

Eccentric Now 80 Years "Young"

This week marks the 80th anniversary of The Birmingham Eccentric. For approximately 4,150 weeks, in good times and in difficult times, "the lil' old Eccentric" has managed to come forth to spread to its readers the news of the area. For 42 years of its life it was owned by its original founders. For the past 38 years it has been under the present ownership and direction.

Thirty-eight years ago Birmingham consisted of 3,680 residents. Its area was one square mile. The then "village" was more rural, of course. But a few of its streets were paved. A few horses still neighed their various ways hereabouts.

CONTIGUOUS LANDS were, for the most part, still being farmed. Then, in the early 'Twenties, came the "land boom" and many nearby farms and pastures became the scene of much real estate activity.

Numerous new homes were being constructed—yet a considerable amount of this land activity was of a speculative nature. This fact was revealed when the stock market crashed in October of 1929. From then until mid-1933 this area, together with many other U.S.A. communities, felt the impact of that economic upset.

But the United States again recovered its economic stability. Intervening wars, of course, made their impact upon every American person and community. Technological and agricultural progress resulted in more commodities and more food for more people.

MORE AUTOMOBILES came into use, to travel over more and better highways. Then, during the past decade, came the somewhat rapid development of this condition called "suburbia". More and more families left the large cities to settle where there is more fresh air, more pastoral scenery, more of the friendliness and intimacy of suburban living.

In this national exodus of families outside of large cities, the entire Birmingham

Oakland county areas felt the unparalleled increase in population. New public facilities were required. More roads, sewers, water mains and public and parochial schools were demanded. This need, naturally, has been met to a considerable degree.

DURING 80 YEARS of the 139 since the first white settler built a home in Birmingham to the 25,000 Birmingham population of today, The Eccentric has been a familiar journalistic visitor.

We who publish it have sought to make and keep it a friendly, reliable, and constructive mirror of this community's life.

... and we are grateful for both the support we have received from subscribers and advertisers—and for the privilege of serving countless thousands of men and women, boys and girls whose lives have comprised this lovely, neighborly area!

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Thomas Jefferson long has been acclaimed as "The Great Democrat". His intelligent opposition to centralizing government, his antagonism to high taxation are just two of many valuable civic ideas the former U.S. President held. But a look, today, at both the wide departure from Jefferson's strong beliefs by both Democrats and Republicans reveals how far our nation has travelled toward centralization in Washington. Remember Jefferson's words: "When all governments, domestic and foreign, in little as in great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the center of all power, it will become as venal and oppressive as the Government from which we separated."

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You Name It - They Got It

By JULIE CANDLER Staff Writer

When it comes to teaching tools, Birmingham schools have all their eggs in one basket.

The "basket" holds everything from books to stuffed animals, efficiently filed in three big basement rooms at Baldwin school. It opened last September under the name of the instructional materials center.

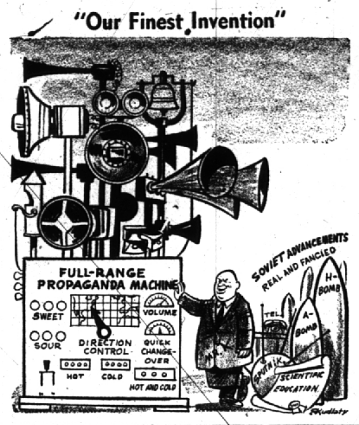
Whether your subject is Africa or Zarathustra, you can call on Henry Corbacho and the materials center he directs for help.

If YOUR SUBJECT is a scientific one, you might receive one of the exhibits Cranbrook has loaned the center—a collection of butterflies, or shells, or stuffed animals.

IF SHE TACKS a large sheet of paper on the wall, she can trace heavily around the reflected image. Later she can use the one large picture—or chart or graph—for every pupil to see at the same time. Otherwise, she would have had to pass the tiny illustration from pupil to pupil.

HOW MUCH DOES all this cost? Corbacho says no annual figure will be available until after the first year's operation. But in other communities where such centers were set up, costs have run from \$7,000 to \$15,000 annually.

Director Henry Corbacho watches Clerk Evelyn Laster as she splices movie film at the Birmingham school system's instructional materials center.



ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Birmingham chamber of commerce's annual meeting last week featured that well-known outdoorsman, former Birmingham and now resident of the Berkshire area in Bloomfield township—Mort Neff. Mort's an able fisherman. His uncle, Col. J. Allen Bigelow, early Birmingham merchant, started his grandson on fishing lessons real early.

AS THEY PASSED a local meat market on Maple near Woodward, they saw on ice in the window what must have been a 19-pound pike.

"Granddad looked at that bigger fish for several long moments," Mort recalls. "Then he said to me, 'My boy, the man who caught that fish is a damned liar!'"

The public's clamouring these days for education to get back on the 3-R's—reading, riting, and rithmetic. Fine. But how about more time on the 4th R—reasoning?

Once upon a time, "ain't" wasn't. Now it has a place in our dictionaries. To get from nowhere to someplace involved several steps and considerable time. The word had to be coined, used often enough in spoken and written language, before the dictionary adjusters would put it into their reference works.

"Gizmo" is the best weekly paper in the state and business men cannot too highly appreciate it for advertising purposes."

ALL THIS LEADS UP to what to us was our first look at the printed use of "gizmo" by the business and commercial world. Joe Aperauch, who handles The Eccentric's darkroom and engraving processes, walked up to our desk t'other day with an empty G-E All-Weather headlamp carton. (He had just installed its contents in his car.) His finger was aimed at this additional message on the carton: "... with aim-right gizmos."

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Made Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
May 8, 1908
"Do you know a 'Merry Widow Sailor' when you see one? Well it's a cross between the top of a circus tent and a ship in full sail. Only one of them can occupy our Main street at a time and our village council may find it necessary to pass an ordinance compelling women who wear them to take to the side streets."

30 YEARS AGO
May 17, 1929
"Celebrating its 50th anniversary The Birmingham Eccentric next week will issue a 48-page supplement in connection with the regular Thursday edition."

Suburban Sentiment
Who Done It?
Sleeping pills
Are not for me,
I just watch
Late late T.V.

15 YEARS AGO
May 6, 1943
"A request for lower speed limit on Oakland avenue was presented to the City Commission Monday

wish you could hide your rugs?
When guests call, are you proud of fresh, clean rugs? Or are your rugs so soiled you want to hide them?
No need to hide rugs nowadays... professional cleaning keeps them fresh and beautiful at little cost. Professional cleaning removes the grit and grime that make rugs unsightly... and wear them out too soon.
Let Crescent give new life and glowing beauty to your rugs. With personal care, skilled hands make your rugs bright, springy, and fresh again.
Call Crescent now... so you'll be proud the next time friends look down.
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Royal Oak, Michigan



Worthy of our acclaim...
It's time we were telling the world about Michigan. We certainly have plenty to brag about. In fact, we take for granted things that other people would cherish.
Take our great fresh water supply, for instance. There are few people that don't envy us for that. Michigan is bordered by four of the five Great Lakes, has 11,037 inland lakes and 36,000 miles of streams. This gives us the greatest fresh water supply in the world for industry, transportation, health and recreation.
Michigan's great educational system is another outstanding asset. Its centers of research are distinguished. The University of Michigan was the first state university with a governing board elected by popular vote. Michigan State University was the first land grant college. Michigan was also the first state to have a Superintendent of Public Instruction and the first to assure each child a high school education at public expense.
It's Great to live in Michigan!
CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY
Prescription for Profit: A Want Ad by phone or mail.

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