

# Eccentric Is Grateful For Your Approval

Since we published the news, two weeks ago, that The Eccentric was awarded second prize by the National Editorial Association for achievements in "general excellence" among American suburban week-day newspapers for 1951, we have been complimented by many local citizens.

We certainly appreciate this praise, of course. The award is open acknowledgment by professional newspapermen themselves that The Eccentric is well above average.

However, we cannot overlook the fact that this newspaper, while privately owned insofar as physical assets are concerned, is really the property of our readership community. Much credit, therefore, for the standards we are able to

measure up to belongs to those who through reader and advertising support, make the publication possible.

THUS, WHILE WE who get out The Eccentric quite naturally feel good about national recognition of our product, we also feel strongly that the good citizens of this community may take justifiable pride in knowing that "their home-town" newspaper is endeavoring to do the kind of job that reflects credit upon them, too.

We here at The Eccentric shall always seek to merit their support and their praise by doing the very best newspaper job we can for this most delightful of areas in which to live and work.

## Dr. Hatcher Criticizes Teaching

Dr. Harlan Hatcher, president of the University of Michigan, recently made a speech in which he said that today's elementary and secondary public school graduates are not taught enough about spelling, writing, reading, and American history.

At once he was criticized by many other educators in Michigan. Well, what

could Hatcher expect? Let's hope he has the facts and the courage to make a case of the subject.

It's our own knowledge that, during the past 25 years, many high school graduates are not as good in these respects as their elders. How can they be? . . . when they are required to be subjected to such a wide variety of studies.

## 'There Oughta Be a Law--' (?)

Retail clerks in a New England state don't want to work after six at night. So their union asked the legislature to pass a law making it illegal for any store in a town of more than 5,000 and with over nine employees to keep open after that hour.

The Wall Street Journal made this the subject of an editorial. It said that it could understand and sympathize with the positions of all involved—the clerks, the storekeepers, and the customers.

It then pointed to some of the absurd complexities that would crop up in an attempt to draft the demanded law, saying, "A rational argument could be made for both sides of every position, and so, no matter what the result, the law would be arbitrary, capricious and confusing."

THEN THE PAPER made this significant observation: "Yet what is disturbing goes deeper than the difficulties of draftsmanship. For this little squabble is a reflection of a general philosophy that the government's role is to jump in as arbiter and judge in every labor matter. It must take sides."

That goes to the heart of the matter. There are all kinds of conflicting arguments to the merits and demerits of retail stores staying open at night.

But these arguments are dwarfed by the incontrovertible fact that when we run to government to solve every problem, we are undermining the basic responsibilities, rights and freedoms of individuals, businesses and organizations.

## Industry Solves Its Own Problems

In the daily task of making a living, time is the most valuable commodity of the wonderful things done to bring convenience and comfort into the home. And none have done more in this direction than the public utilities—the companies which provide us with electricity and gas and other such services.

For example, how many of the two million home-owners using natural gas furnished by one pioneer utility in the eastern part of the United States know the company's unique method of storing gas? Probably very few.

became depleted, the problem of providing the necessary volume of gas became acute. Something had to be done and it was done. The company found a way to use nature's storage facilities.

It was discovered that the depleted gas bearing sands would absorb new supplies of gas and hold it under pressure. The company now pumps natural gas from distant sources into the old gas fields; this plan is also used extensively in Michigan.

This solved the problem of meeting peak demands which would have required the building and maintaining of additional long distance pipe-lines that would have cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Some of the wonders industry performs are as fascinating and fantastic as the stories of author H. G. Wells.

## From the Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Russell Barnes, local resident and able foreign expert on the staff of The Detroit News, got a splendid paragraph off recently about Soviets when he wrote: "An old Moscow hand once described a Kremlin funeral procession as the body of a murdered man, trilled by his murderers acting as pallbearers, followed in turn by mourners who eventually would kill the pallbearers." How true that sentence reads! The same words have been used, or could be used, when describing gangsters' funerals in this country, too.

Michigan's Attorney-General went to Washington, D.C., to see if he could get some of that unclaimed cash left in our banks when they were closed in early 1933. He believes that quite a few millions are

involved. Good luck, Mr. Millard. Michigan assuredly can use that dough.

A Hollywood columnist writes that the first four months of this year have brought forth more than the average quantity of marital troubles in that synthetic part of our world. Perhaps, then, the facts of real life are catching up with the portrayals in real life. How bad, and how sad, after all.

The good old U.S.A. is reported to be making wonderful progress in the development of atomic weapons for warfare. Since the use of them is being confined to Yucca Flats, one can hardly expect them to be released where they are most needed. . . . in Korea.

Reds in eastern Germany now admit that the harmful potato bugs that destroy crops there were not strewn about by agents of the United States. Well, maybe they are right. . . . but didn't former Secretary of State Acheson do anything to hurt those nasty Russians?

## The Birmingham Eccentric

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## So They Say . . .

James H. Doolittle, Lieut-General, U. S. Air Force, retired: "Air power is the only thing that can insure peace."

Edward Yankoo, policeman who went back to former job as zoo-keeper: "I'd rather contend with the voices in the zoo than the people on the boulevards."

## Maybe Next Time, Joe



## Happenings of Long Ago

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

50 YEARS AGO  
May 8, 1903  
Charles Press's horse ran away one day last week and got into the city limits out of commission. The horse was laid up for months.

The signing of Zedla Jones at the school building last night was a surprise to many. It would hardly seem possible for such a little mite to have a signature.

Howard King has gone to West Superior, Wis., where he will play ball for the season of 1903. The young man is in the pink of condition and he will look for "home" by him before the season ends.

The Birmingham post-office can be congratulated for being the only one in the city that has succeeded in getting out of the three New-World printers. The successful carrier was H. H. Brown and W. H. Wood.

The marshal was looking up the village ordinance book for the city especially about voting by ballot on the sidewalk and sidewalk. He found there are no provisions for such a thing in the city ordinance book.

30 YEARS AGO  
May 11, 1922  
Unless Gov. Alex. J. Groves calls a special session of the state legislature this summer, it is probable for the passage of a measure to raise money for state highway improvement. The bill is now in the ward Avenue "boiler" will be blasted.

Only two bids were received for the proposed work in Birmingham. Commissioners have backed the bids but have not yet made a decision setting May 15 as the date on which contracts will be awarded.

Parents are invited to attend classes at the high school May 15. No fee will be charged for evening day. Displays of class work completed during the past term will

## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

During those oft-repeated April showers, we kept reading ourselves with the old stories about April showers and May flowers. Apparently the idea is being put into full use this year because the flowers certainly have plentiful. We've noticed the early flowering tulips there are, but they are not as bright as they used to be. We forget, from one spring to the other, how many more shades of pink there are, but they are only a few warm spring days to bring them all into their full glory.

IN ANOTHER lawn again from had its own kind of beauty to the sky not a leaf showing, but that delicate mass of pink shades.

The tree's buds looked old and round many a horse, while here and there the white tops of bird's nest ferns were seen in quiet, colorful dignity.

Some of the trees, about to break their leaf buds, seem to have their branches laden with small balls of black mud, the which was most outstanding. We saw against a background of willow plumes. The tree's buds looked old and clumsy against the fine white blooms.

OUTSIDE, IN the rural areas, the swamps, in a measure of color. Passerines have left their soft, delivery gray of the catkins

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

The Navy has undertaken an investigation of the ghost rivers of air which were first discovered during the World War. These streams of air, which move several hundred miles an hour, have been reported to have strange experiences of pilots.

Crews of B-29 bombers over Japan in World War II often reported they encountered strange atmospheric antics at 20,000 to 30,000 feet. They reported they suddenly seemed to be flying in a vacuum.

On other occasions, the air outside their planes suddenly registered tropical warmth and changed back quickly to arctic cold.

THE CAUSE of these jet streams is not yet definitely determined, although one explanation is that they are caused by warm air from the equator billowing with frigid air from the polar regions.

Their investigation may provide the first accurate and detailed answers to the mystery of the ghost streams of air, which have often and mysteriously changed the upper altitudes at great speed.

Many more people would sleep soundly at night if they confined their making of bedtimes to regular working hours.

A recent survey indicated that Americans gave more money in 1952 than in any preceding year. Two New York bills will range into all sections of the country, they will concentrate on this area.

Their investigation may provide the first accurate and detailed answers to the mystery of the ghost streams of air, which have often and mysteriously changed the upper altitudes at great speed.

15 YEARS AGO  
May 12, 1937  
Principal Ray H. Hestholm has been elected to the position of Michigan high school principal. He has been in the school for many years and has been a member of the National Association of Public School Principals.

City Manager D. C. Eason told committee members that the University of Michigan has been in the line of business for many years. He said that the university has been in the line of business for many years.

Miss Betty Moor-Forth and Geoville Willard Averill, playing leading roles in "The Chairman" at the Birmingham high school, with other members of the cast will be introduced over a KEEW program at 10 o'clock tomorrow.

The Franklin Community association has completed the plans for organization of a Boy Scout troop in that village. Frank W. Loyd has been named Scoutmaster with seven charter members. Scouts already enrolled.

## By George Wm. Averill

It is interesting to note that the city who announced that \$1,800,000, earned a total of \$27,730,000. After the income taxes were paid on this amount, it was reduced to something over \$1,900,000.

Some of the big money-earners paid at a rate of \$2.75 taxes out of every \$28 earned. This out of almost \$3.00. They were allowed a nickel profit.

WHILE THINGS are far better than this in the United States, where thousands of citizens earn more than \$15,000 or \$16,000 a year, it is well to keep the present situation in Britain in mind, when we think of our tax laws.

The new administration must reduce tax rates if the trend toward higher and higher levies is to be checked.

In the United States, we do not take the attitude that large incomes are necessarily evil, if a fair rate of tax assessment has been paid. Under the English tax program, large incomes are almost impossible and the end result will be a standardized scale of living for all professions and workers.

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