

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

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NOTE: The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has news value; and 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 upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Bonds Will Cost \$109,000 Less Than Anticipated
Last week's news that the Birmingham board of education had sold its \$1,300,000 bond issue for a net 2.0807 per cent interest (over 20 years) may have caused few people to consider what this means to the taxpayers of the school district.

Behind this news is this fact: the taxpayers will get their school expansion program for about \$109,000 less than was originally anticipated by the school board.

The board, in setting up its plan, based the bond retirement program on bonds which would bear 2.5 per cent interest. The accepted bid was for 2.0807, or .4193 per cent less than anticipated. Hence a saving of \$108,978.

Since last summer, when various school districts began bonding themselves for school expansions, most of these issues were sold for nearly 4 per cent. Only the Alpena school district, which voted a 3.5-mill limit for 20 years and earned a 1.0 per cent rate, is believed to have come out better than the Birmingham district concerning interest on the bonds.

Taxpayers in the Birmingham district have Superintendent of Schools Dwight B. Ireland and the school board members to thank for such an unusually sound financial program.

We understand that a day after the bonds were sold, 75 per cent of the issue had been subscribed or spoken for. That is a record hard to beat, and again testifies to the able administrators in Hill School.

Bill Moody— In last week's passing of Wilmer E. Moody, Birmingham has lost a good citizen, and many human beings have lost a good friend.

Prior to the beginning of his illness two years ago, Mr. Moody had served Birmingham as a City Commissioner for 12 years, one of them as Mayor. Known for his enthusiasm and vigor, he did much to bestir official Birmingham to action on current problems.

He was a defender of the public interest always, and did his best to incorporate in his official acts the quality of practical frugality in the expenditure of public funds.

Bill Moody was always ready to help somebody, whether he be close personal friend or stranger. Many men, young and old, were assisted into employment because he went to bat for them.

He especially was interested in the problems of youth, and gave of his time and talents to improve local recreational resources and their attendant programs.

An active member of the local First Presbyterian Church, Mr. Moody was al-

ways ready to do his best to further the cause of religion. It was he, we have been informed, who led the movement to raise several hundred-thousands of dollars with which to finance the church's eventual new site and building.

Bill Moody, indeed, earned the right to a place within the hearts of those who learned to know him... his passing is a distinct loss, but his example and his works shall live on.

Statism vs. The A & P Co.
On every hand, these days, we observe the iron hand of the arrogant bureaucrat, who symbolizes Statism at its worst, reaching out to shackle Americans.

It is evident not only in our nations' business and professional lives, but in numerous other areas, including education.

Statism assumes, of course, that individuals in a nation are not capable of running their own affairs. Statism believes that, in the end, the State itself should become the thing to be served; while representative republican government declares that the State is the servant of the people.

But Statism is on the march. Within the past 20 years, especially, its cold iron hand has assumed more and more controls over people's lives. It has brought the United States to the vestibule of Socialism only a few more steps and it will have all us imprisoned in its own restrictive household.

Take the Truman administration's latest effort to invade the realm of private business, i. e.: Statism's claim that the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. has violated the Sherman Anti-Trust Act; that the A & P "is too big" for the general good of the nation.

It all smacks of persecution. The Truman administration, of course, must create "issues".

This newspaper approves of the intent of the Sherman Act. It agrees that provable monopoly should not be allowed. But it cannot agree, from current evidence that A & P, and similar retail chains, are violating the Sherman Act.

But the bureaucrats of Statism do not care about that—they are bent on "crusades", factual or fictional. Apparently they are trying to determine when "little" becomes "too big." If they are successful in the A & P case, they much of American business will be menaced by the whims and caprices of the bureaucrats of political Statism!

This A & P case, it presently appears to us, is simply the question: Will we have economic freedom in the United States or bureaucratic persecution?

The Russians are said to be building three 35,000-ton battleships, equipped to fire radio-controlled aerial torpedoes. The Russians apparently haven't heard of the demise of the battleship or the futility of attempting to use them in war.

Perhaps, they do not know that one or two aerial bombs, dropped from the skies, will end the battle-wagons. From what the U. S. Air Force has been telling the U. S. Navy about battleships, maybe the Russians should talk with the American fliers and learn the latest facts, as the Air Force tells it.

If you are interested in the betterment of Birmingham, you should give some of your time for the common good. Birmingham needs such personal service more than it needs a cash contribution.

should adopt legislative proposals making the citizen more and more the financial ward of his government. Increasing millions of Americans now are getting wise to the fatal dangers of such a course. The best job I've observed in American "propaganda" in a particular field is being done today in a large section of industry.

Our industrial world has been the No. 1 target of both the Communist and Socialist propaganda agencies, and they have paid attention to the half-truths or challenged the outright misrepresentations of our American workers became confused. In fact, an age-old strategy of the Socialists was to spread confusion. The decisive weapon against them is truth—facts. Facts infuriate the socialist-facts convict them. They hate facts.

Proof Wanted
Many companies now well-organized in plant educational programs on the American way of life and free enterprise economics. It is encouraging that most programs are conducted with the approval and frequently the active help of union shop stewards and other union officers. The secret of their success is that the facts used are not distorted, and that they are not stacking cards; thus they withstand the fiercest attack of the wounded Socialists and their duped followers.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago FEBRUARY 2, 1900
Whoever borrowed A. A. Whitehead's magic lanterns from the man who borrowed it from him will please return same at once and receive Mr. Whitehead's undying thanks.

The parties who are in the habit of getting their winter wood by removing it from a certain wood-beat on Woodward, south, had best seek another source. The owner knows who they are, and is ready to take measures to stop their pilfering.

Mrs. Percy Pease and little daughter Elizabeth have returned to their home in far-off Milwaukee. They have spent the past several weeks pleasantly in Birmingham.

Young Joe Andrews is now a stenographer for the Old's gas-line engine company on Jefferson avenue in Detroit. We are happy to say it is a very lucrative position.

"February—white and serene—Fruitless scion of the year. Statism assumes, of course, that individuals in a nation are not capable of running their own affairs. Statism believes that, in the end, the State itself should become the thing to be served; while representative republican government declares that the State is the servant of the people.

20 Years Ago FEBRUARY 6, 1930
Burt Fuller, S. H. Wilkinson and Gladys Heinze were reelected president, treasurer and secretary of the post office. They will represent the local branch of the Federation of post office clerks.

Speaking at the meeting of the Birmingham Exchange club, Frank P. Burton, president of the Burton & Co. Co., is making rapid developments in building were making revision of building codes in Birmingham in most communities. He pointed out several changes which would no doubt have to be made in local codes in the near future.

A. E. Arnold, Birmingham was reelected secretary-treasurer of the Detroit Photographers association at their meeting held a short time ago. The group is made up of professional photographers.

In order to develop a more modern system of police records, Miss Carrie Stead, Birmingham police clerk, is taking a course in departmental clerical work at the Detroit police department headquarters. Chief Orva J. Tuttle made arrangements for her studies there.

The Birmingham fire department announced that during the past month, according to the report issued by the chief of the department, the Birmingham fire department recorded at \$18,730 with one first aid run being made.

5 Years Ago FEBRUARY 8, 1945
J. Mark Hardin of the solid fuel advisory committee, Birmingham, reviewing the coal situation here during the past few days. He advised the Birmingham committee is not critical, and should see the winter out. Hardin congratulated the city on the manner in which it met the fuel shortage and cooperated with the committee.

Mrs. T. W. Jackson has been named township chairman for the Red Cross drive which will start here Feb. 19. The announcement was made by Judge H. Russell Holland, chairman of the Oakland county chapter. The county quota is \$418,100.

H. H. Gardner, county chairman for the infantile paralysis fund drive today said Birmingham and

And the Band Plays On



Bloomfield Hills were exceeding their goals. He said that over \$4,000 had been received from regular organizations and that it was expected over \$2,000 would come from the theatre boxes.

Sponsored by the Exchange club, Mrs. Guy Vosburg, especially trained to use the audiometer, will conduct hearing tests in the local school next Monday. Group and individual checks will be made. Those with defective hearing will be referred to Dr. Marion Cass for treatment.

Members of the city commission and the planning commission will go to Cranford Thursday evening for a city planning conference with Eliel Saarinen. He will explain the suggested over-all plan for Birmingham and surrounding areas.

STRICTLY FRESH

YOU should use as much care in selecting a dog as in choosing a marriage partner, an animal expert advises. Certainly, it's not easy to get rid of a dog once you have it.

The World Bank, before granting the Turks a loan, wants the country to allow more free enterprise. Even the WB will be willing to talk Turkey.

All this discussion about when the 20th Century actually started



has got some of us wondering when it will all end.

Taxpayers can sit back and relax, there will be no new taxes, says a news magazine. But it's the old ones that have got us on edge.

When the U. S. got the Atom bomb, Russia felt she had to rush an A-bomb out. Whatever one gets the mightier Hydrogen bomb first, the other had better get the H-out.

Table titled 'THE RICH MAN PAYS IN INCOME TAXES...' showing income levels and corresponding tax amounts.

Table titled '...THE POOR MAN PAYS IN HIDDEN TAXES' listing various taxes on goods and services.

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Did You Know... That for the small wage earner, hidden taxes—included in the price of nearly every commodity and service today—are worse than income taxes? Hidden taxes averaged \$700 in 1949 for every family in the U.S.A.

That federal, state and local governments in 1949 collected \$55,000,000,000 in taxes—approximately 25 per cent of our national income?

That in 1945, when 11,000,000 Americans were under arms, the same governments collected \$52,500,000,000 in taxes—Less than in the 1949 postwar year?

Hard to believe are these facts. But they are true. Spending by government—whether federal, state or local—takes money away from every citizen. The money is collected directly or indirectly. The rich pay it, and so do the poor.

There is no Santa Claus at Washington, or Lansing, or county building, or city hall.

"Any Way You Slice It"

Undoubtedly most people share the opinion of the bard who once said, "Whether you're rich or whether you're poor, it's awfully nice to have money." It's true, money is not the key to happiness and it may even be true that it is the root of all evil, but there are certain little things life has to offer that the majority of folks have to forego entirely or can only enjoy on rare occasions because they come for a price. The price may not even be high, but the things I am talking about are mostly easy to get along without.

These things may vary as much as day and night with different individuals. A millionaire may never give a second thought toward obtaining the things that a poor man could give his last dime to possess. Personal likes and dislikes as well as habits may change a great deal with man's means, but there is no hard and fixed rule that says they have to.

I have never had any great desire to become extremely wealthy and the Lord only knows that if I did ever entertain such thoughts I sure missed the boat somewhere.

So far, I have managed to keep out of the bread lines and my future seems fairly secure. I have prepared a bit for that rainy day and if I ever encounter old age, I trust I will be able to live in comparative comfort if my progress isn't impeded too much. That much money most everyone manages to eke out of this old world, but it always seems that we need just a little bit more.

For instance, I would like to have enough money so that I could get my hair trimmed once a week and never get it cut. The way most of our poor devils have to patronize our barber is an injustice to him and a misfeasance of justice to ourselves. Our tonorial tactics are such that we either look like a peeled onion or a poodle dog, depending on which cycle we're in. Of course, in some of these matters we are entirely at the mercy of the barber's ability. Most barbers, however, can master the art of trimming your hair so that it neither looks like you are suffering from exposure or trying to hide from the public.

Another little luxury I'd like to be able to afford often is a shoeshine. I know it isn't much, but when it is thrown into the pot with a dozen, or more other little items, even the price of a shoeshine can do its share to run expenses up and resources down.

They tell you to always look sharp, feel sharp and be sharp in order to impress would-be employers, etc. This process would include keeping your shoes highly polished and your clothes, in general, well groomed. I've gone through the process until I looked like a new penny. Then I have watched just the office of the big wheel that I wanted to impress with my brilliance only to find the man of distinction wearing a suit that looked as if he had slept in it, with gray on his necktie and shoes that looked like he had made his way out of a barnyard without watching his step. Disgusting, isn't it?

Speaking of shoes, that's another item of expense that I would like to have the means to cope with at will. I wish that I had enough money to employ every member of my family could have a new pair of shoes at the same time if they needed them. I get sick of this staggering process, whereby the oldest kiddies get shoes this month and little Betsy gets a new pair next month. She doesn't need them so bad right now because "baby's cold outside and you're not going out-of-doors much these days anyway." Then my wife and I take alternate turns at the shoe store. By the time everyone is shod it is time to start the whole process over again.

It's the truth. A little extra money would be most welcome to nearly everyone. Myself, I'd like to have enough so that I could afford to deal with the majority of having to go to total strangers who also seem to have the biggest bargains to offer when I'm trying to save a few dimes for a shoe shine.

Internationally Speaking
By Eugene Hess
It was reported in this column that the foreign markets of American securities used to be an important factor for the behavior of our own security markets. It was further stated that the present international business upon the American exchanges only constitutes a shadow of the past.

Today it is our intention to throw some light on this shadow. On the Amsterdam (Holland) stock exchange alone we still find official quotations of 68 common and preferred stocks of American manufacturing companies, 25 of public utilities of the United States, 9 of oil companies, 33 of American railroad companies.

Furthermore, we find among the Superior National Forest is rugged and primitive. It is famed for its roadless area, comprising approximately 1,000,000 acres, which, for the most part, is accessible only by water transportation and foot travel. Due to the numerous lakes and streams this area affords one of the most beautiful and outstanding systems of canoe routes in the United States.

Advertisement for 'THE AMERICAN WAY' featuring a cartoon character and text: 'DID HE COMMIT A CRIME? NO—HE'S JUST TOO BIG!' and 'Wrong guy on the knee'.

Advertisement for 'LOOKING AHEAD' by George S. Benson, President of Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas. Text includes 'FACTS—OUR PRICELESS WEAPON' and 'On the Job'.