

New Year Will Be Exactly What We Mold It

Three days more and Birmingham will welcome in a new year. With the international situation in its present shaky condition, no one is certain what the next 365 days hold for our community.

IT APPEARS THAT THE proposed off-street parking program will be set-

From Our Point of View

Commercial raisers of chickens in November hatched 70,135,000 little chicks, an all-time record. And to think that many of them eventually will never get to dinner tables...

Birmingham was second among all Oakland County municipalities in getting out a large vote at the recent Nov. 7 election, with 73 per cent of its registered voters casting their ballots.

There probably is no better man on earth fit to direct the combined armies of free countries in Europe than Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

A truck driver in Illinois was hauling 80,000 eggs when his truck caught fire. Nearby fire departments refused to come to his rescue...

How times change! Michigan's oldest horse, who reached nearly 33, passed on to his Elysian Fields in Coldwater recently.

So They Say... Olaf Dean, chairman, Atomic Energy Commission: "One thing that I think the Russians understand is strength."

Earl J. McGrath, commissioner, U. S. Office of Education: "If we are to live and work with people of diverse cultures, we will have to know something about them."

Edward Martin, U. S. Senator from Pennsylvania: "We must have a great spiritual revival, based on the eternal truth of the Holy Bible."

Lyndon D. Johnson, U. S. Senator from Texas: "The country would be a lot better off if our defense officials and others would tell us bluntly what the country needs rather than what they think the country wants to hear."

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The Eccentric will contribute material providing it has new value. Suggestions are welcomed. 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 if brought to the publisher's attention.

ted finally, one way or the other, possibly at the April 2 city election.

Looking back on 1950, it has been good to Birmingham. Several thousand new people, deciding that Birmingham was a fine place to live, joined us who have known it for years.

Our religious growth was reflected in the formal announcement that the Methodists, the Catholics, the Presbyterians and Lutherans are going to build new churches here.

Under the sponsorship of the Community Council, a new Youth Council was established and a survey made of present and needed recreational facilities.

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO specific knowledge of what 1951 holds for us, we do know we can all work for progress. We can try to extract the most from every sound opportunity to better our democratic principles of freedom.

Watch Doings In Lansing

With Governor Williams the only Democrat in Michigan's administrative household, the next two years in Lansing should be very, very interesting.

Dominated by a Republican Legislature, by a Republican administrative board, the Governor literally is surrounded by political enemies.

True, it is good if they honestly disagree on issues and policies... so long as the whole people do not suffer. But if they fuss and feud along purely personal and petty party lines, they cannot be forgiven.

(Incidentally, we predict that Williams finally will get additional taxes from corporations. Though the Republicans have opposed this to date, they must find more finances to keep the State going, and they hardly would go for higher sales taxes—for that would lose them votes.)

Civil Defense Program Slow

In view of the present international situation, the Government of the United States has recommended a \$3,100,000,000 civil-defense program for the next three years.

The present plan is to encourage the states to enter into compacts for the exchange of fire-fighting equipment, ambulances, police forces, etc., in the event of enemy attacks.

The agreements would be subject to the approval of the Director of Civil Defense in order that there could be uniformity so that workers rushed from one state to another would know exactly what they were supposed to do, who would pay and feed them, and how the cost ultimately would be shared.

STATE AND LOCAL governments would also be expected to defray costs of administration and personal equipment for volunteers, estimated at \$200,000,000 and the federal government would stockpile medicine, plasma, etc., at a cost of \$400,000,000.

It is not too early for the people of this country to be intelligently planning to meet the consequences of enemy attacks.

The possibility exists that if war begins, enemy bombing planes will be able to penetrate into this country and drop their explosives in the heart of our metropolitan areas.

It would be foolish to wait until the catastrophe to make our plans to meet the emergency.

Why Not Be a Real Leader!

From time to time President Truman reacts to the responsibilities of his job as though he were operating a private business. By this we mean that often he ignores wise advice from capable people regarding what ought to be done on behalf of the whole American people.

Engulfed, he is, in the heavy problems ever to confront this nation, why does he not allow himself to exemplify those characteristics which alone bring acceptable solutions? Were he to evidence normal humility, he would do much to rally a larger following in this time of crisis.

LOW MAN ON THE TOTEM POLE



Happenings of Long Ago

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

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

GIVING A BILLION A YEAR

A study of philanthropic giving in the United States for the last 20 years made by the Russell Sage Foundation, shows that such charity amounted to \$4,000,000,000 in 1949.

It is more surprising to be told, as the study shows, that the very low income groups contributed more than 60 per cent of the total.

While the newspapers dramatize the large contributions, Andrews reports that "the most liberal proportion to their income are the very rich and the very poor."

IT IS WORTH noting that in recent years about half of all private philanthropic foundations have been given to religious agencies. This does not mean direct church support has included money for hospitals, child care, old people's homes, social service and foreign relief.

LOOKING AHEAD By George S. Benson

MORATORIUM ON POLITICS (MOSTLY FICTION)

WASHINGTON (By The Unassigned Press) Dec. 21, 1951—Today marked the first anniversary of the unprecedented moratorium which suspended politics in all Federal government activities and commissions.

"I'm working harder but I'm making more money than I'm doing here with a company making guided missile fuses. My job's secure because the company plans to make parts for television sets when defense orders play out."

LOUISIANA FARMER (contorted): "We didn't expect to work on the farm. The farm was halted. I changed my program, cut down on my rice and cotton acreage."

MILITARY SPOKESMAN (Pentagon): "The Army, Navy and Air Force have more than doubled their striking power in the first 12 months of the 'politics moratorium.' A unified harmonious teamwork among the services has been achieved. All armament production is ahead of schedule."

"The National Defense budget of 1952 is the largest in our history. And in addition, spontaneous voluntary contributions from individuals are pouring in from the level of the burden of non-essential, non-military expenditures have totaled nearly \$14 billion."

FORMER GOVERNMENT WORKER (Baltimore): "I was out of work only six days after being fired by the Fishing Bureau. The Bureau of Recreational Reports Division of the Office of the Department of Interior."

MICHIGAN MIRROR By Gene Alleman

WANTS WILLIAMS 'ISOLATED'

While the world is wishing itself a happy new year, Republican leaders are wishing for the strength of Dr. Lee M. Thurston, supt. of public instruction.

For although Williams is the first off-year Democratic governor in Michigan's history, he is not to be kept in isolation in a sea of Republican assistants.

Fred M. Alger, secretary of state, emerged from the defeat of former Governor Harry F. Byrd (Va.) in 1950.

Michigan automobile industries are miffed over auto price rollbacks in 1951, labeling it discriminatory.

Michigan's unemployment rate is 10.5 per cent. The state is sweating out their membership in the armed forces, women and other temporary workers are replacing them.

Chief beneficiaries of present inflation, now running at the rate of 10 per cent a year, will be those who own stocks, bonds, food prices and land values.

Public assistance programs in Michigan from Jan. 1 to March 31 will cost \$18,780,000.

Now more than 160 battle casualties from Korea are at Percy Jones hospital in Battle Creek. Since most of them suffer from combat wounds, it is possible the base will specialize in their treatment.

"I'll tell you what's wrong with the American people—too many modern conveniences are making us soft!"

Ticklers By George

BENA BALL CLUB GRANDPARENTS