

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

Decision last week by Off-Street the City Commission to have the proposed \$825,505 off-street parking program turned back to the Plan Commission...

This is no reflection upon the long labors of the Plan Commission itself. It is, however, necessary if such a project is to receive a fair hearing before public opinion.

Birmingham is, like all communities, entitled to be guided not only by ideas offered by voluntary groups such as the Plan Commission, but also by its elected, tax-paying and tax-spending representatives, such as the City Commission.

Demands by certain unions for pensions from employers is the first step toward Socialism. Why? Simply because, in a free competitive enterprise system, business concerns have no perpetual guarantee that they can, indefinitely, remain solvent.

Every additional expense placed upon a business must be reflected in increased costs to the consumers. Placing extra financial burdens on some businesses will, in the end, force them into weak competitive positions, with final bankruptcy starting them in the face.

The only way under the sun to guarantee pensions is through general taxation, such as now operates through the Social Security Act. Even this, of course, is stepping toward Socialism—

Detroit's thinking people went to the polls last week and, by the greatest plurality it ever gave a mayoral candidate, placed City Treasurer Albert E. Cobo as its first choice to succeed Mayor Van Antwerp.

Literally, "grapes of wrath" are growing in south-western Michigan. Grape growers there are up in arms because of a 25 per cent price decrease offered...

A Wisconsin mother and daughter claim they paid another woman \$500 over a period of 18 years "to keep ghosts away from us." It is difficult to believe that, in an enlightened nation like ours, two adult women could be so ignorant as to fall victims to such a hoax.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Made Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham of Today

50 Years Ago SEPTEMBER 22, 1899

The Hon. A. Partridge and Partridge will be the guests at a special celebration in the Masonic Temple Tuesday evening, in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Attention, Merchants! Since the village has recently passed an ordinance prohibiting farmers from tying horses to trees, it behooves you to supply them with adequate hitching posts near your places of business.

Congratulations to Dr. Shaw of our village on a brilliant piece of surgery. Last May an Italian by a trolley pole on the head destroyed after the man's condition. Dr. Shaw did a splendid job, shattered bone for a silver plate. The operation was most successful, and as soon as the pressure was removed from his brain, the man's memory returned.

In an Illinois town, all the drinks are put to cutting weeds along the streets. Too bad we don't have more drinks here, so then we could get our weeds cut, too.

During vacation William Hilliard put an entirely new set of files in the school house boiler room for purpose and did a very nice and satisfactory job, too.

20 Years Ago SEPTEMBER 26, 1929

Nearly 600 persons are expected to convene here next Tuesday for the annual association of the Young Men's Christian Association of the Detroit area.

A block of village bonds valued at \$245,000 were purchased last week by the Detroit and Security Trust Company, Detroit.

Parents of 24 first string football players have presented a signed order to school officials forbidding their sons to take part in the game against Mt. Clemens Oct. 18.

Dr. David Trout, Hillsdale college physiology professor, will give the first of six lectures in the Guild hall at First Church Cranford Monday evening.

Probate Judge D. A. McCaffrey, after the probate of the estate of Monday made a plea for the establishment of better homes in the city.

Schools Serve Democracy With the opening of classes in the Birmingham school district for the year 1949-50, it might be well for parents and teachers to do a little thinking about the pupils that present problems to both of them.

Children going to a school system should not be regarded as raw material to be subjected to certain definite processes in the expectation that the finished product can be certain or standardized.

Parents who expect a school and its teachers to take a rough specimen of untrained humanity and develop it into a polished human being are looking for a great deal. They must not expect the school to take the place of the home and the church.

Teachers, on the other hand, facing a mass of little human beings in their classrooms, should not overlook the importance of identifying each pupil as a separate and distinct human entity.

The good teacher is not a mass-worker. There must be the recognition of the student, together with an intelligent tolerance for the child if the greatest improvement in the individual is to be secured.

Naturally, we are very proud of the school system in this community. Along with millions of other Americans, we thoroughly endorse the common schools which offer educational opportunities to all children upon practically equal terms.

The schoolhouse, in our opinion, is the backbone of democratic processes, which should be respected, and appreciated by officials and teachers, as well as by the students themselves.

Regardless of where they finish, Detroit has a splendid 1949 baseball club. Except for several injuries to star players, Detroit might already have clinched the pennant.

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Editor and Publisher: GEORGE W. AVERILL. Managing Editor: EDWARD W. AVERILL. Advertising Manager: EDWARD W. AVERILL.

5 Years Ago SEPTEMBER 23, 1944

Work on the big city Halloween party is off to a good start. Charles Shain, general chairman, has already gathered other committee members to discuss their plans.

It has been announced that three Birmingham banks will participate in the new government plan for cashing U. S. War Bonds.

Dr. Otto Beck was awarded an Associate Fellowship in the American Medical Society by the Michigan State Medical Society during their annual meeting in Grand Rapids.

Carl Blauman, former Maple gridiron star, made the only touchdown for the Western Michigan college team in their game against Banker Hill naval air base players.

William Coit Allee told city commissioners Monday evening that the city should be considering the city build up a substantial cash reserve for possible use in the event of a major emergency.

Some times folks followed by deeds, bespeak of the simple grandeur of man's endeavor. —Harry E. Burroughs

People's Column

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. All communications should be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters should be limited to 300 words.

To the Editor: The following is a copy of the letter I have sent to the Birmingham City Commission, and which I would like The Eccentric to publish in the City Commission's column.

As a registered voter and one who is interested in all matters pertaining to the welfare of our City, I wish to convey to the members of the City Commission a few thoughts concerning the proposed Off-Street Parking Plan.

In view of the proposed school bus program which will cost the taxpayers around three million dollars, it seems unwise to consider an off-street parking plan involving an expense of \$825,000 or more.

If the members of the City Commission and City Planning Commission feel the need for City-owned parking lots, why do they not first consider the suggestion offered by Mr. Edward E. Rothman, that the City lease two or three lots for a trial period to determine what the need is?

It appears to me that the greatest need for parking facilities is in the evenings to accommodate theatre patrons. What is the interpretation which the "Michigan Mirror" deduces from an exchange of letters between the Governor and State Treasurer D. Hale Brake, Auditor General M. K. Aten and Controller Robert F. Steadman over a 1950 deficit.

An additional observation might be made: The problem of state finances, caused directly by diversion of 78 per cent of sales tax revenues to public schools and cities and townships, will await the 1950 session of the state legislature.

Here is the record, and you can judge for yourself. The Michigan governor indicated he would call legislators into special session to consider the problem of state finances.

The legislature's attitude, as represented by Governor Steadman, is that the Michigan taxpayers are not convinced new taxes are necessary.

To bring the matter to a head, Governor Williams recently sent a letter to the Michigan auditor general and controller. He asked for advice: What are the reasons for the 1950 "when" deficit develops, the treasurer is willing to delay payment of some bills to utilize better funds.

It is the contention of Controller Steadman that the treasury department is not in a position to supply the state liquor control commission with the necessary funds.

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"Any Way You Slice It" BY HAL P. BUERGE. Includes cartoon of a man with a knife and a television set.

There is a story going around about the two fellows who met on the street and began to talk about television. One fellow informed the other that he didn't like it. He backed up his argument with his opinion that the programs are lousy, you can't get a clear enough picture, watching the screen hurts your eyes, etc.

I was finally converted into a television fan a couple of weeks ago and I can testify that its recent introduction into the American home is satisfactory in this area, at least.

The programs vary from direct telecasts of various sports events to round table discussions and puppet shows. Old time vaudeville entertainment is also prevalent. They say vaudeville will never come back and perhaps it won't, but television is sure giving it a chance.

If the producers of kiddie features do a good job, I can see where the youngsters of the future will advance rapidly in many ways. Many of us can learn easiest through observation and if we are exposed to knowledge in a manner that holds our interest we will acquire information that we failed to grasp from book learning or classroom discussion.

One afternoon last week I arrived home from work about five-thirty and when I stalked into my living room I had to tip-toe through sixteen youngsters who were sitting around the room on chairs and filling most of the available floor space.

My wife acts as head usher and we have considered starting a peanut, popcorn and candybar concession. We have to clear the theatre at dinner-time each evening and then, after dinner, some of the kids come back and peep through the windows at the screen.

It isn't only the kids that like to watch, either. Many of their dads and mothers like the entertainment, too. On our street there are now seven television sets in a two block stretch.

I think I bought one because I yielded to temptation after listening to those who had them tell me about the swell fight or football game that was on "last night." Or, the amateur program, the variety show or one of a number of other such features.

I finally fell and you probably will, too, sooner or later. It's just a matter of time, and I'll do my part to speed you along by testifying that television is swell. The pictures are clear, reception is wonderful and the programs are getting better all the time.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner. Includes an illustration of a camera.

As replacements and stock, the city commission Monday night authorized the purchase of 350 parking meters at a total cost of \$1,802.43.

"Unpredictable as Russian Politics" ... is the baby before a camera lens! Includes an illustration of a baby.

If you get a bit discouraged with the results of your picture-making occasionally, or if you would like to when he planned it. The message boost yourself from this snapper.

Modern PHOTOGRAPHY lets you in on the secrets of photographing babies, children, pets, and people. It's a beautiful, informative, new kind of magazine for camera owners.

Michigan Mirror INTERPRETING THE NEWS. Includes cartoon of a man with a megaphone and a sign that says 'TITO HEADACHE'.

No special session of the state legislature will be called by Governor C. Mennen Williams this fall. Such is the interpretation which the "Michigan Mirror" deduces from an exchange of letters between the Governor and State Treasurer D. Hale Brake, Auditor General M. K. Aten and Controller Robert F. Steadman over a 1950 deficit.

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