Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Democrats Admire Our Vandenberg

Next week Republican delegates from the 48 states will meet in Philadelphia to nominate their party's 1948 presidential candidate. We trust they do not have the idea that the GOP will win this fall, regardless of whom they pick for the standard bearer.

The Eccentric, in the past few months, has not said anything about whom we would like to see nominated. Many of our local folk may have taken that for granted—Vandenberg. Well, that's who we would pick if the choice were left strictly to us.

World problems today are of such importance that a statesman must take the U. S. helm before we pile up on the rocks of another war. This man must be respected, trusted, admired, and have the confidence of, PRACTICALLY EVERY U. S. CITIZEN in order to make any program work for the interests of this country and the world. If there be such a man who commands the respect, the trust, the admiration, the confidence of BOTH Republicans and Democrats, then such a man is the one we need as president for the next four years.

The editors of both Atlanta (Ga.) newspapers told The Eccentric's editor some months ago that they believed Georgia would go Republican if Vandenberg were nominated by the GOP. And now, if last week's editorial in the Chapel Hill (N. C.) Weekly is correct, it indicates that the state of North Carolina would also vote GOP if Michigan's senior senator were chosen.

But here's the editorial which may surprise the Republican stronghold of Birmingham, Mich., an area where North Carolina seems as far from the GOP column as Soviet Russia:

"A prominent citizen of Chapel Hill who has never voted for any Presidential candidate except a Democrat in the 49 years since he was 21—he is the kind that is spoken of as a 'rocked-ribbed Democrat'—tells the editor of this newspaper that he has made up his mind to vote Republican this year if Vandenberg is the nominee.

"When he says that, he is reflecting the opinion and intention of many North Carolinians. How large a body they make up, nobody knows, but it is by no means impossible that their number is large enough to turn the balance and put North Carolina's electorial vote in the Republican column. North Carolina went for Hoover in 1928. True, that was because of a widespread bitter religious prejudice, and no such fanatical motive is present this year. But there is widespread hostility to Truman, who is of course the inevitable Democratic nominee, and thousands of voters who are not actually hostile to him are so indifferent to him that they will kick out of the party traces if the Republicans put up a man they admire.

"No formidable number of Democrats will bolt their party to vote for Dewey or Taft or Stassen, but they will desert in shoals if they have the opportunity to vote for the Senator from Michigan. In North Carolina as elsewhere in the nation, no man who has a chance of being nominated for the Presidency, on either side, stands so high today in the public esteem as Vandenberg."

If party politics come before the welfare of the nation, then some other candidate will get the nod next week.

But if respect, trust, admiration and confidence are the determining characteristics of the Republican convention, The Eccentric knows Vandenberg will be nominated.

Congratulating Our Graduates

The schools of the nation are closing their doors once again and the advent of commencement brings many young men and women to the threshold of the great venture of living.

For a number of years they have pursued the paths of learning, picking up information and experience through various school years, and now, at last, they receive their diplomas and step into the world of grownups.

They will find it vastly different from the environment in which they have been nurtured. There will be no assignment of particular tasks, with success surely crowning the efforts of those who think and do well. In life, unlike in school, meritorious performance is not always crowned with success and laurels.

Birmingham's Baldwin high school today is graduating 154 fine young men and women. Many of them will continue their education at college, but some will not have that privilege. They will go forth immediately to seek their economic fortunes in business endeavor, battling the various forces that operate in the struggle for profits.

Those of our graduates who have the opportunity of attending college are fortunate only if they make use of the additional education advantages that come to them. Certainly the training that college life affords is worth what it costs, in time and money, but these benefits do not flow automatically into the being of the student. They must be earned.

The graduates who have no chance to continue their studies in colleges or special schools need not accept any inferiority complex in regards to their classmates who study longer. While it is not to be denied that some advantage accrues to college-trained individuals, this is not conclusive in the struggle that engages adults in the fullness of their existence.

The Birmingham Eccentric wishes to congratulate the students of Baldwin who complete their courses today and, at the same time, to extend felicitations to those of this city who complete their college careers. May all of them play the game of life fairly, earning just rewards and rejoicing in the similar success of their fellowmen.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING · THE NEWS

By Gene Alleman

A handful of Michigan's 100-plus state governmental units, targets recently of the crusading Governor Kim Sigler, are about to be merged into a new state department of administration at Lansing.

Therein lies a predicament for John A. Perkins.

Perkins, capable budget director, will become head of the new department at a salary of $12,000 a year. An appointee of the governor, subject to confirmation by the State Senate, he will have considerable authority as state controller.

* * *

Perkins' predicament is a result of several public illusions.

He is expected to perform a miracle, and he can't do it.

As evidenced by the voters' diversion of state sales tax money to local governments by constitutional amendment, the public apparently persists in a belief that the State of Michigan is rolling in money and a parallel belief that consolidation of 100 state units into 18 or 20 would automatically save a lot of money.

* * *

Perkins, like Governor Sigler, knows well that the state government is not blessed with an abundance of dollars. In fact, a deficit of $14,000,000 is clearly forecast for the end of the 1948-49 fiscal year. Only another rise in the post-war inflation, boosting prices still higher, can avert a deficit.

Perkins also has no illusion that he can deliver the miracle of economy.

The state legislature authorizes public services. His department will administer only a few of them, and all within appropriations as made by legislators.

* * *

It is the belief of Perkins that the chief benefit of the new department will be greater efficiency. He does not expect to achieve economy through reduction of legislative appropriations. In this, he is very much a realist.

"Greater value received for the tax dollar is our chief objective," Perkins explains. "If anything, we probably shall need more money than heretofore. The budget staff has been notably understaffed for years. We should test products which the state buys to make sure we get our money's worth in quality.

"Michigan's administration department is almost an exact duplicate of the principal reform achieved by Stassen when he was governor of Minnesota. The Minnesota department is a model which we may well follow."

* * *

The new department takes over some of the duties formerly administered by the state administrative board comprising eight elective state officials, each with his own primary responsibilities. It will have five divisions: Budget, purchasing, accounting, building-engineering-management, motor transport, and office service.

Purchasing of all state supplies, equipment, and printing will be handled by the department. Warrants for disbursement of state funds to buy for goods or services shall be drawn and issued by the auditor general upon the certification by the controller. The auditor general will handle post-audit spot checks to determine how departments and institutions are spending money as appropriated by the legislature.

"More for your money" is perhaps the best way to illustrate what Perkins hopes to accomplish. Don't expect any magic of economy through reduction of legislature appropriations.

There are three general classifications of forest fires—the surface fire that runs along the ground, the ground fire which is common to peat lands, and the crown fire (in the tree tops) which has proved so disastrous because of the difficulty in controlling its spread.

NOTICE

In compliance with Section 74 of Act 160 of the Public Acts of 1943, notice is hereby given that the term of existence of AUTOMATIC VALVE, INC., a Michigan Corporation, terminated by limitation on May 31, 1948. All creditors of that company are required to present their claims at the office of the company, 27415 Grand River Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, on or before the 9th day of July, 1948.

AUTOMATIC VALVE, INC.
By: D. EDWARD WOLF,
President
13-14-15

Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO
June 24, 1898

"Old Sol" has once again returned to Birmingham after a long absence. All are glad to greet him and hope he will remain with us at least for a few days.

* * *

Owing to lack of space, the County Line correspondenee will have to be left over until next week. Sorry!

* * *

George W. Fay is the owner of a white robin, a rare bird indeed, which he captured last Sunday morning. Officer Fay says he will keep the bird and do everything he can to make it a bright and shining light.

* * *

Chas. Schener, made mad by the smoking of cigarets tried to plunge to his death from a window in New York City. He danced, raved and prayed, and strapped to a stretcher was carried singing to an insane asylum. Victim No. 2 of these vile things.

* * *

Miss Ella Adams will open her summer kindergarten in Pontiac on Monday, June 27. This is an excellent chance for the little folks to learn how to behave in school in a most pleasurable and enjoyable manner.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
June 21, 1928

Village Policewoman Frances Jardine has resigned her position with the department. She and her husband, A. D. Jardine, plan to make their home in Bay City after July 1.

* * *

When health examinations in the public schools of Birmingham were completed last week, 143 children were found to have no physical defects. The total examined by Dr. Arthur W. Newitt was 696.

* * *

William H. Uptegraff, 61, died Friday in Highland Park General Hospital from injuries received when struck by a street car earlier in the week.

* * *

The third annual flower show of the Bloomfield Hills District Horticultural Society will be held in the auditorium of Baldwin High School Saturday.

* * *

Pontiac and Detroit men were fined $10 each in Justice Floyd Buck's court Monday on charges of Robert McClure, deputy game warden, that he had apprehended the men with several undersized trout in their possession.

* * *

Police warn local motorists of troubles which come with the summer. The heat of roads causes excessive inflation of tires and severe wear on brakes. Remember these things, and drive accordingly, all are advised.

FIVE YEARS AGO
June 19, 1943

Shoe store proprietors report a "terrible rush" here the latter part of the week as city residents hurried to buy shoes before the expiration date of their No. 17 shoe coupon.

* * *

Victory gardeners are issuing a war cry against hungry bunnies here, with suggestions ranging from inside-city hunting permits, to the removal of all brush near suburban gardens. No patriotism seems to be shown by the Birmingham bunnies who have developed a hearty appetite for fresh vegetables.

* * *

Bloomfield police arrested six Wyandotte boys Saturday after

'I Now Declare the Convention Open!'

'Tis Washington

By The Duchess

In this sultry hot summertime, Washingtonians are actually giving parties for no other reason than to have a good time . . . !

With the war-purpose parties a thing of the past . . . hostesses are even asking their friends.

This unheard-of procedure in capital social life has even affected the White House, where strict protocol governs. The other night, the President "who never dines out" except at official and public functions, sneaked out to dine at the home of a former employee of his senate days.

—o—

What's in a name . . . of a bill?

Plenty, if it happens to be something as dull sounding as the reciprocal trade extension bill. You just can't get Main Street roused over that. "Reciprocal" is a profound word. "Trade" connotes the unknown financial world of fluctuating currency, high tariffs, and the gold standard.

So the Democrats will have a hard time making a campaign issue out of the hatchet job the Republican House have made of it. . .

Maybe the future of reciprocal trade pacts would be more secure if the name were changed to "Two-way moneymakers for peace".

—o—

Art has invaded our historic Center Market . . .

Everything but that has happened in this acre-of-food . . . one of the most exciting and best shows in the capital . . .

Now the shopper can feast her eyes on the canvas of some budding artist, while bent at the bins of oranges, carrots, and fresh fish right out of the Potomac . . .

Established back in 1875, the market has seen stranger things than landscapes and portraits . . . it once held the largest bowling alleys in America . . . many a politician has sounded off at a rally held there . . . and Billy Sunday, the evangelist preached in this market place where seven presidents have shopped.

Today, this should be a "must" on any sightseeing list.

—o—

About this time every four years the good people of Washington, D.C., begin gnashing their teeth.

You see, they can't vote. Yet they live in the one American city where politics is the main industry. (Of course, that's why the founding fathers ruled against it.) . . . As the talk mounts about presidential candidates, they again become annoyingly aware they can't vote for the man of their choice!

This week to add to their anguish, the 83-year-old man in the Senate who has fought since 1919 to get them the vote is retiring. Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas has been the crusading champion of voteless residents . . . and will leave before winning the fight. . . !

People's Column

June 11, 1948

To the Editor:

The female of the species is more deadly than the male—particularly out North Adams road.

On June 9 I happened to look out of the window and I noticed a shiny new maroon Ford station wagon racing madly northward. Some distance in front of it was a tiger cat crossing the street. The female driving the station wagon honked loudly, thus bewildering the creature in her path.

Heading directly into the cat, she knocked it in the air and sailed over it. She must have felt the terrific impact which I myself could hear in my home.

The maimed cat jumped wildly twice in the middle of the road, then crawled into the bushes to die a painful and horrible death. This woman did not bother to slacken her speed or to look back at the poor animal which she had just struck.

I should think the decent thing to do in a case like this would be to stop and call the dog warden to put the poor creature out of its misery. This woman, no doubt, had to hurry home to dinner and could not waste the time. I am sure she enjoyed her dinner more that night than I did.

About a year ago, a dog was killed in the same place, also by a speeding woman who, like this one, did not even stop to help the animal she ran over.

A month or so ago, a couple of trucks and cars driven by men stopped near the same place. They waited until the small dog which was in their path had gotten safely out of their way. Using your brakes, not your horn, I think is a good habit to get into.

Mrs. M. S.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County on the 25th day of May, A. D. 1948.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Stephen N. Hare, Deceased.

Lucy B. Hare, widow of said deceased, filed in said court a petition praying that the administration of said estate be granted to Oliver H. Kirk, or to some other suitable person.

It Is Ordered, That the 8th day of July, A. D. 1948, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition;

It Is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

CLIVER H. KIRK,
Attorney-at-Law,
Wabeek Building,
Birmingham, Mich.
11-12-13

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

There's no better spot to picture children than at the beach, where light reflected from the sand and water softens shadows cast by an overhead sun.

Beach Shots Often Best

A PHOTOFINISHER who is a neighbor was talking of pictures the other day . . . talking with a background of experience gained from developing and printing thousands of amateur snapshots over a period of years.

"You know," he said, "I may be wrong, but I expect that more good pictures are made of children at the beach than almost anywhere else. If I wanted a good picture of my grandchild, and wanted to make it the easiest way, I think I'd snap him playing on the sand on a sunny day."

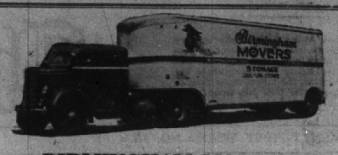
His comment struck me as interesting, particularly as there's good reason for it. For beach scenes or close-ups have a way of turning out better than other shots. Simply because the sand and water help to reflect the sunlight.

As a result, the light not only strikes your subject from overhead but is reflected from the beach or the water itself. This helps to soften the harsh shadows which a strong sun otherwise casts, helps light your subject evenly and make an attractive picture.

Because of this abundance of light, however, you'll want less exposure for beach shots than for other scenes. For example, when making a close-up at the beach or a shot with figures in the foreground, try using an exposure of 1/100 at f/11 rather than the customary 1/50 at f/11 which is used for most normal subjects with most roll films.

It's also well to remember that sometimes it's necessary to cut exposure even more. For instance, beach scenes in which no people are included in the near foreground require even less exposure. The long range views of a beach—scenic shots—often should be made with an exposure of 1/100 at f/16.

—John van Guilder



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