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### Enrollments Increase Again

Attesting to the constant growth in the Birmingham - Bloomfield area, enrollment grows again this year in our public, private and parochial schools.

These increases dictate more teachers, more administrators, more classrooms, changes in curriculum and greater operating costs.

Fortunately, school officials in this modern era project enrollment figures over the years ahead and formulate plans to meet anticipated needs. Fortunately, they plan their budgets to meet the increased costs of instruction.

**MORE IMPORTANTLY**, they make determined efforts—for the most part, at least—to keep the public informed of the enrollment trends and their attendant needs; and thus effectively win public support of their financial programs.

For example, we understand that the Birmingham School District intends to publish late in September a tabloid size publication to report on school progress to the people of the district.

It is efforts such as this that help both

the school officials and citizens to fulfill their educational responsibilities. That many citizen groups assist in disseminating school information attests to the public's interest in school affairs.

**ANOTHER PROBLEM** attendant to school growth is safety. More and more children going to our schools means greater safety measures must be effected.

We are pleased to note that our school officials and enforcement officers throughout the area cooperate fully in efforts to create the safest possible routes for our children to reach their schools.

To be effective, safety measures must be obeyed by both parents and children, of course. They face this challenge as well as that of getting an education for the young people.

**WHEN OUR** schools open next week, we trust that teachers, parents and children all will keep these factors in mind. We trust that all will give their utmost to make this a fruitful year of education.

Let attention turn, then, to the actual work of the classroom.

### Honor the Working Men, Women

Monday is a significant for at least two reasons. It socially marks the end of the summer season and, more important, it is a day set aside to pay honor to the man who does a job every day with little recognition.

Labor day is an important day at The Eccentric. Without the many hands that go to produce our paper, we feel our community would lack an important mode of communication.

We normally give our editorial staff recognition with by-lines. But very few of our readers know who sets our type, runs our press or delivers the papers.

The same is true in our community. We have many working men who serve us daily, like municipal employees and sales

personnel in our stores.

**THE DAY ITSELF** was first celebrated in 1882 in New York under the sponsorship of the Central Labor Union following the suggestion of Peter J. McGuire of the Knights of Labor.

It has become the focal point of the year for organized labor, with speeches and parades.

However, it should not be restricted to organized labor. It should be a day when all working men and women are properly recognized and honored.

Therefore, let us take this opportunity to salute our staff and the millions of other working men and women throughout the country who have earned a day of rest.

### 'Shut Up, Hit the Road'

If young people in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area reject the new translation of the Bible by the Rev. Erick Gronlund, it will not at all surprise us.

If the ministers of the Birmingham-Bloomfield congregations fail to recommend this translation to their young people, it will be fully understandable.

The Rev. Mr. Gronlund's translation purportedly is designed to attract teenagers. But we believe they will find at least some of his slang interpretations repugnant.

Take, for instance, his quotation of Jesus telling a heckler:

"Shut up and hit the road."

**THE SHOCK** expressed by theologians over the Rev. Mr. Gronlund's version is readily understandable.

We believe the fact that his purpose of attracting teen-agers is insufficient excuse for attributing such a vulgarism to the Son of God.

It seems quite reasonable to us that this attempt to reach the younger generation by free employment of slang has missed the mark—not only here in our own community but throughout the world.

We believe it would only serve to encourage teen-age waywardness rather than spiritually leading young people away from it.

**YOUTHFUL EXTREMES** dismay adults in each generation. Improvement of the moral and social standards of young people requires patience and understanding.

But dramatic appeals and radical departures from respected and revered custom lack any impressive record in improvement of the young.

This applies to the Gronlund version of the Scripture. The translator's effort doubtless is well-intentioned; but little else that is favorable can be said about it.

Let it not be used in our churches.

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

It was a far cry and a farther trek from the Atlantic seaboard, back to those earlier American days when "Go West! Go West!" was responded to, and covered wagons dotted the western plains ... when the lure of California gold sent men in search of this worldly security. To be sure, what is now California originally was populated scantily by Indians, then Spanish—long before the now-typical Americans reached there. But the lure of California has never ceased, and today that state's more than 17 million residents come close to that of New York state. The gold many years ago lost its attraction—but the sun, the scenery, the fertile soil and wide open spaces continue the lure. What great changes have come since the advent of the covered wagon and the pony express!

Add to the automotive rogues' gallery the fellow who wages his way into an intersection instead of waiting until a break in traffic gives him a clear field. He is the cause of some accidents. He also is the cause of much irritation, which in turn may lead to accidents farther along. There are two kinds of intersection edgers. One is the person who more or less inadvertently glides out farther than he should, and then often cannot back up

because someone has pulled in behind him. The other is the bluffer. His offense is deliberate; he pushes aggressively forward, hoping to force someone in the oncoming traffic stream to give way. Fumbler or bluffer, he's a bad nuisance.

The United Nations boasts that it consists of some of the "best brains" from its nation members—brains that are presumed to be able to direct our world along peaceful, economical, successful lines. Yet, in its support of the abolition of "colonialism," it accepts and gives equal status to those barbaric African nations. What can they add to the basic intelligence of the United Nations? Might as well give the right to vote to six-year-old American boys and girls.

Not content to be satisfied with the opportunities to tap oil in certain known oil-bearing areas, some operators illegally drill "slanting wells" that, starting on their legally owned lands, eventually get into oil pools owned by other operators. Forty-three such wells have been discovered in oil-rich Texas. Apparently, then, even the oil industry has its "Billie Sol Estes" types.

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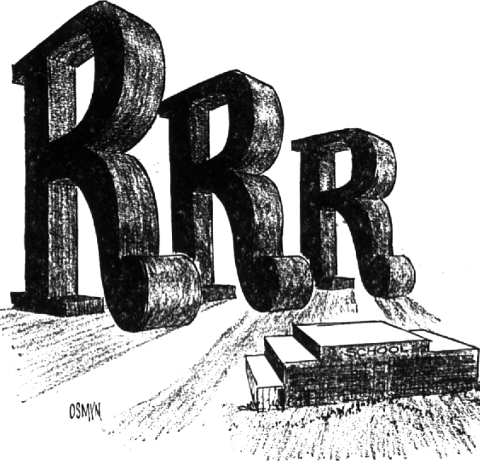
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PUBLISHER: PAUL N. AVERILL  
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.  
MANAGING EDITOR: KENNETH R. WEAVER  
ADVERTISING MANAGER: ARTHUR SHAEFER

George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus

### Time to Dust Off the Three R's



#### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

### Swan Lover Upholds Shain Park Fountain

To the Editor:

Driving into town last night to drop a letter via the Bates St. box, it was mentioned to my spouse that six "wild birds—swans that is," might someday be seen across the way in Shain's park.

"There's no lake Swans wouldn't like it," and he also added that those birds go for swamps and a more secluded life than what would be found back of a dime store.

When he was informed that they'd not be the kind with blood flowing through their veins, he asked what other styles swans were coming in these days?

"THEY'D BE sculptured. Furthermore, a flowing fountain would be installed to make them feel right at home," he was told with an air of "I know it all because I read papers."

When he visualized this set-up, six pretty swans plus a curling fountain to boot, he began to

change his opinion and was about to admit that it'd lend beauty to the park until he heard the tune sung something to the effect that "and it'll come to only \$50,000, the swans plus fountain."

**MY SPOUSE?** Doesn't his brain work in such channels. Immediately, before one could lick a stamp, he retorted: "Ye Gods! For that price another piece of land could be purchased and swans where lots of people, young and old, could wander and stroll and enjoy the outdoors."

Maybe he (my mate) just doesn't like swans, or a fountain either? Not if they add up to that much?

A SWAN LOVER

### Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

Aug. 30, 1912

There will be an exhibition of mushrooms, Monday evening in Birmingham, September 2nd, at Johnston-Shaw hall, Woodward Ave. From 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. with seats free and no collection. Everyone is invited to attend, and bring all the specimens you can think of, every kind and nature, especially the kinds that grow in the woods and the stumps. Experts will be present to explain to you fully, how to tell the fine and good mushrooms from the bad ones; which are edible and which are not.

There are few aids to efficiency so useful as the telephone, and it is something we may be proud of that in this country alone 67 per cent of all the instruments and 61 1/2 per cent of all the wire used in telephone service in the world is employed. Practically two-thirds of the telephone business of the world is therefore concentrated in the United States. This represents an investment of \$1,729,000,000, which is currently a great sum, in view of the fact that last year was only the thirty-fifth since professor Bell invented the telephone.

30 YEARS AGO

Sept. 1, 1932

Holy Name School, Harmon Ave., will open regular sessions Tuesday morning. It was announced by Rev. James A. Potter, pastor. Virtually the same curriculum as offered last year will be given. Rev. Cutler says, and the school will be run on a full-time basis.

What the world needs today is (See HAPPENINGS, 7-13)

by IRMA N. DAVIS



### Eccentric Closed Saturday, Monday

The Birmingham Eccentric offices will be closed Saturday, Sept. 1, and Monday, Sept. 3, for the Labor Day holiday.

All news contributors and advertisers are urged to get their copy into our offices at 1225 E. Bowers, Birmingham, as early as possible.

### Editorials Draw Reader's Praise

To the Editor:

Your editorials in The Eccentric on Aug. 9, entitled "Walk down the Main Street" and "Help Keep our City Clean," were excellent ones. As you know, there are many of us who are mightily concerned over the future of our Birmingham shopping area. Certainly, your editorials pointed it out to the citizens of Birmingham as no merchant or the Chamber of Commerce could possibly do.

We deeply appreciate your keen interest and tremendous help in this area. Thank you on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce.

HARRIS O. MACHUS  
President  
Fham Chamber of Commerce

### Once Over Lightly

Putting a woman into orbit is a question that gets some down-to-earth answers, at least in the Birmingham area.

Just for fun, we conducted some very limited research among local members of the "waker" sex.

"Would you be interested in being the first American woman to go into space?" we asked. "Not me," they all answered—"all four of them. Mrs. Marshall Roe out in Franklin summed it all up with an "It won't be me, believe me," reply. "I'm just not the adventurous type," she elaborated. "As a matter of fact, I have trouble getting both feet off the ground and onto a step-ladder. Then I'm too busy hanging on to do anything."

**ECHOING THE** sentiments of many girls, she said she was "too involved with just being a housewife," but felt sure her young son Roger would have his toothbrush ready to go at the drop of an opportunity.

Of one thing, Mrs. Roe was thoroughly convinced, however. "A man would do a better job, anyway—they think with their minds; women think with their hearts."

Barbara Marx, who is associated with the community services department of the Birmingham Public Schools, felt that gender shouldn't be a factor in considering the qualifications of future astronauts.

Nevertheless, she is quite happy where she is and has "no desire to take off into space."

**IN A THOUGHTFUL** manner, she also observed that it was "too bad the emphasis seems to be on competition; who gets to the moon first, the United States or Russia. I'd like to see them concentrate more on other aspects—the scientific, for instance."

Over in Cranbrook Village, Mrs. Lloyd Gabler saw "no reason why a woman wouldn't do it and do it well," but she was sure it wasn't "her dish." "There are other things I'd rather do," she said. "But it would take strength and the intellectual wherewithal, no matter who goes."

**TEEN-AGER MOLLY** Winborn, Birmingham resident, thinks: "They should leave some things 'for men only.'"

"Women are too emotional—how would they wonder?" this pretty blonde miss react in an emergency?" this pretty blonde miss react in an emergency? she's studying to be a medical technician.

"Biologically, women might be better physically for a job like that," she said, "but I think they'd better stay on earth. That's where they're needed."

**NO DOUBT THERE** are gals who would give a rocket a whirl but our little sampling failed to produce one.

Just in case there is a shortage of feminine volunteers from hereabouts, one woman (who asked that her name be withheld) indicated that she might have a cure.

"I can think of a few women who should send up," she offered.

### Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



The phone rang and a voice said, "Hi, Hank. Al Bell speaking."

"He replied, 'Alexander Graham Bell of the Telephone Company. I'm in from your column of a couple of weeks ago concerning ANC.'"

**I SAID, "ANC?"**  
"Yes, All Number Calling."

"Oh, you mean that 10-number system that we are now using?"  
"Yes, and I don't think that you have given it a fair trial. If you remember numbers in groups, such as first, the area code, then the local three numbers, then finally the last four numbers, you won't have any trouble."

**I SAID, "When** are you people going to get those memory telephones out so we can forget about numbers and phone books?"

He answered, "They're out in certain parts of the country and they're great if you don't have more than nine friends. The phone has the capacity to remember that number."

"After the mail I've been getting that's more than I need."

**HE TRIED** to change the subject by saying, "The only reason we had to do it was growth. In order to fulfill all the orders in the future for telephones we didn't have enough numbers to go around."

"We could have changed everyone's phone so that the letters were better spaced or added an extra letter or number to everyone's telephone number, but then we would have had to change the numbers all over the country on one day. The all-number system seemed the most practical."

I replied, "I suppose you're right, but what ever happened to all those sweet operators we used to talk to when we wanted to know where someone was in town?"

"They got married."

He then said, "I think we ought to get together for lunch and discuss this further. Let me check my schedule to see when I'm free and I'll call you back. By the way, what's your number?" I can never remember these darn 10-digit telephone numbers."

I replied, "313-644-1100 ext. 23."



By KEN WEAVER

### City Beat

The man was in for a surprise. He had come all the way to Birmingham from Chicago to see how a certain piece of equipment had been used.

The man, a sewage plant design engineer, called on Assistant City Manager Robert S. Keating. It seems one of his clients had suggested that he visit the Birmingham sewage plant because he understood a modern type of equipment had been used in designing the facility.

Birmingham, he had been told, had installed "one of the most modern sewage treatment plants in Michigan." "Ours is a community art center," Keating informed the Chicagoan.

After the shock had receded, he went on: "Ours is probably the only sewage plant in the country that has absolutely no odor."

"In fact, art classes are taught directly above the sludge pits."

The man from Chicago toured the Birmingham facility, took a picture of it and headed for Warren—that community had constructed a new, modern sewage-plant a couple years ago.

**A COUPLE COLUMNS** back, I wrote that if George Romney is elected in November, he will be the second governor elected from Oakland County.

Tom Starr of Royal Oak tells me I was wrong. "What about Moses Wisner from Pontiac and Fred Warner from Farmington?" he asks.

Wisner was governor in 1859 and '60, under the constitution of 1850. Warner was governor from 1905 to 1910, the last to serve under the 1850 constitution.

**IN THAT SAME** column, I pointed out that no Michigan man has ever been elected president.

Starr reminds me that Thomas E. Dewey, a native of Owosso, Mich., was a candidate for that office four times. He was a resident of New York when nominated, though; and, of course, never won the presidency.

"Lewis Cass almost made it," says Starr, "but a man by the name of Abe Lincoln gave a speech in Congress that squelched that."

Starr, a long-time resident of the area, remembers his history pretty well.

The meat shortage in Prague isn't so bad. The people can always chew on what party leaders say about inefficient capitalist food production methods.

A man has tact who won't change his mind but will change his subject.

There is always a better way to do something.

Business is like oil, it won't mix with anything but business.

Many people could retire comfortably on what their experience has cost them.

Be philosophical about what you don't like but can't change.

People get the most kick out of life who do the least kicking.

A nodding acquaintance is one with whom you have nodding in common.