

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue...

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The Eccentric is a member of the National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club.

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What Will Check Between the Dutch and the Indonesians?

The agreement between the Dutch and the Indonesians to establish an independent United States of Indonesia is hailed in Washington by many officials as an event equal in importance with India's winning of freedom two years ago.

The backbone of the official opinion, according to correspondents, is the belief that it constitutes a "major check to the spread of Communism throughout Southeast Asia."

This conclusion may be far-fetched. The truth of the matter is that the spread of Communism in the Asiatic region depends upon the solution of pressing social, economic and communal problems. If an independent government of Indonesia, or of India, can do more along the line of improving the conditions of the mass of the peoples in their areas, there will be something of a check to the spread of Communism.

If, on the other hand, the native regimes fall down in their efforts, or fail to do as much as the British or Dutch have done in the past, the independence of these areas will mean nothing whatever in the halting of Communism, but the inefficiency and failure of the native government will accelerate the advance of Communism.

Marriages and Divorces

In 1948, there were 1,802,895 marriages in the United States and approximately 405,000 divorces, according to the U. S. Public Health Service.

It appears that marriages decreased about one-tenth from the 1947 figures and more than one-fifth from the 1946 record. Divorce totals also dropped, the 1948 estimate being one-eighth below 1947 and one-third less than 1946.

We know of no necessary comment on the above figures. Apparently, there were nearly 3,605,790 who decided, in 1948, that they could not live apart and about 800,000 others that decided that they could not live together.

How to Buy at Auctions

Real bargains are to be had at auctions says CHANGING TIMES. The Kiplinger Magazine, in its November issue, but you had better keep your head about you if you expect to get them.

Here are a few simple rules to observe before you bid on an auction. Once the item is on the auction block it is too late to examine what you are buying.

Plan your bidding strategy. Estimate the retail value of the goods, then set your maximum bid 20% or 30% under this figure.

Stay cool and collected. Never let the

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago DECEMBER 1, 1909 The most surprised little girl in town is Bessie Bigelow. Last Saturday afternoon, on returning from a school, she found the home of her parents overflowing with friends who had gathered there for her in celebrating her birthday.

Samuel Jarvis has greatly improved the appearance of his Bates street property by the addition of a fine artificial stone walk along the front. The work is done by Jack Felder and is indeed a credit to the architect.

W. L. Rogers, who has been a permanent supply in the Baptist church for some time past has received a call from the church to become its regular pastor. With this in mind he will resign his stenographic position in Detroit.

The Sigma Tau sorority of BHS met on Monday eve at the home of one of the sisters at the suggestion of Misses May and Edyth Kozitz. Dell Ward and Maad Campbell, former G. Menon Williams at served and "everyone had a good time."

Little Reel McKinley tried going down a well head first last week but otherwise believed he would be landed on a board placed above the water and was rescued. It is believed that he was responsible for having reached the little well in time to save his life.

20 Years Ago DECEMBER 5, 1929 The matter of a shelter for Queen's College has been referred to the village manager by E. S. Tillotson. In former years a voting booth has been moved to the lake for this purpose, but has been found too small and not a suitable building.

The elimination of all signs overhanging Birmingham sidewalks will be done soon under a new ordinance. The ordinance requires the new code will allow only the display of such signs that are not against the building. The code also eliminates swinging signs and those displayed as banners across any city street.

Clara Mae Keller, 15 year old Baiton, was her only comment when she landed after piloting her father's seven-passenger from Lansing.

William Ayling is back home at 11711th Street displaying a very fine nose. He, with his companions, hunted about 60 miles from the city. The reports that each member of the party was successful in making his way to the city, and a wonderful time in the wilderness.

Members of the Quenton School Harmonica band will present a program next Wednesday at the school meeting of the Lions club. This will mark the first appearance of the band which is composed of Mrs. Edith Rosh, Corryell. The band is composed of 15 boys from the fifth and sixth grades.

5 Years Ago DECEMBER 7, 1944 The city commissioners are faced with the problem as to how to provide nursing care for the young children of Birmingham mothers who are engaged in war work. One question presented to them Monday night was how can the day nursery operated by Mrs. Merrick be enlarged? They will hold the problem for further study.

Herbert H. Gardner and Ernest Seaborn president and chairman of the board of the Birmingham National bank attended the state bankers' convention in Lansing Tuesday and Wednesday. Gardner presided over the opening session on Tuesday morning.

Charles Calloway, 33, chief assistant service manager for the Cadillac motor company, died Saturday evening after being overcome with acid fumes. He was struck while trying to clean out a well at his home, 4180 W. Maple.

The Birmingham recreation board asks all parents to warn their children that ice on vicinity lakes and ponds is in a dangerous condition. Many have been seen skating within the past few days and the board warns that there is great danger of a tragedy taking place unless the ice is as thick as that at present.

Announcement was made this week of the new proprietorship of the meat department at the Garrett grocery on E. Woodward. Vern Keeher, who has been in butcher here for the past 14 years, will continue his management of the department. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett will continue with the grocery department.

STRICTLY FRESH SANTA CLAUS will fill the Christmas stockings, but it's Dad who takes the sock. The guy who wets his whistle while driving is apt to have a narrow squeak. People are predicting dollar-a-pounds for the winter. Will suit the Oolong boys to a tee.

The National Association of Men's Apparel Clubs estimates that men will buy up to 88 per cent of the clothing men wear. No wonder the world is so full of minks.

Have You Met... Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Booth who have come with their children, Janet and Tommie from Fort Worth, Texas, to reside at 1878 Grand. Dr. Booth is associated with Receiving Hospital.

A Good Tip



Michigan Mirror INTERPRETING THE NEWS By Gene Allman

Tuition fees and other charges paid by students at the University of Michigan and Michigan State College have doubled in recent years. Whereas students paid 20 percent of the U. of M. operating cost in 1929, students today pay double that amount—40 per cent.

One of the best things to hit the Michigan conservation movement many years later, a park program performed by inmates from Michigan prisons, Sigsler ran and writes sports improvements are being completed at the Porcupine Mountain State Park near Ontonagon. Construction work is being pushed also at the Tahquamenon State Park in the Upper Peninsula. Two state recreation areas are being benefited by work programs: Pontiac Lake area and Waterloo recreational area, both in southern Michigan.

Kim Sigsler, still carefree and an aviation enthusiast, is not a pessimist. He would rather run for public office. He is 55, having a good time and free to take any law he likes. All for the sake of where I want, when I want. Sigsler recommended that republicans make an issue of the U. S. "control" of the state democratic party.

Michigan farmers have completed in recent weeks the largest harvest of corn, oats and soybeans in the state. The farm crop was 26 per cent above the 1948 crop, and higher than the previous record crop in 1942. October harvesting weather was nearly perfect.

It will cost you 12 1/2 per cent more to travel on eastern railroads as a result of a rate increase granted at Washington. This increase has been necessary because of higher wages and other operating costs, it is explained.

The Michigan 1949 apple crop is 72 per cent above average with an estimated production of 11,120,000 bushels. All fruit production was 46 per cent above a 10-year average.

Louis M. Nims, Commissioner of the State Department of Revenue, announced that state revenue collection for October 1949, brought an increase of \$1,989,015 over October 1948. The retail sales tax increase was over \$300,000. The utilities tax increase was an increase of \$100,000. The total tax collected by the department for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1950, Comment by Governor G. Mennen Williams: "We will undoubtedly need new revenues to operate at present levels." Robert F. Steadman, State Controller, has been asked to yield a sharp ax on budget requests for more money.

"Forced saving plan" such is the verdict of C. E. Wilson, President of General Motors Corporation, with reference to company-paid pensions won by G.I.O. from Ford Motor Company, U. S. Steel Corporation, and other big business concerns. Wilson calls for an end to "shotgun bargaining methods" and favored "adequate federal" pensions operated on a sound basis.

State department heads have requested increased appropriations in 1950 of nearly \$160,000,000, above amounts appropriated for the ending June 30, 1950. Comment by Governor G. Mennen Williams: "We will undoubtedly need new revenues to operate at present levels." Robert F. Steadman, State Controller, has been asked to yield a sharp ax on budget requests for more money.

More self-reliance by farm people to solve their own health problems is a local economy basis was recommended by panel speakers at the Third Michigan Rural Health Conference sponsored by the Michigan State Medical Society. Authorities agreed that there is too much reliance placed on the federal government to remedy rural health conditions.

Reflecting the jittery thinking of many citizens about atomic warfare was a recent news report that salt mines beneath Detroit offered an ideal refuge for munition plants. A recent article by Colliers that Detroit was the number one target for atomic bomb attack if and when war broke out with Russia. What next?

"Any Way You Slice It"

Our community is generously sprinkled with men who make their living in some phase of the automobile industry and when time comes round for the automobile shows in various cities of our nation the boys, many of them, follow the circuit much in the same manner as the farmers follow the county fairs. Why not, they have much in common. Many of the top automotive engineers and production men gained their first practical mechanical knowledge by fixing the side cutter on the old moving machine, or replacing the point on the plow back on the farm.

This situation usually ripens again when the successful automobile man returns to the soil, buys a farm and becomes a commuter.

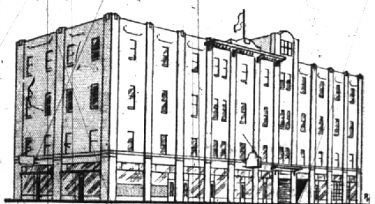
Before I get too far away from my original idea I would like to mention Larry Falvey, the British Austin Dealer from Bloomfield Hills, who learned his trade in France and at one time was a foreign distributor for the Graham automobile in the old country. He gave me a copy of "The Autocar", an automobile trade journal every day except Saturdays, up to five p.m. After five p.m. the price dropped to two dollars and six pence. This was the admission price for all day on Saturdays. The price procedure is just about backwards of the American system, in which admission prices usually are given a boost in the evening and on weekends.

Besides automobiles and a complete showing of accessories there were also sections devoted to coachwork and caravans, or large, sections for the showing of boats and marine equipment.

Spectators could go in to see the displays for the sum of five shillings every day except Saturdays, up to five p.m. After five p.m. the price dropped to two dollars and six pence. This was the admission price for all day on Saturdays. The price procedure is just about backwards of the American system, in which admission prices usually are given a boost in the evening and on weekends.

By now you have probably wondered whether Earl Court is a town, a part of the city or a building. I wish I could answer that in detail, but I can't. It is a building and also appears to be an area of the city of London. It is a huge triangular shaped building with all facilities needed to conduct a show of this type. Entrances and exits are similar to those in American ball parks. There are private rooms running around the outside and there are numerous basements and sub-basements with escalators to upper areas. It has lounge rooms, grills, tavern rooms and all other facilities in various places in the layout.

One of its outstanding features in my estimation is a two-deck car park with capacity for 1,000 automobiles. Most of this descriptive material is taken from a floor plan cut-away illustration of the building and not too much can be learned from that. I would say, however, that it may possibly be the outstanding automobile show place in the world.



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WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

Pic-Tours of Europe advertisement featuring illustrations of people and text about travel packages to Europe, including visits to London, Paris, and Sweden.

Advertisement for 'STRICTLY FRESH' clothing, featuring illustrations of a man in a suit and text about men's apparel and clothing trends.

Advertisement for 'TEST YOUR I. Q.' featuring a list of 10 questions and answers related to general knowledge and current events.

Advertisement for Wabek State Bank of Detroit, highlighting home improvement financing and storage services.