The 1955 Roll Call Is Being Answered

From a modest start 32 years ago, the Community House has grown into one of Birmingham's "big business" establishments.

A survey of the year just ended shows approximately 200,000 persons attended meetings there. Another 37,963 ate there, 5,711 attended hobby classes, and 23,612 young people registered at youth group meetings.

THIS REPRESENTS ONLY a portion of the people who availed themselves of House activities. Uncounted hundreds attended events open to the public and not of a type where a count could be made.

Now the "House with a Heart" is asking for a helping hand from the persons it serves. A quota of $52,400 has been set to meet operating expenses for the coming year.

To donate toward the support of the House, we feel, is a privilege. In its House, Birmingham has a center for many types of activities. Without the Birmingham Community House, many worthwhile events would lose a great deal of their value. There would be no other means of accommodating them; no headquarters for them; in short, no social or civic activity centers.

SOLICITORS WILL CANVASS thoroughly the community and surrounding areas from now through February 28. It will assist the progress of the campaign if you have your donation ready, thus eliminating the need for call-backs.

Families who know they will be out of town during the drive may mail checks directly to the Roll Call office at the Community House. Businessmen may make their contributions directly to the House, too, saving a great deal of time for those busy volunteers who are collecting these gifts.

Keep Birmingham's "Heart" pumping at a nourishing rate . . . give from your heart.

Michigan State College's 100th Birthday

For several hundreds of persons in the Birmingham area, Saturday meant something a bit extra-special. It was the 100th birthday of the institution from which they were graduated—Michigan State College in East Lansing.

It was on February 12, 1855, that MSC was founded as the first agricultural college in the United States. Thus was born a new philosophy of education, for a century ago higher institutions reserved their studies for doctors, lawyers, teachers and gentlemen.

THUS FOR THE FIRST TIME was a college dedicated not only to serve the more fortunate, but to serve all the people on the theory that knowledge means progress, and progress was meant for all.

In 1855 nearly 90 per cent of the frontier was engaged in some form of agriculture, supplying the entire population with food, fiber and clothing. It was a revolutionary idea indeed that these people—the pioneers who worked with the earth—should be given the privilege of higher education.

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE which gave this dream its first transformation from idea to reality was dedicated to this proposition and it began a bold and noble experiment which, in 1862, received great national recognition.

It was in this year that President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act establishing a system of land-grant colleges and universities. The college in East Lansing was the image, the mother and father, from which this system emerged.

HAD ITS SOLE ACCOMPLISHMENT been to inspire that charter for the technical and scientific education of all people, then that alone would have been sufficient justification for the founding of Michigan State College, for this was one of the finest accomplishments of democracy in the "New World."

It is natural, therefore, that as Michigan State opens its Centennial celebration, the entire people of Michigan take pride in this, the history of a noted Michigan institution and its accomplishments.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

A recent survey reveals that Flint has reached the second size spot in Michigan, taking over the place held for years by Grand Rapids. While such a statistic reveals the presence of more people, it doesn't declare them to be "happier people."

A Detroit father of 10 children, also a member of the Michigan legislature, wants a law that prevents opposite sexes to go about in nudist camps without some clothing. However, there's hardly an ounce of difference between what some women wear at the beaches and what some female nudists don't wear in a camp.

It is reported officially that Canadians are the gabbiest people in the world.. In 1953 each Canadian telephone user averaged 411.3 telephone conversations, while U.S. users were pegged at 385.3. (But the statistics do not reveal which group talked longest per call.)

Here is some important, though not world-shaking news: Michigan's State Highway Dept. this winter will use 1,445,000 pieces of wire, each 11 inches long, to install snow fences. This totals 15,895,000 inches, or 251 miles, costing $3,593.83. With this information at hand, if you want to wile away a few happy hours some evening, try to figure out how many snowflakes the fences will pile up in a given day with, say, winds averaging 32½ miles per hour, plus any other physical facts you want to conjure up for your regalement.

So They Say . . .

Charles E. Potter, U. S. Senator from Michigan:

"Of the 1,800,000 miles of hard-surfaced roads in this country (exclusive of streets), only half is suitable to support modern, high-speed traffic."

Mamoru Shigemitsu, Japan's new Foreign Minister and deputy Prime Minister:

"Japan wants to contribute as a democratic country to the stabilization of Asia and the peace of the world."

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Meet Your Michigan

MICHIGAN FEATURE SERIES prepared by MICHIGAN TOURIST COUNCIL ... No. 71

Precarious Seat

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

History tells us that the man was tall and gangling, with an almost unkempt look about him when he spoke those famous words:

"Four-score and seven years ago our forefathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation . . . dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal . . ."

History told us before and since that remarkable address, that this country of ours was settled by sincere persons who had fled their homelands because men were not "created equal".

They had with them a dreamland, a Utopia, a place where men were free, where men were equal, where each would be judged by his capabilities and personal stature, not by the measure of his background and ancestors.

LINCOLN spoke his historic words at a time when this infant nation had been shedding the blood of its finest men over this very thing—freedom and equality.

From the outset, this has been the outstanding characteristic of this country. In the minds of oppressed people everywhere has been the thought that, could they get to the United States, they could become men, men of strength and purpose. They dreamed of ridding themselves of the yoke of class and facing a future where they were "as good as any man."

Yet, today in this land we are celebrating National Brotherhood Week, a reminder to us that "all men are created equal".

WHERE HAVE we lost this vision? How have we lost it? Have we lost it?

There are those among us who hold themselves above some of their fellowmen. There are others who, by the right of their accomplishments, perhaps do so, but remain humble men, thankful men, kind men and tolerant men.

There are others who loudly proclaim their tolerance and to prove it are kind to the "down-trodden" much as they would toss a bone to a starving dog.

THEY BEAT the drums for charity for certain groups, but they do not make these people free and equal in the sense that they can be independent.

They do not want schools, churches, and other common facilities made too easily available, for "these people are not ready yet to take their place in society."

Perhaps our observance of National Brotherhood Week can be as great an aid to the "tolerant" among us as to the "oppressed". Perhaps it can make all of us aware of where and how we are failing those men and women who suffered so greatly to build this nation.

PERSONALLY, we cannot help but feel that some of those among us who are intolerant actually are kinder than the do-gooders.

The former, at least, throw a challenge, asking that these groups prove themselves "as good as the other man" before acceptance can be theirs. The others in their kindness turn them backwards into a parasitic realm.

The biggest regret we have is Brotherhood "Week". That seems such a short time to practice such a big, big thing.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From The Items That Make Up The Birmingham Of Today.

Old Files Of The Eccentric— The Historical Background Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
Feb. 17, 1905

Twenty-five converts were taken into the Methodist church Sunday.

Hal Schlaack is an honest boy. The other day Mitchell gave the lad a ten-cent piece for a penny in making change. Next day he returned the dime and demanded his penny. And what do you think Mitchell did? He kept right on making mistakes and gave the boy nine pennies, only keeping one for himself, but it was all made right in the end.

Mrs. Pinder Worth has a unique way of entertaining company. She has a pet chicken that answers to the name of "Baby" and on grand occasions "Baby" is brought into the house and asked to sing for the company and promptly responds. She generally receives an encore and to show her appreciation she rolls out another solo in a much higher key, and of much longer duration then the first one.

Walter H. McBride of this village, graduated from the Department of Dental Surgery, Detroit College of Medicine, Feb. 9.

A recently married young man in Royal Oak suggested to his wife that they should argue some questions frankly each morning, over which there was a difference of opinion. The first one tackled was the possibility of a woman being able to dress on $75 a year. He took the affirmative and when last seen was climbing into the hayloft and pulling the ladder up after him.

30 YEARS AGO
February 20, 1925

Results of the local drive for YMCA funds staged by members of the Rotary and Exchange clubs, assisted by several citizens, returned a total of $2,792.75.

John Hanna, local retired citizen, owner of property at the corner of West Maple and Woodward avenue, was engaged Tuesday morning of this week by the village to obtain releases on the West side of South Woodward, from Lincoln avenue North to a point just south of the Federal Petroleum's Gasoline filling station.

Word was received this week that Mr. and Mrs. James A. Berresford (Miss Florence Booth) of Bloomfield Hills, are stopping a few days at Hotel Chatham, New York City, before leaving on their European wedding tour.

Miss Merel Parks, senior at the University of Michigan, has been elected to Delta Sigma Rho, an honorary debating fraternity on the campus.

Three miles of lateral sanitary sewers, estimated to cost about $40,000, and representing the largest single sewer problem ever inaugurated in Birmingham, will be installed this summer, according to a resolution passed by the village commission Monday night.

15 YEARS AGO
FEBRUARY 15, 1940

Mrs. Clinton E. Sears was elected president of the board of directors of the Community House at a meeting of the executive board held Monday evening at the House. She follows Charles J. Shain who served as president last year.

Among the Birmingham students who attended the annual winter carnival last weekend at Dartmouth college were Jean L'Hommedieu, Joan Muzzy, and Carol Beecher.

Martin H. Tumps, supervisor of Troy township, will be opposed by Sam C. Halsey and Harry E. Grant on the Republican ticket when the primaries are held Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wilkinson and their daughter, Patricia, have moved from East Maple road to their new home on Woodland avenue. They expect Mr. Wilkinson's sister, Miss Salita Solamo of Paris, France, in March for a visit.

"A cook book, like the Bible, is filled with directions that are meant to be followed exactly."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Commercial development of the northwest corner of Merrill and Woodward, now devoted primarily to a private parking lot, is expected in the near future, owner E. E. Rothman has advised Birmingham city officials.

Birmingham shoppers apparently have had little difficulty in becoming accustomed to the green-painted, 30-minute parking meters at several high demand locations (alley entrances, street intersections and pedestrian crosswalks).

Both City Manager D. C. Egbert and Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley report "no complaints" have been made to their respective offices.

Success of this experiment may lead to its expansion along the street. City officials have made no secret of their desire to keep traffic from circling downtown business blocks looking for parking places. More quick turnover spaces for the short-term parker, and off-street parking lots for the hour-or-more users is the program.

As city officials have dawn up the latest plan for the Pierce-Merrill-Brown parking lot, users will have to make up theirs minds where they want to park by the time they reach the middle of the row;

Because if they can't find a space in the last half of the row, they will be out on Merrill or Brown before they can try looking in another aisle. The only intra-lot traffic movement will be by the mid-row aisle cross-overs, as plans stand now.

Editor and Publisher, magazine of our Fourth Estate, recently published a tabulation of the questions asked President Eisenhower at his weekly press conferences since the beginning of his term.

E & P found the President had been asked some 2,500 questions, and they ranged into almost every field. The significant thing about this is the readiness of our President to meet the press and answer any questions put forward.

THAT DOES NOT MEAN the President answers every question asked. But if he can and if he does not violate security, he makes an attempt to answer. I can think of no more democratic process actively working anywhere else in the world.

This American custom—which it has become in the last two decades—enables every newspaper with Washington representation (and even some of those without it) to forward questions of their readers to Washington for presentation to the President.

Thus the lowliest citizen can go to the highest citizen in the United States and get an answer to his question through his newspaper.

IN NO OTHER COUNTRY is such a process available to the average citizen. Therefore, in no other country is the relationship between the President and the average citizen so close.

This is a significant and important foundation of democracy as we know it in the United States.

Local Residents Enroll at Academy

Three local residents are among 10 new students enrolled for the spring term at Cranbrook Academy of Art, registrar Wallace Mitchell has announced.

Mrs. Marc T. Patten, West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, will study ceramics with Maija Grotell; Mrs. Robert R. Presnell, 723 Colonial Court, will take courses in sculpture with Glenn Chamberlain; and Mrs. William S. Gilbreath III, 731 Colonial Courts, will major in painting and minor in design.

Want Ads cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

Women Accountants

Etoile E. Conover, 1143 Cole, and Gertrude Hindelandg, 16420 W. Thirteen Mile, Southfield township, will attend the February meeting of the American Society of Women Accountants, Detroit Chapter, Feb. 22, at the Women's City club, Detroit.

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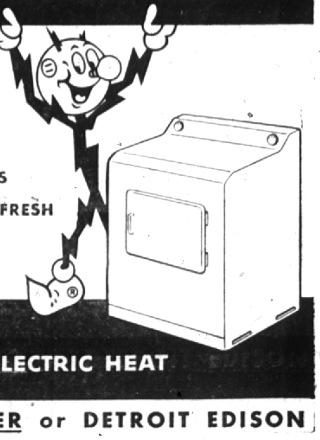
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