

Let's Make It Eight in a Row!

Will we make it eight straight in '56? The Birmingham Eccentric is confident the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area still will be batting 1,000 per cent on Nov. 6 when the Torch Drive quotas are compared with campaign results.

After all, this community has come through with a perfect result every year since the Torch Drive plan was first undertaken in 1949. That all should add up to finer skills and performance in the effort which began in the Detroit metropolitan area last week.

Frantically Reaching for Political Issues

You have read and listened to many political speeches these past weeks. You may be for Ike or you may be for Adlai. . . . you pay your money and you take your choice."

Adlai, it seems to us, is almost frantically reaching (along with Estes) for issues to argue about.

IF YOU ANALYZE EVERYTHING he says, you'll find him for less taxes and more public services; more personal freedom.

Old-Time Yankee Clung to Tested Ideas

It's not difficult to detect a real Yankee. He is a man of few words, but deep convictions. He believes in hard work and hard cash; and doesn't run away from life when the going gets rough.

The Yankee started in New England. "The strength of the hills was his ally." Unfortunately, these rare characteristics are almost as extinct as the passenger pigeon. The Civil War, the lure of the West and Southwest, thinned out New England of a type we cannot afford to lose.

MANY OF THESE MEN, after the War, went to Missouri, California, Kansas and Texas. "Westward, the course of empire took its way." Occasionally, one comes

back East and is as easily recognized as those who come from the mountains of Vermont or New Hampshire.

As the Yankees got scattered and city-bred, they made good citizens, but lost some of their old-time shrewdness. A lot of folks will now buy "wooden nutmegs" from any demagog with a silver tongue.

Not so the real old-time Yankee. Ask him: "Have you lived here all your life?" And he replies: "Not yet!"

GENERALLY, THIS TYPE of Yankee is rooted deeply in those few, but necessary, fundamental principles that are dependable guide-posts to the good and economically secure life that breathes the oxygen of freedom!

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Our Nation Holds No Guarantee of Security

If and when the economy of the United States suffers a set-back, and money becomes a mighty hard item to get, and if the federal budget remains so high that it will be impossible for tens of millions to pay income taxes—then, Mr. and Mrs. U.S.A., watch for an open rebellion against the increasing hunger of the tax collector.

Or, perhaps, we should say against elected public officials in the legislative and executive branches of federal government.

UNDER THE PROMISES of a newly-

to-be inaugurated Socialist-Labor government, the lower income bracket taxes will decline, taxes on corporations and higher incomes will increase, the public debt will get bigger and bigger through borrowing. . . . and, for a while, the majority of U.S. voters will think themselves on another road to prosperity. Then will come the Grand Crash!

So it has been in past generations in other countries. So it will be in this newest of large nations. Human nature, in the mass, changes imperceptibly in a thousand years.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Under the mayorship of Al Cobo, Detroit has made more physical progress in a few years than under any of his predecessors. If Al is elected Governor, it is our firm belief that his energies will result in very much improvement of physical phases of state government. Gov. Williams is a pleasing personality; Cobo is a working person.

So Uncle Sam is going to continue giving Yugoslavia's Tito more billions! The pattern in foreign aid created by Messrs. FDR and HST appear to have a staunch supporter in DDE.

Those mid-October days were wonderful Indian Summer ones . . . and we ought to thank the American Indians for them.

For, it is not true, that generations before the white man separated this continent's ownership from the Red Man, Indian tribes had arranged with the Great Spirit to provide such nice autumn days?

Congressman George A. Dondero, of Royal Oak, who this year is retiring after serving his district for 24 years in Congress, recently was honored by former pupils at a party in nearby Big Beaver. George had taught these pupils 50 years ago. His first wages were \$45 per month. That party must have warmed the heart of our neighbor, who deserved it, too.

It was a smart chap who said that some people have three kinds of trouble: all they have had, what they now have, and all they expect to have.

Friend of Yours?



NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for the Birmingham Eccentric

Composites Rule Autumn Scene

Now in the haze of Indian summer our wild flowers take their last stand. By far the largest number of these belong to a single family, the Compositae.

Although it is at this season that they reach the height of their abundance and diversity their blooming spans the season from the first passy-idea of early spring to the last asters of autumn. All together they are the most highly specialized of the Dicots and comprise our largest group of flowering plants. Their various species are estimated at 13,000-20,000 are scattered all over the world.

THE FLOWER of a composite is a key to its family name. One has only to examine a common dandelion with a hand lens to see that what is usually considered a separate flower is a compact head of many florets. Each of these develops its own seed with an attached parachute. The advantages of such an arrangement over that of solitary flower or even a cluster of flowers is obvious. Consider a Mrs. Frehse goldenrod. Each of its several branches may be tipped with five or six plumes of flowers. These in turn will be separated into many small divisions each made up of a single flower head. So if you use your lens and try to count the individual florets of each head, if your arithmetic is good you will arrive at a staggering number of seeds, each a potential plant. Allow for a wide margin of those which will not find favorable living space and you will still be forced to consider the theory of some

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Back in the "good, old days" if you were a board of education member, all you'd need bother yourself about was proper discipline of students, what textbooks would be used, that necessary bills were paid, and which group's square dance would get schoolhouse facilities next Saturday night.

But today's times have added quite a few more items to a school board's meeting agenda, most of them centered around problems resulting from population growth.

To meet one of these problems, aspiring future school board members should take an educational course in color psychology. That is, learn what colors go best with what other colors, to the end that modern classrooms by the paint on the walls and ceilings get better grades, better deportment from students.

THE OTHER WEEK the Birmingham board of education had to wrestle with this knotty situation. Two knots were untied, but one still remains.

The board has decided that Derby junior high school's new swimming pool will have an arch of blue with a white strip thru it. And at the new future elementary school at Greenfield and 13 Mile, east and west walls will be painted in shades of green, while warm yellows and browns will be used on north walls, south walls.

But when it came to black tile for the floor of the senior high school's new pool—ugh! No thank you! It would absorb too much light (and use up too much electricity). Send this back to the architect for a new color suggestion!

You can see that a board member's life is not always rosy, that quite often you've got to sing of the blues.

A gentleman is a man who makes it easy for a woman to be a lady.

For better than 10 years now, I've been sitting in to report the regular and special meetings of Birmingham's city commission.

And for deportment and conduct, I'd give all these commissions a triple-A rating. I can't even recall one incident where voices were raised or tempers were evidenced.

I must admit such tendencies two or three times came toward the surface in individual members of the audience. But not from the commission.

IT SORT OF MAKES a reporter hanker for an assignment to Lathrup Village, Hazel Park, Madison Heights or some downriver area where commission-meeting "explosions" occur with regularity.

That makes for good newspaper headlines. But it doesn't do the communities any good.

Birmingham has had its share of these tempestuous meetings—as The Eccentric's files will illustrate. But apparently a couple of decades ago, this city matured and stabilized its municipal emotions.

This is not to say, however, that things couldn't tear loose tomorrow. But odds are overwhelming that it'll continue to be quiet enough to hear a municipal thought drop.

old, chrysanthemum and ragwort. The ragweed family (Ambrosiaceae) contains less than a hundred species but many are noxious instigators of hay fever. In addition to the ragweed tribe, here included are the cockleburrs and marsh elders.

The cheery family (Chicoriaceae) is the only group of composites which is economically important. In addition to chicory it includes dandelion, salify, lettuce and endive.

AND WE should all be the poorer without such old garden favorites as aster, zinnia, marigold, dahlia and chrysanthemum. But to one who is much affixed the greatest contribution of the composites lies in the beauty they lend to the landscape during every day of our blooming season from passy-toes to asters.

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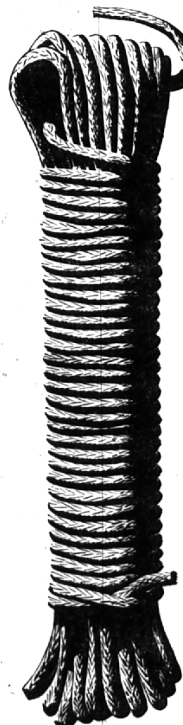
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SEE YOUR DEALER OR DETROIT EDISON

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1109

GEORGE E. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager
GEORGE W. AVERILL
Managing Editor
GERALD E. JEHLE
Advertising Manager

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

National Advertising Representatives:
Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc.
1728 Guardian Bldg.
DETROIT 26, MICH.
404 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

Ticklers By George



"OK, wise guy, how DO you spell it?"

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 26, 1906
Washington—Fining of employees as a means of enforcing discipline in the postal service, a system that has been in operation for many years, is to be abolished. The practice of subjecting 250,000 or more employees to the liability of being fined for making errors in handling mail or for misconduct is believed by the first assistant postmaster general to be a type of punishment rightly termed humiliating and degrading.

Pierce street is destined to become the dwelling street of Birmingham, being one block off Woodward; of course at the south end the block length is good and plenty but this has nothing to do with the new houses. The large range looking house of B. F. Stiff, first of the first upon going south, and is a beautiful eight room house. It is the third house here of cement in the altogether and a grand imposing structure it is. A little father down the line is the beautiful new home just finished for the S. J. Curnow family. Finished off in Southern pine and oak, the large living rooms just glow with comfort and rest.

The National Hotel advertised plenty of good rooms for the traveling public. Good tables for all. Fine pool and billiard tables. Everything orderly and first-class. Satisfaction guaranteed.

39 YEARS AGO
October 21, 1917
High school girls' basketball games will be held in the afternoon this year, and only women and girls will be admitted to them. It is decided at the School Board meeting Monday evening. The State Athletic Board, while it does not insist upon these changes, strongly advises them because it has found that girls who play basketball seriously in school are, in general, nervous wrecks when they are through school.

Two Bloomfield township women, Mrs. Lee A. White of Brook-

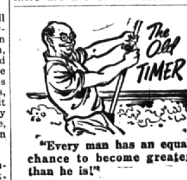
side drive and Mrs. George G. Booth of Cranbrook will help plan affairs for Her Royal Highness, Queen Marie of Romania, who visits Michigan next month.

Work has been halted temporarily on the new Birmingham theater, Woodward avenue south of Maple avenue, for the revision of plans to conform with a Woodward avenue 150 foot wide. The announcement of the 150 foot pavement of Woodward avenue through Birmingham necessitated the change in the plans of the builders and a delay in the opening of the theater practically two months.

13 YEARS AGO
October 23, 1941
A drive throughout Michigan to enlist for America's new two-ocean Navy is being started this week, employing a new procedure in the Navy's history. The Eccentric and many other newspapers throughout Michigan are printing advertisements paid by the government. The idea was tried in three other States and found highly successful, for the display advertising was read by thousands of young men who could not otherwise have been reached.

From a reader: "One of your advertisers was a 'farm lad' coat? Would a cold lady's coat do?"

In Oakland county, for every 10 marriage licenses granted, there are five divorce suits filed.



"Every man has an equal chance to become greater than he is!"