

It is always interesting to travel, to meet new people and observe new scenes; but the best part of every trip I have ever made is the arrival back home. Where one's roots are, where one has spent a large portion of his life... that is where, deep down, one always wants to be.

# The Birmingham Enquirer

PART THREE

SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 52

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1949

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## RE-ROOF - NOW

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## 1866 Free Press Proof of Inventive Progress

By Alice E. Morgan

Perhaps one of the best illustrations of inventive progress and changing times is revealed in glancing at very old copies of newspapers that have spanned many years. The other day Harry W. Rainey, 343 Park, dropped in to the Enquirer office with a copy of the Detroit Free Press dated April 12, 1866. He obtained it 30 years ago when portions of an old house on West Maple avenue were torn down; it had been used as insulation between the siding and plaster.

Among the various items in the paper were one concerning life in Washington, D. C., as the country headed irrevocably toward civil war. President Lincoln, his champions and opponents, came in for a good share of comment, favorable and unfavorable.

Gen. Grant, Speeder

A story carrying a New Orleans date line stated that the Methodist conference was sending two bishops to Washington to thank the President for restoring their property to the churches of the south. Another was to the effect that none other than Gen. U. S. Grant had been issued a warrant.

## Beach Magic

Vonnie Hoffman, an enchanting miss herself, is enchanted by the palms at St. Petersburg, Fla. She's apparently a devotee of the simpler things in life—like one-piece bathing suits.

## Highway Deaths Continue Upward Trend in State

The sharp upward trend in Michigan traffic deaths which began in November, continued during January, according to the monthly statistical report issued by the State Police.

Highway accidents claimed 109 lives in January, an average of more than three a day and an increase of 20 as compared with January of 1948. In addition, 2,941 persons were injured, an increase of 12 per cent over the same month last year, and there were 11,973 accidents, a decrease of 9 per cent.

All of the death increase occurred on the rural county road system, while urban areas accounted for the entire decrease in accidents. The injury increase was equally divided between county and city.

More Hit Fixed Objects

More of the increase of deaths and injuries was due to more collisions with fixed objects and run-off-highway accidents. On the other hand, a continuation of better than normal winter driving conditions influenced the reduction in accidents and the severity of those that occurred.

Estimated motor vehicle mileage is not yet available for January, but it was up 16 per cent in November and 13 per cent in December of 1948 as compared with the same months in 1947.

Authorities are expressing alarm over the increase in deaths and injuries and are directing urgent appeals to motorists and pedestrians alike to exercise greater care.

A total of 463 deaths occurred in November, December and January as compared to 369 for the same period a year ago, an increase of 94 or 25.5 per cent. Injuries numbered 10,452 as compared to 9,506, an increase of 946 or 9.9 per cent.

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The items concerning the war mentioned the advancement of army men in rank, the preparation and intensive training which some troops were undergoing, and the shipping conditions. Ships were mysteriously burned at their docks. Others suffered damaging action at the hands of unknown bands. The construction of heavy ships, especially those equipped for warfare and speed, was being rushed in all the country's boatyards. From the east came the story of the appearance and use of the first naval torpedo.

Paper Style Changes

The make-up of the paper is perhaps the most outstanding change in it. This issue is about four pages only. The page is about the same width, but about six inches longer than the present-day paper. The stories were set with six or seven in a column, with all the headlines at the top of the column, not connected with the individual item. The type was much smaller than that used today, about the size that is commonly used now for legal advertising.

Display advertising in this 83-year-old issue is far removed from the current style. The largest ad carried was a single column wide and about nine inches long. Primarily designed to advertise a wonderful hair tonic, it managed to include just about everything else on the druggist's shelves. Another interesting bit is the fact that advertisements were carried for the Griswold Opera House and the Academy of Music, both located in Troy, N. Y.

Crime News

Crime news received none of the dramatic presentation it has today. A murder story said simply that a man, his wife, her niece and their four children had been killed by a neighbor. One story concerning a major fire in Detroit gave out the information that it was on Fort street, that four men had been badly injured, and that the damage was high. Both these items were given only a few lines of type, and were virtually buried under a column of "chit chat" taken from here and there around the world.

Yes, the changes which time has brought can quickly be seen by just a few minutes spent in glancing through the files of a newspaper office of 50 years or more ago. The comparison will show not only the change which has come to the newspaper world, but to the difference of life itself then and today.

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