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No Asphalt Mixing Plants for Us

Last week City Commissioner C. Theron Van Dusen revealed that an asphalt mixing plant might be erected just over the eastern city limits on the Grand Trunk right-of-way. That was the information which had come to him by grapevine.

Like many of our citizens, we are not opposed to having new, small industries arrive in Birmingham if they are properly located. If they can fit into the life of the community so that residents hardly know they have arrived or are at work, we would rather encourage a limited amount of this desirable type of industry as being able to bear some of the tax load that now falls primarily upon residential properties.

However, we still want Birmingham to be known throughout the state as a city of nice, homey good schools, a fine shopping center, beautiful trees and gardens. When people come to recognize it because of any peculiar smell created by industry, as they now identify Midland and Wyandotte because of the chemical plants there, we would object to such a thing becoming part of the life of Birmingham.

If the city's unofficial views on this proposed asphalt mixing plant are correct, it will not be erected here. The reason will be lack of water. The city believes a private well, sunk on GTRR property this plant is said to have leased, will not produce any water, or insufficient, anyway, to permit this plant to operate efficiently. And if the plants turn to the city for water, it will be told that it is the city's policy not to extend water outside city limits.

The Conference of Mayors, meeting in Washington, recently discussed the suggestion that Congress earmark half of next year's \$450,000 highway fund for roads through congested cities.

It seems to us that the place to use the money, if it becomes available, is in the construction of highways that will bypass the cities. Certainly, every traveler is annoyed by the necessity of going through a metropolitan area and, according to some highway experts, most of the congestion on the roads occurs in and around cities.

By the construction of highways around the cities, through-traffic could pass on without delay. This, in itself, would eliminate some of the congestion. Moreover, the use of the by-passes would leave the local highways for local traffic. As we see it, everybody would gain by construction of highways around cities.

It is difficult for many people to understand why leaders in the nation's various armed services cannot co-operate better in fashioning the national defense. After reading some of the stories about jealousies and animosities of rivalry among them, one might wonder if they are interested in less security, and more in their own positions of power.

Michigan Mirror

By Gene Alteman
The issue of new taxes or economy is now headed for a showdown in the Michigan state legislature due to adjourn May 20.
Indications are that the latter choice will be taken by Republican legislators who are in majority control. They will soon learn whether their economy cuts will be popular. No state agency wishes to have its funds reduced. This is natural.

Can the legislature economize on the remainder of state funds without impairing vital public services? That is the question. As we have said many times in this column, the real economy must come from curtailment of public services—less service for less money—rather than from the mirage of consolidation of state agencies.

Good Neighbors

In the preamble of the United Nations Charter are these words: "We the People of the United Nations, Determined... to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war... will practice tolerance and live together... as good neighbors".

Real peace—the kind we fought and some died for—has never been realized—yet; countries, like the people in them, are selfish. They want the things that will profit them regardless of effect on neighboring countries. On the other hand, "good neighbors", families or nations, think of the people next door.

Overcoming national differences in economic and political systems, race, culture, religions, laws, language, in 58 nations so these nations may act as good neighbors is one of the hardest problems the world has ever faced.

Science, which created the atomic bomb and with it the NEED for peace, is helpless to create a defense against it or an international friendliness among nations that will outlaw war, for arms cannot.

Can this oneness of purpose—keeping the peace—create the mutual responsibility necessary for these 58 nations to be good neighbors?

We still don't know. But one thing is sure: there must be among the people and the nations a constant desire for peace, a constant working for agreement, differences notwithstanding. All the formulas for peace that man can devise will amount to nothing at all UNLESS the nations and the people in them both will to be good neighbors. Peace will come only when mankind universally co-operates with one another.

Peace must be a grass roots effort—one reason the United Nations discussions in Birmingham have been so compatible with the end they sought to accomplish. Even though only a beginning these neighborhood parties have started the thinking toward international goodwill and understanding of the other nations' problems.

And good neighborliness, like peace, begins at home.

There's many a slip 'twixt a dress and its Miss... but not so many as her grandmother's petticoats.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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and a Democratic appointee of Governor Murray D. Van Wageningen selected Kim Sigler for appointment as special prosecutor to try Ivan A. Johnston, ex-Macomb county prosecutor. It was the Johnston indictment on graft charges which contributed to Sigler's primary victory as nominee for governor.

The post of superintendent of public instruction in the state constitutional office, subject to election. A move to make the office an appointive through a constitutional amendment failed 17 to 14 in a Senate test.

Adopted unanimously by the Senate a month ago a bill to forbid betting on harness or running races in Michigan after Dec. 31, 1949, was killed by the House committee on state affairs. Approximately \$3 millions in state revenues were involved. A similar bill met the same fate two years ago.

Michigan faces a shortage of 2,800 public school teachers this fall, according to the University of Michigan Bureau of Occupational Information.

Five ferry boats are now available for operation by the State Highway Department on the Mackinac City and St. Ignace at the Straits of Mackinac. The new ferry, the St. Ignace Marie, will permit a 15 per cent additional carrying capacity according to Charles M. Ziegler, state highway commissioner.

Of course, if the Democrats had been elected to the legislature, the same thing would have happened to Republican-sponsored bills which did not meet approval of the party in power. This is the political way of getting things done. The Republicans have opponents any opportunity of achieving their goals.

Interested situation: J. Edgar Paul R. Cash, Grant county jurist

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO May 12, 1899

From every available dead wall and bill board, flamboyant posters are selling Birmingham. The reliable Whitney show will be here again on Saturday, May 13. The Whitney's are always on the scene and this year will be no exception. We eagerly await their arrival.

The Oxford Leader celebrated its first birthday recently, appearing in a "cost of many folds" and heavily embellished with numerous half-tone cuts.

The accident chronicled last week of the knocking down of two ladies will be followed by others if such wretched vehicles are not kept off our walks. If we have a man, where is he? If we have none, it's the people time we had.

If the people knew what they miss by not attending the literary efforts at our school, the rooms would be full by bursting. Of late two debates have been given which would prove of great interest to our readers. If any one in our fair village who is desirous of keeping abreast of the times.

A letter from Alfred Gordon who is in Port Rico tells us he would like to exchange his home for a place in the world for a glimpse of home and mother. He adds that one of her good ham sandwiches would not go amiss, either.

20 YEARS AGO May 16, 1929

One of Birmingham's landmarks is being torn down to make way for progress. The building at the corner of Woodward and Commerce, Keller is being torn down. It was built 25 years since a variety of persons enter its doors, either to the library or to the ground floor, or to become communal guests in the jail on the ground floor.

Carl Keller of Beverly Hills is a representative of the Pontiac Board of Commerce. Keller is president of the Contractors Equipment company of Detroit.

Five Baldwin high school girls were injured Monday when the car and Maple after skidding into a ditch. While none of the girls were injured seriously, all suffered cuts and bruises.

Five which broke out in a dental office in the downtown area Friday evening. Only the dentist and his assistant were present and volunteer fire departments saved the village from a disaster.

A committee have been named and will be at work in Detroit, will be at the Community House each Wednesday as an extension work for the Community House has engaged Mrs. Kimball and is extending this service to Birmingham as a part of its civic activity plan.

5 YEARS AGO May 18, 1944

Mrs. Jeanette W. Kimball of Detroit, will be at the Community House each Wednesday as an extension work for the Community House has engaged Mrs. Kimball and is extending this service to Birmingham as a part of its civic activity plan.

The public is invited to a meeting of the Oakland County Citizens League at the Community House, Monday evening, 8 p.m. The program, Monday evening, 8 p.m. will deal with the study of foods.

The Maple track team, with their defeat of Ypsilanti in the state track finals at East Lansing. The Maples will defend the title they captured in 1942.

James G. McDonald of New York, noted radio commentator will speak on international relations at an annual reunion of the Birmingham International Relations Club Wednesday afternoon. His topic is "How the United States Will Meet the Peace Crisis."

At a special Mother's Day program last Sunday evening in the Baptist church, the combined choirs of all the city's churches joined in a festival of hymns to the mothers of Birmingham.

M. R. Liles Named Head of Indiana Co.

M. R. Liles, 983 Wimblyton, was named president of Bower, Inc., a Fort Wayne, Ind. firm, at its annual meeting last week. He succeeds R. Hosken Damon, who was named chairman of the board of directors.

Liles is also a member of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and is president of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Chronograph Co., both of Detroit.

He has announced that he, with Mrs. Liles and their daughter, will continue to reside in Birmingham, and thereby give a greater number of "tricks of the trade" which we have been discussing, in short, it's wise to see if we're using our know-how to improve our snapshot.

You will recall that a few weeks ago we mentioned that long shadows help to lend a feeling of depth to your pictures. And not long ago we stated that it was necessary to increase exposure somewhat with a subject lighted from the side or from behind.

Determined Little Fellow, Isn't He?



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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

To the Editor: Have you read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? It is a very exciting document and it's adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations, last December in Paris, seems to me to be one of the United Nation's greatest achievements, so far. I hope it will be a major topic in the Town Meeting on the UN we are to have in Birmingham on May 16th.

Most Americans take "Human Rights" pretty much for granted. In my mind, although there are still many people in our own country who don't enjoy them to the fullest by any means, and we have much work to do to achieve them for all our citizens. But undoubtedly those delegates voted for adoption of the declaration (the vote was 48 to 0 with a handful of abstentions) there must be millions of people who don't know what a "human right" is!

Take Article 1 of the declaration for instance—"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood." How many of us really believe this? And if we do, how can there be any thought of war—ever?

All thirty articles of the declaration are so fundamental, it's writing, after months and months of hard work by the Human Rights Commission, and prompt adoption by the General Assembly give the young UN a magnificent guide and inspiration in its search for peace.

The temporary economic decay in Argentina, an intrinsically rich and prosperous country, marches on. Cornered by senseless economic policies, the Argentine government has passed a law to take over the electric public utilities in the country.

By far the largest of these companies is the Compania Hispano Americana de Electricidad (Chade), up till now a glaring example of the success of private enterprise. It started from scratch about fifty years ago and was developed by Belgian and German engineers in such a way that it can be actually described as the motor behind Argentinean industrial development.

That the license for this large company actually runs until 1956 appears to be of secondary importance.

INTERNATIONALLY Speaking

By Eugene Hess International Market Analyst

The temporary economic decay in Argentina, an intrinsically rich and prosperous country, marches on. Cornered by senseless economic policies, the Argentine government has passed a law to take over the electric public utilities in the country.

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Opponents of Public Power Projects Battle Against Government Expansion

(Special Story from Our Washington Bureau) WASHINGTON—Public power opponents are grinding themselves for a last ditch fight to halt government expansion in the power business.

The anti-public power people, who took a licking in the 1948 election, are now organizing to recoup their losses. They hope to enlist the aid of related interests and of other industries which fear government competition.

An opposition bloc consisting of congressmen from such diverse power states as Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa, and West Virginia have already tightened their ranks to resist further government encroachments.

Unsuccessful Fight Chief senatorial spokesman of this group is Homer Ferguson, of Michigan. He led an unsuccessful fight against this year's appropriation for the Johnsonville steam plant in Iowa.

On the other side of Capitol Hill, Representative George Dondero of Michigan, Republican, carries the ball. Dondero is the sponsor of a bill to repeal the section of the 1944 Flood control act that authorizes the Interior Department to market electric power produced at flood control dams.

Outside congress, the man who directs the fight against government is Parcell L. Smith. He is the \$66,000-a-year president of the National Association of Electric Companies, organized expressly to battle public power.

Smith hopes to arouse people east of the Mississippi and north of the Mason & Dixon line. His argument is that the bulk of the power for the South and West (There is still constant war about whether public power pays for itself).

One of Main Issues Public power advocates are pointing to the main issues of the 1948 campaign. Though many of the Administration's legislative proposals, including Truman's requests for more money to finance public power, were rejected by Congress.

Some of the books are: THE CALCULATED RISK, by Hamilton Fish Armstrong. THE UNITED NATIONS PRIMER, by Sirgip Arde.

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Today's illustration offers a good example of how these simple suggestions may be combined to help produce a snapshot you may be proud of. The backlighting, although the subjects are facing the sun, has produced dark shadows which lead your eye to the heart of the picture. And the exposure was increased sufficiently to avoid a silhouette effect, even though the sun falls directly on the backs of the children.

ON THE DIAMOND, HOMER, HOTOX IS A WALKING RULEBOOK. PAGE 13, RULE 64. PARAGRAPH 6, LINE 2. QUOTE: AUTOMATIC TRIPLE.

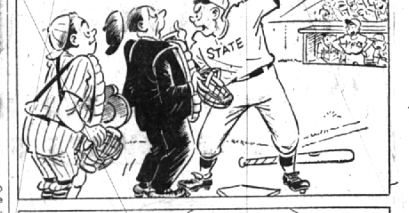


Illustration by Solly Seyer