

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

Mechanical Complications Have Set In

Sometime next summer, when Birmingham's new dial telephone exchange...

The Michigan Bell Telephone company last week said that mechanical complications prevent the "PI" dial pull from being assigned to Birmingham...

However, we believe the great majority of local residents don't care whether the name of our exchange is "Micro-

Governor Williams and his aides realize that since they will have to grid their political loyalties in the 1950 State election...

Always remember that Russia maintains millions of people in slave labor. That is why she can build up her military and industrial life without having to be concerned about the living standards of her people...

No matter how much an individual knows, he is certain to run across an expert who has studied less and knows more.

Why is it that so much of the "horse sense" in this world of ours is confined to horses only?

Officials Show Irresponsibility in Spending Tax Monies, Dondero Says

WASHINGTON—Most people fail to realize the lengths to which bureaucratic wastefulness of tax dollars has gone in recent years...

When anyone converts to his own private use the funds entrusted to him by another, the Royal Oak Congressman declared this week, "he is likely to be called to account in a court of law."

Just to highlight the bureaucratic wastefulness which seems to be as reprehensible as direct theft by conversion of funds, I will cite a couple of instances that are highly common in Washington...

Plane Makes Two Trips The cabinet officer this summer has been spending week ends in one of the great Middle Western cities...

A Twelve-Month School Year

Not long ago, a Birmingham expert, considering the general scholastic picture in the United States, brought forth the idea that our schools should operate on a 12-month basis...

While it may be difficult to persuade school administrators and the parents of pupils to accept the 12-month school year, there are advantages which will weigh heavily in the minds of those concerned with social problems...

College work could be finished in three additional years, making it possible for many young men and women to finish college at 18, 19 or 20 years of age...

Those of us who live in Birmingham should not have to be taught the valuable lesson of cooperation. Cooperation plays a vital part in the successful growth of any city.

Cooperation Moves Us Forward

Today, however, the power of cooperation is not as evident as in the olden days when every citizen turned out to put his shoulder to the wheel to accomplish a common enterprise.

In view of the number of FBI men who have secretly participated in Communists' meetings, the Reds may soon require all new members to take an oath that they are not G-men.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material providing it has news value, and suggestions for more extensive reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may be published, will be given the most favorable consideration upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools, has announced that the pre-school conference for staff members here will be held Sept. 8. The meeting, this year, will take the form of a social evening to enable teachers and members of the board of education to become acquainted.

Local Victory Garden committee is cooperating with state officials in the first six months of the year in the area early in October. Workers will be selected from among Civilian Defense groups, Scouts and garden clubs.

Each Tuesday at 5 p.m. is the deadline for news, society, classified and display ads.

What does it matter, after all, if I keep my grass cut short and clean, What grows there up close to the soil? Does anyone know but myself and God? If the weeds grow thick and my grass looks lull, Do I have to grovel and sweat to pull The weeds?

Can people see weeds that grow in a heart, A heart that's all covered over, Rank vile weeds that are cropped off short? Oh, I think I'll plow my patch of lawn And sow it till to clover.

Have You Met? Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Love and three children? They have moved from 1500 S. 11th Street to 1500 S. 11th Street. Love is with the LaSalle Electric and Mill supply company.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO August 11, 1899

Members of the BPOE in Birmingham will be traveling to Detroit next week to listen to an address by B. M. Allen of Birmingham, Alabama, Grand Exalted Ruler of the national organization.

Eight cattle affected with tuberculosis at the E. M. A. farm, were killed under orders from the state veterinarian, George W. Dummer, from Quincy. While we mourn our neighbor's loss, we are happy to see that the state is really concerned with our health and welfare.

The next annual school meeting comes off in September. Don't forget a full attendance is assured, for everybody who came to the battle in July will surely come to the next meeting and bring a friend.

Last Friday an accident happened at the Eccentric, Claire Aldrich, our able printer, had a wrench in his hand when he went to stop it to put on another job, stop two fingers and a thumb were severed, but the young man is now doing nicely.

Sheriff Bell of our county has the honor of a mighty fine collection of criminal photographs, since he has had an appropriation put through to make pictures of everyone arrested here. Considering the class of crooks that Oakland county is dealing with lately, we doubt that any of the "bobbies" will be long remembered for their beauty.

An all-India lady for a nearby golf club wrecked four cars last week as he hit on a way to get a free ride in the road, striking anyone who would stop and pick him up. They stopped, but for a different reason. All four cars collided after one had swerved to avoid striking the boy, who fled across the fields.

Commissioner Robert R. Allen said the village was adopting extreme measures to stop children and adults from climbing to the top of the water tower at Ridgeland. "If people will not play safe with their lives, we must take official steps to make them."

The Charles Edwards American Legion Post members are erecting a fire station, charged with the village in an attempt to make motorists exercise more care while driving on the village roads. All four children have been endangered in the past, and drivers are being warned to be careful of them.

A West Maple farmer awaits trial in circuit court for the felonious assault in connection with the shooting of three caddies from the Oakland Hills country club. The boys were shot as they were allegedly leaving his orchard after having lunch.

Clare Ogden, village attorney, has been instructed to frame an ordinance banning farming enterprises in the village limits. This will include kennels conducted inside Birmingham, as well as the keeping of horses. The action came from several complaints filed against those now farming maintained in residential areas.

Taylor Bros. Co., Inc., located here, has been awarded a road construction jobs, according to company officials. One site is on Highway 60, between Deiton and Ridgeway in Lenawee county. The other will include strips in Tuscola, Lapeer and St. Clair counties.

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In a Dark Part of the Forest



Michigan Has More Than Its Share of Dope Fiends, Narcotics Report Shows

More than a grain of cocaine to the ounce may be sold without a physician's prescription. Neither has Michigan adopted amendments to its narcotic drug laws to apply the same control measures to demerol as are applied to morphine under those laws.

The Bureau of Narcotics had a thing or two to say about the cooperation by states. As far as Michigan was concerned, it is largely a lack of cooperation.

Review Michigan Case Alting Michigan is not one of the four states without the Uniform Narcotic Drug Act, it has no game along with an amendment to the act whereby only those preparations containing no more than one percent of opium in Detroit, and that the patient was making good progress toward full recovery.

A group from the First Baptist church, with their pastor, the Rev. Melvin W. Crump, took charge of the W. LaFayette street USO in Detroit Sunday evening. They report that over a thousand servicemen and women visited there that evening, to take advantage of the excellent lunches which the Women's Union supplied for them.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Two-check your focus and your exposure. If you have a fixed-focus camera, of course, focus and exposure are fixed for you. But you still are afflicted as you watch your too close to your subjects: no closer than five or six feet. And with focusing cameras you'll want to be sure that the camera is set for the proper distance—and not for 25 feet when the subject is only 10 feet away.

Three—look carefully in your camera's view finder before you shoot. My photomicro friend maintains that too many pictures are marred by a jumbled, confusing background which detracts from a pretty subject. So, on your next week-end picture-taking, give these rules a try. If you're an expert, chances are you follow them unconsciously. And if you're not, you may find they'll help in starting you on your way to pictures which an expert might be proud of.

Good Week End Pictures Whether you go away or stay close to home, you'll find that there's no time like the present for snapping pictures to treasure for years to come.

One—hold your camera steady. One-point camera when you shoot will mean a fuzzy, unsharp negative. So avoid camera movement by holding your camera firmly against your chest or chest and tripping the shutter with a firm and steady motion—never a jerk.

"Any Way You Slice It"

BY HAL P. BURGER

Self respect is one of the finest possessions a man can have. Everyone should conduct his activities so that he may be free of deserved criticism. Sure, some folks will always accuse you unjustly even if you have lived like a saint, but what I mean by deserved criticism is the kind that you pass along to yourself when you're slaving or powdering your nose and have to meet yourself face-to-face for a few minutes in the mirror.

Everything you do should be done with the idea in mind that you will be forced to approve or disapprove of your actions tomorrow. It's a nice feeling to be able to say to yourself at the end of the day, "My activities may not have been my best efforts, but even so, someone benefited by them and no one got hurt. That's better than having to say, 'You stinker, why did you give so many people a bad time?'"

Most of my life I have lived under this doctrine. I haven't accumulated much money and absolutely no glory and I can't claim that I have been anyone's great benefactor up to now. Sometimes I have to admit to myself that I was a bad boy, but no one has been seriously hurt by my deeds.

The other day a man asked me if I knew a certain family that lived in the town in which I was raised. I knew them well. There were two boys in the family and in the early grades in school the older boy and I were classmates. I thought, "It was a long time ago and I couldn't remember. When we were about in the fifth grade the family moved away and I lost track of them until the man asked me if I had known them."

We got to talking about the family and he told me that the oldest son whose name I recalled was Malcolm, and whom I could vaguely remember as an old classmate in grammar school, had graduated from high school in 1939. It was then that pangs of guilt streaked through my frail and fragile frame. I could distinctly remember fighting with the kid. Brother, I thought, what a bad time I must have had, because I graduated from high school five years before that.

As soon as the guilt started to leave me, a sudden feeling of alarm rushed in to fill the gap, because I could also remember that I gave me a good patting at least half of the time. It was awful, I tell you. There I was thinking how I had picked on a little kid who was at least five years younger than I was, and he had kicked me, yet.

Just as I was about to crawl out of the man's office on my hands and knees he took a sudden recalculation and came up with the fact that the fellow had actually graduated in 1935. Right away I felt better, the man was doing and the birds were singing again. If he had graduated from high school in 1935 that would make us nearly the same-age and I had to take back many of the bad things I was thinking about myself.

That was a close call and I don't ever want to come nearer to proving to myself that I'm a louse. It was right then and there that I decided that every day in every way I should try harder to do everything with the idea in mind that I have to live with myself. I have a right to be this damn good if I can't because you can save yourself a lot of grief that way, but when you become thick-skinned from within, it's time we alerted ourselves. A man without conscience is a dangerous man to have around.

Michigan Mirror

Are private home builders falling down on the job? Governor G. Mennen Williams thinks so. He says that private home builders, unless they can meet this problem (homes for low-income workers) I would like to see the government letting private industry handle it. But the record shows that private industry has handled the housing problem alone.

In advocating public housing whereby rents are subsidized by taxpayers, Williams points to the four years' experience of the Housing Commission of the Detroit Housing Commission. "The housing program during the last four years by a total of more than 144,000 dollars in new construction, less than 117,000 Detroit families still without adequate homes."

H. E. Alles, executive secretary of the Michigan Association of Home Builders, has urged the governor's blanket indictment.

One requirement in the new federal public housing act, recently adopted by Congress, is that cities which obtain federal housing subsidies must eliminate their own subsidies in an amount equal to the number of new public housing units provided.

A Washington business service has assured home builders that the federal housing program will call for only about 10 per cent of the housing industry's total capacity of one million homes per year. As subsidies in an amount equal to low-income workers, it is the intent of Congress that the program will mean a dollar almost never filled in the past by private building.

Governor Williams may have had this in mind when he declared a special session of the Michigan Home Builders do not agree. In the long run, the public will be the judge.

James R. Anderson Awarded Scholarship BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Aug. 11.—James R. Anderson of 789 Southfield, Birmingham, has been awarded a special scholarship valued at \$50 for the 1949-50 school year at Indiana University. Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Anderson, is a sophomore student at the university this year.