

The Fireworks Are Not Over Yet



Happenings of Long Ago

Sites of News Disclosed from Old Files of the Economic Times That Make Up the Historical Background of The Birmingham of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
July 4, 1902

We take pleasure in announcing to our former citizens that our learned fellow, Sam Alexander, has been appointed to the position of park botanist for the City of Detroit. We are all most happy and proud that this promising gentleman and scholar has met with good luck and great honor.

A week from Saturday night the Executive of Birmingham chapter, Order of the Eastern Star will hold an ice cream social which they hope will supply the funds making possible their purchase of a piano. The instrument is badly needed by the good Masonic wives to carry out their work and programs.

The fountain down at the park has a new top and it never before set up as fine a spray as it does now.

A large handsome dog came to the home of E. L. Montgomery last week Tuesday. The owner may have his animal by identifying it, and paying for the charges of its keep.

Arthur Groves of the Groves farm in Troy was one surprised to see obvious, slow to come up from the cornfield to find his house filled with friends and relatives gathered to meet him at his beautiful birthday dinner.

5 YEARS AGO
July 10, 1947

A branch office of the Michigan Secretary of State's office is scheduled for Birmingham within a few weeks it was disclosed this week. The executive secretary has already been chosen and will be announced when full particulars are made public.

Arnold Berndt, director of the Bivins school band and of instrumental music for the recreational program has announced the schedule for the coming season. Special sessions will be held for beginners, he said, to build up a nucleus of newcomers for the school group.

A roof fire at the Thomas Thurston home, 604 Oak, resulted in damage amounting to \$1,000, according to fire department estimates. The blaze was caused from the shipment of roman candles as papers were being burned in the furnace.

Directors of the Birmingham Retail Merchants association have asked that local stores consider closing their doors on national day during July and August. It is hoped that all will cooperate to help avoid confusion among shoppers.

Birmingham can't start war against the stagers because the fireworks haven't come yet. City Manager D. C. Ebert revealed that the shipment of roman candles ordered a week ago has not yet arrived and that the uninvited birds will remain in our midst without any immediate disturbance being aimed at them.

20 YEARS AGO
July 7, 1932

Three Birmingham men, Ray A. Palmer, John E. Martz and John H. Rosas, have announced that they will seek election to the Birmingham school board, which lists two vacancies. Palmer and Martz are seeking re-election.

Library reports show 1,003 more books taken out by local citizens last month than during the same period of the preceding year. Mrs. Nancy Thomas said 7,727 books crossed the file desk last month.

With the completion of Woodward avenue from Birmingham to the village limits north to Bloomfield Hills section this summer, state highway officials are seeking contractor bids for the work. The portion to be paved is about 1.4 miles.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE
BY ALICE E. MORGAN

A 'QUIET' FOURTH
You know, for a community and state where the sale of fire crackers is strictly taboo, there are some pretty clever imitations around.

Unlike the "good old days" when it wasn't against the law for the kids to blow themselves up, shooting firecrackers is not limited to the Fourth. You run into the things almost any time of the year and in almost any section of town.

Right now, with the great national holiday breathing down our necks, they have become a little more obvious, however.

Tuesday night, while driving along Maple road, one of the pesky things came sailing out from behind a shrub to "let loose."

We'd seen it coming, fully expecting it to strike the car before exploding, an even so jumped half way out of our shoes when it did go off.

THAT was one thing about those old days—the kids did, and therefore didn't think the things and things were bound to be caused about them.

We don't think of what would have happened to us if the parents had caught us toasting one at a camp fire.

Somewhat, though, it just doesn't seem like the Fourth of July anymore. It was something the kids looked forward to. They saved their money to buy a good supply, and although the girls and women of the family made a big show of being scared, they enjoyed the show.

There were the sparklers, shattering balls of flying sparks entering their own brief spans of brilliance in the dark of night. The rockets and roman candles, soaring high into the night sky, graceful, bright and undeniably lovely in their flight.

Yes, they were dangerous. People were hurt by them and buildings were destroyed by the careless, but still and all, most of us enjoyed them. There are more than a few adults who share my point of view—today's youngsters are missing a bit of American tradition by not having them.

IT'S NOT the same to go to some park and watch a fine display. A dozen little sparklers, set off in your own backyard, held in your own hand, can provide a far bigger thrill than the most brilliant display touched off by what seems to be a battery of rockets.

There was something about the gathering of families and friends in some open yard that put a fitting climax to one of the most important days of our national year.

Although we're quite sure that there are many parents ready to run us out of town, it's just possible we still can't help but feel a bit nostalgic when the Fourth comes and passes—merely another "day off!"

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Railroad Seeks Terrace Zoning

A special meeting of the city plan board has been called for Wed. July 9, to consider rezoning requests from the Grand Trunk. Rays of our own home and Frank C. Newell.

The two parties recently were denied a rezoning of lots north of the Grand Trunk Western railroad in the Birmingham Estates subdivision from residence to commercial.

At the time of the recommended denial a question was raised as to the possibility of rezoning the land to terraces. Both the railroad and Newell then submitted a petition for terrace zoning on the property.

EARLY COPY NEXT WEEK PLEASE

Because of the July 4th holiday, The Birmingham Eccentric will be closed all day Friday and Saturday, July 4 and 5. To facilitate the handling of news and pictures, display and classified advertising for that week, early copy is requested . . . as much of it as possible on Thursday, July 3, please.

To Call Hearing on Maple Rezoning

The city plan board rescinded its motion of June 25 recommending a denial of a petition for rezoning of property on Maple between St. Andrews and Coldgate. The board now recommends that the city commission call a hearing on the rezoning as soon as the request had been studied thoroughly.

The petition was submitted by Mike Harabedian and his wife Anna, to rezone lots 32 and 33, East Maple Gardens subdivision from residential to business.

The board previously had recommended the petition be denied.

George A. Cram, Pontiac attorney of Harabedian, asked that the matter be heard and added that six other property owners on the block also had requested a rezoning of their property to business.

"Glad It Wasn't My Property!"

That probably was your relieved thought after the recent fire in your neighborhood. But suppose it had been your property. Would you have had enough fire insurance to replace ALL of your property?

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Happy 25th Birthday, Fellows!

If you were going to list Birmingham's most important and respected community services, in our opinion the Birmingham Fire Department would have to go at the top of that list.

Tuesday this city department celebrated its 25th birthday as a paid organization. Of course, Birmingham had a volunteer fire department many years before July 1, 1927, and even today it has several companies of volunteers in reserve.

BUT BACK IN 1927 the city fathers decided the town was of a size to warrant paid firemen. Four of them were hired, including Fire Chief Vernon W. Griffith, who has headed the department during all these years.

During the past 25 years, the town has grown, and along with it the personnel and equipment of the department has increased.

Today the Birmingham department enjoys the respect and admiration of practically every townsman. That respect and admiration has come to the department because of the hard work, the long hours the chief and his men have devoted to their responsibility.

TODAY—AND FOR considerable years—our fire department has been recognized around the state as having one of the best—if not the finest—firefighting organization for a city of our population.

So today we take this opportunity, on behalf of the citizens of Birmingham, to say publicly to our firemen, "Happy 25th Birthday, Fellows! You've done a grand job for us all these years. We appreciate it, and want you to know we citizens will help you any way we can to keep our record so outstanding."

Stealing Your Money!

How do you like the manner in which your federal government throws around your tax dollars? How do you like to read about this or that Truman appointee who made plenty of dough because he "knew the right people?"

Or the bureaucrat in the Internal Revenue Dept. who used his office to collect outside fees, then "forgot" to include them in his own income tax return?

AND SO FORTH and so forth and so on goeth the record of graft and corruption among your high political officeholders. How much of YOUR money given to other countries do you think gets into crooked hands? Heaven only knows! But do you like it?

Not Far Off?

It is doubtful if Congress ever will submit to the voters a constitutional amendment placing a limit on its ability to collect taxes.

While some members of the Senate and House honestly want to decrease the national budget, they are in the minority. To expect all politicians to place a curb on their greatest power—which is the money they have to hand out—is to assume them to be sincere and wholly honest.

ANCIENT KINGS and feudal lords lived and became strong only when they collected much tribute from the public. When they took too much, and instituted too many burdensome laws, they were overthrown.

Not until American taxpayers rise up against paying too much of their earnings

From Our Point of View

Medical men are telling fat men that they should reduce their individual and collective weight, else their health will be threatened and the U.S.A. business life will suffer. Fat men, though good-natured, work so hard that many of them get so tired that they also get sick, remain away from their jobs, thus menace our nation's economic welfare. Well, tell those federal politicians to cut down taxes, restore peace, and otherwise become decent Americans. This will cure both the fat and the lean, and all the people in between.

With all this recent hullabaloo about the failure of football to improve ethics and morals in institutions of higher learning, maybe the gridiron will give way to this new game called: "Let me raid your dormitories. Girls, toss up panties, brassieres, girdles, anything you wear; it's less work and effort to engage in such things, for these raids inflict on us less wear and tear."

Let us remind you again that when you read about graft and corruption in the federal government, a portion of the money you pay in taxes is included in the dirty work. A government that tolerates such evils is no better than the Lucianos, the Costellos, the Capones and the Jesse James boys . . . and don't ever forget that! Until the people of the United States decide to de-centralize government, making it impossible for Washington, D.C., to handle so much of your earnings, you will find Washington also a point where crooks will gather. (Regardless of what political party is in power, too.) How do you like being looted, Mr. and Mrs. America?

So They Say . . .

Dwight D. Eisenhower:
"America is exactly as strong as the initiative, courage, understanding, and loyalty of the individual citizen."

Bertrand Russell, world famous philosopher, on 80th birthday:
"I enjoy life at least as much as when I was younger."

Marlene Dietrich, Hollywood actress, explaining how she keeps fit:
"If I feel lazy and want to stay in bed, I bestir myself and bake a cake."

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER
By George Wm. Averill
COSTS MORE TO KEEP HER AROUND

Don't complain too much about the cost of getting your daughter married. Just think what it would cost you if she stayed around the house the rest of her life.

Why do people go to such extremes trying to impress prospective suitors, whom they never see before and undoubtedly never will see again?

Are not cats as destructive as dogs? Don't they mess things up like dogs? Don't they ruin gardens as dogs? Then why not restrict and control them by the city, the way they not do the same to cats?

I believe I can see no difference.

I was distressed to read about the recent rumpus in Bay City where the medical doctors boycotted the city hospital until they got their own much requested permission to use hospital facilities.

Here is this honorable profession, sworn and dedicated to a life of service to humanity, bicycling with another group which doesn't use exactly the same routine as the MD's.

Show me the woman who has looked at all the magazine ads, still is satisfied with her kitchen.