



The Handclasp of True Sportsmen

In the above photograph you observe the evidence of true manhood. When the victor and the vanquished—especially in the realm of politics—shake hands after the battle of the ballots is over, you have proof that the spirit of teamwork is in the making.

That's why we believe that Gen. Eisenhower, Republican candidate for President, will be the next occupant of the White House. For Senator Robert A. Taft, the loser at the recent Republican convention in Chicago, has publicly affirmed his attention to throw his entire support to "Ike," and that declaration presages coming victory, we think.

AS WE HAVE STATED in GRA's page one column in this issue, prior to the convention balloting in Chicago we were hopeful that Taft would be the nominee. When the controversy over the seating of those southern delegates reared its head, and subsequently Taft lost, we were quite certain that countless November votes were lost to the Taft cause.

In other words, we felt that should Taft be nominated, he had much less

Self-Government Expressed By Voting

Often it has been said that the Golden Rule hasn't had a real, enduring chance to work on behalf of the human family; too many people fail to live up to it.

In much the same way, democratic self-government has not had the real opportunity to provide its blessings for free nations. Even the good old U.S.A., best

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Because cherry growers in the Traverse City area of Michigan grow more cherries than the open market needs, arrangements have been made by them to have the U. S. government purchase 500,000 cases of the red things. This will keep up the price on the open market. No antagonistic word has been heard by Republican cherry growers, of course . . .

All informed people admit that the

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 news value. 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 if brought to the publisher's attention.

Another Stampede Coming



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 July 18, 1902

A door key has been lost between the M. E. church and the home of Mrs. E. M. Leonard. The finder will please leave it at this office and win the everlasting thanks of the distressed lady.

Our farmers can find one solace in this excessive rainfall that gives them so much cause for complaints. The potato vines are so far under water that no one is being bothered by those pesky potato bugs this year.

A congenial party of ladies, consisting of Mrs. H. C. Wilson, Miss Wilson, and Mrs. E. F. Peabody have gone to Chatsqua, N.T., and will remain at this pleasant educational resort for a month enjoying literary pursuits as well as passing the hottest term very pleasantly.

Claire W. Aldrich, for the past five years the faithful and capable foreman of this office has accepted a position with the Livingston Herald and will report for work there Monday last. Claire is a very reliable workman and we wish him the best of luck.

Three Birmingham rural mail carriers, L. H. Rosseau, Joseph Schooner and Pat Weston, were carried and safely delivered to their customers 15,909 pieces of mail last month. Faithful to the service of the public, they perform their duties well.

20 YEARS AGO July 21, 1932

Under the direction of Chief W. Griffith, the Birmingham fire department won the state battle at the 58th annual convention in an attempt to prove whether or not water is more effective than chemicals in extinguishing building fires. The local team won.

Depositors in the Bloomfield Hills Savings Bank, which discontinued business on June 23, will be paid in full next week, it was announced today by D. C. Morris, former cashier and now custodian for the bank.

Only five more days remain for dog owners to license their pets or face court charges. Police Chief John Hackett said today that action to impound the animals still owned, with six other boys, when against the owners would start at that time.

In order that staff members and employees may enjoy a few days rest and relaxation during the summer months, the Community House will be closed every Saturday until September.

Grading operations for the new cement road to be laid on Cranbrook from Lone Pine to Kingswood school will be started the end of this week. Taylor Brothers construction company has been awarded the paving contract.

5 YEARS AGO July 24, 1947

Don C. Fontaine, 1385 Northlawn, was declared second place winner in the junior division of the 1947 Fire Body Craftsmen Guild competition in Michigan. Don will receive a \$75 cash prize.

Numerous complaints have been received of cab drivers who parently pay no attention to city speed restrictions.

People who became excited about a D.C. which seemed to be about to crash-land east Woodward, near 14 Mile, learned that the craft was occupied by a group of GM executives, residents of Birmingham, who had persuaded the pilot to give them a quick trip home. A safe landing was made at the Berz airport.

Apparances are deceiving—a falsehood doesn't necessarily weigh more than the next person.

The tell the story about the nervous man who was hauled before the judge accused of sleeping a woman on a bus.

"Why did you do that?" the judge demanded frowning.

"It was this way, your honor. She sat across the way from me. The conductor was coming. She opened her bag, pulled out her purse, closed the bag, opened the purse, took out some change, closed the purse, opened the bag, put back the purse, and closed the bag. Then she noticed that the conductor had passed by so she opened her bag took out the purse, closed the bag, opened the purse, put back the money, closed the purse, opened the bag, put back the purse, and closed the bag. Then she noticed that the conductor started coming back she opened the bag, took out the purse, closed the bag, opened the purse, took out some money.

"For the love of Heaven, stop it!" the judge screamed. "You are going to drive me mad!"

"That's exactly what happened to me," the man said.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

Dilemma

Life is very confusing. The noises coming out of Chicago have been telling us, over and over again, that the only hope of American salvation lies in the Republican party.

Shortly the tune will change, and only he who hears it by voting the Democratic party into all high offices can we save our nation.

As each group has its inning, first one and then another assures Mr. and Mrs. Public that Mr. Blank is the ONE man from that particular party who has the needed qualifications.

Before long each party will have its white-haired boys lined up. Then our poor ears (and since TV has arrived, our eyes) will be continually bombarded with the names of candidates. Of course, we learn that each one of them is the best.

There's never any question about it, Mr. Whosit is superior to Mr. Whattit, and woefully, well, versa.

To clear the matter up, we read everything we can that is biographical about the candidates and find that they are all wonderful—neither one has even so much as anticked an apple from his mother's tree.

With every cancellation of our favorite programs we become more confused. Sometimes we are tempted to try for a new method of selecting men for office—al-

HOWEVER AND whatever

—from now until November we will hear the values of the various candidates. The radio will bring up the evidence in that booth will be filled with it; it will pop up in our daily conversations.

Each of us will have to become judge and jury of the evidence laid before us. We will have to sort the good from the bad, the true from the false, and form our own opinion.

In November we will have the privilege of entering that small booth, alone, to cast our ballot.

Perhaps it would be a good idea if, as the conventions themselves have been doing, we Americans opened our session in that booth with prayer—prayer that our judgment was right and that the judgment of every other man and woman would be right, to help us elect an honest, capable, sincere president!

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George W. M. Averill

To many viewers, the TV coverage of last week's Democratic convention in Chicago was just another good series of programs. Some persons probably got tired of it after the first few hours, and wished their regular diet of programs was back on the network.

Sure, it was lengthy coverage, and as complete as could be humanly arranged.

But every time I viewed it, which was often as possible, I could not keep from thinking peevishly, "Where but in America could a citizen sit in his own living room and see and hear speakers who were lambasting the other party from here to breakfast?"

AND WHEN those debates were being staged Wednesday evening over seating the contested Georgia and Texas factions, I asked myself, "Where but in America could you find elements of the same political party criticizing the other, all in the honest belief their stand was the correct one?"

Then I silently prayed that we Americans never would lose that precious freedom of thinking and criticism of the other fellow—the other party, the other idea—all in an attempt to lead us to a higher spiritual and moral level.

If that precious freedom of self-expression is lost by voters, then those people merely exist. If they keep that freedom, they live.

You may be interested to know that back in 1948, Truman was elected by:

- 16% of the total population
- 25% of those eligible to vote
- 16% of the registered voters

In 1948, 34,000,000 people could have voted. But only 66,811,000 were registered. And only 48,834,000 actually voted.

Birmingham now has about 12,000 persons registered to vote. That is believed to make up all the potential voters now living within the city.

SOME ADDITIONAL persons undoubtedly will sign up between the primary and the general elections. But it should be remembered that registration figures by themselves mean nothing. It is the electors who actually vote that tell the real story.

To register to vote and then not do so is a waste of your time and the city employees who help you fill out the registration forms.

However, to vote every time an election comes around is to obtain the utmost value from the few minutes you spend marking your ballot.

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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

GOD SAVE DEMOCRACY

God save American Democracy! We dare not drift back to Autocracy! For centuries we struggled toward the light! Preserve us, God, from servitude's sad plight! Bold patronage, the curse of party-power, Presents the peril of the present hour. Most vital now, we recognize as true: "Continuous power corrupts!" A change is due!

Too many offices have grown too tall. Top-heavy government is due to fall. Pen, draft-board, table, desk, row after row. Learn to despise the hammer and the hoe! Change now the Party, or lose power of choice: And, later, hear some mad Dictator's voice!

As goes America; so goes the world: God help us keep our freedom. Flag unfurled! —JOSEPH DUTTON Ann Arbor, Mich.

To the Editor:

I would like to let you know how much I enjoy your "Nature Now" columns by Lydia King Frehe. I consider them so interesting and worthwhile that I am saving all of them to help me learn

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