

It's the Queen, God Bless Her!

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Thank You... Thank You, For Your Words of Approval!

We here at The Eccentric who get out your "Home-Town Newspaper" each week are feeling mighty good and warm inside! This warmth, of course, is caused by the many complimentary words that have been expressed over the make-up and contents of our 75th Anniversary Edition, which was published and circulated last week.

As we have informed you, it represented nearly a year's work on our part! When we began gathering and writing into articles the numerous historical facts about this area, plus the many pictures, we expected to contain them in eight 16-page sections.

BUT AS THE MONTHS rolled on, we could see that eight sections were not enough, so we decided to expand to ten. Later we had to boost this number to twelve, or 192 pages.

It was in late February that we decided Oatis, Reporter, Fails to Report

As this is written, AE correspondent William Oatis, just released after two years' confinement in a Czechoslovakian prison, doesn't seem desirous of giving out any detailed story.

As you recall, he was arrested for sending truthful dispatches from Prague, but his Red captors held that he was "telling lies about us and carrying on espionage."

Trained to report, we can't understand why Oatis refuses to talk. Perhaps he will, later on. Certainly his story is important to our own nation, whose leaders for two years tried to get Oatis free.

Or have those evil Reds developed a last-minute means of changing a person's personality and inner self to a point where he emerges from their custody with the identity of an alter-ego?

Secretary Dulles Disappoints Many

Considerable feeling among important Republicans in Congress and other areas may result in the departure of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles from his job.

There is no denying the fact that Mr. Dulles' changed attitude about certain foreign problems, plus his failure to weed out pro-Acheson employees in his Department, have disappointed a considerable number of Republicans and, too, some office Democrats.

Perhaps Mr. Dulles would do a better job by remaining in the United States more, thus absorbing more realistic knowledge of current American sentiment.

Diplomatic Deceit Seems Necessary

It seems, to us, unthinkable that Red China would be accepted into the United Nations as a member in good standing. To do so would be to deny every effort that has been made by the UN and the United States to defeat Communism in Korea.

Besides, what would be done with Nationalist China, which now is a member? To be sure, we know that Soviet Russia, a UN member, is aiding Red China in Korea; but on the diplomatic surface of

to include the 24-page four-color Automotive Section. To obtain the pictorial and biographical facts for this section necessarily kept us "on the go" for the printing of such a section in four colors is more than an over-night task.

Another facet of warmth we received from the Edition was the fulsome co-operation given it by the many businesses that used advertising space in it. Their messages of congratulation to The Eccentric, as a community enterprise for 75 years, made us feel that our journalistic services are appreciated.

SO NOW OUR FIRST 75 years of publication are in history!

We shall continue in renewed vigor and enthusiasm to produce for you a newspaper which, we trust, will merit your continued approval and support.

and, from us to you, A Million Thanks!



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 May 22, 1903

The school children are making great efforts not to scatter papers on the school grounds or along the streets. If the older people would follow their example we would soon have a cleaner, neater looking town.

Birmingham post office work and salary grows right along with the times. Our worthy postmaster has resigned, word that successor he will have to draw a larger salary which pains him greatly!

Found—On our back porch last Saturday evening—one large basket of sundried clothes. Please call, identify your property and pay for the cost of this ad. J. A. Bielew.

Miss Maggie Young closed a very successful school year last week and announced five pupils had been neither tardy nor absent during the eight months. The honorees are: Jessie Bassett, Ethel Bassett, Jessie Davis, Irene Bristol and Julia Bristol.

Come one, come all, to the United Presbyterian church here near Mrs. Peck, the noted evangelist. She will assault your ears with some "silly" music, but will do your soul much good.

30 YEARS AGO May 25, 1923

Fire Chief William Olsen has issued a warning to local folks to keep out of the way of fire trucks. He pointed out that it is a dangerous practice—dangerous to the person, the truck and an added hazard to the burning building. The village will punish offenders to the fullest extent of the law, he warned.

Several drivers have paid \$10 fines for passing on the left of the silent policeman which occupies the center of the Maple-Woodward crossing. Officer Green has made all arrests in an effort to curb this unsafe practice.

Birmingham's Masons and Eastern Stars are planning a joint picnic to be held at Walnut Lake on Memorial Day, Decoration Day, call it what you will—we miss the celebration which was so important when we were a youngster.

THE PARADES formed at the village square, a wide area in the middle of the small community where members of several New York State companies trained before marching off to war—way back in 1812. "The Old Sow," a part in that war, traced the center of the square.

The antiretrograde marched to the cemetery, every child carrying huge bouquets of lilies, early spring flowers, apple blossoms and small flags. At the cemetery the flags were placed on smaller graves, where the flowers were distributed so no grave went unmarked.

Families and friends stood where the "Soldiers' Square" on that day, hung at half mast. There was an expectant hush in the air, a feeling more reverent than church, as the student body formed the three lines of the hollow square.

"UNCLE HUGH" as he was known to every youngster in town, stood straight and tall in his blue uniform, his snow white beard looking even whiter and very impressive to us. Beside him for a number of years, stood a gentle-

Thank you, Birmingham for the wonderful comments you have shown in telegraphed, written or personally brought in regarding last week's 253-page 75th Anniversary Edition of The Birmingham Eccentric.

Naturally we on the staff were proud of our accomplishment. We are happy indeed to find so many of you appreciative of our efforts.

But it must be remembered that you Birmingham residents played a vital part in the success of our 75th anniversary edition. After all Birmingham's history and accomplishments have been and are what you and your fellow citizens have contributed. That forms the foundation of any community—and in the Birmingham area it has been exemplary.

Any anniversary edition of The Eccentric would have been below journalistic standards unless it faithfully reported and reflected the extent and caliber of that foundation of citizenry.

Birmingham City Commissioner Lance Minor who has just entered the final year of his first 3-year term, perhaps comes as close to earning the right to use that well-earned political expression, "The People's Choice" as any previous Birmingham mayor.

Certainly the most outspoken commissioner this city has seen in many a year. Minor in two years has won himself quite a local following.

He's built it primarily on his repeated defense of what he believes are the rights and interests of the people of Birmingham who pay the freight (for our local government) and elect us to office.

AN ILLUSTRATION of Minor's attitude on Birmingham-for-Birminghamites in his most recent public outburst, made last week as the city commission considered the advisability of a 30-day test of several stop signs on W. Lincoln in an attempt to reduce speeding and the volume of traffic.

Commissioner Vincent B. Watkins and Police Chief Ralph Moxley had just spoken through expressing the opinion that stop signs probably were not the answer to the problem.

Watkins said outside-of-Birmingham motorists were not to blame for "all our problems."

15 YEARS AGO May 24, 1938

A band of arrivals and leaving by taxicab held up and robbed patrons of the Oakland Hills country club at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 24. They said the man helped himself to more than \$100 from suits of members who were in the showers after playing golf.

Birmingham's American Legion and VE posts are making an appeal for greater support than ever before for their annual poppy sale. The campaign has been adopted much greater this year and that work among hospitalized veterans officials on the proceeds of this one-day event.

Many offenses not listed in old ordinances will now bring fines to traffic violators in Birmingham. The revised code has been adopted and is already in use. It is felt that this is a great step toward making Birmingham streets safer for motorists and pedestrians.

Under a new ordinance the city will pay taxes on the homes of aged and indigent property owners, and accept first mortgage as security in a step to assure these persons of a home. The action was taken after a petition for unfortunate home owners and the city.

William A. Simpson, speaking at the Rotary club meeting Monday, gave members a history of Greenfield Village and described its growth. He was introduced by Elmer Haack.

THE MINISTER, whom we all knew so well, sounded more wonderful than ever as he preached from the arch of the trees. The songbirds in the woods were a perfect background for the song of the bird, which made it so impressive. Perhaps it was the presence of these two men, one enemies, now close friends.

Perhaps it was the fresh springing life of all around, trees coming into full leaf, flowers all around, grass fresh and sweet under foot. Whatever it was, Memorial Day has never been the same since then.

Old residents traveled for many miles to attend. All through the day old friends sat about and visited—friends who had not met since a long, long time since we've attended one of these observances. The faces are different today, but we're almost certain that the familiar pattern would be the same. It's that kind of a town.

Down again, up again—an old-fashioned water heater certainly keeps you on the go. Electric water heaters save thousands of steps. With the right-sized heater you always have hot water waiting, without work or worry. Go Electric for complete satisfaction.

Advertisement for PECK'S Cash and Carry, featuring a water heater and a man in a suit. Text includes: "Weary of trudging down to the tank?", "Buy an Automatic ELECTRIC WATER HEATER", "SEE YOUR DEALER or Detroit Edison".

So They Say...

Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense, on tour of Germany: "They (the German people) are working and appear willing to accept things as they are and hope they will get better."

Fulton J. Sheen, Catholic bishop: "Peace for Russia is a technique, peace for us is a state."

Advertisement for The Birmingham Eccentric, including contact information for George R. Averill, Editor and Publisher, and Paul Neal Averill, Business Manager.