

New Faces, New Ideas... We are inclined to believe that any move to alter the proposed automatic dial exchange name for Birmingham changed from "Pinehurst" to "Piety Hill" will not go far.

We sympathize with the older residents who know what "Piety Hill" was to old Birmingham, but, whether they realize it or not, they are in the small minority of our populace today.

Birmingham community life is no more static than any other community—old faces leave the scene and are replaced with new ones; new residences and new business places are being continually added.

But letting "Pinehurst" roll over our tongue a few times, it does seem like a good name for the local exchange, don't you agree? To us, anyway, it connotes an area with fine residences, tree-lined streets, cozy shopping center, fresh air, etc., which comprise Birmingham.

Too, we presume the Bell Company engineers gave careful consideration to the naming of this exchange from the phonetic angle (no pun intended). Pinehurst, they probably reasoned, will cause less confusion for out-of-town Bell switchboard operators than would Piety Hill.

Yes, we believe that early in 1950, when the new dials are cut into service, that Pinehurst will still be the exchange name—and that the more sentimental old-timers will soon get used to the idea.

Alas, such is the law of change... "So fleet the works of men; back to the earth again. Ancient and holy things fade like a dream," sang the poet generations ago.

From Panuco, Mexico, Roberto Pavan, Mexican archeologist, reports the discovery of an ancient outdoor ball court, complete with scoreboard, found among the remains of a buried city, which he estimates to have existed some 2,000 years ago.

Details of the discovery are not available but we do not suspect that the Mexican archeologist is claiming that the Mexicans invented the great American game of baseball.

Meanwhile, we await reports from Moscow, because we feel sure some Soviet archeologist will, sooner or later, assure us that the Russians played baseball long before the Americans knew anything about the game.

The beginning of wisdom comes when one understands that women, as always, have the right to change their minds.

The business of a newspaper is to print the news. It has no responsibility for what happens.

Religion can hardly outdistance education, but it is dangerous when intelligence goes ahead without religion.

Truman Spends, Congress Appeals... President Truman's recent appeal to Congress for a developing program, is in the honeymoon period, proposing many things that will benefit individuals and, naturally, practically every proposal meets with the enthusiastic approval of those who expect to receive the benefits.

A little bit later, the White House will come to the necessity of securing the funds to pay for the program outlined. This task will be presented to Congress and the Congressmen will have to find sources of revenue, which mean, in the long run, increased taxation.

In brief, the President promises and it will be up to Congress to pay the bill. In the long run, the process will enhance the popularity of the President and detract from the popularity of the tax-paying Congressmen.

In other words, the President plays the role of Santa Claus to the eager beneficiaries and Congress will be in the role of collector of bills. It is a system that cannot lose for the President and can hardly win for Congress.

New York's multi-millionaire Clendenin Ryan is so disgusted with the existence of graft and corruption in our large cities that he has just made a million dollars available to help stamp it out. A very laudable idea, of course... but only a drop in the bucket of the effort necessary to achieve real success in such a tremendous undertaking.

Those two young ex-convicts who held a B & O passenger train en route from Washington to Detroit told police "we did it on the spur of the moment—when the club car steward gave us a poor tip."

President Truman's "Fair Deal" leaders in Congress are finding the going a bit rough. It begins to appear as though the President's campaign promises won't be kept, completely. Competitive thinking and discussion, even within a given political party, is good for the American concept of government.

The Birmingham Eccentric... Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 222 1/2 North 17th Street. Telephone 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Subscription Rates... (In Oakland County) One Year \$2.00, Six Months \$1.25, Three Months \$0.75. (Outside Oakland County) One Year \$2.50, Six Months \$1.50, Three Months \$1.00.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributions... Contributions are usually published weekly. An anonymous reflection upon the character, which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric, will be given the publisher.

reached the saturation point' was his conclusion. From 8 to 10,000 mentally disturbed and tuberculous veterans are walking the streets of Michigan. Some 11,000 neuropsychiatric and nearly 800 TB veterans are already patients in state and county hospitals, which are already too crowded to increase their load.

The two federal facilities... at Fort Custer and Dearborn... have waiting lists. Formerly, Michigan veterans were frequently sent to less-crowded Wisconsin federal hospitals, but that transfer is now closed.

All this... and more... was told personally to Administrator Carl Gray of the VA. Mrs. Marylynn K. Nelson of Mrs. Nelson has set the fire damage to her home and its contents at about \$20,000. Many valuable antiques were damaged as they were hurriedly removed from the building, while others were burned in the fire.

Little Star... There is a hazy frost-rimmed moon tonight. A roving moon that weaves its way about across the sky among the dark and light Gray clouds. A little star has just come out. It seems to hang on silver wires below the moon, and every wandering wind-puff Swings and sways the small star to and fro.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO March 17, 1899... In the largest vote ever recorded in Birmingham, the late Senator Thomas Cobb will serve as clerk; McAllister as treasurer; Merritt Randall, assessor. The Republican vote swamped all Democratic candidates with a whopping majority.

Three Detroit boys appeared in town last week, selling burlap blankets at a wonderfully low price. The next day Detroit police visited our fair village, seeking these same blankets. It seems one of the boys had bought force from a Detroit store, charging them to his mother's account.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Hunt were tendered a real surprise party the other night, honoring their anniversary. They received a beautiful hand-painted lamp from the many friends who stopped by for a pleasant evening and to wish them well on their second year of married bliss.

Cospel meetings are being held every night this week in the United Presbyterian church near Ferguson of Ohio is the preacher who is drawing a bigger crowd every night. He concludes his force road in Birmingham with a most impressive service Sunday afternoon.

Recent visitors at the home of Mrs. Chas. H. and wife were Sergeant Ben High and wife of Detroit. Sgt. High is way up there in the Detroit police force and his wife is a detective of national repute.

20 YEARS AGO March 21, 1929... Birmingham schools will close tomorrow staff members leave for the seacheer institute to be held in Pontiac. Prof. R. L. Woodard will be in charge. Chicago's department of English, will be the principal speaker during the session.

Police believe there is a definite connection between the two crimes staged here and in Royal Oak last Thursday. Both involved motor agencies and both were carried out with the same moon-opener. No clues, however, have yet been found to connect the cases with any definite person or persons.

Police Chief James Anderson issues a final warning to local dog owners that they must confine their pets, as an Avon Birmingham child recovers from bites inflicted earlier in the month. The dog is under observation for possible traces of rabies.

The search goes on for the hit-run driver who seriously injured Mrs. J. H. Lynch as she and husband were returning to Woodward near 14 Mile road last week. Lynch escaped without injury when their car was rolled over twice by the force of the impact.

5 YEARS AGO March 16, 1944... W. Brooke Stabler has been appointed headmaster of Cranbrook school according to an announcement made by the board of trustees today. Stabler comes here from Avon, Conn., where he has been headmaster of the Avon school for the past four years.

Leading high school musicians of this region will gather at Baldwin high school April 1, for the annual southeastern Michigan school band and orchestra association meeting. Orchestra members will number 85, band, 75 and string orchestra, 119.

Members of the Present Day club north of Birmingham are sponsoring a special program at the home of Mr. Victor Ogden Tuesday evening, March 22. Victor Ogden, president, was in charge of arrangements.

Not Very Impressive, Joe



People's Column

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. They must be signed, but addresses will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words.

As we all know, the Oakland County Animal Welfare shelter has been erected and now what we want most of all is interior completion. It is a Quonset type building, planned to provide shelter and to carry out the objective of the society, which is to give humane treatment to all animals under any and all circumstances.

Our immediate concern is the purchase and installation of cages. The cages are to be 3 ft. by 4 ft. by 3 ft. in height. The partitions in these cages can be changed to make wider or higher cage for larger animals or more than one animal. The cages are made of high tempered steel which can withstand abuse, corrosion and will last a lifetime.

Our present plan is to start with 51 cages. Our goal is 85 or more as soon as possible. The price per cage is \$20 and we have received money for several cages. If you, your friends or any organization care to furnish or make contribution toward a cage, we will be most pleased and will reach our goal just that much sooner.

On all cages donated we are putting a tag designating the giver or givers. Some people are giving as a memorial to a loved pet. We invite the consideration of any and all individuals, civic organizations, clubs, fraternal classes, kennels and veterinarians. Kindly send all communications to our treasurer, Miss Olive Taylor, P. O. Box No. 53, Pontiac, Mich.

FRANCES C. BOWLES, 2890 Pine Lake dr., R. 3, Pontiac, Oakland County Animal Welfare Society.

Lighting Mirror

Interpreting the News by Gene Allemen

A possible end to the steady increase in Michigan sales tax collections may be indicated by a recent report from the revenue department. For the first time since the end of the war a slump has been noted. February collections on January collections showed a 1.4 per cent drop from the corresponding period a year ago. Cigarette tax collections, however, are up 3 per cent.

A proposal to give cities the right to levy excise taxes is again before the Senate. Introduced by Senators Bates and Schuch, the bill would permit cities to levy excise taxes up to 20 per cent of their assessed valuations. There would be an amendment to require a vote of the people before a tax could be levied. Bates says that he wants to give cities a new source of revenue "so that they won't have to come begging to the legislature for handouts." Opponents contend that cities could levy excise taxes under present laws simply by amending the charters.

In two and a half weeks the spring election will be held. Although there was much talk in the legislature, it was finally decided not to submit any proposals for amending the constitution. The people will choose a superintendent of public instruction, state highway commissioner, two supreme court justices, two regents of the University of Michigan, two members of the board of agriculture and a member of the state board of education plus various county township and school board officials. The election is considered important by Republicans and Democrats because both the superintendent of public instruction and the highway commissioner automatically become members of the Administrative Board that helps run the state when the legislature is not in session.

Oakland County Citizens League conducted an interesting poll of its members. Most significant discovery was that 97 per cent voted favor the appointment of a Michigan study group similar to the Hoover Commission to help the state find its way out of present financial and administrative difficulties. Other results were that 82 per cent believe the state should cut state services to live within its income, 33 per cent favor a gas tax increase and 84 per cent believe that money taxes are necessary.

One of the arguments being used against Governor Williams' proposal to levy a four per cent corporate income tax is that it will drive Michigan industry out of the state. However, the Michigan Economic Development is now preparing a study which may have an important bearing on the question. Data furnished by power companies is being used to determine why industries have come to the state and left it since 1939.

After the game had talked all evening about the size and fierceness of the mosquitoes, the old Southerner was becoming much annoyed. "Just look at 'em swarm" the guest complained. "Why don't you screen this porch?" "That, uh, the old man replied, "would be superman-like. We use mouse-traps."

The Hoover Commission (technically known as the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government) says that reorganization of federal agricultural practices could save the country as much as \$82 million. One suggestion is that the

Local governments may not get the public notice given the state and nation when the taxes go up, but collectively they were no sluggards last year. The State Board of Assessors reports that county, municipal, school and other local Michigan taxes rose 15.75 per cent over 1947. Levies totaled \$286.2 million or \$39 million over the previous year. Average tax rate was \$24.15 and \$1,000 property valuation, an increase of 6.48 per cent.

PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE WEEK... Two willing subjects, two No. 1 photographing picture. The trouble is the seldom turn out as well as this. One flood lamp was placed at the right of the camera; the other was on the left and closer to the baby so that it cut across the face without getting in his eyes. Note that the background is the plainest of plain white. Remember it when you take your next indoor shots. The film used was Ansco Iopan and the exposure was 1/100 second at f 11.

Photographing architectural interiors—your own living room or dining room, for example—is not easy. And yet it is well worth the effort. Few photographs will have as much sentimental fascination as these ten or twenty years hence. What wouldn't you give, for instance, for a good picture of the way the living room of your childhood looked? Or a view of grandmother's kitchen thirty years ago?

Two major problems are involved—viewpoint and lighting. Much depends on the size of the room and the working space available for setting up your camera and lights. With small rooms it may be best to set the camera outside a doorway or window and shoot the interior through the aperture.

From the Camera Viewpoint... You want the best camera viewpoint both for perspective and composition. Short focal length lenses are best. You often find the camera cramped for shooting space, and the short lens will permit you to include as much of the scene as possible. Also, the camera must be absolutely level so that vertical lines in furniture and walls are not distorted and don't tip drunkenly inward.

Lighting can be even more bothersome. Take a bright day with the sun streaking through the windows. It's lovely and it's tough because those splashes of sunlight and shadow are so vivid bound to be overexposed. With a

Lighting Mirror

Interpreting the News by Gene Allemen... A possible end to the steady increase in Michigan sales tax collections may be indicated by a recent report from the revenue department.

A proposal to give cities the right to levy excise taxes is again before the Senate. Introduced by Senators Bates and Schuch, the bill would permit cities to levy excise taxes up to 20 per cent of their assessed valuations.

In two and a half weeks the spring election will be held. Although there was much talk in the legislature, it was finally decided not to submit any proposals for amending the constitution.

Oakland County Citizens League conducted an interesting poll of its members. Most significant discovery was that 97 per cent voted favor the appointment of a Michigan study group similar to the Hoover Commission.

One of the arguments being used against Governor Williams' proposal to levy a four per cent corporate income tax is that it will drive Michigan industry out of the state.

After the game had talked all evening about the size and fierceness of the mosquitoes, the old Southerner was becoming much annoyed.

The Hoover Commission (technically known as the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government) says that reorganization of federal agricultural practices could save the country as much as \$82 million.

PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE WEEK... Two willing subjects, two No. 1 photographing picture. The trouble is the seldom turn out as well as this.

Photographing architectural interiors—your own living room or dining room, for example—is not easy. And yet it is well worth the effort.

Two major problems are involved—viewpoint and lighting. Much depends on the size of the room and the working space available for setting up your camera and lights.

From the Camera Viewpoint... You want the best camera viewpoint both for perspective and composition. Short focal length lenses are best.

Lighting can be even more bothersome. Take a bright day with the sun streaking through the windows. It's lovely and it's tough because those splashes of sunlight and shadow are so vivid bound to be overexposed.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

BIRMINGHAM MOVERS MOVING • STORAGE • CRATING 277 PIERCE ST. PHONE 1343

Fox and Hounds Inn John Ingleson, proprietor Woodward at Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills SERVING DINNERS Sundays from 1:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Week days from 5:30 until 11:00 p.m. except Mondays when the dining room is closed. COCKTAILS SELECTED FOODS Phone B'ham 3290 for Reservations

A FRIENDLY BANK BANKING BY MAIL IS THE EASY WAY After your first visit to open an account here at your friendly bank, you can bank by mail. We furnish special deposit envelopes, and you can do your business with the bank by long-distance, at the price of a postage stamp. Come in, and let us tell you about this and other services that have made us known as "a friendly bank."

Michigan VFW Officials Want Changes in Original Rankin Pension Bill (Special Story From Our Washington Bureau) By Esther Van Wageningen Tutty WASHINGTON—Not all veterans who receive \$30 monthly pensions at 65 years of age. Harry Truman is a veteran who does not need the \$30 a month when he reaches his 65th birthday this spring. So said Otto Beaudoin, of Detroit, commander of the department of Michigan, Veterans of Foreign Wars in Washington last week. Commander Beaudoin and three other top VFW officers are plugging away with some success... at getting approval for some amendments to the pension bill introduced by John E. Rankin, chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Won't Oppose Bill The other three, who were hosts to the Texas state delegation Thursday night, are senior vice-commander Herbert W. Devine, of Detroit; legislative officer Maurice Cole, of Ferndale, and service officer Joseph Mann of Detroit. The VFW strategy is not to oppose the Rankin bill, although a dim view is taken of its sweeping and extensive character. But since the Rankin bill is likely to be the only pension bill to reach the floor of the House for debate, they are putting their opposition into "corrective amendments." Commander Beaudoin said, in an interview, "The Rankin bill unfortunately falls far short of the target and will not take care of the World War I veterans who have been miserably pensioned." Would Broaden Eligibility Briefly, VFW amendments would broaden eligibility and raise payment rates for disabled veterans. They would disqualify non-disabled veterans with incomes over \$2,000 and married

reached the saturation point' was his conclusion. From 8 to 10,000 mentally disturbed and tuberculous veterans are walking the streets of Michigan. Some 11,000 neuropsychiatric and nearly 800 TB veterans are already patients in state and county hospitals, which are already too crowded to increase their load. The two federal facilities... at Fort Custer and Dearborn... have waiting lists. Formerly, Michigan veterans were frequently sent to less-crowded Wisconsin federal hospitals, but that transfer is now closed. All this... and more... was told personally to Administrator Carl Gray of the VA. Mrs. Marylynn K. Nelson of Mrs. Nelson has set the fire damage to her home and its contents at about \$20,000. Many valuable antiques were damaged as they were hurriedly removed from the building, while others were burned in the fire. Mrs. Nelson also reports considerable theft among items stacked about the yard. Leading high school musicians of this region will gather at Baldwin high school April 1, for the annual southeastern Michigan school band and orchestra association meeting. Orchestra members will number 85, band, 75 and string orchestra, 119. Members of the Present Day club north of Birmingham are sponsoring a special program at the home of Mr. Victor Ogden Tuesday evening, March 22. Victor Ogden, president, was in charge of arrangements. PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE WEEK... Two willing subjects, two No. 1 photographing picture. The trouble is the seldom turn out as well as this. One flood lamp was placed at the right of the camera; the other was on the left and closer to the baby so that it cut across the face without getting in his eyes. Note that the background is the plainest of plain white. Remember it when you take your next indoor shots. The film used was Ansco Iopan and the exposure was 1/100 second at f 11. Photographic architectural interiors—your own living room or dining room, for example—is not easy. And yet it is well worth the effort. Few photographs will have as much sentimental fascination as these ten or twenty years hence. What wouldn't you give, for instance, for a good picture of the way the living room of your childhood looked? Or a view of grandmother's kitchen thirty years ago? Two major problems are involved—viewpoint and lighting. Much depends on the size of the room and the working space available for setting up your camera and lights. With small rooms it may be best to set the camera outside a doorway or window and shoot the interior through the aperture. From the Camera Viewpoint... You want the best camera viewpoint both for perspective and composition. Short focal length lenses are best. You often find the camera cramped for shooting space, and the short lens will permit you to include as much of the scene as possible. Also, the camera must be absolutely level so that vertical lines in furniture and walls are not distorted and don't tip drunkenly inward. Lighting can be even more bothersome. Take a bright day with the sun streaking through the windows. It's lovely and it's tough because those splashes of sunlight and shadow are so vivid bound to be overexposed. With a

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Little Star There is a hazy frost-rimmed moon tonight. A roving moon that weaves its way about across the sky among the dark and light Gray clouds. A little star has just come out. It seems to hang on silver wires below the moon, and every wandering wind-puff Swings and sways the small star to and fro. The clouds are turning into cotton-fluff. The other stars are being lighted now. The world had never been more beautiful: And when the starry night has reached the brow Of morning, and the stars are growing dim, I know that if my ears are not too dull I'll hear the angels chant their matin hymn. —BEATRICE McDONALD