

## We're Proud of Our Police

With the announcement last week that the City of Birmingham had been awarded a Pedestrian Safety Citation by the American Automobile Association in their National Pedestrian Program Appraisal, The Eccentric felt that it was time to congratulate our safety-minded citizens and particularly the Birmingham Police.

This award is not the first our city has received. Earlier this year we were presented with the Walker Safety Award by the National Police Officers Association of America, because the police had "rendered meritorious service for the public welfare by materially reducing traffic accidents, fatalities and promoting highway safety."

The Birmingham Police Department has also been informed that it is to receive a certificate of achievement from the National Safety Council for its record of no traffic deaths and its noteworthy traffic safety activities.

THROUGH THE FINE efforts of the

police, Birmingham has not had a traffic fatality since October of 1960. Over 550 days have passed since that event. With the number of automobiles using our city streets, this is indeed a record of which we can be proud.

Police departments are not often enough singled out for praise. Citizens usually avoid our "men in blue," except when they are faced with an emergency.

Some citizens resent strict enforcement of the laws, yet we have over 550 days of living proof that this is the way to preserve lives.

WE ARE PROUD of our local police department, not only for the awards that they have earned for our community, but for the high type of service they have rendered in protecting our citizens.

Not only is it safe to drive in Birmingham, it is also safe to walk its streets at night without fear or apprehension. These are the tests of good law enforcement, and we come out on top.

## Protect Your Vote: Register

We would like to remind our residents that the last day for registration to vote in the coming primary election to be held in August, is next Monday, July 9th.

Many residents are not too excited about the primary election since there is no competition for the governorship in either party, nor for the new congressman-at-large.

Yet in Michigan the primary election, in some cases, is more important than the general election in November. Political experts in 1960 felt that there were only nine swing districts in the state legislature.

A SWING DISTRICT is one in which

the vote is so close that either a Republican or a Democrat could be elected. Apparently the remaining 135 seats in our Legislature are almost sure Republican or Democratic.

If this is true then the only chance a citizen has to select the best man for the job is to elect him in the party runoff in the primary election.

If he doesn't vote in the primary, he is merely confirming the voices that voted in August when he enters the voting booth in November.

You cannot vote unless you are registered. You have only five more days to take care of it if you have not already done so.

## Regulating Non-Scheduled Airlines

The airlines that operate non-scheduled flights have been depicted as a menace to air safety and a threat to the solvency of the scheduled-flight lines. An impartial observer can see some truth in both these assertions, but it also is clear that the charges are exaggerated.

Historically, the safety record of the lines called "non-skeds" is about as good as that of the other airlines. If their operations do add somewhat to hazards of flight, that would seem to reflect inadequate regulation. This can be corrected.

THERE IS NO doubt that the non-skeds take a bite of revenue that otherwise might go to the regular airlines. In this sense, they are a financial threat. But they also perform a useful function for which the public is willing to pay. It is hard to argue against that.

The non-skeds should be subjected to regulation as stringent as that which applies to other airlines. Once that is agreed to, congressional approval of law to give them permanent status seems wholly warranted.

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

It was interesting to note in last week's paper that our area has been selected to maintain an eye bank substitution. The Lions Club in Lathrup will maintain the substitution, with Dr. Louis J. Manley of Lathrup in charge of the bank. People may bequeath their eyes, for use after death; they will be used to restore sight to living beings. The Lathrup Lions or Dr. Manley will be glad to hear from any of our readers who wish to arrange such a request.

A columnist says the American people have become weary. Well, trying to keep up with all the communists is likely to have that effect.

Part of this Billie Sol Estes swindling case existed when Ike was President, it's reported. Also, Ike's regime is said to be responsible for most of the nation's surplus stockpile... manipulations of which allowed some companies temporarily to suspend sales to the federal government, so that they could sell at higher prices to industry. In view of the current Estes case, when "political looseness" will be directed by the GOP against the Demos, the latter plans to shout about "stockpiling" every time the GOP shouts about Estes. Sort of a dirty quid pro quo.

Creeping bent in grass. It's also what you do when you hunt crab grass.

Recent stock market decline, say many in and out of politics, was "triggered" by what President Kennedy did in the steel crisis. Wasn't it Calvin Coolidge who, when President, said that "every word uttered by a President of the United States weighs a ton?"

A British scientist fears U.S. and Soviet rockets may "contaminate" life on Venus. What worries us is that the Venusians may get mad and return the favor.

Headline: Old Silver Suggested for Bride. And for the groom, folding money.

Billy Graham says the stock market drop may be a warning from on high. But market analysts are expected to go on trying to figure out what happened.

The "great leap forward" in communist China has become a hunger march.

Richard Nixon won the GOP primary all right. His big trouble now is that in California the donkey is bigger than the elephant.

There's a lot of talk about better methods of financing political campaigns. If it'll result in better candidates, we're all for it.

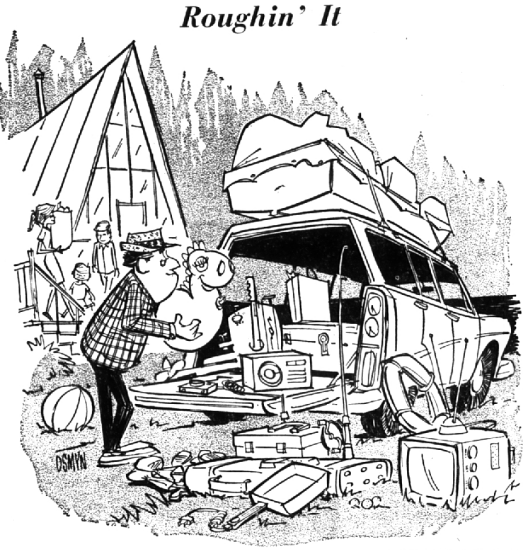
The Interior Department is conducting a fish census—counting 'em but not catching 'em. This is what a lot of fishermen do when they go out.

You're old-fashioned if you remember that one of the foundation-stones of the U.S.A.'s progress was the practice of thrift, of self-reliance, of opposition to the centralizing of your government.

Former President Truman says he wouldn't orbit the earth, even if they gave him the moon. Unless, one imagines, they turned out to be voters on the moon.

Both travel and smoking increase. Maybe people figure a change of air will keep them from getting lung cancer.

The administration may not be anti-business, but judging by recent events business seems anti-administration.



### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Family Service Lauds Needlework Guild Here

To the Editor:

Each year, we at Family Service have been able to serve an increasing number of families with problems around marital adjustment, child behavior difficulties, aging, personality adjustment and other family problems.

This has been due to many factors. In large part, it represents the community's concern for strong and healthy family life. This concern finds expression in the community support of our program through the United Fund. In addition to this, there are other community groups which have shown interest and support.

The Birmingham Needlework Guild is an outstanding example of one.

BECAUSE family problems are no respecter of economic and social stature, the agency does serve marginal income families who have great difficulty in making ends meet in times of crises. Thus, a specially designated fund of money from the Needlework Guild over the past seven years has allowed 37 families in 1961 to receive help in the purchase of shoes for children.

THIS HAS MEANT that many children of marginal income families have had adequate shoes for school. In addition, the guild has also supplied a fine selection of good durable clothing for this kind of family.

We believe that the Needlework Guild should be congratulated and thanked for its keen sense of a community concern and responsibility.

ROBERT J. DANES  
Executive Director  
Family Service of  
Oakland County

## Writer Appalled At Bottle Litter Along Local Road

To the Editor:

Along beautiful Quanton Road there are signs telling the driver what speed to proceed at while driving along this lovely section of town. The road is paved now. The scenery on both sides is breathtakingly lovely, what with its homes setting like jewels on manicured lawns.

Only one more sign is needed now in order to retain its beauty; this should read, in big bold black letters:

"Please don't dump or throw out your beer, gin, and whiskey bottles here."

LAST SATURDAY, driving twice into town, I couldn't believe what I saw. In two different spots, about a half-mile apart, what should be strewn along Quanton, but many, many beer bottles, a couple of gin bottles and whiskey containers.

"There must have been a party for 100 or so people and they didn't know where to dispose of the remains," the mind reasoned.

Then the thought struck, "What if there was 'no big party' and these remains were from only a few people? They were behind a car wheel. If they emptied the contents of these bottles and were driving along Quanton, another car coming in the opposite direction..." (See WRITER, 1-B)

## Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

July 5, 1912

Deputy State Land Commissioner Munshaw has issued a warning to Detroit property holders relative to the state land sale to be held in Detroit June 25. Among the property to be held by the state is a large number of valuable tracts of land adjoining Detroit residences. Mr. Munshaw warns property owners that these "slivers," as they are called, may be purchased by land "sharks" who will demand enormous prices from the land owners of the future.

Jack Theut has had his house painted; Wm. Warren lost a good work horse Wednesday; Anna Cornelius entertained Detroit company Saturday; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Baugh have returned to their home in Flint; Raymond Thompson is spending a few weeks with County Line friends; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Vandenberg entertained about 20 Detroit friends Sunday; Jacob Hartwig is having lumber sawed for a new barn; Renke Bros. are doing the work; Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Moorehead and daughter Mary, spent Sunday with Jake Rickabus and family; Albert B. Beck's friends and neighbors are very much pleased to hear of his rapid recovery from an operation which he recently underwent at Harper Hospital, Detroit.

30 YEARS AGO

June 23, 1932

Playing for the first time over the championship links of the Oakland Hills Country Club Sunday afternoon, Jose Jarado, the Argentine golf champion who has been practicing on the courses of Oakland County for the coming season. (See HAPPENINGS, 8-B)

## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



Several Birmingham businessmen were sitting around the star table at Machus' the other day discussing the community and fund raising.

Springtime not only brings showers and flowers to Birmingham, but also pledge cards and invitations to the most noble charity affairs.

One of the gentlemen at the table suggested that the Chamber of Commerce might form a united fund to take care of the United Fund and all the other ununited funds.

ANOTHER GENTLEMAN defended the practice of separate appeals because it gave the residents an opportunity to select the charities in which they have some interest, but pass over the others.

There is no question because of the high per capita income of this area that we are subjected to more appeals than the average community.

However, it is still better to have these organizations voluntarily financed than added to the governmental rolls.

ONE OF THE gentlemen at the table happened to be involved in fund raising (maybe that's how the conversation started), and he indicated that trying to raise funds was not all bread and honey, as anyone knows who has ever tried to promote one.

He chuckled over some of the attempts of people to avoid giving. The standard, of course, is the person who will walk blocks out of his way to avoid giving a quarter to a man holding a canister on the street.

IN A LOCAL drive an individual refused an appeal letter when the postman delivered it. When somebody from the drive called him up and asked him why, he said that when he first moved to Birmingham a police clerk was impolite to him when he tried to change his address and from that time on he had never purchased anything in Birmingham, except three car washes.

The moral seems pretty obvious. Every employee of every business must be a public relations person, because that single employee may be the only contact that a customer has with the business.

ANOTHER PERSON turned down our fund raising campaign saying he was a school teacher in Birmingham but couldn't afford to buy a house here and hence wasn't interested in any local charities. When the fund raiser suggested several areas where he could purchase a home with a nominal down payment, the teacher replied he wanted a house with nothing down.

As long as our community remains as outstanding as it is, we can talk about the evils and annoyances of being subjected to many appeals, but this still won't stop the postman from being overburdened in the springtime.



By KEN WEAVER

## City Beat

The space age has brought a few headaches to public libraries, I am told.

Under what classification, for instance, should they place books about trips to the moon?

Early yarns about imaginary flights can't very well be put into the same class with recent factual accounts of the way in which man will actually reach the moon.

THEN THERE IS the matter of this wholly new category of space travel. One public library in a large city decided that astronautics and space flights would be a subdivision under aeronautics.

But this still did not solve the problem of rockets, which originally were used only for weapons.

Does space law come under space conquest or under international law, is another question.

ONE THING IS certain, though: Youngsters who ask for books today on trips to the moon are not merely indulging in the right of youth to dream of the impossible.

Julius Verne has long since been superseded by a new kind of science fiction writer—who projects imagination far beyond the moon and the solar system.

Yet, even such a writer is finding that reality catches up with fiction at an accelerated pace these days.

SPEAKING OF space, two Nashville, Tenn., boys got an unexpected chance at exploration recently.

Seems that they had been hired to operate a tethered advertising balloon.

It started out as a routine job, with the 70-foot balloon moored snugly.

But, lo and behold, it broke loose and, before the boys were able to turn down the air heater, it soared aloft, lifting them to 11,000 feet.

To cap the climax, the balloon hit cool air that made it descend rather rapidly. Not hastily enough to cause disaster—but 'twas enough!

The two boys are now experts on the adventures of advertising—and space exploration.

A WISE MAN once said to me: If you find life is empty, try putting something into it.

Chairman Smith of the House rules committee taps his pipe on an ashtray to signal fellow committee members that a witness is getting out of hand. No one has yet devised a signal that will keep Smith from getting out of hand.

Watered ham has to carry a "water added" label. Too bad that didn't apply to some of the stocks that skyrocketed before the plunge.

Red China may attack Formosa, or vice versa. In either case, the real victim of the attack would be world peace.

Travel taxes will be set off November 15. It will be interesting to see how quickly—or maybe we should say whether—fares go down.

## Once Over Lightly

by IRMA N. DAVIS



The "silly season" is upon us. This synonym for hot weather—commonly used in newspaper parlance to describe the summertime death of sober-sided news—could very well have been applied to a group of local party guests the other night.

Certainly, their conversation took a hilarious turn. It all started when someone casually mentioned an ad promoting the advantages of the automatic toothbrush.

From then on the conversation fairly bristled with "what will they think of next?"

Naturally, that led to "I wish they'd invent..."

"I can't wait for an 'automatic secretary,'" one guest remarked. "It sure would be nice to push a button and get everything done without any snafus."

His wife, who obviously considered this an excellent idea, added her contribution to inventions of the future. Hers was of a more domestic bent.

Her dream, her vision of Utopia, centered on edible dishes in desert fashions.

"The way I see it," she said, "you could just serve the meat and potatoes on the plate, then peel off a layer of something or other and there would be your dessert. No dishes to wash."

The ladies all nodded their heads, savoring this delightful prospect while dreams of sugar plums—in open stock patterns—danced in their

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