

Discipline Major Violators First

Why the Michigan Stream Control Commission, with all the major stream pollution violations still continuing, suddenly proposes to clamp down on Southern Oakland County communities for minor infractions of the law, is beyond us.

If you were to check SCC records, we believe you would find a list about as long as your arm of villages, towns and cities that still dump raw or practically untreated sewage or industrial chemicals into the state's rivers and streams. These communities repeatedly have been warned of the violations and asked to correct them. A few cities are now taking rather tardy steps to remedy their particular situation. Still other cities have yet to go into action.

We admit there may be some Southern Oakland areas which are in poor shape regarding sewage treatment. These cases should be corrected as immediately as possible. But to ask the City of Birmingham to prepare to treat 1,000 gallons per capita of storm runoff water, as compared to the present requirement of 150, is being arbitrary, to say the least. The Birmingham disposal plant was designed to State Department of Health standards. So have been its combined sewer system. Now, to require installation of a separate sanitary sewer and a separate storm sewer in place of the single combined system, would call for finances the like of which the city cannot possibly afford.

From where we sit, it would appear that the SCC should see to it that its present order of first violators should be carried out first. This alone, we believe, would have a considerable and beneficial effect on the presently impure streams and rivers.

Then, after this has been accomplished, the SCC should check to see if perhaps the drinking water sources around the state have not been improved to the point where the situation rights itself.

If not, the Commission can start thinking about more stringent action. But to come out now and ask Birmingham, for instance, to further purify its sewage effluent when surrounding communities are at the bottom of the scale when it comes to adequate and proper disposal, seems out of line, if you ask us.

First things first, we believe, and let the refinements come later if needed.

Realistic political observers expect the Republicans to take over the federal reins next January 1. For 16 years the New Deal Democrats will have had control of the U.S.A.; they've made some valuable contributions to the nation—plenty of problems that will take the Republicans some time to correct.

Liberal use of paint, in most cases, will improve the looks of anything; look what it's done for the women.

Don't Pay College Players

U of M's Athletic Director Fritz Crisler, speaking to a group of Eastern Michigan League high school coaches and faculty representatives last week, wonders if colleges and universities are heading for out-and-out subsidization of their football players.

Crisler said he wouldn't like to see the collegiate game come to this. Neither would we.

There's something about a collegiate game, without its paid players, that a professional football game lacks. Crisler can't, and we can't, just put our finger on what it is. But we believe if the college game went professional, the U of M stadium would be comparatively empty on a Saturday afternoon. Most of the fans would rather take a shorter trip to Briggs Stadium and watch the Detroit Lions.

No, let's keep the college games on as strictly an amateur principle as we possibly can.

To Make Highways Safer

The campaign for highway safety in the United States has been underway for a number of years. It has produced encouraging results but there is no reason for anyone to suppose that the goal of safety has been approximated.

The thousands who continue to die annually upon our highways attest the need of continued emphasis upon safety. The lesson should be presented continually and persistently in order that lives may be saved.

Once again we express the opinion that rigorous enforcement of traffic regulations, including careful issuance of drivers' licenses together with examination of vehicles using the highways, will do much to improve the peril.

No person should possess enough influence anywhere to escape prescribed punishment for traffic violations.

These two reasons contribute greatly to much of the world's unrest: a majority persecuting a minority, or a minority prodding a majority.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in the Second Building, 112 and 114, South Third Avenue.

Telephone 11 12 and 18
Editor and Publisher: GEORGE R. AVERILL
Managing Editor: GEORGE R. AVERILL
Business Manager: GEORGE R. AVERILL

Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan, May 12, 1919.
Subscription Rates: (Outside Oakland County) One Year \$1.00, Six Months .50, Three Months .25. (Oakland County) One Year .75, Six Months .40, Three Months .20.

The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, and University Press Club.
NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief, controlled material from any source, and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited so that they conform to general newspaper standards. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or position of any person, firm or corporation, which appears in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO
October 21, 1898.

A conservatory on wheels, a part of the Florida State Fair will soon roll into Birmingham. It will be a complete picture of the southland, including exotic and beautiful tropical plants and some man-eating alligators. Truly, it is the latest and most beautiful sights Birmingham has ever seen.

FOR RENT: A room nicely furnished and warmed to one or two gentlemen, 75c per week. Inquire at this office.

The mournful call of a lone turkey broke the silence of Woodward one cool morning the week as he walked forlornly down the street. The mystery is, had he escaped from the farm, or had he his way to seek a laud where there were no "turkey days"? Whatever he plans, fate led him into the hands of the local constable. From there—who knows?

Genial Clyde Burgess, popular trolley conductor, escaped death by a single hair when a man carrying a shot gun, boarded the trolley to go hunting. Suddenly there was a loud bang and shotgun pellets burst past Burgess, too close for comfort, since they tore his jacket which was also burst by the powder. Guns are now eyed suspiciously by all conductors and passengers.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
October 25, 1928.

Village President H. T. Elbery has promised residents that if the state does not complete the sidewalk along Woodward Avenue this fall, the village will take over the project and provide passable temporary walks until spring.

Five men have been arrested here as village police continue their war on drunk drivers. One of the quints was involved in an

accident which sent the three women passengers in his car, to Harper Hospital, Detroit, for treatment.

Leo, the famous MGM Lion will visit Birmingham Friday, the guest of the local Lions Club. He will be escorted into town by officers and members of the club, and will be in front of the Kunskey-Birmingham theatre all afternoon to greet visitors.

The Baldwin High School band announced Friday, that they will give their new up-tempo teacher's district conference held last week in Detroit. Technical high school in Detroit.

Mrs. Howard Tugsey is in charge of the annual music appreciation concert being conducted in the Birmingham schools. Adam school is stressing this affair strongly, with many eager entries hard at work.

FIVE YEARS AGO
October 21, 1943.

John Bradford Howarth, 86, has been in the hospital for some time from active business. Howarth has been in various businesses for 50 years, and feels that it is high time he stopped working long enough to enjoy life.

The WPB has denied priority to the Birmingham police on their request for the new type POB head doors on the police garage. Harold H. Koron, city manager, reported that the new doors had been ordered a month ago, when the present type had proven expensive due to the need of constant repairs.

An advertisement in a recent issue of the Eccentric, for POB SALE, Upright piano, the property of a young lady with a silk scarf and carried logs. Has the

three-hour shortage driven the girls to that?

Rev. and Mrs. J. O. Nelson were honored by a congregation of the Baptist Church Friday evening, honoring their 25th wedding anniversary. They were presented several items of flat silver and a purse of money.

Have You Met . . .
Former Detroiters Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Smith and their children, Robert and Julie who are living at 275 Hamilton? Mr. Smith is with Cadillac Motor Car Company, as an assistant controller.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Pernack, formerly of Detroit, who have moved to their new home at 2227 Dorchester? Mr. Pernack is a tool maker with the National Broach and Machine Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Klingler, Jr., who have moved from Bethlehem, Pa., where they both have been in business, to Birmingham? Klingler is with Harvey Mack in Pontiac.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Adams and their children, Margaret and Robert, formerly of Detroit, are now residing at 419 Pilgrim? Mr. Adams is an engineer with General Motors Truck.

Nature Lubbers
POWER-LINE PLINKERS ARE LITTLE STINKERS
BIRMINGHAM OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

No. 27: City Boards and Commissions

City Has a Total of Five Boards and Commissions

By George Wm. Averill

At the present time, the City of Birmingham has four boards and one commission to administer the citizens' collective responsibilities in regard to five public matters.

These are the city plan commission, the recreation board, the zoning board of appeals, the city retirement board, and the board of review.

The nine-member city plan commission meets regularly once a month in the city commission room in the Municipal Building. Membership of the board is designed to include a number of local interests: professional business, school board, real estate board, women's organizations, architectural, township, and the general public. Terms are for 3 years.

Protect Citizens' Interests
Aims of the group is to protect the interests of the community by looking into the future to see what the city will eventually need or want. Their purpose is to come up with general plans to guide the city commission. A system of committees, composed of talented local citizens, are to be called upon from time to time to give the plan commission specific advice.

Under state law the plan commission shall prepare a six-year program, revising it from year to year as specific projects are completed or dropped.

Organized in March, 1947, the city recreation board meets the fourth Thursday of every month in the city commission room. If the commission room is taken that night, the board meets at the Hill school. It has seven members: city manager, the superintendent of schools, two members appointed by the city commission, two appointed by the school board, and one member appointed by the mayor from a list of not less than three persons nominated and submitted by the school board. Appointments are for five years.

It receives annual appropriations from both the city and the school board to enable it to carry out a city-wide recreational program. It is not designed to make improvements, but rather to use its allotted funds to create and administer a program using whatever city or school recreational facilities are made available.

The five members of the zoning board of appeals must be local residents, each of whom serve for a 2-year period. The members of the city commission room whenever a zoning problem is presented to them. These situations arise only when the city building inspector refuses to issue a building permit because it is felt the zoning ordinance would be violated if the construction were permitted. If the builder feels otherwise, he appeals to the zoning board of appeals. The board's action is final unless the matter is taken to court.

The zoning board has no authority in making or changing a zoning plan. This is entirely a city commission matter. A petition for a zoning change must be presented to the city commission, and any arguments against a proposed zoning change must be made before the city commission.

Makes Necessary Adjustments
A taxpayer believes his property assessment is too high, he must appear before the board of review in the month of May (the next few days following) to correct the city assessment roll which will be used during the next fiscal year to spread the general tax.

The board listens to arguments and complaints, makes any necessary adjustments, and then recommends the tax roll to the city commission for adoption. The city assessor always is a member of this board, plus two other qualified voters and taxpayers representing the general public. The two public members are appointed to one-year terms.

Final Article Next Week
On the third Wednesday of every month, the city retirement

People's Column

October 13, 1948

To The Editor:
In Birmingham, as in every other community of America, we are witnessing the rapid growth of a great new educational and cultural force: television. But only in Birmingham has this rapid development brought in its train a new community problem in which many Birmingham residents besides myself feel that Eccentric readers would be interested. It may well be worthy of the spirited discussion we have come to expect from your frank editorials.

This is the new problem. An increasing number of osteopathic physicians in town are using diathermy machines completely disregarding the deleterious effect upon neighborhood television reception. The increased penetration of television antennas in Birmingham should show the offenders just how much they have lost out through their lack of consideration.

If the offenders have their own reception ruined, they'd be the first to complain. Some, however, have exercised themselves on the peculiar grounds that diathermy contraptions are more conducive to health than the radio waves.

Disregarding for the moment the questionable efficacy of diathermy, the equally questionable use of the diathermy machine, this new pseudo-science could be healthful in the beneficial effects of television.

In the field of health alone, we have lately had the good fortune to see a documentary program on cancer—presented more effectively than heretofore through any medium. Further programs of this sort are certain to project vital medical information further than ever before.

In addition, television provides a welcome relief for mothers, through magical light upon children; in this respect alone, television promises to heal a growing sore in American family life.

Its greatest contribution to human health, however, comes in the evening, when the families gather together about their set, for an entertainment equally pleasing to the tastes of the young and old.

We recognize here a new force in binding together of the family unit, against the destructive stress of separate modern activities. Obviously, television's greatest value lies in the psychosocial sphere, and in the removal of the unseen roots of neuroticism.

What if, above these immediate benefits, television promises to make our lives fuller in many less immediate ways: more entertainment; cultural and educational enlightenment through the increased effectiveness of the new medium; purification of politics by the enforced honesty of Klieg lights; the submergence of the individual and family into the national group through a medium shared by a window in everyone's home.

The diathermy practitioners, however, will not concede that these claims of value dictate a revision of their schedule, or even a repair of their machines. These theoretically dedicated men are unwilling to adjust themselves to a new dynamic for good.

We are rightly proud of Birmingham; it has come to have a character surpassed by few other cities. We are prone to forget, however, that that character was attained by our mutual efforts as members of our community.

When some of us take a negative attitude toward the rights of

88 Per Cent of English Doctors Accept State Medicine Patients Under New Plan

By Esther Van Wageningen Tufts

LONDON, England.—Socialized medicine is 2 1/2 months old in England and 88 per cent of the 45,000 general practitioners have accepted the new plan. The people are responding favorably. Of the 45 million population some 40 million are registered. The Ministry of Health reports that the new plan is new for the workers in industry have long enjoyed such protection, but the new act is a boon for children, and even visitors from foreign countries.

Today, the hospitals belong to the government. And it is the rich who get the private rooms! Unless his doctor considers his case serious, a private patient must pay a little extra for a private room. The specialists and consultants taking part in the public service plan usually hold a hospital appointment. They can take up whole or part time service.

How It Is Paid For
The cost is a charge on the national income in the same way as unemployment insurance. It is not an incentive to any part or all of the services. Most of the cost of running the service is paid out of the national exchequer, (from income taxes) but the cost of the national insurance fund and some falls on city taxes. It is estimated that by year's end, the total will be 180 million pounds.

To centralize the service, the real "control" is put in 138 local executive councils in 14 regions. Local medical, hospital and welfare people have a say about the membership. (This quieted many doctors.)

At present, to make socialized medicine work in England is not so much a matter of changing public opinion but getting enough doctors, dentists, nurses and facilities to do the job. The Labor government had substantial support from the conservatives.

Amendments Defeated
An amendment, merely objecting to details, was defeated by a vote of 358 to 172. On the final reading of the bill another amendment was defeated by a vote of 261 to 113, in the House of Commons.

Actually, the National Health act is not entirely the product of the Labor government, although it is called the keystone of the regime. The coalition government in a White Paper of 1944 outlined a proposal extending insured benefits to all peoples of Great Britain.

One prosperous physician, still protesting, pointed out "acceptance doesn't cover the idea is just that 'Britain can take it' even state medicine.

Bits of Birmingham
(Continued from Page 1, Part 1) inconveniencing people by taking their signs.

Robert W. Budd, 356 Lake Park drive, west of Gravois Lakes Greyhound, reveals that within the few weeks the big bus on the Detroit-Bay City run will be operated by radiophone. "Already, our buses on the Detroit-Grand Rapids, Detroit-Mazoo and Detroit-Willow Run divisions are so equipped," Budd explained.

A CITIZEN.
Our neighbors—when we fail to respond to their reasonable requests for consideration—we are in danger of disunity; distrust and antagonism replaced cooperation; and the "Community Character" is affected. Even on this seemingly minor issue, Birmingham stands for the good of the community.

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THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Here's a nice print to enlarge, particularly if trimmed along the dotted lines so that the heart of the picture is blown up.

Cropping Your Prints
SEVERAL weeks ago, we showed two pictures of the same scene, cropped somewhat differently. One, as we pointed out, made a better composition than the other. All because of the cropping. But cropping a picture can do more than merely improve composition.

Suppose, for example, you use a box camera and make a fine picture of a child. Chances are the picture was taken from eight or more feet away from your subject. The child—the point of interest in the picture—doesn't come close to filling the picture area of the print.

So, if you wish a good enlargement, you'll try cropping the print. Cropping, as you know, means trimming away the superfluous parts of a print in order to improve its appearance. The best way to do it is to take two 3 1/2-inch pieces of card-

board and place them on the print to form a hollow square or rectangle. Then shift them around until you get exactly the picture you want inside the area which they embrace.

Trim your picture accordingly. Use the trimmed print as a guide in making enlargements or having them made. Instead of blowing up the whole picture you blow up the heart of it, and improve your shot in the process.

Remember, cropping offers a way to better most prints you will make. Even the best professionals use it and use it frequently. For while good pictures always begin in finding a picture up in your viewfinder, often it's necessary to include more of a scene in your negative than you will either want or need in the finished print.

—John van Guilder

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