

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

Soon, Maybe Not Tomorrow

If you want to see many good examples of confused, frustrated motorists, just stand on a corner at the Woodward-Maple intersection when there's a good deal of traffic and see how the left-turning motorists tie up traffic. Any Saturday is a good time. The new pavement markings help a great deal, but we don't believe this is the answer to the problem. We wouldn't be surprised to learn that right now city officials are mulling over the idea of prohibiting left turns at this particular intersection. Birmingham motorists had better make up their minds that some one of these days "No Left Turn" signs will go up. That's the only way to eliminate this maze. As Birmingham grows and acquires more traffic problems, a few restrictions here and there is the only thing which will alleviate the situation for the great majority.

Community Spirit

Walnut Lake, a fast-growing community to the west of Birmingham, has succeeded in obtaining bus service for the residents of that area. They saw a need for the service, went out and obtained some facts and figures and presented them to the Greyhound company. The company evidently decided there was some justification in extending bus service in that direction. Now the Walnut Lakers have their eye on a fourth class post office. They point to Franklin, which has one, although there are about a dozen less people there than the number which live around Walnut Lake. When the data is completed, Walnut Lake will present it to the U.S. Post Office Department. It may be that an office will be created there.

Which all points to this common denominator: when a community unites to solve a particular problem, an equitable solution usually results.

6 Plus 21 Zeros

The giant 200-inch telescope mirror, now operating atop Mount Palomar, is the most powerful telescope in the world and, according to experts, will enable astronomers to see twice as far into space as ever before. The distance that the astronomical experts will see is expressed by the figure six, followed by twenty-one zeros, and technically known as six sextillions.

If you want to have an idea of the universe in which the world on which we live is a speck of sand, you might contemplate the immense distances involved in astronomy. If you do, you will repeat the ancient question, "What is man that thou art mindful of him?"

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When Cars Can't Take It

One out of every six fatal accidents involves an automobile with some kind of a mechanical defect, according to late reports of the record-makers. Moreover, the proportion of defective cars has been steadily increasing since 1941, when it was only one in 12 or 13. On the face of it, this kind of news is both discouraging and alarming. While we are in the midst of an all-out offensive against the fearful economic waste and personal tragedy of street and highway accidents, millions of automobiles limping along the roads are menaces to life and limb, regardless of whether their drivers are competent or not. With all the driving skill in the world and every faithful observance of rules of the road, a motorist is helpless when his steering wheel, brakes, or some other vital part of his car fails him in an emergency. He is helpless, and so are the pedestrians and other drivers in his path. The hopeful side of the picture is that here we have to deal with mechanical failure alone—something far less elusive than human failure. It becomes human failure, too, only when the responsibility for proper car maintenance is left up to individual motorists and then neglected by them. To be on the safe side, that responsibility should be made a part of law. If high standards of motor vehicle performance were required by statute and enforced by periodic inspections in every state of the Union, 5,000 lives might be saved in a single year. Motorists owe it to their futures, their families and their fellow-men to become safe drivers. They owe it to the cars to keep them fit. For even the safest driver is no safer than his car.

The Russians may have a word for it but practically nobody at an international conference has ever heard them say, "YES."

The Birmingham Eccentric

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People's Column

June 19, 1948 To the Editor: I was both astonished and disappointed to note two columns yarn published June 17 on page 7, entitled "Parents, Friends and Relatives Tish Gifts on Baldwin Seniors". If I understand teenage language correctly, a fine thing is their expression of respect and utter disdain and disgust and I think that should be the view of "parents, friends and relatives" about such stories. Such an article only makes for unpleasantness and unhappiness in the minds of the other parents and graduates. What about the other 100 graduates who were not mentioned, but who perhaps received gifts all the way from pencils to convertibles and trips to the moon? If we must have this kind of journalism, why do we have to build it up with two-column headlines, why is it necessary to print names of only a third of the class and the exclusion of the class majority—in fact, why mention names at all? It is a sad commentary, indeed, on the American Way of Life for the parents who have to reconcile their children to such absurd articles. ELLIOTT S. KINNEY 1125 Chesterfield road

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Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO July 1, 1898 Our school bell deth dinged no more but the world moveth on as of yore. Better plan to attend the Freshman lawn social at the school tonight. It will help swell the piano fund. Harry Johnson is suffering from a disagreeable eruption on his body which his mother thinks is caused by something he ate at the picnic Sunday. Many members of Birmingham Lodge P. O. A. attended the dedication of the new Masonic Temple in Pontiac Tuesday. Others were present at the public open house which was held by their Pontiac brothers the following night. Ten young ladies and four young gentlemen received their award of earned labor in the field of education from their high school. This educational event of the year was unprecedented in the history of the village. Fred H. Brown, Detroit book publisher, has announced that the history of Birmingham will be on sale about July 5. The book covers the growth of our community from its beginning to the present, with plenty of biographical sketches included. Birmingham will have a new music store with the opening of the branch store of Ginnell Brothers of Detroit. The Fourth appears to be headed for a quiet celebration in Birmingham. No public affairs are planned, and it seems that most of our residents are going out of town for their holiday. Let's wish them all a safe and happy day. Clerks in the local hardware store seem to be very puzzled by the many requests they are getting lately for corkscrews. Everyone seems to be wanting to open bottles of pickles. What kind of pickles, we wonder. George E. Johnson, playground director at Bartram field announces that the field will open its summer recreational program Monday. There will be morning and afternoon sessions. The grounds at Adams will open next week. Mrs. L. E. Holton, commenting on the looks of Woodward avenue, has said, "Little Lord Fauntleroy minus his curls, would have nothing on the way Woodward looks without its trees!" FIVE YEARS AGO June 24, 1943 A group totaling 25 received their citizenship papers last week.

Twenty Years Ago

June 28, 1928 Birmingham will have a new music store with the opening of the branch store of Ginnell Brothers of Detroit. The Fourth appears to be headed for a quiet celebration in Birmingham. No public affairs are planned, and it seems that most of our residents are going out of town for their holiday. Let's wish them all a safe and happy day. Clerks in the local hardware store seem to be very puzzled by the many requests they are getting lately for corkscrews. Everyone seems to be wanting to open bottles of pickles. What kind of pickles, we wonder. George E. Johnson, playground director at Bartram field announces that the field will open its summer recreational program Monday. There will be morning and afternoon sessions. The grounds at Adams will open next week. Mrs. L. E. Holton, commenting on the looks of Woodward avenue, has said, "Little Lord Fauntleroy minus his curls, would have nothing on the way Woodward looks without its trees!"

Five Years Ago

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THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Part of the fun from pictures such as the files in making prints, and thanks to a new photographic paper, there's no need to use a darkroom. Prints in the Kitchen A FRIEND of mine came to me for a period of about two or three weeks. Then the print is developed and fixed by common photographic methods. To make it even easier, it is now possible to buy chemicals for mixing developer, stop bath, and fixer, in a three-way single packet which contains the proper quantity needed for handling about 50 prints 2 1/2 x 3 1/4 inches. Directions on the pack give full instructions and you need only tear a corner from one of the envelopes, mix the contents with water, and you have the chemical you want. In short, as I told my friend, there's no need for investing a lot of money or loading up with a lot of equipment if you just want to get contact printing. Anyone who thinks he would like to work in a darkroom should start at this point. For mistakes in a print are easily rectified: a second print always can be made. But mistakes in developing negatives can cost you the picture you've made. So naturally, developing one's own negatives is a second step, preferably one that should be tried only after printing has been mastered. —John van Gulder

Whose Side Is He On, Anyway?



'Tis Washington

By The Duchess The most unpopular man in town this week... is the manager of the only legitimate theater, The National, which is being converted into a motion picture playhouse. The reason, naturally, is the racial situation, as the capital is more than one-fourth Negro and these residents like to go to the theater, too. Actors Equity, comprised of best stage talent, will not play in theatres where Negroes are barred. This is a blow to Washingtonians who love the theater. But a greater blow to the prestige of the national capital... now the only civilized capital in the world without a theater. So more and more foreign diplomats stationed here will board the Congressional Limited for New York and head out from Broadway what the American stage has to offer. The Supreme Court is always right, but... Does the right of free speech, which is one of our basic constitutional freedoms, give a crusading zealot a right to set up a loudspeaker system and proclaim his doctrines in a public park to the annoyance of people who are seeking peace and quiet? The court pointing to a series of historic decisions, threw out the ordinance of Lockport, New York requiring a license for the chief of police for setting up a loudspeaker in a public place. All of which will, at least, cut down on the love-making in public parks...

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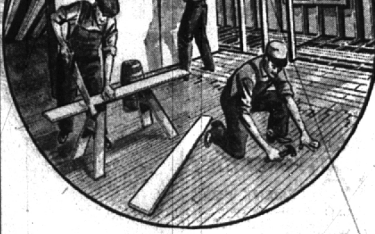
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