



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 April 21, 1903 We scarcely knew Henry Stevens of Southfield when he entered the room at the banquet...

15 YEARS AGO April 28, 1933 David Fredenthal, young Detroit artist and musician at Crabbrook, is in a critical condition...

30 YEARS AGO April 19, 1923 Local residents who are desirous of keeping street just at a minimum have only to call Vice Mayor Starr...

30 YEARS AGO April 19, 1923 Wednesday was a busy day this week when firemen answered three alarms within an hour...

Members of the Baldwin school boys' and girls' basketball teams were felled this week by Birmingham businessmen and others who are interested in the programs...

When I sat I sat in a hotel an I'll tell what I want. I know, I had enough shrimp and chicken goovy that me the rest of my life...

Uncle Albert's just back from a trip. He went north to look in the warm sun and rest. He's come back a different man—old, tired and a bit wiser...

Uncle Albert slumped down in his old rocking chair. His one hand fell naturally over the top of the chair and as naturally, the dog's head pushed under his fingertips...

HE SAT for a few minutes, rocking and fidgeting. He had a new silky ear of the dog who had been so lonely. They both sighed and heaved a little groan in one another's direction...

"Kwack," Uncle Albert began, "that dog was wonderful. I was so glad to know a man had taken so much abuse!"

THE OLD MAN in this one wore a grin from ear to ear, and across his front he held a fish about two feet long...

APTITUDE TESTS YOU can see yourself in the kind of job you'll do best in. (For men and women, boys and girls.)

Off-Street Parking Amendment Revisions Are Suggested

In an effort to help materially in the solution to Birmingham's downtown parking problem, members of the city plan board, aided by the city commission, have spent many long hours behind the scenes...

In the past several months, plan board members have brought it before the public for discussion at regular board meetings. Two meetings in recent weeks with downtown merchants also were held to discuss the advantages and disadvantages, if any, of the proposed amendment.

This suggested change attempts to solve the city's off-street parking problem by requiring businesses to provide space for the storage of customers' and/or employees' cars.

AS ORIGINALLY DRAFTED, the proposed amendment would have required all new or expanded business establishments to provide off-street parking.

But as the plan board considered this overall requirement, they felt it perhaps was too inclusive, particularly in the so-called central business section.

Because it is so dense, built up, it was believed impractical and uneconomical to require present central business places to have to provide parking if they were expanded or the remaining few vacant lots built upon.

Hence, plan board members advanced the revised suggestion that the central business section be excluded from any requirements to provide parking, and only demand it of those new or expanded establishments outside of the central area.

IT WAS THE HOPE of the plan board that although the central area would not be required to provide parking, it would obtain it from a practical business standpoint through cooperative efforts, such as are being made by those in the area north of Maple and west of Woodward.

But, in the recent meetings with downtown merchants, it was strongly indicated that the original idea of the plan board is more acceptable to the businessmen.

In fact, in the background is the suggestion that perhaps the plan board should go farther than it initially considered—not merely to keep the parking problem from getting any larger by requiring all new and expanded businesses to provide parking, but also to correct the PRESENT parking problem by requiring existing establishments also to furnish some facilities.

SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC MEETINGS will be held as the plan board considers these new suggestions already made and attempts to come up with a practical, equitable ordinance amendment.

We are not alone in believing that it would be definitely discriminatory to draw a line around any portion of the business area and exclude it from requirements to provide parking for new and expanded businesses, while the area outside the line did have to provide it.

We know there is a more equitable solution to the problem, and that with the assistance of those who have to meet its requirements, the plan board will work out a final proposal that will benefit all elements in the community.

Thieves Always Pay

Shoplifting is the oldest of problems to merchants. It became more acute with the spread of the self-service system of selling goods on what amounts to an honor basis. The vast majority of customers are honest, but the crooked few must always be combated.

The American Stores of Philadelphia recently listed some two-score tricks of the light-fingered artists, but said it had no intention of disclosing to the looters measures employed by the police and stores to curb this lawless activity.

Hollering About Taxes

Ever hear of IGHATS? It is the slogan of a new mass movement and it means "I'm gonna holler about taxes."

It had its beginning at Cedar Rapids community luncheon where industrial workers earning \$3,400 a year learned that they were paying \$1,100 a year in taxes, \$800 of which is hidden. It has been spreading fast. Ministerial groups, union locals, chambers of commerce and other such organizations have promised it support.

of devices and stratagems to hide their loot—hats, handbags, double socks, knickerbockers, large sleeves, heavy socks with elastic tops; hollowed-out books, musical instrument cases, umbrellas, handbagged arms, rolls of toilet paper, baby carriages, waist bands of trousers, rubberized pattern inserts for sweaters, flowing coats, maternity gowns, and many others. Teen-agers often work in groups.

In spite of all this ingenuity, the shoplifter is almost invariably caught, sooner or later. Thievery is relative—some thieves steal merchandise, others steal nations. But crooks finally wind up in deep trouble—as witness history.

The IGHATS battle cry couldn't have been sounded at a better time. In 1929, federal spending amounted to 3.6 per cent of the national income.

Now, it is estimated, it amounts to more than 30 per cent. The IGHATS movement is designed to do something about this situation—and do it in a novel way in which everyone can participate.

How about joining up?

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

During recent years both major political parties seem to have trouble with their national chairman. Ex-President Truman had plenty with several of his chairmen, and so did the Republicans—with the exception of Arthur Summerfield, now Postmaster-general. Let's hope that both parties, from now on, keep their chairmen like Caesar's wife, "above suspicion."

Thirty-seven leading universities of the United States and Canada have agreed that membership in the Communist Party should prevent such people from faculty jobs in their institutions of higher learning. To be a Communist, committed to the overthrow of the U.S.A., proves Comrades to be disloyal, hold the educators. That sounds like good American sense to us, too.

Could this be a description of too many American public officials? An anecdote refers to the French Revolution of 1848. A big crowd was running down the street during an outbreak. The gendarmes arrested one man and tried to hold him. He cried out: "Let me go! Let me go! I have to follow that crowd—I'm their leader!"

Detroit's Red Wings lost their chance to win the national hockey championship when the Boston Bruins beat them for the fourth time . . . and just how this happened can't be traced to the Wings' splendid playing prior to the preliminary play-offs, either. Apparently the Wings were skating on pretty thin ice.

A Kalamazoo writer comes up with this apt observation, about the little boy who said to his mother: "Don't say must; it makes me feel won't all over!"

So They Say . . .

Vassily Sokolovsky, Soviet Army Chief of Staff

"The Soviet Union possesses the best men in the world, the most perfected armaments and the most progressive Stalinist science of victory."

John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State

"We, as a people, never have acquiesced, and never shall acquiesce, in the enslavement of other peoples."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Two weeks ago in this column, I commented on the Birmingham Board of Education's arrangement of the American and United Nations flags in the board room of the Hill school.

Placed immediately behind the board-presidents chair, the UN flag was at his right, the American national colors to the left.

It was my opinion that their positions should be reversed, that the American flag should have the proper position at the right.

This week to my aid comes Hugh C. White, commander of Charles Edwards American Legion Post, with the following comment:

"Your recent query in The Eccentric regarding the proper position of the American flag in the Birmingham Board of Education room at Hill school is an immediate challenge to the greatest veteran's organization in the world, the American Legion."

"AS CITIZENS who fought and sacrificed to preserve our institutions and our glory, we strive to see that Old Glory is properly displayed at all times."

"We therefore submit the following etiquette: When displayed from a staff in a public auditorium, if it is displayed on the speaker's platform, the flag should occupy the position of honor and be placed at the speaker's right as he faces the audience."

"But when the flag is displayed from a staff in a public auditorium, the flag should be placed on the left of the audience as they face the platform."

"Inasmuch as the flags are placed to the rear of the speaker in this case in the board of education room, they are to all intents on the platform and are, in the opinion of the American Legion, improperly displayed."

You may be interested to learn, Commander, that as of Friday afternoon the flags still were in what both you and I consider the "improper" position.

If Birmingham city commissioners should use the stones in opposition raised against the proposed paving of Fifth, North and South Main streets, it would be an expensive way to hard-surface those three streets.



WHEN HE RETURNED from a Friday morning assignment, The Eccentric's Managing Editor George Wm. Averill thought he had better clean up his desk and start looking for another job. Because in his chair and with that copy pencil editing any and everything she could get her hands on was his 3-year-old daughter, Janice. She even had coaxed the above photo out of Staff Photographer Norm Douglas. But her Daddy decided she didn't have quite enough journalistic experience and his job still was secure. "I think she's been subjected too early and too much to the growing feminine opinion that this is a woman's world entirely," her Dad was heard to say.

Advertisement for HUGH C. WHITE Multiple Line Insurance Agency. Includes contact information for Bill Roberts and Hugh C. White.

Advertisement for Automatic Electric Water Heater. Features a cartoon character and text promoting the benefits of the water heater.

Advertisement for The Birmingham Eccentric. Includes contact information for George Wm. Averill and details about the publication.