

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

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An Historic Moment for B'ham

Some 800 students, school and city officials, faculty and citizens gathered at Cranbrook and Lincoln avenues last Thursday afternoon to observe the most important moment so far in the city's growing history.

It was the formal ground-breaking ceremony for the new \$2,109,765 high school.

In a simple but impressive ceremony, Wylie Groves, treasurer and veteran school board member, officially turned the first shovel of earth for the new structure.

This event marked the culmination of several years of effort on the part of school officials to provide this school district with modern facilities to keep pace with our growing population and with latest educational methods.

Both present and future generations will benefit greatly from the new building. Construction of the school clearly shows that the school district recognizes its obligation to provide the best possible education for tomorrow's leaders.

Our Fool's Paradise

If we in America are not living in some kind of a fool's paradise, created and sustained through the synthetics of political shenanigans, then most of the substantial fundamental truths the past has given us for guidance are pure fiction.

Operating on the theory that we must spend more than we take in, the federal government, assumes it has created a sound economic cycle for American business.

Side-stepping moral issues, defending racism in high places, our national leaders merrily go their several ways... unmindful that what they do or do not do sets a powerful example for the remainder of our population.

Do you wonder why the morals and the morale of America are deteriorating? You really shouldn't—not if you've read about Kansas City, John Maragan, Fire Percents, paroled and pardoned federal convicts, "non-political" transcontinental train trips, deep freezes, Alger Hiss, Yalta and Potsdam, and a host of similar episodes and incidents that pour forth from the froth of the nation's political boiling pot.

When You Are Over 40—

Just what is going to happen to unemployed men and women over 40 years of age more and more of the large American industries need replacements? The answer already is appearing: because of the recent adoption by some companies of pension plans that retire and pay old employees when they reach 65 years of age; these companies are now trying to hire only young people.

The reason is obvious: the young people will work longer for a given company before they become eligible for pension retirement.

Where does that leave older unemployed people? The answer is plain—it leaves them unemployed.

While admitting that such procedure is hard on older men and women, it is a position which labor organizations have forced industry into—for industry, under competition, must remain solvent, and that can be accomplished only by making revenue exceed expenses by a reasonable margin.

(It can be expected, of course, that if the United States drifts more and more into Socialism, the publicly supported economic planners will try to enact laws requiring employers to hire people of any age.)

For Underground Streets

The progress of the world is stimulated by those who look ahead and make suggestions as to what should be done to meet the exigencies and dangers of any given era.

Accordingly, we report that the National Inventors' Council believes that underground thoroughfares, useful in peacetime and invulnerable in case of

atomic attack, should be planned now.

To some extent, the construction might pay for itself because it would reduce congestion and speed traffic and also afford ample parking space in many cities.

The report issued by Lawrence Langer, secretary of the group of outstanding inventors and scientists, says that the underground parking would be one of the greatest values of thoroughfares under cities.

He points out that, in the case of atomic attack, the thoroughfares would enable persons taking shelter to make their exit at a considerable distance from the radio-active point where the bomb fell.

Perhaps Birmingham's proposed off-street parking program should be revamped to include this latest angle.

On second thought, maybe our program is to be approved some years hence when newer ideas in parking lots will be outlined. So it looks like we had better wait and let this current idea pass.

From Our Point of View

Duncan C. McCrea, former Wayne County prosecutor, who was indicted for graft and sent to prison, is allowing friends to place his name on the ballot in Detroit as a candidate for the City Council vacancy caused by the death of the late Edward J. Jeffries Jr. Well, there's no law against doing that, of course—and McCrea even might get enough votes to be elected, and again he might not. But this certainly is some kind of a free and funny land when ex-convicts seek places of public trust.

To advertise a dance, four University of Michigan men painted huge black feet on some Ann Arbor sidewalks. Police made them spend many hours scrubbing off their commercial artistry. That's one lesson the boys received outside the regular curriculum of their educational studies.

Want to know just how good or how bad some of the highest public officials in the United States are, including the President himself? Then keep track of, for a week, the nature of the things these men do, what they say and how they say it. Observe whether or not they act like gentlemen; if they reveal the qualities of kindness, non-prejudice, tolerance, humility, common decency. If you make such a check, perhaps it will help you to understand why civic affairs in this nation today are at the lowest level in the entire history of the U.S.A.

For the sake of simple illustration, let us say that you pay a total of one thousand dollars per year in taxes. Let's also assume that the basic requirements of the various governmental units you support need only \$500 of that sum... the extra \$500 being spent on useless and unnecessary job-holders, inefficient operations, unwarranted subsidies to special privilege groups, extraordinary welfare projects, etc. Then that extra \$500 is exacted from you immorally, just as immorally as though a bandit held you up. Of course, many will argue (including the public officials) that they do everything legally while the bandit operates outside the law. All of which merely proves this question: Because banditry is legalized, does that make it moral?

So They Say . . .

Margaret Chase Smith, U. S. Senator from Maine: "If women expect privileges, they should accept the responsibilities along with them."

R. C. Newton, research scientist: "Scientist on a large scale are benumbed by the sight of easy government money."

Alvin Johnson, retired professor: "Among the thousands of professors retiring this year, there are hundreds who have better work left in them than ever they did."

Scott W. Lucas, U. S. Senator from Illinois: "What happens in England isn't going to affect the legislative program in the United States."

Filip E. S. Okazybrsky, Russian admiral: "The interest and security of our country demand further strengthening of the naval forces."

Leland Foster Wood, preacher: "The hope is the instrument for the expression and existence of God in world life."



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.

50 YEARS AGO June 1, 1900 Some vandals stole over 20 tulips from the yard of Mrs. Randall a few nights ago. This is particularly painful, since Mrs. Randall is a lady who never refuses to give flowers to those who want them.

It would have broken your heart to see Mrs. P. Y. Hanson work the floor at the Electric Park pavilion early for the opening Friday night. A 14-inch brush, a barrel of oil, two swipes and... that Frank is a hustler!

Our thanks to Dr. C. M. Raynal for a six-pound walleyed pike caught at Pearl Beach. He tells us that Bassett, Hardy and Whitehead will be back with about 600 pounds of fish, ranging from one to 10 pounds.

Our marshall is blamed for not taking drunken men off the streets, but if he does, what is he to do with them? Last week he took one to the edge of the village and let him go. The man followed the marshall right back to the hotel. What we need is a lock-up.

Whitehead and Mitchell are furnishing dynamite in 25 pound lots at a very low price to anyone wishing to remove stumps, teeth, and nails. This is a very dangerous item, deeply imbedded. There's no danger to you, Charlie fire the fuse.

20 YEARS AGO June 5, 1930 George Craig, 17, has just broken the record of the Birmingham golf club by turning in a score of 70. Playing in the semifinals Sunday Craig defeated the club champion, Bud Wilson, by two and one. This is the fifth time the two fought it out.

Justices Fine S. Back and Malcolm Hunt fined 15 drivers a total of \$1,779 Monday after a weekend of 70. The highest single fine went to a driver of a Buick who was fined a Lansing man who paid to the court the sum of \$200. Several other drivers were fined with three in the \$100 bracket.

Anton Brees, bellmaster of the Mountain Lake Singing Institute in Florence, Ala., is campaigning for a seat on the city council in Philadelphia, returned to his native Sweden this week. Several hundred persons listened to the recital given in connection to open the new concert season.

W. S. Fostaker, a member of the 1930 class of Purdue who was commissioned a second lieutenant in field artillery in the Officers Reserve Corps, was promoted to the rank of major in the United States Army on June 7. He will receive his commission from President Herbert Hoover.

Richard Fleming has been elected master counselor of the James S. Haysberger chapter, DeMolay, a member of the Young Men's Club, and the other elected and appointed officers will be installed next Tuesday evening at 7:30.

5 YEARS AGO June 7, 1945 The Michigan State trap shoot will be held here July 21 and 22, under the sponsorship of the Birmingham club. Those men who expect that this event will draw the largest registration which any trap shoot in this vicinity has yet had.

Carroll Monahan, superintendent of the Birmingham schools, announced that 22 seniors will be awarded diplomas there this month, the largest class the high school has ever had. Two class members, Gordon Saunders and James Plant, are now in military service and will not be present.

A campaign for being held here to get the alleys in the city cleaned up, with petitions out for the closing of the same, is in progress. Members of the city commission will consider these petitions and make a survey of the importance of the alleys in question.

The city recreational program will get under way June 18 under the leadership of the Recreation Board. A broad program is planned for

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS 1950 ADAPTATION I haven't seen this before, and perhaps you haven't either. So, with apologies to President Lincoln, here is a paraphrasing by a commoner, one of the famous Gettysburg Addresses as it could be applied by the taxpayer today: One score and 16 years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this nation a new tax, conceived in desperation and dedicated to the proposition that all men are fair game. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether this nation or any other taxpayer so confused and so impoverished can long endure. We are met on Form 1040. WE HAVE COME to dedicate to the great tax collector, to a final resting place with those men who have spent their lives that they spend our money. It is altogether anguish and torture that we should do this. But in the legal sense we cannot check the tax, we cannot evade this tax. The collectors, clever and sly, have no remorse, they go beyond our power to add or subtract. Our creditors will little note our long remittance of our taxes here, but the Bureau of Internal Revenue can never forget what we report, thus far so nobly spent. It is for us, the taxpayers, rather to be devoted here to the question whether the government thus far so nobly spent. IT IS FOR US to be dedicated to the great tax collector, to those that from these vanishing dollars we take increased devotion to the few remaining dollars we have here highly resolve that next year we will not find us in a higher income tax bracket than we are now. That taxpayer, underpaid, shall figure out more deductions.

LOOKING AHEAD By George S. Benson

THE APPEAL TO IGNORANCE of the greatest American universities. She became a Communist, she said while attending the university. She later was Communist spy courier. Elizabeth Bentley learned in high school and college that the values of American history, it is unwise that she would have been vulnerable to the attacks on American capitalism which are the stock-in-trade of the Communists and Socialists. The same probably would hold true for other young Americans and university students who have been misled into the Communist conspiracy or the equally false bog of Socialism. BENJAMIN FINE, education director of the New York Times, has done the result of a survey he conducted on the attitude of colleges and universities on the question of American history for students. The survey revealed that it is twice as many colleges and universities today require students to take a course in American history as in 1942. Yet the number today is a mere 34 per cent. Editor Fine soundly concluded: "The fact that only 34 per cent of the students were enrolled in American history courses. We require every freshman student to study American history. In this way we are certain that every student gets the subject whether they stay in school the four years or not. This situation is a challenge to the educators questioned favor-

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MICHIGAN MIRROR By Gene Alteman

TOP 1950 CAMPAIGN ISSUES DEVELOPING More public benefits vs. state socialism. That's the top issue of 1950 for Michigan's political campaign. Campaigns, according to battle lines now being formed at Lansing, are in Washington. The 1950 special session of the Michigan legislature confirmed the trend on a state-wide basis. Governor Elmer Williams announced a note of the liberal crusader as he assailed Republican legislators for "ignoring the needs of the people." The legislature turned down his proposed \$11,200,000 program. The cost of all these new public benefits would run into many billions of dollars, all at a time when the treasury is empty and mounting. The Republican stand, as expressed by Senator Taft of Michigan, is that the program is straight socialism. Taft says the Republicans are "pure political opportunists" who are trying to get the people, but would support financial aid only where absolutely necessary and where it is done without a strain on the treasury. WHILE MORE public benefits become the Democratic offering, national and state, Republicans try to keep the Truman-Williams program as being financially irresponsible, a door to opening a Pandora's box of socialism, and opening the door to a "hand-out" state. The governor made a dramatic 11th hour appearance before the legislature on the eve of his resignation to the state. He urged legislators not to reduce government grants to schools, hospitals, the aged and infirm, and other worthy causes. If there are dire happenings, it will be because of administrative blunders in making political capital out of discrediting sound planning to avoid huge new taxes on the people. Education costs, for example, Republican legislators point out that appropriations for the fiscal year 1950, and that the legislature will return to Lansing in January, 1951, for the regular session. Legislators insist that no one is going to suffer and that appropriations should be made in the normal way. THE WILL OF THE Republican legislators to put a lid on the even-higher trend of government spending was reinforced Wednesday by Auditor General Muri K. Aten compiled a 10-year table of comparative government expenditures, for example, Education costs, for example,

Berkley Woman's Examination Set for 2 p.m. Monday

Examination of Mrs. Eloise Gillespie of Berkley, charged with the April 15 robbery of a Detroit mail train set for Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, according to Bloomfield Hills Police Chief I. C. Ames. The examination was originally scheduled for May 18 but was postponed because of illness. Mrs. Gillespie is charged with taking \$175 from Anthony Selmek after she forced him to turn over the money from a checkbook in his road. He picked her up in Pontiac where she was hitchhiking.

Memorial Day—1950

By BEATRICE McDONALD The soft winds blow to scatter fragrance of Blossoms upon the graves of those we love. The bands are playing and the soldiers tread Across the sward to honor comrade dead. Lonely the days since our loved ones have gone To rest in quiet slumber till the dawn. Of immortality. The bright flags wave As people kneel beside each flower-strewn grave. And reverently pause awhile to pray Amid the garlands of sweet lovely May

Internationally Speaking

By Eugene Hess Last week Detroit was visited by the staff of the executives of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Washington. His information on the workings and policies of the bank stressed the fact that we have created a debt to the developed nations, an instrument which can do much and has achieved a lot of things. The bank's operations will be a recuperating Western civilization by which are still too risky for the private investor. But another factor seemed interesting from quite a different angle. We heard that at present the East and West can meet and get along well together if only the purpose of the bank is to help the ship is sufficiently democratic and still providing the much needed but scarce kind of zeal leadership. May be that the men in Europe who are bent on the development of the possibilities of more and better European cooperation on this side of the Atlantic could make a study of the reasons of this smooth operation and could apply the conclusions to their own area.

REPLYING TO "with an adequate knowledge of American history, world students are less likely to turn to other ideologies"

Editor: The statement that "with an adequate knowledge of American history, world students are less likely to turn to other ideologies" is a bit of a stretch. The fact that the majority of students in the United States are American-born and that they are being educated in American schools, is a fact that should be taken into account. The fact that the majority of students in the United States are American-born and that they are being educated in American schools, is a fact that should be taken into account.