

Chessman 'Drama' Overplayed

Caryl Chessman has paid the state of California for the debt he owed it, i.e.: his life. Perhaps seldom, if ever, in U.S. history has a person of such reprehensible character received so much publicity as this convicted sex rapist-bandit.

For nearly 12 years, by repeated appeals to state and federal courts, he managed to postpone his final walk to San Quentin's lethal chamber. He also wrote a couple of books about himself, thus getting needed cash for more legal aid in his fight to retain his life . . . perhaps his freedom. And, on the day of his death we hear that movie actor Marlon Brando proposes to produce a movie, based on Chessman's life.

NOW, FRIENDS, the editor of The Eccentric long has opposed the use of capital punishment as a means of preventing murder, or other capital crime. Statistics on the subject prove that capital punishment does not deter people from taking the lives of others. There are other reasons,

too, moral in essence, that logic marshals to oppose this barbarous form of punishment.

But in the case of Caryl Chessman, he committed his crime in a state that resorts to capital punishment. Chessman knew such a law was on California's statute books; he was given every possible protection under juridical processes; Chessman's life was forfeited legally, in accordance with man-made law.

HOWEVER, WE DO lament the quantity of publicity given this case by U.S. press, radio and television. We believe that the dramatizing of this case eventually will impact upon the frayed and foolish minds of other potentially crazed people, some of whom will follow in the footsteps of Chessman.

We also lament the supporting interest evidenced by millions and millions of Americans who followed the sordid Chessman case with as much, or more, interest as they incline toward the raciest "who-quit's."

Pride of State Starts at Home

This community and its sister communities in the area will take inventory May 15-21 on the occasion of the seventh annual Michigan Week observance.

It is spring, the time of renewal—a time to count our blessings locally and tell the world about them. For it is the sum total of communities such as ours that goes into the making of a great state.

The slogan "It's Great to Live in Michigan" made its appearance a few years ago. Implied was the idea that it is also great to live in Birmingham, Lansing, Ludington, Detroit, Cassopolis or Negaunee, for the citizens of these and hundreds of other communities have local pride in

their communities and their products.

IN REASSERTING THIS civic pride during the course of Michigan Week, the citizen renews his acquaintance with what his own community has to offer, and quite often discovers facets about it he never knew before.

Such a renewal of pride not infrequently lends itself to suggestions on the part of the citizen for improving local products or aspects of local government.

And so pride in one's state starts at home. The benefactor is the community, the state and, most important of all, the citizen himself.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Originally, the federal government entered the job of helping the American farmer because so many of them were in economic difficulties—and, of course, to help them would help the Congressmen and certain top brass in the executive department to get some more votes at the next election. This has been the pattern ever since . . . to rip up federal subsidizing statutes that would support the farmers, and, as it has turned out, to result in fewer

and fewer small farmers, and larger and bigger big farmers. It is the latter group, chiefly, that now gets so much of this uncared-for. Do you know why the farmers' portion of the annual federal budget gets bigger and more colossal? Because, instead of using the laws of mathematics and sound economics, the politicians simply resort to the caprices and whims of "politics" . . . a synonym for "votes."

The Birmingham Eccentric

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Monday, May 2, 1960, marked an important day in my life—and I know it was important also for 80 other people.

That was the day we worked for the first time in our new, multi-color, modern office and plant at 1225 Bowers Street, Birmingham.

Behind us in the center of town was a building which had served its purpose for more than half a century. (City records won't show when it first was built, but it probably was about 1900. Maybe shortly before.)

IT HAD BEGUN as a garage. Birmingham Police Sgt. Robert Peppercall well remembers the Stanley Steamers, and the Maxwells which pulled into it for minor or major adjustments, a battery recharge or some fresh water for a hot radiator.

Then the building became the village's first movie house, in which a young woman watched the silent screen and pounded away at a piano to provide "mood flickers" for those who were watching the flickers.

There was a candy shop next door. It was there when George R. Averill moved to the south side of that building (at 220 N. Woodward) and set up office and shop.

HIS FORMER QUARTERS in the first floor rear of the old Michigan Bell phone building (now a tailor shop) on Pierce street had been outgrown in a bit more than two years since GRA assumed ownership of The Eccentric.

The building at 220 N. Woodward during the past 28 years saw five additions made to it. First the pressroom was enlarged to take our 8-page Duplex on

which The Eccentric is printed.

Then as the commercial business grew under the direction of GRA's younger brother, Paul Neal, a bindery and mail-room was added to the east. The building now extended right across 200 feet of property from Woodward to Ferndale avenue.

STILL MORE ROOM WAS NEEDED. A few years later—in the late 1930's—The Eccentric purchased one of Birmingham's oldest houses on a lot at the corner of Ferndale and Hamilton. (See picture of it being wrecked last week on Page 1-B.)

About the middle of World War II, our composing room, editorial and display advertising offices were moved into the building immediately to the north. In the early '50's, we needed still more room. A paper storeroom was added off the southwest corner of the bindery.

TODAY THE WRECKERS are at work on 200 and 234 N. Woodward.

Today The Eccentric has a spanking-new building, and today Demery's is building its new tri-level suburban store at Woodward and Hamilton.

Such is progress. We at The Eccentric recommend it highly. The "old" was good, but the "new" is much better.

We haven't yet grown accustomed to the place, but give us a few more weeks and we shall be.

Toward the end of this month, you'll be invited in to see our new home. We believe it incorporates the most imaginative planning you'll find today around any newspaper office, daily or weekly.

"And This Was Supposed to Be Such a Friendly Neighborhood"



Nature Now Is on Page 7-B

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

'Let Only Taxpayers Vote Tax Increases'

To the Editor: It is very seldom that I write to the press, but I feel that the situation in connection with millage increases in the school taxes should be not only brought to light, but that corrective measures should be taken.

Just before the last election a friend of mine casually remarked that all registered voters were entitled to cast a ballot on the millage increase. In my ignorance, I assured him that people who did not own property certainly could not increase the taxes of the property owners in this fashion. Quite an argument ensued and, as a result, the matter was referred to a local attorney. Offhand, he agreed with me.

YOU CAN IMAGINE my chagrin when he called back a few minutes later that we were wrong. It appears that under Michigan law only those who own property when a bond issue is involved. Since the proposed millage does not involve a bond issue, everyone can vote.

It certainly does not seem right or proper that persons who are not taxpayers have the legal right to increase the tax burden of those of us who own property.

In my opinion, it is time for the property owners to take the necessary action to correct this obvious inequity.

G. CARLISLE
3880 Oakhill
Troy

He Points Out Advantages of Community House

To the Editor: The people of Birmingham and environs can be proud of their Community House.

It is administered by a private organization which is known as the Birmingham Community House Association. The directors serve without pay. It is non-political, non-sectarian and receives no fi-

nanacial aid whatsoever from the city. Its funds are donated annually by the people themselves—on a budgeted basis.

THE WRITER can name 12 activities which are highly desirable and which are possibly essential to the community. In addition to this there is an educational program embracing 17 subjects. These are provided for us by the Community House.

Some revenue is derived from these activities but our donations are necessary, too. The Community House needs the money and we certainly need the Community House. There will be no door-to-door solicitation this year.

T. A. HENSHAW
800 Ridgedale
Birmingham

The National Safety Council says rural traffic deaths outnumber urban deaths almost 7-1.

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT
No. 524
LAKEVIEW RESURFACING
Bridge South of Bridge to Stanton Road

Notice is hereby given that the special assessment roll heretofore made by the Assessor for the purpose of defraying the cost of construction of an improvement to be hereinafter known as LAKEVIEW RESURFACING—Bridge south of Bridge to Stanton Road consisting of surfacing of Lakeside from the bridge south of Bridge to Stanton Road with asphalt concrete as the initial step, covered providing a permanent improved pavement, is now on file in my office for public inspection.

Notice is also hereby given that the Commission of Public Works of Birmingham will meet in the Commission Room in the Municipal Building in and City on Monday, the 16th day of May, 1960, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. to receive said assessment, at which time and place opportunity will be given to all persons interested to be heard.

IRVING E. HANLEY
City Clerk
May 9, 1960 9, 10

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
May 13, 1910

"Work is being rapidly pushed forward on the new hotel for Birmingham to be built and managed by Mr. Seelye Peck. This hotel building crowds the Library building's south line, and when completed will be a marked improvement on the building and land as it formerly stood. Miss Glean Duty received \$1,000 for the shop and land—best price yet ever paid out for Birmingham real estate."

"The neighbors gave Charles Algrim a surprise party last Tuesday. Let us behold! Four teams have in sight, and with plows drove into a field and turned it bottom side up."

30 YEARS AGO
May 13, 1930

"Birmingham's department of public works is at present engaged in moving a mountain. Where is it being moved? To the village dump near Quanton Lake. Why is it being moved? Because numerous residents in its vicinity urged the village commission to see that was moved. The mountain is a mountain of tin cans, baled and otherwise, located at the village storage yard at Lavendale and Ridgedale avenues. It rose majestically beneath the water-tower while the administration awaited a market for old tin cans."

"Fire of unknown origin razed an old wooden house, on West Maple road, opposite the Oakland Hills country club and formerly used as the club house, at 3 a.m. Monday morning. The house was unoccu-

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Midwest 4-8225



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Wet Wash, Fluffed Dry
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Cotton Rugs (9x12, Some Larger)
Bedspreads
Slippers
Washed or Dyed and Dried



1000 South Adams Rd.
1 Block N. Of Lincoln

Students!

Special Spring Rental Rates On

FORMAL WEAR

Outfit yourself completely with formal wear for those upcoming parties, proms and dances. Special rental rate includes Dinner Jacket, Trousers, Shirt and Accessories. Choice of plain or plaid cummerbund. Make your reservations now!

Rental to Students
Reg. Rate \$10.00
\$12.00

MATTHEW'S Men's Wear and Accessories

288 E. Maple
Free Parking in Rear
Also Complete Alteration Service



BCPA

Birmingham Credit Plate Association

Your Name Please

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That Will Be \$.....

Shop the easy way . . . Shop with the convenience of B.C.P.A., Birmingham's newest local credit plate association. Next time you shop simply state, "Here's my BCPA plate!"

Member Stores

DAVIDSON'S 159 S. Woodward Ave.	DEVON GABLES Toys and Gifts 231 N. Woodward Ave.	DOUGLAS CLEANERS 544 S. Woodward Ave.	HIGGINS & FRANK 268 West Maple Ave.	LAKE JEWELERS Woodward at Maple
JOHN MOSS FLOREST 241 West Maple Ave.	F. J. MULHOLLAND CO. 231 N. Woodward Ave.	PRINCETON PREP SHOP 247 Pierce St.	R. B. SHOPS 142 West Maple Ave.	SHERMAN SHOES 115 West Maple Ave.
UNUSUALS 154 West Maple Ave.	VILLAGE SPORT & HOBBY (McBride Bldg.) 114 S. Woodward Ave.	THE VILLAGE STORE 205 Pierce St.	WILSON DRUG CO. Woodward at Maple	YOUNG'S OF BIRMINGHAM 201 Pierce St.

You can ride all over town and still not find the bargains we have at...

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Upholsteries Linens Velvets Chintz Hand Prints Sheers

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