

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

Good News In these days of high costs which Taxpayers have cut dangerously into the average wage earner's income...

However, \$104,000 is included in the new budget for additional building purposes, and this amount was approved last spring by the school district electorate...

More state aid, derived principally through the sales tax measure, together with the sixteen hundred dollars from the district, will permit Ireland to offset operational increases.

Taxpayers will welcome Ireland's successful attempt to continue to provide a good educational program at minimum expense to the district.

Statistics It is always well not to jump to conclusions when one is given statistics in the form of percentages.

For example, Department of Commerce figures show that exports of foodstuffs from the United States increased less than one per cent in the first half of this year, while imports showed a 31.2 per cent rise.

This looks like a correction of the abnormal balance between exports and imports for this country. However, the full figures show that exports totaled \$1,241,000,000 and imports amounted to only \$831,000,000.

Birmingham last week learned with regret that Commissioner Milton F. Mallender intends to retire from the City Commission when his present term expires in April, 1949.

Up for study by the City Plan Commission, and subsequently by the City Commission, is a suggestion that the present city zoning ordinance be changed to permit professional men to establish offices in areas presently restricted to them.

There is plenty of effort being made by reformers to improve the status of mankind; too little of it, though, is made back home. It's so easy to ask the other fellow to keep his own yard clean.

Discharged In Detroit the Ford Motor Company recently dismissed nineteen employees for on-the-job betting.

The Company, while deploring the practice of gambling, does not attempt to regulate the private lives of its employees. Attempts to prevent them from betting while they were supposed to be working is another matter.

Other sources in Detroit intimate that the practice of on-the-job-gambling involves millions of dollars a month in various industries. Investigations have been underway for many months and it is stated that union officials have assisted employers in an effort to eradicate the gambling or keep it at a minimum.

The Ford Company is, and any other company would be, entirely within its rights in discharging workers who used company time for gambling activities. To say this does not intimate that the company has a right to regulate the private lives of employees, but common sense tells us that the company has a right to expect to receive the time for which the employee is paid.

Not Anxious Reports from European capitals indicate that the nations of western Europe are not anxious to be forced to pick a side between the United States and Russia.

The Marshall economic plan, in the eyes of Europe, has been followed by a diplomatic plan. Both meet violent Russian opposition and the nations of Europe are afraid that they will be caught between the contending forces and eventually have to line up on one side or the other.

Certainly, the foreign nations do not wish to commit themselves until the Congress of the United States has committed this nation. They know from experience that it is one thing for an American diplomat to propose something and another for the Congress to implement it.

On the other hand, labor should be worthy of its higher opportunities.

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO October 9, 1897

There is a frisky old widower about Birmingham who makes himself awfully numerous among the old maids here and in Troy. He dresses a nice rig and wears his clothes, and each of the girls thinks she is "the one." If you only knew how many others there are, an have been, you'd tie the red ribbon to his coat tail right now!

A pony, which J. H. Meyers of the Watkins farm, put in a crate and shipped onto a train for Pontiac kicked the side out of the crate, slid out of the halter, and vanished through an open door of the moving train. A week later the little animal was found at Tazewell, where it had been and ready for more experiences.

John Hanna is not "painting the town red," but he has certainly adorned his business establishment with a bunch of that color. It looks nobby, John, to say the least.

The editors have received a letter from Charlie Gierke, way down in the hills of West Virginia, in renewal for another year, and the information that he has just returned from the front. This, Charlie told us, is an average of about 40 bushels to the acre, and what he called a "right good crop."

The editor had a letter from someone who called himself "Citizen" this week saying that two men repeatedly come here and get very drunk. All the time they are here they go to town limits and tell them not to come back. Said Citizen, "if we did that, what would happen?" Frankly, Citizen, the editor doesn't know, and he's not curious.

20 YEARS AGO October 13, 1927

Birmingham police were asleep at the switch one night last week when a Detroit man deliberately ran through a red light to attract their attention. He wanted, desperately, to let them know that he was being forced at the point of a gun to drive a hold-up man from Detroit to Pontiac. He tried the same antic in Pontiac with the same result. Finally, the bandit having gone far enough, left the car, and the event was reported to police.

Margaret Ross and Grace Hammett were the modest yesterday when the A. M. Turner company opened its new store in Bloomfield Hills. The store will carry a complete line of clothing for women.

Mrs. Helen Wendell, who operates an antique shop in Bloomfield Hills, discovered a rare old plunk in a dingy, out-of-the-way plumbing shop in Detroit recently. The desk, made of cherry, was covered with dirt and grease and littered with shavings and shavings when Mrs. Wendell found it.

The first issue of the Adams "Booster" will be issued next Thursday. This newest school paper in Birmingham will bring news of Adams pupils and school events. Stoddard White has been named editor-in-chief, with Nancy Johnson as managing editor. Each class in the school will have a correspondent who will be responsible for the news from his or her room.

The Big Bad Wolf



People's Column

5 YEARS AGO October 8, 1942

A coal truck, belonging to a Pontiac firm was found abandoned on Crooks road last week. It had been left there by the driver, a new employee, who apparently thought that second ton was just too much for him to unload. He took along the money he had collected for the first ton. In lieu of wages, no doubt.

Miss Evelyn Buchanan who for the past 14 years has been director of religious education in the Episcopal diocese of Pittsburgh has been appointed to have charge of that work for Christ Church Cranbrook. Miss Buchanan will assume her new duties about Nov. 1.

Local firemen had two runs over the week end. One was to make a final check of a fire in the Eccentric office, which was extinguished before the company arrived, and the other to extinguish a small blaze in the coal bin of the Presbyterian church.

Several local members are attending the state convention of the comparatively new patriotic organization, the MOMM, which will be held Friday in Pontiac. This club, a product of World War II, is doing a huge amount of work bringing a bit of extra cheer and friendliness into the lives of servicemen confined to military hospitals.

Scrap Harvest Day will be observed by the merchants on Woodward avenue and Maple next Wednesday. Their contributions should put our scrap drive 'way up in the big western figures, for they are certainly working hard at it.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Good focus and a steady hand combined here to produce a sharp negative. Notice how all parts of the hay rake are clear and distinct. Make 'Em Sharp Focusing problems vary, of course, depending on the camera used. With fixed-focus cameras such as box cameras all you need worry about is that your subject be at least seven or eight feet away. Anything closer than that distance will be in reasonably sharp focus.

A YOUNG boy wrote us the other day, complaining that his pictures are blurred and fuzzy. "I seem to have a lot of difficulty," he said, "in getting sharp negatives." He wants to know what the trouble is. That's a hard question to answer without seeing the prints themselves. Any one of several things can cause a blurred or fuzzy negative. But chances are your friend's troubles result from camera shake, improper focus, or too slow a shutter speed to stop the action of the subject he's shooting.

Camera shake, as we explained some months ago, is caused by moving the camera in the act of releasing the shutter. It's easily avoided by holding the camera firmly with both hands against chest or chest and tripping the shutter with a firm, steady motion rather than a quick jab. A shutterspeed of 1/50 of a second is best for pictures that don't need faster speeds to stop action. Use 1/25 of a second when you need the longer exposure. But, if your shutter speed must be slower than this, be sure to put the camera on a tripod or other firm support.

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