

## Well Deserved Recognition, Lee!

Lee A. White, 652 Brookside, Birmingham, on May 18, was given a Founders' Medal by Henry Spriggs Booth, Bloomfield Hills head of the various Cranbrook institutions. It was in recognition of White's more than a generation of association with The Detroit News and Cranbrook; specifically it emphasized his "comprehensive services to the cause of creative education."

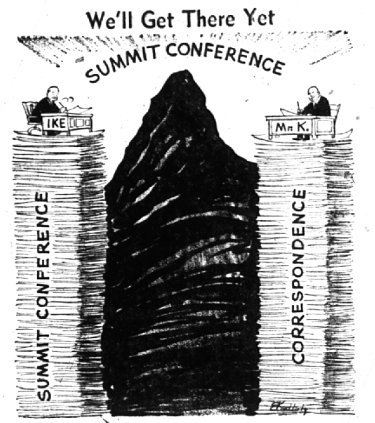
The editor of The Eclectic has known Lee for 35 years, both as a fellow-townsmen and as a member of the fraternity of the working press. We have observed his tireless efforts to improve the mental and spiritual processes of young and old, vocationally as a journalist, and in the environment of elementary schools and universities—plus countless talks he has given to various organizations.

HE NEVER SEEMED too busy to take on another assignment.

Years ago, when a sudden vacancy occurred on the former village commission, we happened to be at a meeting when the officials discussed a successor. We suggested Lee; the idea was approved after a telephone call to him assured the officials that he would accept.

He served in that post capably, always devoted to the best interests of the whole community.

Lee A. White has led a very full and constructive life. The Cranbrook recognition of his labors was only one of many acknowledgements he deserves. We hope that he also will accept this editorial comment as his "home-town's" recognition of community service freely rendered.



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehse  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

## Big World of Childhood Shrinks to Adult Eyes

For too short a while we have returned once more to the land called "home." Here in the gently rolling hills and valleys of northern Ohio the rich loam is deep and well tilled. Oats is kneehigh, wheat is coming into head, the new corn marks a clearly defined checkerboard pattern on the neat fields. Clover and timothy are in bloom, filling the air with a fragrance that is as nostalgic as it is sweet.

Seen with the eyes of maturity, distances in one's childhood world are incredibly small. To the old Chipewawa boy, to Kaufman's lane, to the fishing hole under the willows of Tommy Run Creek, to the great elm which guarded the gate to the east woods, these represented the outdoors which bounded my childhood's little world.

Most distant of these is less than a half mile away. We can only stand in wonder knowing the while that it is only a few feet away. Mrs. Frehse's farm boasted three wood lots: the "east," the "west" and the "bottom woods." Each had its own distinct uses, each presented its own habitat. The east woods was the cattle pasture, with Tom's beech and maple trees, it provided well for the cattle by day.

My grandfather had a hush about the wild flowers made here in the spring carpet, and here I had my first lessons in plant lore from my pioneer grandmother who knew much about the habits and practical uses of herbs. On lazy summer days I followed her while she gathered the winter's supply of mullein and thyme, of peppermint and chamomile, of heal-all and tansy.

The west woods was a smaller, secondary pasture with many intrusions of wild cherry, elm, cottonwood and ash. Here on hot afternoons in late August the blackberries glistered purple on their stems and elderberries clusters hung heavy over the fences. Here we gathered the wild fruit which was made into pies, jam and jelly.

THE OLD apple orchard of two winged apples remain. The ancient pear tree which marked the site of the first settlement on my grandfather's farm is gone, as are the wild cherry and spring beauty which guarded the gate to the east woods. For nothing in nature is static and he is alive is to change. But all through the long morning the bobolink and the meadow lark circled and sang, and now after a sudden shower I hear the bob white's call.

## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eclectic

**50 YEARS AGO**  
June 26, 1908  
"One day this week William Hilliard located a swarm of Italian bees just swarming. He busied himself with a box, got several stings and then with D. B. Wilkinson got a hive for his find. When he got back to his busy bees, what did he find? Say what did he? Mrs. Lizzie Clement with a business instinct had sold the bees to Smith the Bee man of Cambell's subdivision. Stung! cried William, not once but many times and tears flowed from his nearly closed eyes, caused by the sting bugs."

**30 YEARS AGO**  
June 28, 1928  
"Birmingham's teaching force was completed Monday night with the election of two teachers for the Adams school by the board of education at their regular meeting. The total number of teachers is 102."  
"Grinnell Brothers Music House, one of the largest musical institutions in the county with their main store in Detroit and branches in many of the leading Michigan cities, will open immediately a Birmingham branch."

**15 YEARS AGO**  
June 24, 1943  
"Mrs. A. E. Cook of Townsend, asked police to pick up a dead snake... Calvin Snell said he was..."  
**THE OLD TIMER**  
"When life knocks you down to your knees, you're in the perfect position to pray!"

told that the snake was owned by the people next door and was their pet. Feature that."  
"This hot weather has caused somewhat of a shortage in bottled soft drinks."  
"A friend at Orchard Lake Country club heard one of the officials remark: "Our problem is to get enough high chairs." The rising generation is evidently rising."

**WHY?**  
"To Insure Prosperity"  
"Ye Olde"  
"Do We Tip?"

Before modern medicine, when barbed wire came to cure ailments by blood letting, they had no fixed fees but were paid sums varying in proportion to their patients' wealth and gratitude. They were first receivers of tips. Wealthy travelers by stage and coach also began offering gratuities at stopovers for efficient service. Soon servants at luns set out small boxlike receptacles with signs over them reading "To Insure Prosperity." The first letters in this slogan named the word and custom.  
(Copyright 1956, John Emery Ent.)

## France May Ask New Constitution

The deterioration of the Fourth French Republic, recently supplanted by the one-man Charles de Gaulle government, reveals what happens when a large nation's government gets into the hands of too many varied political groups.

Previously, the French Assembly, comprised of 16 different parties, tried to govern; its counterpart of the U.S. President was a Premier, who was powerless against a majority negative Assembly vote on specific issues.

THE PREMIER THEN would resign, to be followed by another, also without sufficient executive power. De Gaulle wants a stronger executive, perhaps with the power of veto; a President elected for a term of years.

The French Assembly was naught but a mob, turned loose. Without a strong executive department in our own nation, the Congress would in time turn into something less than a respectable, reasonable body of law-makers. France did it sooner.

## Good Luck, Ed--and Thanks!

Resignation of Ed Kirbert as secretary of the Birmingham YMCA is a distinct loss to the moral uplift areas of this community. Young enough to possess ideals, aided by mental and spiritual vigor to endeavor, to see them in the actions of others, Ed worked hard on his job.

No doubt he experienced a variety of inner satisfactions (perhaps also some agonies) as he sought during 12 years here to develop Christian character among

those fortunate enough to be under his influence.

He leaves here to manage the Presbyterian Village, home for the aged, in Detroit. He thus will enter an opposite type of human environment--be among quite old people.

Birmingham and adjacent communities will miss Ed, of course... they thank him for his good works here, and pray that, wherever he goes, he will reap the fruits of a life dedicated to helping others.

See where a 29-month-old Kentucky boy smokes cigars and cigars. Considering the fact that Kentucky grows much tobacco, the kid is an economic patriot to his native state. Let's hope, however, that he doesn't respond to Kentucky's brand of liquor until at least he's well beyond the diaper age.

The design and manufacture of packages alone has grown into an annual 12-billion dollar industry. Which again proves that most people are attractively wrapped up in and by design.

## The Birmingham Eclectic

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## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

You are one of the persons who have boosted The Birmingham Eclectic's circulation to the greatest height ever.

Today, The Eclectic's circulation is 65 per cent greater than it was just five short years ago.

For 1953, the average issue of The Eclectic had 7,477 subscribers. That figure has climbed to 12,376 for the past year.

The general national average of circulation gain in the past year has been 11 per cent. For the weekly papers as a group, the advance has been a bit over 27 per cent.

We hope our Eclectic family continues to get bigger by the dozens.

We are managing to have ends meet. What we're trying to do is get a little overlap.

## Suburban Sentiment

REUNIONS  
I just can't take it anymore, This going back to days of yore, It's not the utterly mad confusion, It's just the utter disillusion.  
—Lynn Carter.

SEVERAL OF BIRMINGHAM'S neighbors to the south have been stung in the pocketbook by a recent decision from Attorney General Paul L. Adams.

He has ruled it illegal to permit parking in the center strip or mall of state trunkline superhighways.

To be more particular, the center US-10 (Woodward) municipal lots in Ferndale, and other parking strips along Fort street in some Down River communities, must be eliminated.

These cities now must buy their own land on which to put the public's cars.

OUR SYMPATHIES ARE WITH OUR neighbors.

We recall the threes Birmingham merchants and their constituents (residents) went through to get the 500-odd municipal parking spaces in our downtown area. It meant putting up three-quarters of a million dollars in property, paving and meters.

Special assessments against benefitted businesses are financing 40 per cent of the cost. The rest is coming from meter money deposited by parkers.

It took 10 years for Birmingham's program to be adopted. Our neighbor's won't have nearly that long to find off-Woodward parking substitutes.

It is only hoped they have learned off-street parking is here to stay, even if they finally have to finance it themselves.

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