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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.

Were 73 Years Old Today

The bright new light on North Woodward is the 73rd candle which the Birmingham Eccentric adds to its Birthday cake with this issue.

To a degree the past year has been a tragic one, for it has recorded more violent deaths among our residents than in any recent year.

On the other hand, The Eccentric has had the pleasure of telling its readers of many, many events well on the other side of the scale. It has reported personal successes of many. It has seen the return of former residents and we would others who have never before lived here.

It has seen the approval of the greatest school expansion program in the history of Birmingham. It has recorded the establishment of several new business enterprises. It has pictured the completion of additions to churches and has heralded the proposed expansion of others.

The Eccentric itself has changed during the past year, too. It has taken on additional staff members, so more news, both in quantity and variety, may be published each week for our growing list of readers.

During our 72nd year, we received two national and one state newspaper awards, which made us feel good, of course.

Michigan's constitution requires a general session of the Legislature every two years, with special sessions in between as often as a Governor wants them.

Of late, due to financial difficulties, special sessions are called for budget appropriations, plus other subjects determined by the Governor.

The one now on in Lansing irks the Republicans, who contend that Gov. Williams has included subjects to embarrass them. So they argue for a change in the constitution calling for a general session every year.

This would open such sessions to anything the Legislators themselves want to act upon. Having spent two hectic years in Lansing as former Gov. Sigler's executive secretary, the editor of this newspaper has some thoughts on the subject, chief of which is this: Legislators are, normally, mediocre politicians.

They can and do "play politics" oftener than a serious Governor does. Special sessions, on occasion, result in more value to the public-at-large than many general sessions do.

By limiting his subjects, a vigorous Governor can, so to speak, "put the Legislature on the spot" on certain issues... which is the only place, often, in which they will perform toward the best solution of a State problem.

Fighting for Peace

In the event of war, the entire resources of this nation would be mobilized to defend our shores. Few Americans would rebel against almost any proper controls exerted upon them, within the spirit of our way of life.

People would regret all this, yet agree that it is necessary. Right now, as we try to insure peace, nothing comparable to actual war sacrifices is being attempted by our leaders to break down Soviet Russia's threat to enduring peace.

Something ought to be done along this line. If only we had national leaders like

Washington, Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt and Lincoln to awaken us from our apathy and isolation! If only we had heads and hearts dedicated to the principles of Freedom, and not to the cheap partisanship of predatory politics!

Need Majority Rule

It is the rule in self-governing groups, whether they be small organizations or units of government, that the vote of the majority shall determine the rulers. But the United Nations was set up, such a rule was not made a part of the constitution and by-laws.

Had majority rule been demanded in San Francisco, when UN was formed, maybe Russia would have stayed out. So what? Perhaps the other nations would be more solidified together than they now are, and Russia would not have been able to make the progress she since has in her "cold war".

To us, it looks from present world situations that Stalin & Co. really outwitted western democracies.

From Our Point of View

New York City for months has faced a water shortage, as have other nearby eastern areas. A plan is now a-brewing to send airplanes up over New York into the clouds to cause them to become a rainstorm by shooting dry ice into them.

Wisconsin's U.S. Senator McCarthy most certainly is stringing out his testimony relating to pro-Communist employees in the State Department. How can Dean Acheson expect to attain international confidence among nations when he can't win domestic confidence in his own department?

Our neighboring Canadian city of Windsor appears to have some vice within its borders... gambling among them. The Detroit Free Press uncovered the situation... another favorable score for what is left of the American freedom of the press.

Fifty-seven per cent of the Belgians recently voted for the return of their King to his throne; 43 per cent remembered that he surrendered his country to Hitler without much of a scrap in the last war. If Leopold does come back, he'll have a hot seat, at that.

After an 81-year-old Ohio claimant passed on, 100 heirs made claim to her million dollar fortune. Sounds like that many subdivisions of local governments trying to get hand-outs from the Washington hog trough.

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So They Say . . .

Harold C. Urey, atomic scientist: "We need greater political unity of the democratic countries of the world. In fact, we need federal union with the other democracies."

Noah M. Mason, Member of Congress from Illinois: "Doing business without paying taxes has become the biggest racket in the United States?"

Louis Johnson, Secretary of Defense: "As a democracy, we do not fight until attacked and, therefore, in time of peace can never be in a state of total readiness for war."

Harold E. Stassen, President, University of Pennsylvania: "The producer must have some reward. The loafer must have some penalty."

Robert E. Wood, mail order retailer: "We frown on dictatorships in general and Communist dictatorships in particular."

Will It Do the Trick, Sam?



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 March 23, 1900 Andy Bowden of Franklin takes the lead as a fisherman—On Monday he took from Wing Lake a 1 1/2 pound pickerel with only an ordinary hook and line.

22. They will play several matches in England, Scotland and France and then travel on to see the Passion Play at Oberammergau. The team is captained by Miss Glenna Collett.

5 Years Ago March 22, 1945 Birmingham is completing its plans to note Birmingham Day on April 15-20. The Rev. A. B. Runkle is chairman of the committee with Mrs. Philip Pretz as vice-chairman. A telephone poll will be taken during the week to get first hand reports from all citizens on their opinion on a plan for permanent peace.

Henry Caura, 371 Townsend, this week received the first letter from his mother since 1939. He has just learned of the death of his mother in 1940. The letter, from his home, tells of the large number of allied planes they are seeing daily.

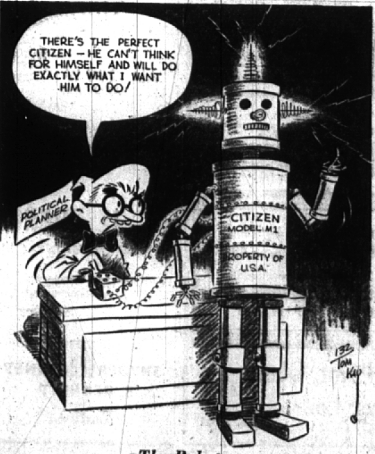
Murray D. vanWagoner will head the committee to secure items of clothing with war victims. Other Birmingham workers will be chosen from the city's many clubs and social organizations. At present indications, committee members expect the belief that this will be the most successful drive yet conducted here.

Sunday, around Birmingham, looked like mid-summer. Golfers, pickers and tennis players were out in droves as everyone took advantage of the unseasonably warm weather we have been enjoying. It seemed no one could resist the lure of Mother Nature.

Our track coach reports that the brand new brace shoe vanished. It disappeared at the point of sale the other day and cannot be found anywhere. Hoping the "big haul" will be returned in time for the "shot men" inter-school meet before Paice.

Have You Met . . . Former Detroiters, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. O'Brien who are living at 1675 Banbury? Mr. O'Brien is with the O'Brien Trucking Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis F. Zahn and daughter, Sue, who have come from Columbus, Ohio, to their new home at 1619 Fairway? Mrs. Zahn's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thorpe came to Birmingham with them. Mr. Zahn is with the Technical division of General Motors.



ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

USE QUESTIONNAIRE IN PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE. Have physical ailments which are still undetected. Will they get help in time?

THE SALESMAN had told me that the physician had said Johnny's unusually long hair was caused by "growing pains." I know how most pediatricians work. They have an abundance of "emergencies" which limits them mostly to anxious parents who bring in for a check-up because they believe medicine checking the doctor is called to the house for the same reason.

In the medical profession there is about one doctor for every five or six thousand persons. The ideal ratio is one doctor every 1,000 people. So you can see how rarely busy most of them are.

A DOCTOR'S DAY is crowded with patients who visit him, and the house call is a must. There are probably a few more hundreds in his patients whom he doesn't see in a year. These contacts are among these non-patients. Even one is too many, if his future life can be saved by proper early treatment.

I got to thinking how the salesman and I could have a pediatrician could have detected Johnny's ailment much earlier. Johnny's father can't tell me how many of his patients. How can parents, busy with their own tasks, let the doctor know how the child is getting on, eat, play, and the many other things which each child goes through?

Here's how I believe this regular communication can take place. If each pediatrician had a standard questionnaire to be sent to parents, busy with their own tasks, that would require only a few minutes of house call. The doctor would seek replies to eating, sleeping, and

tempting, asking to be taken. The cat? Nothing! The leopard circled it, sniffing. The animal really wasn't hungry, but he really wanted too good to pass up. He licked his chops and stepped in from the fence. What! The trap door worked. Four months ago the leopard was the star attraction in the Birmingham City Zoo, an 18-foot-deep concrete pit.

With a growl the big cat closed his jaws on a four-pound piece—another free lunch. The meat appeared. The leopard attacked the second hunk, devoured it. Then, satisfied, he became strangely drowsy. He staggered down a runway and collapsed, asleep.

The captive from India never again regained his senses. Within fifteen hours he was dead. Zoo Director Julian Fraser was delighted. He took a fancy to the leopard. He had a pet, a pet, a pet. He had a pet, a pet, a pet. He had a pet, a pet, a pet. He had a pet, a pet, a pet.

At the edge of a clearing the leopard hid by day and roamed the woods by night—free. For three days he was lost to the world. But in those woods game was scarce. And thoughts of the lonesome mate drew the big fugitive back to the zoo area.

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MICHIGAN MIRROR By Gene Alteman

WILLIAMS WOULD GIVE SOMETHING TO EVERYONE. To local governments, \$27.9 million for capital outlay, and \$18.2 million for construction for new roads.

Like the bag of Santa Claus on Christmas eve, the spending program of Governor Williams has something to give to everyone. Improvement of local airports is proposed whereby the state could qualify for federal assistance and engage in a \$7 million airport improvement program. 36 airports in 14 communities would be benefited.

In the Governor's budget for \$25 additional millions for state aid to local governments, \$5 million would go to public schools under the state tax revision amendment. Under the ruling of the Supreme Court, the state would contribute \$9 million additionally to the public school employee's retirement system. Old age assistance and new dependent children would account for an additional \$8.7 millions.

Out of the net increase of \$16 million of state agencies, \$2.5 million would go to colleges to expand during the year. 9,495 GI students: \$929 thousand for mental health. Declaring that Michigan had

not kept pace with social needs as indicated by our expanding population, the Governor proposed \$27.9 million to construct new buildings at agencies such as mental hospitals, Wayne University, University of Michigan, Michigan State College and Western Michigan College of Education.

A 50-bed addition would be constructed at the Michigan Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Gaylord, and other construction undertaken for a total of \$650 thousand. Declaring that "our whole economy is being hampered by the lack of adequate truck highways," Governor Williams advocated that the Legislature spend \$12.5 million for road repair and construction. These improvements would be financed from the general fund to be covered by the corporations profits tax along with other new taxes.

Governor Williams took the position that a corporations profits tax would be levied on the consumers, despite assertions of Michigan automobile manufacturers that 60 per cent of the cost of a 1950-made automobile consists of direct and indirect taxes. Within 60 days the issue of the 1950 capitol should be well crystallized.

Company. I've set a candle on my windowsill. To shut a glow across the show. If friends should come to visit me, I know My light will greet them when they cross the hill. I'd like to have them know it's warm and bright And cheerful here beside my fire tonight.

My kittle whistles in a merry tone And I while settled in my ingle nook To make friends with the people in a book. If no one comes I will not be alone, Book folks will share my cup of tea instead And then they'll go along with me to bed.

By BEATRICE McDONALD