EDITORIAL

Eccentricities

Recently, I had the opportunity to hear Al Capp, the creator of "Li"l Abner" of funny paper fame, speaking before the state press association.

Capp brought up an interesting point, that the motivation researchers of Madison Avenue spent many years trying to determine just what influences the American mind.

WHEN THE AD men found this out, they started falling over each other to get the funnies and see what they were doing to influence people, and of course, how they could sneak the products they wished to promote into the comic pages.

the comic pages.

When they came to Capp, they point-blank asked him what he was trying to do with "LI" Abner" to change America. He indicated that for some of his rival cartoonists this was a ridiculous question after reading them, but that he, himself, did have a message.

He said that he was born in New Haven, Conn., on a Stevens St. It was the type of neighborhood that is now the target of urban renewal projects.

HE INDICATED that there was no prejudice because o one had anything and everyone was accepted for what

no one had anything and everyone was accepted to make was.

The Hogans upstairs (no relation that I care to admit to) were no different than the Caplans downstairs, except that they went to their synagogue on Sunday instead of Saturday, and when their "rabbl" came to visit them he had his collar on backwards.

The Macottis across the street served the same low-cost food but they called it ravioli instead of knishes.

When Capp's (nee Caplan) family moved to a better neighborhood, all of a sudden he found out that he was different. He was at a decided disadvantage because he didn't know whom he was supposed to hate.

By HANK HOGAN

The Women in Our Lives

For the past eight years, Birmingham and its contiguous areas have been blessed with the services of two talented, dedicated

women in top civic positions.

We are thinking, of course, of former
Mayor Florence H. Willett and School



of these two women. It is our hope that they

will continue to be available for future involve-KATHRYN T. LOOMIS ment in civic responsibilities

We are proud

WE HOPE, too, that their decisions do not reflect, or indicate, an end to the cycle of women serving our area. We trust that their examples will inspire still others to

their examples will inspire still others to similar achievements.

Mrs. Loomis, board member since 1955 and president since 1955, has offered leadership to the school district during a period of crucial transition. Since the 1954-55 school year, the school-age population in the district has grown from 6,665 to more than 13,000.

This community should be, and we believe is, extremely grateful to Mrs. Loomis for her services during this period of growth and complex problems. Much of the credit for the recognized high quality of the system today must include her.

"MRS. LOOMIS has served the school community exceedingly well," said Dr. Otis M. Dickey, school superintendent. "Even in a school community which is literally full of talent," he continued, "it

is unusual to have the advantage of such a remarkably able and devoted lay educational leader.

"... At all times and under all circum-

stances, she has commanded our admiration and respect as a leader. Through her gracious manner, courageous spirit and great sense of justice and loyalty, all of us have been encouraged and supported in our reach for higher standards and re-

THIS IS a high tribute, one that we are sure is echoed by the entire school community.

Such has been the service, the dedication

Such has been the service, the dedication to duty from Mrs. Loomis.

But why don't more women run for local public office?

We asked Mrs. Loomis to express her thoughts on this subject. She listed these characteristics which she felt a school board member or city commissioner should have:

commissioner should have:
"First is sound judgment; the habit of
making careful, rational decisions.
"Second is a genuine concern for the
public welfare — whether that of the
schools or of the city; a willingness to give
time, thought and patience to achieve it.
"Third is, imagination about the future.

"Fourth is skill in perceiving the view-points of others and trying to reconcile

"Fifth is a knowledge of efficient business procedures—for our schools and our city are large enterprises which should be

OF THESE, SHE believes that more women than men are qualified on points two and four. If there is any edge on point three, the nod would probably go to the men.
"But obviously," Mrs. Loomis went on,

in a community like this, we have a num-ber of women who have the womanly strengths and are also very good in the fields where men usually excel.

"Married women have one additional problem. Their families should and do come first.

"A man may choose to carry public office at any period of his life; and his wife, as a matter of course, is at home evenings with the children, or, if by herself, is philosophic about it.

"FOR A woman expectations are differ-

ent.
"The husbands of some of our capable
women must travel because of their work;
therefore, the wife feels she cannot plan to be away evenings and leave children, either small or teen-age, without the companionship of a parent.

"If the husband's work does not take

him out of town, he may and it -s real sacrifice to give up his wife's company, evening after evening.

"He must be an especially wise and public-spirited person, who believes in her and in the importance of the job she is about to attenut." about to attempt . . .'

OBVIOUSLY, then, women must give priority to their role as wife and mother. Yet, basically, there are many women who do possess the qualifications to make im-portant contributions to public office when their primary role becomes less demanding

We believe there are many women who are in a position to serve; and should, without hesitation, feel free to make their services available to the community.

Let's Finish the Job!

"Let's raise the roof" was the theme of an advertisement on Page 6-CC in the last week's Eccentric.

Sponsored by the Birmingham Real Es-Sponsored by the Birmingham Real Estate Board, this ad pointed out that the 1963 Community House fund drive has almost—but not quite—reached its goal.

As the ad stated, "almost" isn't enough;



it's that last part, those last few thousand dollars, that's really important-"it's like putting the roof on the house."

The idea is, then, that we should "put the roof on" The Community House by giving that last 20 per cent of the \$53,000 goal.

THE MAIN source of operating funds for the House, you know, is the interest and

generosity of citizens in our community.

For 40 years now, The Community House has served as the activities center for this entire area. Its facilities and services, used

every day of every week, are an invaluable asset to our community.

Last year, for example, 150,000 people made use of The Community House. Some 1,300 groups held more than 3,000 meetings there. And thousands of people availed themselves of its many educational and employment services

When we stop to think that it's through when we stop to think that it's through voluntary contributions that these valuable services are provided, we must realize that this truly is an outstanding community

NOW, ABOUT that last 20 per cent of the goal. Some of us may be a little late in sending in our contribution. Perhaps we've forgotten it or put it off until after income tax time

But let's not wait any longer. Let's "put the roof on" our Community House by making our contribution today. Let's see that 100 per cent of the goal is reached, not just part of it.

Let's continue the long life of our Com-

ESTABLISHED IN 1878

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George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus

'It Was a Good Winter for Chuckholes!'



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Should Be Public Service for All

To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate Mr, Hogan on his recent column in The Eccentric regarding the act of the column in the question of local versus centralized and the school bus hill.

I disagree, however, with his arguments for being against the bill in principle:

I. Sending one's children to a private school should not be regarded as a privilege but a right, and oven if regarded as a privilege but a right, and oven if regarded as a privilege, dren should not have the same rights to a public service as other children.

Whether they should be forced to do so by state law — that is, the question of local versus centralized in the question of local versus centraliz

Hardware.

From the Files of The Ecc

April 18, 1913
Hurah for the Citizens League. The bill that gives Birmingham the power to raise more money, to go ahead with the sewer, or any other act that our citizens vote for, has, through the powerful efforts of our citizens League been passed and given included and the control of the powerful for the control of t

Once more the anti-ciparette bill is on its way to the statute books, as the house in committee of the whole has agreed to the Dunn bill which problishs the sale or giving away of the paper pipes in this state. In every seasion of the legislature in the present century such a bill has made its appearance and in every seasion is has been did not be the same of the dren should not have the same rights to a public service as the school buses happen to be operated by the school boards is incidental. All public services should be and most are-provided to clittors the school board is incidental. All public services should be and most are-provided to clittors the school board for by general tax. All public services, school bus services are paid for by general tax. The structure of this service.

2. IT is true that if the state gives service it is entitled to such a school of this service. The school of curricula. I would like the point out that the state alter of the school of curricula. I would like the point out that the state alter of the school of curricula. I would like the point out that the state alter of the school of curricula requirements for all school of curricula requirements for all school of curricula requirements for all school of the same views on this issue as you have expressed.

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1 THE game of baseball is to give the school of young boys, some soul-school of curricula. The same views on this issue as you have compared the same views on this issue as you have compared the same views on this issue as you have compared the compared that it was and not by politics," aid Mr. April 20, 1933 WILL the efforts of a service of the whole has signed to the w

a iong tume i neits the same views, at on playing it.

IF THE game of baseball is to be awed for young boys, some southeause I was a Catholic. Now however, I have come to the conclusion that my earlier reasoning was wrong.

If THINK that the most serious question in the school bus lasers as a measure, Bringing bouse-cleaning to do with the school bus lasers and the school bus lasers taken as ones spring house-cleaning to do.

WILLIAM LYMAN to West Build in here has added new complications with the school bus lasers and the school bus lasers and the school bus lasers and the school bus lasers are taken as a measure, Bringing to do.

WILLIAM LYMAN to West Build in here has added new complications of the school bus lasers and the school bus lasers are taken as the school bus lasers and the school bus lasers are taken as well as the school bus lasers are taken as a measure, Blury begun, the decision of the school bus lasers as measure, Blury begun, the decision of the school bus lasers as measure, Blury begun, the decision of the school bus lasers as measure, Blury begun, the decision of the school bus lasers as measure, Blury begun, the decision of the school bus lasers as measure, Blury begun, the decision of the school bus lasers as measure, Blury begun, the decision of the school bus lasers as measure, Blury begun, the decision of the school bus lasers as measure, Blury begun, the decision of the school bus lasers as the s

Yesteryear **Happenings**

BUT HE LEARNED. He said he found out that people who are able to make their own way in the world don't need to tear down the other guy. It is only the guy who can't make the grade that has to use artificial hates to make himself bigger.

He learned to hate what he called the "phonies"—people who didn't make the grade themselves, or by themselves, and who look down at those who did out of an inferiority complex. 50 YEARS AGO April 18, 1913

inferiority complex.

Summing up, he said, "If I try to do anything in my comic strips to influence the American mind, it is to try to get our whole nation back to Stevens St."



City Beat KEN

The thing that impresses you most about the students in the Western Michigan University choir is that they enjoy their work.

I had occasion to view them at a recent Education Association hanquet in Lansing, and came away singing their praises.

their praises.

The smiles as they concluded each number told the story. Here was a group that liked what they were doing. And as the audience applauded, the smiles grew wider and lasted longer.

and lasted longer.

There was an obvious high degree of rapport between
the conductor, Thomas C. Hardie, and the choristers. You
might call it a mutual admiration society.

The students' response to the conductor was immediate
and precise—but it seemed to come out of respect and
admiration, not from discipline and command.

AS THEY performed, you couldn't help but feel that these people enjoyed — and thus were benefitting immensely from—their association with each other. The concert left you with a longing, with a wish that you could watch them at rehearsal. For if they enjoy their own concerts so much, they certainly must derive even greater pleasure out of the less formal practice

What does this man Hardie do to accomplish this rela-tionship, with its accompanying top quality performance, from his disciples?

from his disciples?

He must exact near-perfection from them through other than exacting means. You would like to see how he instills in them the desire to do as he wills.

TWO LOCAL boys delivered a letter to our office last eek. They were concerned with the atom and the wea-

week. They were concerned with ther.
"Dear People," the letter read, "for the welfare of our country, we think that Atom bombs should be used for protection, instead of testing. We think the bad weather we have been having has been caused by the Atom bombs."

The letter was signed by James McIlroy, 9, of 1633 Villa, and Bill Morgan, 10, of 1525 Yosemite.

and Bill Morgan, 10, of 1625 Yosemite.

LAST WEEK, I reported here on some thoughts expressed in a conversation about modern journalism. Here's another observation worth considering: Today's newspapers are not what they used to be; they are no longer crusaders. Seldom do they raise a hue and cry about what's happening in the world.

But this is not the nature of the profession today. We are a calmer, more rational, more mature people than were the men and women who put, out the papers of 25 and 50 years ago.

In fact, this is true, generally, of almost all of our people today—not just newspaper workers. Psychologically and educationally, we are being told over and over again to view and to solve our problems objectively, to reach our decisions free of emotion.



Remember Blakeslee's Hardware store in downtown Birmingham? Do you know who Blakeslee's was located on the west side of the three men in the picture are? What do Woodward on the approximate location of the you know of the Birmingham of old? If you present Huston Hardware, 205 N. Woodward.