

Eccentric Awarded Citation For Recording Local History

Just recently, The Eccentric received a Certificate of Citation from the Historical Society of Michigan for this newspaper's efforts to bring to current light much of the past history of Birmingham and vicinity.

Realizing that the past always should be available to the present, all historical societies endeavor to encourage others to record the stories of people and events, and to make past history a living thing to each generation of human beings.

PUBLICATION OF THE 75th Anniversary

Visit Cranbrook Planetarium, Learn About Heavens

Michigan's first public planetarium has just been dedicated at nearby Cranbrook Institute of Science. This important facility will be made available, as time goes on, to scores of thousands of men and women of every age.

It has been named for Robert R. McMath, a distinguished Michigan solar astronomer, who has given many years to research of the heavens in an observatory at Lake Angelus, in Oakland County.

The new planetarium was made possible, in part, by contributions from the public—the first such publicly supported

Michigan Awaits Its New Auto Controls

Among items included in Governor Williams' call to convene the State Legislature into special session Nov. 1 is that of trying to cut down on traffic accidents and fatalities. There isn't a single public problem with any greater challenge than this one, in our opinion.

Secretary of State James M. Hare, after a number of meetings with other officials and private citizens to discuss the problem, has made several good suggestions for consideration by the Legislature, it seems to us.

Perhaps most important of these items is a stricter licensing procedure for all drivers, so that those who are physically handicapped for safe driving may be eliminated from our highways. This feature alone, experts declare, would save countless lives and limbs from dangerous harm.

ANOTHER ITEM is the centralization of records of all traffic violations in the Secretary's Lansing office, so that too-frequent repeating offenders can be disciplined, even resulting in the suspension or loss of their drivers' licenses.

Driver training courses in high schools also seems to us to be a practical aid to safer traffic control. Hare's plan suggests

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

President Eisenhower's heart condition has moved most Americans, regardless of political party, to pray and hope for his quick and complete recovery. That certainly shows that the "heart of America is non-partisan" . . . proving its heart is far ahead of its head!

Every traffic sign, if it could shout, would say: "Read me and comply with my request. I am here to safeguard your life

and your property. And 99 and 94/100 per cent of all law enforcement machinery is created to help you use motor cars in safety. I am your friend . . . never your enemy."

Perhaps it would be better if some of us who are inclined to boast about ourselves had a desk drawer for such information labeled: "TOP SECRET".

Project ever installed at Cranbrook.

THIS PLANETARIUM OFFERS wonderful opportunities for lay folks to learn something about the vastness of the universe in which their own comparatively little world is but a mere speck.

It is so constructed that it can duplicate the stars and planets as they are at this season and year; they can be shown as they were centuries ago, or be projected into future generations.

So, Dear Reader, why not treat yourself to this wonderful celestial trip . . . without charge, too.

That the state grant high schools \$25 for each student, estimated in Michigan to cost a million and a half dollars per year.

Personally, we feel that the cost ought to be borne locally, with no dependence upon the state for this.

Would not this local financing cause school officials and parents to be more concerned with the success of such a program, than though the cost were paid by far-removed governmental agencies?

BOTH HARE AND THE GOVERNOR agree that the state police force needs to be strengthened with at least 200 more men. In this we concur heartily. The presence of more officers on our highways will cause more motorists to be more careful.

The above suggestions are, we understand, being looked upon with favor by the Republican-controlled legislature. There are some other ideas being advanced by the Governor, among them limiting the speed, which are yet to be resolved.

It is to be hoped that both the legislature and the administration will be able to obtain from this special session those new statutes that will help to reduce traffic hazards in this State.

Michigan citizens await the desired good results.

THE SCHOOLS, she felt, had not welcomed her children warmly enough. They had just become a part of a grade and a class. There were no parties given to make them acquainted, no fuss made over them.

The churches had been about the same. Casually, they had drifted from church to church, not making themselves known, and yet were offended that ministers and members had not called on them.

Stores were "too classified" (a complaint some old timers have, too). The lady of the house wanted a place where she could shop for furniture, clothing, hardware—just about everything but food, with only one stop.

THE CLUBS in town had not made it easy to contact her, to ascertain whether or not she had held membership in related units in her eastern home.

We remembered that, not so long ago, we had come to this community from an eastern town. We remembered that we'd found our immediate neighbors friendly and our business contacts most cordial and helpful.

THE WEEKS dragged on and just a few days ago, we met the lady on the street, asking how things were going.

Her husband, she informed us, had taken a new job. The firm that had brought him here had been his only employment since leaving college in 1932. Now he had quit and had taken a job that was not nearly so near the top rung.

We naturally wondered why, but he hesitated to pry into the private affairs of a family which, after all, was not on the "close friend" basis.

IT CAME OUT, however. She simply did not want her children to move to a community where the schools might not be as good as the ones they attended here. The church they had joined was such a wonderful group, all so friendly and with such a marvelous pastor to lead them.

She enjoyed shopping here where the stores are small and she doesn't have to battle the crowds. She's joined a couple of new clubs and is enjoying them a great deal.

Birmingham had, once more, exercised that peculiar charm it seems to use to blanket so many of these Newcomers.

Competition



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

A few months back a Newcomers announcement revealed the fact that an acquaintance of ours from an eastern city had moved to Birmingham. We gave her time enough to get the dishes unpacked and then made a call.

For a while we quite naturally chatted about mutual friends, in our former home town, how it had changed in the past few years, family changes and the like.

Then came the question: How do you like Birmingham?

Rather taken back, we were informed that the lady had no use for the place. She didn't like the schools, the stores, the churches, the clubs, the streets in fact as we sifted the conversational flow there was little we could find that she did like.

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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
October 29, 1903
George Bingham of Franklin, while leveling down a hill on Ann street, successfully defended his title of district open golf champion last week at the new Pepper Pike golf course in Cleveland, when he completed the 36 holes with a score of 149. He made 77 in the morning and 72 in the afternoon.

Besides electing new officers for the coming six month period the name of the Noonday club was changed to the Business Girls' club as it was originally known, at the semi-annual meeting last Thursday evening.

To the honor of her son, Fred Wheldon, and his bride, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wheldon, formerly of Birmingham and well known to its social register, received from 5 to 7 Tuesday at the Bloomfield County club.

30 YEARS AGO
October 16, 1925
Bob Shaver, a prople for Wind-fred Louise Watkins, attractive young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Penton J. Watkins, of Ridgegate avenue, until she went away to school. It all started the day she arrived in Fredericksburg, Va., late in September, to start her college career at Mary Washington, and came here to face suit. Wind-fred Lucille Watkins of Richmond, Va.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Some school systems in this area apparently are well on the road to impoverishment.

Like the elementary school to the south of us where the kindergarten teacher REQUIRES each toddler to arrive the first day of school with a full box of disposable tissues.

Got to take care of any runny noses, and from the individual child's box, you see.

Guess I'll have to run down and see how she stores all these boxes. For handy use, of course, when Johnny's drip needs attention.

Wouldn't do, I suppose, to get Johnny's tissues mixed up with Susie's? Or does she?

AND WHAT ABOUT the end of the year when Jimmie, say, didn't have a cold all school year? Does he get his unopened box of tissues back?

Or do they become school board property because of "storage charges" which have accumulated?

Perhaps it's just too much of a financial burden for that school district to have included in its operating budget that year sufficient tissues for kindergartners' runny noses.

Pretty soon it could result in these kids having to bring their own chalk, their own hand soap, their own chairs and desks, and help chip in for light bulbs, floor wax and fuel oil.

PROBABLY WOULD DEPEND on just how impoverished the school system gets on its meager school district taxpayers' annual allowance.

Do you suppose I've uncovered an educational "trend" in this instance—or is it just the silly requirement of a cold-conscious teacher or two?

B'ham Fire Chief Park Smith recently became entangled in the city's dog ordinance.

His dog was discovered several doors away by the city dog warden. The warden "told" the dog to go home, followed, and handed out a violations ticket.

(The ordinance requires dogs off their own premises to be under "reasonable control".)

But being a good fireman, he didn't get burned up about it—like many other citizens who smart at the \$6.30 minimum fine.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley is considering removal of parking from the north side of Merrill, between Chester and Southfield.

Baldwin elementary school playground comes up to the sidewalk at that point, and sometimes children have darted out from between parked cars.

Moxley believes it may be best to give drivers an unobstructed view between playground and curb—just in case.

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