

You and 'The Heart of Birmingham'

Nearly 600 persons Monday began canvassing the Birmingham area for contributions which will support for the coming year the many community service activities of the Birmingham Community House.

These workers hope to obtain a total of \$35,000 by March 3, the day the campaign ends. Already pre-campaign contributions and pledges are in excess of \$12,000, the drive chairman reported last week.

THERE SHOULD BE no need to mention what the Community House means to Birmingham, but here are a few items which demonstrate how useful and welcome the House has been this past year:

- 325 different groups held 2,839 meetings which drew 142,000 people;
- 34,446 persons ate meals there;
- 602 luncheons, teas, banquets were held.

The House is constantly used by service clubs, civic organizations, religious and public groups, women's clubs, and many others.

It's used by the individual, the family, the youngsters, by Mom and Dad, by friends.

SO WHEN YOU are approached for a contribution, open your own heart to "The Heart of Birmingham."

We know you didn't need to be reminded—this editorial is written for the comparatively few who have forgotten or didn't know about the importance of this Birmingham institution to the welfare, peace of mind and development of this community.

Poverty and Communism

One chief reason why communism makes many converts is that its proponents plant their ideas where great poverty exists.

For centuries the masses of Asia and the Middle East have existed on the starvation border, while a very few in each country have rolled and lolled in fabulous wealth. It will take much more than American gift dollars to change the attitudes of majorities in most of the communist-menaced nations today.

Indeed, the basic solution is to free these majorities from the slavery into which they have been kept by their exploiters, the Maharajahs, the sheiks, the ruling classes.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue
 Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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

The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has new value. Suggestions are welcome. 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 if brought to the publisher's attention.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill
 MARCH 31 vs. APRIL 7

You may be wondering why the Birmingham Board of Education last week suddenly decided to put to a vote on March 31 the special 3 1/2 mill levy to assist school system operating costs for the 1952-53 school year. The special 5 mill levy, voted in 1947, expired last December. About 2 1/2 mills of the five has been used for current operational expenses.

The answer is this: at the city election April 7, voters will be asked for a \$250,000 bond issue to finance a new east side fire hall at Adams and Bowers.

THE SCHOOL BOARD believes that if their special election the 3 1/2 mill levy was held AFTER the city bond issue vote, the voters might find voter resistance too high and thus the 5 mill vote down.

Hence the move to get the school district vote in AHEAD of the April 7 election.

As it now stands, the school board has quite a job on its hands to sell the district on the idea of the extra 3 1/2 mills with just 3 1/2 weeks to do it in.

Very Interesting

The average Detroit metropolitan family pays more to feed the federal government payrolls than it does to feed itself.

This assertion comes from Herbert J. Woodall, president of Woodall Industries, Inc., of Detroit, and a director of the National Association of Manufacturers.

According to an NAM analysis, Woodall said, both direct and indirect federal taxes cost the average family in Wayne, Oakland and

From Our Point of View

• Senator Kefauver appears to be warning up to his political responsibility as a Democratic candidate for the Presidency. For now and then he scolds Mr. Truman and his administration for the evils that are being exposed in the federal government. The soft-speaking Kefauver, if he wants to get more votes, will find it necessary to get quite tough . . . and what's the matter with so doing, anyway?

• Finding it impossible to control prices, Mike Di Salle has resigned his federal job and will oppose Republican Senator Bricker from Ohio in the coming campaign. Mike really isn't a bad sort; he's full of fun and frolic, too. We hope he maintains his sense of humor as he tackles inflation of the political oratorical type, usually accompanying election days.

• To the Communists, a truce appears to be part of the strategy of carrying on a war. To the United Nations, a truce is something to talk about in anticipation of stopping far short of a military victory.

• The name of Abraham Lincoln is known the world over. On millions of lips it is a name respected and revered. Even politicians use the theme of Lincoln to win votes for themselves and their parties. Why . . . even practical, predatory New-Fair Dealers pay hypocritical homage to the Rail Splitter. (And so do many practical, predatory Republicans.)

• If the Republicans take over control of the federal government this fall, we hope that they last not more than eight years. Then let the best of the Democrats take over for a while. With this kind of competition, the people should get better government—the kind that comes when competition leavens the public service.

• Washington experts say that by 1970, new labor-saving farm equipment will put three and one-half million agricultural workers out of jobs. At the same time, that many more workers will be needed in industries of the nation. That's the trouble with modern civilization: it keeps shoving people around.

So They Say . . .

Jas. G. Patton, president, National Farmers Union, criticizing county farm agents:

"Their contacts are generally limited to a clientele of farmers, usually the more prosperous, while the farmer who needs technical help most seldom if ever sees the agent."

Justine Wise Polier, N. Y. woman jurist:

"As Americans committed to the ideal of religious freedom we have the responsibility of defending the religious freedom of those with whom we disagree."

20 YEARS AGO
 February 25, 1932

Two children of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Bryant of 2801 A. Ashton road were carried to safety early Friday morning when fire from defective wiring broke out in their home. Actual fire damage was confined to the living room although the entire home was filled with smoke. Damages were placed at \$1500.

The Detroit Male Orpheus club will be heard at the Community House Tuesday. The local appearance of the group is raise funds for the children's free dental clinic, sponsored by the Birmingham Exchange club.

George Whittlesey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Whittlesey of

department statistics published by the Bureau of Commerce and the Bureau of Census, and adjusted to include federal income taxes and such other federal levies as excises and processing taxes which are passed on to the consumer as part of the product price.

WOODALL CONCLUDED. "The one answer to avoiding even higher taxes on family incomes is for every Detroit and every group in Detroit to get the facts and demand that Washington eliminate extravagance and waste in every agency, department, board bureau and commission."

Behind Woodall's action is the fact that in the past 23 years, the federal government has mushroomed from 600,000 to 3,500,000 employees, and from 700 to 1,812 agencies.

Interesting statistics, Mr. Woodall, and I heartily agree with you. But I don't share your confidence in the people's willingness to act, express themselves to their governmental servants, and see that government is operated efficiently.

The average person on reads about extravagance asks his wife "isn't it awful", then both of them promptly forget about it.

This nation reportedly has a two-party system. But I think about extravagance asks his wife "isn't it awful", then both of them promptly forget about it.

No, in fighting that fire you keep pouring the water on it. In buying your car you stop frequently to buy gas. Brotherhood is bigger by far than either of

Hoss Trader

BUY ONLY THE RECOGNIZED BRAND

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.

To the Editor:

I wish to thank you for your promptness in your delivery of the Birmingham Eccentric to me. It has been my experience to wait for weeks and even months, in some cases, for the issues of a new subscription to reach me, and this was in civilian life.

I received a gift subscription to the Eccentric at Christmas this year—I was very grateful—and you can imagine my surprise when upon returning to the base the week after Christmas I found two copies of the Eccentric already waiting for me. Since then the arrival of the paper has been prompt and regular.

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
 February 21, 1902

E. P. Larrie has gone to Howell to take entire charge of one of Livingston county's principal newspapers. We send our best wishes for his glorious success.

Isaac P. Huxley, who once had the Evening News agency here and attended school in his village, has just married a most estimable young lady and hereafter will have charge of the Evening News business in Lansing.

The Rev. and Mrs. M. H. Bartlett returned from their trip in the south on Monday last, having been absent just two weeks. Mrs. Bartlett concluded to return with her husband instead of remaining in Florida as was expected.

A Washington tea will be given in the basement of St. James church Saturday evening from 7 to 9, under the auspices of St. Cecilia's guild. All who want a good time and an excellent supper remember the date and hour.

The nickel-in-the-slot machines gathered in by Constable Fulmer of Pontiac have all over Oakland county last week were destroyed in a huge bonfire. Twenty-two dollars in nickels were found in the machines and were returned to the men who pleaded guilty to operating them.

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APTITUDE TESTS
 enable YOU to learn the kind of work YOU can best succeed in, or the kind of studies YOU should take. (For men and women.)
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 Woodward near Warren

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- UNITED MOTOR SERVICE
- AUTO-LITE SERVICE
- REXIND BRAKE SERVICE

WE DO GENERAL REPAIRS

"Operators' teamwork brings aid!"

Mrs. Alice Vanderhagen, evening chief operator.

Patently, reassuringly, Mrs. Vanderhagen talked to Mrs. Sopko and finally managed to get her address. Mrs. Vanderhagen immediately checked the records and located the telephone of a neighbor whom she called for help.

The neighbor went right to Mrs. Sopko's assistance. In short order, a doctor had the patient taken to the hospital.

Mrs. Sopko's recovering now, thanks to the alertness and competence of two telephone people.

It's People Who Make Telephone Service Good

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

After one of this winter's snowfalls, Mrs. Joseph Sopko of 10710 Somerset, Detroit, began clearing the driveway of her home, when suddenly she had a heart attack.

She managed to get into her house, reach the telephone and dial "Operator." But she couldn't give her own name or address—only that she was "very sick" and wanted help from the neighbors—no one else, just her neighbors.

Kathleen Shankin, a new operator, was on duty at the time. She sensed something was wrong, and quickly handed the call to Mrs.

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Miss Kathleen Shankin

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"Finest water heating there is!"

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