

Mom Can Use Them at Last



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 February 12, 1904 "John G. Wilson, Birmingham's oldest resident died at his Woodward avenue-home Friday, Feb. 5, 1904, at 4:20 o'clock p.m., after a lingering illness, aged 91 years."

15 YEARS AGO February 9, 1939 The birth of the Hoochfield Hills Camera club is being hailed with joy by local enthusiasts as well as their fellow fans from Pontiac and Detroit."

February 8, 1924 "The Birmingham Order of the Eastern Stars is a social and fraternal organization of colored people, which was organized in Birmingham on Monday night of this week, when they entertained 60 Rochester Stars in a royal manner."

February 8, 1924 "The Lincoln Hardware, owned by Eugene Walton, on South Woodward avenue, was broken into sometime last Friday night and several flashlights taken."

February 8, 1924 Clayton Stokes, lieutenant on the local police force, underwent a blood transfusion at the Pontiac hospital, Monday, for his mother, Mrs. E. M. Stokes, who has been seriously sick in the hospital for three weeks."

At a special meeting of the Birmingham Board of Education, held Tuesday night, a one-year contract was tendered to Howard D. Crull, who is nearing the completion of his two year contract as local superintendent of public schools."

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Life was so peaceful and sweet until Tuesday. That noon, all un-expectedly, we eagerly hurried home for lunch. Who befall us! There, in all its brilliant glory was the most beautiful catalog of the district's school population. But it's here, and is continuing. It is to be hoped that school officials can solve the problem by utilizing the increased property assessments resulting from construction of new homes in the district, rather than having to resort to another several million-dollar bond issue. The district already has voted almost \$8 1/2 million in four years for additional school facilities. We doubt there is another comparable school district in the state—perhaps the midwest—that has done as much."

TUESDAY evening was spent pouring through the thing, item by item. That French lilac would look wonderful at the back of the house. The lilac spire would be attractive in the small space between the house and the end of the porch. Those mums, especially that new greenish one, would be nice cover for those already planted in the front of the house. On the other side of the porch, where the hydrangea and Forsythia grow, might have room for the double syringa. It might be a bit crowded looking, but...

The clematis and silver lace would make a nice combination if planted around the outdoor grill, and trained over a trellis, would provide protection from the sun as well as a place of beauty for Frank's peonies."

SOME OF that fast growing hedge material would make nice cover along the back of the yard, too, and a few of those dwarf fruit trees would be awarded. A row of huckleberries down one side, strawberries across the back and raspberries, red and black on the third side would provide plenty of table fruit and some for canning. Of course a few grape vines would be nice to have, too. Hmmmm, here's a fuchsia that can be grown out of doors, too. That would be very nice in such and such a corner. Those two types and one white and one green would assure a supply of material for Christmas decorations."

Several of those shrubs bearing berry-like seeds would give nice cover for birds and furnish a certain food supply for them as well. NOW SOME of those lilacs would furnish another supply of cut flowers during July and August. That fine, lacy plant would go well in flower arrangements, adding that delicate touch that the hardy lilacs lack. Might not even be a bad idea to plant a few iris along the wall under the kitchen windows, and maybe a few gladioli, too. Of course there should be an herb garden, chives, sage, parsley, thyme and a few others, he exclaimed. The family took it all in, saying nothing, until we began jotting down ideas as to prices and quantity we thought would be necessary. Suddenly a quiet voice commented something on the size of the lot and inquired if we were planning to move to a bigger place. We put the catalog with the magazines to be disposed of."

Detroit Stands Mute On Reckless Driving Accused of having forced a Birmingham police car off the road, Frank J. Strelow, 12104 Monica, Detroit, stood mute at a reckless driving charge Friday in Birmingham justice court. Judge John J. Gaffill entered a plea of not guilty for Kalvelage and the fine of \$25 and the date for trial. Fifty dollars bond was continued. The charge that Kalvelage caused Patrolman Richard Brown to drive the scout car off the road at the intersection of Windermere and Coolidge, Jan. 31, by failing to yield the right-of-way, was continued. Kalvelage demanded a jury trial.

Give More—and Deduct More

Starting next Monday morning—and continuing for the next 14 days—more than 100 men and women volunteers will be seeking from this area blood with which to keep "The Heart of Birmingham" pumping for the ensuing year.

The "blood" is money—The "Heart" is the Birmingham Community House—The amount needed is \$45,000—

WE'LL BET THAT this goal is reached. Seldom is one able to wager on "sure things"—but that is what Birmingham's annual Community House Roll Call has been. It repeatedly has attained its goal. That is because Birmingham area residents have recognized and safeguarded this local institution's operation.

Young or old, boy or girl, man or woman—the Community House each year serves a valuable purpose for the tens of thousands of persons who use and enjoy its facilities each year.

AND MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS this year will be so much easier, too. For Uncle Sam—through his Internal Revenue Department—has finally placed the Community House on his list of approved charitable institutions. This means you can deduct from your personal or business income tax every penny you donate to the Roll Call.

Our suggestion this year is: "Give more—and deduct more." Uncle Sam has clearly indicated he won't miss it.

Juvenile Delinquency Costs You Money

The National Educational Association said recently that broken homes, unworthy parents, poverty and other cause factors, were costing the country more than is generally realized. Pointing out that it was ten times cheaper to pay for a child's education than to let him become a delinquent, the NEA called upon parents to see to it that children of school age are sent to school.

The Association reported that school attendance records for 1953 showed that fifteen per cent of the children in the 14-to-17 year age bracket were not enrolled in any school. This is a surprisingly high percentage in view of the fact that all of the states now have compulsory attendance laws.

STRESSING THE FACT that schools

prevents delinquency, the NEA calls upon parents to invest in their children's education, as the moral thing to do and as the economical thing to do.

The juvenile delinquent, the Association said, cost society about \$2,500 a year. However, it costs only about \$228 to keep that same juvenile delinquent in school, according to the NEA report.

While it is true that the problem of the juvenile out of school is not significant in the educational statistics of Birmingham and vicinity, each of us no doubt will agree that other less fortunate areas than ours do present real breeding grounds for delinquency. This fact, of course, reveals that in some way or other the cost of meeting the juvenile delinquency problem does make an impact upon everybody's pocket-book.

Atomic Energy for Industry

As was to be expected, there has been a wave of left-wing opposition to the proposal, made by high government officials and others, that private enterprise be given maximum opportunity to cooperate in the development of atomic energy for peace-time purposes.

An interesting commentary on this has come from one of our top atomic scientists—Professor Harold C. Urey of the University of Chicago. He recently said, "Many people say that it would be wrong to give the results of the money spent by the taxpayers on the atomic energy program to private corporations."

"My answer to this is: Nonsense! Most of the money which has been spent on atomic energy was for military purposes and only very little for anything else. Atomic energy does me no good at all until I can press a button on the side of the wall and secure electric light at a price

which is competitive with other sources of energy.

"I really believe that the objection on the part of many people is subconsciously a subscription to the socialistic philosophy which has been running over the world."

DR. UREY'S POSITION is logical both in principal and as a matter of practical common sense. The surest way to prevent progress in any field is to establish a monopoly—and a monopoly by government is just as bad as a monopoly of private enterprise.

Very difficult problems lie in the way of making the atom serve us—instead of simply threatening to destroy us. The surest way to solve those problems lies in bringing all possible resources—in government, in industry, and elsewhere—to bear on them.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

For the tenth time in 4 1/2 years, The Birmingham Eccentric has been named among the state or nation's top weekly newspapers. Most recent was that from the Michigan Press Assn., which last week selected The Eccentric as the state's top ranking metropolitan weekly for 1954. We on the staff humbly accept this notice of our efforts, realizing that much credit for what we have been able to accomplish is due directly to the wonderful community in which we are located. We believe we're right when we say, "A newspaper can be no greater than the community it serves."

B'ham Mayor Ralph A. Main is correct when he insists that government not compete with private enterprise. Last week he persuaded the city commission to reverse itself regarding a previous offer to perform the engineering studies for an undeveloped 40-acre area on the east side of Adams road. Private enterprise is well qualified to design the necessary sewers, water mains, and streets in the proposed duplex home development there, the Mayor contended. "The city should only check those designs for possible errors," he stated.

ed. We agree with the Mayor. When a municipal government proposes to enter fields other than sewage and refuse disposal, water supply, police and fire protection, road maintenance and legislation, it must have a 24-carat reason for so doing.

Birmingham's board of education and school administration is no more confounded than its constituents over the phenomenal post-war growth of the district's school population. But it's here, and is continuing. It is to be hoped that school officials can solve the problem by utilizing the increased property assessments resulting from construction of new homes in the district, rather than having to resort to another several million-dollar bond issue. The district already has voted almost \$8 1/2 million in four years for additional school facilities. We doubt there is another comparable school district in the state—perhaps the midwest—that has done as much."

So They Say...

Jacques Fath, Parisian designer, advising women on how to dress smartly: "Don't overload yourself with accessories. . . Learn to eliminate unnecessary decorations."

Heinz L. Kreketer, Ambassador of West Germany: "The free world can survive only if it is united."

Boni Buehler, 23-year-old former airline hostess, who lost an arm and a leg in a speedboat accident: "Life is mighty valuable and when it's nearly been taken away, it's even more so."

Miguel Lanz Duret, president, Inter-American Press Association: "We will struggle relentlessly against anyone who curtails freedom of the press in any country."

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

I think I've figured out why Detroit's assistant corporation counsel, James H. Lee, continually fights any proposed rate increases for the Michigan Bell telephone company.

I believe Lee wants to save Detroiters from paying to pay more in phone rates, just so these same Detroiters then can afford to give the money to Detroit in the form of continually increasing DSR fares.

Every time you want the government to impose additional controls on someone or something else, you might remind yourself that perhaps the right which is taken away is one which you will want to exercise when the occasion warrants.

Attempts to reduce Michigan's highway death and injury toll should receive the utmost support by anyone who is in a position to give it.

However, I can't see where establishing a maximum state speed limit will be of any appreciable aid.

By far the greatest number of deaths and injuries occur in the populated counties, where most of the highways are already speed-controlled.

It seems to me to be of more importance to improve our antiquated highways, provide stricter driver licensing, and get more state police for patrolling purposes.

In my estimation, there is no such thing as an open-minded Communist. If I ever discover a Communist in any school to which I send my youngsters, or in any government to which I pay taxes for its support, I'll do everything possible to have him (or her) removed from such a position.

And I'll not be intimidated by cries of persecution, freedom of speech, etc., from the Communist or from misguided though well-intentioned American purists.

I wouldn't any more let a Communist TEACH my children his philosophy of life than I would permit him to SPEND my tax money.

I wouldn't let any American screwball teach, either, nor any embezzler to hold public office.

In this column on Jan. 21, I commented on the possible disappearance of drug store cowboys if a trend, as reported in the nearby Northville Record, continued.

The Record quoted a Northville drug store owner (who was having his soda fountain taken out) as mentioning that in the past 10 months 55 drug stores between Northville and Detroit had taken similar action.

This week Corwin Woodard, Detroit area representative of a national ice cream company, came into the office with a contrary opinion.

"Based on my drug store contacts in the area, I believe that figure is much too high," said Woodard. "It probably is closer to 5 than 55 five. I haven't had an opportunity to check exactly yet. But I intend to. There is not as great a trend as that high figure would lead one to believe."

Russia's self-styled saviors of the world, the Communists, would have everyone believe that nowhere else on earth is there so much imagination, so much progressiveness, so much inventiveness than that possessed in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet claims to have invented everything first, to have the best of everything, including living conditions.

What a lot of Swiss cheese that is! I'd like to point-blank ask any dyed-in-the-wool Communist this question: "Where in these United States of America will you find any woman performing such public works tasks as sweeping gutters and shovelling snow, like they do in Russia?"

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