

# Ralph A. Wilson ... A Man Who Counted Friendship His Wealth

In the recent passing of Ralph A. Wilson, Birmingham has lost an honest and ethical businessman and civic leader, many have lost a valued friend and counselor, and his family have lost a beloved husband and father.

Aside from his business affairs, he found much time to lend his talents and financial aid to many local worthy activities. He lived, indeed, a good life ... for during it he acquired one of life's most precious assets; hundreds of friends.

PERHAPS ONE of the most wonderful memories he left his wife and two sons occurred less than 24 hours before he passed on while asleep early Sunday morning, February 14. The morning of the day before he called his family together for a talk.

## George Washington's Great Contribution

If there is one American whose courage and fortitude during years of hardship and discouragement gave the nation its opportunity to achieve greatness, through independence, it was General George Washington.

NOT ONLY had he won independence for the colonies, he had served as the first President, and he had set the precedent for a two-term limit for Chief Executives.

## What a Mama and Papa!

Mr. and Mrs. Helodore Cyr, of Ledges, New Brunswick, recently became parents of a newborn baby for the twenty-fifth time. In the twenty-six years they have been married, Mrs. Cyr has given birth to twenty-five babies.

Because not all of the babies have lived the Cyr's only have eighteen children, but they are managing all right, with a dozen and a half.

Mrs. Cyr is forty-two, having married at seventeen, and has never experienced a multiple birth. Therefore, she has missed only one year in giving birth to a baby in the twenty-six years she and her husband have been married.

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

You read that President Eisenhower is opposed to the passage of the Bricker Amendment, and you may wonder why many of Ike's party disagree with him. Those who want that Amendment added to the U. S. Constitution are not afraid that Ike's administration will abuse the Executive's present power to make international agreements ... but they are fearful of some later President who may follow him. They cannot forget that the Roosevelt and Truman Administrations, with their Yalta, Teheran and Potsdam

that he soon would leave them. He informed them that, the night before, he had been in the presence of his long departed mother and father, and of his joy in meeting them, and of the wonderful environment surrounding them.

IT WAS JUST LIKE RALPH to act thus ... for it became his earthly reward that his final hours should come without physical pain.

And thus endeth the earthly life of Ralph A. Wilson ... a man whom we called a personal friend for more than a score of years; a man who will always be remembered by us, as well as by all who knew him, as one who smiled as easily as he breathed, who found it so easy and natural to exemplify the wholesome attributes of kindness, tolerance, charity and forgiveness.

God speed you on your pilgrimage among the farthest stars!

ONLY SLOWLY did the nation come to recognize its founder, and military hero, as his services to his country merited.

After he died, on December 14th, 1799, the Congress—then meeting in Philadelphia—proposed that February 22, 1800 be observed throughout the country with exercises in honor of the first President of the country. This congressional proposal was widely acted upon and exercises were held in the principal cities.

THE GREATER observances of Washington's birthday spread rapidly and today observance of the anniversary of the birth of our first President, and military hero, is general throughout the nation.

This is appropriate since Washington is often under-rated both as a general and as a President. Every American citizen owes as much to Washington, or more, for his freedom and the independence of his country as to any other American hero.

## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Let's talk about an original subject this week—one full of charm and enjoyment. Let's talk about the weather!

There's been enough variety in the stuff the past few weeks to keep the whole community supplied with a new subject for every hour.

While Birmingham and the surrounding area basked in a warm, if wet, 60 degrees a week ago, press services informed us of an "official" low of 46 below back near the old home town in the Adirondacks.

Knowing that if 46 were the official figure, there were plenty of back porch weather experts who proudly reported temperatures far below that. In fact, we're willing to wager there were several who declared the mercury completely out of sight in their thermometers.

HAVEN'T heard too much about the snow back there this year, but we've seen it just about as high as the mercury was low.

Matter of fact, about eight years ago we persuaded a bunch of GM secretaries to go there at Easter for the skiing. They listened to glowing reports and promptly departed for Old Forge, "Gateway to the Adirondacks", for a weekend on the slope.

Monday came, but no secretaries. Good old northern New York had cooked up one of those late March blizzards and the whole train load was stranded. It took us nearly four days to get courage enough to go back into the GM building. Secretaries and bosses were gunning for us.

ACCORDING to the weather "summaries" which are tossed at us now and then, this has been a mild winter, several degrees above average. Wish someone would tell our house about this. The old furnace keeps churning away and day by day the oil flows merrily out of the tank and into the fire pan.

One thing has been contrary to the "rule" about this winter. The popular theory is that as one gets older, time dies faster, especially during the winter. Then it is supposed to creep along on leaden feet.

In our case that has not been true, for to us it seems only a few



## 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 26, 1904  
"The Fortuna Oil company of this place has just sold their first tank of oil containing 100 barrels, and have installed a 25-horsepower engine. They will be pumping oil every day from now on from three fine wells and the future looks very bright for the company."

"James L. Todd and George H. Mitchell could not attend the M. E. church chicken pie supper last week, but the ladies promised these two gentlemen a supper if they would pay the quarter. They paid it and both had a neat box sent to them. Jim got the neck and Mitchell the gizzard."

"Lost, a pair of gold spectacles in a case. Finder please leave at this office and receive the thanks of the loser."

"The J. L. Hudson company of Detroit has put a typewriter on the market the speed of which is limited only by the capacity of the operator. It is no toy, but an up-to-date machine and the price is only \$7.50."

"Just as we go to press we learn of the death of William Henning of Southfield. Deceased was truly a pioneer of Southfield, having lived in this township over 50 years. He was 84 years old."

30 YEARS AGO  
February 22, 1924  
Charles A. Bingham, local insurance man, was elected president of the newly organized Birmingham Exchange club at a meeting held Tuesday in the Birwood Inn.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Shain of Pierce street left yesterday for a six weeks' sojourn in California, via New Orleans.

People residing in Bloomfield township outside of Birmingham

are assured of village fire protection until Jan. 1, 1925, for the sum of \$1,000.

Aid has been asked of the Birmingham Police department by Mr. and Mrs. John Lintz of Chestnut street, in locating their daughter, Genevieve, who has disappeared while acting as nursemaid in Florida.

L. G. Greene, who has for 11 years been a painter and decorator here, and therefore knows a great deal about artistic decorations, opened the Birmingham Wall Paper company today in the location where the Maple Shop recently was.

15 YEARS AGO  
February 23, 1939  
The establishment of permanent scholarship awards at Brookside School, Cranbrook, for younger boys and girls, was announced by the school's board of directors following a meeting Tuesday evening.

Fire started in the home of Harry Davis, 612 East Maple road, at 5:10 p.m. Tuesday, from hot ashes being thrown in a pile of rubbish in the basement. Because the fire was discovered quickly only slight damage was caused.

Birmingham's chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will mark its fifth anniversary on Friday, Feb. 24, with a dinner and program.

Matthew's Tailor shop announces the installation of a new cleaning unit of the most modern type available. The unit, it is claimed, will do an excellent job on any cleanable article, and do it much faster than the old-style machines.

Miss Betty Carnahan of Pierce street will be married to L. Harry Hawblitz on March 3.

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

In one respect, Birmingham has not been as progressive as a number of other communities in the nation. No local resident has yet figured out some reason or other for the U. S. Post Office Dept. to issue a commemorative stamp because of something the city did, is doing, or will do.

You can lead a person to a problem, but you can't make him solve it.

Some people wonder why the world has editors. Maybe it is because they: Tell presidents and kings where they're missing the boat. Advise corporation presidents and businessmen.

Tell mothers how to raise their children better than they could hope to do themselves. Listen to little boys' tearful tales of their lost dogs, or the taxpayers' gripes about the inactivity at city hall.

Or the reason nothing ever gets into the paper. Fill the gap between King Solomon and Bob Hope.

A man who can tear a metropolitan phone book in half with his hands isn't half as amazing as the pretty little woman who can tie up a city intersection with her figure.

Before you will defend freedom, you must know of what it consists. When you know of what freedom consists, you can believe in it. When you believe in freedom, you will defend it.

Then there was the unsuccessful gas company repairman who couldn't stop a leaky pipe, and got fined \$100 and costs. He was charged with impersonating a politician.

Many a married man secretly hopes that some day a high school domestic science course will include some intensive instruction in domestic science.

It's a good thing that the weather changes from time to time. If it didn't, a lot of good conversations never would get started.

To reach the top of the ladder of success these days, seems to require a Congressional examination first.

Too many people talking before a group begin by explaining they aren't much of a public speaker. Then they go on to prove it.

Do You Have A BED-WETTING PROBLEM? We have the cure for this! SHAIN'S REXALL DRUG STORE 105 W. Maple MI 4-2121

When Buying or Selling Stocks or Municipal Bonds—Think First of First of Michigan Corporation Member Midwest and Detroit Stock Exchanges BUHL BUILDING, DETROIT NEW YORK CHICAGO Grand Rapids Port Huron Battle Creek Bay City Columbus Lansing Flint

'Protection is our Profession' Insurance and ONLY Insurance is our Business HUGH C. WHITE Multiple Line Insurance Agency Insure—Stay Insured and Rest Assured

Fun for all the family... But who's getting dinner? Mom's ELECTRIC RANGE of course [Time for tobbogganing? Of course, if your range is electric! Slip dinner in the oven and walk out any time you want to. Come back hours later to a hot, appetizing feast. Whole meals cook to perfection—automatically. Come summer, you'll appreciate electric cooking even more—meals can be hot, but your kitchen stays cool.] SEE YOUR DEALER or Detroit Edison

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So They Say ... Dr. Paul Witly, Northwestern University: "Children spend more than 20 hours a week looking at TV in big cities like Chicago, and teachers and parents should work together to make the most of it." Thomas E. Dewey, Governor, New York State: "The very possession of liberty imposes the necessity for discipline, which respects the liberty of others, in their person, in their property and in their intellectual attainment."