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The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Thursday, June 13, 1963

EDITORIAL
SECTION 8

Festival Most Ambitious Yet

Next week's Birmingham Arts Festival promises to be the most ambitious in the seven-year history of the event. It involves the total community more this year than ever before.

This year, for the first time, there will be two major areas of activities: Downtown, in the much-discussed geodesic dome, and in the Birmingham Art Center. In each case, there will be a full week of programming.

The Art Center, on Cranbrook south of Lincoln, will feature an exhibition that represents a juried show of items selected from more than 800 entries from artists in Southeastern Michigan.

THEN THERE is the Artists' Market at the Art Center. During the past few years this has proved to be an exciting and popular feature. Unusually fine works of art are on sale in price ranges that invite community-wide purchasing.

The 20-page special supplement with this week's Eccentric gives detailed information on all of the Arts Festival activities. We suggest that our reader save the four-page cover as a guide to the various facets of the Festival week programming.

WE SALUTE the Bloomfield Art Association and the many people participating in the Festival. Birmingham can well be proud of the statewide, if not nationwide, importance it is developing through the efforts of this association and its many fine programs, particularly the Arts Festival.

The Festival's growing reputation properly reflects the high degree of cultural excellence which characterizes our area.

The Festival is enthusiastically supported by the City of Birmingham, by our many cultural groups and by the merchants. It deserves our individual support, too.

Charity Starts at Home

Several weeks ago, The Eccentric editorially endorsed the YMCA's capital fund drive in our community, because we felt that the community needed the facilities that such a campaign would provide.

Last week we were informed that the first contribution to the drive was \$150,000 from Mrs. Charles E. Wilson to build a gym in honor of her husband, C. E. Wilson, the former Secretary of Defense and GM President.

This first gift is important for two reasons; first, because a member of our community was tremendously generous.

But more important is the significance that local residents who have philanthropic resources should recognize our area as deserving attention when making charitable gifts.

UNFORTUNATELY in date, though we have a vast number of people in the com-

munity giving hundreds of thousands of dollars to charity elsewhere each year, there is little record of any money being given to help local needs.

If our residents' funds are being used to improve the culture of other areas, who will take care of our needs?

The Birmingham-Bloomfield area is fortunate to have a wealth of talent along cultural lines. If we could combine this talent and the philanthropic resources of the community could be aimed locally, think of the facilities we could have to provide greater cultural enjoyment for our residents.

WE COMMEND Mrs. Wilson for her gift and for her interest in our community.

We hope that her example will be followed by other residents, not only in the current "Y" drive, but also in the many projects our local community could undertake if we had the financial support.

Exemplifies Community Spirit

The selection of an architect to design an auditorium for The Community House signifies the belief The Community House Association has in the people of our community to support its expansion plans.

Now familiarly known as the activities center of the area, The Community House for years has been considered the heart of Birmingham and stands for it in many ways.

It is the showplace of the community. It is both a historic and contemporary symbol of our community spirit. It holds interest for us all.

INCREASED USE of Community House

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

The Detroit Tigers are in that enviable place where about all the team can do is improve. They've been there before, and in the end they go higher. Let's not indict them yet... let's wait a couple of months before we praise them for being in first place again.

Russia's Khrushchev tells America's Kennedy that Uncle Sam invades Cuba, Russia will jump into the fracs with all its military hardware and, flounders Nikita, "we'll kick the plus fours right off the U.S. imperialists!" That fellow Khrushchev certainly did stir up a katasophic calamity!

A Canadian publication, "United Church Observer," offers this support for persons who now and then go to sleep in their religious habitation: "Sleeping in church is, we believe, one of the more forgettable sins. That fellow Knave, certainly did stir up a katasophic calamity!"

President Kennedy's coming visit to Ireland should be a heart-warming experience, both for him and for the Irish. After all, when has an Irish President of the U.S. ever personally paid his respects to the land of the clay pipe and the shillelagh? Reconciling Teddy Roosevelt's policy to "speak softly and carry a big stick," will waver

facilities in recent years has made expansion necessary. A civic auditorium is needed.

We are pleased to see that the plans have progressed to the architectural stage and will await further developments with anticipation.

Of course we realize that these things take money. But we know the people in this area have faith in this community institution and will continue to give it their enthusiastic support.

We trust that when the time comes to raise money to finance the auditorium these people will again give generously.

We believe in the future of The Community House.

that JFK will probably be given many such Irish "weapons"—at least one of which will find a resting place in his White House office.

That recent election when a majority of American wheat growers voted against Secretary of Agriculture Freeman's Socialistic control program is proof that most tillers and toilers of the soil are weary of federal dictatorship. It may be that these farmers have sounded the bell for further opposition to the drift into the Socialist-Welfare state. Appearances, then, as though lots of Americans still want to live under the policies of a free enterprise system. (Would that more of the tillers and toilers in the U.S. business community would do likewise.)

Many argue that the marriage of New York's Governor Nelson Rockefeller to a divorcee who worked in his office—as those upon both their divorce—will injure the chances of Rockefeller ever taking up residence in the White House. Perhaps his romance may harm him politically more than the fact that he plunged New York into greater debt, into more of the Socialist-Welfare State. After all, who among us can assert, beyond question of doubt, the outcome of an election or a horse race? Strange are the workings of Dan Cupid upon the thought processes of human beings!

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Children's Art Values Seen in School Exhibit

To the Editor:

I was disappointed in not being able to find a report and picture in The Eccentric of the Birmingham schools' annual art exhibit May 24, 25, 26.

I noticed a small announcement in the previous week's paper giving the time and place of the show, but the motivation for attending came from a flyer sent home through the schools.

Upon receiving the flyer, I thought the date must be incorrect or it would have been given coverage in the Arts of Living section of The Eccentric.

However, my husband and I took our children to Derby School at 8:30 Friday evening the 24th to see the young people from all the Birmingham schools demonstrating their artistic accomplishments in various media.

The exhibit showed a great deal of talent, reflected artistic standards and offered the visitors the opportunity to see principles and self-expression carried through on various levels in the schools.

My elementary school children were very interested in seeing the same clay with which they work thrown on a potter's wheel and eventually resulting in a glazed pot.

The courtyard glassed on all four sides provided a perfect background to exhibit finished drawings and paintings.

Some of the schools' collection of reproductions used in art appreciation were artfully displayed with many thought-provoking quotations concerning principles of art to the adult's enjoyment of the show.

And finally the students, themselves, were able to make a real contribution as a part of an excellent program.

The amount of work which was shown in this exhibit and the fact that it was a three-day exhibit certainly would indicate it should warrant good local support. I hope many persons were able to see it.

May I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Malowitz, the art teachers and the students for providing our family with an evening of enrichment together and giving the community an opportunity to see what work is being accomplished in the art education program of the Birmingham schools.

MRS. WALTER R. DENISON
615 Oakland
Birmingham

Eccentric's Pictures Stir Some Memories

To the Editor:

I was looking at the wonderful pictures (May 29 issue) entitled "People who make news at The Eccentric," and my thoughts went back in retrospect to the year 1912, when The Eccentric was put together by just three people: the owner and editor wrote the news and editorials; the printer, Mr. Fisher, locked it up and printed it; but it was my sister, Mrs. Hazel Lawler, who was then Miss Hazel Wendorph, who set up the galley by hand.

OF COURSE, at that time the paper was only made up of four

pages, and most of that was advertising.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the work was done, then on Wednesday night Mr. Fisher would lock it up and print it. On Thursday morning it was all ready to go on sale.

That day Hazel would utilize the time going around to the different advertisers and collect. Then, Friday and Saturday, she would tear the paper to pieces and dis-

tribute the little letters, again by hand.

MANY TIMES I have collected a most wonderful lot of describing and showing "type line."

Half of the time Mr. Mitchell could not remember my sister's name, and then she was called "Miss Doodendody over in the corner."

How we have grown in 50 years, in the size of the city as well as the weekly paper! Pictures such as these and others you have been printing of long ago, certainly brings back a lot of fond memories.

MRS. STELLA D. EDGAR
780 Chestnut Street
Birmingham

Happenings of Long Ago

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
June 18, 1913

With the ever-popular opera, "The Pirates of Penzance," the Birmingham Choral Society treated it took almost all the week but its friends to an evening of fun and music last week and closed the series of concerts for 1913. The opera gave the chorus good opportunity to display their talents in comedy as well as musical roles.

Perhaps one of the greatest hits of the evening was made by the audience's chorus which sang lustily and was greeted with applause whenever it lock-stepped on stage. The chorus of pirates sang, with much spirit and the finale at the end of each act, with a chorus of more than 50 people, was especially effective.

There was such a wild, concerted avalanche of protests that the pony carriage-around outfit, which stopped on the vacant space in Sutherland's yard, was moved by the proprietors to the vacant lot adjoining the Presbyterian Church on the east. There is no change in the demonstrations and protests over the fact that they all are now on Maple Avenue instead of Pierce Street.

Fred Trumbull enjoyed a little vacation last week by attending the annual state meeting of the Foresters of America, held at Bay City. It took almost all the week but Fred Trumbull has carried a justified and music last week and closed the series of concerts for 1913. The opera gave the chorus good opportunity to display their talents in comedy as well as musical roles.

30 YEARS AGO
June 15, 1933

The Birmingham National Bank opened for business today, a monument to the achievements of a purposeful community spirit. Beeset by difficulties on every side, forced to surmount barriers which at times seemed almost impassable, the legion of co-operative efforts enlisted to make the new institution possible have at last achieved their purpose.

Refusing to agree either to "re-opterate or resign" as he had been informed he must do, Commissioner Robert C. Hargreaves was removed as treasurer of Bloomfield Hills in a lengthy resolution adopted unanimously by the Commission Tuesday night. Commissioner Luth-

High School Dropout's Route



Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



Much has been written lately about where to put a parking lot in downtown Birmingham. So much in fact that I don't intend to get into the argument.

But the thing that troubles me about the whole situation is the lack of understanding by the citizenry of what has to be done to save the downtown area.

I've ridden through both Royal Oak and Pontiac in the last week, and I wish everyone in the community could have shared the ride.

DOWN THE main street you see store after store vacant, with "for sale" signs pasted across the front. The downtown sections in these cities have been plagued with a disease and might eventually die.

I don't personally care who owns what store in our fair community and don't particularly want to see the shopping area eat up the residential area.

However, if our community catches the disease our neighbors to the north and south have, our residential values will go to the blues just as fast as the commercial values.

I'd like a Birmingham that I can show outsiders and throw my chest out and say, "This is my town."

WE CAN only have that kind of town if we make the most of what we have.

We should accept the fact that we have a great shopping center. We should understand that good stores like gold flowers must be nurtured and fertilized.

We don't need more commercial areas; but we need to get the maximum use of the commercial area we have or, like the flower, the commercial area will die.

MAYBE YOU remember the story about a bug in the most beautiful Persian rug in the world. He spent his whole life trying to crawl up the long piles, never quite succeeding.

He spent his whole life complaining because of his troubles of climbing up those piles.

He had a "bug's-eye" view because he never got up on top and looked back to see this over-all beautiful rug, or to enjoy its beauty.

I PERSONALLY wish we could stop complaining about climbing up those piles and start working on making the rug the best possible.

If you think I'm overstating the case, are you prepared to show off our downtown shopping area to outsiders and say, "This is my town?"

A community with a shoddy shopping area and a nice residential area is usually looked upon by outsiders as a shoddy community.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER



More than 1,100 students are graduating from the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills area public and private schools this year.

These young men and women, and others like them across the country, will be involved in a major sociological revolution in the years ahead. Many of them will provide the leadership to bring us through this upheaval.

The graduates of this year's classes will probably find greater sociological changes than developments in space exploration—though there will be many significant accomplishments there, too.

ONE HUNDRED years ago, the Negro was freed from the White Man's yoke. But his freedom came about more through the efforts of the White Man than the Negro himself.

One hundred years ago, the Negro was not equipped to live in freedom. He was not accustomed to it; he was not trained for it.

Today, however, the Negro leads his own battle for freedom—for social, economic and political equality. This one fact more than any other portends the success of his fight.

SOMEDAY—MAYBE not during the years of leadership coming from this year's graduates, but not too many years distant—there will be much greater intermarriage of the races than history has recorded to date.

Eventually, I am sure, there will be a complete mingling of the races without the social problems that now concern us.

This, I believe, is inevitable. Like it or not, it's coming as part of the natural development of man. It's progress; it's civilization; it's maturity.

THE SOCIOLOGICAL revolution will come in stages. It has already started, especially in the South but it is spreading to the North.

There will be more, greater developments in the years ahead. The Negro will gain ground that he will never lose. This is to be expected and will have to be accepted. It is so dictated by the laws, by our changing social concepts.

The 1963 graduates will be faced with some of the problems that these developments will bring and will provide some of the solutions that will go with us into posterity.

Seventy major changes were made in Michigan's new constitution. Fifty-one of these changes received near unanimous support of the 144 delegates.

Executive reorganization is a major advancement made in the state's new constitution. Michigan's hodge-podge of 120 bureaus, bureaus and commissions are reduced to not exceed 20 departments. And the governor is given broad powers to make additional re-organization.

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