

## A Free Press Is Priceless

Normally, we don't get excited over the many special "week" celebrations the American public continually is called upon to observe.

We do have exceptions—among them File Prevention Week, Red Cross Week, and National Newspaper Week.

The latter observance this year comes October 15-21—this Saturday through the following Friday.

In your daily and weekly newspapers, therefore, you will be reading special comments and stories about newspapers, about freedom of the press, and how newspapers are endeavoring to protect that freedom.

**STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM** in a nation whose way of life has been tied so closely with an unrestricted press, there are forces here which would deny and censor the right of free access to seek out facts.

There are those who would close public meetings to the press—bar reporters from council meetings and legislative hearings.

To limit the press in its attempts to obtain accurate and factual information is to limit newspapers in their fight to protect your freedoms.

**NEWSPAPERS ARE SO IMPORTANT** to these freedoms that the first thing a

tyrant takes away from a people are their newspapers.

While The Eccentric condemns such practices on the part of public officials, we could hardly do so without first examining our own operation and know we practice what we preach.

We believe we are doing our utmost to protect freedom of the press in the community The Eccentric serves by these two facts:

No other weekly that we know of—and few daily papers, for that matter—assigns reporters to on-the-spot coverage of as many municipal meetings as does The Eccentric.

**AND WE NEVER**—repeat never—have suppressed news because of personal, individual, advertiser, customer or other pressures which have been applied to us. And believe us, we have been pressured at times! If we believe any information should be brought to our readers' attention, we let the news chips fall where they may.

So again this National Newspaper Week, The Eccentric reaffirms its dedication to the preservation of freedom of the press through its day-to-day use of the right to seek and find news wherever it may be, regardless of the effort we must expend to find it.

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

Now that the voters of Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and Southfield Townships have approved the abandonment of annual meetings for the transaction of official business, it is to be hoped that the citizens themselves will not abandon their responsibilities and duties. One way to maintain the status of good citizenship is to attend regular Township meetings, where citizens may offer suggestions and/or criticisms concerning township affairs. Bloomfield Township board meets the second and third Mondays each month; West Bloomfield the first and third Wednesdays; Southfield, being very small in township area, meets once monthly, the second Tuesday. All start at 8 p.m. in their respective township halls.

An increase of 333 students over last year is announced for the Birmingham school district. This brings total enrollment to 12,349. Among other subjects of interest that these figures ought to evoke

in the public mind is: **MOTORISTS SHOULD BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL IN DRIVING WHERE SCHOOL CHILDREN TRAVEL.**

**Practicing the Ten Commandments** and the Golden Rule is vastly better security for the peace and happiness of human beings than a million-million laws enacted by Parliaments, Congresses and Legislators. For the application of these high ideals doesn't require a costly and inefficient law enforcement agency to make people try to live up to 'em... each person being his own source of discipline.

Luther Youngdahl, former Minnesota Governor, recently uttered a statement that ought to be pasted in every American's hat: "Most of us don't understand that we will get just as bad government as we are willing to stand for and just as good government as we are willing to fight for."

### The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 1225 Bowers Street Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

One of the continuing problems of good government is how to get capable men to serve in our state and national legislatures, and on public boards and commissions.

Except in rare instances, capable people turn to business fields in which to show their ability. Money perhaps is the most important consideration in their decision.

**IT IS ENCOURAGING** these days, however, to see more and more businesses granting leaves of absence to capable employees so they can take a turn serving in some government or other public responsibility.

Under present circumstances, it will be years before society finds most important government jobs staffed by capable men to get sound, economical, practical government.

This process could be accelerated if government more closely met the financial level of the individual's capabilities.

For instance:  
**SUPPOSE GOVERNMENT** maintained a pool from which it could pay, say, up to 1/2 of the salary an individual has averaged annually for the past five years in a business field. That is, above the statutory minimum for a particular government job. For example, Joe Doakes has worked

five years for Corporation X at an average of \$25,000 a year. Doakes runs for an \$8,000 job as a state legislator, and is elected.

The state now will pay Doakes during his term of office an annual salary of \$18,750. Because Doakes would get \$18,750, he went into politics. If he had to give up his \$25,000 job for only an \$8,000 salary, he would have stayed with Corporation X.

The 1/2 business salary feature would attract capable men who could win against professional office holders whose only qualification is that they are better than having no one in the office at all.

The most accurate rocket never will hit the moon — unless it is all fired up.

In an item just seven months ago, this column speculated on the "refinement" a pair of swans would add to the several lakes in the area.

Birmingham's well-known sculptor, Marshall Fredericks, came the first to implement this suggestion. He has donated a pair of the graceful birds, which he and Mayor Florence Willett set a-sailing last week on Quanton lake.

Fredericks gift will become a well-visited attraction from now on.

### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Highway Commission Appreciates Press Support on Traffic

To the Editor:

The Michigan state safety commission wishes to extend to you its sincere thanks for the support you have given to the effort to reduce traffic deaths, injuries, and accidents, especially during the summer months.

We are pleased to say that although the number of accidents still totals seven per cent more than for the same period last year, the trend of the past three months has been some improvement over the first three.

We were especially appreciative of your support over Labor Day when Michigan had one of the lowest death tolls of any of the big states.

The elections and Krushchev seem to be the big news these days but several hundred Michigan people of voting age won't be able to back an absentee ballot this year, and that is more than even Mr. K. has disposed of. A sad thing that lingers upon is that we did it ourselves.

Thank you again for your leadership in battling with this tough national and state-wide problem.

GERALD W. SHIPMAN  
Executive Secretary

## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

**50 YEARS AGO**  
Oct. 14, 1910

Charles Birmingham of Southfield, has just completed the marketing of his peach harvest. He sold 1,623 bushels of the luscious fruit, realizing nearly \$3,000 therefrom. You couldn't ask for better results if you had a more worthy man.

Messrs. Whitehead and Pierson and Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Hulbert and Bigelow and of course the rector, the Rev. F. F. Kraft are mighty busy arranging for the 15th anniversary of St. James church of Birmingham on Nov. 24, to celebrate the occasion of the first service in 1895.

That date marks the milestone which Father Time has erected since Bishop Davies came out and viewed the beautiful little church and held opening services and said, "My people, you have builded well. We are happy and proud and as the years pass and roll along, may good fellowship and increase come to you."

**FRANKLIN** — J. DeConick and E. German have their sites filled and the two engines working so near together reminded one of the traffic and noise on Woodward avenue, Detroit.

**30 YEARS AGO**  
Oct. 16, 1930

A definite movement toward an investigation of Oakland county governmental and institutional affairs has been started by "taxpayers committees" in several townships (Royal Oak, Oxford and Orion) with the circulation of petitions calling for either an inquiry by a special committee of representative citizens or by an old fashioned 18-member grand jury. Similar movements are to be started in other sections of the county.

Strong winds blow in the vicinity of the Bloomfield Hills Village municipal building, this Wanderer learned recently and a flag, whipped to tatters in these strong winds will be replaced by a new one.

Many a discouraged golfer coming up to the 18th green at the Birmingham country club has found the same place to hide his incriminating score cards, this Wanderer was informed yesterday by a player who reports that he threw the fragments of his scorecard near a bush he noticed a sizeable collection of cards with equal discouraging scores under the same bush. A caddy explained that many other golfers have made a practice of getting rid of their score cards the same bush before going to the clubhouse.

Oakland county Republicans gathered together in Pontiac Monday night at a rally... Several hundred residents were among those present.

**15 YEARS AGO**  
Oct. 31, 1945

William N. Toothacker, veteran teacher in Birmingham high school, has resigned his position and announced his retirement from the teaching profession. Toothacker, head of the science department, concluded his duties last Friday and plans to leave soon for points in Florida for the fall and winter. Toothacker, a teacher for the past 37 years, and already well past the retirement age, explained in his resignation that his health has not been of the best and that he felt he should take a rest from his steady grind of teaching duties.

The annual meeting of the Birmingham retail merchants association will be held at the Community house on Wednesday evening, Oct. 24. This was decided at a meeting of the board of directors, held Tuesday noon.

Business before the association will be the election of directors, amendments to the constitution and bylaws of the organization and a study of Birmingham's car parking and traffic problems. Of particular interest will be the parking problem, and Charles S. Rust and Harry G. Muehlman of the city planning commission, Chief of Police John P. Hackett and Mayor William E. Moody are to be invited to the meeting to assist in the study.

### Ribbed Shirt Styles

Ribbed styles are leading the pack among knitted sport shirts this season. Heather color mixtures are among the most popular in this line.

### STRICTLY FRESH

If the boss is so smart why does he have us working for him?

Some employees watch clocks. Others dial for the phone company's time signal.



No student should let college interfere with his education.

What looks best on our TV set these days is a nice bunch of flowers.

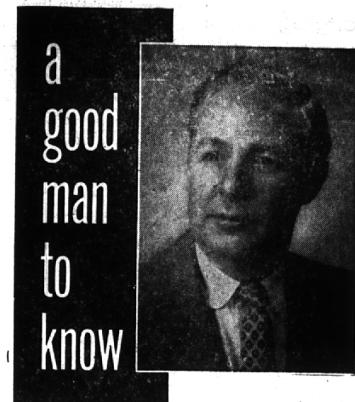
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