

## Losing Heritage of July Fourth?

Saturday of this week is July 4... an American historical day when, all over the land, flags are flown, parades are held and speeches are made. Why? We all know: because on this date, back in 1776, a great document was proclaimed that began "When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands that have connected them with another..."

That document was the American Declaration of Independence. It was a date that marked the beginning of the United States of America. The beginning of an era in human history that has produced the greatest guarantee of personal freedom, the highest standards of physical environment, the most dependable pattern of economic security ever produced on this earth.

YET THERE IS great danger today that July 4 may lose its promise... its values... may become but a faded memory unless we, the citizens, are aroused to a renewed dedication to our duties and responsibilities.

As another writer has recently put it: "The flag of the United States changes to keep pace with a growing nation. But the ideal it represents remains unchanged—a free nation of free citizens; government by consent of the governed; a gov-

ernment of law rather than of men; government of the people, for the people.

"The ideal shines brightly, beckoning to people the world over who cherish liberty. Yet we who inherited freedom as our most precious birthright, guard it but indifferently. Though we would protect it with our lives against foreign enemies, we trade it away cheaply among ourselves.

BIT BY BIT WE hand freedom over to the government in exchange for laws helpfully designed to preserve or provide temporary material advantages. We barter liberty for protection from predatory individuals or groups; we swap it for subsidies which burden us with taxes and shackle us with restrictions.

"Our ancestors willingly accepted privation to be free of government bondage. We willingly accepted the yoke of government for the promise of a full belly and easy life. From us our children will inherit a cheapened remnant of freedom—along with the bill for our shortsighted selfishness.

"There is a much-quoted aphorism on government which, while it is by no means a complete or perfect truth, deserves careful consideration by our legislators in their law-making and by us in the demands we make upon our legislators: That government governs best which governs least."

## "Your Newspaper" Tops In Nation

Again The Eccentric has been selected as the suburban community newspaper to be awarded first prize for "general excellence" among U.S. weeklies, by the National Editorial Association, for the year 1959.

This makes the second time in three years that this newspaper's organization has been so honored, although we were awarded a similar State prize five of the last six years by the Michigan Press Association.

As many of our readers know, we have been awarded a score of various journalistic prizes during the past 10 years—tribute to us who "get out the paper", and certainly in praise of this population area whose subscriber and advertiser support make publication possible.

In this respect, we cannot overlook the many persons and organizations who, directly and indirectly, co-operate in providing us with news and pictures for our editorial columns.

To be sure, to have one's own craft leaders make such an award is a considerable tribute... yet we on The Eccentric will ever strive to improve our product—realizing, of course, that the reaching of

one goal is but the challenge to strive for even higher ones.

... so thanks to all who participate in the weekly publication and enjoyment of this 81-year-old "Home-Town Newspaper!"

### From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Now that schools are closed, many more children will be playing out-of-doors, some of them getting on the streets. Too young to be very careful, generally motivated by the enthusiasm that accompanies physical activities, the youngsters become an increased traffic hazard. Last year 181 of them were killed on Michigan streets and highways. What can be done about it? Just this: whenever we drive on streets where children can or are "part of the landscape", we should, we MUST slow down! We should, we MUST SLOW DOWN! It's that simple... that decent self-discipline!

Listen Mister—Don't criticize a woman who is trying to get some man to marry her. After all, if she doesn't try, some other gal will.

### The Birmingham Eccentric

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## Buckeye State Gets Name from Tree

The train gathered speed as it skirted the Lake Erie Marshes then whistled its way through the well-tended fields of corn and winter wheat, of clover and alfalfa. This is the land where pioneers asked for the soil's bounty and got it.

By native Ohio is named the Buckeye state, for a tree which is frequently confused with the horse chestnut. Like many another of its kind the Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*) grows rarer with the passing years. It is occasionally planted at southern Michigan as an ornamental but is less decorative than our more common horse chestnut.

Although its leaves and bark are filled-scented when crushed, it has its place in our early spring woods. Then the great buds begin to swell, casting aside their brown outer scales to expose the frail young leaves folded fan-wise with a crowded cluster of flower buds at their center.

WHEN THE FIVE-FINGERED leaves are unfurled in mid-May the tree blooms. It's a small yellow-green flower, but the buds grow in separate male and female clusters. The female buds, though some times perfect flowers, are frequently stunted, though rarely bear their bases.

The compound leaves appear oppositely on long petioles on the branches of the tree which seldom grows more than fifty feet tall. The young twigs are smooth and red-brown. The mature tree shows a densely furrowed bark which breaks into thick plates. When October haze falls on the rich river bottoms and valleys, the fruit has ripened into a prickly, red leathery capsule containing a single brown shiny nut marked by a large pale scar.

The horse chestnut is not a chestnut but, as mentioned above, belongs to the genus *Aesculus*. (A. hippocastanum). In our own state, especially in the Bay City area it is a much more common tree. It is no taller (40-60 feet) and handsomer than the buckeye by

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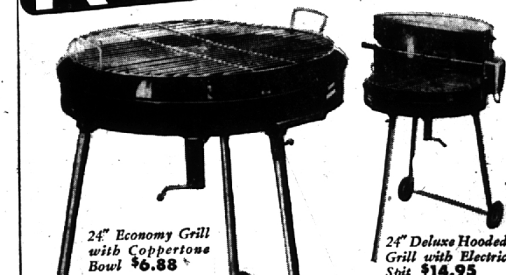
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## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

### 50 YEARS AGO July 2, 1909

"Several of Birmingham's most popular young ladies departed last month, but we can no longer Miss them."

"Have you seen the flower bed in front of the Baptist church? It is the finest in town, and is the work of Miss Bortle's Sunday school class."

"P. B. O'Brien, who bought the Trux, beautiful home on the corner of the New Grand and Vinewood streets, is certainly making an improvement in the place."

"Levi Goodwin is home for a vacation. He is certainly a promising young man and one who does honor to our village. You have missed a great treat if you miss his address that won for him the gold medal in an oratorical state contest."

### 30 YEARS AGO June 27, 1929

"Birmingham board of education is debating cancellation of next fall's football game with Mt. Clemens. Parents of football stars have claimed for the ban. They charge Mt. Clemens used unethical tactics in last year's game. The board reached no decision at its closed-door session. Another meeting is planned."

Work is expected to resume immediately on acquisition of the new Grand Trunk railroad right-of-way. The federal court has just ruled against plaintiffs who claimed there would be damages to remaining subdivision lots. When abandoned, the present right-of-way will be used for widening of Woodward avenue.

A Birmingham man was shot to death while he was saying on a couple in a lovers lane south-west of Birmingham, police say

surmising. They have no clues to go on.

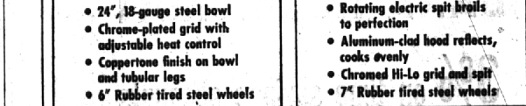
Lt. Col. Edward E. Rothman, with the 9th Air Force service command, wrote home to his family about some of the interesting things he has experienced since he hit the Normandy beachhead in the June 6 invasion of Europe.

Next Sunday the Birmingham First Methodist congregation will hear their new minister preach his first sermon. He is the Rev. Arnold F. Runkel, who comes here from Marquette, Mich., where he studied at the college director of Methodist student work at Northern Michigan college of education.

### STRICTLY FRESH

Taking a long view of a situation is easy when you're not involved.

Slicks are what they usually aren't, when seen from the rear.



Now is the time when big windows that wouldn't close all winter can't be opened.

If you missed a TV program last winter, cheer up; it'll probably be rerun this summer.

An old-timer is a fellow who remembers when most families made their own root beer.