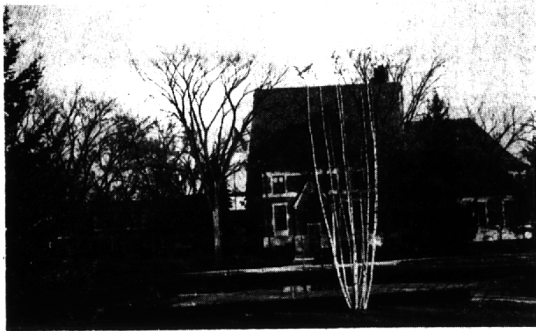


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Aesthetically attractive Birmingham Municipal Building as viewed from aesthetically attractive Shain Park.

Viewing Community Values

The Birmingham area is a community of unique values. These values are reflected in the quality of our homes, our schools, our churches, our social and cultural organizations, our business establishments, our recreational facilities, our governmental services. Through the years, the citizens of this area have demonstrated a high degree of interest in standards that have made this a pleasant community in which to live, work and play. Beginning today, The Eccentric is publishing a series of pictorial editorials to point out some of the places that we believe best illustrate some of the values that give us this quality.

AS WE SEE IT, the effectiveness and character of any community is inevitably determined by the values that guide the lives of its people and become manifest, about them, in the pursuit of their daily existence. This is as true for the Birmingham area as it is for any other community. These values determine the community environment in its many aspects. They embrace all community resources, both physical and intangible.

THIS ENVIRONMENT reflects and constitutes at the same time both the vitality and the quality of citizenry values. To the extent that there is vitality and quality in these values, there is a direct relationship as to whether a community enjoys guided or accidental development. It follows, then, that the Birmingham area's community character is a result of its citizens' value standards. By and large, the residents of this area have a dedicated pride in maintaining a community character of the highest order.

AS WE PROCEED with our pictorial editorials, we will be concerned with the aesthetic qualities as well as the functional aspects of buildings. Does a new structure or the modernization of an old one meet or improve upon the existing aesthetic values? Is it compatible with what already exists? Just how concerned are our people with the preservation and improvement of those values that make this such an outstanding community?

AS WE PUBLISH these photographic reviews, we hope that our readers will suggest still other places that exemplify values that make us unique. It is our purpose to give thought to the future, to define those values that we feel will offer our children—and their children—a heritage of which they always will be proud.



This house at 264 W. Brown, built in 1822, is the oldest in Birmingham. Yet, it has compatibility with the Birmingham of "today".

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Blames a Groves Coach More Than Newspaper

To the Editor:

I have just finished reading the letter headed "Questions Coverage of Sports at Groves" (Dec. 20 issue). Yes, I, too, have watched the headlines in The Birmingham Eccentric and the covers given the Groves activity in the field of sports. I would like to go a little further, though, and point my finger at a coach the boys had back in 1961 men 1962. It seems to me that too much emphasis was placed on making one boy a star, to the disadvantage of the other players.

Sounds ridiculous, but this we witnessed.

WELL, ANYWAY, with a leader such as this, how can any of us expect to see a true accounting of a sports event in the paper? I would like to see this letter in print if it is only to wish the class of '62 who worked so hard on the football team the very best. Some of them have gone on to college; some are working; but here and now, let us wish them well and hope and pray if they have followed sports they will get a fairer deal than they received in high school.

AN INTERESTED SPECTATOR

Both Chambers Helped With City Decorations

To the Editor:

Last week I wrote you a letter complimenting the Junior Chamber of Commerce for the beautiful way they had trimmed up the downtown section of Birmingham, including the little lights on the Little Leaf Linden.

ber of Commerce in any way, I apologize; for that is the last thing I would want to do, as I have good friends in both chambers. But whether Junior or Senior, I say three cheers for the way our town looks this year. The Junior Chamber of Commerce trimmed the stores and the poles with ropes of evergreen and wreaths; and the Senior Chamber of Commerce was responsible for the little lights.

MRS. STELLA EDGAR
780 Chestnut
Birmingham

THE GOLDEN YEARS

On the coastal highway between Los Angeles and San Diego, Calif., not far south of Long Beach, is a man named Jim Stewart. He is a retired automobile plant worker from Detroit. He owns an auto repair shop, with two gasoline pumps on the side, and is making more money than he ever made in his life. He and his wife have a ranch house overlooking the Pacific.

She is earning tuition for her two schools by working in a store on Saturdays and baby-sitting five nights a week. She is paying rent on a small studio apartment in the New Orleans French Quarter with Social Security and a pension that total more money than she will ever receive. She wants to express herself, and through either art of writing, she is determined that she will do it.

DOWN IN the mountains, to the east of Gatlinburg, Tenn., is another retired man. His name is Whitney McDonald. He came from a department store job in New Jersey... and he came to find God.

WHAT THESE three people have done you can do... not because of the handsomeness of your face or lack of it, not because your importance in life or the lack of it.

He is a lay Protestant minister, working for what the mountain people can give him, dedicating his life to their spiritual and material needs in the belief that he owes something to his fellow man for the privilege of living.

When you take your Social Security and pension and walk for the last time out of the building that has supplied the ways and means of your existence, you do not go with much that you can put in a sack.

MISS ELIZABETH Gennis is a retired corporation clerk from Chicago. She lives in New Orleans. Two afternoons a week she is studying oil painting at a private art class. Two evenings a week she is studying creative writing at a university.

YET YOU carry two splendid pieces of wealth with you. You carry in your pension and Social Security a guaranteed monthly wage. It is yours until you die and nobody can try you from it. Hard times can't take it away.

It's time to revise the calendar. The one I have in mind is strictly practical, bound to be popular with working people and especially well-received by school teachers. It is inspired by the fact that there are only 42 shopping days until Valentine's Day and the stores are about to break out the candy hearts and do-it-yourself cards. Already, they are displaying bathing suits and by the day after Easter Sunday there won't be a spring coat left to buy in any store.

And you carry something even more valuable. You carry the nearest thing to freedom that men and women of our time ever know.

ALL OF WHICH proves that something is topsy-turvy, so let's right it with an everman's calendar. First to be corrected is the lack of a holiday between New Year's Day and Memorial Day—the kind of holiday, that is, that means a day off (with pay, preferably). There's Groundhog Day, of course, which could give everyone a heather on Feb. 2. Unfortunately, not even the banks close on this all-important occasion and it merits more than a casual observance.

ONE OTHER MINOR revision is in order: two weeks extra vacation, one before and one after Christmas. I presume everyone will know what to do with that extra time. I almost forgot one very important day—Jan. 2. We could call that one "Recovery Day," for obvious reasons, and this would be the only movable holiday on MY calendar. It could be alternately observed on April 16, the day after your income tax was in the mail.

Everyone needs a rest then.

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

Jan. 3, 1913
Congressman W. W. Wedemeyer, of the Second district of Michigan, suffering from a serious physical and mental breakdown, is confined in an iron-barred room at Ancon, Panama, under a heavy guard to prevent him from injuring himself. Mr. Wedemeyer collapsed aboard the steamship which carried the congressional party which is visiting the canal, and during his delirium attempted to hurt himself into the sea.

30 YEARS AGO

Jan. 5, 1933
James V. Bayley, Bloomfield Township clerk, was asked to perform his duties properly "or resign" at a fiery special session of the Bloomfield Township Board Wednesday. Charges that he was "derelict" in his duties and was following a policy of "secrecy" in withholding bills from the Board which should be presented for payment by Justice of the Peace David Levinson.

30 YEARS AGO

Jan. 5, 1933
First steps toward arriving at a settlement with Bloomfield Township over the division of mutual assets and liabilities were taken by the city of Bloomfield Hills Tuesday night when the City Commission appointed a committee to interview Harry S. Starr, city engineer, with a view to employing him for six months on the understanding that representing the city in the settlement would be one of his duties.

15 YEARS AGO

Dec. 31, 1947
City Manager Donald C. Egbert will begin immediately to prepare next summer's road oiling program in order to effectively use city equipment during the several summer months, it was indicated at Monday night's city commission meeting. Harry Henderson of Franklin last week was named as the third member of the Liquor Control Commission for the State of Michigan by Gov. Kim Sigler. This completes and fulfills Sigler's campaign pledge that he would name a new commission. Henderson replaces Felix H. H. Flynn, named to the commission in 1942 by ex-Gov. Harry F. Kelly.

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

JUST WHAT IS THE AFS? With an increasing number of foreign students coming into our community schools each year and a like proportion of our own young people putting on their travel tops to be schooled overseas for a year, a common question always comes up, just what is the AFS?

The American Field Service is an organization founded in 1915 as a volunteer ambulance driver group for the first World War in France. It also served in the second World War. In 1947 this group started a peacetime program of international exchange of teenagers to further understanding and goodwill among the peoples of the world.

THE AFS locally, then, has two responsibilities. The first is to find homes in our community where foreign students may live during a year's stay here and to raise money to cover the cost of the student's stay.

The second responsibility is to cultivate interested local students for the pool of American students we send abroad. In our immediate area we have three chapters of the AFS, one connected with each of our three public high schools: Seaholm, Bloomfield and Groves.

THESE GROUPS raise the more than \$700 needed for each foreign student to cover the cost of lunches, rings-school fees, ski trips, the annual Washington trip, etc. The local boards of education pick up the tuition expense.

Most of the money raised is collected by the local students themselves. (In Seaholm's case all is raised by the students.) They conduct all types of sales, wash cars, have parties and put on programs. The money has to be collected by April for the subsequent year.

THE PROGRAM, itself, has international effects. What can show the American way of life (if you'll pardon the cliché) better to people abroad than to bring them here and witness it first-hand? And what better way is there to make friends than by sending our best young people to foreign lands as ambassadors of our way of life.

There is always criticism of our foreign policy which is based in part on buying friends abroad. This program without governmental funds could do more for our "image" in the eyes of the individual people of foreign nations than millions of dollars wasted on politicians. Anyone interested in learning more about the program can contact the local high schools.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER
Through the years, man has had a penchant for women. Yet, man has consistently held women in low repute. Unwilling to give voice to his attachment for the girls, he has made a practice of criticizing them. Anecdotes belittling "the little woman" have become commonplace. You hear them at work, you hear them at the corner saloon. Now comes to our attention a poem that summarizes almost everything man has ever said about women. It was found among the effects of one Ashby Smithson Wood, who died last summer at the age of 85 in Leeds, Yorkshire, England. He was the father of Mrs. Douglas Lock, 2651 Avonhurst, Birmingham.

THE POEM:
An Angel in truth a Demon in fiction,
A woman's the greatest of all contradiction.
She's afraid of the beastie,
She'll scream at a mouse, but she'll tackle a husband as big as a house.
She'll take him for better, she'll take him for worse,
She'll split his head open, and then be his nurse.
And when he is well and can get out of bed,
Why she'll pick up a tea-pot and throw at his head,
She's crafty, she's simple, she's cruel, she's kind,
She's artful, kind-hearted, keen-sighted and blind.
She'll lift a man up, she'll let a man down,
She'll crown him her king, then make him her clown.
You think she is THIS but you find she is THAT,
For she'll play like a kitten and bite like a cat.
In the evening she will, in morning she won't,
And you're always expecting she will but she don't.

SO YOU want to buy 1963 license plates for your car and you want to call to see what the office hours are. Where to look in the phone book? License Bureau? No. License Branch? No. In fact, there's nothing that begins with the name of license in the local directory. Birmingham License Bureau? Oakland County License Bureau? Nothing. Perhaps it's Birmingham Police Department License Office. Nope. Well, then, how about Oakland County Secretary of State office or branch? Surely, there's something listed under Secretary of State? No such luck. Auto License Bureau? Motor License Bureau? Automotive, automobile, automatic—car? No, no and again no.

WHEN IT comes right down to it, it's really a simple matter. All you have to do is look for Michigan State. And there it is, plain as can be: Secretary of State Branch Office, 292 Park, Birmingham, MI 6-2929. (Notice that it's still listed with the letters MI and not as all numbers? That's one break, anyway.) So, you dial the number. What? The line's busy? That figures.

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PUBLISHER: PAUL N. AVERILL
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.
MANAGING EDITOR: KENNETH R. WEAVER
ADVERTISING MANAGER: ARTHUR SHAFER
George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus