

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

Thank You, Sir; We'll Continue Along This Line

Even though some people will object loudly to this statement, newspaper editors are human, too, and it affords us considerable satisfaction when once in a while we receive highly complimentary remarks on the caliber of our weekly efforts in presenting local news to the community.

So please bear with us while this week we briefly pat ourselves on the back and then bolster our sometimes sagging morale. From J. Carl McMongle, director of the Michigan State Highway Department's planning and traffic division, comes this bit of commendation: "That front-page story which 'The Eccentric' published February 17, 1949, outlining the Highway Department's attempt to place a coordinated traffic signal system on Hunter Boulevard, thus indirectly solving the city's traffic hazard problem at Woodward and 14 Mile, was the best piece of reporting I have seen in a long time. The story was accurate, nothing was misconstrued nor misrepresented."

"Thank you, Mr. McMongle, for your kind words. However, that has been, and will continue to be the news policy of 'The Eccentric': give the readers the complete, accurate facts of any situation so that they know what is being done in this community and can intelligently arrive at their own conclusions, if conclusions need to be drawn.

Rest assured that 'The Eccentric' will always have this as its prime objective.

So long as newspapers "give truth to the public," declares James M. Cox, "we can depend on the common-sense and patriotism of the mass of the people to keep us free."

The former Governor of Ohio and one-time Democratic nominee for President, was speaking at the dedication of a new plant in Atlanta, Georgia. He expressed the wish that the only press never "carry the wind" that the only press never "deliberately," He quoted the remark of Thomas Jefferson that, if he had to choose between the press and government, he would say that the press should come first.

We are in thorough accord with the ideal expounded by Mr. Cox but, in our opinion, it is necessary for the press of this nation to go further than merely to refrain from printing something untrue. The truth, upon which people can depend, must not only include facts but they must be presented in such a balanced manner as to give the reader a correct impression of the whole picture involved.

It is quite possible for propagandists to print nothing but the truth but yet distort the correct conclusion by suppressing other facts which are also true.

We greatly admire newspapers of the United States and the journalists who present the truth to the public.

Nevertheless, there has developed quite a tendency on the part of some

newspapers and some radio stations, to over-emphasize incidental facts and occasional occurrences so that the net result is an untrue picture of the situation as an entity.

Why All This Fuss About Color? This "butter vs. oleo" battle, centering over the use of yellow coloring, doesn't make sense to us. We were not aware that the butter interests had copyrighted this color or expressly for butter. We don't think they could if they tried. If oleo producers want to use yellow for their product, that's all right with us. We'll protect ourselves by making sure we read the label and identifying it as butter or oleo before we buy. That's what we do when we buy pork or veal, which has practically the same color, or catsup or chili sauce, which are both red.

If some dealer sells oleo FOR butter and maliciously misleads us by false labeling or similar means, then we would expect the governmental agency to intercede and halt such practices. They would do so if a merchant sold horse meat for beef.

We have called attention to the danger of war souvenirs and war souvenirs and the Army has repeatedly warned people against tampering with shells and other relics from the days of our recent beligerency.

The warning is emphasized by the fact that a "dud" recently exploded in Arkansas, killing four persons. It seems that the shell came from an army reservation where ammunition was tested during the war.

In thousands of American homes, including many in Birmingham, there is one or more "souvenirs" of World War I. These mementoes, brought home by returning veterans, are interesting but everybody should remember that they are often dangerous.

There is no substitute for personal honesty. If more honesty were apparent in human relations, on all levels, there'd be less need for new laws and publicly-supported agencies to enforce them.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 150-12, 13 and 14 Telephone 1-12, 13 and 14

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Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan, on March 5, 1939.

Subscription Rates: One Year (Outside Oakland County) \$1.00. Six Months .75. Three Months .50.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief notices of local events, news items, and contributions are welcome. Contributions are not returned unless accompanied by return address.

Ex-Congressman Fred Hartley Still Is Labor's No. 1 Enemy, Declares Labor

WASHINGTON (Special Staff) — Fred Hartley, ex-congressman and Taft-Hartley act, may become a greater scourge of organized labor than he ever was as a congressman.

As president of the Tool Owners Union, the ex-congressman is opening an office in Washington soon at a reported salary of \$35,000.

The labor groups here are already spluttering. The AFL has made one attempt to "unmask" the true character of the organization.

To begin with, labor says, the name of the organization is misleading. It implies a labor union, but it is exactly the reverse.

The published purpose of this organization is to enlist a membership of 50 million, the better to pressure through Congress all legislation favorable to tool owners, e. g. "management," factory

Internationally Speaking

By Eugene Heaz International Market Analyst. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is operation in the Belgian market. The bank is widely quoting what the Board of Standards and Appeals of the New York State Department of Labor has to say about the new 'Union of Management'.

The board made this startling announcement: "A more fascist organization with all the potentialities for undemocratic action and danger to our way of life has yet to come before the official attention of the board."

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO March 24, 1899. Events are invited to go to the library Saturday at 3 p.m. to talk about what we can improve our lives. Since we are so near perfect we may be quite a problem.

An educated and competent teacher in Detroit would like to form a literary circle in Birmingham for ladies and gentlemen together or alone. Please contact E. L. through the columns of the Eccentric.

STRAYED OR STOLEN from my farm, about a week ago, a brown collie dog. Look around your neighborhood and if you can locate my dog, let me know I will give a reward for your trouble. G. C. Hupp.

Within the past three years Washington has had a type-writer table with iron legs, which writer loaned "until wanted." Well, it is wanted now, but neither of the gentlemen can recall the name of the borrower. Will that person please return the table as soon as possible, who ever he is?

That business has no heart was again belied last night when the men who work for the Detroit and Edenville. They opened their pay envelopes. Edenville, a man who is denied by the appearance of a nice These honest clerks are now being paid 20c an hour.

20 YEARS AGO March 28, 1929. Persons in Bloomfield township who want to start grass fire should obtain permits from township officials, John Wilson, announces. The permits are easily obtainable, and through them officials are aware of what areas to check against fires which get out of control and cause extensive damage.

The debating team of Baldwin high school will face the Mason team in their school Friday night. The only woman on that great deal of interest due to the unusually successful season both teams have so far enjoyed. The Baldwin team is made up of Patricia Chandler, Norma Martin and Richard Fleming.

Birmingham has a very unusual resident Mrs. Margaret Grant, 526 Stanley, for she is the only accredited welder in the city. Furthermore, Mrs. Grant is a hydraulic engineer. She has traveled the world and has made a trip to Australia with her husband, who follows the same trade.

Fire of undetermined origin caused about \$50,000 damage to the Oakland Hills club on Saturday. The building, formerly used as the club rooms, has been completely closed and the construction of the new building started.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. Shipman, who have returned from a trip through the South, are the first of the flood conditions they saw on their return home. In Pinetown, Tenn., Mrs. Shipman's car was held in the 1950 budget had been held to a minimum. Such expansion could be provided thru speed-

5 YEARS AGO Birmingham is playing host today to the members of the 4-H club who are celebrating achievement day. Mary Woodward, home extension worker and Karl D. Bailey, country agricultural agent, will assist Ray Taylor, secretary, in directing the meeting at Adams school.

An institute for Oakland county will be held by the Community House Monday, March 5, under the auspices of the Michigan League for Planned Parenthood. Miss LeVan, president of the national staff of the Planned Parenthood group will be the principal speaker.

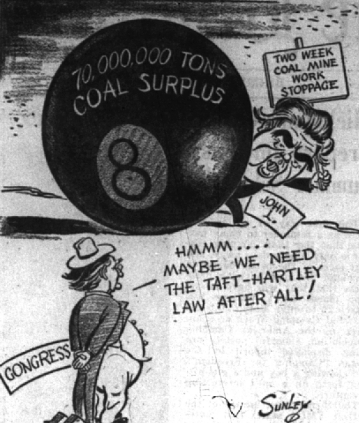
Setting a record of a record, Birmingham police had two reports of cars rolling over here Sunday. One accident took place on Woodward. The other on Hunter. One person received minor injuries, the plight of the ordinary car driver, was pitiful.

A soldier's trophy was stolen from the lobby of the Birmingham community house Monday evening. The trophy, a helmet worn by the soldier during the battle on Guadalcanal, had been borrowed to display at the War Bond drive. The soldier is now in a military hospital, recovering from wounds, and Holah asks that the helmet be returned promptly.

The new postal rates, three cents for first class letters and eight cents per ounce for air mail, went into effect here Sunday. The success of the air mail, assistant postmaster.

Regular use of these special envelopes for the payment of premiums will insure faster and more accurate service. VA insurance officials point out that all checks, money orders or other payments must be made payable to the Treasurer of the United States. If for any reason the envelope and/or does not know his insurance number, he should sure his payment, he should make sure his full name, address and armed forces serial number.

Not the Reaction He Wanted



If Boom Should Turn Into a Bust, Both Lansing and Washington Are Prepared

WASHINGTON (Special Staff) — What could be done if the boom turned to a bust? Unemployment is at its highest point since 1941. Most economists do not expect it to get serious. But if it does, both Washington and Lansing are ready to do something about it.

A Congressional quarterly survey reveals: 1. Michigan has completed partial plans for \$562,982,000 worth of locally financed public works. Of this amount (one of the largest in the country) topped off by New York, Pennsylvania, Missouri and Illinois) \$212,310,000 is ready to go on short notice.

Public Works Expansion Michigan is one of the states with reserves of \$291,763,000 with which to pay unemployment compensation during slack periods. The federal government is planning to spend \$3 billion on civil public works expansion in the 1950 fiscal year. It has not ready made plans for a fast public works expansion in case of an emergency, but the public works fund to keep the economy running at the rate recommended by the Council of Economic Advisors.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Remember those silhouettes you use three feet behind the sheet when you were a kid? You can produce the same thing with your camera, making sure that all lights are in a straight line with the sheet where you have placed your subject and principal spots.

When you try it with two people, it's a good idea to have two lights, one in front of the subject and the other behind each of them. The important thing is to make sure the light or lights are far enough back of the subject to give an even illumination over the whole area of the sheet that will be covered in the picture. See that the subject is not so close to the sheet that details of face or clothes are shown up as in a back-lit portrait.

Make sure, too, that nearby objects which will reflect light back off the subject or still away or at least covered with dark cloth. You will get better results also if your subject wears something dark.

Now set up your light source preferably a single or double door-way between two rooms. Stretch it lightly so that no wrinkles show. The success of the silhouette will depend on your excluding all light from the side of the sheet where you have placed your subject and your camera.

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Michigan Mirror

By Gene Alteman. Taxes levied and spent by the State of Michigan and cities and school districts are greater than \$2,500,000,000 paid by Michigan taxpayers to the federal government last year. With a State population of more than six million, this figures out to about \$4,000 for every person in Michigan.

Best immediate hope for lightening this huge tax burden will be found in the Hoover Commission task force reports now being issued from Washington. At the rate of two or three a week, these reports analyze the operations of such federal bureaus as the red tape, and more important, make recommendations for eliminating it. If these recommendations are followed, an estimated \$5,000,000,000 a year may be saved.

Michigan now has 102 administrative agencies, but there is a good chance that one of these may be eliminated. A Senate tax investigating committee has forwarded approximately \$1 million over the past seven years, working about two or three days a week. Officials of the Builders Association of Metropolitan Detroit were adopted. He thinks every home owner should have an income tax exemption of five per cent on his property for maintenance and depreciation. Many landlords, Guinan said, already have such an exemption and it is necessary for them to give this help to other owners.

More than 44,000 students are now enrolled in the University of Michigan, Michigan State College and Wayne University. These three institutions are said to be "crammed to the gills" though it is now 56 years since the end of the war. Officials who see no end to the enrollment boom, say more high school students feel it is necessary for them to go to college, junior colleges are funneling more students to the universities, many veterans are taking advanced courses and more students than ever before can afford to go to college.

Every session of the legislature there is a high debate about adjusting workmen's compensation, unemployment compensation and other more equitable. Senator John B. Marrin, Jr. (R. Grand Rapids) says that standards will be revised to emphasize that public assistance is a privilege, not a right, and to safeguard the interests of taxpayers. Senator Smith also believes that greater stress should be placed on rehabilitation and that a well-planned program should be formulated to justify appropriations.

Another new tax idea has been suggested by Representative William Romano (D. Van Dyke). He wants to place a ten per cent tax on the gross sales of professional football, hockey and baseball tickets. He estimates that this tax would raise approximately \$1 million a year for the state. Such a tax now is collected on boxing and wrestling matches.

Have trouble finding a place to park? Could be because 1948 Michigan motor vehicle registrations totaled 2,004,712, about 345,000 farmers own wood-land acreage and many in part-time work each year cutting logs, fuelwood, and other forest products from their own woodlands.



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Fox and Hounds Inn

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



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."

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING