

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

Who Will Be First to Kick? Who is going to be the first Birmingham resident to call the city hall and complain about the increased water rates which will become effective July 1st?

As we look at the picture, an 8-9 per cent rate increase—the first in more than 24 years—is more than justified at this particular time. Labor and material costs have increased many, many times more than 8-9 per cent in those 24 years. Can anyone be so naïve as to suggest these costs have not affected the cost of city water department operation?

We repeat: who is going to be the first to kick?

When War Loses Its Fear We call attention to some statements made by General Omar N. Bradley, in urging strong defenses for the United States, and we think they should be seriously studied by every loyal American.

General Bradley is afraid that war "loses some of its fear to those... who fight it on an overtime pay check or on a cost-plus contract". There is no doubt of this statement or his further assertion that "the immoral companionship of prosperity and war" has blinded some people to the realization that "all war ultimately is a process of destruction."

An Idea From Russia "The Soviet people and the armed forces" will solve the problems that face Russia, according to Marshal Nikolai Bulganin, head of the Red Army.

It might be a good idea for the people of the United States to follow the thinking of the Red Army officer and put some reliance upon their own armed forces.

There is nothing to be gained, either in peace or self-respect, from going crazy over half-baked declarations of idealists who tell us that if we act ideally the hard-boiled nations of the earth will respond to our good intentions.

4,154 Teachers It is noted that General Dwight D. Eisenhower, in taking over his position as the President of Columbia University, assumes control of a \$50,000,000-institution with a faculty of 4,154 and a student body of 31,000.

The ratio of students to faculty members will surprise those who are only familiar with the efforts of smaller institutions to secure a competent teaching staff. It illustrates what money will do, even for a university.

It is about time for vacationists to arrange itineraries which they will not follow this summer.

The Drinking-Driving Problem It is the hardest thing in the world to make a man listen to something about which he already has a preconceived and differing opinion. He does not even hear what you say, because he thinks he knows better.

Something of the kind must account for the widespread public indifference to the problem of drinking and its relation to highway accidents. Certainly it cannot be said that the true facts have not been presented to the public, frequently and forcefully.

There is even evidence that the public has learned certain parts of the drinking-driving story and still be deaf to the main point. In a recent opinion poll, the public rated intoxication a leading cause of traffic accidents. But what has not been taken to heart, as the increasing number of such accidents testifies, is the all-important question of how much liquor it takes to make a motorist unfit to drive.

Tests, show beyond all possible doubt that a very small amount of alcohol slows up drivers' reactions to the danger point. Add to this the other factors usually present—dark highways and late-hour fatigue—and the appalling death and injury rate is not surprising.

But the average drinking driver does not hear all this because he "knows better." His friends tell him he holds his liquor well; a few drinks convince him that he is the smartest and most skillful driver for miles around; and he drives confidently off into the night to suicide or slaughter.

The only way to curb drinking drivers is to have really tough laws. Only aroused public opinion can get such laws enacted. Let's use our ears to the facts. Let's have less highway murder!

If we adults set the proper example, then it might be considerably easier for the youth to follow our lead.

The Birmingham Eccentric Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich. in the Eccentric Building, 210-212 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11 12 and 18

Subscription Rates (Outside Oakland County) One Year - \$2.50 Six Months - \$1.50 Three Months - \$1.00

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People's Column To the Editor: As historian of the Detroit Academy of Medicine, the Wayne County Medical Society, the Medical Alumni Association of Wayne University, the Old Timers Association, and the Business and Professional Men's Post, No. 372, American Legion, naturally I am interested in your "Birmingham history."

Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO May 13, 1898 The convalescent, weak and nervous enjoy... through using Sloman's Diamond Pure Rye Whiskey.

Mrs. Cal Ellsworth has returned to Calcutta where she was called a few weeks ago by the illness of her grandchild who was considered dangerous.

The meeting called Tuesday evening for the purpose of organizing a drill corps was attended by a goodly number. Due to the unavoidable absence of the leaders, nothing was done.

A fine prosperous looking gentleman called on last Saturday and it was some time before we recognized our old friend John T. Brown of Chicago.

Our streets are rife with Shetland ponies these days. The little fellows are being trained for their summer work at Belle Isle.

J. C. Wilcox, the celebrated Detroit baritone will make his second Birmingham appearance at the Birmingham Club on May 24. He sang here last fall and all true lovers of a good voice have been clamoring for his return ever since.

THE WALLACE DANGER ISN'T COMMUNISM The former vice-president isn't a communist. He may serve their purposes and get their support, but his running mate, Glenn Taylor boasts Wallace will make the best leader America could have if we ever fight the Soviets.

The village commission approved the proposed repairs and replacements of sewers and water mains Monday night. Total expenditures will be \$78,000, according to the estimates presented.

The Bloomfield Open Hunt Club is opening its summer program under the leadership of F. M. Chases planned for the riders. The first was held yesterday afternoon with others to follow on successive Wednesdays.

A plaster of Paris model of the First Baptist Church, built to scale, is on display in the First State Bank. Total expenditures will be \$78,000, according to the estimates presented.

Motorcycle officer Frank Gattie was injured today while chasing a speeder in Bloomfield Hills. The front of his "bike" struck a stone throwing him to the pavement. He received a sprained arm and multiple bruises.

Dr. A. P. Chesterfield, Detroit, entertained members of the Rotary Club and their wives Tuesday evening with motion pictures of his recent trip in Africa. High light of the pictures was the one which the doctor filmed of a fight between an elephant and a rhinoceros.

FIVE YEARS AGO May 13, 1943 Heavy, two-day rains caused flooded basements in all sections of the city this week and traffic stoppages in several places. William Wieland was forced to rally all his employees to sandbag his store as the Rouge reached flood stage.

Paul N. Averill, chairman of the Community House drive reports excellent response from Birmingham residents. A total of more than \$12,000 has been received to date, with contributions still coming in.

The total fire damage in the city during April amounted to \$12 million. We can't help but wonder how on earth there was that much dry material around to burn when all the rain we've been having around here lately.

Barbara Underwood, Baldwin High School senior has been awarded a scholarship to Mills College, Oakland, Calif. The scholarship is for the summer term, and Barbara reports that she plans to take the opportunity to cram on Spanish and Pan American Relations.

Birmingham Post, VFW, announced this week that the annual Poppy Sales will be open May 23. The funds raised this year will be used entirely for the VFW Home for the children of veterans of foreign wars.

A report from county headquarters shows that the 1943 Red Cross drive amounted to \$114,207. The county chairman, Ed Kelly, has asked The Eccentric to extend his thanks to all who worked on the drive, and those who supported it so generously.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FAIRFAX AVENUE DISTRICT PROOFING NOTICE is hereby given that Special Assessor Roy Kelly, who is acting as the assessor for the purpose of proofing the same, will be in the office of the assessor at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, May 17, 1948, at which time and place opportunity will be given to all persons interested to be heard.

IRENE E. HANLEY, City Clerk

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'Tis Washington By The Duchess

The Wallace danger isn't communism. The former vice-president isn't a communist. He may serve their purposes and get their support, but his running mate, Glenn Taylor boasts Wallace will make the best leader America could have if we ever fight the Soviets.

The real danger is that day by day Wallace is becoming identified as the man of appeasement but the distinction is lost to many Americans. America wants more than peace. A honorable peace with justice... is still the goal.

Government buying for Europe will drop off... not zoom... Business men are asking "how can I sell my goods to ECA?"

The new ECA is just a banker who puts up the cash for part of Europe's buying. Capital is a favorite con-ventional spot, by the way.

This city of rich widows, gay divorcees and five women-to-every man hardly seems the best place to hold the National Conference on family life.

Some 125 national groups representing doctors, lawyers, business men, labor leaders, ministers, editors, schoolteachers, house-

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner Imagine the beauty of a picture like this in full color and you'll see why more and more snapshots are bitten by the "color bug."

Call to Color SOONER or later almost everyone owns a black-and-white film. Color feels the urge to try color. For color adds a whole new dimension to the picture taker's world.