

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

PAGE 2, PART 2 Thursday, January 29, 1948 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO January 28, 1938 The next theatre party will charter a trolley, no doubt.

A nice little play will be given by our young folks next Monday evening. Read the programme on the front page to know what it's about.

Kneipp Malt Coffee will increase appetite, aid digestion, brighten the spirits, produce natural sleep and increase the memory. See your druggist today for the drink that is marvelous for body of mind.

Rev. W. H. Lloyd, a young M. E. Church preacher from Farmington, is preaching the old-fashioned belief and bristling doctrine and makes it so scary for some of the villagers that they don't like it at all.

A lot of things were said about the strange lights around town last week. Some said it was heat lightning, others a delayed reflection of the sun. What it really was is simple—a car skidded off the tracks due to ice, and the lights we saw were those of the repair crew sent out from Detroit to clear up the mess.

Real estate seems to be getting quite a boom out Southfield way. The past few days there have been six properties sold and traded.

The old landmark, the long string of wooden stores on Woodford St. will vanish in the spring. P. Ford will remove the buildings, and erect a two-story brick building in their place.

20 YEARS AGO January 26, 1928 Mrs. Nancy Thomas, librarian, had a book returned to the local library last week from Birmingham, Ala., where it had been sent by a borrower who seems to have gotten slightly muddled on his sobriety.

J. B. Minton, who has been associated with the Grand Trunk road for some years, had been appointed agent at the Birmingham station. He succeeds C. C. Osborn, who died last month.

A special committee has been named by the local Rotary Club to visit Ulich, Mich., to help interested business men of that city in the organization of a similar club there.

A warning has been issued motorists of Bloomfield Hills by the police chief that they will be apprehended and punished to the full extent of the law if they continue the common practice of driving cars not properly licensed.

Rehearsals for "Mr. Pim Passes By," which will be presented by the senior class of Baldwin-High School on Feb. 14, were started last week. Ruth Hugg and John Palmer are playing the leads.

Miss A. Maude Royden of London, Eng., will be the guest speaker at the International League meeting which will be held next week in the Masonic Temple.

Perhaps He'll Learn to Go It Alone



Royden is one of the best known women preachers in London.

5 YEARS AGO January 28, 1943 The State Land Office board has announced that the 1943 "Scavenger Sale" of state-owned land in Oakland County will be held through Feb. 15 to 18. The sale will be held in Pontiac.

Otto D. Williams, 70, caretaker at the Venor estate was burned to death Tuesday when fire destroyed the beautiful club house there. Williams was alone in the house when the fire, of unknown origin, started. Damage was estimated at \$150,000.

School tax payments are being received much better than last year, city officials report. The current receipts are far ahead of those of 1942, with many delinquent accounts being paid also.

Edward Laird and William Storey, local landscape artists, were honored with membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects last week.

Mrs. Betty Roberts was the speaker at the Women's Club meeting last week. She presented pictures taken, and spoke on the reasons for the high unemployment among American immigrants for the past several months.

Mrs. George Patch has been named chairman of the consumer's interest committee of the Oakland County Citizens' Service Corps.

Legion Outing Charles Edwards Post American Legion Auxiliary have completed arrangements for Slough Day ride—depending on the weather—Saturday, Jan. 31, at 9 p. m.

The ride will be followed by a chili supper at the Post Home.

First Annual C of C Meeting Tonight at the Community House a group of civic-minded businessmen and residents will hold the first annual meeting of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. Tonight's principal object will be to elect nine persons to the Chamber's permanent board of directors.

The potential opportunities of such an organization in Birmingham are not to be underestimated. With active, directed leadership, this group can do much to further the civic development of this area.

We wish the C. of C. directors every success toward this end.

The Eccentric's Special Edition Through publication of its special "World Trade Edition" last week—in connection with the Community Council's annual Institute—The Eccentric became the first weekly newspaper in the nation to undertake such a project. It is particularly interesting to note that such a special edition is quite a bit out of the ordinary realm of weekly newspapers; that is, it was until The Eccentric accomplished it. We hope our example will demonstrate to other weekly newspapers the possibilities of the local, community press that a matter of such national importance presents.

Possible Explanation The captain of a liner, arriving in New York, reports mysterious forty-foot waves in a saucer-shaped area of the Atlantic some 700 miles in circumference and about 300 miles east of New York.

The mystery is broadened by the declaration of Harry Manning, master of the liner and veteran of many sea voyages, that "it was a big, dead sea, without white-caps." He was mystified as to the origin of the waves that his ship encountered.

We have no explanation for the phenomenon, but it is just possible that the sea monster recently observed off the coast of North Carolina had proceeded further North and was turning around to resume a southerly course.

Will our city commissioners have the answer to the "Oak Street Problem" by the time the spring thaws arrive and northwest section residents resume their bombardment of the commission with requests to have the street improved?

Mahatma Gandhi, Hindu spiritual leader of India, has accomplished more for his country, through passive, peaceful methods, than could an army of millions. He has proved that the soul is mightier than the sword.

Stealing Rain? It remains to be seen whether "cloud pirating" will become another crime, or whether the rain-makers will be allowed to use dry ice particles to persuade clouds to drench a specific area with the rain which nature, if left alone, would deposit upon other lands.

A hypothetical case supposes that two crop-growing areas, equally in need of rain to end a drought which threatened the growing crops, engage in a competitive effort to secure the moisture from the drifting clouds.

The mythical case supposes that the clouds, if left alone to natural processes, would deposit an inch rainfall on area B. Have the residents and crop-growers of area A the right to use planes to drop dry ice particles on the clouds overhead to secure the rain that nature evidently intended for others?

If you can suggest a better plan to cure many of the world's ills than just kindness, tolerance, decency, an old-fashioned charity, then you are a wizard; these attributes, practiced within nations and among leaders of the nations, will do more than empty promises, forged good intentions, and grandiose "charters" ever can or will do!

Petrillo, the music czar, is for the moment "in the saddle". Ere long the members of his organization, most of whom even don't know "little Caesar", will rise up in burger against the chap who lives up to the fat of the music land, and overthrow him. It will be history repeating itself; a segment of the populace rising up to dethrone its dictator.

The Truman administration (like others that preceded it) has had plenty of "heat" turned upon it; but seldom have Presidents been able to lower the temperature as did Mr. Truman last week when he requested all government offices to lower temperatures to a maximum of 68 degrees, thus saving fuel oil and coal.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Why do people say: "He's MY Doctor"? People are quite possessive about their doctors, and for a very deep-rooted American reason. People are brought up to be individualists in this country—they know that it means something vital to be an individual "with certain inalienable rights." Their health is a very personal thing to them, and they want the mental satisfaction and peace of mind that comes from the individual choice of their medical doctors. There is both dignity and importance vested in the inalienable right to select one's doctor with a free will—and to refer to him as "my doctor." It is too much of a priceless right to be tampered with by any impersonal socializing, don't you think?

MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY Leading the Way in Health Progress

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

A striking angle on a striking subject, this snapshot of a bridge is one that would make a fine addition to any collection of pictures of a city.

Around The Town

ONE of the more attractive snapshots of our city which we received late in an album of one of our friends has been assembling. It's a picture of his city. More than a hundred snapshots, all told, of a typical American city—its business district, its public buildings, its quiet residential streets, its parks, its bridges, its waterfront.

All in all, it's a striking job. And one, my friend says, which he's had a hundred of striking pictures in every town or city. In making the album my friend has had no overall, elaborate plan. It merely is a collection of pictures, generally carried by my camera with me, I shot as the opportunity came. Some of his snapshots, however, speak a quick eye for picture subjects. There is, for example, a striking shot of the main business section crowded with people in the pre-Christmas rush of last minute shopping. To go with this snap is a second picture, taken from across the same angle, but this time made early Sunday morning. The streets are deserted.

People's Column

To the Editor:

With the coming of winter, together with the continued shortage and high price of fuel, and the high price of foodstuffs, more and more people who do not have too much worldly goods find it tougher when they can earn their living but must depend on savings, social security, old age pensions, relatives, friends, and finally welfare.

Many of these people are too proud to ask for assistance of any kind, which is commendable; in these times, when many are only too willing to go on "welfare" instead of trying to help themselves. Although they may be independent and proud they should not be allowed to suffer, for really we too often think they will be taken care of, without knowing how.

We provide—at least to some extent—through our county taxes for the care of these people in the Oakland County Infirmary, and also through the Oakland County Social Welfare Commission, whose telephone number is "Elopa" 246,624, to whom all welfare cases should be reported. The present infirmary was designed to accommodate 155 beds.

At the present time they are caring for 261 bed patients or 102 more than was originally planned. To accommodate these extra patients, beds have been placed in all corridors, as well as every available space with far too little room between them. Nearly 70 per cent of the patients are over 65 years old. Census figures show that each year we are going to have more old people needing assistance.

In the past month I have investigated four or five cases of older persons who either had no relatives, or could not afford medical attention who required hospitalization. When these cases develop it means they must wait for admission until there is a vacancy because of the overcrowded condition at the infirmary. Their case must be approved by the Supervisor before being admitted.

This past week the County Board of Supervisors, of which I am a member, held a special meeting to consider this subject. They heard reports from the members of the Oakland County Social Welfare Board and from their own committees on the need for additional facilities.

Every member of the Board was convinced of the need for providing facilities to care for the ever-increasing number of older people requiring county hospitalization. They heard reports from the members of the Board of Supervisors will hold another special meeting February 20 to receive a report from their ways and means committee on how the project is to be financed.

I will be very glad to talk or explain to any group or organization about the present conditions at the infirmary and what is planned for the future. This subject should be of interest to every one because we never know what may come, and because it will eventually affect our taxes.

Recently I have investigated several cases where I found the people too proud to ask for help. One case was particularly interesting because of the optimism and cheerfulness of both husband and wife, both well along in years. The wife has been ill. She was still in bed—it was warmer there than in the house with little or no heat. The husband apologized for his appearance. He had not shaved for a week—I understood that he was much too old in the house to even want to shave.

In answer to my inquiry as to how they did their washing the old man smiled and said, "Oh just fine, we don't have much. It was true they didn't. Just the clothes they had on and one sheet which was on the bed and one long past the time it should have been washed. Yet these people retain their sense of humor and cheerfulness. They are making the best of their lot. They are not asking for help—

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