

Don't Get Parking Methods Too Confused

Birmingham commissioners still are considering Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley's suggestion that parking meters on Woodward south of Maple be operated each evening until 9 p.m., like the nearby municipal parking lot at Pierce and Merrill streets.

Moxley argues that extension of the hours will help to get theater-attending motorists to use the newly opened parking lot where they can get two-hour parking meters. Thus, the one-hour limit Woodward meters would be more available for local shoppers, he points out.

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New Office Zone Should Aid Residential Character

After months of study, rehash, and more study, Birmingham now finds itself with a new zoning classification, "Office-Professional."

Intended to provide a more acceptable buffer between retail business and residential areas, the new zoning is designed only for the so-called "service trades." That is, no merchandise will be moving into and out of the buildings.

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"Old Satchmo" In Role Of Diplomat

It's a long way from the back streets of New Orleans to the high roads of diplomacy. But it looks as if Louis Armstrong, the greatest jazz trumpet player of all time, is going to make it.

The State Department recently announced that "Satchmo," as Armstrong is known, and other jazz artists will be sent on cultural missions to such places as the Far and Middle East, Asia and Africa. The idea is a sound one.

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Foreign Policy Needs Honest Debate

It cannot seriously be expected that foreign policy will be kept out of politics in 1956. The political stakes, and the temptation to use every means for winning them, will be too great.

Charges and counter-charges are sure to be a part of the coming campaign. In a sense, that is as it should be, since our elections ought to reflect the considered judgment of the electorate on foreign policy as well as on other matters.

THERE IS MUCH TO BE SAID, however, for the ideal of a bipartisan foreign policy. Our position in the world commu-

nity is greatly strengthened when our policy has the broad support of both major parties and seems unlikely to be changed with every shift in power.

Sen. Walter F. George of Georgia, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, recently put the matter well when he said: "We must assure the world that we are capable of having a non-partisan American policy and that regardless of who wins or loses in 1956 our foreign program will go on substantially as is. We must show that we are a mature nation."

President Eisenhower promptly endorsed this Democratic leader's statement of support for a united front on foreign policy. It deserves the further endorsement of all thoughtful citizens.

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We All Wish You a Merry Christmas



NATURE NOW

Hearth Provides Holiday Warmth

By LYDIA KING FREISE, Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Fire, with its attendant comforts of light and warmth, has become a "taken-for-granted" attribute of the holiday season.

But it was not until sometime during the fourth glacial age, perhaps not more than 50,000 years ago, that man learned how to lay hold of this magic.

He may have snatched his first burning brand from a lightning-struck tree or a fire-crapping volcano, thereby setting his foot upon a path which has led him from savagery to civilization.

FIRE, WITH ITS warmth and light and protection from beasts, turned a cave into a home. Its heat cooked man's food, made possible the firing of his first pottery and the fashioning of his iron and copper tools and implements.

So important is fire to man that he has anciently classed it with air, earth and water as one of the four essential elements of his existence. Now we know it for the chemical reaction which liberates the energy stored up in the bonds of the molecules of the fuel.

And back of the ministry and magic of fire is the green leaf. When the sun falls upon it, it can change the elements of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen which it draws from earth and air into the starches and sugars which feed all that is alive.

FURTHERMORE the plant (in this instance a tree) is not only the manufacturing agent, but it provides a storehouse of energy for future use.

The leaf, aided by the action of chlorophyll, first feeds the tree and then stores the surplus in the dead cells of its own heartwood. Now by putting a match to our log we release this stored-up energy from the sun.

As we watch the licking flames

YOUR SCRIBE has no new or catchy phrases in which to couch her holiday wishes so—A Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to each of you as you surround this year's Christmas fire.

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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 December 22, 1905 A contributor to The Eccentric wrote: "The liquor laws are to be enforced in Oakland county, then will many a weary mother and child take heart and thank God for answered prayers."

35 YEARS AGO December 19, 1910 Birmingham's new theatre should be ready for opening some time in January or early February, it was revealed Monday night at the City Commission meeting.

30 YEARS AGO December 18, 1925 The third meeting of the We Sew So Sew club was held at Smith School, December 9. The lo-

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

You may have thought last week's Eccentric was a bit larger than usual. It was. The 54 pages it contained in its seven sections was the largest regular edition ever attained. Previous high was 48 pages, which has been recorded several times in the past year.

Michigan's superintendent of public instruction, Clair Taylor, officially has taken note that Oakland county's school enrollment in the past year has risen 11,044 for a total of 126,553.

Birmingham school district itself was 14 1/2 per cent of that increase, or an additional 1,600 students in schools here.

Only Royal Oak, with a 2,521 increase, topped Birmingham. Across the entire state, enrollments went up a total of 69,118, bringing to 1,384,750 the number of Michigan school children.

James R. Adams, who last week went to chairman of the board of MacManus, John & Adams, Inc., after many years its president, is nationally famous as an advertising copywriter.

He says the hardest part of ad writing is getting ready. "You have to get wound up," he says. "The best advertisements are written before a mark is put on paper. They are first created in the writer's mind."

What Adams says about ad writing also applies to the best newspaper stories—they merely are verbalizations of mind.

What's next—dogs in decorator's colors? A Chicago bird dog recently gave birth to a litter which featured six conventional puppies in black, white, and brown.

But the seventh pointer is a bright chartruese!

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Birmingham Rotary club participates in many civic projects, and individually its members give to many worthwhile activities.

But the club's major organized fund-raising operations center around financial support of the Oakland county crippled children's society.

Friday saw club members stage their annual newspaper sale, which together with the spring Easter lily sale, obtains most of the club funds contributed to OCSCC.

THE CLUB HAS CONTRIBUTED approximately \$10,000 to the society since the inception of this program seven years ago.

Only recently at the annual meeting of the society in Pontiac, a check for more than \$2,000 was presented to Lloyd C. (Skip) McGeer, society president, on behalf of the club. This represented proceeds of the Easter lily sale and other activities last season.

In the preceding two years the club (1) presented a new station wagon to the Society for needed transportation, (2) built a new garage to house it, and (3) saw to the grading and installation of a proper driveway and runway to OCSCC headquarters which would permit maximum use of the station wagon by crippled children encumbered by wheelchairs, leg braces, crutches and the like.

THE CLUBS INTEREST in helping Oakland county's crippled children does not end with extra fund raising.

Its members are crowded with assists on many other activities during the year, outstanding among which are the annual Christmas party for the children and other seasonal affairs in which individuals and groups see a ball game or circus.

On these occasions, the job of playing host and providing transportation for a carload of enthusiastic kids pays off in terms of highly mutual satisfaction, say club members who have participated.

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Meet Your Michigan MICHIGAN'S MANY NATIONALS... BIRTHPLACE COUNTRY... BIRTHPLACE COUNTRY... BIRTHPLACE COUNTRY...

From The Eccentric's Point of View... It is encouraging to learn that first three weeks' receipts from meters on Birmingham's first municipal parking lot are well over original estimates.

