Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Voters See Value of New Schools

As a result of last week's special election, the Birmingham school district will have a new $2,714,800 high school which students will occupy in the fall of 1951. A new Torry elementary school will be erected, and both Franklin and Walnut Lake schools will receive two-room additions.

This $3,100,000 expansion program is necessarry, the school board ably pointed out prior to the election, because of the inadequacy of present school buildings.

A total of 2,174 school district electors listened to the school board's presentation of facts, evaluated these facts, and went to the polls to express their opinions. Of the general electors voting on the matter, 1,677 approved the program while only 462 opposed it. Property owners, balloting on the issuance of bonds to finance the program, endorsed the new buildings, 1,587 to 407.

We also believed in the proposed program, as we pointed out in a Page One editorial the week before the election. We congratulate the voters on seeing the potentially dangerous inadequacies of the present buildings, and on their favorable action in meeting the situation. Certainly, $3,100,000 is a lot of money. But we feel the education of the children in the Birmingham school district is one thing we can never neglect. We should continue to give them more than just what will get them by.

Here are some interesting facts provided by this election. You may consider them and draw your own conclusions.

There were 10,228 eligible school district electors. More than 7,000 of them were automatically added to school voting registration lists by recent state legislation. Only 2,174 voted.

For the regular school election last June, 2,787 persons were on the B of E voting list. The largest vote in a previous school election was 1,868. This occurred on May 5, 1947, when the current five-mill special millage was approved by the district.

World Organization Fad

A world organization of teachers is essential, according to Dr. William F. Russell, president of Teachers College, Columbia University, if education is to play a major part in maintaining peace.

We fail to follow the logic of the assertion of the educator. Just why the teachers of the United States must be tied up in a world organization in order to have a hand in maintaining peace escapes us.

The movement, no doubt, is in line with the trend of the day. Practically everybody wants to be organized and, once organized, wants to get into a bigger organization.

Whether the bigger organization will be more effective than a number of smaller organizations is a matter of considerable doubt.

To Test High-Speed Rockets

A submarine guided-missile program, so secret that few naval officers have known of the experiment, comes to light with the announcement that specially-converted submarines will soon fight with guided missiles in Hawaiian waters while a task fleet attempts to shoot them down.

The missiles will be 15,000-pound "loons," fired from launching platforms on the submarines, which will be stationed two miles apart. As many as 70 ships will be lined up for fifty miles along the Channel in the effort to stop the "loons," with anti-aircraft fire. If this fails, carrier planes will try to shoot them down as they travel 500 miles an hour at a two-mile altitude.

While it is generally known that the military departments of the United States are experimenting with guided missiles, nobody knows the exact state of the experiments. Congress has voted large sums and target areas have been designated on land and sea.

The extensive experiments indicate that government experts believe that rockets and other guided missiles may play a big part in the next war.

Townsend Plan Adopted

For many years Dr. Francis E. Townsend has tried to win public support for his pension plan. You recall that he would do it by imposing a heavy sales tax on everything purchased, the money to be paid out via government to old people.

Thus would, the Doctor argued, purchasing power be kept high, production would flourish, and everybody'd be able to work.

The Doctor didn't get very far with his ideas . . . that is, under his brand name. Yet, under Roosevelt and now Truman, plus their satellites, (in and out of office), the same thing is happening. High taxes are being collected and then doled out, either in straight federal aid to pensioners, or to organized groups whose pressures upon government bring them subsidies.

Yes, Dr. Townsend's ideas are now working . . . they kept FDR in office, and appear able to do so for his successor.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue
Telephone 11, 12, 13 and 14

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Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Oakland County)		(Outside Oakland County)	
One Year	$2.50	One Year	$3.50
Six Months	1.75	Six Months	2.25
Three Months	1.00	Three Months	1.50

The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, and University Press Club.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material providing it has news value; and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited superficially so that they conform to general newspaper style. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By Gene Alleman

The Upper Peninsula was invaded again this week.

The invading army consisted of friendly hunters, colorfully clad in bright red, and many hued sport garments, bound for the "north country" on an annual deer hunting expedition.

The automobile congestion at the Straits of Mackinac, the transportation bottleneck beween the two peninsulas, again brought into focus increased demand for some immediate solution to this traffic problem. The 1949 legislature set aside an appropriation of 4½ million dollars for a new ferry boat to speed up transport of tourists and automobiles across the straits. Now difficulties have developed as to suitable dockage at St. Ignace, and additional cost of over 1 million dollars may have to be incurred before the new boat could be put into practical use upon its completion.

* * *

Invariably the Straits bridge idea is revived during an election campaign, and 1950 may see new political agitation in favor of a bridge or tunnel to be financed in part by government money or self-liquidating bonds.

The Upper Peninsula always welcomes the arrival of sportsmen and summer tourists. Recreation has become big business in this vast area stretching more than 360 miles from Ironwood at the west to Sault Ste. Marie at the east. To the north of the "Sault" lies the vast wilderness in Canada.

* * *

The Upper Peninsula is the region of by-gone glory in lumbering and a recent decline in copper and iron mining. In the "copper country" the copper mines have reached depths at which copper mining can be maintained only by a very protective high price, such as has prevailed during wars, or through federal subsidy. Michigan copper mines cannot compete profitably with low-priced copper from other regions of the United States and the world.

* * *

As for the future of Michigan iron mines a traveler in the Lake Superior region is always impressed with the vast potentials of low-grade iron ore. While reserves of high-grade ore are sufficiently adequate to accommodate needs of steel makers for many years to come, the four billion four hundred million capital investment of the Great Lakes steel industry is such that steelmen are looking ahead for a substitute supply of ore when present high-grade is depleted.

Demands of World War I and World War II depleted the Michigan and Minnesota ranges of many millions of tons of high-grade iron ore.

* * *

A recent issue of Business Week pointed out that production in the Gogebic Range has been slipping since 1942, that the lower part of the Menominee Range which straddles the Michigan-Wisconsin state line, is well exhausted; and that the Marquette Range contains mostly underground ore of which high production is needed to operate mines economically. Business Week puts an expectancy on the Mesabi Range of 27 years; Marquette Range, 25; Menominee Range, 30; and the Gogebic Range, 15 years.

Utilization of the low-grade teconite iron ore is the future hope of the Michigan iron country.

* * *

A revival of lumbering in Michigan is also a favorable possibility. More than 300 houses, pre-cut from pine lumber, were fabricated and sold last year by a single cabin company in St. Ignace. Of the 36 million acres of land in Michigan, foresters state that 20 million acres are unquestionably land never to be used for anything else than growing trees. This fits well into the north Michigan area, now the scene of the perennial deer hunting season.

The deer hunter is more than a welcome visitor. He is the symbol of the growing recreational industry in Michigan's North Country.

Internationally Speaking

By Eugene Hess

It was announced a few days ago that the U.N. has succeeded in sponsoring a new form or statehood for the archipelago in Southeast Asia with the United States known as the Netherlands East Indies and Indonesia.

In short, the new arrangement implies that the greater part of the islands, which contain 70 million people, will form the Republic of Indonesia with a sort of dominion status within the Netherlands Empire.

The smaller part, consisting mainly of the Netherlands division of New Guinea, continues to be a direct colonial dependency of the Netherlands. This development opens a wide perspective for mutual trade with the United States.

We have here another admirable success for the efforts of the U.N.

Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Bruner and son, Billy of Epping lane, Bloomfield Hills? Mr. Bruner is with the public relations department of General Motors.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago
NOVEMBER 17, 1899

Mrs. N. Norton has been visiting her father and his wife who have returned to their home in Hoytville after an extensive trip to Canada. Mrs. Norton reports her father very active and alert for a gentleman of 80 years.

* * *

The Flashlight Club meets every two weeks now. The first party of the season, which was a very enjoyable one, was held Tuesday evening at the home of Miss Emma Reid.

* * *

The ladies of the Home Missionary Society of the M. E. Church will serve a dinner in the church parlors right after the union Thanksgiving day service, Thursday morning. Anyone wanting a good turkey dinner with all the fixin's had better go. It will be 20c for adults and 10c for children.

* * *

That free Vive Souvenir camera gift was a big success. The 25 to be given away were absorbed before breakfast of last Saturday. Whitehead and Mitchell have 25 more to be given away Saturday next, but there will be no more. Fill out the application and then be happy with the rest.

* * *

Wedding bells have been ringing merrily in our midst. This time they were for Miss Dora Berger and Daniel McIntyre, who will reside for a time with the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Berger. The many friends of the bridal couple congratulate them.

20 Years Ago
NOVEMBER 21, 1929

Approximately $46,000 will be mailed from the local banks early next week as members of the Christmas clubs get their annual checks. The First National bank reports $22,000; the First Savings bank $18,500 and the Birmingham Savings bank $7,000. All show a large increase in deposits this year.

* * *

The Rev. Paul A. Peterson of the First Baptist church will address about 70 members of the newly formed Oakland County Schoolmen's club when they hold their first banquet meeting in the Baptist church tonight. The club has been formed for social as well as business reasons. It is hoped it will benefit both members and schools through discussion periods.

* * *

Announcement is made of the resignation of Raymond Girardin as managing editor of the Eccentric. He has accepted a position in the editorial department of the Detroit Times. Leo Donovan of Detroit, who has had six years of newspaper work there will succeed him.

* * *

Bruce Shaw took off from the Royal Oak airport Monday, in spite of a severe storm, to go to the aid of George W. Erwin, local car dealer, who had been hurt in a hunting accident. Shaw carried Dr. P. J. Stryker as a passenger. Returning yesterday, he reported Erwin's injuries painful but not serious.

* * *

A Detroit steamfitter learned, to the tune of $110, that he is out of his field when he begins speedy driving while in an intoxicated condition in Royal Oak. The man was pursued through Birmingham by local police who were unable to apprehend him, but phoned a warning to Royal Oak officers that he was on his way to visit them.

5 Years Ago
NOVEMBER 22, 1944

Weldon MacDonald, John Foley, Charles Crandell and Ted Mansfield were the successful quartet who sold $64,000, purchase price war bonds at the Baldwin high school auction during the Friday assembly. It put Baldwin way over the top and brought a new selling medium to Birmingham.

* * *

Erick Bergighagen is home from a hunting trip to South Dakota, full of tales of elk, buffalo, and all sorts of fowl, along with the wonderful companionship of his boyhood friend, Lauritz Melchoir, Metropolitan star. He returned with a nice lot of game for his home use, a welcome thing in these days of rationing.

* * *

The battle tomorrow will go farther than football. According to all reports the Royal Oak and Birmingham bands are getting ready for something extra special in the line of music. Each one swears it will play the other right out of the ball park.

* * *

Getting tables set up in the gym at Barnum school every day to serve 300 hungry youngsters proved too much last week, and the two janitors just walked out. They were finally enticed back in turn, but are still faced with the noon problem. What are we going to do—provide a lunch room or hire a few extra janitors?

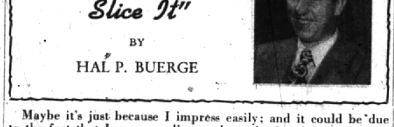
* * *

An appeal from the Wanderer —with the coming of winter our feathered songsters are going to have a hard time finding food. Let's all remember them with a few crusts and seeds every day. They'll more than repay us next summer with their songs and beauty.

Left Holding the Bag

"Any Way You Slice It"

BY HAL P. BUERGE



Maybe it's just because I impress easily; and it could be due to the fact that I am a small town boy who hasn't quite caught up with all of the routine of the big city, but I got a tremendous wallop out of the reactions of the Torch leaders that met in the main ballroom of the Hotel Statler in Detroit last Thursday evening to make their final reports on the United Foundation fund drive.

I guess I was in an especially good mood because I was riding with a winner. Birmingham had gone over the top in a grand display of benevolent brilliance and I knew that I was going to get a big thrill when Henry Whiting's turn came to get on his feet and announce that Birmingham, as of then, had collected $103,000 against a quota of $82,000 and would finish with 128% of the goal.

I watched the expressions on the faces of the leaders and the many who had followed. I observed the reactions of the hundreds of workers who had gathered to report their territorial successes. Rumors were flying thick and fast. Everyone thought that the goal for metropolitan Detroit was in the bag by the way everyone acted, but we couldn't be sure. It was just like being in the huddle of a football team that was enjoying a last quarter time-out with a three touchdown lead over an opponent that was supposed to have pinned their ears back.

Excitement was running high at the dinner tables and everyone was at fever pitch when Frank Pierce rose to his feet and launched the meeting by having the Reverend Edward A. Cardinal Mooney give the invocation. Among other distinguished guests was Sister Elizabeth Kenny who, amid tremendous applause, arose serenely in her gown of pure white and wearing a black, wide-brimmed hat with a huge ostrich feather crossing the brim on an angle. Never had I seen a more striking and imposing individual.

When it was finally certified that the metropolitan drive had been successful and that the figures showed an overall 103% of the quota had been reached, the meeting melted into bliss. Everyone was relieved of tension with the assurance of a grand victory.

Pierce himself exemplified the feeling of everyone. His voice was full of emotion as he thanked the hundreds who had helped by telling them that he couldn't thank them; there was no way to do so in a manner that would be adequate. He begged everyone to imagine that he was talking directly to him as he expressed his gratitude. Little did he realize how his words hit home with the throng and how well his countenance portrayed a man who was deeply appreciative, awed and proud of his magnificent organization. I think everyone felt the same toward their leader, and even of each other, and themselves. It is a wonderful feeling to have done something for someone less fortunate and this was ultimately it.

Another thing that pleased me greatly was the fact that Frank Pierce lives in my town, Birmingham. Some of his key men were also from this area. There was Fritz Hyde and Cal Patterson who jointly did a whale of a job of heading up the drive in Detroit in the residences and small businesses. They also did a wonderful job of making their report. Herb Wood, also of Birmingham, did likewise in Highland Park.

Representing the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin drive were Henry Whiting the local chairman, Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn, campaign director, Mrs. Charles E. Carey who handled Bloomfield Hills and Frank Couzens, Jr., who took care of the subscriptions of the business firms.

Whiting amused the happy throng greatly by addressing his report from the land of Chief Pontiac and explained how much wampum had been collected. He also told how some of the wampum would have to be left with Chief Pontiac. He referred to the share of the local funds that are to be turned over to the Pontiac fund.

As I said before, the whole thing left me tremendously impressed. I wondered then, and I still do, if there is anything better for people than to have done something for others that required real effort on their part, a real sacrifice, a terrific struggle and a final well-earned victory.

Cold Wind

By BEATRICE McDONALD

The cold, cold wind that blows so hard today
Is rough and wild and cruel.
It paints the roses in the children's cheeks
As they run on to school.
It rudely tries to shake my little house
And break my spirit frail,
And chants a lonely song to me . . .
Yet its uncanny wail
Is heavenly music unto other ears
Not very far away
It blows where new-born babes have come, and where
'Tis someone's wedding day.

Real Example of 4-Power Cooperation Is the International Patrol in Vienna

(Special Story From Our Washington Bureau)

By Joseph A. Dear

VIENNA—Eighteen American GIs serving on Vienna's famed International Patrol are probably more experienced at getting along with Russians than the entire striped-pants corps of the State Department.

Operating far behind the iron curtain, this police unit (last of four-power cooperation) patrols each of the four sectors of Vienna and the city's international zone 24 hours a day. In radio controlled command cars, members of the Patrol stand ready to keep little incidents involving Allied military personnel from becoming big incidents involving armies.

Each command car of the Patrol is manned by an American, British, French, and Russian soldier. If a GI goes on a rampage after too much red eye, if a Russian jeep driver is in a hit-and-run accident, the Patrol is called.

Ticklish Situations Avoided

Thus ticklish situations are avoided. If an American MP tried to arrest a boisterous Russian in the United States zone of Vienna, there might be an "international incident." That's what the International Patrol avoids. Its Russian member would arrest the offending Soviet soldier—and no complications develop.

The same procedure is followed in other sectors of Vienna. The British member of the Patrol directs all operations that involve British personnel. The same goes for the French.

The command cars fly the flags of the four nations occupying this city, which lies behind the curtain. The members of the Patrol ride together, eat together, and even play together, during their six-hour tour of duty. Uncle Sam provides the cars and the equipment; the other nations provide meals for members of the Patrol serving their zone of the city.

Talk in 'Pidgin German'

By common consent, the members of that Patrol converse in "pidgin German". It is important that the members understand each other, for even if the United States member always drives, he is the boss only in the American sectors. In the Russian Zone, the Soviet member takes over and tells the American driver where to go.

Some of the Americans eventually learn to speak a little Russian. Twenty-two year old Cpl. William Meek, of Runnymede, N. J., has learned so much Russian he's considered a language-shark.

Meek has been riding with the Patrol about a year, and he has found the Russians "pretty easy to get along with." They never make decisions before consulting superior officers, Meek reports, and they often object to "silly things."

Cpl. Robert Long, of Los Angeles, agreed, adding: "They're like a bunch of kids; they always want to be boss."

What a Card Game!

None of the Americans on the Patrol have any complaints about the meals the Russians serve in their zone. "Usually steak and fries" said Long. After dinner, there is frequently time for a quick card game. The game played, of Russian invention, is frightfully complicated.

It takes about three months to learn," Meek observed, "but once you've got it, you can't lose."

The Americans have adopted the Russian rules—or lack of rules—and no holds barred. Bluffing, sitting on cards, peeking at other hands, double dealing—anything goes. When the Russians do something, they do it with gusto.

That includes capturing disorderly GIs. When a Russian member of the Patrol brings a Soviet soldier in, Meek said, that soldier goes to the hospital. If the Russian member finds he needs help, he calls for the American. So with the French.

One Ray of Light

"We don't call for help," Long said proudly.

But the Americans report the other members pitch in when the going is really rough.

French members are most cooperative, according to American patrolmen. The British come next, altho they are inclined to be bossy and the Russians are the least.

But in spite of gripes, the International Patrol is a practical working example of four-power co-operation. It's one ray of light in the darkening gloom of the Cold War.

Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Jay, their children, Robin and Ricky who have moved from Tacoma, Washington, to 1842 Graefield? Mr. Jay is district manager of the Wayne Plant of Gar-Wood.

54,872

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 29th day of October, A.D., 1949.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Nell E. Wakefield, Deceased.

Lawrence M. Wakefield, administrator of said estate, having filed in said Court a petition praying that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands against said deceased by and before said court.

It is Ordered, that two months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

It is Further Ordered, that the 7th day of February, 1950, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said deceased.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

LEWIS & WATKINS, Attorneys.
Ford Building,
Detroit 26, Michigan

33-35

Classified ad deadline is 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

You sportsmen can bag your limit with your cameras, too.

Fall Sports Pictures

IF YOU are one of those camera fans who likes to combine the hobby of photography with a love of sports of all kinds, you have many pleasant weeks in store for you during the beautiful fall months.

On a sunny Saturday you will find a football game being played on virtually every vacant lot in town, as well as on the school gridirons all around the countryside. If you are a hunter, you probably will have your equipment polished and ready to go at the break of dawn on the day hunting season opens. And if you just like to get out into the wide open spaces, you probably will be pulling to your hiking boots or packing your gear in the bow of a canoe, ready to set out and enjoy nature at its best.

The camera can play an integral part in your enjoyment of all these fall sports activities. It can easily capture the exciting moments of that neighborhood football game. A fast shutter on your camera, of course, will make action pictures easier to obtain, but if you have a slower shutter, you can still get good shots. Back off a bit further and try to snap the action when it is somewhat suspended for a moment.

You fans who pack a camera along on a hunting trip can really bring back some fine pictures. Because of all the other gear, usually the best camera for such a trip is one that is small and portable. Moreover, try to get more than the usual record shots. Instead of lining up the members of your party in the ordinary way, make some shots of each member in action, as he fires at a target, or cleans his catch, or trudges back to the lodge with the day's limit over his shoulder. A fine picture story can be compiled of the gang on the hunting trip.

The picture story can also be used by you hikers and boaters. A shot here and there at strategic points along the way can add up to a very fine picture coverage. And don't forget the scenic attractions as you go along.

Nature is at its best for all these fall sports activities, and it is wonderful to get out and enjoy them. Take your camera along, too, for it will bring back the fun in some swell snapshots.

—John van Guilder