

Hannah Urges Optimism In Cranbrook Address

Dr. John A. Hannah, president of Michigan State College and Assistant Secretary of Defense in the Eisenhower administration, donated a robe of optimism Saturday morning to address 40 boys graduating from Cranbrook school—most of whom, as he reminded them, will soon be in uniform.

Being in charge of Manpower and Personnel in the Defense Department, at Washington, Dr. Hannah's words were filled with prophecy by students and faculty of the school, 693 of whose alumni served in World War II, 37 giving their lives.

Occupying the pulpit of Christ Church Cranbrook, where the commencement exercises are traditionally held, he pondered what a representative of the class might say of the future, were their positions exchanged.

"I would like to know," he said, "whether all of this adult talk about atom bombs, Communism, national security, the threat of nuclear war, the possibility of a depression, labor difficulties, high prices, high taxes and other disturbing topics, has succeeded in quenching the natural optimism with which youth is endowed."

"Have we older people made you fearful of the future, here in the richest of the nation in the world? Have we given you a feeling of insecurity, here in the strongest nation in the world? Have we given you a feeling of futility, here in a nation where opportunities abound?"

"If we older people have done that to you, we have inflicted an injury to your generation for which no apology or explanation can compensate." He called the present "a time when the adventure of living is as exciting and satisfying in prospect as at any time in our nation's history, though complicated by misunderstandings abroad."

"Other peoples look at us from a distance, and say that we are restless and discontented," he said. "What they see is not really restlessness and discontent—what they see is dissatisfaction with things as they are. We believe that perfection is a goal always to be sought, but seldom if ever achieved."

"Such beliefs give us that driving energy which is the despair of others who seek to match our progress in material things."

"Our energy has made this country the number one target of those who have a philosophy of life which stands in sharp contrast to our own beliefs," added Dr. Hannah.

"It is only in recent years that we have come to understand that we are the envy of much of the world, and are considered to be enemies by the third of the world under the dominance of Communist Russia. The fact that we are the outstanding target for envious and powerful enemies has been accepted by Americans with a sense of shame and some uneasiness."

"Never before have we been the undisputed leader, the natural target of those who hate and despise the very word freedom. This accounts in part for our current deep interest in problems of national security, our concern lest our defenses be not strong enough to withstand any attack against us."

"It is not by the free choice of the American people that we have to maintain armed forces of great size and strength, but the world situation is such that there is no alternative to building and maintaining a strong defense for our country, and the things for which it stands, he added."

"Of those who complain because the situation is as it is, just one question should be asked: What is it worth to you to be an American? Are not the benefits you enjoy, the unique privileges which are yours, the freedom which is your birthright, worth far more than you are being asked to pay?"

There was a time when going to the movies was an event; then it became a routine to millions. Television is going through the same pattern. Familiarity may breed contempt . . . so why not be more selective of TV's use, making it "an occasion"?

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 4

Thursday, June 17, 1954



OLD FRIENDS AND CLASSMATES met for luncheon Thursday, June 3, honoring Carrie E. Mitchell, of Kalamazoo, daughter of George H. Mitchell, one of the two founders of The Birmingham Eccentric. Planning for an afternoon of talking over old times were (left to right) Mrs. Emma Blakeslee Quarten, Miss Mitchell, Mrs. Vina Purdy Bell, Mrs. May Thurlby Hupp, Mrs. Marion Clize Allen and Mrs. Blanche Heth Nunn. (Eccentric Photo)

Luncheon Reunites Classmates

When it was learned that Carrie E. Mitchell, daughter of George H. Mitchell, one of the newspaper's founders, was to be in Birmingham for a brief one-day visit, The Eccentric decided to surprise Miss Mitchell with a luncheon party with several high school classmates and long-time friends.

Arrangements were successful, and the group pictured above was brought together for the first time in many years.

This week, The Eccentric's publisher received the following note from Miss Mitchell (in which she expressed her thanks for the luncheon), and a comment from Mrs. Emma B. Quarten, one of the guests:

Mr. George R. Averill
The Birmingham Eccentric
Birmingham, Mich.
Dear Mr. Averill:

I was an honored guest of The Birmingham Eccentric and it was indeed a royal welcome home—two homes, in fact, Birmingham, where I was born and The Birmingham Eccentric in which I was practically brought up.

Very Sincerely,
EMMA B. QUARTEN

slim well-tailored rascals. If you listen closely those machines almost talk.

The back room was wonderful. From there I went to your office where I had a wonderful visit with you. About Birmingham that was and is — its steady growth, its progress and wealth—all of which are apparent.

SOON IT WAS luncheon time. And it was wonderful to meet old friends and to recall and relive in memory many "highlights."

All too soon it was time to come out of the dream-life of Birmingham long ago—memories when evaluated correctly are wonderful.

I want to thank you for the day. I loved every minute of it.

Very Sincerely,
CARRIE E. MITCHELL

To the Editor:
I wish to thank The Eccentric for giving me the opportunity to again meet Carrie Mitchell. It is to your credit for I know

Chimney Repairs In Pembroke Area Near Completion

Efforts to rectify poor chimney construction in some homes in the northeast section of the city are nearing a satisfactory completion, Birmingham Building Inspector T. C. Brien said this week.

Concern over the chimneys was touched off early last winter when a fire, blamed on a faulty chimney, broke out in one of the homes.

Building and fire department inspectors conducted a visual inspection of 200 homes in the area and unearthed 37 defective chimneys, Brien said.

In March, the Birmingham zone board of appeals instructed the builder of the homes to conduct a more thorough examination.

So far 108 chimneys have been thoroughly inspected at the request of home owners. In 45 cases, defective chimneys were found and necessary repairs were made by the builder at his expense, Brien said.

In their investigations, inspectors discovered all the faulty work was done by two mason subcontractors, and a list of the homes these men worked on has been secured, Brien said.

"We are not worried about all the chimneys in the area, but we are checking all those built by these two men," said Brien.

City Ranks High Pedestrian Safety

Birmingham was again honored by the American Automobile Association for the effectiveness of its pedestrian protection program, Club Safety and Traffic Director Ernest P. Davis announced this week.

The city earned honorable mention among communities of 10,000 to 25,000 population, Davis said. The State of Michigan won a special citation for its efforts in cutting pedestrian accident tolls.

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Birmingham Man Heads Local Negro College Fund Drive

Clarence Davesy, 912 Ridgedale, member of the faculty of the George Trade school in Detroit, said today that \$70,000 of the \$90,000 being sought for the United Negro College Fund in Michigan during June has been raised.

Davesy is a member of the public school committee of the drive, heading solicitation in Birmingham and Bloomfield schools.

"The recent decision of the United States Supreme Court banning segregation in public schools in no way affects the need of the 31 Negro colleges for money with which to continue their operation," Davesy said.

"These colleges serve a need in the community which will exist long after complete integration has become a fact, as there still will be a need for privately-financed colleges."

"They have asked for \$1,750,000 with which to continue through another year."

Detroit and other northern industrial cities have been generous in their response because of the need for higher education among the many negroes who become integrated into our industries.

"It would be impossible to solicit personally every one who might wish to contribute. Checks may be mailed to the United Negro College Fund, 208 Mack, Detroit," Davesy said.

Strawberry Festival

The Covenanters, young married couples' club of the First Presbyterian church, will sponsor a strawberry festival at the church parking lot from 4:30 p.m., June 19, with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dickerson, in charge. The affair is open to the public with proceeds going to the church building fund.

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