

## Ours Is a Changing World

At first, people who settled this nation did not "herd up" in vast cities. True, they had their little villages and towns, but because land was the most available natural resource, they settled over much area, on little and big farms . . . ever pushing the frontiers westward through the early wilderness.

In those days men fought with rather primitive weapons. Horses preceded mechanization for transportation of large weapons. The age of industrial technology had not arrived.

Then this age did come upon the nation. Villages became cities, and cities great metropolitan areas. Military

weapons changed in nature. The internal combustion engine arrived, as did the airplane and the submarine . . . and then the A and H bombs.

**NOW LARGE URBAN CENTERS**, where industry is concentrated, are in jeopardy of enemy attack. We are told that the new bombs in the hands of Russia could destroy 89 of our largest cities in a single attack.

Now cometh the argument for decentralization of not only industry, but of our concentrated populations—and so change the physical environment of mankind.

## You Can Control the Quacks

Many men who become candidates for prominent public offices will make pre-election promises that are entirely, or for the most part, impossible to fulfill. The modern political counterpart of the old-fashioned side-show ballyhoo chanter appears willing to promise anything, if he thinks it will garner votes.

Such candidates are a danger to the securing and maintenance of practical government, on any level. Indeed, many of their promises reflect discredit upon the intelligence of the average voter.

## Our Upper Peninsula

We note that a meeting is to be held in Michigan's wonderful Upper Peninsula to plan ways and means of increasing its economic production. Such meetings are held at least annually, for years and years, and yet the UP makes little progress toward acquiring greater wealth.

Why? Simply because it has a comparatively small population, has no

**YET DEMOCRACY ALWAYS** has had such "phonies" among the otherwise acceptable candidates for public office. In a nation where every citizen is eligible to run for office, there is no way to prevent these ballyhoo promoters from campaigning, of course.

There is, however, a way to keep them out of office for the protection of all of us. That is simply to be able to discern the difference between the good and the bad, the competent and the incompetent, the sincere candidates and those who promise anything to get votes.

abundance of natural resources, is removed from large centers of human and industrial population . . . but in spite of all this, it does have splendid citizens in it, with some great tourist attractions.

(With its own beautiful out-of-doors, why can't its citizens better appreciate how lucky they are to be away from teeming cities?)

## Freedom Includes Responsibility

Freedom to think, and then to speak or write such thoughts is an inherent guarantee in the U. S. Constitution. Without this right our nation would go into the hands of tyrants and despots.

However, what one speaks and writes must come within the limitations of decency and justice. One cannot libel or slander another without the possibility of paying damages to the one unjustly assailed.

Which merely suggests that those ardent disciples of these freedoms who believe that a citizen of this country has a right to speak and write treasonably against the national security, to join a

movement that seeks to overthrow our form of government by force, should be free to do so—well, we can't agree with them.

**SUCH A SO-CALLED FREEDOM** should not be tolerated any more than burglary, murder, or other crimes, are tolerated.

Chief among the proponents of such irresponsible free-thinkers are certain of the clergy and professional worlds. Some of them may be quite honestly sincere, others know what they are doing—but both groups needing watching.

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

In Carbondale, Ill., a street sweeper is the highest paid man in the city government. Assuming he is a good sweeper, and thus cleans up most of the town's dirt, why shouldn't his wages be high?

Gov. Williams has appointed a new State Controller, who heads the Sigler-created Dept. of Public Administration. The new appointee, who yet has to be approved by the next legislative session's Senate, comes from the faculty of the University of Michigan. His job is a mighty important one, too. If he wants some practical advice from one who knows something about the demands that will be made on him, he will keep a practical businessman handy as an adviser.

"The Christianity I see in America is a watered-down Christianity," thundered evangelist Billy Graham to a Detroit audience a few days ago. Does the youthful preacher want to do away with the baptismal font?

Little doubt exists among informed persons that Michigan eventually will have to get into the building of toll roads. Such roads, financed from revenue bonds, come under the jurisdiction of a separate state

agency from the Highway Dept. This should enable it to place roads where they are needed . . . for the Highway Dept. never will have enough funds to build toll roads and, besides, it is subject to the gee-ing and haw-ing of "pressure groups" from every area in Michigan that pays gasoline taxes. Being an autonomous agency, the new Turnpike Authority ought to be able to operate with a minimum of political pressures.

U. S. Attorney-General Brownell certainly stirred up some political discussions when he declared that the Truman administration appointed Harry Dexter White to high federal posts, even though it had been informed by the FBI that White was an allegedly Soviet spy. Ex-President Truman originally denied that he ever saw the FBI document, then later recanted in part. Here is a situation, though, that ought to be investigated fully, so that the American people may have the facts.

Our federal laws say that when you fly the U. S. flag and the United Nations flag on two separate flagposts, both must be at the same height. Personally, we'd agree to have each flag at the top of each mast . . . providing Old Glory's mast was higher.

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## Will Have a Slice of That



## 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

November 13, 1903

A prospect for an electric lighting plant for Birmingham looms up again to-day. While for ourselves we are very comfortably, conveniently and satisfactorily supplied with gas lighting plants at our homes and in the stores, still we must hold up both hands to see our little city lighted up by electricity.

When I was a young fellow and out of a job, I always made it a rule to take the first job offered, and to use it for a bait. You can catch a gimworm with a worm and a bass will take your minnow. A good bait bass will tempt an otter, and then you will have something worth skinning." Letters From A Self Made Merchant to His Son.

Oakland County promises to break all records this year as far as marriages are concerned. Over 300 marriage licenses have been issued in the past week to reach the 400 mark before the end of the year.

Ed Ferguson is the last subscriber for a telephone. He is now long distance connected with the outside world and can call up if he wishes New York, Boston, Cincinnati and Chicago. In one transaction he has paid up the bill and provided his cash holds out.

We are always pleased to note the advancement of anyone and especially the promotion of a Birmingham boy and this time it is Mr. Fred C. Smith now Danville, Ill., who has recently received the appointment of supervisor of the Chicago & Eastern Illinois R.R. Company.

### 30 YEARS AGO

November 16, 1923

For each thousand dollars of assessed valuation of real and personal property in the Village of Birmingham, a tax levy of \$22.08 will be collected beginning Dec. 10 according to information made known this week by Luther D. Allan, Supervisor of Bloomfield Township, who just completed the assessment roll for the annual winter tax.

Fifty years ago when Birmingham was but a small settlement

### CRANBROOK SCHOOL

Cranbrook school was a close detour from the High school on Wednesday evening, at the Cranbrook assembly hall, in its first formal debate in several years.

What Your City Commission is Doing—Bill was approved in the amount of \$3,913.08.

Y.M.C.A. membership subscriptions for this year total \$1,277.54.

### IF I PUT HIM WAY OUT ON THE END, HE WAS TOO HEAVY. IF I BROUGHT HIM IN REAL CLOSE HE HIT MY LEG AT EVERY STEP. I TRIED CARRYING HIM IN MY ARMS 'N' NEAR LOST AN EYE.

"By the time I got home I was clawed 'n' scratched 'n' so tired I couldn't move. Turned that gobble over to father 'n' never mentioned gain' after another four years!"

He smoked and rocked for a few seconds and then began to chuckle.

"Next time I tried getting the family bird, the old gentleman began, 'we really had trouble. 'An' I was dazed up the fireplace chimney. 'I went over to Joe Hobbs' place to get the gobble, 'n' I weighed about forty pounds 'n' the hoof 'n' was meaner 'n' Satan. Joe tied its feet together 'n' the idea was for me to carry the critter on the end of a pole over my shoulder.

for retired farmers and known as Piety Hill, Wallace Trumbull and Elizabeth Kaiser were married in Wayne county and a few months later moved to a farm on Crooks road in Troy Township. Last week they quietly celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of that union.

"Stroup's Market" Birmingham's new and modern market, opened its doors to the public Wednesday. It is located at 127 Woodward Avenue, in the place formerly occupied by the post office.

Franklin—the school is progressing nicely. On Friday afternoon, M. Wood, the principal, and some of the larger boys went to the woods and secured a flag pole and raised it. It seems now with our splendid building we should get busy and at least make it a standard school.

Last week Miss Helen Daniels of Lincoln avenue exhibited remarkable skill in putting to rout the Oakland County woman's tennis champion of two years, Miss Dorothea Christian of Pontiac.

### 15 YEARS AGO

November 17, 1938

The figures on Birmingham's social service rolls are a sharp contradiction to the impression that this city has no welfare problem because it has no racial or industrial problem, according to Mrs. Julie K. Lally, director of the Community House.

As the Baldwin and Royal oak teams clash on the gridiron Thanksgiving day it will not only mark the closing contest of the season for the present teams, but will also mark the passing of 25 years of regularly scheduled football games between the two schools.

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## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Sitting around the fire one evening last week, we started talking about Thanksgiving we have known and enjoyed.

Naturally, Uncle Abner had a few choice memories to bring out, and although we grown-ups had heard them before, we enjoyed them now nearly as much as the children.

He told about the year he decided he was old enough to get the family turkey. "Day or two before Thanksgiving," he began as the fragrant smoke from his pipe swirled about, "turned out to be the first chance chimney. 'I went over to Joe Hobbs' place to get the gobble, 'n' I weighed about forty pounds 'n' the hoof 'n' was meaner 'n' Satan. Joe tied its feet together 'n' the idea was for me to carry the critter on the end of a pole over my shoulder.

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## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

The days of chain letters seem to be back with us. At least I got one the other day. You know how they work—you send \$2 to the name at the top of the list, mail five more copies to friends, and when your name hits No. 1 position, you are supposed to receive a flood of \$2 bills totaling \$6,250.

As with previous letters of this nature, I returned it to the sender with the note: "Sorry, no soap. If everyone that receives one of these letters mailed out five more the next day, here's how many people would be involved in 13 days:

- 1
- 5
- 25
- 125
- 625
- 3,125
- 15,625
- 78,125
- 390,625
- 1,953,125
- 9,765,625
- 48,828,125
- 244,140,625

Or half again as many men, women and children who live in the United States. Besides—chain letters are illegal.

Would this solve the problem of tipping—give the servitor a piece of folding money and ask him (or her) to give you what change he (or she) thinks you have coming to you? If nothing else, it might quickly improve the quality of service.

## BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Plan Special Showing Of Chevrolet Trucks

E. E. Fisher of the North Chevrolet Co. has just returned from Detroit where he attended a private preview of the new 1954 Chevrolet trucks. The exhibit and accompanying

business session were sponsored by the company for all retail dealers and salesmen in this area and emphasized the importance Chevrolet is attaching to its soon-to-be announced new truck line.

Fisher said he plans to arrange a special showing of the new line in his dealership when the trucks become available for display later this month. It is one of the few exhibits in history that Chevrolet has exhibited new trucks apart from new passenger car models.

### Recommend Transfer

Transfer of an SDM license from George E. MacKinnon to Stanley A. Syrowik at 1886 John R. has been recommended to the state

liquor control commission by Troy township board members.

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