

Correct Supervisors' Methods

Awakening of the citizens of Oakland County to the antique, unpublicized, too secret manner in which the Oakland county board of supervisors operates is good for the future of self-government.

Oakland County is BIG BUSINESS. What its supervisors do is of utmost importance to all taxpayers and voters.

This especially is true for those supervisors who are appointed by incorporated cities... too many of whom have failed to report to their communities about the supervisors' proceedings and procedures. Partly at fault, of course, are the cities

themselves who, it appears, have made too little demand for such reports.

WE CONFIDENTLY EXPECT that, once aroused, the good civic forces of Oakland county (and this includes the best thinking among the supervisors themselves) will see that practical and protective remedies are applied to the situation.

In bringing the current conditions of the board of supervisors to light, the Detroit Free Press has rendered a signal journalistic service, too.

This Is National Newspaper Week

This is National Newspaper Week, and if we tend to boast a little just now perhaps we may be indulged. For the newspaper, which regularly devotes itself to bringing news and the interpretation of news to your homes, has a message of its own. We believe that message worthy of some attention.

The American newspaper occupies a unique place in the world. Its freedom to print is guaranteed by the Constitution. It has been considered from the beginnings of the Republic and from even before that—an essential instrument in the lives of the American people.

ITS BASIC PURPOSE has been, and always will be, the same: To tell the happenings of the day. Here the function is of particular importance in regard to the happenings of government, which is but an instrument of the people's will.

Its next and almost inseparable function is to try to place the facts concerning these happenings in perspective—to give them meaning in the light of other events, past and present.

It has other important purposes—to serve as a medium for advertising, to entertain and amuse, to serve as a public forum.

You may, and undoubtedly do, on occasion become disappointed with your newspaper or even become angry with it. Yet it is an indispensable item for intelligent living, and in more cases than is generally realized it is the most constructive and

most educational item in a family's existence.

WHERE NEWSPAPERS ARE FREE from government restriction, as they are in the United States, you are free to select the reading matter of your choice. You are privileged to have a voice of protest. You are favored by having news of importance about you, personally, collected, verified and presented in readable and understandable form delivered to your home every day.

The modern newspaper is a swift and an accurate purveyor of important factual data and a medium of considered, moderate and enlightened opinion.

The newspapers of America set aside this week, therefore, to call attention to the services they perform. But more than that they set it aside to remind themselves and their readers of the obligation they owe the American public.

IT IS THEIR CONSTANT HOPE that the reading public will continue to trust the integrity of their services. It is their constant effort to maintain the standards which have made this nation, more than all others, a nation of newspaper readers.

National Newspaper Week, therefore, is not an occasion for self-praise by newspapers nearly so much as it is an occasion for self-appraisal. It is a time for newspapers over the land to rededicate themselves to the trust placed in them by the vast intelligent, progressive and enlightened American public.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Arkansas' Gov. Faubus certainly fumbled that school integration situation. How he ever expected to oppose, successfully, the armed might of the federal government is beyond us. Certainly the Supreme Court's decision has unleashed some human forces and emotions of resistance that are reminiscent of the domestic unrest that ushered in the War Between The States almost a century ago. Indeed, history is being made these days in the United States of America!

Somehow, we feel very happy about the Milwaukee Braves baseball team winning

the National League pennant. Also, we will not feel unhappy if they are able to defeat the Yankees for the World Championship. It's about time that some team whose state borders the Great Lakes (now that the St. Lawrence Seaway is soon to be completed) showed up those New Yorkers!

Attendance at Michigan's 59 state parks and recreation areas is headed for an all-time record this year. Last year 15,710,000 people used these areas, proving that Michigan's out-of-doors is a great attraction.

FOR THE BIRMINGHAM AREA'S BETTERMENT, THE ECCENTRIC URGES:

- Complete the Landscaping of B'ham's Civic Center Park
- Lowest Possible Tax Rate Consistent with Municipal and School Needs
- Improvement of Birmingham's Parks and Recreation Facilities
- More Streets Permanently Improved
- Make 14 Mile and 16 Mile Roads Improved Trunkline Arteries
- Continuation of Best Possible Types of Area's Subdivision Growth
- Construct Big Evergreen Interceptor Sewage Outlet for Entire Area
- Development of Necessary Offstreet Parking to Accommodate Shopping Public

The Birmingham Eccentric

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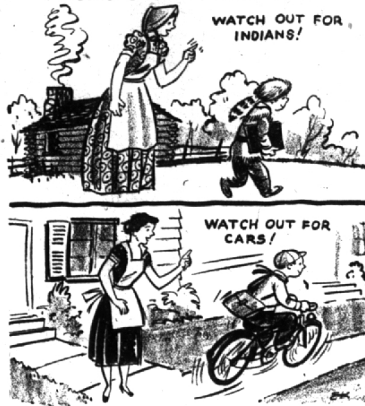
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INLAND WATERWAY OPEN FOR CENTURIES INDIANS FOLDING CANOES TRAVELLED MICHIGAN INLAND WATER ROUTE FROM CONNOR NEAR LAKE MICHIGAN TO CHEBOYGAN ON LAKE HURON ABANDONED FOR MOST 50 YEARS, THE 40-MILE WATERWAY HAS BEEN CLEARED AND THE ROUTE IS NOW OPEN TO 20TH CENTURY BOATERS.

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Mother's Worries Never End



NATURE NOW

BY LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Birds of British Isles and Europe

In Kew Gardens we had our best opportunity to see and hear the birds of England. Situated on the east bank of the Thames just outside London, it is the largest botanical garden in the world with some five million specimens representing plant families from every known habitat.

Such a setting makes a perfect bird-avenue and it was here late on a day in June that we heard the nightingale sing. He is a solitary bird, somewhat resembling our robin, his cousin in the thrush family.

THE MALE is almost six inches long with russet-brown upper parts, white breast and reddish rump and tail. The song too is thrush-like in quality rising to a brilliant crescendo. It is well worthy of the fame it enjoys.

The chaffinch is the commonest of the European finches—so named because he likes to eat chaff or grain. He is a friendly, bird who took little notice of us as he chattered around on the ground under a hazel bush searching for insects and worms which are also a part of his diet.

ON THE TOP of the hill is the tiny village of Kewham with its old church and inn. Here feeding on the nectar in a bed of veronica was the tiniest of humming birds. It was colored a rich buff and sported the smallest of fan-tails spotted with black. Although the whole bird was not more than an inch long we could not mistake it because of its characteristic backward and forward flight as it repeatedly thrust its long bill into the funnel-shaped flower nectaries.

WE HAVE SEARCHED the bird books but for the present this one remains on our list of "unknowns."

The starling and the English sparrow are everywhere, equally at home in town or country. The English robin is widespread on the continent as well as in England.

We found him especially abundant in mixed woods bordering the canals at The Hague. A member of the thrush family but a smaller species than our own, he measures only 5 1/2 inches. We saw him as a plump necked bird with a bright orange face and breast.

MUTE SWANS a conspicuous feature of the lakes and moats of old country castles in England and the continent.

Storks in Denmark, magpies along the country lanes in France, black and white wag-tails along Loch Lomond, pigeons drinking in the fountains of Rome, sparrows seed-hunting among fallen temples on the Acropolis these are bird-memories of a happy summer.

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.

30 YEARS AGO
October 4, 1907

"The touch that heals is the touch of Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It's the happiest combination of Arnica flowers and healing balms ever compounded. No matter how old the sore or ulcer in this salve will cure it. For burns, scalds, cuts, wounds or piles it's an absolute cure."

"Enrollment in the high school 108, fifty per cent non-residents."

"Five acres and four good buildings making a nice little home near the little village of Southfield. Stores, church school, etc. within 200 rods. The price is \$1,000."

"There will be a shadow sales in John Donaldson's new barn, Friday evening, Oct. 4. Conveyances will be at the post office at 7:30 local time."

30 YEARS AGO
October 6, 1927

"Gasoline is selling at 19.8 cents a gallon today in Birmingham despite the general reduction in Detroit."

"The other day a funny thing occurred in court. A colored youth was being questioned relative to the cuts and slashes that adorned his countenance. He admitted that he had been in a fight, but the only identification he would give of his opponent was 'jes a friend o' mine, Suh.'"

Mrs. Catherine Wellers, an English woman, has started a cam-

paign against ministers who wiggle around in their pulpits while preaching."

15 YEARS AGO
October 1, 1922

"The Governor says the schools ought to start later so that the children may avoid walking in darkness—and that has already been done in Birmingham. Some of the professional men don't like it too well because they formerly were able to take the kids to school on their way to work."

"The honey crop was not very good this year on account of the plenitude of rain. Bees don't fly around with umbrellas."

"The Eccentric is preparing for the rigors of war. We have purchased a bicycle."

"One hardware store sold 40 replacement baskets last Saturday. The baskets are designed to burn coal—so you can guess why the rush has developed."



"The views expressed by husbands are not necessarily those of the management!"

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

The late Harry Allen was a quiet man. He was a logical man. He was a native of Birmingham, and his and his wife's parents were early area settlers.

This combination of circumstances may have resulted in his decision to run for public office.

He apparently saw in the late '20's a potential threat to the quiet character of his home town. Quite a few new people had moved into the village, and perhaps they began to express thoughts that conflicted with the oldtimers' desires for country living.

An insight into Mr. Allen's nature is contained in his pre-election statement published in the Feb. 28, 1929, issue of The Birmingham Eccentric.

MR. ALLEN WAS 47 years old when he entered the local political scene. An attorney, he sought and was elected to a place on the village commission in the spring of 1929.

The following year, fellow commissioners named him village president. He served in this office until 1933, when Birmingham voted itself city status.

Then Mr. Allen was named mayor, and served until his retirement from the commission in 1936.

HERE IS WHAT Mr. Allen said, as it appeared in The Eccentric:

"I consented to become a candidate for village commissioner after considerable deliberation, and this solely because of my feeling that one owes to the public such service as he may be able to render con-

sistent with a proper respect for one's personal affairs.

"Certainly, in public, as well as in private affairs, the great majority of matters required to be done are comparatively simple and extremely ordinary, in this respect, being like most of us.

"The success or lack of success in administration in both fields depends entirely upon how and when we attend to such matters. If I can be of material assistance to the village in such respect, shall feel entirely repaid.

"ABOUT ALL A CANDIDATE for public office, or political parties, can do is lay down correct principles. The actual administration involves the utmost integrity and the soundest judgment of which we are capable.

"I should like to see the village kept quiet, peaceful and decent place in which the people will wish to live and to continue to live. And I should, above all other things, like to see the affairs of the village conducted with a proper respect for the rights and convenience of the people who live in the village.

"It is no particular secret, so far as my personal wishes are concerned, that I wish to see the village retain as much of its present character as may be consistent with changing conditions and circumstances."

More than 20 years later, his son was elected to the city commission, also served as this city's mayor.

James Allen's "political platform" was built from much the same wood as his father's.

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