictures ANY night now the neighborhood children will probably start ringing doorbells. A sign at the window is likely to startle me and I'll look from my book to see a Jack-o-lantern grinning at me.

RESTAURANT OPERATION SCHEDULE. So You'll Find Them Open When You Go To Your FAVORITE EATING PLACES. BROOKS COFFEE CLUB FOR MEMBERS ONLY. CORNING'S El Patio WOODWARD AVENUE AT COOLIDGE HIGHWAY.

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