

The Wait Was Long -- But Worth It

The Oakland Hospital board of trustees' recent announcement of hospital construction plans has eliminated much of the confusion concerning hospitals that has existed for several years in Southern Oakland county.

Along with many SOC residents, we were pleased to hear that three proposed hospital projects have been consolidated and the Oakland Hospital at Woodward and 13 Mile road, in Royal Oak, is to become a reality.

To get this \$5,000,000 hospital from the "proposal" to the "project" stage required no little bit of backstage maneuvering and reconciling.

BUT BEHIND US NOW is the confusion, the several personality conflicts, and the consolidation of funds of the three former proposals.

Ahead lies only the actual physical construction, administration, staffing and slight additional fund raising effort.

Those backstage managers who succeeded in getting the hospital for Southern Oakland county out of confusion into construction are to be highly commended. In the current fund raising campaign, they deserve the full support, moral and financial, of Southern Oakland residents and business institutions.

This area has needed and waited a long time for this hospital. But now we look forward to meeting you at Oakland Hospital's "open house" on July 4, 1954.

Einstein Wrong Here

The great Albert Einstein, worried about the possibility of civilization being destroyed by atomic bombs, wants all nations to band together under one governmental authority. This, he argues, would prevent the use of the bomb. Perhaps; but there are some worldly conditions in which mankind can be forced to live that are worse than war, and we believe Einstein's notion would spawn some of them.

Something better than a mere change in society's governmental structures is required to insure mankind peace and plenty.

Pensioners Organize

Only within the past few years has big industry accepted the pension plan of retiring employees at 65 years of age.

It is estimated that as of today less than 100,000 pensioners draw monthly sums from their former employers.

But already this group is being formed into a national association, or sort of union. By 1960 it is figured that the United States will have 10,000,000 such pensioners—and you be sure, if they are organized, they will wield tremendous political power in this country.

INDEED, THEY MAY BE the "straw that breaks the camel's back" as this wonderful experiment in self-government goes down before gluttonous and blundering conglomerations of human beings.

(For, Dear Reader, are you not aware of the fact that, over most of our earth today, it is a case of "the blind leading the blind"?)

Keeping Un-Posted

We have said it before, and we must say it again: we believe the TV program, "Keeping Posted", sponsored by the Saturday Evening Post, performs, on the average, a great disservice to the American people.

Because of its pattern of having too many people in the act of asking questions, and too little time in which the pro and the con sides try to give answers, the skit leaves everybody more confused than when the program started.

We suggest to the Post that it change the pattern of this potentially excellent type of program.

It Once Was Strong—

Once upon a time, within the memory of many persons now living, the Congress of the United States really represented the people. It was able to perform its constitutional functions, holding the executive branch of the government in its proper place.

But that was before the New-Fair Deal changed the relationship between the legislative and executive branches of government. That was before Bureaucratic Monarchy "took over". That was before the federal government acquired additional "blackjacks" with which to rob

more of the public of its personal earnings.

YES SIR, once upon a time the Congress of the United States really represented the people—and that was before a majority of Congressmen became like wobbly putty in the hands of predatory politicians and pressure groups.

Indeed, come to think of it, that was before a majority of American voters were willing to trade their freedom for what they thought would be economic security.

From Our Point of View

That New York woman who stands to make a half million dollars through her part in buying, selling, trading, etc., merchant ships, told a Senate Committee that "more women should be in the shipping business." The lady's right . . . why should all the easy money made possible by Uncle Santa Claus Sam, via his easy-going Maritime Commission, be confined to men?

This paragraph was written the day before the New Hampshire primary election, so we don't know exactly who is going to profit most by the votes cast. For that reason, this paragraph is completely honest—it makes no attempt to declare who the winner or winners shall be.

Oakland County's share of the Truman budget of \$5 billions amounts to \$270,267,000, or \$667.18 for every man, woman and child. These figures come from the March bulletin of the Oakland Citizens League, Inc., a non-profit organization of county individuals interested in obtaining clean, honest and economical government on every level.

Let us not forget that most of the folks in the Bureau of Internal Revenue are honest, even though too many of the top officials are being revealed as dishonest and otherwise "off-base". Because of the influence of Missouri Pendergastism on the Truman administration, the American public can never expect certain higher echelons of government to be cleaned up. It may be practical to "set a crook to catch a crook"—but who is naive enough to believe that unethical people can make other people ethical?

Quite often many years are required to gain community acceptance of a new idea, whether it be the form of a law, or the construction of a building project. This may be seen in the current development of Detroit's municipal waterfront series of buildings. It required many years for Cleveland to obtain its waterfront development. Even our own city of Birmingham requires sufficient time for some of its improvements to achieve public acceptance.

How many of our leaders in the higher echelons of government merely give lip service to the nation's need for superiority in air power? And by this we mean that they spout off hot air while we are losing the "cold war" in Korea.

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So They Say . . .

Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India: "We have no difficulties with the United States Government."

Charles P. Nelson, Congressman from Maine, opposing U. M. T.: "The masters of the Kremlin would laugh at U. M. T. They would be delighted that we put this strain on our young manpower."

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THE FORMAT has changed along with everything else. From



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eclectic—The Items That Make Up The Backdrop Of Birmingham Today.

50 YEARS AGO March 21, 1902 Probably the record for many years in the plowing line was made last week when clay ground was turned in Oakland county without any farmer finding a sign of frost.

Perhaps one person in ten knows that when he is driving on a public road and someone draws up behind him, it is as much his duty to pull over and let them pass as it is to permit room for a vehicle which he happens to meet.

Miss Ethel Cull returned home with her mother the other day and found someone had been in the house. Investigation revealed two big colored fellows hiding in a closet. Without further ado Miss Ethel picked up a revolver and attempted to blaze away. Her aim not being up to Annie Oakley standards the two escaped unhurt.

Birmingham has been honored. Prince Henry, while on his whirl through this country was being entertained at West Point, N. C., where he was presented to our own Miss Bertha Bigelow while her father, Capt. Mort O. Bigelow conversed with royalty.

Say, if you want a nice up-to-date phonograph at less than half the original price and as good as new, call on the Eclectic at 3rd house south of The Eclectic.

20 YEARS AGO March 24, 1932 Birmingham stores, according to custom, will close for three hours beginning when The Eclectic observes of Good Friday services in the local churches. Plans are completed for special Easter services by the several Birmingham pastors.

The names of J. W. Cobb, incumbent, H. M. Schlaack and L. W. Porter have been submitted to the Congressman Seymour Persons who will recommend one of the three to President Hoover for appointment as postmaster in Birmingham.

The Rev. William Ryan, pastor of St. Hugo of the Hills church reported that "most important" of his attendants at St. Joseph Mercy

Robert Connor, 482 Westwood, has been named President for 1947-48.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

With this issue The Birmingham Eclectic starts the long trip to its 75th anniversary.

Vol. 1, No. 1, of this community newspaper was printed in 1878, under the editorship of Almeron Whitehead and George H. Mitchell. It continued under the ownership until 1920, when George R. Averill, present owner bought the paper and job printing business.

During these many years the paper has recorded numerous changes in Birmingham. It has undergone many itself.

As changes have taken place in the general field of printing, the paper has reflected them. Perhaps the most noticeable of these, to the reader, is the increase in the use of pictures as news content.

OLD COPIES show line drawings and with the increased use of zinc plates, more and more pictures of personalities began to appear. The "art" constantly improved in quality and scope for the Birmingham and the whole printing industry.

Perhaps the greatest step in this direction was taken this anniversary month, when The Eclectic added its own engraving equipment, working now with photo-lithography which are replacing the zincs in a great many places.

Subscribers to the paper have seen Friday publication dates, as well as the Thursday date now observed. The floor space of the paper has moved from May to March, but still it has gone on, according to the community thought or attention to its own change.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

IT'S DYNAMITE—LEAVE IT ALONE!

Whenever anyone wants to tamper with the U. S. Constitution, even though it is utterly sincere and honest in his reasons, he should think about such a change not once, but three or even four times.

For the U. S. Constitution is one of the rocks which form the firm foundation on which we Americans have constructed an economy and standard of living that is the envy of all other people, bar none.

What occasions this comment is an editorial which appeared March 6 in a Detroit afternoon chain newspaper, The Detroit Times.

THE TIMES' editorial that consisted of a "letter to the editor" and was signed "Former Navy Nurse". In an editorial note, the Times endorsed the idea contained in the letter.

This former Navy nurse mentions that she and other persons gave up entering the armed services, such as trial by jury and the writ of habeas corpus.

After citing the Constitution's guarantee of the writ of habeas corpus, trial by jury, prohibition of self-incrimination, and privilege against self-incrimination, she and her wife, with doctor, clergyman and lawyer, she admits:

"A GREAT MANY of us who these rights and privileges were encroached upon by various groups. Much of that has been corrected, but these rights should be jealously guarded and never again allowed to be violated by a political-minded judge or over-zealous policeman."

But, the lady points out, federal and state constitutions provide for the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus during time of invasion or war, and, when called to armed service, people give up certain inalienable rights they have as citizens, "because of the emergency."

She says Communists seek to destroy the American way of life, therefore are our enemies. She wants to know why we permit Communists to be out on bail, why they are not treated the same as murderers and traitors?

She CONCLUDES, "By taking away these constitutional immunities and privileges, only in regard to subversive activities, but still protecting their rights as to other crimes, we could more effectively deal with the Communists and not have to listen to these traitors of our country hiding behind 'I refuse to answer because it might incriminate me'."

My sympathies are with the lady and I, too, get disgusted hearing the statement that begins "I refuse to testify because . . ."

But I'm not in favor, as the lady and The Times are, of making an exception of Communists and other subversives when it comes to constitutional guarantees.

Why SHOULD a murderer be permitted to refuse to testify against himself, but not a Communist? Why a clergyman, but not a Communist? Why a lawyer, but not a Communist?

What do you have to do to be classified as a Communist? What do you have to say to be a Communist? Do you have to carry a gun or a club or a knife? Or can—and will—you be one merely if someone says so?

Is Communism treasonable? Is Communism a crime? If they are one, or both, are they not punishable with the same means as murder or theft?

Couldn't a Communist or suspected Communist, then, be brought before the bar of justice and if "proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt," be punished accordingly?

Don't we already have the process by which these Communists can be brought to account for their sins of commission?

A CONGRESSIONAL investigating committee has no power to convict a person, whether it is probing Communism or corrupt government officials. All it can do is search for facts.

Only a court of law provides the means whereby the state attempts to prove guilt, and whereby the defense attempts to maintain innocence.

And here's another great danger: If subversives are denied constitutional guarantees, how long will it be before murderers, bribers, petty thieves, traffic speeders—and finally—EVERYONE is denied the right to refuse to answer self-incriminating questions?

A fish doesn't stop to think that when he swallows that nice, tasty worm (to satisfy his immediate hunger) he also will swallow a hook fastened to a line that will be reeled in, and that ultimately the poor fish will be frying over the fire . . . all because he didn't stop first to examine what kind of a worm was floating past.

IF THE TIMES and the former Navy nurse can't agree with me, I'd like to ask them this: If the constitution were changed to require Communists and other subversives to testify against themselves, how would anyone know whether they were telling lies or giving us truthful answers—UNLESS WE HAD PROOF TO BELIEVE WITH?

Then, if proof does exist, why not take it to court and try for a conviction?

A mere change in the U. S. Constitution will not make sinners out of sinners, nor honest people out of liars.

A change in the Fifth Amendment will not solve the problem we have with Communists—but it could be dynamite for the millions of loyal Americans.

People's Column

The Eclectic welcomes letters for this column. All letters must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential unless the writer must be listed to 200 words.

To the Editor: It seems our son John (Jack) will be very proud when he tells you have taken the news of his "graduation" at "Denison" at Denison University out of the "With the Collegians" column and placed it in your own "Bits of Birmingham."

He will feel he has had the great compliment of being noticed by a real newspaperman!

Out of a longstanding habit I must repeat: The Eclectic is owned by Mrs. JOHN L. McQUIGG, 1395 Willow Lane

To the Editor: It seems to me that the parking area behind the Wabeco Building offers a partial solution to off-street parking. If this area were to be leveled, black-topped and parking meters installed it would certainly take care of twice as many cars as it does in its present state of confusion.

MRS. W. M. MCCARTHY 1010 Glenhurst

It is an accepted fact that Classified Ads in most newspapers contain much of human interest. That's one reason why so many people read The Eclectic's Classified Ads . . . why our Classifieds get such good results!

4 HOUR SERVICE BIRMINGHAM CLEANERS Woodward at Adams Road SHIRTS DRY CLEANING We Give S & H Green Stamps

TELEVISION SERVICE We service Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Royal Oak and adjacent communities Call Midwest 4-1814 MILKS APPLIANCES 1435 S. WOODWARD

A LOOSE SHINGLE CAN BE COSTLY! It might result in expensive water damage. Check your home for all such sources of future trouble, and have repairs made promptly. Finance the job with a low-cost home improvement loan here. Come in and apply any time.

THE BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL BANK BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Member Federal Reserve System