

Ours Must Be the World's Best

The Central Intelligence Agency, which is the secret spy system of the United States Government, among other things, now is under intense investigation by at least two groups.

This is not surprising when one considers that the United States for many years did not maintain such an organization, despite the fact that nearly every other government in the world did so, and that the CIA is, in a sense, almost an experiment.

However, shortly after World War II began, provision was made by Congress for the United States to maintain an elaborate secret organization, known as the Central Intelligence Agency.

CONGRESS HAS EXPRESSED some concern over the effectiveness of this organization recently and General Mark W. Clark U.S.A. (retired), has been instructed to conduct an extensive investigation of all intelligence agencies of the United States Government, including the CIA.

Only a few days ago, it was revealed that Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle, U.S.A. (retired) also had been instructed by the executive branch to conduct his investigation of the CIA. Both groups now are in the process of conducting their investigations.

FAR FROM BEING disillusioned at the necessity of these investigations, the average citizen should be pleased that such distinguished men are attempting to improve the efficiency of this organization.

In the atomic age, when secrets and the latest scientific devices and knowledge play such a large role in determining the fate of the United States, it is absolutely essential that the United States have the most effective secret intelligence organization in the world.

15 Million Enjoy Educational TV

The National Citizens' Committee for Educational Television recently reported that educational TV is now being seen by 15,000,000 Americans who live within range of non-commercial television stations. The committee also reported an expected 30 to 40 million more Americans will be receiving educational television soon when outlets "already financed and building" are completed.

The NCET was formed two years ago when no educational TV station was in operation. The report shows seven are operating today, and 13 more are in some stage of building activity.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Robert R. Mullen, of the NCET, says the committee feels recent progress has been "most encouraging although at times it has been discouraging during the last two years."

An interesting part of the NCET report is its finding that in all instances where one million people are within broadcast range of a reserved HF channel, sta-

tions are either on the air or well advanced with plans for building, with only two exceptions. These exceptions are Minneapolis-St. Paul and Milwaukee.

This second annual report of the NCET is interesting because it indicates the Federal Communications Commission acted wisely in setting aside channels for educational TV when channel allocations were made several years ago.

THAT IS THE MAJOR criticism of U.S. radio and television—that little of the wonderful transmission possibilities of these media are utilized for educational purposes—as is done in Britain.

To correct this condition, the FCC—when allocating channels—set aside some of them for educational purposes, and there were loud objections from "some commercial interests that they would go unused and unneeded.

However, it seems that they are being utilized and that they offer the American people a great opportunity for cultural advancement and mass education.

Ambulances Lose Their Sirens in New York City

In New York an experiment eliminating sirens from the equipment of ambulances, will begin on the first of next month.

Commissioner of Hospitals Dr. Basil C. MacLean said the order would affect many New York City hospital ambulances, although private ambulance operators are not included in the order.

Dr. MacLean says the use of sirens on ambulances is unwise, and that it creates unnecessary dangers.

Although occasionally the use of the siren saves a minute or two, that minute or two does not compensate for the increased number of accidents caused by the use of the siren. In other words, the use of sirens causes more casualties than the good they are capable of doing.

THE NEW STEP was not taken without study and a pilot project was the first experiment of its kind a few months ago. For some ten months, ending August 1st, 1954, all sirens were removed and ambulance drivers at Kings County Hospital

were told to obey normal traffic regulations. After the ten month test period was over, it was found that the accident rate had risen but by sixty per cent—or by more than half. There also had been no serious complaint of effects on patients by the minute or two delay in the arrival of ambulances.

WE BELIEVE THAT, in large cities, the use of sirens on ambulances may be steadily discarded in coming years.

The siren on the police car and the fire truck will probably be continued for some time, however, since duties performed by police and firemen are quite different from those of the ambulance-driver.

Police often must speed through streets of necessity, and firemen have very unwieldy vehicles to weave in and out of traffic.

In place of the sirens in New York City, ambulances are using revolving red lights. The result will be much less confusion, more quiet and fewer accidents. It is a step forward for everyone.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Dr. James K. Pollock, U of M political scientist, who "fathered" Michigan's Civil Service Amendment years ago, now admits it has some weaknesses . . . a major one being its efforts to set itself up and beyond Legislative control. We agree with Dr. Pollock and hope he'll lend his strength to needed changes.

To paraphrase Shakespeare: "The quantity of rain is not strained, it falls on the just and on the unjust . . ." and that, in brief, tells the tragic story of those recent heavy rains that have fallen upon Chicago and many nearby areas. Mama

Nature still operates beyond the controls of mankind.

Brig. General Lester Maitland, for some years Michigan's director of civil defense and the Dept. of Aeronautics, has announced he will discard his military uniform for the quiet garb of an Episcopal clergyman. Behind that change must lie a great deal of profound soul-searching on the part of the General. His determination to wear the new clothing suggests that he is well on the way to that earthly state referred to . . . as the peace that passeth understanding." Good Luck, General . . . or rather, Reverend!

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue, Telephone MI 4-1100

GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher; PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Business Manager; GEORGE W.M. AVERILL, Managing Editor; HAROLD P. BURGE, Advertising Manager

The Eccentric is a member of National Advertisers Association and University Press Club

National Advertising Representatives: Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc., 1615 Columbia Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich., New York 10, N.Y.

The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has new value. Suggestions are welcomed. Any erroneous reflection upon any character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be promptly corrected if brought to the publisher's attention.

So They Say . . .

J. Edgar Hoover, director, Federal Bureau of Investigation:

"The true Communist party line remains unchanged. The overthrow and destruction of our constitutional democracy by any and all means at their disposal remains the aim of the Communists."

Agnes E. Meyer, newspaper woman:

"Liberty is man's greatest need, for without it he cannot freely pursue the truth and fulfill his moral imperative to grow in mental, emotional and spiritual stature."

Strengthening the Dike



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Birmingham has recently received official praise for its pedestrian safety program.

From what we have seen the lion's share of this pat on the back goes to the drivers and just a smidgen to the pedestrians.

Pedestrians, at least some of them, know that to a degree the law is in their favor. They know that motorists are to give them the right of way. That's all they need.

They not only expect the poor driver to yield the right of way but, in addition, to more or less lead them safely from curb to curb.

He has to watch for other cars, too, that figure out money he people are planning to do and then get a ton or more of moving metal through it all without hurting anyone. It's nerve wracking, at times. Maybe it's why so many drivers have white hair.

YES, BIRMINGHAM is to be praised on its pedestrian safety program, but give credit where it is due, to the driver.

And, in doing this, ask that driver that give others behind the wheel a little thought during those times that he is a pedestrian.

WE WATCHED most and women turn corners, groping their way through throngs of pedestrians.

They were not very careful and cautious than the driver that is headed toward them!

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.

30 YEARS AGO November 4, 1924

"A new milkmaid has appeared on the scene, claiming to be the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hupp. They need plenty of help, and will keep the young lady. She arrived early in the day, went to work at once, and weighs just six pounds."

"Ground was broken Monday last for the acetylene gas plant. We understand that the company is obliged to import foreign labor, not being able to get enough in our village. About 75 laborers will be given work. The trench will be only two feet deep and the pipe small so it is a sure thing that all will be underground before cold weather."

"Howard Carter is home from Kentucky. After they get to call him 'Colonel' he thought it time to leave. Had a good time, was obliged to announce that he refused two big offers, and thinks Michigan the best yet to live in."

"Owing to the continued high price of everything that goes to make a good Sunday or holiday dinner, Landford Anderson has been obliged to announce that dinners on Sunday and on holidays will be 40c each."

30 YEARS AGO October 31, 1924

Fire, the result of a motor backfire, which broke out Wednesday noon at the garage of the Standard Motor Coach Line, owned by William McCallum, on South Woodward avenue, gutted practically the entire building, sent one man to Pontiac City hospital with severe burns, threatened the Masonic Temple and the Temple Grocery and destroyed property valued at approximately \$70,000.

Oakland County authorities are making their final campaign this week to obtain votes in support of the proposed county bond issue of \$27,000 to provide for tuberculosis testing for cows.

The second-ride mill has opened up for Friskies for a period of two and a half months. The old mill that the Franklin folks considered was permanently closed, had opened two weeks ago on Saturday, and is preparing for a busy holiday season.

A reception for Rev. and Mrs. Pritchard was given Thursday evening of last week at the

Southfield church. A splendid program entertained the guests who numbered about 25. Refreshments by the ladies were served by Rev. and Mrs. Pritchard and the church choir.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Muehlman, who have been a popular couple in the affairs of the "younger marrieds" are to withdraw for six months from the village society as they have taken an apartment in Detroit for the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Muehlman, who have been a popular couple in the affairs of the "younger marrieds" are to withdraw for six months from the village society as they have taken an apartment in Detroit for the winter.

15 YEARS AGO November 2, 1939

"It's all very simple," William A. Burttaw pointed out this week. "You merely pick the best girl there is and then you live with her for 60 years. That is precisely what Mr. Burttaw has done, by today making the 60th wedding anniversary of the couple who make their home at 246 Oakland avenue."

A desolate-looking half-loaf of bread and a few slices of meat were all that remained Wednesday morning of the successful conclusion of Birmingham's eighth annual Halloween Jambooree and 4000 people were entertained by some 3000 people.

Jane Ellerby, 16 years old, 592 Ridgeway, and Dorothy Ann McCormick, 10, 816 Bates street, were tried Monday night to receive \$20 checks for writing essays in the contest sponsored by The Eccentric in connection with Civic Loyalty Day.

Parade Sidelights—Little Peggy Baldwin, 915 Forest, was so confused when she presented her ticket at the Hill school to receive her prize that she couldn't even remember her street address. She backed off explaining as best she could that "I always get my address mixed up with my girl friend's telephone number."

Baldwin's "Junior Civic" is forthcoming in the issue of Friday—An interview with Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, a 95 student, had to get up early for the interview, for it took place between 7:15 and 8:15 a.m. on Thursday at the Michigan Central Depot in Detroit where Mrs. Roosevelt had stopped off while en route to a lecture that evening at Ann Arbor.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

American Motors President George Romney does much to keep in physical trim by his active participation in a number of sports, from golf to tennis and swimming. These interests permit him to play with the members of his family, also may explain why he does not use alcohol, coffee, or tobacco.

He has an unusual facility for answering questions directly and without pausing between words and phrases, unlike most of us who have to stop and think what we're going to say next.

Too, he's a listener—he pays close attention to what is being said, like he was extracting every bit of information and reasoning so he can make it his to use.

Once again Birmingham city commissioners are faced with a decision on whether to amplify their remarks so the back rows of the audience will know what is under discussion and how it is being decided.

So City Manager D. C. Egbert now is investigating what kind of a microphone system can be installed and how much it would cost.

Ethetics of the Quanton Lake Estates area was one of, if not the prime reason, why commissioners are spending between \$1,500 and \$1,800 to put an asphaltic surfacing on the driveways at the new West-side fire station.

"It would be bad to leave them just

bare concrete, when black is so much more in keeping with the residential atmosphere," was the commission's consensus (and vote).

But when the parking area goes in on the west side of the Westside fire station, the concrete will just be concrete, commissioners agreed last week.

Probably feel there is no residential atmosphere on that side, huh?

If every Birmingham home had a driveway, and each driveway were used to store cars as intended, then there would be no cars (from behind which youngsters could dart to injury or death in the street.

It's a hard, fast rule of most newspapers including The Birmingham Eccentric—that the wastebasket receives all unsigned letters to the editor.

One came into The Eccentric this week, and before it went into the basket, I extracted these words and phrases used to refer to the annual city-wide Halloween party:

"monster Halloween," "blood pressure mounts," "greedy little kid characters who ring doorbells," "infernal begging," and "this horrendous celebration."

This letter just proves to me that Birmingham's Halloween celebration Friday and Saturday was complete—there was a real old witch hovering somewhere in the area.

HEARING AIDS and BATTERIES for ALL MAKES. Make Inquiry at Our Store and Get All of the Details. SHAIN'S DRUG STORE MI 4-2121 105 W. Maple

"FOURTH FLOOR GROOMING" Trimming—Polishing—Removing—Sanding—Cabinets—Power Sawing. All phases of landscaping and tree work. Phone LI 2-1352 Days or Evenings. Tree Service.

Your Car Is A Machine and like all mechanical devices, need periodic check-ups. We suggest 3 simple things: 1. Have your car thoroughly checked by a competent mechanic. 2. Replace your tires if they are worn. 3. CAREFULLY CHECK YOUR INSURANCE TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE FULLY PROTECTED AGAINST DAILY HAZARDS OF DRIVING. HUGH C. WHITE Multiple Line Insurance Agency, Your Protection is our Profession. Telephone MI 4-3610

The BEST REASON in the world to buy an Electric Clothes Dryer. Why let the weather tell you when to wash your clothes? Put on your electric clothes dryer and you'll never have to wait for the weather to dry your clothes. Put on your electric clothes dryer and you'll never have to wait for the weather to dry your clothes. See your dealer or Detroit Edison.