

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

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11, 12, 13 and 14

GEORGE W. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Business Manager GEORGE W. AVERILL, Managing Editor HAROLD P. BURGER, Advertising Manager

The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club

"Friends of the Library"

Among the best of services given by human beings are those of a voluntary nature. Under compulsion, human nature is more often than not fails to put into its acts the measure and values that attend an act done from the serving heart.

As you inventory the variety of splendid community services given by local individuals and organizations, you realize how much they have improved life and living here. The same is true in other communities, too.

All of which is by way of mentioning the latest type of voluntary service launched for the Birmingham area, an organization known as "Friends of the Baldwin Public Library."

Started only a few months ago, its membership now is well over a hundred, with more coming in every day.

What is its non-profit purpose? Simply to bring together men and women who are interested in promoting the value and services of the local public library. To espouse the worth of books, periodicals, exhibits, to the end that they may assist the public in acquiring more knowledge, more culture, more of what we call "civilization."

Another phase of the Friends' purpose is to supplement the library's book inventory with gifts from people, whether it be a single volume or an entire set of some author's works.

A mighty important opportunity includes endeavors to create among our younger boys and girls a greater desire for good reading—against the competition of so many other attractions that impinge upon them.

It doesn't cost much to become a "Friend of the Baldwin Public Library." The membership privilege asks little, indeed . . . but to those who enter into the spirit of the venture, the returns are more than worthwhile.

To become a "Friend of the Baldwin Public Library" is to become closer related to books themselves . . . and aren't books among the friendliest of all friendships?

Russian Civil War

It is very difficult for the people of one country to understand the thoughts and acts of people in other lands. This is true between friendly nations—and much more so when a land like the U.S. deals with totalitarian Russia.

The Russian people get distorted news from their dictators. How easy, then, for the dictators to argue that our domestic efforts to remain militarily strong, our shipment of arms to western Europe, are but activities of an "imperialist United States, arming itself and western Europe to fight us, Soviet Russia!"

Truly, we need to get the real truth to the Russian people themselves. We ought to spend a billion dollars a year on every slave to reach the mind of the average slave of the Kremlin. We should rally the Russian people to a civil war against their tyrants.

Dr. Townsend's Plan Wins!

For a good many years Dr. Townsend set up and down the nation preaching a doctrine for old-age security. His method was to tax all sales a certain percentage, then turn the cash over to the old.

This, he argued, would bring about prosperity by giving old people current purchasing power, which would require the production of more goods and services, thus maintaining high employment. But the Doctor was laughed at by most Americans, including members of Congress.

At there are more ways than one of skinning a cat.

Now come increased demands for more old age and social security, for larger unemployment compensations, for pensions from private industry.

These are, of course, but different ways of putting into effect Dr. Townsend's original ideas. They sound more reasonable, yet their impact upon our economy is no different—for they all keep in circulation purchasing power from funds taken from workers and

given to people who are not producing current goods and services. We are not presenting these thoughts on a controversial basis, at the moment; just reminding you that at last Dr. Townsend's ideas win, without credit to him.

From Our Point of View

If Michigan wants more money to spend on its roads, the simple solution lies in two directions. First, increase the weight tax on the heavy trucks and buses that really shake up the roadbeds; then add a penny or two to the gasoline tax. While doing it, the Legislature should rewrite the entire distribution formula of such revenues received by the State.

Phil Murray, president of the CIO, is reported to favor the merger of all non-Communist labor unions into one group. He believes labor then can control both government and the economic status of the United States. No question about that. Any dictatorship proves that possibility. When that happens, union members will be more completely enslaved.

J. Edgar Hoover, able and famous head of the FBI, is opposed to the creation of a national police force. Hoover's belief is based upon his love and patriotism for a free United States of America. He knows how bureaucracy, backed by a central police system, could so easily be used by evil groups to subvert the entire population.

Arrival of spring this month is like an average politician's promise: the calendar says spring is here, but the weather doesn't.

As though babies don't face enough hardships on this earth without the necessity of their parents having to pay State taxes on diaper service! That's what, in military circles, is called a rear attack.

The Daily Worker, leading Communist newspaper published in the United States, is so near broke that it has appealed to its readers for funds. A solution would be for Joe Stalin to pay up his delinquent subscription.

Secretary of the Treasury Snyder says we will have a savings-bond drive this spring "to stir interest." Well, it's the interest we're thinking of when we buy the bonds.

Dentists are one of the three largest professional groups in the U. S. No wonder, look at all the pull they have.

A Chicago wedding featured a cake-arch that the wedding party walked through. Think of all the dough wrapped up in that one.

Uncle Sam is dying the surplus potatoes blue before destroying them. Is that, maybe, in honor of the taxpayer who feels that way because of the \$100,000 he paid for them?

Headline: Congress needs some kind of "must list" for legislation, columnist says. But they've had one for years, and it just keeps getting mustier all the time.

So They Say . . .

Frank L. Howley, Brig.-General, for four years military commander in Berlin: "For us not to be prepared in all military forms would be national suicide."

Pat McCarran, U. S. Senator from Nevada: "We cannot solve the problems of the world by mass immigration to the United States."

Harry J. Carman, dean of Columbia College, Columbia University: "We do not want teachers who are showmen and mere entertainers."

Hans A. Bethe, physicist, Cornell University: "Until we have international control, we cannot afford not to have the hydrogen bomb."

Statement, by twelve leading atomic scientists: "This (hydrogen) bomb is no longer a weapon of war, but a means of extermination of whole populations."

J. Lawton Collins, General, U. S. Army, Chief of Staff: "We have some chance of preventing war if we begin in fighting it."



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 30, 1900

PARENTS TAKE NOTICE—Any persons having boys under age whom they do not want hanging around the poolroom please notify the manager, F. G. Pearson, I will keep them out.

Last Wednesday 35 or 40 ladies met and gave their old friend and neighbor, Mrs. Huddal Miller, a good old-fashioned surprise party and the afternoon was a day long to be remembered by the favored lady.

Mr. and Mrs. John Main of Franklin on Thursday celebrated the 70th anniversary of their wedding which occurred in England on March 22, 1830. They came to America the same year and soon after settled near Franklin on the farm where they now reside.

A party of about 25 congenial souls met last week one day with Mrs. Luther Stanley and an afternoon of very agreeable visiting was relished by all. The informal gatherings of Mrs. Stanley are always very interesting and she invited is to be assured of a pleasant afternoon.

Mrs. Ida Corey is enjoying herself well this spring. All the water she calls down visiting reaches the sewer on its way to the Detroit river, passes through her cellar, of course, in a bit, in convenient for Miss Ida when she wants potatoes or other vegetables to have to don rubber boots and armed with a harpoon, spear them as they float past. In her spare time she calls down visiting blessings on the village board from the president on down.

20 Years Ago April 3, 1930

A special issue of "Maroon and Wildcat" news Baldwin high school on Tuesday with the announcement that all the boys of the school were being transferred to the new Barham school. After students expressed their resentment against the stopping of inter-collegiate schools here, faculty members quietly informed them of the date—April First.

Members of the local real estate board, at their monthly dinner Tuesday, reported leases and sales here during March had totaled \$300,000. There were \$245,000 in residential sales and \$55,000 in building sites; \$126,000 in business property sales and \$52,000 in business leases.

A steak dinner followed a session of the chairmanship of a joint meeting of the Charles Edwards Post, American Legion, and their Auxiliary, at the hotel held in the Bloomfield township park and was attended by 60 persons. Plans are now under way for a dance and buffet supper Friday.

Plans for the formal dedication of the Community House on Apr. 28 are soon to be completed according to Mrs. Charles Shae, president of the board of directors. The event will take place Monday evening under the chairmanship of Mrs. Frederick Holt. Several speakers have already been secured.

Joseph Hinshaw, Jr., and his brother are recovering from injuries received in an accident Saturday afternoon at Maple and Lasher roads. The youths, sons of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Hinshaw of

Saturdays

By BEATRICE McDONALD It's not a woods, but just an old fence row That stragles through a field not far beyond Close by plot of ground, and here's a little pond. I used to put the baby in her car. And brother trudged along and thought it fun. I hustled with the tasks to get them done. So we could get a very early start. I loved to be upon the grass all day. And rest and read. The children romped at play. We knew the rabbits and the birds, and found The early flowers. If I could I'd bring Those dear days back again when it comes spring.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

DON'T TAKE ALL THE FUN OUT OF OUR LIVES

Let's spring joy wonderful! So full of nice surprises. Like the weather, for instance. The temperature starts to go upward. By leaps and bounds. Of course, by each week it gets a few degrees warmer.

You begin to plan on reseed the bare spots in the yard, and to figure just what vegetable you are now going to plant in the garden this year.

BUT THE SPRING ELEMENT which gives us so many pleasant surprises are the streets and roads we must drive over.

We have told our city, town, state and county officials that the reason we moved into their municipal area was because we hated the conditions of roads. We particularly all the hard, blistering concrete surfaces that, thoughtless of the lives of those who drive on them, these municipal officials just don't know the beauties of them. They just want to see a joyable it is to live on residential streets that are still unimproved.

WE LAUGH AND SING AS WE

breath in our nostrils the raw, unadorned, bare, and ugly. We want to keep our "country atmosphere"—it's about only completely natural element we ordinary folks have left. Our jobs are becoming routine, our entertainment, standardized, our money and economic lives regulated more and more by the government.

Our old age has been secured, our health about to be put on a government production line. Everything out and dried. No more irregularity, no more guess and-by-gosh, no more of the unexpected.

THE COMMON PEOPLE rebel against this complete Utopia. They insist that there must be at least ONE condition that will not be destroyed by the hands of government: remain in their natural state to remind them of bygone days, to keep them sane in their otherwise humdrum existence.

All you spoilsport city officials, just think of the pleasure we derive as we back out of our drive, to prepare for the thrill of going through the traffic jam.

LOOKING AHEAD By George S. Benson

THE \$\$\$ COST OF SECURITY

Security is a legitimate and admirable goal of the American people. The question is: How can we safely obtain it—to the degree desired by everybody? We're progressive and we believe that when most people lived on farms and had no direct dependency on government, the cost of security was an age in which the soil directly supported about 80 per cent of the nation's population.

Now, 80 per cent of our people live in towns and cities. Most of them are directly dependent on the government for their salaries and wages from government. The spectre of sickness, accident, unemployment and old age, while not pronounced, is constant. The thrifty and industrious have had to clear the area only a few moments before the blast, undoubtedly saving many lives.

Lester Collins is in St. Joseph. The question is: How can we safely obtain it—to the degree desired by everybody? We're progressive and we believe that when most people lived on farms and had no direct dependency on government, the cost of security was an age in which the soil directly supported about 80 per cent of the nation's population.

Political medicine men, parroting the Socialist line, have come forward with glittering promises of increased income and security at a cost of all to anybody. It is reminiscent of the long-ago "miraculous" medicine which was sold as a cure for any and all ills—and it usually contained 50 per cent alcohol. The tonic

to reserve funds could possibly be taken from our national economy; it's too much to be invested by government or private industry, or both. In fact, all the present marketable securities of the government, the total resources of all the life insurance companies and the country would make only about one-third of the necessary reserve fund.

And the 60,000 wage and salary earners do not, of course, include the self-employed and the thousands of others in the professions. If any "all-thing" saving plan were adopted it would have to cover all wages, boosting the ultimately reserved reserve fund to nearly \$1,000,000,000,000 (trillion). And to be actually sound (or safe) the reserve fund to take care of persons who are unemployed, people would be the same amount of money in the hands of the government, or left entirely in the realm of private enterprise.

Washington that was recently capped from labor union was advocating not only a 15 per cent increase for all (\$150 monthly) but that the pension age be reduced from 65 to 55. It is not clear how our political and group leaders and our politicians are to pay for all these things. Some of our political party costs, peddling a security "tonic," hopeful that we won't reap the harvest over during their political life. But if we take their "tonic" we will

MICHIGAN MIRROR

LEGISLATIVE LEADERS SAY 'NO' TO NEW TAXES

There is a strong feeling among Republican legislators in Michigan reported in the press, to treat the spending program of the Governor as largely political in nature for his campaign of reelection. The large list of proposals, many of which are very ambitious to many legislators in view of the tradition that a special session would be limited to financial appropriations and matters held to be an emergency nature.

William Palmer, chairman of the State Civil Service Commission, has proposed that the legislature pay a flat 10 per cent cut in state payrolls as one way to effect a balanced budget. Records show that the payrolls of state agencies during the past year were approximately double those in 1943-44. Senator Elmer R. Porter, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, points out that if the legislature could reduce state employment to the level of 1943-44, a savings of \$24 million could be effected. In 1943-44 the state had 16,648 employees for a

total payroll of \$33,181,567. For the past two years, the 1944-45 a 23,791 employees received a payroll totaling \$66,282,331. Not too many could be balanced alone by cutting salaries of state employees, a relatively small item by the list of all appropriations. Public services, who be terminated, and this means that the savings will not pay due to present services, due to the diversion of state revenue to public works in other governments, he will receive fewer state services than heretofore.

Such is the prospect if recommendations of the legislative finance committees are accepted by the House and Senate in the final showdown of all bills. Already the pressure is coming from executive groups to make an "exception" to local interests.

New copy given preference early necessarily is given preference over late items. The "early bird" usually gets the space.

