

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

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Further Use of Quonset Huts

While we feel quonset huts as a permanent feature might not be out of place in the South Pacific or the Arctic, we don't believe the city of Birmingham should sell all of its quonsets before giving consideration to two other temporary local uses.

Last week City Manager Donald C. Egbert revealed that the huts at Poppleton Park have been sold. One has already been moved, and the city is waiting till the two remaining veterans' families there are moved to other quarters before letting the buyers of the huts remove the other five units.

As far as we know, the city still hasn't sold six of the huts on the Cranbrook road site. One has been sold and removed. The others are scheduled for early removal this summer, according to city officials.

The city's contract with the federal government forbids the re-use of any of these huts for dining quarters, once the project is abandoned as housing. Apparently, then, the city could use them for purposes other than housing.

We admit we haven't gone into the subject too intensively, but we wonder if the city might not consider the use of one of these Cranbrook quonsets as a temporary shelter at Springdale Park. Several years ago the clubhouse burned to the ground. It has yet to be replaced. Until a new one is erected, it might not be a bad idea to use one of these quonsets as a park shelter.

We know Quorton Lake has been in little or no condition for ice skating this winter, but there will be many other winters when there will be more ideal weather conditions for skaters. On many days the wind across Quorton Lake is pretty cold, and the little youngsters (and some of the oldsters, too) feel they should go home to get warmed up, but yet they still want to do some more frolicking on the ice.

If the city, in some way, could figure out a method of making a strip of these Cranbrook quonsets, portable and easily erected, then it could be put up at Quorton Lake in the winter as a skaters' shelter, taken down when the ice leaves the lake.

Couldn't these two steps be taken, and don't they sound reasonable enough?

Our Foreign

It is, indeed, both puzzling and disgusting to seek to learn the whole truth about the current Chinese problem, coupled with our own country's part in the conquest of an ancient people by Communists.

We do recall that, during World War II, the United States sent both men and munitions into various parts of China to stem the march of the then victorious Japs. After the war we continued shipping money and weapons of war to aid

Chiang Kai-Shek and His Nationalist Government to Fight the Communists.

We remember, a year ago, Secretary of State Acheson issued a White Paper, revealing that Chiang lost his fight because of ineptitude and corruption within his own Government—a document that sought to give the U. S. A. a clean bill of health, insofar as we were in part responsible for the situation.

Now that the Communists have taken over continental China and driven the Nationalist Government to the island of Formosa, we witness a clash in high places in our nation's leadership regarding what we ought to do from now on. Men like McArthur, Herbert Hoover, Congressional leaders, military men, and others, argue that we should, if necessary, resort of arms to defend Formosa against further Communist conquest.

But Secretary Acheson, and others of his type of thinking, say "China is now lost to democracy. Let it become Communist, and along with it Formosa."

No wonder the American public gradually is losing its confidence in our nation's foreign policy. Were Eisenhower in the White House, we'll wager that less confusion, and more action, on the subject would be the order of the day.

The Mania that Besets the people of the United States, is a tendency to over-organization, the practice of making awards, citations and degrees to those whom a special organization wants to have on its special list and to those whom the organization thinks will bring its publicity.

The habit is becoming so ridiculous. No organization seems willing to attend to its own business and leave other matters alone.

The disease spreads rapidly. There are any number of local organizations that best themselves to settle national and international problems.

They seem to be somewhat averse to handling the particular matters for which they have been created.

Do You Read Books Through?

There may be some people in Birmingham who think they have read every book they buy. Having acquired it, they determine to "read it through" and until they have fulfilled this resolution, they are out of the market for books.

They seem to the idea generally held, few books are ever read straight through, with the possible exception of detective stories.

There is no sense in continuing to read a volume which one finds uninteresting or unprofitable. The best thing to do is to throw it aside and save time for something else.

With the untimely death Friday night of Miss Lila S. McFarland, the Birmingham school system lost another veteran instructor who for 23 years had devoted her adult lifetime to the education of Birmingham children who had attended Adams' school. There are many young men and women in Birmingham today who can recall the time when they were students in her classes. And she, too, followed the activities of these young men and women as they married, established homes and business careers. They were still "her kids", and she delighted in their successes, was dismayed at their misfortunes. "Her kids" will miss her.

Encouraging cold war trend: Russia has recently gotten an ice breaker which it got from the United States under lend-lease. All the cold war needs is a little more ice-breaking.

The safe driver, says a university professor, is the one who drives with a relaxed stare on his face.

Who's That Knocking at My Door?

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago JANUARY 12, 1900 We are most happy to report the wonderful progress which the little Minnie Park hospital in Detroit only a few weeks ago was quite badly crippled. Minnie Parks reports that physicians there are strengthening her little head and neck, and that she is making an exceptional good progress. We are happy for you, Minnie, and hope you will continue to us soon, completely all right.

Frank Schahitke who runs the Rochester steam laundry and the injured while at his work last week. His hand was drawn into the machine. A young man, who uttered not a sound as the doctor treated his dislocated wrist and badly lacerated fingers.

Another accident. Clark Beattie suffered a broken arm when he fell from the elevator at Smith & Company's place of business Monday. Mr. Beattie lives with his family not far from this village.

The 30th milestone in the life of the Baptist church has been successfully reached and passed. It was noted that the church, fitting with a special service which began at 10:30 o'clock in the morning. The pastor, Rev. J. H. Johnson, who came to dinner afterwards, who came to dinner afterwards.

The R. A. M.'s of Rochester held a celebration meeting and general blowout Tuesday evening last. About 100 fraternal brethren and guests were present. Birmingham, and Pontiac were represented by about 30 of their own.

20 Years Ago JANUARY 10, 1930 Miss Margaret M. daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Strand, will sing with the Oberlin college choir over WTAZ Saturday. The program will be broadcast at 10 p.m. and is one of a series of public affairs which the group presents each year.

Census enumeration will soon begin their work in Oakland county among the various business managers and owners. The received locally indicates that a greater number of questions having to do with the information will be asked this year.

Birmingham's stellar debating team defeated Monroe last Thursday on the question: Resolved that the board of judges substituted in place of a jury in all trials in a state and municipal courts is a bad thing. Peggy Hart, Mary Hutcheson and Gerald Kessler composed the team.

Mrs. Nancy B. Thomas, from Baldwin library, was the guest speaker at the Exchange club meeting Tuesday evening. She read a number of good books compared the changes in reading tastes through the years, showing that books change as completely as fashions, but pointing out that masterpieces are good books regardless of when written.

With the opening of the new and enlarged Birmingham department store in the Briggs building, the Village is looking for a visitor to visit a monument to the business career of Louis E. Davidson, who began his business here in 1924, and has been steadily expanding it since.

5 Years Ago JANUARY 18, 1945 Charles H. Betts has been appointed merchandising manager for the General Motors corporation for all sales promotions and advertising activities. He began his automotive career in 1927 with the Geo Motor car. He has been with GM since 1940.

City Treasurer Russell Berger reports that the city bond refunding program moving on schedule will save approximately \$38,000.

The annual mid-year promotion at Barnum junior high school will be held Thursday afternoon, when 51 pupils will be promoted and transferred to a Baldwin high school. A special musical program will mark the event. It has been planned and directed by Victor Ulrich.

The firm of Saarinen and Swanson, local architects, have been engaged to design the new library for the city of Buffalo, N. Y. James W. Kirtland, architect, will be associated with them in planning the structure of this \$3,000,000 building.

Harold J. Balmer of Hoover, Mich., has been engaged as instructor in art teacher for Barnum junior high school. Dr. Dwight B. Ireland's recent appointment. At the same time Dr. Ireland announced that two other faculty members had resigned and would be replaced as quickly as possible.

In dealing with the Russian bear, it's a good idea to keep a line on what's brain.

The Canadian flat glass industry has been accused of price fixing. Naturally, you could see right through it.

Have You Met... Former Detroiters Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Comb and son, Douglas who are living at 1724 Stanley? Mr. Comb is with the firm of Comb and Groves.

"Any Way You Slice It" BY HAL P. BUERGE

Having just recovered from a bad case of Holidays, a rare disease known to those who make their living in any phase of the retailing business and to many others too, I am compelled to voice my sentiments on the subject. I have listened to many folks the past few days who claim to have strange ailments. I feel that I can talk on the subject without fear of rebuke or disapproval of the medical profession. The latter group have never been able to effect a cure for the disease anyway, though the symptoms are generally known.

Although Holidays is a disease that strikes at very appointed times of the year, it reaches a climax and strikes down the most people from mid-December to early in January. This period of the year is known as the Holiday season. Immediately after the end of each year comes a breather of approximately five months during which the disease is a relatively inactive except for a short period around Easter time. Easter is not generally considered a holiday, but in many ways it resembles one.

Then, on May 30, comes a mild breaking out of the plague. Memorial Day sort of marks the beginning, each year, of the series of days that cause most people who have their work laid out for five or six days a week to break out in a rash. These folks have to rush, rush, rush for several days in advance of a holiday in order to get everything done by the time they begin to get on their return to the grind the day after a holiday they have to go full steam ahead to catch up with what they couldn't prepare for on the days preceding the coveted absence.

Memorial Day sort of acts as a warm-up for the league of holiday dinners, too. The people who belong to this society usually go dashing madly about the highways and byways of our countryside on this holiday, so to get going for the more strenuous Independence Day which is coming soon. On Memorial Day, Michigan's flag begins to bloom and many of us suffer our first real cold of Holidays.

A month later comes the climax of the summer epidemic. The Fourth of July is a blinding light for everyone in the Nation suffers some of the symptoms of this one. The most common form and the most dreaded is the type of germ that causes us to want to get into our automobiles and drive like mad in all directions trying to kill ourselves. Labor Day closes the summer season for the sufferers by affording another chance for those that survived the Fourth.

Then comes good old Thanksgiving. This is the one in which Mother and the father find that they have unusually hard cases. Most of us working in the Birmingham-Royal Oak area are identified by strange quirks of the disease. On Thanksgiving we are supposed to give thanks for the many blessings that have come our way during the year. That is the purpose of having the celebration, but instead we sit down to a table filled with wonderful foods of a rich and heavy nature and spend the rest of the day in a daze. For just one more blessing, that of living to see another day after eating until we are sick and the end has arrived.

Actually we do not have time to recover from Thanksgiving until the country is thrust into the grand climax, the Holiday season. It acts like a kind of relapse for Mother and the butcher, but before it is over nearly every man, woman and child has it bad. Some of us are able to build up a strong immunity for other ones, but not this time. Everyone knuckles under the Holiday season. Many suffer a relapse of the disease, coming down with it just a day or two before Christmas and suffering only until their head returns to normal size soon after New Year's day.

Something may have to be done about this disease in the future, but for now this column makes a strong editorial plea that the monarchs of the medical profession continue with an all out effort to conquer cancer, heart trouble and polio-virus, leaving the disease known as Holidays to run its course.

Michigan Mirror INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By Gene Alleman

The political theory that Michigan voters are becoming increasingly disillusioned over party promises will have a new test in 1950.

Dr. Eugene C. Lewis, former lieutenant governor, who has thrived as a "lone wolf" against the pack, has actually built a reputation for himself as an advocate of "good government". He relishes the label of an independent and was at one time on the opposite side of the government—whether Kelly or Sigler.

Black's role is parallel to Keyser's by the young attorney general and Peck's bad boy of the Sigler administration, jumped into the front page almost daily. He was on the unpredictable side of the political ledger and hence at times was an annoyance to his sponsor, Kim Sigler.

Howard J. Rugg, capital correspondent for the Lansing State Journal, believes that the rise of independent voters in Michigan has been largely responsible for Rugg's, for the persistent switch of independent voters from Democrat to Republican parties. The 1950 political campaign will be watched with interest as affording a new test of this theory.

This quest for the so-called "lone wolf" who finds a way will achieve the political maximum has been responsible, according to Rugg, for the persistent switch of independent voters from Democrat to Republican parties. The 1950 political campaign will be watched with interest as affording a new test of this theory.

Internationally Speaking

By Eugene Hess

December 27, 1949 was an important day in history: after over 300 years of domination, the Netherlands transferred sovereignty of the bulk of their colonial empire in the East Indies to the indigenous population. The Dutch Queen made, on the occasion, the principal speech of sovereignty and I appeal to all to cooperate loyally in the new system.

The assumption of sovereignty by the young State, the Republic of the Netherlands and the conclusion of the Netherlands-Indonesian Union is one of the most deeply moving events of our times, piercing as it were to the very roots of our existence.

"It is on the one hand moving because of the unnaturalness of the course it has taken and on the other because never before has it emerged more clearly how deep is the sympathy cherished by the peoples of the East Indies for us. No longer do we stand partially opposed to one another. We have now taken our places side by side, however much we may be bruised and hurt, carrying scars of our mutual enmities."

These documents represent a result attained in both countries by democratic means. Both countries are now free to be as resilient to start afresh, East and West working to one end. The world looks on in wonderment and perceives that, here, and now, these two countries are realizing their own desperate desire: a desire for peace.

Our confidence in the future rests on the good and true elements of the two countries, as these have always in this world proved to be the winners. However, it is not without some regret that we sometimes temporarily misunderstand and do not sometimes endeavor to find the way to each other.

The immeasurable satisfaction felt by a white man who has been liberated, however immense the burden shouldered by the colored man, is a feeling which we in the Netherlands should be viewed with solicitude. We should be ever ready to switch of sovereignty and I appeal to all to cooperate loyally in the new system.

The Netherlands stand in readiness to render assistance as it stands in history—rather than as it stands in the present. Who knows the failing of generations, but who also sees whether the progress of mankind, may this now be so.

TEST YOUR I. Q.

- 1. How many people in China have recently fallen under Communist control? 2. What per cent of U. S. children now complete high school and college? 3. How much faster than sound has man traveled in a plane?

Answers to I. Q. 1. 100,000,000 2. 100% 3. 100 times the speed of sound

4. What is the name of a new republic recently formed in the Southwest Pacific? 5. What great business organization did J. Pierpont Morgan found?

Answers to I. Q. 4. The Republic of the Philippines 5. The U. S. Steel Corp.

Requires 4-Day Search. Potter pointed out that no record of account numbers is maintained in the field offices. A minimum of four days, including mailing time, is required to search the records and get a duplicate card to the account holder.

Thirteen years have passed since many of the original cards had a social security identification number and a large percentage of these become worn or mutilated over the years. Potter suggested that persons whose cards are in such condition secure a replacement while the name and account number are still legible. This avoids the expensive and time-consuming check process and the account holder's inconvenience.

Application forms are available in all post offices and employment service offices where no field office is located. Potter stated that he had a social security identification station located at the offices of the Michigan Employment Service in the Washington Square Building in Royal Oak. He is there every Tuesday from 10:00 to 12:00 and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Have You Met... Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Walden from Royal Oak? They're living at 950 S. Bates. Mr. Walden is in the accounting department of the Detroit Bank.

Pic-Tours of Europe DENMARK HAS MADE THE HOME OF NASE CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN IN DENMARK INTO A MUSEUM WHICH EVERY YEAR ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS... PEOPLE WHO VISIT EUROPE DURING THE FALL AND WINTER TRAVEL IN GREATER CONFORT AND ENJOY THE PLEASURES OF EUROPEAN LIFE TO THE FULL... THE TOWER OF BELLEF, FAMOUS LANDMARK OF PORTUGAL WAS BUILT IN 1520 TO PROTECT THE SHIPS WHICH BROUGHT TO LISBON THE SPICES AND JEWELS OF THE EAST...

STRICTLY FRESH ENCOURAGING cold war trend: Russia has recently gotten an ice breaker which it got from the United States under lend-lease. All the cold war needs is a little more ice-breaking. The safe driver, says a university professor, is the one who drives with a relaxed stare on his face. In dealing with the Russian bear, it's a good idea to keep a line on what's brain. The Canadian flat glass industry has been accused of price fixing. Naturally, you could see right through it. Have You Met... Former Detroiters Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Comb and son, Douglas who are living at 1724 Stanley? Mr. Comb is with the firm of Comb and Groves.

Night Wonder BY BEATRICE McDONALD The moon is a luminous silver ship Sailing across the great sky-sea. The cloud waves ripple and surge and skip. The moon is a luminous silver ship. Journeying fast on her ceaseless trip Into the heart of eternity. The moon is a luminous silver ship. Sailing across the great sky-sea.

TEST YOUR I. Q. 1. How many people in China have recently fallen under Communist control? 2. What per cent of U. S. children now complete high school and college? 3. How much faster than sound has man traveled in a plane? 4. What is the name of a new republic recently formed in the Southwest Pacific? 5. What great business organization did J. Pierpont Morgan found? Answers to I. Q. 1. 100,000,000 2. 100% 3. 100 times the speed of sound 4. The Republic of the Philippines 5. The U. S. Steel Corp. Requires 4-Day Search. Potter pointed out that no record of account numbers is maintained in the field offices. A minimum of four days, including mailing time, is required to search the records and get a duplicate card to the account holder. Thirteen years have passed since many of the original cards had a social security identification number and a large percentage of these become worn or mutilated over the years. Potter suggested that persons whose cards are in such condition secure a replacement while the name and account number are still legible. This avoids the expensive and time-consuming check process and the account holder's inconvenience. Application forms are available in all post offices and employment service offices where no field office is located. Potter stated that he had a social security identification station located at the offices of the Michigan Employment Service in the Washington Square Building in Royal Oak. He is there every Tuesday from 10:00 to 12:00 and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Have You Met... Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Walden from Royal Oak? They're living at 950 S. Bates. Mr. Walden is in the accounting department of the Detroit Bank.