

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

Served His Country Well... The retirement of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz recalls the very considerable service that this naval officer rendered his country in the war against Japan.

Admiral Nimitz conducted himself in a commendable fashion and handled the strength under his command in such an able manner as to destroy the Japanese Navy and assume control of the waters of the Pacific.

The task which confronted the Admiral, after the disaster at Pearl Harbor, was probably the most difficult assumed by an American naval commander in many years. The rampant Japanese Navy far outnumbered everything that we had in the Pacific and our early advances were made despite the enemy's superiority. Not every American comprehends the odds against our naval units in the early days of the war.

The war against Japan was largely a naval affair. After allowing due credit to the Air Force and the Army, the determining factor in that struggle was the gradual seizure of Japanese bases and the establishment of such superiority as to destroy, in a very large sense, Japanese water-borne communications.

A Bible-reading marathon was recently concluded in Covington, Indiana, where 175 volunteer readers read the Old and New Testaments from beginning to end in seventy-four hours.

We are not prepared to say that the spectacular stunt was entirely useless. It may have directed some attention to the Bible as a book to be read. Then, again, it may have done nothing more than set up a record to be emulated by those who will attempt to read the Bible in less time or to read it twice in more time.

But it is to be remembered that thousands of persons have spent their entire lives reading the Bible in order to apply its truths to their daily lives. These individuals are the real readers of that great collection of writings.

Not long ago, some newspaper people elected Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal about his availability as a vice-presidential candidate for the Democrats.

The New Yorker responded that he was not a candidate and could not be drafted. He added: "Even with both ears to the ground, I've never heard the faintest suggestion of even a distant drumbeat."

It may be that Mr. Forrestal is not familiar with the tactics of most modern-day politicians. They do not listen for drumbeats; they are too busy beating the tom-toms for themselves.

Gamblers Betting on football has reached alarming proportions, largely due to the development of the point system, by which the outcome of almost any game becomes doubtful.

With large sums of money at stake, it is inevitable that the gamblers will some day make an attempt to bribe a player. This has happened in professional baseball, professional football and collegiate basketball.

The amazing interest that the public takes in collegiate and high school football is explained, in large part, by the loyalty of supporters of the institutions involved in the contest. Nevertheless, some of it undoubtedly originates in the desire of the gamblers to win money on the outcome of the contest.

We do not know the answer to the problem, but, sooner or later, football is going to be injured by a scandal arising out of betting.

The United Nations, not long ago, decreed the separation of the Jews and Arabs in Palestine; since then fighting goes on between the two national groups, with much bloodshed and death. Is it planned that both groups must fight indefinitely, ending with an armistice between them, each national then having its own autonomous government?

It is disgusting to learn, from time to time, that men formerly high in the nation's military circles used their war posts to "clean up financially." They should be punished, of course. But let us not forget that many private citizens gained plenty of cash while their country was at war—all of which only proves that human predators, in or out of uniform, are still human predators.

The human race would be vastly improved if everybody lived according to sincere principles without stirring up bad feeling about differences in beliefs.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich. in the Eccentric Building, 116-122 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11, 12 and 14.

GEORGE W. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher. PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Managing Editor. GEORGE W. AVERILL, Advertising Manager. HAROLD W. BIRNEY, Business Manager.

Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish best contributed material providing it has news value; and suggestions are welcome. Contributions are usually edited weekly. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear therein, the Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO January 14, 1893. Mrs. John H. Hester, 60, mother of Druggist Frank Hagerman, met with a serious and fatal accident last Wednesday. While gathering wood in the shed the good lady slipped and fell, breaking her right leg above and below the knee, and her hip.

We have a collection and staff found articles, left here for their owners. Please do call for them, as they are not with us yet for so, these many a long day!

E. C. Poppleton found a large green bullfrog in his yard last week. Rained down, no doubt.

The Ancient Order of the Left Hind Foot of the Graveyard Rabbits was organized at the Theron Smith home last Tuesday.

Beginning Sunday evening, Jan. 25, services will be held in St. James Episcopal Church. All seats free.

FOR SALE: Fat, young Plymouth Rock rooster, oven dressed, 45 cents each. Thomas Furse, 1 mile north and one mile west of Birmingham. Just a nice Saturday afternoon walk to get your Sunday dinner.

The ladies of the Presbyterian church are planning an entertainment. Ladies interested in work are asked to earn a dollar, and some other jobs, so the money may share their business experience with their friends and neighbors.

20 YEARS AGO January 12, 1923. The S. S. Kresge company has since opened a 30-year lease on the Woodward avenue property owned by S. O. Wylie Bell, and will open a new store here after the building has been remodeled to suit their needs.

Beauty will be the keynote of the new Ford motorcar which will be on the market Saturday morning by Frank Conant. The new interior will be pleasing to the eye, as well as laid out for efficiency of service, according to Conant's report.

Troy police are seeking the owners of a large automobile which was stolen Friday night. Two men were seen leaving the car after it burnt into flames, but have not been apprehended.

A carload of horses were shipped from the Bloomfield Club Hunt Club Tuesday, as local riders complete their plans to travel south to the horse show in Nashville, Tenn. There are about 15 who intend to make the trip.

Members of the Oakland County Board of Health, who reported their faith editorially, in 1926 will be a year of great prosperity for the entire county. They base their statement on the continued upswing in county affairs during the year just ended.

Permission to build and license a dance hall in Birmingham has been denied S. A. Howard, business representative of the Bloomfield Hills Auditorium company by the village board. The denial was based on the fact that the petition did not contain the required percentage of signatures of persons living in the vicinity of the proposed hall.

5 YEARS AGO January 14, 1943. One of the Franklin landmarks was destroyed last week when the 115-year-old barn on the Ben Sherry farm burned. Franklin and Southfield departments kept fire from spreading to nearby buildings.

L. J. Shesser, owner of the Bienville Hardware, reported to police Tuesday that his store had been successfully (?) visited by three shoplifters. While the man kept him occupied, at the front of the store, his two companions emptied a tray of pocket knives which was on rear counter, and left.

Members of the Business Women's Club have voted favorably on the proposed hiring of a seasonal director for the City of Birmingham. They also advocated that this be a full-time year position and be paid for through taxation.

The fire department put in a busy morning Monday when they received two calls within an hour. Damage was small in both cases and the two quick alarms caused little complication.

Oakland County RED CROSS NEWS

Accepting the invitation of Mrs. Sheldon Noble, Coordinator of Community Service to Churches and Hospitals, of the Oakland County Chapter, American Red Cross, to hold the next meeting in Oakland County, the Detroit Area Council met at the Bloomfield Hills Country Club, West Lake Road in Bloomfield Hills Tuesday, January 13th, at 12:30 p. m.



People's Column

To the Editor: In regard to the editorial on "Tule Lighting," I would like to tell you my experience.

I came to Birmingham twelve years ago from Providence, Rhode Island. Every family there has a set of Christmas candles. They are electric and very safe. You wire them to each window and all you do is plug in the wall. (ONE PLUG). I notice here that the residents concentrate more on the Christmas tree and the street is dark. Hanna St. was I know.

Maybe next year if you get started early enough you might suggest an electric candle in each window. Hudson's had them this year for one dollar. It would make Birmingham look so much more cheerful than it is.

The outdoor lighting is another matter. I have always wanted to light a 15-foot fir tree in my backyard so people passing by in their cars could enjoy it and also to cooperate with any neighbor who is nice enough to light up. So I managed to get about 56 lights and they were expensive.

On Christmas night, I looked out and saw two of my neighbor's children stripping my tree. The lights were returned to the parents. I reported it to the men. For later than Tuesday, Jan. 27.

Advertisement for 'Daily Detroit Times' featuring 'An Illustrated Page Daily' and 'Mortgage Loans' by James P. Cummiskey, Jr.

Advertisement for 'Elliott Furniture Co.' featuring 'UPHOLSTERING AND FURNITURE MADE TO YOUR ORDER' and 'OUR PRICES ARE REASONABLE'.

Advertisement for 'W. P. Hickman Company' featuring 'RE-ROOF-NOW' and 'Pay Later No Money Down Roofing-Siding Shingle Staining'.

Advertisement for 'POTTER MOVING AND STORAGE CO.' featuring 'MOVE WITH POTTER And the ALLIED VAN LINES'.

Advertisement for 'RESTAURANT OPERATION SCHEDULE' with details on dining hours and reservations.

Advertisement for 'SEA-SHORE DINNERS' at 'CORNING'S El Patio' with details on menu and prices.

Advertisement for 'MINTS ICE CREAM CO.' with details on products and location.

Advertisement for 'FRIENDLY BANK' with details on services and location.

Advertisement for 'WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT' featuring 'WHEN YOU PAY BY CHECK YOU MAY SAVE ON TAXES'.

Advertisement for 'INSURANCE' by James R. Mock, covering life and property insurance.

Advertisement for 'PECK'S Cash and Carry' offering cleaning and pressed services.

Advertisement for 'A Water Softener You Don't Have To Buy!' from Oakland Soft Water Service Co.

Advertisement for 'WITHERSPOON DAY NURSERY' offering children taken by the day-week or month.

Advertisement for 'WINDOW SHADES' and 'VENETIAN BLINDS' by Besseenger's.

Advertisement for 'MODERN FIREPROOF CONSTRUCTION' and 'STORAGE' by Gaukler.