

Hold To Our Rights

The freedom of the people of Birmingham, along with that of millions of other Americans, is protected by the Bill of Rights.

Just now the United States is hearing much about subversive, un-American and other peculiar activities.

As one outstanding editor has said: "Committees that have studied un-American activities will render the greatest service if they tell us what un-American conditions make Americans discontented with America and how these conditions may be corrected."

You Can Do Your Part

Every resident of Birmingham can make a contribution to democratic government.

It is not by abusing Soviet Russia, the Communist Party or Joseph Stalin. It is not by urging a war against the Communist ideology or the Russian people.

When there is a deviation from the accepted principles of democracy in the government of Birmingham or Michigan, or any other unit of American Government, it can be scored as a gain for the isms that we say we abhor.

Why Read? This sounds like a silly question but there are so many people who seldom seek to expand their mental vision through the simple process of reading a book.

With public libraries available, there is no need for an individual to go to any unnecessary expense to become informed. For a few cents, or less, a volume can be secured upon almost any subject that interests the individual.

How many of our present crop of governmental do-gooders are as generous with their own money as they are with the public's? Ask one of 'em for a loan and he'll no doubt refer you to some governmental agency.

Let's make 1949 a banner year in highway safety! Don't hurry to kill a person, which may turn out to be yourself.

Internationally Speaking

By Eugene Hess International States Analyst The illness of Sir Stafford Cripps is very regrettable for a number of reasons.

Ticklers

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Brink, 784 Southfield, and their two sons, David and Peter? The family recently moved here from Mountain Lake, N. J., and Mr. Brink is with the Ford Motor Company.

Oh, Summer Winds that sing to brides Sing to each lovely summer bride Sing to each lovely summer bride Sing to each lovely summer bride

Why don't you bring the boy friend around some time? What's the matter, are you ashamed of him?

A Job for Ex-Presidents

Mr. Herbert Hoover, former President, thinks that it might be well to permit Presidents, upon retiring from office, to become members of the Senate, but without the right to vote.

The suggestion follows long years of speculation as to how the nation can make use of the experience gained by a Chief Executive. The ex-president would be in the Senate, available to give information on any subject before that body and through it to the country at large.

We see no great objection to the Hoover proposal which would, at least, give our ex-presidents a job with a salary. The possibility exists that, if divorced from an idea of a return to office, the advice of the former chief executive might be valuable.

Free Melody

The other evening we enjoyed an ice cream soda in a place where stands one of those gaily colored juke boxes. As various persons put in their nickels for a tune of their liking, it occurred to us that right here, in America, one may (or may not) enjoy melodies with or without one's own nickels.

We presume that the average juke box repertoire, however, is made up for the juvenile type of mind... though now and then our older folks may hear something with a nostalgic tinge... and shed an inner tear for the inability of contemporary youth to enjoy something less than a cross between a jungle jingle and a circus calliope.

One of the anomalies of life is to witness the average modest male or female dressed in conventional habiliments, being so careful that no indecorous portion of the anatomy is revealed to cause conversation... and then watch them talk about a bathing beach, almost undressed. This observation, being made by a man, of necessity (?) must, of course, emphasize the feminine part of the anomaly... not that we are against what we observe on a beach at all... but...

There's one big advantage of democratic government: if you don't like the men in office, YOU can run for their jobs.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 125 Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11, 12, 13 and 14. Editor and Publisher: PAUL NEWBERRY. Managing Editor: GEORGE W. AVERILL. Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan, October 11, 1934. Subscriptions: One Year \$1.50 (Outside Oakland County) One Year \$1.75 (Outside Oakland County) Three Months .45 Six Months .90

His illness, however, is much more regrettable for highly political and economical reasons. England had only three ways to avoid the present crisis: Firstly, it could have continued the policy of sterling block preference, a narrow and dangerous path. The second alternative was to obtain still more help from the United States, going beyond the E.C.A. Marshall Plan assistance; however, this way appeared and actually is impossible. Sir Stafford chose the third way: still more austerity. He failed for two reasons: A weak corporation cannot be cured by retrenchment alone. Streamlining of the manufacturing processes is a must. As Mr. Roy Gifford of the Detroit Board of Commerce repeatedly pointed out, the lack of such policies would prove highly dangerous to the British economy. We might ask ourselves: how was it possible that the English crisis came to the British suddenly? World business has basically changed in 1949. The sellers' market is a thing of the past. In a competitive world economy the British product is definitely too expensive. Whether Sir Stafford returns to his post or not, his policies have failed, but by no means solely through his own measures.

Have You Met?

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Brink, 784 Southfield, and their two sons, David and Peter? The family recently moved here from Mountain Lake, N. J., and Mr. Brink is with the Ford Motor Company.

For Summer Brides

Oh, Summer Winds that sing to brides Sing to each lovely summer bride Sing to each lovely summer bride Sing to each lovely summer bride

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO July 21, 1899 After 38 years of hard work, our friend Albert Franklin has laid aside the "living career" that wear out his eyes and his feet. From the firm of Rust & Bingham, to enjoy the fruits of his industry, his very popular son-in-law, George Bingham, will continue the business alone.

Last Saturday morning a young man, unknown to William Baum, hired a horse from his livery stable to drive to North Farmington. Since neither the young man nor the horse had been seen since William has been forced to seek the aid of the sheriff in locating his property. So far eight people, to whom the stranger tried to sell the rig, have been found.

See here, folks! Sam'l Jarvis is doing a nice little business taking out fishing parties to our nearby lakes. He takes six on a trip and does it real cheap. He promises everyone a good time even if they don't get a nibble. Even for you day and off you go, 'Eh for Sam'!

Tracy Bronghton had the misfortune to dislocate right elbow Friday while falling from a hammock. Dr. Beal, assisted by Dr. Cox, hurried to fix him up and both report that a few days of their patient will be as good as new, but probably say of trouble.

William Brooks says troublesome brewing. He no sooner returns his hat on his head than he takes a drink. Like that it goes away again. He strongly suspects it was his own hat he so carefully drove around last Saturday night. At any rate his hat was missing again on Sunday.

20 YEARS AGO July 25, 1929 Donald Eckert recently assumed his duties as the first building inspector for the Village of Birmingham. Prior to accepting this position he had worked as a city engineer in Stuart and Palm City, Fla.

A Blue Goose bus made a sudden stop at the intersection of Woodward and 13th streets last week as it crashed into the Old U. S. waiting room. All 10 passengers were uninjured. The driver said he swung the bus to avoid striking another vehicle.

According to reports, work is progressing more rapidly than expected on the new Community House being built at the corner of Bates and Townsend. The building is to be situated on the corner of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills, to give the area a central meeting place for many phases of its social life.

The citizens of Oakland County will hold their annual picnic Aug. 1 at Bloomfield Park. According to the board of supervisors, one of the biggest events in the history of the county is planned, with plans to attract more than plenty to eat. Everyone is invited.

Washington Berger and George Townsend, former Birmingham politicians, will offer a complete line of auto accessories and road maintenance.

5 YEARS AGO July 27, 1944 Rain yesterday gave at least temporary relief to the grass situation which has been serious in this vicinity for several weeks. Chief V. W. Griffith warned homeowners that the amount of rain, however, will control the situation for only a few days, unless more falls at once, extreme caution must still be exercised.

In spite of the high feeling against them, Mr. and Mrs. Black Starling and all their young, have returned to Birmingham again this year. They have been greeted with the old shotgun treatment, which in some locations residents are turning the nose on their faces. They just don't take the hint.

Police report a sudden dropping off of speeding cases in the city. During the past several weeks only one arrest has been made, causing Harry Flavin, Flint, to say it may be driving 50 mph in a 35 mile zone.

Sweet-toothed residents are at all in happy over the announcement that the honey crop this year is going to be far below normal. What with the government restrictions on sugar cutting into the candy industry and all sweets which can be made at home, this comes as a real blow.

Birmingham girls, 14 in all, will be competing in the annual swim meet at the city pool.

—BEATRICE McDONALD

Time's a-Wasting



Rest of Gov't Offices Should Follow Example of GAO, Dondoro Declares

WASHINGTON—"In his message to Congress last week," said Congressman George A. Dondoro yesterday, "President Truman made it clear that he opposes any increase in the federal government spending. It is evident the GAO is one agency of government which is doing a good job at the lowest possible cost.

"That the GAO is doing a superlatively good job is demonstrated by the fact it not only pays its own way but in addition makes substantial contributions each year to the United States Treasury. It saves hundreds of millions of dollars by its careful watch over the spending of all federal departments, bureaus and agencies.

"World Cut Budget Demands "During the past eight years the GAO has recovered and put back to the Treasury more than \$500,000,000 that was either improperly or illegally paid out by various departments of government. In the last five years the GAO has returned to the Treasury more than \$15,000,000 of its own appropriations.

"If all the rest of the government agencies in the executive branch would follow the example of the General Accounting Office, it would cut a big hole in the budget. It is the duty of Congress to see that the GAO is maintained at least \$1,000,000,000 annually so that it can continue to do its job without impairment of the efficiency of a single essential department, bureau, or agency."

The Eccentric's Camera Corner



Use of supplementary flash in daylight will help you to lighten shadows such as those cast by a broad-brimmed or peaked hat.

Flash Plus Daylight

ONE of our readers has asked about the use of flash outdoors in daylight—supplementary flash, as it's called. "When he writes, a flash recommended for daylight shots" and what should I know about it? You can use flash much as you might use a white card reflector to brighten dark shadow areas or perhaps more important — to light up your subjects in fully back-lighted pictures. Sometimes, for instance, you may wish to snap a girl in a crowd. Or a small child in the window of a car. Or almost any back-lighted subject where normal daylight exposure is not sufficient. All these are places where supplementary flash is used in daylight to advantage, provided you use your flash wisely, and that's where our reader's second question comes in: "What should I know about it?" Let's try to answer that briefly.

"Any Way You Slice It"

HAL P. BUEGGE I had one of the finest laughs of the short lived fishing season the other day, as Clark Scriven related the initial triumph of his young son as a budding Jack Walton. I fully realized that catching fish is a tremendous task but what I didn't take into consideration is the fact that once they are caught they can still be a problem.

David Scriven is 10 years old and every summer the youngster spends his vacation at the family cottage at a lake near Ann Arbor. Angling has taken his fancy of late and as the fishing season opened he took to the waters in the family boat. He was accompanied by his pal Scotty, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Collis Scott of Pontiac.

Their luck wasn't too red hot the first few times out and even though they landed various species of pan fish, it would take better lars than two little boys to impress anyone with them. So, they just kept baiting their hooks and hoping for better things.

Only a few more days passed before David dangled his bait before the nose of a hungry and gullible bass. He wasn't big enough to win any prizes, but he would look respectable on any fisherman's string and the boys were very proud of him.

Proper procedure was to measure and weigh the specimen and catalogue with the details of the struggle to land him; the kind of bait and the spot on the lake in which he dwelled, etc. The boy took care of all the details.

Clark Scriven drives back and forth daily from the cottage to Dickinson's Store, which he manages, and as he drove to the cottage at the close of the day, two little eager beavers had a big fishing yarn to spin.

"Dad," said David, "he weighed 17 ounces, he was 10 1/2 inches long and boy! I did put up a good fight, etc." He was all excited as he told his father that Scotty tested the bass in a free-for-all in the middle of the lake.

It was a mighty thrilling tale and Clark was all worked up to a point where he thought he might do a little fishing himself. What was more important, he had visions of having the wonderful fish for breakfast before he returned to work the next morning.

Finally he got around to asking to see the fish and it was then that disappointment crept over the faces of the two little boys. If he hadn't felt like laughing, Clark might have been a little let down himself.

"You know, Dad, we tried to save that fish to show you when you came home," David said, almost in tears, "but we couldn't. We put him in a big pail of water where he would keep, but he died anyway and we had to bury him."

I suppose even Hiawatha had to learn the same lesson. On the other hand, he probably didn't have to learn the hard way, as did David and Scotty. They tell me that in those days dads had better sense than we have nowadays. They went fishing with their little boys all the time instead of going to work, and they taught them the habits of fish. Every day in every way humanity is losing its grip and slipping farther ahead.

Michigan Mirror

By Gene Allison Industrial employment in Michigan is showing a steady improvement according to a state average, according to the Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission and the state employment service.

The figure was for July 1. The national average was 6.5 per cent. There are mid-July statistics that the situation is improving somewhat.

At a capital conference on Michigan's economic future, Governor G. Mennen Williams reported that Mackay was the top critical industry center with unemployment running 25 per cent. Providence, Rhode Island, was first in the Nation as a distress center with unemployment at 30 per cent.

Mining operations are lagging in the Upper Peninsula with a result that the northern peninsula has a jobless rating of 35 per cent. Hecla are closed, Jackson has reported 15 per cent of its regular force working to provide idle. Port Huron, 13 per cent; Benton Harbor, 10 per cent, and Grand Haven, 10 per cent.

It is interesting to note that the state's total of employed persons in industry is a pretty much the same today as it was one year ago. College students and high school graduates have entered the summer employment field, making up the current deficit.

How's the state budget? Reflecting the general business downturn, tourist patronage is reported to be less than one year ago. The Michigan Department of Public Safety, headed by George E. Thompson, has reported that the state shows business at "some resorts" to be off as much as 20 to 30 per cent. The current deficit of the state, Blaney Park's aggressive promotion by Ed Drier has been estimated at a 45 per cent increase during the first half of 1949. Reservations are 30 days ahead last year.

Merchants cannot complain until they see the Retail Trade (corrected for prices) on a national scale has dipped only a trifling 1 per cent below the 1948 level. Department stores have been down only 4 per cent otherwise. The sag in consumer income is only a 2 per cent figure. More people are buying Opportunity (government) E. bonds.

Maurice Eveland, banking commissioner, reports that the 357 banks in Michigan are holding \$1.5 billion in deposits. Deposits are three times as large as they were six years ago. He also reports that the state has received \$71 per cent figure of hearing in the Birmingham Economic Council's survey of business conditions in the state. ARTHUR R. MOORE, Judge of Probate, 12-29