

A Change of Mind Might Solve Hospital Problem

Southern Oakland county's proposed hospital expansion program appears to be crystallizing. But just what that crystal will ultimately be is still unknown.

Whether we will have both Woodward General at 13 Mile and Coolidge and Oakland Hospital on Adams here in Birmingham is still in doubt.

From Our Point of View

In many sections of the nation connections between certain law-enforcing officials and gamblers is being disclosed by the Kefauver Senate Crime Investigation Committee.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the City of Detroit. That fact, naturally, suggests that Detroit has more than reached maturity.

A New Yorker of cultural standing sent a New Year's telegram to all coin music distributors, requesting that they insert a blank record in all their machines.

"Warlike austerity" is being recommended to all Americans by President Truman's Council of Economic Advisers.

Senator Humphrey of Minnesota is said to end all his letters to his constituents by asking that they pray for him so he will get divine guidance.

So They Say . . .

Andres Martinez Trueba, President-elect of Uruguay.

Harry S. Truman: "If aggression is successful in Korea, we can expect it to spread through Asia and Europe to this hemisphere."

John J. Haggerty, U. S. Representative in Yugoslavia: "The statement 'I am an American' opens all doors."

The Birmingham Eccentric

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HOWEVER, BIRMINGHAM city commissioners tend to view the actual construction of these two hospitals with some misgivings.

At last week's meeting, Commissioner Dean Beier commented, "The Oakland hospital on Adams road would pretty well take care of Birmingham's hospital requirements. Then why should the city leave Birmingham on the hook for the support of another hospital?"

Beier was referring to possible legislative permission to levy each year a 4-mill tax on Birmingham and other authority members to pay off the proposed revenue bonds for construction of Woodward General.

Under terms of the authority, Birmingham cannot withdraw without permission of two-thirds of the member municipalities. That voting majority is a considerable distance away at the present time.

Commissioners Richard Patterson and Chad Ritchie said a number of local persons they have talked with feel Birmingham necessarily doesn't want a hospital within city limits, and that perhaps it would be better if it were located a short distance away.

GENERALLY, COMMISSIONERS agreed that legislation permitting the SOHA to transfer its site and \$700,000 in financial assets to Oakland hospital (Oakland to resell its Porritt site) was perhaps the best answer.

It is known privately that the SOHA would jump at this solution to the wrangle. The SOHA has been attempting to obtain financial aid from the Greater Detroit Hospital Fund, which is raising the money for Oakland hospital. The effort has failed.

By a slim 1-vote margin, Oakland hospital trustees originally approved the 13 Mile site for their hospital—if the legal snarls could be easily unwound. Those snarls were reported as being too tough and involving too much time to settle.

Our city commissioners, we believe, are on the right track in finding the answer for all concerned.

The municipalities to the south of us want a hospital on 13 Mile road.

We have heard of no concerted effort by Birmingham citizens to have a hospital located within our city limits—as long as one is erected in the neighborhood, and soon.

THE SOHA WOULD SEEK enabling legislation permitting it to transfer its funds to Oakland hospital—providing Oakland hospital uses the 13 Mile site.

There is nothing in the contract between Oakland hospital and the Greater Detroit Hospital Fund that requires a certain site to be used. . . nor prohibits any particular site.

It appears that if the Oakland hospital trustees would change their minds and definitely and finally agree to the 13 Mile site, the SOHA would immediately press for legislative permission to give its assets to Oakland hospital.

This, many believe, might solve the situation to the best interests of everyone involved.

Political Lags

Speaking recently on the subject of socialized medicine, William L. Hutcheson, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America, (AFL), declared:

ALTHOUGH THE TRUMAN administration, plus every member of Congress, has known for several years that Soviet Russia was bulging for world conquest, how feebly they have marshaled the resources of this nation to meet that disaster!



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

January 13, 1901 Miss Bessie Casey now has a lucrative position as time-keeper in the woolen mill at Rochester. Her many friends here will be pleased at her extreme good fortune.

Cutting ice has begun at the mill. The ice is about six inches in thickness and is a clear as crystal. There are quite a number of men employed in harvesting the crop.

Have you noticed the proud look on Frank Blakeslee's face the past week? Well, there's a reason for it. Frank is grandpa to one of the finest baby girls in the state, whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. Bert Blakeslee of Bay City.

William A. Brewer, sheriff of Oakland county, has named Morel B. Dennis of Birmingham as one of his deputies. We feel sure that he will be a most efficient officer.

There were lively times at the National League Saturday evening last and the old hostelry had a narrow escape from being destroyed by fire. A blaze had gained quite a headway in one of the upper rooms when discovered. The fire was extinguished without any water from the hydrants.

30 YEARS AGO

January 13, 1921 Phillip Tribelhorn, local mason and cement contractor, has attained the honor of having his children vaccinated against smallpox. If it has not been done previously, you should do it now," he said.

A Detroit man entered a plea of not guilty to a forgery charge before Justice Malcolm Hunt yesterday. The man was arrested on a warrant signed by S. L. McNeill, local jeweler, who said the Detroit man had given him a forged check for \$47.

Several changes are being planned for the local police department which commissioners believe will increase the efficiency of the department and make the performance of their duties easier for the men. The cost of the work, which will include enlarging present quarters, will cost the village about \$600.

5 YEARS AGO

January 17, 1946 Fire caused extensive damage to the home of the Joseph L. Doolittle family in Bloomfield village early Tuesday morning. It is believed that the fire was caused by a defective feed pipe in an oil burner. Flames were confined mostly to the basement and first floor.

With Amos Gregory, Jr., and Robert Morrow—now students of the class, 47 seniors of Baldwin high school will receive their diplomas on Thursday, Jan. 24. The baccalaureate sermon will be preached by the Rev. Richard Lison on the text, "First Presbyterian church Sunday."

The Birmingham PTA Council announced its intention, at an open house meeting in Barnum school, of conducting a survey here to determine the educational needs of the district. Several speakers will prepare short talks on the educational plans, proposals and problems at a meeting to be held soon.

Work has started on the construction of a new office building for Max Brooks, Inc., Birmingham contractor. The Chisus Construction company is handling details of the building which will be the contractor of South Woodward and Brown.

A meeting of local bankers and real estate men is being planned for the purpose of discussing the possibility of speeding loans for veterans who are planning to build homes here.

If you want a plumbing job done these days, chances are the plumber won't be able to get them ahead of a few other customers.

A strong, well-organized and fully equipped Communist Fifth Column in warfare.

Today Moscow's world-wide Fifth Column is fully ready to strike at the heart of every nation.

THE BIRMINGHAM MIRROR LACK OF MONEY PERILS 'SUB-CAPITOL'

Hardly had smoke from the inaugural plume blown away from the capitol when legislative G.O.P. leaders in to puff a peace pipe.

In budget-pinched Michigan legislators are committed to scrape up funds for civil defense.

With an organization similar to the Forest Fire Service of World War I, it is being considered.

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CONSCIOUS OF THEIR lack of education, many days and sink into a state of semi-ignorance.

Anyone can become well-informed by intelligent reading.

IN FRANCE AND Italy, toward which one prong of the Red Army is being hamstrung every step of the way by those labor unions which are controlled by Communists.

IN THE U. S. eight unions which the CIO has branded Communist.

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. All must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words.

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