

We Rededicate Ourselves As We Accept NEA Award

American weekly journalism's highest honor came to The Birmingham Eccentric last week.

It was the National Editorial Association's judgment that The Eccentric was first in 1955 for general excellence among the nation's suburban weeklies, traditionally the pacesetters for the weekly press of America.

This is a much sought-after distinction, among the weekly newspapers, who total more than 10,000 in this country.

THE NEA'S AWARD WAS MADE only after careful consideration of the elements that comprise a newspaper... content, appearance, style, pictures, community service and several other lesser but important aspects.

We at The Eccentric humbly accept this honor which has come to us. But in accepting it, we do so only with the affirmation and dedication to continue our efforts to serve the community.

We pledge anew always to serve the best interests of our loyal readers and our steady advertisers who make possible the success of our publishing enterprise.

THIS HONOR WE HAVE received, we feel, is an explicit tribute to publishing integrity and a high morality of journalistic effort.

To this, too, we rededicate ourselves to our unflinching purpose and energies. All this to the end that we may better serve you and your community.



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

Summer time can be an awful lot of fun—if you're careful. We know none of you boys and girls want to spend the summer getting over injuries or illness, so we're going to ask you to be more than a little careful about a few things.

Remember when you ride your bike that the man or woman in the car coming down the street may not be as careful a driver as you are. Give them plenty of room, don't weave in front of them and be sure you're on your own side of the street.

When you go on a picnic, have a lot of fun, but watch out for those bonfires.

Fires of all kinds seem to have a habit of doing what you least expect. Don't get down on your hands and knees to blow on yours and make it burn better. Use your hands, or a flat object and fan it. Remember, never throw anything into a fire suddenly, so stand well back. This is especially true of you girls who may quite easily have a smock set fire to your skirts and spoil the whole summer for you.

Be especially careful about if your summer is to be happy, and that is water.

It's fun to swim, and if you can't swim, the next best thing is to paddle around in a cool lake in an inner tube. Just don't go into deep water. That tube might spring a leak and let you down into a lot of wet trouble.

When you swim, have someone with you and don't go diving into lakes, rivers and ponds you're not familiar with. A rock or limb or old scrap can mess you up in good shape.

It's just as though everything that's fun has a lot of danger involved. Since this is the case, it's just up to you fellows to use your heads, isn't it?

There's baseball, where bats and balls connect with heads and bodies. Cowboys and Indians and all the modern versions while fun, can trip you up and cause real grief.

Don't play catch in the streets. There are yards and parks for playing but the fellow who drives a car, truck or bus has no other place to go. Be good sports and let him have the street.

Might be just as well if you watched out for dogs, too. That little stray may be as cute as a bug's ear, but that's no sign it's a friendly pooch. Leave it alone to go its merry way and perhaps save yourself a painful dog bite.

Now, we assure you think we're just sounding off on these things, maybe even we're trying to spoil your summer, you just check with mom and dad. They'll agree with us and maybe even add a few things we've skipped.

Don't be discouraged. You can find plenty to do this summer, not that school is out, that will be fun. You can use a little common sense while you're playing.

You'll find we're enough, mosquitoes and the usual number of bruises every healthy boy and girl gets.

So keep it hot. The summer is yours. Your time for fun and frolic, for exciting adventures and for new ideas. These are fun to watch out for bear traps while you play. Then, when summer is over, you'll be glad you've enjoyed every minute of it, without any grief at all.

Acoustics in Birmingham's city commission room are not the best that could be had.

And sometimes, commissioners themselves have a difficult time hearing their colleagues 10 feet away.

At a recent meeting, Commissioner Florence Willett, elected only three months ago, leaned forward, tried to hear a discussion between two commissioners across from her.

Commissioner William Roberts, seeing Mrs. Willett's inability to understand what was being said, turned and explained.

"You'll find we sometimes have two meetings going on—one for that side of the room, and one for this side."

Dan Gerber, chairman of the Michigan Economic Development Commission, recently appealed for a 52-week carry-over of the second annual Michigan Week which was observed May 15-21.

"It's not Michigan Week that counts—it's the momentum," Gerber said.

What Gerber wants, I think, is to make Michigan as widely known as his baby foods.

Last week General Motors announced it has designed and is building a lightweight, low-cost passenger train representing a "new concept" in railroad transportation.

Diesel-powered, 10 cars long, it incorporates many features of GM's latest in buses, the intercity highway coach. This train is capable of a speed of over 100 mph for sustained stretches.

This probably will put new life in those countryside auto-train races, which the iron horse has been steadily losing to increased automotive horsepower.

Fellow columnist Mark Beltaire has been relating the plight of metropolitanites who have had a difficult time

trying to purchase an American flag. No one seems to know where they are sold.

My problem—solved only recently—was to locate a flagpole bracket which I could fasten to the front of the house. Then I looked for a short flag staff—about six feet long. None available, so I had to fashion one of my own.

Now the Stars and Stripes is flown at my house—but I had to do considerable young to accomplish it. But it has been worth it. Each holiday a few young son and daughter are the envy of the neighborhood where a flag is flying.

That is a distinction I hope we can give up come July 4th.

Now that I am up to July 4th already, I think of another question:

What has happened to the old-fashioned Fourth of July? With its family gatherings, its picnics, greased pigs, ball games, and fireworks?

Quarion Lake, it seems to me, might be a nice spot to hold an at-dusk fireworks display, should some service organization feel it a worthwhile project.

The public could gather along the eastern shore, watch the display across the water on the western bank.

A local reader suggests we campaign to get the women in shorts off Birmingham streets.

Well, we can't very well do that until we ourselves decide the long or short of it.

Certain Detroiters have banded together to promote the installation of garbage disposals in all homes. The group calls itself, "The Detroit Committee for a Garbage-Free City."

We're all for this free stuff, too. Like free garbage grinders.

Stupid, Stupid Republicans

Republican leaders claim they are looking for issues and personalities that will restore them to power in Michigan. They will do well to review, among other subjects, the acts and records of a few of their Legislators in Lansing.

The stupid, often entirely selfish performances of men like State Senator Haskell Nichols, of Jackson, are what disgust thousands of Republican voters through-

out Michigan.

MEN LIKE NICHOLS are the type of politician who play along with their own district's voters... and "the rest of the State take the hindmost."

Until men like Nichols are supplanted by better Republicans, the Party can expect to lose both friends and financial support.

When Government Is A Legalized Bandit

Local, state and federal governments in the fiscal year 1954 cost American taxpayer citizens \$103,247,000,000. The federal boys and girls taxed you for \$71,547,000,000; state governments took \$14,700,000,000; and local governments obtained \$17,000,000,000.

It averages \$652.20 for every man, woman and child in the nation. Over and beyond what these agencies honestly needed, that amount of money taken from

you was done via legalized banditry.

IF A BANDIT holds you up and takes \$100 from you, the police will try to capture him and send him to jail. But if a unit of government taxes you \$100 more than it basically and honestly is required to, then it is legal.

Actually, so far as your \$100 is concerned, what is the difference?

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

College training provides obvious inspiration, we've observed. It's amazing how many different ways students can devise for asking their parents for more money.

Experts are quick to tell us that it's the little things that count. And then they urge us to use our heads!

Moscow claims that a peasant in Kindigt is 147 years old. Actually he is probably only about 30. In the Soviet you don't live longer; it just seems longer.

The wise miss knows that brains should go with beauty. But she also is aware that most young men can see better than they can think!

Wherever government operates a public service, the cost of it nearly always is greater than though it were conducted by

private, competitive business. This especially is true on large waterpower electric-generating plants. To be sure, those who buy such power cheap do so at the expense of the general tax-paying public. TVA is a note-worthy example of this; its costs are not honestly exposed.

One chief reason, it is reported, why some cigarette lighters won't work is because they would rather lounge about, away from the job.

Given a chance to do something fine, millions of people will respond. Recently in San Diego, Cal., a blind German shepherd dog, the kind used for Seeing Eyes, was placed in the dog pound, to be done away with in a few days. Newspapers carried the story, and thousands offered to take the canine. Indeed, normal human nature is generous, loving.

The "Ordinary" Americans

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GOOD PEOPLE—
HARDWORKING PEOPLE—
PEOPLE LIKE
YOUR MAIL CARRIER

IT'S 7 A.M.—
THE POSTMAN
SPENDS THREE
HOURS EVERY
MORNING SORTING
MAIL IN THE POST
OFFICE, BEFORE HE
"GOES TO WORK"
ON THE ROUTE

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LOVED ONES—YOUR
CARRIER REALLY KNOWS
YOU! AND HE THRILLS
TO BRING THAT
GOOD LETTER!

THIS
IS YOUR HOME—
A SLOT WITH
YOUR ADDRESS—
(NEXT TO IT'S
YOUR NEIGHBOR'S)
ONCE SORTED,
THE MAIL CAN BE
BUNDLED IN
PROPER ORDER
FOR DELIVERY.

REG-MANNING

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
June 23, 1905

"The finest doctor in the city of Pontiac can now be found at the residence of Dr. Neff. He is only a few days old and weighs 10 pounds, and Grandma and Grandpa Bueger of this place are correspondingly happy. Uncle Mort and Aunt Bessie side right in with grandma and grandpa."

"The 26th annual commencement of The Birmingham high school took place at Library hall Tuesday evening and the following class received diplomas from the hands of Prof. A. E. Bell, Hazel M. Carter, Lucille Hunt, Betta M. McHugh, Clarence J. West, Ida J. Hanna, Maude McDonald, Grace A. Purdy and Mamie E. Wilson."

"A pretty little brown wedding came off at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Randall on Brown street Wednesday afternoon at which time Miss Nellie A. Randall of our village and Mr. William Nichols, of Greely, Colo., were united in matrimony by Rev. Montrose Maxwell."

The Birmingham Eccentric

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GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager
GEORGE W. AVERILL
Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BUEGE
Advertising Manager

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30 YEARS AGO
June 19, 1925

Mrs. May Hall James, well known here for her lived for many years, has distinguished herself in University and literary circles in receiving her doctorate in Philosophy degree at Brown University this month after a two years' study, and being awarded the name of writing the first thesis ever received at Brown University.

A new movement in the colony that has attracted wide attention this week is the organization of the Alpha Delta chapter of the society last Monday. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Norman Lytle in Yorkshire road.

The A. T. Klewys were hosts at a beautifully appointed six o'clock dinner and house dance at their home on Riverbank avenue last Tuesday evening for the pleasure of Mr. and Mrs. A. Bement, Miss Hazel Walsh and Hermen Lovewearl, who were visiting them.

15 YEARS AGO
June 20, 1910

Eliel Sorenson, head of Cranbrook Academy of Art, will be awarded an honorary doctor's degree by Harvard University at commencement there tonight.

Mrs. Ralph Correll was elected president of the Rotary Annex at a meeting Monday.

Mrs. Irwin P. Straus and her children arrived Sunday from their home in New York to visit Mrs. Straus' mother, Mrs. Solomon E. Heineman, in Bloomfield Hills.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Diederich, of San Jose drive, gave a picnic supper honoring their father, Fred Gosselin, and John Diederich, on Sunday. Fourteen members of the families attended.

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