

Deserving Tributes

In the past two weeks, the Birmingham Fire Department has received two letters of commendation from local residents whose houses, threatened with total destruction by fire, were largely saved through the well-organized efficient efforts of Birmingham firemen.

Beautiful Birmingham

While this is not the most appropriate time to call attention to the idea, we hope that the citizens of Birmingham will bear in mind the possibility of adding to its beauty by individual exertion.

Practically every citizen of Birmingham can do something to make his or her premises more attractive. The beautification program includes more than the planting of flowers and trees. It includes the proper upkeep of grounds and buildings.

The Only Test

During recent years, we have not had much time to read the modern novels or to keep up with the "artistic" dramas, but from the few samples we have seen, the recipe for success seems to be smut, vulgarity and obscenity.

We note with interest that American industry has come up with a new plastic cloth material, possessing a tensile strength that is twice as strong as steel on a weight-for-weight basis.

This will not come as good news to the nation's girdle manufacturers. For now the women will be able to buy a dress that will "pull 'em in," or push 'em out," depending on which way they want themselves to go.

Education is not to be confused with going to college—not in these days.

Too Much "Opinion News"

The complete failure of professional journalists and radio commentators to accurately gauge public opinion in connection with the Presidential contest leads one to wonder whether the same gentlemen could be equally mistaken in connection with other views assiduously promoted.

The professional poll-takers, who claim to have scientific methods of determining what the people are thinking, have been thoroughly discredited by the results of the election. Not one of them gave President Truman a chance for re-election and, on the basis of their past successes in forecasting election results, led many people to the erroneous conclusion that Mr. Truman and the Democrats were to be the victims of a great Republican landslide.

After all, opinions may be interesting but they are not a substitute for news. We hope that the lesson of the Presidential election will lead the press and the radio to a more intelligent effort to report what happens instead of what somebody thinks will happen.

For Publicity

The United States is fast becoming a nation of weeks set apart for specific purposes and to secure publicity. We suspect that it is the champion of the world when it comes to various awards for various reasons, also to secure publicity.

Almost any college, institution or association manages to get copious publicity by the simple device of making an award for some reason or other.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Happenings of Long Ago

Twenty Years Ago: Harold Williams, night watchman for the Cook Construction Company, was saved by passersby Saturday night as he ran through the streets with his clothing ablaze. Williams told his rescuers he was filling gasoline tanks used on the construction of the new bridge when it ignited, sending fire to his clothing.

Very few were present at the Monday meeting last Thursday night owing to the sudden snow storm which visited our fair community. Those who did venture out declared themselves "fair weather Christians" and stayed home!

Have You Met

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Crigg, formerly of Detroit, are now of 1031 N. Woodward, Mr. Crigg is a manufacturer's representative.



Michigan Mirror

LANSING—Michigan's divided house in state government is going to erupt new controversy in 1949. While Governor-Elect Menon Williams has repeatedly maintained he could get along with a Republican legislature...

Local Firm Develops Mechanical Safety Device for Presses

Harry Sahlin, of the Sahlin Engineering Company, 407 S. Woodward, has developed a stamping press attachment called the "iron hand," which is already in use in several automotive plants.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Use of different camera angles lends variety to shots of similar subjects in similar surroundings. NOT long ago an acquaintance of mine was presented with a large collection of snapshots which he had made this past summer. Most of them were individually excellent.

Vary Your Point of View

Of the individual makes for variety within their framework, as in the snaps reproduced here. Similar though these may be in subject there is little sameness to them.

Cranbrook Presents 20th Century Art of Private Collections

In addition to the 20th Century paintings from private collections which will be on display at the museum of the Cranbrook Academy of Art, is the Saarinen-Swanborn designed home furnishings and watercolor exhibition of Ling Yun and fabrics designed by Ching Kai.

People's Column

To the Editor: I would be glad of an opportunity to use your People's Column to thank Mr. Clark, of the Bloomfield Hills for his constructive criticism at the Birmingham Community House last week he expressed concern over the presence of acetylene gas tanks in the craft room in the basement.

Perhaps Mr. Morse is not aware that the Ranch Room not only has its own communicating system directly with street level, but also has windows which could serve as emergency exits.

There's a Senator Hubert Humphrey who made the Democratic platform more liberal than originally intended and, by his own outspoken opposition to the Taft-Hartley act, defeated Senator Joe McCarthy's attempt to strip the citizenship of the chairman of the board for his interest and suggestion to the Community House Board of directors.

To the Editor: The Eccentric earned a special place in our hearts when it kept up a running fight to keep trees in the city. It was not until the past few days that we were able to see the results of its efforts.

New York planted trees in Radio City and they had. "Food" through underground pipes since trees cannot live without ground water.

To the Editor: We have an unfortunate experience recently at our home in Birmingham. As you will note, I was away but the manner in which the Fire Department acted, used in every phase merits every commendation.

"Dear Mr. Griffith, fire chief: "During my absence several weeks ago, I had that a furnace repair man caused a fire in our home at 356 Lake Park Drive. The prompt response by your department to our call and the efficient manner of handling the situation kept the loss from fire and smoke to a minimum.

"Again many thanks to you and your efficient department. Mr. J. B. Williams, 356 Lake Park Drive

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FINANCE YOUR CAR THE FRIENDLY WAY The purchase of a motor car today is a major financial transaction. But the problem is eased by spreading small payments over a long period—especially when you deal with a friendly bank whose chief aim is to help you through to the final payment.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

(Special Story From Our Washington Bureau) By Elizabeth Carpenter WASHINGTON, D. C.—Today the Democratic Party has dealt with a promising new crop of presidential timber ready for harvesting in 1952.

There's at least one in the cabinet who may benefit out of his loyal campaigning. Maurice J. Tobin of Massachusetts gave up a state (the Democrats carried over) in 1952 to accept a cabinet post in what was considered an expiring Administration.

There's Senator Estes Kefauver who, against terrific odds, defeated the Crump machine of Tennessee and sailed into the Senate in 1948. He is a progressive with 8 years behind him in the House of Representatives.

There's Senator Hubert Humphrey who made the Democratic platform more liberal than originally intended and, by his own outspoken opposition to the Taft-Hartley act, defeated Senator Joe McCarthy's attempt to strip the citizenship of the chairman of the board for his interest and suggestion to the Community House Board of directors.

There's the young new senator who will try to use the Senate floor as a stepping stone to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Have You Met The new family from Colorado Springs, Col. They are Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Adams and children, Billy and Nathan, who were living at 1023 N. Woodward, Mr. Adams is a sales engineer with Woodall Industries.

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