

Spending Money In Order to Save

We can see two immediate reactions from Birmingham residents concerning last week's appointment of C. Leland Gunn as the city's new Director of Public Works.

The short-sighted view will go something like this: "What! the city adding another position to the many that we already have?"

A second is—and what we hope it will be the general attitude—"Glad to hear about it. The city's growing and will have great need for the coordination to be forthcoming."

While it is true that another salary is being added to the city payroll, the savings that will result from the elimination of overlapping city services can be expected to pay several times over the salary of the Director of Public Works.

A policy of spending money to save still more money appears sound to us.

It Simply Isn't True

The fight against intolerance proceeds apace and reaches its greatest heat in the regions that possess the greatest intolerance.

One hardly reads a newspaper today without coming across some plan to combat intolerance. It is to be beaten underfoot by advertising, by resolutions, and by statute. "Discrimination is on the march," declare those who are convinced of their own tolerance.

The essence of the drive, it seems, is to persuade people that all races and all religions are on an equal footing and that every individual, regardless of hereditary influence, is on a par with everybody else. By this token, a Hottentot or an aboriginal savage is the equal of an Einstein or a Winston Churchill.

The only time a race, religion or an individual is equal to any other race, religion, or individual is when he or it is born. At that point all are equal, with the same potentialities. However, from that point on they develop or fall according to their capabilities. They can be rated on their accomplishments, and to the extent that these balance, they are equal. This does not involve the stupid assertion of an equality that is not a fact.

As an added attraction to prospective residents of Birmingham, local real estate dealers might cite portions of the 1947 police department report, released last week. Particularly the fact that serious crimes—such as homicide, manslaughter, rape, aggravated assault—were non-existent in Birmingham the past year. No other community can make that statement. (Or not very many, anyway.)

Some U. N. Nonsense

The United Nations, we fear, seems destined to engineer witch hunts of a variety of types. In the meantime, the main business of the organization, keeping the peace of the world, is being overlooked.

The other day, for example, the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council decided that a mission be sent to South America to look into the international ramifications of the native habit of chewing the cocoa leaf.

We find it extremely difficult to understand what business the United Nations has in connection with such an inquiry. First things we know it will be looking into the toothbrushing habits of the American people!

But being residents of Birmingham, Michigan—a community far removed geographically from the international picture—we can only see the bigger, and what are to us more vital aspects of keeping world peace.

We await the important results of this South American survey with the greatest anticipation!

Requires An Interpreter

Became so-called "modern art" has become such a "flea of bewilderment" and a playground for "double-talk, opportunism and chicanery," the Institute of Modern Art, of Boston, Mass., has changed its name to the Institute of Contemporary Art.

The change was made by the organization because of the distortion, the obscurity and negation apparent in what passes for "modern art," but which very often requires "the aid of an interpreter." The term has come to signify for millions something unintelligible, meaningless.

We have seen some specimens of so-called "modern art" and if they represent anything except the tortured imagination of abnormal minds, we are happy to be considered an ignoramus.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich. in the Eccentric Building, 125-127 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11 12 and 13.

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PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Business Manager
HAROLD F. AVERILL, Advertising Manager

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(In Oklahoma County) (Outside Oklahoma County)
One Year \$2.50 One Year \$3.50
Six Months \$1.25 Six Months \$1.75
Three Months .60 Three Months .80

The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, and University Press Club.

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
March 4, 1898

James Moore met with a severe accident Tuesday when he struck a dynamite can he had carried in his pocket for three days, into a stove. The can exploded, blowing off two fingers and the thumb of his right hand.

Grandma Perkins, as she is known to her many friends, celebrated her 90th birthday Monday. Many friends called on her at her home two miles south of the village, to extend congratulations.

A Franklin teacher tells this one on her class: When asked to compare the word "ill" one of her pupils replied, "I'll, sick, dead."

LOST—Gold watch for a lady with Elgin movements. The name "Sadie" is engraved on the case and a liberal reward is awaiting the finder at this office.

We see that several local people are moving away from town, and are selling their unwanted possessions and animals at auction. We wish they would include their cars in the general disposal and thus saving the poor animals be hindered.

A merry sleighful of 22 young people from Franklin were entertained at the home of J. D. Van Every, Wednesday evening. They left at a late hour, much impressed with Birmingham hospitality.

Eight men are seeking the job of postmaster here. There are bound to be some hard feelings when the final selection is made, but we hope none will become serious feuds.

20 YEARS AGO
March 1, 1928

Ground will be broken this week for the new Holy Name school on Harmon avenue. The school will be a two-story structure of Gothic design. It will be built in such a way that expansion, if needed, will be simple.

The Oakland County Tuberculosis Association will sponsor chest clinic to be held in the Community House next Tuesday. The clinic will be free to all wishing chest examinations.

Clifford Ham, city manager of Pontiac, has congratulated Birmingham for its civic pride in building the Civic Center. He spoke especially of the splendid Library, Municipal Building and Court House.

The Detroit Auto Club will give a safety exhibit in the High School auditorium here Monday evening, to which all motorists are invited. This is one of a series of such shows in the interest of safe driving.

The complete refinishing of the First Presbyterian Church will be started this week, according to an official announcement. The task will include the refinishing of all furniture and cases.

The testing period for fire fighting equipment here is at last finished.

The Bronx Cheer



People's Column

February 27, 1948

To the Editor: The following letter has been received by the Board of Directors of the new Chamber of Commerce.

Its commendation of our new organization is so gracious and spontaneous that we felt its message should be given broader circulation. Accordingly, we would appreciate having you publish it for the benefit of your large readers following.

"Mr. Rolfe Reese
204 West Maple Road
Birmingham, Michigan
Dear Rolfe:

Enclosed is a check for \$16.00 to pay membership dues in the new Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

I think you have an unique plan in including residents who are ordinarily a Chamber of Commerce has membership only for business houses and professional men.

I think that a Chamber of Commerce in Birmingham is a good thing and a necessary one. It has been my experience in cities like Royal Oak and Dearborn, that the Board of Commerce is the central agency which has the means of crystallizing public thought and carrying on civic projects, with a degree of expediency.

In the case of Birmingham, I think that the enrollment of interested residents is a step in the right direction. The more support you can get for your Board of Commerce among the citizens as in the case of whom are in business outside of Birmingham—the better.

Good luck to you in your worthwhile enterprise.

Cordially yours,
Fred W. Sanders

In our program during the next few weeks of obtaining increased membership from the community it would certainly be satisfying if the response and enthusiasm approached the degree Mr. Sanders has expressed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

HOW TO Care For Your Dog By Erik Bergshagen

(Bergshagen, well-known Birmingham authority on dogs, their care and habits, welcomes letters from readers concerning special dog problems. Write him, care of The Eccentric.)

RICKETS
Rickets is a disease of young animals characterized by an impaired nutrition of the entire body and manifested by changes in the growth of the bones leading to marked deformities.

Rickets is a widespread condition which usually first shows its effect about the time that pups are weaned. It is more common in the larger breeds of dogs.

The cause of this malady is quite varied. It may be due to one or to a number of combined factors. Generally speaking, it is due to a lack of essential minerals in the diet coupled with the absence of adequate amounts of certain necessary vitamins. It may also be due to other factors, such as impaired nutrition and digestion, infection and heredity.

The typical symptoms are the marked deformities of the bones especially around the joints.

The prevention of rickets is much to be preferred to treatment. The feeding of a proper diet, well fortified with a proper mineral-vitamin supplement to the pregnant and lactating bitch, is important. Weaned puppies should be fed adequate amounts of milk, eggs, meat and good dog food, supplemented with the mineral-vitamin mixture.

Your veterinarian can recommend a proper supplement for both the nursing bitch and the weaned puppies as well as giving you the proper advice on care of the bitch and the pups.

Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hawver, 1509 Emory street, from Grand Rapids? Mr. Hawver is a draftsman with the Nash-Kelvinator Co. There are two daughters, Nancy and Shirley, 11 years old; Linda, 7, and Donald, 13.

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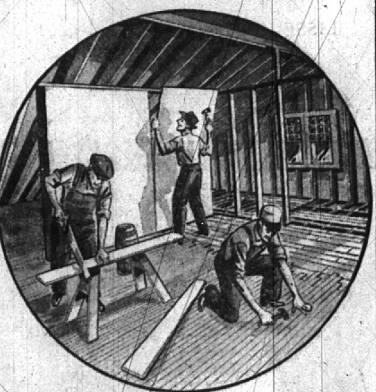
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