

About Candles and Individuals

At the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting last week, candles on little cakes were lighted as a symbol of the importance of the individual person.

They indicated the value of the individual to the organization and the effect that can be realized from all of the individuals working as a group for the good of the group.

In this centennial year, it behooves us to reflect on this message from the standpoint of the citizens. Each person is important to the community; each is needed in the efforts to assure a better tomorrow; collectively, the individuals will achieve great objectives.

It is our belief that future historians will describe the year 1964 as a turning point, and an acceleration point, in the life of Birmingham.

LOOKING BACK into our past, we are rediscovering those characteristics, those values that gave us our heritage, which we wish to enhance in the future.

With this background of the centennial observance, we are under a new head of steam in a pursuit toward broader goals and objectives.

Take the Chamber of Commerce, for instance. With a new leadership, it has a new life today; new energy, new enthusiasm to strive for community progress.

A spirit of civic endeavor now pervades the group's membership. There is not just a willingness today to participate in community projects; there is, rather, a desire to do so.

This is something that has not been discernible in the Chamber of Commerce in recent years.

NOW TAKE the Citizen Action Commit-

tee's Civic Design Committee and the business have planned an alley beautification program.

This movement to improve on the appearance of alleys in the business areas is a direct result of the centennial program. A committee headed by Jack Kershenbaum of Kay Baum, Inc., was appointed by centennial general chairman Mrs. G. Howard Willet, Jr., for this express purpose.

Here is an attempt to give the centennial celebration greater meaning, to bring out of it something for tomorrow.

Here, too, the role of the individual is important. Ultimate success of the program depends on the willingness of the individual to cooperate and on the extent of his participation.

CONSIDER, NEXT, the Civic Design Committee's efforts to bring into focus some concepts for the planning of the future of Birmingham's civic center area. The role of the individual, once again, is important to the overall project.

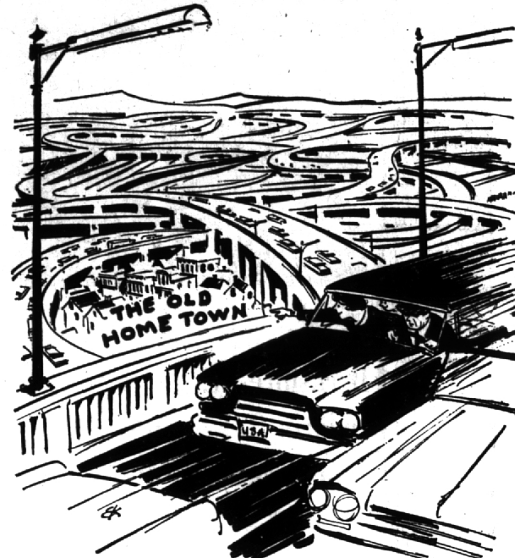
And what happens after this group submits its plans to the city commission and to the public in the weeks ahead will depend largely on the desire of individual groups and individual citizens to implement them.

As Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926) wrote in "The Journal of My Other Self": "Is it possible that every individual has had to be reminded that he is indeed sprung from all those who have gone before, that he has known this and ought not to have been persuaded differently by others?"

"Yes, it is possible."

And again in "Letters to a Young Poet": "The future enters into us, in order to transform itself in us, long before it happens."

This Changing World



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Wonders Why B'ham Does Nothing for Groves Family

To the Editor:

I am writing this short note to ask you what kind of a cold, heartless city Birmingham really is. It gives his life, from sheer exhaustion performing an outstanding job, the last he could do for a President he almost worshipped. Harvey Oswald killed the President who has thousands of dollars; also the wife of the policeman whom Oswald killed received thousands of dollars.

WHAT HAS been done for the soldier's (Captain Michael Groves, commander of the Honor Guard) wife and two babies? Oswald killed Capt. Groves just as he did the other two.

Where is our big-hearted Michigan people that a town with the wealth of Birmingham cannot at least see that Capt. Groves' children are educated?

MANY OF your Birmingham residents knew and admired Capt. Groves as an outstanding boy and certainly could be just as giving a small amount create each trust fund for Capt. Groves' children.

I am an elderly woman and did not know him personally but would like to see justice done where merited.

AN INTERESTED OLD LADY

Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO
May 1, 1914

Next Tuesday evening the final number of the excellent course of popular entertainments provided for the Birmingham public by the young people of the Methodist church will be rendered. The program will be given by the Olympia Male Quartette of Detroit, assisted by Mrs. Belle Parsons Ockenden, reader and Professor Miles Standish Cole, violinist. The quartette has a repertoire of unusual excellence. Admission will be by tickets as previously. They may be obtained at Charles Peck's tailor shop and at T. D. Roy's grocery.

The ladies of the Birmingham W. C. T. U. wish to express their appreciation of the public of the members of the council who stood for the principles of right as did Caleb and Joshua who reported the Gleaners of the promised land could be overcome in the name of the God of Israel. Our National motto for God, for home and native land applies even to Beautiful Birmingham.

Howard and Eysler recently bought the Moses Goodale farm of 91 acres on both sides of the Paint Creek road, i. e., to be a macadamized road soon. They also have bought one acre of Rhoda Hendrickson and one acre of Herman Hendrickson to build through a cross road to the Railroad when they plat this out into lots very soon and throw it into the sale market.

30 YEARS AGO
May 3, 1934

Should the Birmingham public schools close before the end of the nine-month term June 15, their standing as an accredited member of the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges would be imperiled. This information, given to the Board of Education at a special meeting Saturday afternoon by Superintendent Charles W. Crandell, immediately became the Board's chief consideration in its discussion whether the schools should be closed earlier than scheduled.

Maybe it was Dillinger! Anyway, that was the first thought that bobbed into everybody's mind when

A Motto Suggested For Writer on Arts

To the Editor:

It stirs my soul to read in the April 16, "People's Column" the letter of "For Art's Sake" demonstrating that courageous people still hold high the noble banner of Status Quo.

The vigorous and militant voice of stagnation still rings out in defense of all that is known and accepted and fine, as it has done through the ages against the corruptors masquerading in the insidious guise of exploration and progress.

"For Art's Sake" speaks with the great army of the past who damned the obscenities of Praxiteles, the dark squalor of Rembrandt, the too true color of Corot and, in our century, cried out against a dangerously rebellious clutter of French daubers, calling them, with stinging effect, mere impressionists.

THANK GOD for the brave and

perceptive who spoke out and warned us to beware of Cezanne, Degas, Gauguin, Renoir, Toulouse-Lautrec, Van Gogh, Utrillo, Modigliani and all the rest of their ilk: drunken, corrupt, lecherous and often outright insane—a dangerous lot, to have their "Birmingham Goats," while we're reminiscing about the defenders of the now against the new, it would be nice to enliven the heroes who stamped out Socrates and Galileo, tried to flatten Columbus, laughed at the Wright brothers and right here in Detroit denied the wild-eyed Henry Ford. Makes one proud to remember!

Could I suggest to "For Art's Sake" a motto under which to march, or at least mark time: "Avoid like the mange the danger of change."

GARVIN BAWDEN, JR.
P.O. Box 21
Birmingham

a report came into the police station here at about 10:30 p.m. Monday that three men in a dark green sedan, one of them carrying a shotgun on his lap, had been seen speeding south on Woodward at Lincoln. George Williams, former residential police post guard, and detective Earl Moody pursued the car as far as the Seven Mile, but found no trace of it.

Additional expenditures of not to exceed \$100 toward completing the park development project in the second block of the Civic Center were approved by the City Commission Monday night. The Commission is appropriating as it is needed from time to time for machine hire and supplies to complete the work.

15 YEARS AGO
April 28, 1949

Ground breaking ceremonies for the new Parish House of St. James Episcopal Church will be held at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow. The Rt. Reverend Russell Hubbard, Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, will be present for the occasion to turn the first spadeful of earth, launching the new project. The Rev. Harold E. Towns, rector of St. James, will officiate at the ceremony in which members

of the vestry, Women's Auxiliary, and various guilds will participate.

Young people of this city will at least have their "Birmingham Summer Players" when the recreational board this year launches the largest project it has ever undertaken. Plans have been formulated that will create this city-wide recreational program, which many believe to be the first of its kind in the country. The Summer Players will feature a six-weeks theater workshop, open to high school and college students, along with interested adults.

Birmingham Rotarians Wednesday evening of next week will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the founding of their club with an appropriate program at the Community House. Oscar P. Peterson, past president of the club is general chairman. Paul Friedrich, past president, will preside, while Clarence Vliet, also a past president, will act as toastmaster.

Unemployment insurance, which depends on both Federal and state law, was created in Michigan as a result of the Social Security Act of 1935. It functions separately from these programs which the public knows as "Social Security."

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

The Good Book says that if someone whops you on one cheek, you should turn the other cheek instead of whopping back.

But what happens if your adversary whops you on the other cheek? A couple of months ago I wrote about teen-agers and "mailboxing"; how a group of teen-agers had thrown a firecracker into our mailbox and blown it to smithereens.

I turned the other cheek thinking that it was wrong to condemn all teen-agers for the actions of a few. Last Saturday night my mailbox was ripped out of the ground, post and all. This was the new mailbox we installed after the fireworks incident.



MR. HOGAN

THE CULPRITS took the box with them.

Sometime last night they returned the box by throwing it out of a moving car. The box was not only crushed but had been ripped apart with some sort of metal tool.

This was a deliberate act of destruction.

I am not turning the other cheek this time. There's no other cheek to turn.

I've filed complaints with both the local police and the post office department.

If caught, the persons involved face not only the charge of larceny for taking the box, but also the Federal violation of tampering with Post Office Department property, because the mailbox when installed becomes Federal property.

I WAS A TEEN-AGER in this town. I'm sure that I was involved in as many teen-age pranks as the next guy. But when property is deliberately destroyed, it is no longer a prank.

Whether it be by hounding the police into action, tracing the fingerprints on the returned box or physically patrolling the streets at night, I am going to undertake to find the people involved in last Saturday's theft.

It seems like a small thing to get excited about, but if the community does nothing to nip such acts of destruction in the bud, these youngsters will grow up thinking that society condones this type of activity.

Until the culprits are uncovered, teen-agers have lost a friend and a champion.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

His daughter didn't like what I wrote in this column about teen-agers, so he canceled his subscription to The Eccentric.

This is what the man told us; quite belligerently, in fact. Seated at our table at the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner meeting last week, he continually derided this newspaper.

The man was entitled to his opinion; and, of course, he has a right to stop taking our paper.

However, two things about him disturbed me: He is a business executive and you expect more intelligent thought and action from someone who has reached this station in life; and he was, obviously, under the influence.

WHEN HE criticized me and what I had written, that was all right. Anyone who takes a stand on an issue must expect opposition, criticism and, even, ridicule. But when he began making insulting remarks about someone else, that was a horse of a different color.

After a few choice retorts, I ignored him for the rest of the evening.

Looking back on the incident now, I can't help but think that he must be the same kind of character that believes books on Communism must be burned.

Rather than study and think through a controversial subject, he would rather pretend it didn't exist by ignoring it and any expression of it.

I CAN'T HELP but feel sorry for the daughter. What kind of father is this? If he can't control himself in public, if he has not the self-restraint to keep from over-drinking—what kind of man is he?

Instead of indulging his daughter's emotionalism, wouldn't it have been more effective and meaningful to have said:

"Yes, Mr. Weaver was strong in his remarks, perhaps sarcastic; maybe even entirely wrong; but, on the other hand maybe he has a point when you come right down to it. Instead of getting mad about what he wrote, why don't we try to learn something from it?"

SEEMS TO ME this would be the best approach toward anything that was written—whether by this columnist or anyone else.

And through it all this question persists: Does the shoe fit?

Is this what really moved him to anger?

Does he, perhaps, pamper his daughter?

Cuban economic troubles are called a brake on Castro. And our "south of the border" ineptitude is a brake for him.

Boaters are urged to check their outboards before launching. They also might check the urge to roar around the lake as though they were the only ones on it.

The Russian press has launched a campaign for politeness in everyday life. We see a National Courtesy Week in Ivan's future—if little improvement in his manners.

All that spring yard work must be great for trimming the waistline—except that it also increases the appetite.

You'll never see 80 by looking for it on your speedometer.

Dusk, those periods of the day around sunset and sundown, are found by safety experts to be particularly bad times for accidents. There's only one answer: drivers should be extra cautious at such times.

Even if the drinker does not get drunk, he will be five times as likely to be involved in an accident. The social drinker can be a bigger hazard than the complete drunk.

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

One of President Johnson's first housekeeping changes he requested when he took over the White House was to cause all unnecessary lights to be put out, thus cutting expenses. On the other hand, or ear, it is reported that he telephones to more people, all over the earth, than any of his predecessors did. Do expenses of these two items balance?

Britain's Lady Fitzherbert announces that in the 16th century certain British gents wore their hair like the current Beatie pattern. So what, Dear Lady? Wasn't that before clippers were put on the market?

Officials take a long, hard look at Social Security. That's the kind of look recipients take at the \$127 a month they're expected to live on.

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