

Fast-Growing Youngster

Birmingham's Chamber of Commerce has just outlined a 10-point work program for the coming year. As explained at a recent general membership meeting, this program will include city planning, off-street parking, community recreation, transportation improvements, postal service, and several educational efforts.

The Chamber was organized just last January. The announcement of this work program might behoove a few local citizens to say, "Well, it's about time they started doing something." But that attitude is the same as wondering why a six-year-old, for instance, isn't playing college football.

According to the National Chamber of Commerce, it takes from four to five years for the average local chamber to get under way with any sort of comprehensive program. It also takes long for it to become generally accepted as a working part of a community. It can easily be seen, then, that the Birmingham chamber is way out in front on both counts.

This reflects credit on two groups—one, an alert manager and board of directors; second, an interested and cooperative community which supports the chamber through membership and general acceptance of the motives of the organization.

We are pleased that we can call attention to the local chamber's progress, as compared to the average. This indicates an active, participating citizenry. And while Birmingham may have its share of civic problems, this type of progress could indicate our city will, accordingly, solve these problems much sooner than the average city of comparable size.

And this is what makes Birmingham the city that it is, and the city to which many people want to move.

Federal Workers

During the fiscal year 1948 which closed June 30, the average civilian employment in the executive branch of the federal government was 2,032,600 workers.

This was about sixty per cent of the 3,465,420 average in 1945, the peak year of the war.

While the number of employees has been increasing recently, there has been a considerable decrease since the war emergency.

Whether the Government needs more than two million employees is a matter beyond us, but a breakdown of those employed and where they work suggests that as long as the people demand that the government "do everything" there will be millions of governmental employees.

Some institutions of learning will lose prestige this fall—because their football teams didn't have a very good season.

Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

October 14, 1898.
The ladies of St. James church will give a supper in the basement of the church this (Friday) evening, Sept. 19, 10 cents; children 5 cents. Everybody go and get a chance to see the supper that you could get at home.

Some of the residents of Maple Ave. west feel very much hurt at the way in which road work has been done there. They claim that a year ago they asked by petition that the road be lowered, and that not content with ignoring the request, the authorities have now raised the road even higher, thus putting in clay and gravel. The fact that this is the third request made by them for improvements at that end of the street and the third refusal gives them cause for complaint.

One who felt that you ought to see the amount of dirt waists on hand, Valie B. Pontier, contractor. The entire pavement is expected to be open to traffic three weeks from next Saturday.

No parking will be permitted on the Maple Avenue between Woodward and Pierce streets, Chas. James Anderson announced. This will be in effect at all times of the day, he said. Increasing volume of traffic makes this a necessity, he said.

The "Smash" party of last week was given by Miss E. Ewing on Wednesday evening. The event was so thoroughly sweetened with "judges" and the "society" look so fascinating in their uniforms that time sped away altogether too quickly for all concerned, all going to their respective homes with most favorable impressions of Miss Ewing's hospitality.

The P. C. Simonsen farm 12 miles south of this place, now bears the distinguished title of "Buckeye Vista." That's right, like to see the country homes in this vicinity receive the honor of a Buckeye Vista.

Twenty Years Ago
October 18, 1928
It is said around the office that

First Learn Bike Safety

Our congratulations go to the Birmingham Police Department and local Ford dealer Harold Turner for their current bicycle safety program. Perhaps the first "big thing" a youngster yearns for is his very own bike. When he gets much older, then he wants a car.

If the young boys and girls learn and observe the "rules of the road" while riding their bikes, it is logical to assume their courteous experiences will be carried over into their automobile driving habits. If left to develop his own rules as a bike rider, then it will become just that much more difficult to unlearn him when he drives a car.

Courtesy and caution pay dividends later on—that dividend may be your life and/or the life of that young driver.

Tuition \$3,000,000!

It will amaze some American college students to know that at Fukien Christian University, in Foochow, China, tuition and other fees have been greatly increased because of soaring living costs and that last Spring the charges amounted to the staggering sum of three million to four million dollars per student.

This represents what happens to a nation when inflationary processes are extended to the extreme degree. In some universities, it is said, students pay their tuition with two fifty-pound bags of third-grade flour and that two additional bags equal the payment for dormitory and other fees.

Timothy Is Not Alone

"I've tried to understand American politics but have failed completely," declares Timothy Davey, one of a group of British schoolboys, who are now visiting the United States.

Timothy need not be unnecessarily discouraged. There are millions of people in the United States who have also tried to understand American politics but have likewise failed completely.

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Kipling had in mind the present status of Woodward Avenue when he said, "East is East and West is West and Never the Twain shall meet."

A whistling contest with cash prizes will be sponsored by the Birmingham Eccentric and the Kunkin-Birmingham Theatre. This is an endeavor to revive one of the very old practices that has either been thrown into the discard during modern life, or, at least, into the din of traffic and steam shovels.

Many Birmingham residents were given a new thrill yesterday when they received letters from Germany which were brought over on the Graf Zeppelin.

Approximately 5,000 followers of the quince world will go to the Bloomfield Hills Saturday to attend the ninth annual Point to Point race, which will be given at the Bloomfield Open Hunt club by the Briggs, Fendick and Oakdale farms, race officials estimate.

Completion of the paving of Woodward Avenue in Birmingham is set for Saturday, according to Lito Russo, in charge of the work for the Pontier & Co. company, contractors. The entire pavement is expected to be open to traffic three weeks from next Saturday.

Never before in the history of Birmingham have so many felt so humiliated before a foe. In other words, the alumni of the University of Michigan, far outnumbered the alumni of Notre Dame in our town. The Notre Dame men, Saturday's 35-12 lick ing, was much more revenge for the similar one of M. M. hung on the Irish last season.

Have You Met... Former Detroiters Mr. and Mrs. Nell Schwimmer and their children—Charlotte, Dorothy, Helene, Edward, Carolyn, Jeannie and George? They are now living at 481 S. Bates. Mr. Schwimmer is with the Aime Camera Exchange.

Nature Lubbers... BANG... THE DUCKS' BEST PAL IS HURRY-UP AL.

October 14, 1943
FIVE YEARS AGO
Did you know that Oakland County in the 13 years ending this December 31 will have gained more than 89 per cent in population? In 1930 this county had 212,000. In 1940 the official census showed it had 254,000 ration books issued now (and probably no census enumerators) give a more accurate head count shows this county has 320,000 population. There were 100,000 in the 13 years from 1930 through

The Three Musketeers

"ALL FOR ONE"

AND ONE FOR ALL, EH BOYS?"



No. 26: The Engineering Department

Ideas of Commission Become Blueprints in Engineering Dept.

By George Wm. Averill

Primary function of the city's engineering department is to take ideas, translate them into specifications and blueprints and then see that these ideas become a reality.

The ideas come principally from the city commission is the form of suggested public improvements—streets, sewer, water. By taking a hypothetical improvement, we can follow it alone and see just how the engineering department comes into the picture.

Take An Example
Suppose, for instance, the city commission was considering the idea of paving Westchester Way. Commissioners ask the city manager for more details on the project. From the engineering department, the manager finds that the city has been started from scratch on the project: there's no water sewer, or other type of improvement.

It reports the number of feet of water main that would be needed, as well as the length of sewer pipe to be installed. The department would recommend to the commission what the street width should be. Also reported would be present costs of the complete project—water main, sewer, curbs and gutters, gravel road bed, and hard surfacing.

These costs would be estimated on the city's latest bid received for such work. Depending on the length of time when the bid was received, the department would add or subtract a certain percentage, depending on current bids being received by surrounding communities. Thus the commission gets a fairly accurate picture of the present cost involved in a particular project.

If the commission decides to go ahead with the project to pave Westchester Way, the commission confirms the assessment roll. Once the assessment district is confirmed the engineering department then includes Westchester Way in its schedule of plans and specifications.

Private contractors are asked to bid on this project on the basis of these specifications. If a bid is accepted by the commission, the successful contractor is furnished with a copy of the job on which he proceeds to make the improvements. The engineering department assigns a city inspector to the project to see that specifications are carried out.

City Controls Design
Cities have discovered, over the years, that it is better for them to control the design of local improvements.

Dale Miller Makes Gift Presentation to Ohio University
Dale Miller, 444 Waddington, was in Columbus, Ohio, this week when he attended the diamond jubilee celebration at Ohio University. A former student there, he presented a book of the late Dr. Thomas E. French, head of the department of engineering drawing for 36 years. Miller, while a student was assistant to the director for nearly three years.

French is widely known for his book of engineering drawing which is used in the major universities and colleges in this country and has been reproduced in several foreign languages. The book, which rests on a standard of Buckeye inlaid with a cabinet which bears the heraldic symbol of the university, made the seal as well as its colors, scarlet and gray. The seal was designed for the university and only a few years ago was accepted by Mrs. Dorothy Lutz, 812 Waddington, noted for her work in silver and gold. The seal is a bronze cluster of Buckeye leaves and cast Buckeyes which adorn the top of the marble base.

The SCORE PAD

By Jim Gray

(Gossip and notations at the bridge table. Other jokers.)

I often wonder what I would do if you suddenly appeared in my doorway. Would I be glad? (But wait. Let me go back a bit. Let me taste the flavor of this conception from the first, the very first, slip.)

First, there would be a strange story on the radio. No. That's not it. It would be a strange, strange, a half-forgotten, a half-remembered story to make me feel whatever I was doing, to get my pulse pounding, pounding, pounding, waiting, hoping... (After all, it's been—How many sons has it been?)

Then I would hear the door opening at the top of the stair. (My heart would race on.) A step in the hallway would pause. My tender hope would begin to fade a little as I saw so many thousands of times. I would brace myself to hear an unwanted voice ask for someone else.

But I would not hear that I wanted voice! (Not this time! Not this time!) I would rise from my chair, (I would suggest!) Hope, it is waiting to happen! And you would be there—in the doorway.

What would I do? I would look at you. I would look at your eyes. I would look deep into your eyes and wonder why you were here. But I would have to wait. I would know. If you were here, then there could be only one reason why you were here. Yes, it would be necessary to be here only one reason.

But that is not an age of miracles. It is also a miracle that I am still living and waiting. Because I live only upon hope and my hope in turn lives only upon the death of conviction that you will someday appear in that doorway.

(Doubts, leave me! This is not a subject for debate. This is established beyond all doubt.) It is definite, certain, and sure that you will eventually appear in that doorway.

(In spite of what happened the last time I called you. I know I should not be doing that. I know you do not like it. I know there was a frigid quality in your voice and that you did not think through. But you did not think through while I was still talking. It was not a mistake, believe it or not, you did not think that it was just an accident. It was the operator, "So you would stand there with the doorway and suddenly I would realize that you were smiling at me. You did that day we met for the first time. We would not speak. There would be no more. Then—I would gesture toward the street outside. You would nod your

The Michigan Political Campaign

By Gene Allman

The Michigan political campaign has reached the interesting stage of alternating doldrums and jitters.

Encouraged by public opinion polls (Michigan Republican leaders have been secure and confident of a GOP landslide in November), Governor Kim Sigler's re-election campaign is ebullient. To Governor Kim Sigler's re-election is in great doubt, as it is said, President Truman will get support of labor, and so on.

Some voters have even wondered who is running for governor on the Democratic ticket: Mennon Williams or Attorney General Eugene C. Hook. Black has been stealing anti-administration headlines in the press with persistent regularity.

It all contributes to October jitters. Call for a constitutional convention, five proposed amendments to the constitution and one referendum.

Attends Presentation of Beside Radios

Mrs. Otto Milbrand, Bloomfield Hills, attended the presentation of bedside radios at the Dearborn Veterans' Hospital on Friday. More than 100 of these have been presented to the men in this hospital. The Marine Hospital, Detroit, and the Grand Rapids VA Hospital. A group of women will visit the hospital on Friday to make a formal presentation.

Mrs. Milbrand is one of the originators of this idea. Through the cooperation of Mr. and Mrs. Walter D. Briggs, who permitted the use of Bridge Stadium for Tuesday, the initial purchase of 100 radios was possible.

Pierce Cub Scouts

The monthly meeting of Cub Scout Pack B-7 will be held Tuesday evening, Oct. 19, at Pierce school.

Highlights of the meeting will be the presentation of the period and the presentation of achievement awards. All Pierce school Cub Scouts and their parents are urged to attend. Wesley Gibbons is the new chairman of the pack committee.

"Yes," I would rush to the window and look down. And there, gently nudging the curb, would be my brand new 1949 convertible with white sidewall instrument panels, plastic torque adjuster, supercharged slatted facing, floating flywheel, and the large economy size retractible transmission.

No. 4 amendment would remove the \$3 daily salary of members of the state legislature and it would permit legislators to fix salaries for the next term of office.

The fifth proposed amendment would liberalize the present 167 limitation of real estate taxes by authorizing the following: Extending from \$10 to 20 years the period for which millage might be raised from 15 mills up to 50 mills; decreasing the two-thirds majority required for a referendum.

The referendum concerns the Callahan act, adopted by the 1947 legislature. North and South Mr. and Mrs. G. Garrison; Ted Nelson and Sammy Hyams; East and West: Chuck Thumser and Gail Rothfus; Jean Heugh and Ernest Guy.

Pontiac: Jean Wardon Monday evenings. Open to the public (Oct. 4, 4½ tables. Howell game. Jean Heugh and Ernest Guy, Melvin Small and Galen Lavery.

Issues will come before voters for decision. The deadline is approaching fast.

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THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

A low camera angle makes this shot a good example of what can be done in picturing carnivals.

Carnival Capers
O'P hand I know of nothing more difficult for a camera operator than to take a carnival without stopping to look at the acts, take a turn or two on the roller wheel, or try to knock down a pyramid of bottles with my fading fair wheel.

But for the picture taker a carnival has even more to offer. For there are countless picture subjects everywhere on the midway. And all the fun of such an affair can be captured on film.

A ready camera, imagination, and an eye for good subject matter are all you need to make a fine carnival picture story. Watch for the interesting shots—a barkie extolling the merits of his test show, a child eating upon cotton candy, a couple riding the ferris wheel.

None of these shots are unusual, perhaps. But that's where imagination comes in. Take today's snap, for example. It's a far more effective picture—taken when the cage was high in the sky—than a shot of the same subject would be if taken with

the cage near the ground. The low camera angle makes the picture more dramatic. In another excellent carnival picture I saw recently, it was a night shot, a time exposure of several seconds. The camera was set on a tripod, and the lights trace a pattern of ovals and circles on his negative.

These are merely a few hints, of course, for pictures you might try. The big thing is to try them. For there's no question that you will find dozens of picture possibilities if you go to a carnival with your camera loaded and ready to shoot. And, in shooting them, you will find you learn as you go along. The pleasure you get from your camera and your skill in using it both increase the more you make use of it.

—John Van Guider