

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

Water Not Always Free

Many people think that water and air are free. While the statement is true as to air, it is not correct as to water in connection with the necessities of those who live in cities.

For example, the City of New York has expended about \$800,000,000 in its water supply facilities. Even now, additional dams and concrete-lined tunnels are being constructed to guarantee the necessary daily supply of water for the nearly eight million people who are served in this metropolitan area.

Birmingham city officials, too, are aware that our local water facilities will need further expansion as this community continues to grow. They also realize that water is not free, that sizeable expenditures will have to be made in providing adequate water supply to residents.

As people congregate and form communities, it is discovered that municipalities can perform certain services—such as water supply, fire and police protection, etc.—better than can be done individually.

It is always interesting to hear a business man speak in favor of competition because of the custom of so many leaders of business to seek, in various ways, to secure something of a monopoly.

Edgar G. Burton a business man of Toronto, Canada, says that "there are all too many in the business community who think they should be protected from competition by using various devices of their own monopoly, cartelization, price-fixing and the power of the state to establish restrictive standards."

This is a statement that is worth remembering. Every one of the devices named by Mr. Burton has been used, from time to time, by business men to eliminate competition and thus stifle the mainspring of private enterprise.

The practice is not confined to the leaders of big business but can be exemplified in the operations of many whose business is confined to the smaller towns and cities of the nation.

One trouble with Congress these days is that it is filled with too many good-intentioned people. Remember that place supposed to be paved with good intentions?

Some day a great person will create a system whereby Truth will be easier to discover and apply in human relationships; until then, of course, it will be avoided by many people.

The perplexing problem of do-gooders in government is to get people to pay for services that they do not need.

The Human Race



But get a load of Gaston's chivalry in traffic!



"Diplomas For Wives"

A novel idea, but one which should be widely approved, gave to the wives of 173 married seniors at Lehigh University, certificates of recognition at the commencement exercises of that institution.

John A. Nere, a senior, who served in World War II, and is the father of a six-weeks-old daughter, expressed the idea that his wife, Anne, and other veterans' wives, should be honored for assisting their husbands in completing their educations.

Accordingly, at the June 20th commencement of the University, the wives received certificates, expressing gratitude to them as loyal wives, who "with devotion and understanding, encouraged" their husbands "in the successful completion" of the college course!

We think this recognition is well deserved. The general comment from many educators is that the veterans have made excellent students, giving serious attention to their work and this would have been impossible without the cooperation, encouragement and sacrifice of their wives.

Why Not Go To Russia?

Paul Robeson, Negro singer, says that he loves the "Soviet people more than any other nation."

The Negro had just returned from a tour of the Soviet Union and several countries of Europe. He admits the greatest contempt for the democratic press and that he loves the Russians "because of their suffering and sacrifice for us, the Negro people."

After all, no one should object to the fact that Robeson loves the Russians but Americans might wonder why he does not give up his citizenship and live in the land of the Russians.

The trouble with so many Americans who prefer the Communists is that they stay in this country instead of going to Russia.

Give a beggar a donation every week for three months and he will think you a thief if you stop the dole. The same reasoning applies to extending assistance to some foreign nations.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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

GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher; PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Business Manager; GEORGE W. AVERILL, Advertising Manager; HAROLD P. BUEGE, Circulation Manager.

Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rates: (In Oakland County) One Year \$1.50, Six Months \$1.00, Three Months \$0.50. (Outside Oakland County) One Year \$2.00, Six Months \$1.50, Three Months \$0.75.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish your contributed material providing it has news value and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited expeditiously so that they conform to general newspaper style. Any erroneous reference upon the part of the Eccentric to any person, firm or corporation, which may result in the release of the Eccentric to the attention of the publisher.

America has become the greatest food producing nation in the world because of the free constant markets provided by the commodity exchanges have enabled the farmer to produce to the maximum.

Levy & Watkins, Attorneys-at-Law Ford Building, Detroit, Michigan 48201.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in and to-wit: on the 27th day of June, A.D. 1949.

In the Matter of the Estate of William M. Mansel, Deceased. DOROTHY HENNER, Plaintiff and Virginia Mabel Zoch, Respondents of said estate, having filed in said court a petition praying that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that the time and place be appointed by the court for the hearing and adjustment of said claims and said estate.

It is Ordered, that two months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate. The second of said claims shall be the 6th day of September, 1949, at nine o'clock in the forenoon at said probate office, and in and to-wit: at the residence of the executor of said estate, at the residence of said estate.

ATTEST: E. H. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 years ago JULY 14, 1899. There are many complaints around Birmingham about the reckless and careless way in which animals are driven through our streets.

The telephone men who are putting in the new poles between Detroit and Pontiac are camping on the lot back of the Baptist church. They have a small community of tents there and do their own cooking, etc. All any gentlemen, too.

The first taxpayer this year to get to the front and settle up with the village was Mrs. Marion E. Hemenway. The first person to pay on the due date, July 1, was Henry W. Randall. Taxes are coming in at a very fine rate.

Want a nice comfortable home in the village? Well, the Shadbolt place at the corner of Bates and Merrill will be sold, without reservation, at an auction July 29. Believe me, a piece of property like this is rare. Places like it, in the City of Detroit, are renting for as much as \$10 and \$12 a month!

20 years ago JULY 18, 1929. John Lawson, two weeks ago retired as president of the Birmingham Exchange club was presented with a past president's shield by Harry S. Starr, secretary, at their meeting Tuesday noon in the Lone Pine.

Two traffic deaths were recorded here during the past week. Arthur Huebner, Jontiac, was killed in a truck collision at Square Lake road and Woodward avenue Thursday, and Dorann Eugene Hays, 4, of Franklin was killed Saturday when he dived in front of an automobile driven by Dr. C. H. Gracey.

A record-breaking 96 youngsters are enrolled today for the YMCA camp at Lake Connectic. The children will leave Birmingham this weekend for a ten-day period at camp, where they will be treated to a summer of diversified sports and training programs. Mrs. Henry S. Evans, RN, will be in attendance at the camp.

The final approval of the school district budget, a reduction of about \$6,000 under last year's figure. In spite of this, taxes in the district will be somewhat higher. This is due, entirely, to the lower assessed valuation of local properties.

Police Chief James Anderson announces the addition of three new men, bringing the force to 16. The new officers are Otto Wilson, Henry Timm, and Robert Dunn. Anderson also said that George Townsend, a member of the force for three years, had resigned.

5 years ago JULY 20, 1944. A local resident, who last week bought a house on West Maple, to move into on an Checker has hit snag. The house, apparently, is somewhat larger and the owner, a small man, has thought. Neighbors are objecting, the city building code is being violated, and the neighbors are willing to sell a strip of land to give him the lot width he needs.

Dr. John P. Wood, whose office is located in the Waubeck building, has been elected president of the Osteopathic Association at its 48th annual convention of the House of Delegates in Chicago. Wood is an addition to his practice here, is on the staff of the Detroit Osteopathic hospital in Detroit.

Mrs. G. Eleanor Thun, for the past nine years secretary to the president and assistant cashier of the Birmingham National Bank tendered her resignation. No future plans were announced, but it is said she will continue to make Birmingham her home.

John Brotzman, director of the summer recreation program, has announced that Wednesday afternoon at Springfield Park will be designated as Family Afternoons. The affair will begin July 26, at which time it is expected that local families will make it a point to gather together at the park for an afternoon of fun and frolic.

Police are investigating two local robberies. Miss E. E. Fowler reported that her Lake Park drive home had been entered and two pocketbooks stolen. The second occurred when Dr. John Qua was attacked by two men as he stepped from his car. They recovered \$10 from his pockets, along with the keys to his car and home, and swiftly drove away.

Resolution

It seemed to me that all the days I've known Before me passed in weird review last night. It was a very strange and early sight. Some days there were I quickly blushed to own And wish that for their hours I might alone, And some were so unkind and so bright That I would fain have stayed them in their flight To spend a little while with them alone. It might have been a dream. I can't tell. But if it was, it served its purpose well. For I am now resolved forevermore: To be more helpful than I was before, And keep my days so spotless and so fine That I shall be rejected to call them mine.

—BEATRICE McDONALD.

No Rest for the Weary



THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



Back lighting often helps to make seascapes effective by dappling the water with bright flecks of light.

Marine Scenes

FEW scenic pictures appeal more to those of us who live inland than seascapes with their sun-flecked waters, their rolling, crested breakers.

Because of this, vacationers are quick to try their hand at seascapes... sometimes with results that fall far short of expectations. In general, views of this type are somewhat more difficult than landscapes since a broad expanse of sky and water often has no single, central point of interest.

Such a point of interest is important for good composition. In general, views of this type are somewhat more difficult than landscapes since a broad expanse of sky and water often has no single, central point of interest.

While seascapes, of necessity, are "vacation shots" to all save those who live along the coast, the same rules will hold good when making snaps at nearby lakes. So, vacation time or not, try making shots of water. You'll find that a point of interest and a short exposure will help give you better pictures whether of the ocean or an inland lake.

Ticklers



By George



"Stop beefin"—in Russia they'd throw us in a "labor battalion."

"Any Way You Slice It"

HAL P. BUEGE. Tote that barge... lift that bale, he doesn't get drunk and he has never been in jail, but the first part of this sentence, "Old Man River" is very descriptive of the way Harold H. Gasser works in behalf of the Birmingham Sideline Quarterback Club.

I wouldn't be bringing it up at this time, but if I don't I probably will keep putting it off and this man who has literally knocked himself out promoting Quarterback activities will never get the credit he deserves.

There are lots of Birmingham men who do much work in behalf of the club and their constituents, the kids of Birmingham, but most of them get their just dues in the form of publicity because Harold always prepares the material for the newspaper. He mentions all the names of the men who work, but always leaves out his own. Even some of those who work reasonably hard in the interest of the cause will admit that Harold has worked harder than anyone else on each and everyone of the club's numerous projects.

The bowling league, the Junior Olympics, the bowling banquet, bringing in football pictures and speakers, nearly everything the club does Gasser has both hands in where others have only a finger.

He doesn't want any recognition and probably will be on my back when he catches up with me over this little bit of praise, but the damage has already been done and there is only one thing left to say—the coat fits, Harold, so put it on and wear it.

I am deeply indebted to someone and ashamed of myself for not being able to say more. According to a Congressional Department report from Washington recently, it was disclosed that the total output of alcoholic drinks was estimated by the department at \$8 billion 3 hundred million in 1948.

The average worked out to an approximate \$60.00 for each man, woman and child in America. That would mean that my family would have to consume \$360.00 of spirits in order to keep from being a burden on society. Well, I've got news for somebody. Don't unbend your elbow and keep your aspirin handy because you are going to buy my share again this year. Thanks sucker.

It may sound like the country is increasing their drinking each year, but this is not quite the case. In fact, the total list for 1948 represent an 8.7% decrease over those for 1947. However, it is doubtful if Alcoholics Anonymous will disband immediately.

Michigan Mirror

By Gene Allemen. Is Michigan slipping as a tourist state? The "Old Traveler" of the Automobile Club of Michigan, thinks so.

In fact, he provoked quite a controversy among Michigan newspaper editors by saying just this: "A summer meeting of the Michigan Press Association at Hotel Top-in-a-bag on Mullet Lake, Cheboygan, Mich., don't forget our 62 fountains parks and 300 roadside picnic tables, provided and maintained by the state highway department."

It is Furlong's belief that Michigan citizens, particularly those living in the tourist regions, cannot afford to rest "on their oars." Forty-five of the 48 states now compete to attract tourists. Eight states joined the ranks in the past two years.

The state legislature this year turned thumbs down on a bill, sponsored by the conservation department, to grant blank-check authority to build and operate hotels and cabins on state land. Strangely enough, most members of the conservation commission privately frowned on this last year. So did the state legislature!

The behkischer "Old Traveler" now promoting Michigan attractions for ten years, started something when he prodded newspaper editors to Top-in-a-bag, an intelligent and prolific writer, he may have done it deliberately. The result has been a reappraisal of Michigan's tourist resources and perhaps a reawakening to the need for every citizen to be friendly host this summer to millions of visitors.

Is Your Car Ready for Your Vacation?

Robert Furlong, secretary of the Michigan Tourist Council, added his conviction to the controversy.

"All available statistics about Michigan show a 3,000 mile shortage of roads, a 100,000 mile shortage of rest areas, and a 100,000 mile shortage of gas stations. Michigan is falling behind."

"Traffic at the Straits of Mackinac from July 1 to 5 inclusively was 100 per cent higher than one year ago."

GENERAL AUTO SERVICE WOODWARD AT FOREST Phone 336