

### There's a Lesson Here

Those who wish to establish a teen center in Birmingham might do well to study the one in Southfield.

Opened in early March at 10½ Mile and Evergreen, this capacity-driving Youth Center is operated for, by and because of teen-agers.

It came about through the efforts of a noncredit evening course, a community relations seminar that was started in September, 1962, at Southfield High School.

The center has its own student board of directors, membership rules and code of conduct. It gives the high schoolers a place to gather for dancing, singing, television and fun on Wednesday and Friday evenings and on Saturdays.

TO DATE, it has proved successful, and popular. It serves as a model lesson on how to create and operate a youth center and assure the cooperation and participation of the people for whom it is designed.

The community relations seminar which resulted in the center came about when Mr. and Mrs. Al Eagen, residents of Southfield, donated \$5,000 for a class to develop student interest and activity in community affairs.

This sum was later matched by the Ford Motor Co.

Directors of the seminar, James G. Owen and Charles N. Nannus—teachers at the high school—report they know of no other course like it.

CURRENTLY, there are about 50 seniors in the class with B or better grade averages who spend each Tuesday evening studying their local community.

Their goal, a lofty one, is to be of service to their community and yet gain personal insights by involvement in practical learning situations.

Southfield's method of working with young people may not necessarily apply in Birmingham. But surely there is a lesson to be learned from their project. It should suggest ways by which Birmingham can tackle youth problems.

THERE ARE people in Birmingham who believe the city should have a youth center. We suggest that they study the Southfield endeavor—to determine what preliminary investigation was made, what factors were taken into consideration, how plans were drawn up, how support was solicited and why reaction has been so favorable.

If there is to be a youth center here, let us investigate, first, programs such as the one in Southfield.

### 'Development or Desolation'

The glitter and glamor and hubbub and hoopla evident as the New York World's Fair began did not wholly obscure more serious considerations brought to mind by this huge exposition. President Johnson and others who spoke at the opening day ceremonies stressed the fair's lofty theme and its reminder of great dilemmas that confront man in the final decades of the 20th century.

One of these dilemmas is the problem of how to bring the achievements heralded at the fair into the lives of the vast multitudes of humanity who suffer privation and despair. Somehow, the ever-widening gap between the prosperous and the poor, between those riding the wave of technology and those who only look upon it enviously from afar, must be narrowed.

A GREATER dilemma, closely related to the other, was suggested by President Johnson when he declared that the future of the world can be either "development or desolation." Civilization's "proud achievements will go under," Mr. Johnson said, unless mankind is able to build a warless society.

There is nothing new about this view; these are familiar concerns. It was worthwhile to be reminded of them from the glittering platform of an exposition whose theme is "peace through understanding." Unless that theme is translated diligently into global action, the only achievement of man on display a century hence may be the rubble of a nuclear Armageddon.

### We Prefer Uncle Sam's Way

Few of us in Birmingham—and the nation—will go through a lifetime without having owned some kind of a car. It is quite otherwise in Russia, partly due to lack of productive capacity and partly by design.

"There need not be a Moskvich (Russia's best known car) in the future of every Soviet citizen," said a commissioner not long ago. A glance at auto production figures might explain such a pronouncement. With but 80,000 passenger cars being produced per year, Ivan could hardly expect to own one before he was too old to drive.

There is more to the matter than that,

however. Production of private cars is not intended to increase significantly. The omniscient Kremlin has decided that public transportation suffices the lowly citizen and that running around in an auto is bourgeois and American.

Ivan may feel differently about it, but the Kremlin will not ask him. He may have a powerful yen for a Moskvich, and even the money to buy it; but when the Kremlin says take a bus he takes a bus.

We still like the American system, where the power to buy commands the producer and no government official can interfere.

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

Refusal by the United States Senate to more thoroughly "get to the bottom" of the Bobby Baker case certainly will result in overwhelming citizen disgust—even mistrust—of that "greatest, most exclusive 'Club' on earth." Both Houses of Congress often investigate other agencies of government, private citizens and businesses. More often than not such investigations heap opprobrium's shame and disgrace upon others; when deserved, it is fitting and proper that such findings be made public. Question: Is a senator or representative above similar investigation, when situations are suspected of being against the public interest, even when suspected of being very wrong?

Traditionally, New Englanders are supposed to be very kindly disposed to folks who visit them, especially another New Englander. Yet, Maine's U. S. Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, who campaigned in New Hampshire for the presidency, received a mere handful of votes. Again, just realize how inhospitable New Hampshireers were, how lacking in gratitude for Senator Smith's willingness to reveal her secret recipe

for blueberry muffins! Well, this old world of people seems to be peopled with too many ungrateful voters, perhaps more so when a woman seeks to occupy the White House.

Russian women, for some time now being able to obtain more up-to-date clothes and many other items of everyday use, are making their demands felt. Thus is a sort of "middle class" developing in that, Soviet land, causing Kremlin leaders to copy more of western capitalism's methods. Funny how history is made!

State Highway Commissioner Mackie says it'll cost Michigan taxpayers \$300,000 to have the state's badly littered highways cleaned up this spring. What a waste of money that otherwise could have been used for more humanitarian purposes! (Do you keep and use a litter bag in your automobile?)

Wouldn't it be odd if police put up traffic signs that exclaimed: "Motorista, don't do a Lyndon B. Johnson on our highways; speeders are enemies of safety!"

### By Unanimous Agreement



### YESTERYEAR HAPPENINGS

#### 50 YEARS AGO

May 8, 1914

Deputy Sheriff Bray is a busy man these days. Monday he picked up two vagabonds, freight car riders, on complaint of the G. T. R. people and very promptly landed them in the Pontiac jail. He should have had three, but one of them disappeared right before his very eyes—melted away as it were. It takes a bigger man than Webb to surround three big men all at once.

Judging from the loads of old stoves, tin cans, tin, fence wire, bed springs and junk of every description our village fathers

are giving us a "clean-up" day. In front of a great many in this village Tuesday morning were barrels of this species of waste. It took the teams of men nearly three days to dispose of it, but it pays. "Clean-up Day" has become a regularly recognized day for Birmingham.

A charming May party given by Miss Helen Shaw and Mr. Dean Johnstone was the event of last week. The Johnstone-Shaw Hall was lovely with shaded lights, cozy corners, and pink and green crepe paper. But best of all was the May pole, which stood in the center of the room. It was wound with paper, and lights shone through from inside, making it the center of all eyes.

opened by the Catholic Church against indecency and immorality in motion pictures, books and magazines, 500 parishioners of the Holy Name Church here Sunday joined the Legion of Decency by signing pledges to "remain away from all motion pictures except those which do not offend decency and Christian morality," and "never to buy or read indecent books or magazines."

An occasional police patrol and the posting of signs warning of the 20-mile-an-hour speed limit were promised a delegation of citizens. (See HAPPENINGS, 8-B)

#### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

##### Should We Honor World War Heroes?

To the Editor: Congratulations to our city fathers for their excellent work of cleaning and relocating the Civil War monument.

Is there enough left of the "Old Birmingham" to take the next step and ask where are the names of our youth of the World Wars who did not return? They are the ones who do not they also deserve a place of honor in our city's history? Surely there is enough talent and esteem in our community to provide for a fitting and deserving memorial. Count me in!

FRANK WHITNEY

#### 30 YEARS AGO

May 10, 1934

Estimates and petition for paving Lone Pine Road from Cranbrook Road to Woodward Avenue are to be prepared by Harry S. Starr, city assessor and engineer of Bloomfield Hills. It was revealed at the Bloomfield Commission meeting Monday night. The estimates have been requested by at least three property owners living on the road. Starr said that the pavement would probably be of cement, 24 feet in width, with a coating similar to that on Lone Pine west of Cranbrook.

Joining a nation-wide crusade

### Early Deadlines In Effect for May 14 Issue

Due to our special Commemorative Centennial Edition, early deadlines are in effect for the May 14 issue of The Eccentric. Classified and display advertising deadlines are moved up 24 hours. Deadlines are also advanced for all news copy in this issue. The Eccentric requests the cooperation and support of all contributors to its news and advertising columns and urge them to submit their copy at the earliest possible moment for next week's paper.

#### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

### Soldier from Birmingham 'Misled by My Own Group'

To the Editor: I have been misled; by my own age group.

I was under the impression that the great storm of protest by the teenage element in Birmingham had run its duration and that the city had weathered the storm most outstandingly.

But now I see that Ken Weaver, who innocently stirred up all the turbulence, is under a fresh barrage of accusations by the young people of the community. This has presented me with the opportunity of once more expressing my views on this touchy subject.

Two letters were published in the April 23 issue of The Eccentric; and I would like to offer a few comments on each.

The first letter, from "a very angry teen-ager," stated the fact that "I don't think you adults realize what we are up against." This teen-ager also states that "if we had some place to go, we probably wouldn't be walking the streets looking for trouble."

The teen-agers are up against. Indeed, the teen-agers don't realize what the adults are up against.

Do not forget; the adults were, once, surprisingly enough, teen-agers themselves. They had much the same problems that today's kids do. But today's teen-ager doesn't want to accept the fact that his father or mother knows exactly what their teen problems are, and, if given the chance, would be only too glad to lend a helping hand.

The kid thinks the world is against him, and he sets out to show the adults how really grown up he is. What a purpose for the parent.

too un-adult to get good grades, is it? Come off it, "angry teen-ager," you really have no complaint at all, if you'd be adult enough to admit it.

THE SECOND letter is so very juvenile that I am only going to waste one comment on it. This child seems to be under the impression that the City of Birmingham is morally responsible for providing her with a place for her and her friends to congregate and have fun. I have always thought that there were enough public beaches for that purpose during the summer and that the lake that that beach is on makes awfully good skating during the winter.

Of course, I consider myself to be one of those young adults who doesn't "understand what teen-agers are up against." My idea of a good time is probably considered "square" by all these wise kids. I can't wait until I am discharged from the Army... I'm coming back to Birmingham and have some more of this "square" fun!

PFC. GEORGE DWELLEY  
HQ Co. SWALEY  
Fort Gordon, Ga.

## Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

The other morning I asked the kids what they wanted for breakfast and one said, "Tony, the Tiger" and the other said, "I want Twinkle, the Elephant."

I carefully looked out the window to see if we had any tigers or elephants in the yard. I then checked the deep freeze to see if my spouse had been storing up any gourmet specialties.

Our little year and a half old solved the problem. Since he can't talk he just pointed to a row of cereal boxes and sure enough there were all the animals displayed.

I must say that when I think of tigers and elephants as they relate to eating, my mind can only conjure up the image of long grass and broken peanut shells.

OUR ADVERTISING geniuses have come up with a program so the kids don't have to remember whether they want corn, wheat or good old oatmeal. They can pick out the animal with the nicest smile.

This attempt to give identity has gone a long way in the food industry. All the packaged goods these days seem to have a personal note to the buyer from some smiling individual, with almost the same name as the company that puts the food together.

The letters are personal enough that I have to burn them after I bake a cake, because I don't want my wife to get jealous.

ONE COMPANY'S IMAGE tells you to write her if you have any problems.

I wrote her that my dog had bronchitis and never received an answer.

Another gimmick used to lure the unsuspecting buyer into selecting one product over another even though the unselected item happens to be better and cheaper are gigantic pictures of the product on the outside of the package.

This is geared for the shoppers who do their buying just before dinner. It's just impossible to get by these items on an empty stomach.

ALL OF THESE MARKETING devices are ethical. There is no attempt to mislead you into buying these products because they taste good or are good for you.

It saves the company a lot of money, too, because they don't have to hire testing companies to perjure themselves into saying that one product is better because of some secret ingredient.

I guess really it rubs me the wrong way because I like Rice Krispies and there just isn't an animal that makes a noise like "snap, crackle and pop," and I am ashamed that I buy products for what they really are.

### City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

When I was a kid, I sometimes wore patched clothes to school.

But they were clean.

This my mother insisted upon. Maybe we couldn't afford the finest of clothing; but what we did possess must be clean. There was no excuse for uncleanness.

Now I'm wondering, why can't this same lesson prevail when it comes to houses?

Why can't the people in the low-income homes in the Woodward-Grant-Lincoln-14 Mile area maintain them better? Why can't they keep them clean and in a normal state of repair?

Most of them do. There are many fine-appearing, well-kept homes in this section of Birmingham.

But there are some that are in a sad state of deterioration. They detract from the rest of the neighborhood. The question persists: Why can't something be done about them?

A man must live in a home according to his means of income. You don't expect a \$5,000-a-year man to live in a \$20,000 house.

But you do expect him to keep up the one he does live in.

I'M NOT so high and mighty that I look down on these less expensive homes. It hasn't been much over a year since I moved from one in Lincoln just east of Adams. But it was well maintained.

I was not ashamed to live in that house or in that area of town.

Nor should the residents of the section under discussion here be ashamed. But they should be concerned about the run-down, ill-kept homes in their neighborhood and be willing to do something about them.

I still think there could be an organized campaign to paint up, fix up and clean up in this section—and anywhere else in town where similar conditions exist, for that matter.

I'd like to see the people in that area undertake such a movement themselves. It would be much more meaningful and have longer-lasting results.

BUT IF THEY DON'T I'd suggest that an organization like the Central Birmingham Residents Association accept this as a community project.

This group comes to mind because of its persistent emphasis on "keeping Birmingham residential."

The better-appearing homes—the more attractive each neighborhood is—the greater the desire and willingness to keep the city residential.

Some people propose that the City sponsor a slum clearance type of program.

The area is not that bad.

HOWEVER, the city administration has proposed paving five streets in the Bird-Smith area which would do much toward improving the general appearance. A public hearing has been scheduled for May 25 on this special assessment project.

Keeping in mind the economic situation of most families in that district, the City has proposed that payments be made in five installments rather than the usual three.

This is the extent of City responsibility and obligation. To ask for any more is to expect too much of the general taxpayers. My personal belief is that generally we

(See CITY BEAT, 5-B)

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



THIS PERSON has got some very wrong ideas in his or her head. Adults do realize what