

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

Regarding Last Week's NEA Awards

The Birmingham Eccentric was very pleased that in last week's issue we could announce to our readers that we had placed second among the nation's weekly newspapers for service to this community last year.

The National Editorial Association, which made the awards, also ranked the Eccentric sixth among the nation's suburban weekly newspapers for its general excellence.

The Community Service Award was the result of the 28-week series of articles on the responsibilities and duties of local government, written by Managing Editor George William Averill with the excellent cooperation of the various Birmingham city officials who went to considerable length to obtain the facts for the articles.

The Eccentric, in past years, has won several top Michigan press awards, both for newspaper publishing and for printing, as well as several lesser national awards. However, as far as we can accurately recall, through last week's awards from the NEA was the first time we had hit "the bigtime" in national newspaper circles.

We will continue our efforts to make The Eccentric the BEST weekly newspaper in the nation, for we believe this community deserves it.

Junk Stuff As News

The newspapers have recently given copious space to reports about an alleged brawl between an "heiress" and her husband but just why anybody should be interested in the details of the affair escapes us.

If the press associations want to go in for reporting brawls, they can pick out bloodier and nastier ones. They might lack the alleged "glamor" of an "heiress" which seems to be the prime essential these days of a series of telegraphic news dispatches but they could more than make up for this lack of presenting more artistic refinements to the brawling art.

Much the same comment applies to a recent special feature article from New York telling the world what five hoboes think about the United Nations. Who cares? It might pass as a bright idea among the journalistic hoboes, to narrate the expressions of the hoboes, but the reader who has any brains recognizes the stuff as tripe.

After all, if the impressions and reactions of the hoboes are so important, why not let the hoboes write a regular newspaper column? It couldn't be any worse than some now being peddled around the country and printed.

Let's Swim Safely

The swimming season has now come upon us and newspapers, in the summer months, carry the stories of hundreds of swimmers who enjoyed their last swim.

Swimming appeals to nearly every person. It is a sport which deserves its popularity but, just the same, it can be dangerous. No one can tell when peril is near and the water is no place in which to take chances.

Swimmers should be careful if they want to live. The idea that "it can't happen to me" is no protection against cramps that drown the strongest men. It does not protect the occupants of overturned boats who cannot swim a stroke. It gives no strength to the fool-hardy swimmer who weakens himself, or herself, by prolonged and solitary expeditions into the deep water.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
 June 16, 1899
 Children's Day was celebrated in the M. E. Church Sunday with a very interesting service. Six children were received into membership and nine baptized at the morning service. In the evening the several Sunday school classes gave a splendid program of recitations and songs.

How about a street sprinkler? Will Baum, the liverman, has his eye on a street sprinkler that can be had for very cheap, and says that if the merchants and dwellers along our streets will chip in enough to pay him to run it he will do so and remove Birmingham from the desert. It has been his aim for some time.

Our old fellow citizen, Sam'l C. Mills has severed his connection with the Grand Truck Ry and started in business for himself, which is testing, re-fitting and repairing all kinds of scales. We hope local merchants will remember Sam'l when they have this sort of work to be done.

A. V. Uch expects to leave in a couple of weeks for Dakota on account of poor health. He is hoping he will improve rapidly and be able to return in a few weeks. He is a native of this country and is highly respected by us all.

We hear that strawberry pickers are badly needed by those who operate berry farms. We have been advised that hungry little boys need not apply.

20 YEARS AGO

June 20, 1929
 City Manager James W. Parry reports that tests made of the drinking water in the city have been pronounced safe. The tests were conducted at a suspected contamination was discovered in the area south of Lincoln and west of the old Collins. We will continue the periodic tests until we destroy all traces of sulphur," Parry said.

The Rev. Floyd E. Logee will deliver the address when the Knights of Pythias and the Pythian Sisters hold their public memorial services for deceased members Tuesday. The service will be held in the Pythian Castle Hall.

Mrs. Nancy B. Thomas, librarian, reports that during the past 2 months a number of outstanding books both fiction and non-fiction have been added to the Baldwin library-listing. She said that while the majority of the books were for adults, many were fiction which would please young readers, too.

A hearing on the removal of trees in Birmingham will be held in the City Hall on Monday, July 1, according to city officials. This will be to discuss a proposal made by the majority of our residents that certain trees be removed for the sake of safety.

Col. Edwin S. George of Long Lake road, has donated a campus plot to the city of Birmingham. It is located a mile north of Long Lake road and one mile west of the Franklin road.

5 YEARS AGO

June 18, 1924
 Lieut. Comdr. John B. Haszberger, who has been spending the past week with his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Haszberger, expects to return to duty next Tuesday. He will report to the naval base in Seattle. He has been aboard the Massachusetts for the past 19 months as assistant medical officer.

Rutan day, with lots of fun and golf, was observed Sunday at the Birmingham Country Club in honor of Dick Rutan. Several hundred. The blind bouy tournament of the morning proved as big a drawing card as the pro himself, for local devotees.

Local fishermen are the center of a great deal of excitement this week as they introduce their new power trolley to the City of Birmingham. The men are proud of their new equipment which they, themselves, have to reveal from some new and some old parts. The new trolley, fully extended, is 53 feet high.

The Rev. Charles Becker, who has served as pastor of the First Methodist church for the past four years, has been transferred to the Bethany Methodist church, in Detroit. His place here will be taken by the Rev. Arnold F. Runkle of Marquette.

The walloped pike fishing at Algonac attracted a large "army" of gona attractions here last weekend. The groups from here last weekend, some of them were out on the St. Clair river fishing for local folks among the crowd. As far as the fishing was concerned, some were very good but they all had a lot of fun.

Watchful Waiting



June Graduates Will Find It Harder to Find Employment This Year

By Esther Van Wagner Taft
 June graduates of Michigan schools and colleges will find it tough to get jobs.

The bumper graduating crop of all time is 60% more than the pre-war year of 1940. And industry is hiring fewer workers, according to Ewert C. Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

The wise graduates will be flexible in their demands and take jobs in related fields, said the U. S. Commissioner, who expects many to postpone job-hunting by taking their graduate work now.

About two-fifths of the current graduates are G. I. Michigan ranks sixth, with over 39,000 completing their studies under the GI bill. After next year, with the decline of GI enrollment, the situation is expected to ease).

Some Shortages Continue
 Happily there are still a few fields where employment shortages continue. Teachers, doctors, nurses and dentists will still find their services much in demand.

The over-supply of new grads, according to a recent U. S. Labor bulletin, is expected in engineering, law, accounting, journalism, business administration and personnel work.

The smart engineer, says Clague, can meet his problem half way on the administrative or technical sales job.

A long-run outlook is good, however. Employment in professions has grown from 3 1/2 million in 1940 to over 4 million in 1948. It may well be over 5 million by 1960, says the Department of Labor. But if college enrollments continue to increase, the competition will still be keen.

City Nurse Suggests Five Simple Rules To Help Ailoid Pity

Mrs. Annye Gillette, assistant health director for the City of Birmingham, this week reminded parents that this is the period of the year in which dangers of polio are at their highest. According to the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis the epidemic danger period usually runs from May through October, reaching its peak during the hot mid-summer months.

Mrs. Gillette released these five easy-to-follow rules to help children avoid this disease:

1. Avoid crowds and places where close contact with other persons is likely.
2. Avoid over-fatigue caused by too active play or exercise, or irregular hours.
3. Avoid swimming in polluted water. Use only beaches or public pools which have been declared safe by local health authorities.
4. Avoid sudden chilling. Remove wet shoes and clothing at once. Avoid going into rain or heavier clothing handy for sudden weather changes.
5. Observe the golden rule of personal cleanliness. Keep food tightly covered and safe from flies or other insects. Garbage should be tightly covered and, if other disposal facilities are lacking, should be buried or burned.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



The Picture Story

THANKS in part to the growth of picture magazines during the past ten years, more and more amateur picture takers have become interested in what is called "the picture story"—a series of pictures which are related to each other and together, tell a complete story of some event.

Naturally, the casual camera user is not often able to shoot the great events of national and international importance. Yet he can use a number of the same techniques used in the movies or in the picture magazines to make attractive, interesting stories of the events in his everyday life.

Successful picture stories, however, usually are the result of planning. First of all, you must know what picture story you want and need to tell a story well. A little forethought along these lines gives you a big payoff, and then a "shooting script" to follow in order your getting all the shots you need for your story.

For instance, the story of a picnic might begin with an indoor snap of someone packing the lunch, continue with a crowd of the young people getting into the car, and then a half-dozen shots or more taken at the picnic itself. You can then tell the story-telling series with a picture of someone burning the paper plates and other debris.

Given a simple "script" like that all you need to do is take a variety of individual, story-telling shots. Include long shots, middle-distance shots, and close-ups. This will eliminate a "sameness" in your pictures. Remember the motion picture theory—a "long shot" to set the scene, a "middle-distance" shot to show the action which is taking place, and a close-up to show individual reactions. Applying this theory to your amateur script, you might snap a scenic view to show the site of the picnic, a shot from 100 feet or so of the group as they are eating, and then a close-up of one member putting away a well-done hot dog. Shots like this help tell your story clearly and lend variation to your individual pictures.

—John van Gulder

"Any Way You Slice It"

By HAL P. BUERGE

This week I should like to announce a new arrival in the family. Yes, we had an addition to the family and the patter of little feet, four of them, can be heard around the house. No, we didn't have twins, and just before you put the touch on me for a cecar, I few drops of cod liver oil and a dash of calcium. He washes it down with tepid tap water. Then, back to the sack.

They tell me I did right to buy my three little girls a pet, but after a week of playing surruend to the pooch, a beautiful man at the kennel said—Springer Spaniel. I am beginning to wonder if a man should always be so right.

We named the little fellow "Chuck", because he can really stow it away. I have had to relinquish my title of champion eater of the family. I haven't done too badly down thru the years, either. I have sufficient padding on my carcass so I don't have to stand up twice to make a shadow. His favorite dish is pabulum smothered with an egg and milk. On this he prefers for garnish, a few drops of cod liver oil and a dash of calcium. He washes it down with tepid tap water. Then, back to the sack.

Much of his time is spent in whining and dining. More time is spent in peaceful slumber, but what a menace he is when he is awake and on the move. I think the man at the kennel made one mistake with "Chuck". He cut off his tail. I know that in order to be proper, a Springer Spaniel should have a bobbed tail, but on the other hand, every pup should have a long one. With a tail to chase it would keep them out of our looking room curtains, slipcovers and any number of other household accessories. But the dickens only because he has no tail to chase for avarice.

For the most part, "Chuck" stays in the basement when he is in the house. Getting up at five-thirty or six o'clock in the morning to let him, or rather, put him out, is getting me down. His sanitary habits will have to be improved upon. Right now his motto seems to be: "Never do outside what can be done within." Well, we'll see about that. I always thought a Spaniel was a breed that would drink water, but they evidently don't. If there is a little wade on the ground in the morning, he will walk around the yard like a drum major with a stone in his boot, trying to keep his clumsy feet dry.

The Salvation Army and the Society of Good Neighbors might just as well pass our house up in the future. The old shoes and things we used to turn over to them in pretty good condition wouldn't even meet the style specifications of a tramp anymore. The pup is taking care of that detail, too.

My clothes have often looked like I slept in them and perhaps at times I have. Anyway if it's going to be done I would like to have a priority on that pleasure. "Chuck" likes to crawl up on the clothes in the laundry basket on an occasional siesta. I wanted to have him be able to run and of the lady of the house, I pointed out that if she were to get mad at me she probably would go home to mother, but in his case that procedure would undoubtedly be reversed. Nothing seems to impress him. The good wife isn't one of his biggest boosters anyway.

For the most part, the family has learned to love the puppy very much. With the kids it was love at first sight and after having him around for a while I think he's the finest specimen of his breed. My Mother-in-law was at our house visiting when she brought him home and she was putting his charm to the acid test. He made the grade with her, and she says that kind of made me jealous. She never smiles when the pats me on the head.

As for my wife, I think she is completely sold on the pup's possibilities, but she has indicated that she knows where to draw the line. The other morning at breakfast we were discussing this and that when I announced that I had thought of a wonderful idea. "Hold everything right there," she said, "you're not going to bring an Alligator into this house!"

If you've got a million, we may consider selling our pup.

The Valley of Chance, Just Outside Washington, Once Famous for Duels

By Joseph A. Dear

WASHINGTON—A stone's throw across the District line, in Maryland, is a group of little pastures filled with rubbish and overrun by weeds, called the Valley of Chance.

This historic spot has soaked up enough blood to do justice to a headline of the thousands of the man who pass it daily, few are aware it was once Washington's dueling ground in 18th century.

The first recorded duel to take place in the Valley of Chance was between Commodore Barrington, a member of New York, and George Campbell of Tennessee. It was arranged by the British and was later re-elected to Congress, while Campbell was appointed Minister to the Netherlands.

Not Taken Lightly
 The Valley has been known nationally in 1810 when General Aristed Mason, ex-commander of the Virginia, fought his cousin, Col. John McCarty. In a binding anecdote, at a distance of several hundred yards, they exchanged shots. Both fell, McCarty was dead and Campbell badly wounded.

Congressional arguments in the early days of the Republic were not to be taken lightly. In 1828, Senator Randolph made a speech denouncing Henry Clay, then Secretary of State, of forging a letter to the Mexican Minister to Washington. A duel resulted. Happily, both emerged unharmed and they later became fast friends.

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—John van Gulder

John Tracy Inducted Into Veterans' Assoc.

John Tracy, 359 Merrill, Birmingham representative of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, was inducting into the 20th year of service for the Veterans' Assoc. on June 16. The meeting was held at the Abigail Ann Tea Room in Royal Oak, Michigan. Mr. Tracy, president of the Pontiac district, presided and presented Tracy with a watch, a gift from his associates.

It will be of the greatest importance to the watch political developments in Asia. We have been calmed down by the United States, but she has not yet returned to her old ways and is still trying to persuade the government to erect a marker in the Valley.

Meanwhile the weeds grow on. Perhaps it's just as well.

Internationally Speaking

By Eugene Hess
 International Market Analyst

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Michigan Mirror

In making your plans for summertime recreation, overlook Michigan's 60 state park and recreational areas.

Free to everyone, they attract more than 12,000,000 visitors last year.

Leading in attendance was the Holland State park, where approximately 1,800,000 people enjoyed their permits to camp. Forty-four thousand persons camped in 45 state camps. Camping is free, too. A small charge is made for electricity.

These parks are administered by the parks and recreation division of the state conservation department. Arthur C. Elmer is division chief.

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165,000 request, must be spread over 60 parks

Fishermen and hunters contribute to development of special facilities through purchase of a license. For the state park system, outnumbering the fishermen, hunters six to one in total attendance, have no revenue from their own derived from those who enjoy it.

The state department was again rebuffed by the legislature in 1949 when it asked discretionary authority to charge admission and use fees, if and when and where needed. Legislators were skeptical, hesitant and reluctant. The bill died in committee. The department is about convinced that discretionary discretion is the answer to the park financing problem. Perhaps use fees, limited to specified facilities, would be more acceptable.

The Straits of Mackinac state park, administered by the Mackinac Island park commission, is increasing its revenue from camp and electricity. No charge is made for parking or for admission. Here is perhaps a partial answer to the lack of money to develop the state park system as the legislature originally planned.

We have the lands and waters, there is a crying need for a state park system. We need funds to develop facilities needed for public recreation and for the proper maintenance and operation of these facilities.

When you visit the state park this summer, don't be too critical. There are 60 parks, good and poor, large and small, to be maintained. Everything is free—admission, camping, bathing, and automobile parking. You shouldn't have much trouble getting your money's worth.

Have You Met?

R. W. Mickl who has come from 288 Merchandise Street, has been appointed manager of the Ford Motor Company.

On paper the state park system has a development program which would put Michigan well in the lead nationally. The parks would attract more tourists to Michigan; the \$16 million cost would be more than offset by additional out-of-state dollars received by businesses everywhere. Yet, to date, the legislature has appropriated only \$1.75 millions in the past four years.

The state treasury, cease to be earmarked of state funds for local government spending, is reaching the state park fund. The \$391,000 maintenance budget, cut from an original \$1.1 million, is a far cry from the \$16 million needed.