

How To Set Better Civil Defense Program Here

For two hours Wednesday evening last week, a few members of the Birmingham city commission and City Manager Donald C. Egbert sat around a table with Homer Higbee, executive assistant to the civil defense director of Michigan, and discussed the problems of setting up adequate measures to meet conditions that might come in the event of war.

Aiding their talk was Rollie Reese, local acting postmaster, who for several years served, without pay, the local community on this problem.

AFTER GOING OVER most of the phases of the subject it was agreed: First, that the entire civil defense procedures, from the federal through the state levels, is far from being a practical reality.

Second, there is too little direction from these levels to the local community phases... to much talk, too much "paper work", and, therefore, not much of realistic value to the average citizen.

Television Needs Improvement

In our eagerness to relax and enjoy entertainment in our home, few of us give much thought to the question what the quality of television shows should be.

Keeping in mind the fact that television shows, just as any other entertainment, must not be aimed above the heads of the masses, we can still hope for some standard of quality.

It seems to be obvious now that the Broadway stage production, and its type of entertainment, is not ideally suited for mass distribution to American towns and cities in all parts of the country.

THERE ARE FEW really sensible plots and portrayals from Hollywood and New York on our television screens.

The producers, writers and directors go

Higbee suggested that Birmingham hire, with adequate compensation, a man whose sole duty is to learn about all the phases of civil defense, develop that leadership which will bring together from existing public agencies the nucleus of a working community organization to be used in case of disaster.

THE CITY COMMISSION, we firmly believe, ought to act on this suggestion... for the money involved is but a fragmentary part of the city's annual expenditures, and the benefits for our whole populace are of inestimable value.

To try to develop and direct a good civil defense program here by using part-time voluntary citizen aid will not work... and Rollie Reese vigorously supported this belief at the meeting.

If you, Mr. and Mrs. Birmingham, want your city to have available a maximum of practical civil defense aids, you can help to get it by letting your city government know about it... and, may we add, the sooner the better!

off the deep end in trying to be super-dramatic, reach a fifth dimension in psychological hokum and just plain weak plots.

There are many fine television programs, and we are glad that educational TV channels are being utilized more and more.

WE ALSO ARE HOPEFUL that someday, somehow, a way will be found to bring the American public factual reports by the Government and by non-partisan groups in Congress, the courts, and so on.

Certainly, the present fare of television programming can and must be improved.

Stupid plots, stupid dialogue, sordid life and fast living are being overworked.

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BOTH ANDREW JACKSON and his senatorial supporter, Senator Thomas H. Benton of Missouri, killed opponents in duels.

The code of honor has now changed for the better, and dueling is now seen for what it is, a lawless breach of the peace.

Dueling Not Gentlemanly

A voice from the past sounded when President Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua challenged President Jose Figueres of Costa Rica to settle the dispute between the two countries by fighting a duel. Dueling, once common in the United States and other countries, disappeared so long ago that a challenge like this seems to carry us back at least a century.

Dueling once was a common practice of those who considered themselves gentlemen. In 17th century France it was once estimated that 6,000 lives had been lost in duels in 10 years.

In our own country duels killed such

eminent men as Burton Gwinnett, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Alexander Hamilton and Commodore Stephen Decatur, great naval hero of the struggle with the Barbary pirates and the War of 1812.

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Keeping Faith With Lincoln



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Throughout the nation, churches, social and service clubs, and communities are observing National Youth Week.

It's not a time when these adult groups sit around and wait about our younger generation going to the dogs, nor yet a time when minds grow weary in discussion of juvenile delinquency.

National Youth Week gives recognition to those things which our young are doing day after day to advance their communities and better themselves and their fellows.

In Birmingham it was not difficult to search out boys and girls who are a credit to the community.

WE DO NOT want to shut our eyes to the fact that there are youngsters in our town who have slipped out of line. Rather, we wish to point up the fact that we cannot and must not let the phrase "juvenile delinquent" become a blanket phrase to cover those handfuls among us who have not yet reached their majority.

Rather than let ourselves be blinded by scare headlines and the sensationalism of magazine articles on the J.D.s, let us look at the other side of the picture.

Let us pay tribute to those boys and girls, young men and women, who are proving to be outstanding citizens and capable leaders of the future.

LOOK AHEAD to you and see for yourself that there are plenty who deserve our adult admiration and respect. Make these young people the leaders of their fellows, instead of constantly waving the banner of those whose characters are undesirable.

The deplorable thing about these juveniles is that some of the "good" deeds are recorded, but every time the smaller group does something it becomes a matter of public record.

Be that as it may, this is the week the country turns its gaze

on the worthy accomplishments and aims of those who will someday inherit the good and the bad of us, today's adults.

THEY ARE a capable lot with strong hearts to hold the reins of the country and clear eyes to guide it into the right paths.

In Birmingham, which is no different than thousands of other communities, these young people are doing some pretty good jobs on some pretty big scales.

The Junior Achievement group is one which is proving itself capable of handling the details of organizing and directing. Each group starts a business, "right from scratch" and it is amazing how fast they shape up their plans and get it on a paying basis.

OUR YOUTH groups carry on a combination social and welfare program as smoothly as any adult group could do.

They are aware of those less fortunate than themselves and go about helping them. They do their share of mission work and their share of building international goodwill.

Because they are young and have not yet grown shells about themselves, they do these things more quietly than adults and often their efforts go unrecognized.

Let's turn the spotlight on them for a change.

Let's not forget those boys and girls who need our help, but let's present the others and give them their just dues. Let's make them the leaders and examples for the others to follow.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Are you one of the "tired"? Really tired? Tired people, I mean.

Reason I ask—so many people today seem to be tired.

This interesting bit of data on what's happening to the other guy has resulted from my recent realization of the position in which people eat.

(These observations of mine are up-to-date, too, most recent of which was only the other day.)

It isn't WHAT they eat. Nor WHERE they eat. Nor WHEN they eat. It's simply HOW they eat.

MANY PEOPLE ARE so tired they have all they can do to keep their arms on the edge of the dining room table—or the baney counter—and hold their fork or spoon steady.

They eat by falling forward with open mouth which closes and removes the food from said eating utensil as the face proceeds past and almost to the table or counter top.

Thereupon, the eater struggles erect again, chews silently for a moment, then

falls forward for another bite. This process goes on, even through the dessert and coffee.

I think this is an extremely serious situation for the American nation to be in.

THIS COUNTRY HAS SO MANY important problems, both foreign and domestic, which must be solved that it can ill afford to have its citizens so tired out that they have to practically force themselves to eat.

There must be some insidious pressure at work which is sapping our energies and forcing us to bow our heads to a pronged piece of metal.

If Congress is in want of a good investigational idea, I'd suggest it bite into this problem.

IT MIGHT EVEN BE connected up to the treacherous, communist menace, if Senator Joe McCarthy could get his teeth into it.

Something should be done as expeditiously as possible, and not on a piecemeal basis, either.

For with each passing day, we appear to be getting weaker and weaker as this problem eats further into the national soul.

We Heard It Said By:

M. E. SNYDER, 1901 Kenwood court: "I don't believe there is any really private parking in Birmingham, Merghants haven't the means to control the use of their parking lots. The merchants don't like to have the cars towed away because many of them belong to customers. But the customers seem to accept the towing if it is a municipal police function on a municipal lot."

SALES

The magnificent
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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

February 3, 1925
"Our old and most highly esteemed friend John Baldwin solemnly avers that he has noticed that it rains almost always here on the coldest weather in the winter time."

"A Sand Hill girl played post-office at a party the other evening. She shrieked and howled, ran behind a door, upset a lamp and when finally kissed on the tip of the ear she fainted, and said she could never look anyone in the face again. Friends led the bashful and sodden creature home, and the next day she eloped with a married lightning rod agent."

"William McCreavy of Royal Oak, at an early hour Saturday morning awoke to find his house in flames. Escape by the stairway was cut off, and Mr. McCreavy, throwing a mattress from a second story window, quickly jumped after it and then caught the two children, aged 3 and 5, as Mrs. McCreavy threw them down. The latter then jumped to the ground in safety. The family had only in their night clothes, and their way to a neighbor's house. The building was totally destroyed. Loss \$5,000."

"In the legislative farmers' club which was organized at Lansing last week, Thad D. Sealey, of this county, was elected secretary, and Representative Harry McCann of Farmington, was appointed a member of the committee on permanent program."

Charlie Frazier now looks after the welfare of the new street lights.

30 YEARS AGO

February 3, 1925
Mrs. Hazel C. Lawler will be a candidate for the village clerk to succeed herself, at the Primary election on March 12. For the past three years, Mrs. Lawler has served the village in the capacity of clerk each time being elected by a large majority.

Probably the highest honor that can be bestowed upon any high school in the state of Michigan, by the state university, was tendered the Birmingham high school last week. Word was received by superintendent Vincent that the high school had been placed on the accredited list of high schools of the university for the next three years. This is the first time this has occurred, the school formerly being accepted for periods of but one or two years.

Mrs. Marjorie Miller White, mother of Opdyke road, prominent in the activities of the Michigan Branch, National Woman's Party, in Washington this week when she will speak to the Judiciary committees of the House and Senate.

15 YEARS AGO

February 1, 1920
In the best all-around high school of the season, Birmingham high school defeated Hazel Park 47 to 41 in a thrilling game played here last night. It was Baldwin's 6th straight win.

A clear Brazilian topaz believed to be the largest fine crystal in the world, has recently been acquired by the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

William M. Storey, postmaster of Bloomfield Hills, was recommended late last week for reappointment by Senator Prentiss Brown. He has been serving in his capacity since July of 1934 and before accepting the position served as village clerk from 1927 to 1932.

An art center is being established by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Easting, 1907 Wallace avenue, Birmingham, just off Main street at 119 East Fourth street in Royal Oak. Tom Easting, an English-American artist, has been in the advertising art field for over 20 years.

Why should I buy an automatic clothes dryer?

An automatic dryer saves tons of lifting, miles of walking, cuts sprinkling time to zero and ironing time in half.

Does it cost much to operate a clothes dryer?

An all-enclosed dryer operates for just pennies a day... saves hours of work.

Why do so many folks that own an electric range also buy an electric dryer?

Personal experience with an electric range has proved to them that the electric way is the cleanest way!

Which electric clothes dryer is the BEST?

See your dealer or stop in at Detroit Edison for comparative data and descriptive literature that will help you make a choice.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

In 1947 a comprehensive engineering survey of Michigan's highway needs showed the sum of \$1,454,000,000 was needed to bring all roads up to modern standards... Gov. Williams and the Legislature want you to start doing the job with a half-billion dollar bond issue they may ask you to vote on in April.

Almost to a man, woman and child, citizens of the United States are loyally supporting the combined attitude of President Eisenhower and Congress toward the CHI-

nese Reds. Very Americans have come to the firm and realistic conclusion that it's time to tell the Chinese Communist leadership, "This far, and no further shall you go!" In the meantime this earth again stands on the threshold of international disaster... and it reminds us of those great words spoken by the late U.S. Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, "There are some conditions much worse than war itself." Indeed, unless the march of Communistic tyranny is stopped now, how long would it be before the barbarians' shackles might be affixed to all free peoples?

The Birmingham Eccentric

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

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The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club

National Advertising Representatives
Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc.
1618 Guardian Bldg.
DETROIT 26, MICH.
220 Broadway
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

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

Meet Your Michigan

ANCIENT BONES: MICHIGAN'S RICHNESS UNDER PENNSYLVANIA IS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S FINE PLACES TO VIEW ROCKS THAT ARE OVER A BILLION YEARS OLD. THEIR REMAINS OF ANIMALS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF CENTRAL CANADA. THE COMPARISON POINT FIGURES STRONG EVIDENCE THAT THE ANIMALS WERE FOUND IN AND AROUND THE CITY OF MARQUETTE.

INTERLOCKING INDUSTRY: ONE MICHIGAN'S LITTLE MANUFACTURER IS THE MANUFACTURE OF PAPER. CANTON AND OTHER LOCALITIES IN EAST MICHIGAN. THE PAPER INDUSTRY HAS MADE MICHIGAN ANNUALLY. THE INDUSTRY DATES BACK TO MICHIGAN'S EARLY LOGGING DAYS.

HOW KEWEENAW WAS NAMED: KEWEENAW IS A VILLAGE ON THE LAKE MICHIGAN RIVER, NEAR SAGINAW BAY. TRANSLATED FROM INDIAN, KEWEENAW MEANS "PICKED UP OR TAKEN UP". ITS SUMMER FISHING IS GOOD AND IT IS A POPULAR CENTER FOR WINTER ICE-FISHING.

DETROIT HARBOR NO. 3 PORT: DIRECT EXIST OUT GARDEN BEANS AND LUMBER TO THIRD PLACE AMONG THE NATION'S PORTS IN 1927. TO EXPLORE POINT FIGURES STRONG EVIDENCE THAT THE ANIMALS WERE FOUND IN AND AROUND THE CITY OF MARQUETTE.

MICHIGAN FEATURE STORIES: SHOWN IN MICHIGAN TOURIST COUNCILS. NO. 34