

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

We Need This Proposed incorporation of plans for a new hospital in the Bloomfield Medical Center and Woodward General Hospital into one structure to serve Southern Oakland County...

At least one hospital is needed in this vicinity, and we should attempt to obtain it as soon as possible. The Greater Detroit Hospital Fund seems to give us the way to get it.

Already General Motors, Ford Motor Co. and the McGraw-Hill have contributed more than \$2,900,000 to the goal of \$10,720,000. When the terms of the Greater Detroit are asked to contribute in the summer of 1950, we should provide ourselves with badly needed hospital facilities.

We have said it before and say it again: homes in Birmingham and vicinity are particularly adapted to outdoor lighting decorations during the Yuletide season. There is, perhaps, nothing like gaily lighted homes to evidence the happiness and spirit of the Christmas season...

For centuries at Halloween's time, many became scared at Jack 'o' lanterns; but it took Whittecker Chambers, a farmer Communist, to hollow out a pumpkin and scare a great many people at one time when he hid those secret State Dept. films in one on his farm in Maryland recently.

We Were Expecting Bell Rate Boost Michigan Bell's announcement last week that it was seeking \$2,000,000 more in additional rates should come as no surprise to the company's customers. Earlier this year Bell asked for more than \$10,000,000 to help out the company's financial position...

The Christmas Crowds are pushing, jostling, rushing, crushing, scrambling, trampling, scyrring, hurrying, walking, talking, tarrying, carrying, spending unending amounts of mazzuma... and in the meantime trying to find sufficient time to smile and exclaim: "Merry Christmas!"

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish public contributions. Contributions are usually published in full. Any constructive criticism on the character, style or appearance of the Eccentric will be given the attention of the publisher.

LANSING—Elimination of 37 of the state's 99 agencies is now recommended by a special legislative study committee.

The December report heralds renewal of the debate whether the state should be reorganized into higher or lower tiers in order to divert a threatened treasury deficit.

Michigan voters rejected overwhelmingly on Nov. 2 a legislative recommendation that the constitutional earmarking should be repealed. The verdict is decisive.

Lighting authorities warn that 75 per cent of the nation's 400,000 street lights are obsolete. They estimate that the nation's obsolete lights cost 10,000 lives and \$500,000,000 in property damage annually from traffic accidents due to inadequate visibility.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO December 23, 1898 The throng on the streets Monday and Tuesday along with numerous and some sports of conversation not fit to print.

We feel that with the number of persons who leave here daily for distant parts, we are entitled to have service from the electric road. We are sorely giving it enough patronage that we should be entitled to the comforts of a waiting room.

The suspense is awful. There are so many candidates for the job at the postoffice, and now word comes from Washington that the appointment will be held up for another month or so.

A Christmas tree with decorations will be on display at the Franklin Church tonight. These fair neighbors who will not be one from Birmingham to visit them and join in their annual celebration.

20 YEARS AGO December 23, 1928 With a building boom in full swing, permits have totaled better than two million dollars in Birmingham during the past year.

Police are soon to bar all left turns at Woodward and Maple in an attempt to cut down the number of pedestrian accidents which have taken place there in the past.

Six new seats for jurors and spectators were installed today in the justice court, which is presided over by Judge B. B. Rich. Additional space is available to more seats when the time comes that they are needed.

Police and firemen enjoyed Christmas day in Birmingham. Traffic held up by the snow and there were no fires to interrupt the day for the firemen.

Dr. A. E. Newitt, health officer reported the flu raging in this area had remained nearly static during the past week.

Christmas will be celebrated with special services in all Birmingham churches this year, as well as the usual round of social functions.

With so much Christmas in the air it seems hard to believe that there is a person in Birmingham low enough to steal decorations, but it is who has done so.

Baskets for distribution among the needy will be ready Friday afternoon. Thirty have been prepared by the city.

For once the Military Police are popular. They are being used as volunteer mallmen in Detroit and vicinity, and the Christmas parade post grows heavier and heavier.

Internationally Speaking By Eugene Hess (Today The Eccentric introduces as a regular special feature on its Editorial Page this new column entitled "Internationally Speaking" by Eugene Hess.)

Did you notice that we have now an Almazan de Moscow, sort of a counterpart of the famous Huxley Hall? The 200 most famous communists are on a voyage of 46 years old, 20 per cent of them are from University, but nearly 50 per cent are from a prison. The most serious danger to us seems to be the fact that every fifth one has today reached cabinet rank in some government, somewhere outside Russia.

It Won't Be Long Now



People's Column

Regarding the article written in The Birmingham Eccentric of Thursday, Dec. 23, 1948. We think you have been misinformed about the so-called "hotdog stand" or "frozen custard stand" that is being erected at Maple and Hunter Avenue.

We dispense a dairy product which is rich in vitamins, iron, calcium, etc. We are investing a sum well over \$100,000 for equipment and the construction of the building, which we think should be an asset to any community.

We purchased a franchise for the so-called "hotdog stand" or "frozen custard stand" that is being erected at Maple and Hunter Avenue.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



PICTURE OF THE WEEK: This excellent winter scene in upstate New York was taken by the camera of the author before the snow to be broken up by buildings, figures, long shadows and wagon tracks.

The first secret of a superior picture lies, of course, in shooting a superb subject in perfect lighting with just the right exposure. But back in the dark room after a crisp day out of doors, there are several critical steps before you hold up a glowing, lifelike print that looks as if you could tramp into it on snowshoes.

Often this ideal snow negative is made unworkable by overexposure and underdevelopment. The overexposure is supposed to get the shadow out of a 115; the underdevelopment holds back the highlights so the density that is printable. This is not a must. Perhaps normal exposure will work for you.

Truman's Ambitious Welfare Program Seeks to Equalize Poorer, Richer States

WASHINGTON—How much should the Federal government do to equalize social and welfare conditions between rich Michigan and poor Mississippi? That is a simplified statement of a question the 81st Congress will meet in half dozen weeks when it considers President Truman's ambitious welfare program. An every-year program to rent control, Federal action is advocated as the only method of equalizing conditions between richer states. Residents of Michigan are far up the ladder; Mississippi is on the bottom rung.

Claim Brighter Prospects Supporters of broader welfare legislation are brighter now than ever before. They are planning a roundup of what they are planning. Education-Sen. Elbert Thomas (Utah Democrat) who will head the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, says the first bill to provide \$300 million in federal aid to states for schools. This has already passed the Senate and is favored by House Democrats.

Table with 3 columns: Per Capita Income, General hospital beds 1000 people, Number of persons doctor per 1000 population, Infant deaths 1000 births, School expenditures/child, % of total income spent on schools, % of people over 25 with less than 8 years schooling, Federal old-age annuities, Average monthly payments, % homes with bath, 1940, % homes with 1 or more persons per room—1940.

Relief for hay fever victims is possible with a new and comprehensive room conditioner recently announced. Laboratory tests have revealed that the 15-foot air cleaner, which filters and washes the air, can remove up to 95 per cent of ragweed pollen.

We Heard It Said By: Raymond H. Smith, 1091 N. Woodward. "We residents who live here at the north end of Woodward have, for some time, been concerned with the traffic hazard where northbound traffic crosses into Hunter traffic. This hazard is usually demonstrated on the other day when three persons were killed at this intersection.

Though Michigan is obviously way ahead of Mississippi, it is not, to state in any department. For instance, the district of Columbia has one doctor for each 296 people. But DC, with more doctors and hospital beds per capita, says it needs, has a much higher than average mortality rate.

Traffic congestion researchers point out that one passenger in an automobile takes up 25 times as much street space as a passenger in an electric trolley. A trailer, such street car or bus.

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Fox and Hounds Inn John Ingleson, proprietor Woodard at Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills SERVING DINNERS Sundays from 1:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Week days from 5:30 until 11:00 p.m. except Mondays when the dining room is closed. COCKTAILS SELECTED FOODS Phone Blum 3290 for Reservations

FRIENDLY BANK THE BEST WAY TO SAVE IS TO START SAVING Once you start saving regularly, every payday, it becomes a habit. Your savings mount—little by little at first, then more and more as your earnings and your deposits increase. Then comes the day when you have not merely savings, but actually security.

WABECK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABECK BUILDING