



It Happened—As Predicted

To those Birmingham residents who have moved into the city within the past 13 months, the above picture they probably had not seen before.

But those citizens who resided here prior to that time will recall that it appeared on the front page of *The Birmingham Eccentric* in its Feb. 26, 1953, issue, just 12 days after the city suffered the most expensive fire in its history—the \$200,000 loss of a lumberyard on Forest street at Brownell.

The picture shows that the Birmingham fire station on that fateful day—February 14—was empty. All the equipment and manpower was at the lumberyard. There was not another piece of fire apparatus which could have responded to a second alarm elsewhere in the city during a critical 30-minute period.

That occurrence had been predicted by city officials more than a year before—they just couldn't name the exact date it would happen.

THAT WAS WHY, at the city election April 7, 1952, the city commission had the voters indicate their desire regarding additional fire fighting facilities—primarily a new fire station and more equipment.

At that election, more than a majority of voters favored the proposal. However, the city charter required a 60 per cent majority on the issuance of the bonds that would have financed the project.

The plan met defeat by a mere 69 votes. Then the lumberyard fire.

IN THE PAST YEAR, the fire department has had several close calls—two church fires that if they had occurred minutes closer, could have been disastrous.

On Jan. 17, 1954, the department had two house fire calls within 11 minutes.

As recent as March 6, firemen responded to two house fires within 18 minutes, and eight other various alarms were answered that day.

Fortunately, none of these 14 instances were serious.

BUT THEY EASILY COULD HAVE BEEN!

And that is what has been worrying fire and city officials for more than two years. When it happens, they want the department to be able to cope with the situation.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Instead of wanting to use a lie detector when he arranges himself against the Army in his fight with them, Sen. Joe McCarthy, we believe, ought to call for a couple of hogheads of truth serum... for somebody in this hassle must need it.

A Michigan Legislator from the Upper Peninsula recently said he may seek a statute limiting the University of Michigan to 20,000 students, and Michigan State College to 18,000. He claims that "bigness" is harmful to good educational practice. Naturally, officials of both institutions are not in complete agreement. However, we go along with those who do believe that too many students on a single campus, like too many people herded up in a metropolis, are just too many people.

In considering Birmingham's annual budget for local recreational activities, we believe that the city commission should not be too niggardly in its appropriation for that important item. In proportion to the tremendous good recreation does for our youth, every dollar spent for this purpose returns much in the proper development of the next generation.

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So They Say...

Ramon Magsaysay, Philippine President, deploring "Asia for the Asians" slogan: "We must not try to fit many and changing needs of national welfare into a straightjacket of a slogan."

Bernard M. Baruch, retired industrialist: "All men cannot be masters, but none need be a slave."

Marjory Douglas, curator, "Cavalcade of Fashion": "Today's girls all have bigger hands and feet than their mothers. Maybe that's because they got all their vitamins."

He'd Better Hurry



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Many of us still go along with the idea that, come spring, our bodies are laxer and a bit and some of that customary pep has gone out of us during dull winter months. We, in short, go for a spring tonic.

Today, however, we hop in the car and head to the nearest drugstore. We hand the clerk a couple of dollars, pick up a neat bottle, hop back into the car and go home to take a pill or capsule.

Now, in grandma's day, Spring tonic, "way back when" was something to reckon with.

Grandma would get that gleam in her eye, mysterious packages would appear from dark attic corners, and bubbling kettles would cover the stove. The results of this labor was a nasty, vile tasting mess which was doled out by the tablespoonful.

BESIDES THESE "spring teas" made of tansy, burdock, dandelion, grandma had another pair of favorites for spring—a gooey mess of sulphur and molasses or "turkey clubs."

The latter would be grated and doled out to the victim who was supposed to swallow it. The gritty bits would cling in one's mouth and throat for hours, continuing their bitter flavor to the last.

Some of these home physicians, we are told, varied the molasses routine by using baking soda in place of sulphur. We are also told the variation had little to say in its favor—baking soda swallows slowly, is just as repulsive as sulphur.

PROBABLY SOME of these old time remedies are incorporated in our modern tonics, purges or what have you, but today they come in "shells."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Several of the readers of this column have been reminding me that I haven't for some while reprinted more of those interesting typographical mistakes that occasionally are found in newspapers.

Said one this week: "Why not give us some more chuckles and get our minds off McCarthy?"

All right, here are some more boners: Washington (D.C.) Post: "The man whose man I shall present enjoys the thrush of our party."

Los Angeles (Calif.) Herald Express quote of a convention speech: "The men and women who follow us will be our children."

Associated Press quote: "The Republicans behaved like jackasses—but we're going to try to do better."

Report in the Waterbury (Conn.) American: "Public whipping, a holdover from Colonial days, is permitted only in Delaware and Maryland and ordered only in rear instances."

Ad in Stroudsburg (Pa.) Daily Record: "Wishbone Poultry Shop — Featuring Fresh Cut-Up Children."

Political story in the Buffalo (N.Y.) Courier-Express: "Eisenhower said he hoped a foreign policy blank can be written acceptable to both... Eisenhower wrote the search himself, spent some time memorizing essential passages."

Geography explained by the Ithaca (N.Y.) Journal: "The Yalu separates Korea from Korea."

Fire Report in the El Paso (Tex.) Herald-Post: "The high school and a bar at the State Orphan's Home were destroyed by fire."

Story about alcoholics using a library, as reported by the Corpus Christi (Tex.) Caller: "They pick a lot of fiction and pour over magazines."

Wedding Bells in the Houston (Texas) Press: "She got worried over the weekend and left on a honeymoon."

More bells, described by the Goldenale (Wash.) Sentinel: "Wedding bills will ring for Orville Blank and Miss Mary Smith."

Calgary, Alta., Herald: Care of Canada's aged is grave problem.

Paris Herald Tribune: French girl chosen by Legion to inaugurate U.S. puppy drive.

Washington, Pa., Observer: Feeble-minded school dean has resigned.

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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
April 1, 1904
"Bert Blaaklee ran over to Birmingham to see his boy Russell who has been at granddad's for a while. Mr. Blaaklee accompanied him and they all returned to their Detroit home."

"J. N. Zimmerman of ball bat fame has an eye out for profit and improvement—and bargains on an even day. He bought the M. E. church barn and now has it adjoining his home transformed into a beautiful, comfortable and commodious dwelling—and it pays, too."

"No, gentle reader, that is not a synagogue or public edifice or street fair booth that Ernest E. R. Smith is having added to his home on Maple avenue—simply a fine, large, roomy, shady, handsome, Doric veranda."

"At their pleasant home in Oakland county, two and one-half miles south of his place, on Monday last week, March 21, occurred an event that does not often fall to the lot of mortals, it being no less than the celebration of the sixth wedding anniversary of a very estimable couple, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Parker. The house was handsomely decorated for the occasion, one novel feature being 65 large American Beauty roses, one each year of the couple's married life."

Miss Belle "Ma" was returned to her studies at Alma, Mich. She will soon be a graduate in her chosen work (kindergarten) and we predict for her a successful future.

30 YEARS AGO
March 28, 1924
Adrian Leach of Troy, who has held various township offices for over 30 years, the last 15 of which have been as clerk, two weeks ago resigned his office previous to Troy's annual caucus.

Swinging into its big spring production program, the Ford Motor company on Wednesday, March 12, reached the highest mark in its domestic assembly plants producing a total of 7,456 cars and trucks.

Birmingham is developing an oil scandal, but a chicken scandal. Now the latest report is from J. Leet of Big Beaver road, one-half mile east of Dodge road. Nineteen of his chickens were taken last Thursday night, leaving him only three hens and three roosters.

Maurice Peterson, who makes his home with a sister, Mrs. A. W. Alger on Ruffner avenue, returned to Eco for the past week and end of Ypsilanti where he attends school. Mr. Peterson was initiated into the Arms of Honor an honorary fraternity at Ypsilanti last week at a formal banquet.

My recipe for BOSTON BROWN BREAD...

always successful in my
ELECTRIC RANGE

BOSTON BROWN BREAD
1 cup seeded muscat raisins
2 1/2 cups hot water
3 cups flour, sifted
2 1/2 teaspoons soda
2 1/2 tablespoons salt
2 1/2 cups sugar
1 egg, beaten
Boil raisins and water together 5 minutes. Add bran. Set aside to cool. Sift flour, soda and salt together. Cream shortening and sugar alternately with the Bake Cream mixture. Place in 4 buttered No. 2 cans. Bake 40 minutes at 350°F. Turn temperature down to 325°F and bake another 30 minutes.

Mrs. Wm. Cavely loves music—she's junior choir director at church and a member of the Howard Music Club. But her primary interest is homemaking... and what wonderful smells come out of her kitchen. Her Boston Brown Bread's a treat... quick and easy to prepare in her modern electric range.

What's one of the secrets of baking success? A modern electric range! And here's why. Moist, controlled heat cooks goodies to picture-perfection—without watching or waiting. You'll love cooking with an electric range.

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