Polio Plea Is Met; Red Cross, Roll Call Are Next Challenges

Whenever a need is evident, Birmingham area residents never waver in their support of it.

Such was demonstrated again last week when the Birmingham unit of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis collected over $15,000 in contributions which will be used during the ensuing year for treatment of and research into this dreaded ailment.

Campaign workers, headed by Co-Chairman John B. Taylor and Mrs. Howard Rieman, have been overwhelmed by the success of this year's effort, which saw contributed more than twice the amount that was collected a year ago.

THE TWO-PART NEED was clearly evident—funds to make up for local unit deficits caused by last year's cases of epidemic proportions, as well as monies for treatment for patients during the coming year; plus funds for a research program that appears to be driving towards an early and successful polio prevention program.

For the first time, the annual Red Cross drive this year will be definitely allied with the polio prevention program. The U.S. Defense Department has asked Red Cross to obtain $7,000,000 which will be used to obtain 5 million pints of blood from which gamma globulin will be made. Gamma globulin is the substance being used to provide better immunity to polio.

THIS $7 MILLION is in addition to the $86,000,000 needed nationally to conduct the Red Cross' normal program.

This need is clearly evident, too. Birmingham's share of this Red Cross effort is $14,000. We confidently predict that Birmingham will; when the drive starts in March, meet—if not considerably exceed—that local goal.

A third campaign—which gets under way Monday, Feb. 16—is the annual Community House Roll Call. To support House activities for the next 12 months, a goal of $40,000 must be realized.

Already more than $10,000 in advance contributions has been received by the Roll Call committee.

ALTHOUGH COMING ALONG in fairly quick succession—and totalling $69,000—these three drives require a total of only $3.45 for each of the 20,000 persons who live in Birmingham.

Only $3.45 which permits each teen-ager to have an easily accessible Community House Ranch Room.

Only $3.45 that provides each adult with Community House facilities for social, service or civic club activities.

Only $3.45 so each child and adult can have assurance against staggering polio treatment bills, for Red Cross services to their sons and relatives in the armed forces, to have the Red Cross stand by with workers and volunteers and funds for use in disaster areas, for first aid classes, nursing services, etc.

ALL THIS FOR a total of only $3.45 per person. For only the price of a carton and half of cigarettes, or the price of one good meal in a restaurant.

We believe Birmingham will pay that "cover charge."

When called upon to aid the unfortunate, to meet the unexpected, to solve the unpredictable — Birmingham walks with those in the forefront.

It always has. Why, then, should it not be so in the future?

Robbing N.Y. Candy Shops Is Risky

What is believed to have been one of the most badly-timed robberies ever planned was recently brought to a speedy and unsuccessful conclusion in New York. It so happened that a number of police had entered a candy store to round up persons suspected of policy operations.

Just about the time the large police detail had lined up some nine suspects, in walked an armed man, who announced that he was holding up the shop.

AS HE POINTED his gun as the proprietress, the police stared at the man in amazement.

The would-be robber was equally amazed and even more surprised—as a number of the policemen swarmed over him in an instant. In fact, the discomboberated robber submitted without resistance.

Rather poor timing, we would say.

Too Much Culture

Four domesticated white ducks recently succeeded in causing quite a commotion near Scarsdale, New York.

It seems the ducks, which had lost the vigor their wild cousins possess, were frozen in a thin sheet of ice on the surface of a river, where they slept peacefully as the ice solidified.

Noting the plight of the ducks, several nearby citizens appealed to the police and the response was an emergency truck equipped with floodlights and a rowboat on a trailer. The ducks were rescued, wrapped in blankets and carried to living quarters and warmed by a radiator.

AS MOST PEOPLE know, wild ducks, who must take care of themselves or perish, avoid such traps by paddling with one foot, even while sleeping.

But the fat, domesticated ducks have become too soft for such survival and were thus trapped by nature. This must be highly embarrassing in the duck world, even to domesticated ducks.

Too much culture, it seems, is no more beneficial to many ducks than to many people.

Both seem to lose perspective when the recipients of too much luxury, though the ducks' plight is usually more easily recognized.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

When the leaders of business decide that the processes of self-government are as deserving of their attention as the various phases of their businesses are, perhaps we shall obtain better government. To allow only the politicians and labor leaders to be interested in democracy is to encourage anti-business legislation. And when business cannot have the opportunity to become successful, then self-government will give way to the tyranny of special groups.

Again numerous members of the teaching profession criticise the lack of teaching fundamentals to American children in the public schools. They argue, among other things, that modern teaching tends to hold back the bright students, because this group must travel only at the slower rate of the lesser minded boys and girls. Result: fewer brilliant minds to be nurtured and graduated for future leadership.

Give the Communists enough rope and, first, they'll stage a purge, then a hanging party.

The record of Joe Stalin is indelibly marked with his character, and his character is naught but the devil incarnate. Stalin and his gang have killed off more people (Russians and other nationalities) than anybody in all history. That is the only way the Kremlin can remain in power. Why should freemen waste their hopes in expecting Stalin to work for peace? Stalin & Co. never will respect anything except force . . . which is why our country must become and remain stronger than Russia.

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So They Say . . .

George M. Humphrey, Secretary of the Treasury:

"I think the present tax burden is heavier than any country can stand over a considerable period."

Your share of the national debt has been reduced at least a couple of dollars since last year. Not because of economies in the federal government, either. Simply because the population has gone up.

Something To Be Proud Of

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From The Items That Make Up Old Files Of The Eccentric— The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
February 13, 1903

"Old Sport", the famous Birmingham hound owned by E. J. Fish, is on exhibition at the sportsmen's show in Detroit this week and, we are told, has attracted thousands of admirers already.

Our new waterworks whistle which made so much noise while being tested seems to have lost some of its lung power. Pull the throttle a little harder, Ellsworth, and maybe we can hear it once in a while.

Hurrah for the school and all the district. They are putting in a first class boiler to furnish steam to make everything warm and cozy even if it goes to 20 below. L. S. Holser is putting in the plant, the same man who did the one at the asylum.

Will Lamb of Big Beaver who has been afflicted for some time with poison on his hands is recovering and hopes to be ready for a heavy spring's work in his particular line—painting, paper-hanging and finishing of all kinds. We know his excellent work and wish him well.

Claude Reynolds, while felling timber at Orson Hunt's woods, was struck by a falling limb and his head severely cut. Dr. Shaw applied his skill and made Bro. Reynolds comfortable and almost well again.

30 YEARS AGO
February 9, 1923

J. S. Briggs, local grocery store man, announced this week that he would shortly open a new store at 122 West Maple. Briggs has managed the C. F. Smith store for the past three years.

Although he has not yet received his commission, James W. Cobb is busy these days learning the rows at the Birmingham postoffice. His authorization is expected to arrive in about three weeks, when he will officially take over the job which has been handled so capably by George H. Mitchell.

The Birmingham PTA Council has received official sanction on their proposed plan to serve free milk in the local schools. They have won the approval of state and county bodies, who praised their interest in the physical welfare of school children.

Fire Chief Olsen warns residents that they must use different methods when heating their homes with soft coal. The more explosive and gaseous qualities of soft coal make it far more dangerous than anthracite.

Unable to obtain suitable speakers to provide the program, Oakland county Republicans have been forced to cancel their annual Lincoln banquet. Plans are afoot to schedule the event for March.

15 YEARS AGO
February 17, 1938

Heavy rains and melting snows once more have sections of Birmingham under water. The Rouge has overflowed its banks, putting four feet of water on Woodward at Harmon. Householders in many areas are without proper heat due to flooded basements.

Two ministerial changes are taking place in Birmingham as the Rev. W. Hamilton Auenbach leaves Christ Church Cranbrook to accept a charge in Germantown, Pa. The second is the acceptance of the Presbyterian pulpit by the Rev. W. Glen Harris of W. Trenton, N. J. He will begin his services here on March 20.

Public phone boxes, a gas station and theater box office were robbed here during the weekend. In each instance, according to police, thieves were successful in making off with small amounts of cash.

Earl A. Thompson has become the new president of the Oakland Hills country club. The Bloomfield Hillsman is a director of the General Motors company and succeeds John O'Hara as club head.

A series of hobby talks are planned for boys at Quarton school according to H. D. Crull, school superintendent. He said that speakers would be chosen on the basis of experience in their field and the adaptability of their hobbies for young boys.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Since Sunday, Boy Scouts all over America have been holding special programs of all kinds as they celebrated the 43rd anniversary of that organization.

These events have taken on the form of church services, Courts of Honor, special camping trips, public programs and a host of other celebrations.

In Birmingham the highlight of the week was the Court of Honor held Monday by Troop B-4, when four of its members became Eagle Scouts. Never before, in the history of Birmingham scouts, has one troop been so honored.

Scouting has been called "Democracy in action", as boys of all religious faiths, nationalities and so-called social position work side by side.

SINCE 1910 scouting has offered these boys a chance to work and play together, to learn the true meaning of "America" by avail themselves of opportunities to become better and more useful citizens.

Through the years the demands for more scouting activities has seen the formation of cub scout packs to take care of the little fellows and explorer scouts to enable boys to remain active for a longer period of time.

It has taught millions of young boys many features of everyday living which no other organization could have given them. It has constantly stressed self-reliance and help to others. It has taught boys how to become men—men of value to themselves and their country.

THE IMPORTANCE of scouting has been recognized by religious groups, civic clubs, social organizations, schools and individuals.

They have given their support and assistance to struggling young troops, guiding them toward a wholesome growth and lasting worth.

Should a list be compiled of prominent American men, and the initials BSA entered after every name which had, at some time or other, been listed in a boy scout troop, it would be impressive, indeed.

Statesmen, industrial and military leaders, men in every field of endeavor have been members of some boy scout troop. Very few, indeed, would say that their experiences had not been of lasting benefit to them.

FROM TINY towns to huge, teeming cities, the boy scouts come. Farm boys travel long distances to get to troop gatherings. City boys welcome the hikes which take them into the woods and rural areas for campouts. The two groups meet on equal ground when in camp, regardless of the wide differences in their background.

Boy scouts have, many, many times, proven themselves true to their motto, "Be prepared", when disaster has struck. They have responded immediately and have never failed to uphold the faith of their fellow citizens.

As tomorrow marks the end of their 1953 birthday week, we pause to extend our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for many more successful years.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

It'll never happened, probably won't, but if it did—wow!

There is a total of 12,936 miles of paved urban and rural streets in the state of Michigan. If all the registered vehicles in the state were on these 12,936 miles all at the same time, there would be less than four feet distance between each and every vehicle.

Although some people may feel that this does take place on nice Sunday afternoons in the summer, it does add weight to proposals to do something about improving Michigan's street and road situation. . . especially Oak and Pierce streets in the City of Birmingham.

Speaking of local streets, if you need some gravelly concrete, just drive over to Adams road and shovel it up. If something isn't done about this road soon, motorists will be driving in the mud—the road's about that far gone.

Suppose you are a businessman. Suppose for some years you have been offering public a service which used to return you a profit. However, in recent years this service of yours is not so popular.

In fact, it's costing you money to continue it. You'd like to cut it out and concentrate on the other aspects of your business that do provide a reasonable profit.

But you can't cut it out—the government won't let you. You still have to go on losing money.

Nonsense? Yes, for a businessman, but not for many railroads in the U. S.

THE RAILROADS are having a difficult time getting state and federal cooperation in discontinuing trains which carry only one to three passengers a day.

Called "lonesome trains," by the most part they are branch line or short run locals whose passengers now use busses or automobiles.

These are the trains the railroads can't stop.

Classic example is Old 7206, which travels the seven-mile distance along the Jersey Central line from Newark to Elizabethport, N. J.

Years ago her cars were crowded with passengers. Today she carries one passenger a day. Two's a crowd. The railroad receives an annual revenue of $75. It costs $4,500 a year to run the train.

Sounds to me like someone's trying to railroad the railroads.

Here's a little contribution from Peebles Peebles, a fellow I predict may become Birmingham's poet laureate:
Birmingham's got some peachy trees,
They're worth a lot of money;
But if that elm beetle has its way,
Of nice trees we soon won't have any.

Do you find you have to "work" to have fun?

Do you go to sleep at the opera?

Or trump your partner's ace?

Perhaps leave the golf course with the feeling you played a lousy game?

Then chances are you are not having fun. You simply are not enjoying yourself.

Spontaneity is the real spirit behind fun. Things which are too well planned usually are nothing but sheer boredom or irritation.

You are bored by the opera or bridge game and thus fall asleep or trump your partner's ace.

You are irritated by the fact that you didn't come through with a better golf score.

You're working at having fun, rather than being relaxed by it.

FOR YOUR recreation, do what you want to do. Not what someone else wants, or what other people expect you to do.

Real relaxation comes from the pleasure obtained from it. This pleasure is what revitalizes your mind, your body, your interest in living.

Each individual has to decide for himself or herself what fun is. It is a highly specialized matter—what is fun for you may be work for someone else, or vice versa.

Don't let your fun be spoiled by someone else who may say it's silly. You're the one to decide that. After all, what could be more silly than missing fun because you fear what someone else may say?

News copy submitted early necessarily is given preference over late items. So the "Early Bird" usually gets the space.

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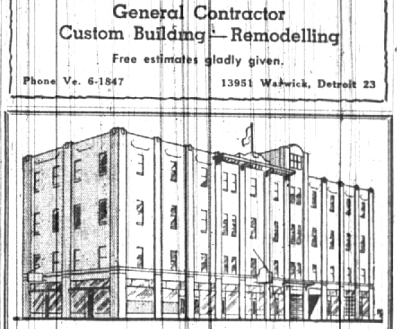

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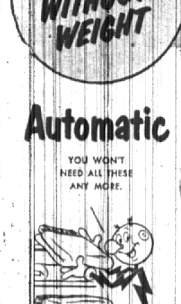

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