

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

Students and Autos

The Birmingham Board of Education this semester has placed in the Barium Junior High School program an optional class for ninth graders in which they will learn the fundamentals of driving an automobile.

In view of the number of accidents that occur on the highways, it is highly important that some intelligent program be planned to give children an opportunity to learn about safety in connection with the operation of automobiles.

We have no idea of what will be in the local program, although we would suggest that driver instruction be provided for all students who expect to drive. This ought to include about everybody in a high school.

One of the best things to teach youngsters who plan to operate automobiles is the application of courtesy by an automobile driver. There is really no reason why an automobile driver should be lacking in the ordinary practices of courtesy.

Says Peace Costs a Lot

Chase S. Osborn, former Governor of Michigan, recently celebrated his eighty-eighth birthday in Georgia, where he now lives.

Mr. Osborn was born in comparative poverty but made a fortune in the iron business. Worried by the possession of great wealth, he decided to give most of it away, reserving only what he needed for necessities.

Referring to his interesting act in giving away most of his wealth, he states that he made up his mind to give back all that he did not need to live upon.

Bits of B'Ham

(Continued from Page 1, Part 3) Ice covered streets and remained to convalesce. Incidentally, young Harvey also played a part in this comedy when he was a student at Baldwin High School.

A few weeks ago a local resident brought in a couple of copies of the metropolitan Detroit newspapers, printed many years ago, for this Wanderer to look over. This week,

Useless "News"

We are at a loss to understand why the esteemed Associated Press distributed a dispatch from Paris giving the substance of a "purported speech" by Marshal Tito, of Yugoslavia, which was published in an Italian newspaper in Trieste.

The mystification increases because the article admits that the Trieste newspaper says it printed the text after becoming convinced that it was authentic because it was published in a newspaper which supports General De Gaulle.

In view of this statement, there seems to have been little use to spread the purported text of "Tito's remarks" throughout the United States. Certainly, if the French newspaper which originally sponsored the speech became convinced that it was never made, there was no justification for the Trieste newspaper's publication and, much less, for the republication of the stuff in this country.

Two Ways to Lose Liberty

The people of every democratic country should understand that they can lose their liberties not only to a communist regime but to a fascist regime as well.

Let's not get too much off the beam, in regard to communism, that we overlook the other possibility.

The best safeguard for the liberties of free men is for them to understand what takes place in the world and in their own country.

It has become apparent in our economic system today that the average man is willing to do almost anything to make money—except good hard work.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material providing news value, and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited, except when they concern general newspaper policy.

Local youngsters have a special treat in store for them on Valentine's Day—this Saturday—in the form of six technicolor cartoons at the Bloomfield Theater plus the regular feature, Miss Dale Young.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO February 11, 1898

Thomas L. Hanna leaves tomorrow night to seek his fortune in the Klondike. Thomas has been dined and wined by his many friends, all of whom wish him well.

A local woman found a new clothes maker at the street Royal-Oak the other day, and says the owner can have it back by paying for the ad she has run elsewhere in this paper.

The annual banquet of the Lincoln Club of Oakland County is being held in Pontiac tomorrow night. It bids fair to outdo all previous records for elegance and attendance.

As a result of a quarrel with W. E. Hobson, Charles Howland was shot dead one day last week. The shooting took place in the office of the justice of the peace in Copeland, and is said to be the outcome of an old grudge.

The camera business is more than booming in this vicinity. Those who are in it want more and those who are out want in. They are anxious to learn more about this fascinating pastime, too.

Troy Township is having quite a battle. It has a perfectly good postmaster, but suddenly the town has decided to learn more about petition sent to Washington bore 70 names favoring a young man who doesn't do anything harder than be postmaster, and the other, 40 for a man "who is popular and busy."

20 YEARS AGO February 11, 1928

An ordinance was passed by the city commissioners of Bloomfield Township, Michigan, prohibiting any person from erecting any type of billboard there without official permission from their office.

Mrs. Charles Shain was re-elected president of the Community House board of directors at their annual meeting Saturday evening.

G. Eason Olson will direct his own play, "Samson Wind" which will be presented by the Village Players at their complete picture of his theatrical work, including one of the parts of the play, also.

H. T. Ellerby, village president, has issued a proclamation to the effect that the coming week in Birmingham will be known as "Falter and Stork Week."

William Cox, Detroit who was injured late last night when his car struck a tree, remains in a serious condition in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Cox was riding alone at the time of the accident.

5 YEARS AGO February 11, 1943

John S. Bugas, representative of the FBI, told his interested listeners in a series of suspicious characters, don't investigate yourself," when he spoke on the activities of that organization during the war years. There were 300 in attendance at the lecture in Baldwin High School Monday.

Police warn motorists to drive carefully. The city streets are very icy and the accident toll has risen sharply. Everyone should exercise extreme caution, especially inside the city limits.

Sad but true is the decision of the city commissioner to cut the collection of rubbish in the city to one service a month. The action has been taken as a result of a great shortage of gasoline and tires.

We are interested in the information that, due to the war, it is no longer legal to sell shoes on Sunday in Detroit. We cannot help but wonder if this fact is supposed to be the solution to the shoe shortage. How many people buy the things on Sunday, anyway?

Many odd items turn up in lost-and-found departments, so the Birmingham police were not too surprised last week when they were asked to locate the owner of a lunch box and thermos bottle which had been left in a local gathering spot for Baldwin students. Commonly, whoever lost it.

NOTICE: Proposals will be received for furnishing the material to be cut into the City Clerk, Birmingham, Michigan, until five P.M., February 27, 1948.

The City desires to purchase one power shovel, half-tracked, equipped with a hop and 8-yard bucket. The shovel to be mounted on rubber and to be self-propelled. Proposals shall state price and delivery address. Delivery shall be accompanied by specifications of equipment offered.

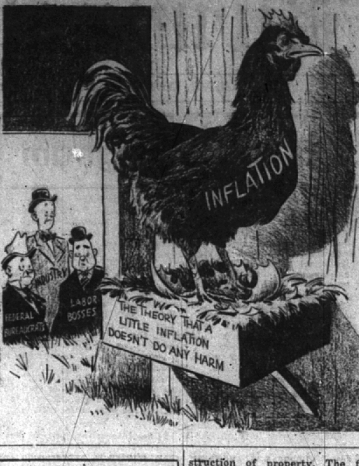
Details as to type of equipment desired may be secured from the Director of Public Works, D. C. ROBERT, City Manager.

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How to Get the Chicken Back in the Egg



People's Column

Feb. 3, 1948 To the Editor:

Tragedy strikes in many of our lives, causing destruction, heart-ache and suffering in its wake. Sunday, an all too common tragedy struck Hazel street, destroying one of man's greatest treasures one that he will move heaven and earth to hold—his home.

We can only extend our help and sympathy in whatever way we are able, to the victims of this tragedy, as we realize that the sickness brought to our hearts and minds is as nothing compared to the actual suffering which they must endure.

After very careful thinking, I have come to the conclusion that the tragedy could have been prevented, and the utility supplying service to the home is morally responsible for the complete destruction of the Adam home and the physical and mental anguish of the victims.

Quote from the Detroit Free Press in heavy type: "Firemen were unable to find the tap near the street to turn off the gas feeding the blaze. The tap was hidden by a heavy layer of ice, and it was an hour after the explosion that the tap was found by the Consumers Power Company officials."

Every user of this utility in Birmingham is a potential victim of death, terrible suffering, and destruction of property.

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