

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 on 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.

'Kill 'Em' Cries The News

Every time, in recent years, that somebody in Michigan kills somebody in a fit of perversion or other form of outrageous mental condition, our neighboring great metropolitan daily, The Detroit News issues an editorial ultimatum of the need for capital punishment in Michigan.

The News did so again last week Thursday in commenting on the merciless murder of a Macomb County man, plus the rape of that then dead man's wife, by 21-year-old Marvin Noth, now held for trial.

The young man, derelict himself for some years, reported as partially drunk when he committed his recent acts of violence, no doubt will be sentenced to life imprisonment.

The News properly recalls that such sentence in Michigan really doesn't mean life at all; that so-called "lifers" often get out in less than 30 years, etc., etc.

The News also laments that the taxpayers are supporting such a violent and unsocial individual while he is in prison.

So The News argues that Michigan ought to have a capital punishment law so such people as Noth may be removed from society.

Now for generations there have been no thoughts on the subject of capital punishment.

One, like The News, believes all vicious murderers should be done away with. It also holds that doing this is a deterrent force upon others, resulting in cutting down the number of murders per year, especially those that are premeditated.

The other school argues that such killing by the State is inhuman, sets a bad example, and according to the records of States that long have had capital punishment does not cut down the number of murders committed.

Also that many times a person being tried on a murder charge, where there is not absolute proof, too often is acquitted by jurists.

But, to get back to the crusading Detroit News and its desire to do away with had killers: If The News is so willing to admit that its argument for capital punishment is merely to eliminate killers, to save the taxpayers' the expense of supporting them in prison, and not because it has any real deterring effect upon future murderers, then we can understand the current position of The News.

If The News now argues that we should have and use a capital punishment law in Michigan just as one would use a garbage disposal gadget in the kitchen sink to eliminate the need to maintain a garbage can... if this is all, then our own opposition to The News' stand is weakened.

No longer can The Eccentric argue that States using capital punishment prove that no decrease in the number of murders results. About all we can bring out to oppose The News' stand are the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments—and we know that that would have no impact upon our neighbor's editorial mind.

Certainly, we abhor, lament, and even hate the acts of such violence as Noth and his type commit.

We offer no specific apologies for such mental and moral derelicts as Noth, though we agree with all thinking people that the Noths of this world are, themselves, the neglected and forsaken human responsibilities of their parents... and of a social order as yet far from providing the ways and means of developing a completely civilized people.

ing, and the new phone directories will really get a workout as we familiarize ourselves with the new numbers.

But it will be worth what may seem a temporary inconvenience. We know Michigan Bell officials and employees are mighty proud of their new Birmingham facilities.

We, their customers who will use it, are proud of it, too. We are happy to know they think our home town is worth this tremendous investment.

Commissioner Mallender Gives Us More Discussion Material

We were wondering why the city has been so quiet for the past three years. Could it have been because the town wasn't among the merits of one of its ancient questions: paving of Oak street from Woodward to Lakeside.

But it looks like the city commission is in for several lively sessions now that, on Commissioner Milton Mallender's motion last week, it has decided to bring the Oak street paving up for consideration once more.

Off-street parking now may find itself in the conversational background for a while.

We hesitate to think what would happen if the town was trying to settle them both at the same time.

Pave the Park for Parking?

Some 400 persons, according to petitions presented to the city commission last week, would like "serious consideration" given to converting the city's municipal park into an off-street parking lot.

We even have heard rumors that some other people would go further than this and suggest that not only the park, but that the lawns around the Municipal building and Baldwin library also be hard surfaced to provide even more parking facilities.

On the other hand, some people will argue that in the years to come the city would regret eliminating the city park, if that happens.

It certainly is an interesting proposition. We will be interested to know the city officials handle it.

Isn't It Wonderful So Many Voters Were Interested?

Two weeks ago we made a prediction regarding the vote in the Birmingham school district's annual election June 12. Now we have to admit that that prediction was wrong.

We said less than 500 persons would turn out to vote. We underestimated that figure.

It was 700 who voted... out of a possible registered electorate of more than 10,000.

Isn't it wonderful that so many persons had such an interest in determining what men, who for the next four years, will have so much to say on how something less than a million dollars a year of the taxpayers' money shall be spent on their schools?

From Our Point of View

When will the Truman administration come to the conclusion that every Russian official and agent in this beloved land of ours is plotting day and night to destroy our way of life? When will Mister Truman agree that no President should ever get so mixed up that he cannot tell a sea monster from a red herring?

Now it is revealed that nylon is such an insulator that doctors and nurses must not wear this material on their pedal extremities—because, should their walking generate static within their bodies, it cannot travel to the floor, and thus might be transmitted as a shock to some patient. Science certainly does have its occasional drawbacks.

So They Say . . .

Harry S. Truman: "All this howl about organizations a fellow belongs to gives me a pain in the neck."

Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations: "Peace is uphill work and these are discouraging and dangerous times for all who believe in peace."

Bernard M. Baruch, retired industrialist: "Is the old 'let alone' to be replaced by nothing better than 'gimme mine' philosophy?"

send. She received her injuries when the car in which she was riding was struck by one driven by George Thrunker. The latter was released after making a statement to investigating officers.

Herby Starr, former village president, is slated for July 4 election of the local Exchange club, to succeed H. F. Ellery. Other officers were elected and three new members chosen for the board of control at the club's annual meeting Tuesday afternoon.

Police Chief John P. Hackett has made an appeal for a "safe and sane Fourth" in Birmingham. He is asking over the afternoon of this holiday and to exercise every precaution whether celebrating at home or on the highway.

The Rev. George W. DeGraff, son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. DeGraff, 363 Fairfax, will leave the latter part of the week for Cheyaning where he has accepted the pastorate of St. James Episcopal church.

There are 48 families Smith in Birmingham, with the Browns a not-too-close second at 21 and the Albers third at 9. These figures are revealed in the new directory published by The Eccentric and they will be included, showing every street here, in Bloomfield Hills, Beverly Hills and Bloomfield Village.

It is expected that the Yellow Cab company of Pontiac will remove their service from Birmingham following the departure of their commissioners to move their stand from Merrill to Maple Street. Company officials voiced strong disapproval of the rejection.

Denna Brown suffered a fractured skull Sunday to occur in an accident at Bates and Town.

Internationally Speaking

A relatively small but significant event which took place in Mexico last week has been scarcely noticed.

For the first time in the history of the country, the Mexican railroads have opened a direct line to the Yucatan and neighboring countries. It is now possible to travel by car several hundred miles beyond Mexico City, then transport the car by rail to these outlying provinces, and proceed later under one's own steam into this interesting territory.

There one can find the traces of one of the oldest American civilizations, the very same Mayan culture which was lately the objective of extended research by the staff of our Cranbrook Institute of Science.

MANY WILL remember the famous train wreck and pictures which were shown in Birmingham lately, covering Mayan history.

Apart from the cultural attraction of this other province of Mexico, trade later under one's own steam into this interesting territory.

Let us remember that the program of the Planned Parenthood chapter, thank you for the recent article and picture which appeared in your paper?

We, who worked with the organization, are so sold on the program that we are glad to give assistance in bringing it to the public.

Sincerely, BEATRICE M. WARRINER, 16 Woodside Blvd., Pleasant Ridge.

To the Editor: Please add my name to those NOT IN FAVOR of destroying the character of our city by turning the City Park between the City Hall and the Baldwin Library into a cat.

We are counting on The Eccentric to take the lead in opposing this move.

FRANK R. DAVIS, 584 Townsend

People's Column

The Eccentric welcomes letters for its People's Column. All letters must be signed, but addresses will be kept to a minimum. Letters must be limited to 300 words.

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Now in June

By BEATRICE McDONALD. The roofs are all a-sparkle with the rain. The angry clouds that hid the sun are gone. Two hungry chirping robins hunt for worms. Among the little puddles on our lawn.

The flowers and trees are more than beautiful. New-Jeden will feel the freshness of the rain. There is a gentle singing in my heart. Where outgoing griefs and woes too long had lain.

Saturday about 10 p.m. I parked my car on Hoover just south of Martin. The entrance to the new Michigan Bell building was specially illuminated by 20 spotlights.

There had been Henrietta and Pierce had been bled out to eliminate traffic noise during the historic move of Birmingham's manual telephone system to an automatic dial operation.

In the brightly lighted downstairs commercial office, a number of Michigan Bell representatives were scurrying about getting ready for the evening ceremony which were to begin 30 minutes before the switching.

Walter B. Fauser, the local exchange's efficient and friendly manager, was in a side room sitting on a table, his feet swinging.

"EVERYTHING's about ready, eh, Walter? I said by way of starting a conversation. "Just a bit about, Bill—but I think I wouldn't make it myself. Wait a minute. Not been feeling so well all week, and last night was a bad one for a while. I'm feeling a little better. Something I ate, probably."

15 years, and watching the exchange grow from 3,200 phones to more than 11,000 today, then to miss the most important telephonic event in his life so far, I felt pretty hard to "It sure would have," he agreed.

THEN THE FIRST of some 100 guests began arriving for the ceremony. I left Walter talking to them and stepped into the room which was to be given a tour of the new facilities.

First stop on the tour was the main frame, where each individual subscriber's wires come from the telephone and point they go to the frames with all the relays and switches that

Happenings of Long Ago

Dits 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 22, 1900. Miss Maude Gates, formerly of this office, is now pleasantly located at Holly where she has gone in business for herself. With Miss Maude is busily engaged in running the New York Racket Shop. Everyone here wishes her the best in this undertaking.

Merchants and businessmen, just this over. The Fourth of July can be celebrated other places, why not in our village? It would be of great profit, it would bring new business to our little community, it would keep our people home and it would mark us as alive.

H. C. Wilson is away this week and next in the interests of business on a trip to Milwaukee, Oregon where he is staying in a hotel on a Wilson in Milwaukee. Orders come flying in these days for that new railroad crossing gate and extra help has been secured at the factory to keep up with the demand.

20 YEARS AGO June 26, 1930. There are 48 families Smith in Birmingham, with the Browns a not-too-close second at 21 and the Albers third at 9. These figures are revealed in the new directory published by The Eccentric and they will be included, showing every street here, in Bloomfield Hills, Beverly Hills and Bloomfield Village.

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make the connections between the building and receiving pivots. We visited the computer, automatic message accounting equipment, exclusive call transfer, and areas are kept track of mechanically.

Then to the basement, where we saw the motors which generate the current which rings your telephone home to you on an automatic dial operation.

There are enough batteries current to direct current which the telephone system must use. There are enough batteries here to keep the exchange going for eight hours with a full office load, should the Edison current fail for some reason. Our guide explained.

Within this eight hours, Michigan Bell would bring in a power party to keep the system operating till the regular power was restored.

By the way, the basement office which was pretty well filled with the invited guests. There were about 200 men, most of them exactly at 2:01 a.m., Fauser started the timed program at 2:00 and the welcome party started and introduced Herbert N. Bumpus of the Michigan Bell.

WITH THE AID of diagrams and special models, Bumpus explained how a dial exchange works. He admitted that perhaps 100 of the telephone engineers who were invited to the party would REALLY understand what he was trying to tell to the audience.

State Representative Howard B. Estey, after his introduction by Fauser, made a statement by Graham Bell for the invention of the telephone.

Just as Bell worked for long hours behind the scenes to finally bring out the telephone, so today 2,000 Bell scientists are working behind the scenes to bring out the new exchange, Estey declared.

"Concerning this new exchange, we think Michigan Bell for giving Birmingham a public utility second to none."

J. F. HEALY, division superintendent, formalized the exchange to Birmingham on behalf of the telephone company.

"This is a very important event in the history of the company's work in this area. It is a landmark."

As the hands of the office clock whirled, Fauser called upon Estey to signal by special push button that the old office was to be cut out of service. A second later Mayor Bruce G. Booth signified the new office to go into operation.

As Estey pushed the button, I dashed upstairs to see by the noise of the equipment just how the new system was being put out their new system.

The equipment was moderately busy, but not getting as much of a workout as some exchanges Michigan Bell has cut over. Apparently, most of Birmingham's people to be early on a Saturday morning, if residents figured they wouldn't interrupt whatever they were doing at this particular moment.

A NUMBER OF Bell supervisors and employees were standing by upstairs to straighten out any unexpected minor troubles, should any develop. But everything went smoothly. The system was tested to the skill of Western Electric and Bell installers.

Meanwhile, downtown Mayor Booth was putting in the final call to his city's home. The new exchange was completed another project.

But for Birmingham, the new automatic dial exchange marked an important step in the growth of this community.

LOOKING AHEAD

By George S. Benson. HOW THE PLOTTERS WORK.

It has been difficult for the American mind to accept the fact that for many years there has been at work in America a well-organized, adequate and well-financed and steadily directed Communist spy network to destroy our form of government.

Some otherwise intelligent people, including high placed educators, commentators, editors and writers, have been talking about the Communist conspiratorial apparatus as "public enemy number one" in the ordinary sense of that term and have pleaded the case of its members on the basis of American "rights."

THIS FUZZY thinking has even prevailed in some quarters despite the repeated statements of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover branding the Communist Party leaders as "public enemy number one" and in spite of the New York jury verdict finding 10 top Communist Party leaders guilty of teaching violent overthrow of our government.

I hope I could face Mr. Hoover's recent testimony to Congress as a sane and sane man, and as a man whose testimony is so dangerous and so important.

He said the danger of subversive activities is increasing today during World War II.

OF SPECIAL significance was Mr. Hoover's statements that the Communist have made amazing gains in gaining a foothold in the legal profession and are now working on strengthening their position among the major America's heavy, strategic industries and in our highly-important

media of communications such as the newspapers, the magazines, the movies, television, etc.

Even while the FBI chief was thus trying again to alert the nation, the Communist Party leaders, another crucial, almost identical to Communism in its nature and objectives, was being carried on in our country in a highly-organized way.

NOT ENOUGH Americans realize this movement carries a threat to their freedom for that reason. It is even more dangerous, as an internal force, than Communism. The Communist Party leaders call themselves by various names, but all are working for an American Socialist State.

Many Americans who found it difficult to accept the facts of the Communist conspiracy are carried on in our country in a highly-organized way.

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