

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

PAGE 2, PART 3 Thursday, Jan. 20, 1949 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

The Quorton Lake Incident

Tragedy stalked the lake at Quorton Lake last Thursday when a group of youngsters from Barnum school were lured by the water to the other side of the fence. Because Nancy Carlisle, the girl who plunged into the river channel, can swim, and because her chum, Patty Hummel was quick-thinking, and did not panic when she saw Nancy vanish under the water, it was a case of just a ducking in the icy river. The city has erected barriers, cutting the river channel from the skating area, and erected signs that skating is not safe there. However, youngsters, being youngsters, had to find out for themselves. Fortunately their adventure did not end tragically. It should, though, be a lesson to them and to others. The area is dangerous since the water there is too swift for safe ice to form. Schools and parents can aid in averting tragedy by warning their children of this, and they, by obeying this warning, can assure happy skating to all.

Airlift Fools The Russians

The Anglo-American airlift, or "Operation Vittles," as it is called in Berlin, is probably the world's most efficient air-transport operation. It has reached the point where General Clay can permit extra deliveries of coal to more than 2,000,000 citizens in the Western sectors. This was impossible, of course, if the airlift was not exceeding expectations. From Berlin comes the news that the airlift, which costs the United States about \$10,000,000 a month, is more than delivering the more than 4,000 tons of food and other supplies required daily. Present stockpiles of coal can last for forty-three days, of sugar for forty-three days, flour for forty-two days and meat for twenty-three days. The successful operation of the airlift is not altogether a flying job. Maintaining facilities, such as runways, takes many workers and thousands of individuals are busy collecting and transporting materials to the airlift for transport to Berlin.

The Russians, no doubt, are disappointed at the determination of the British and Americans to continue the airlift. While the cost has been somewhat high, the fact remains that it is less than more drastic, and possibly, dangerous operations. The airlift has successfully thwarted the effort to drive the Western allies out of Berlin. In addition, it has won considerable goodwill for the Western allies among the German people.

Lots of people are so very busy making money that they never learn how to enjoy it.

Says Republicans Shatter Party Hopes, But Democrats Shatter Hopes of World

By Ester Van Wagener Taft
Two big blunders have been made already by the new Congress. One by the Republicans. One by the Democrats. The Republicans shattered the hopes of young vigorous progressivism in their party by electing Senator Robert Taft in the No. 1 spot in the senate. The Democrats were equally stupid. To pack the Foreign Relations Committee with Democratic senators is a blow to the spirit of our bi-partisan foreign policy. It indicates that the Republicans do not cooperate despite the preponderant proof to the contrary under the leadership of Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg. Then why did the Democratic Caucus elect Senator Taft? That they were under great pressure from the victorious senators to get on this important committee is known to every man between senators was embarrassing. To add more was an "out" with the Democrats. They feared the coming of an uncompromising, Republican to the committee. They said "We don't want Taft for his views would end bi-partisanship." And it is true that Taft is an eye frequently on world politics. But this argument is weak since the senator elected for the Republican vacancy was liberal, international-minded Wayne Morse of Oregon. With great and admirable restraint, ranking committee member Arthur H. Vandenberg had to say about the new ratio: "I think it is regrettable and not particularly intelligent to have a bi-partisanship hospital." It was the Michigan senator who insisted on the 7-6 ratio when he became chairman of the committee when the Republicans took over in 1946. Indicative of the Republican attitude is the word non-partisan, rather than bi-partisan. The new Democrats on the committee is Claude Pepper of Florida. (Certainly, keeping Pepper to line will be as difficult

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO January 20, 1899

Congressman Samuel W. Smith has notified this village that he has presented the name of John Hanna to be appointed postmaster here. Every citizen of this village has the very best of luck in his new position, and we all know he will handle the job most capably.

Have you tried our genuine clover honey or our home-made maple syrup on your pancakes and biscuits lately? Each is perfect, each to please even the fastidious palate. Try them now, only 25c a gallon. Whitehead and Mitchell.

Lieut. M. O. Bigelow started last Monday to return to his command in Cuba. Although not real strong he is expected at going. We hope he has made no mistake.

Miss Bertha Park was graduated with high honors from the Grace Hospital training school for Nurses Tuesday evening of this week.

The Birmingham Improvement Society finds themselves richer by about \$20 since receiving the Dutch check. Although the check was only 10c for the supper and although some of the customers left at least five times that amount they still managed to come out ahead and will soon be figuring out how to spend it. They say and make Birmingham better.

20 YEARS AGO January 24, 1929

Eight vicinity persons were injured as a sudden weather change left streets and sidewalks slick. A car here last Tuesday. Every where walks and highways were like water. The driver was killed, wires fell under the weight of ice, adding to the hazards.

The switch, turning Woodward avenue into a miniature "white way" last Saturday night, and for the first time 100 new lamp posts will throw their light on the new streets. These new lights more impressive, the old lights will be turned off in a few months, and the new ones take over their duties.

Forbes S. Haswell, 214 North Woodward, has been appointed deputy county clerk to succeed J. W. Y. Haswell. He is expected to enter private law practice. Haswell passed his state bar examination last September.

Planting of the 15 year old trees in the new building block is under way, and is expected to be completed within the week. There will be a total of 15 trees, each about 10 inches in diameter. The project is completed, according to Emil G. Olin, tree surgeon.

Pierre de Lanux of France, will start the Roy Oak high school, The Birmingham-Royal Oak class on foreign politics will be held in the new "Modern Manners in Foreign Policy" for his topic, and is one of the highest authorities on the subject in his country today.

5 YEARS AGO January 20, 1944

At a special election Friday night, Southfield Township School District 3 voted its approval for annexation to the Birmingham School District. The vote on the proposed annexation, 128 to 5, was ample proof that the act met with the approval of township residents.

Plans for the 1944 annual Red Cross fund-raising will be made at a meeting of the Oakland County chapter Friday night. Directors, committee chairman and volunteer workers are asked to join the meeting to be held in the Fernside Women's Club.

Dr. Mahin Newcomer, noted authority on winter, snowing picture making has much in common with summertime shots. For snow scenes, like beach scenes, require shorter exposures than other pictures. Snow, like sand on a beach, reflects the light and this reflected light permits a smaller aperture or faster shutter speed than for average scenes.

In this connection you will recall that normal exposure for an average scene is subject in bright sunlight is 1/50 at f/11 with most roll films. But snow scenes are not average subjects. A snow scene with people in the foreground, made on a bright sunny day, calls for a shorter exposure, such as 1/100 at f/11. And a sunny scene, without foreground objects, permits you to use the even shorter exposure of 1/200 at f/11. But the matter of shortened ex-

posure is not the only way in which snow shots resemble those made at the beach. There's the business of lighting. Again, you probably remember that pictures of people made at the beach often turn out extremely well because of the even illumination provided by light reflected from the sand. The same thing holds good for snowy shots. Shadows are likely to be less harsh than in other types of pictures.

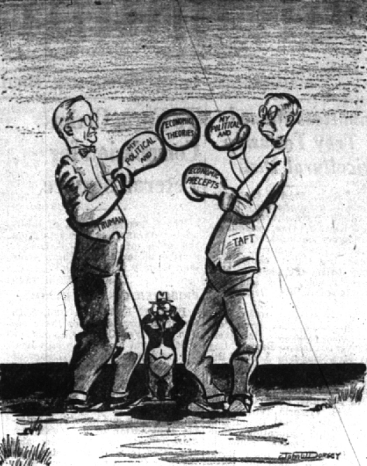
So don't let your camera waver just as many picture possibilities as a summer—children on their sleds, scenic views of trees heavily laden with ice, snapshots of winter sports. A camera should give you twelve months of pleasure. And will, when you use it wisely.

LITTLE HOUSE

Once we lived there and now forevermore
All of it has become a part of me:
The shadow of our littlest maple tree
That reached inside the open kitchen door.
And all the flowers that ever came to bloom:
The wrens, the robins and the woods in spring.
The creaky pump, the low roof, everything
Makes it hold dear. Each narrow shabby room
That held our treasures and our memories,
The outdoor fireplace, the lilacs, and
The bookshelves and the homebuilt writing stand,
Even the spot where each thing stood! All these
Are treasured things. Love is a jeweled thread
Binding the little house and me together.

—BEATRICE McDONALD

To Be Continued



Community Responds To Plight of Family Fire Made Homeless Internationally Speaking

Remember the "good old days" when neighbors gathered, from near and far in time of trouble? Dream about them no longer, for they are still with us. Thursday morning, Jan. 6, Mr. and Mrs. Donald McGaffey and their six boys were made homeless by fire. Before dark they had four offers of temporary housing. Now, sparked by the members of the Birmingham Exchange Club, they have really had those "good old days" come back, in a large way. R. G. Hoover has made available to them a recently completed building at 1268 South Bates. Members of the club were divided into five groups, each with a captain. A personal call was made to each member for the loan of household furnishings. Through this method, sufficient furniture was obtained to completely supply their home. The Birmingham Movers donated a truck and driver, and accompanied by McGaffey, went from home to home, selecting the items needed. The McGaffey furniture, linens and clothing were either water-soaked or still with smoke fumes so badly that none were usable. The family plans to return the borrowed items as they are able to get their own in use. In addition to the work of the Club, Holy Name Church responded to the call, offering their support. Several neighbors and friends offered articles of clothing, and some even offered food. The result of the drive is that the McGaffey family is now safely and comfortably housed. In time their own furnishings, clothing, linens and household effects, as well as their home, will be ready for

Have You Met...

The new family from St. Paul, Minn.: They are Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Butler and their sons, David and Donald now living at 1928 Graebler. Mr. Dale is with the Wood Conversion Company.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Peterson, their children Dwight, Bruce and Arnold, live at 1848 Union Street, Buffalo, N. Y., to 1678 Taunton? Mr. Peterson is with the American Incinerator Corporation.

them to take up life there again. In the meantime, they have had the wholehearted support of their community at a time when it was badly needed.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Here's a pleasant picture of winter fun, snapped using an exposure of 1/100 at f/8 with a filter.

Shooting in the Snow

DISPITE the differences between summer and winter, snowing picture making has much in common with summertime shots. For snow scenes, like beach scenes, require shorter exposures than other pictures. Snow, like sand on a beach, reflects the light and this reflected light permits a smaller aperture or faster shutter speed than for average scenes. In this connection you will recall that normal exposure for an average scene is subject in bright sunlight is 1/50 at f/11 with most roll films. But snow scenes are not average subjects. A snow scene with people in the foreground, made on a bright sunny day, calls for a shorter exposure, such as 1/100 at f/11. And a sunny scene, without foreground objects, permits you to use the even shorter exposure of 1/200 at f/11. But the matter of shortened ex-

Michigan Mirror

By Gene Allaman

LANING—"The people want more spending for public benefits. Economy is no longer popular," signed the state official. "I don't believe we could be elected dog-catcher today on a platform of thrift in government."

The official was discussing over two fabled trends: (1) election verdicts of November, 1948, and (2) post-election derogative programs of the Democratic and Republican presidential nominees (Harry Truman and Thomas E. Dewey) and Michigan Governor G. Mennen Williams.

On this basis the evidence appears to be overwhelming and covers both parties, Democrat and Republican. No "sour grapes" are implied. Here's the picture, and you can judge for yourself.

President Truman proposes a federal budget of 41.9 billions for our 1949-50 fiscal year, as compared to 36.5 billions for 1947-48. National defense would get 14.3 billions, foreign aid 6.7 billions, 5.5 billions for veteran benefits, 5.45 billions for national debt. All these items, related to national security, total approximately 75 per cent.

The remaining 25 per cent, for national government amounts to 10 billions, just three times what we spent for public services in 1948. During the top World War I year we spent 14.4 billions for national defense; 4.1 billions for public services.

How would the 10 billions (for public services) be spent? Here's the national program:

For social welfare, health and security—1,063 billions in 1949 and 2,458 billions in 1950. More and new public benefits, financed in part by payroll deductions. For example: Old age insurance taxes (paid equally by employer and employee) would be increased from 1.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent in 1949, instead of Jan. 1, 1950. Compulsory health insurance would be financed by a 1/2 per cent payroll tax (employer and employee) starting July 1, 1949. More taxes would follow.

Unemployment insurance would be extended to workers of small firms, employing less than eight workers. This would involve a payroll tax (employer only) of 3 per cent for two years and thereafter a minimum of 1 per cent and a maximum of 4 per cent annually.

Agriculture would get 1.6 billions, national resources 1.8 and transportation and communications (highways) \$1.6 billion. Governor Thomas E. Dewey's

legislative program is equally liberal spending for public benefits. The state budget of New York would be boosted from 456 millions, five years ago, to 812 millions. Education would get 31.2 compared with 13, or more than double. Public works, 52.7 vs. 17.8 state agencies, 123, or 74, and so on.

Among the liberal benefits proposed by Dewey: 300 millions for public housing; disability (sickness) insurance for industrial workers; a bigger health service budget and public power (electricity) from the St. Lawrence Deywey emphasizes: "We must respond to the needs and obligations for continued and increased services by the people of our state." On a basis of such needs, readily and easily proved, New York state taxes are to be increased sharply.

Governor Williams' legislative proposals call for bigger and better public benefits right down the line. Higher wages, higher payments for workmen's compensation, more medical benefits for disabled workers, higher unemployment compensation, more old-age assistance, higher gasoline and weight limits providing "those taxes are part of a complete high-way program" and better care of the mountains.

The gap between Michigan's budget expenditures and budgeted income is 60 millions. The legislature's big task is to decide how these additional benefits are to be financed—WHQ is to foot the bill?

If President Truman and Governor Dewey and Williams accurately interpret the desires of the American people, then more public benefits, more government in our personal lives and more state socialism are on the way.

To oppose this trend is to invite the label of being a "reactionary," one who is opposed to social progress.

Since public officials want to be re-elected and since public spending is obviously popular today, you arrive inescapably at this conclusion:

We're on the way to bigger and better things. Keep your pocketbook handy to help pay for them.

Have You Met...

Mr. and Mrs. Manley Martin, owners of Detroit, and their children Frank and Suzanne who are making their new home at 715 St. Charles, Dr. Martin is Plans superintendent with Marvel Industries.

WABEK STATE BANK
OF DETROIT
BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEK BUILDING

WHEN YOU PAY BY CHECK YOU MAY SAVE ON TAXES

Your check book helps greatly in the task of filling out your income tax return to the best advantage. It forms an accurate record of deductible payments for contributions, taxes, medical costs, interest and your cancelled checks are proof of payment. Day in and day out, a checking account saves time and trouble. And here at your friendly bank, a small deposit is all you need to open a pay-as-you-go checking account.

John van Guilder