

WINNER OF 7 AWARDS IN 1944 IN STATE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER CONTEST

The Birmingham Eccentric

87th YEAR—NO. 11

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48008

MAY 14, 1964

The Nation's Top Prize-Winning Suburban Weekly

MRS. J. O. BLACK
571 1/2
DAYS 2

DEDICATION

Preparation of the eight colored tabloid sections (and cover wrap-around cover) appearing with this week's Birmingham Eccentric has been in process for more than three months.

SOME 30 news and advertising staffers have been involved in the research, writing and editing of the 136-page special commemorative edition.

The staff and publisher-management team here at The Eccentric agrees, to a man, that the centennial should be dedicated to those citizens who gave our community its initial thrust toward the setting of high standards and sound character in communal living.

WE BELIEVE you will be impressed as you read the many informative, interesting articles and features that report the emergence and evolution of resources that grew locally to support community life and which expanded into a suburban structure ranging from 21

schools, to 16 churches, to over 100 civic and cultural organizations, including our unique Community House, our Birmingham Art Center, and many other fine community efforts too numerous to mention.

AND THE point we stress is that each of these facets of community life today bears the unmistakable imprint of those pioneering forefathers who will be the harvest of eminent character and high purpose in serving the best interests of community growth.

The Birmingham area is fortunate to have had such citizens — God-fearing and God-loving, devoted to family and neighbor, militant in their tolerant regard for those in search of truth and the espousal of right for themselves and their fellow man. To those of the past and those of the present who seek to preserve this heritage we dedicate this Centennial Edition.

By KEN WEAVER
Managing Editor

Appearing with this week's Birmingham Eccentric you will find a nine-section, 136-page Commemorative Centennial Edition, the culmination of three months of effort by many people.

In recognition of Birmingham's centennial year (since incorporation), The Eccentric sought to present an accurate, interesting composite history of Birmingham and its neighboring communities.

To accomplish this, we have adhered to the centennial theme of "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." In words and pictures, our writers relate the origins of these communities, describe what we have today and — wherever possible — explain plans for the future.

ON THE COVER of a each tabloid section there is a full page of photographs which set the pace for the contents on the inside. These contents deal with government, education, business and industry, churches, organizations, area communities and other aspects of our growth and development.

Eight sections printed in the normal black-and-white are con-

tained within an eight-page section printed in two-and-four-color processes in our own commercial printing plant. On Page 3 of this cover section appears a map showing the historic sites and old houses featured in the Heritage Day tour (May 22).

ON PAGE 2 OF this section which you are now reading there is a complete list of the activities on the official centennial program.

along with a map showing where these events will take place. Also on that page is a list of all of the advertisers in the special Commemorative Centennial Edition. The Eccentric points with pride to businesses which joined the centennial spirit and supported this publication with their advertisements.

You will note in the left-hand margin of this very page a perforation which will permit you to



PAUL N. AVERILL
Publisher

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HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.
Associate Publisher

Our Centennial Issue



The cover of our Commemorative Centennial Edition portrays some of the history of Birmingham.

Colorful Centennial Celebration In Full Swing

Centennial Cochairmen? Selection Came Naturally

By MARY ELLEN MEAD and LARRY EVOE

Generally speaking, dry-as-dust announcements of committee heads, no matter what the project, leave editors cold; but, in the case of Birmingham's centennial, the story immediately brightened with news that a beautiful woman — well known to many — and an assistant city manager — sort of resembling Gregory Peck — were combining efforts to make this the best darn celebration that ever came down the pike!



MRS. G. HOWARD WILLETT, JR.

and people and, most of all, her love for the city in which she lived earned her the honor of being Birmingham's first woman mayor—a position she held for three years.

CURRENTLY engaged in a vocation but still devoted to public service, Twink decided her first job as general chairman of the centennial was to list its goals. In her words, they are:

"To help us appreciate the heritage of Birmingham, know the history that lies behind the community we accept today.

"To help us appreciate the 'now' of Birmingham enough to dedicate ourselves to making the future of Birmingham even more beautiful and better than we know it today.

"In terms of the entire year, the celebration we're involved in now, honoring and recognizing the past, this part to be concluded on Memorial Day at a ceremony revolving around the newly-placed Soldiers' Monument in the Civic Center."

FROM SEPTEMBER on, Twink anticipates programs dedicated to the future of Birmingham, with emphasis on beautification and the arts.

She is looking ahead to a fund-raising program to facilitate purchase of Marshall Fredericks' Swan sculpture for the Civic Center—a program in which even the school children will participate, contributing nickels, dimes or pennies.

"It's important to claim Twink, "that children feel they have personal roots in a town. This is a town, to which people come back, NOT a town people leave."

ROBERT S. Kenning, an ex-Marine lieutenant, is a man who stands tall in many ways. He has been described as being a big man physically, ethically, ideally and in his method of operation.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Kenning has been connected with the City of Birmingham since 1961. His first job with the City was as assistant superintendent of the DPW.

He was promoted to DPW superintendent in 1963 and assumed his present duties of assistant city manager in 1966.

His appointment to the local Michigan Week chairman's post was made by Henry M. Hogan, Jr., Oakland County chairman.

KENNING WAS selected because of his previous experience in planning governmental participation in the annual celebration, Hogan said.

"The job has sort of turned into a billboard erected in the north-west corner of Shain Park. The eight by ten-foot sign with black lettering is facing Bates Street.



VISITORS TO the Village Fair this week end will have the opportunity to "try out" a new carnival ride called "The Paratrooper." The Show manager Bob Reid guarantees the ride will be fun for "youngsters" of all ages. This end of May of 11 rides fair-goers will have to choose from during the four-day run of the fair.

4-Day Village Fair Resembles The Old-Time Traveling Show

A page from the past will come alive in Birmingham today with the opening of the chamber of commerce's Village Fair.

The four-day event in Shain Park is expected to attract thousands of visitors to the city.

Decorated in a centennial motif, the carnival will be reminiscent of the traveling shows that visited the town at the turn of the century.

Fair-goers will have 11 rides to choose from, including a new paratrooper jump.

Vince Scantline, fair chairman, said rides will be provided for " tots, teens and adults."

ANOTHER FEATURE will be a midway of about 30 concession booths operated by the men's and women's service clubs and church and youth groups.

The concession booths will feature everything from fun games to cotton candy and hot dogs, according to Harold Anderson and William E. Roberts, who are handling the arrangements.

Knowles B. Smith, executive director of the chamber, said the net proceeds from the concessions will be shared by the participating groups and the centennial fund in the hope that they "will be used to encourage individuals and other groups to contribute to the Centennial Memorial Foundation Fund."

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THIS AFTERNOON and Friday, members the chamber will distribute free "bonus hours" tickets which will permit children to ride at reduced rates.

The scheduled for the fair is: Today—3:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday—2 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday—11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Sunday—1 to 9:30 p.m.

A trophy will be awarded by The Eccentric to the organization with the most original decorations, dress of booth personnel and good housekeeping of their booth.

Organizations that are planning to have a concession booth are: Pilot Club, hot dogs, hamburgers and coffee; Rotary, soft drinks; Community House, baked goods; Exchange Club, ice cream sale; Lions, cotton candy; Soroptimist Club, candy apples.

Kiwanis Club, peanuts and snow cones; Optimists, popcorn and caramel corn; Westchester Women's Club, brownies; Pony League, candy sale.

KAPPA KAPPA Gamma, bug-house game; Birmingham Baseball Club, king pitch; First Presbyterian softball team, dart the balloon; Alvar Society of Queen of Martyrs, fish pond; St. James Boy Scouts, jumbo barrel toss.

Colt League, split the milk; AFS Club of Groves, tic-tac-toe game; Detroit Country Day, ping-pong loan; Groves Varsity Club, high striker game; First Presbyterian basketball team, basketball pitch.

Junior Chamber of Commerce, dunker game; Little League, batting cage; YMCA, ski game; Westchester Garden Club, cut and potted flowers; and the Purple Flame Club, creative candles.

Billboard to List Centennial Events

Birmingham centennial planners have made sure that there will be "no excuses" for missing any of the scheduled events during the city's celebration throughout May.

A complete program of each day's events has been hand lettered on a billboard erected in the north-west corner of Shain Park. The eight by ten-foot sign with black lettering is facing Bates Street.

The sign was hand lettered by artists at Demery's, and designed for legibility for pedestrians, rather than motorists.

Bonus Tickets Good Only Today, Friday

The special bonus coupons that will be distributed during the Village Fair are good only during specific announced hours.

Vince Scantline, fair chairman, said the tickets offering a 10 cent reduction on rides will be honored only from 3:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. today and from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday.

They will not be valid at any other time, Scantline said.

Dozens of Events Scheduled During 17-Day Observance

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

Two of the most eventful weeks in Birmingham's 100 years of incorporation got under way yesterday.

The U.S. Marine Corps band concert at Seaholm High School kicked off the city's 17-day centennial celebration.

Although the centennial is a year-long affair, most of the major activities have been scheduled near and during Michigan Week, May 17-23.

The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce has estimated the various events will attract between 60,000 and 80,000 persons.

The scheduling of events and the setting up of the various displays has taken months of meetings and planning sessions by Mrs. G. Howard Willett, Jr., general centennial chairman; Robert S. Kenning, Michigan Week chairman; and their various committees.

THE FOUR-DAY Village Fair, sponsored by the chamber of commerce, will take over Shain Park today and remain through Sunday evening.

Today and tomorrow, members of the chamber will distribute free bonus tickets which will permit children to ride at reduced rates.

Window displays depicting the city's early history are scheduled to be installed in some of the downtown stores today.

On Sunday the churches' observance of Spiritual Foundation Day will begin the celebration of Michigan Week. Many of the churches (See EVENTS, Page 7)

City's Biggest Parade Set For Saturday

One of the nation's leading college bands will lead Birmingham's centennial parade next Saturday afternoon.

The 125-piece Michigan State University Spartan band under the direction of Leonard Falcons has notified the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce it will take part in the parade and give a concert in Shain Park later in the day.

This is one of the band's rare appearances outside of the Lansing area, according to John Archangeli, general chairman of the parade.

The parade, Archangeli says, is the biggest one ever to be staged in Birmingham.

IN ADDITION to the band, Gov. and Mrs. George W. Romney will come from the state capital to take part in the festivities.

Gov. Romney will give a short talk in Shain Park. He will be introduced by Birmingham Mayor Charles W. Renfrew.

Eighteen different marching units have already indicated they would be in the parade and several others are still a possibility, Archangeli said.

Both the Groves and Seaholm High School bands will participate (See PARADE, Page 7)

'Fountain of Fashion' Splashes onto Scene

The "Fountain of Fashion," a fashion show sponsored by the Retail Merchants Division of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, will be presented Saturday, May 23, at 2:30 p.m. in Shain Park.

The 45-minute show will feature morning, afternoon and evening wear. Each segment of the show will be introduced with an authentic 1860's costume from Goodwill Industries' "Fashions, Fads and Fancies" collection.

Marianne Barnett, producer and commentator for the "Fountain of Fashion" show, said it is 35 ready-to-wear merchant members will show three costumes each.

SEATING FOR 600 is furnished by The Community House. Refreshments will be available from Mel Correll's chuck wagons.

"Fountain of Fashion" committee members are Mrs. Dorothy Miller, Elmeholm's; Mrs. Madge Davis, Demery's; Mrs. Esther Kerns, EB Shop; Irvia Formuto, B. Siegel; Dave Beers, Jacobson's Women's Shop; Martin Frank, Higgins and Frank; and Bill Wisner, Prep Shop.

Age to Reap Honors At Heritage Luncheon

By ETHEL SIMMONS
Staff Writer

Birmingham's "oldest" will be honored guests at the Heritage Day recognition luncheon at noon Friday, May 22, at The Community House.

James K. Plack, chairman of the history and heritage committee planning the luncheon, will be toastmaster. Mayor Charles Renfrew will present the certificates of recognition.

To be honored are the oldest resident, oldest native-born resident, representative of three generations in the medical profession, oldest business in one family, oldest resident in the legal profession, oldest resident in the field of education, oldest church organization and oldest house.

ALSO RECEIVING awards will be nine Birmingham elementary, junior high and senior high school students for the best centennial poem, best centennial essay and best centennial art work.

Interested citizens are being invited to attend.

The program also will feature several selections by the Birmingham Musical League Singers.

Committee members planning the event include Irene E. Hanley, 592 W. Brown; Mrs. Clarence G. Clobaset, 1908 Northlawn; Mary M. Wenzl, 511 Hanna; Trudy Wenzl, 511 Hanna; and Mrs. T. James LeMessurier.

SEATED AT the head table will be John Bloomstrom, president of the Senior Men's Club, and Mrs. Bloomstrom; Mayor and Mrs. Renfrew; Superintendent of Schools John B. Smith and Mrs. Smith; City Manager L. R. Gare and Mrs. Gare; Dr. G. Ernest Thomas of the Methodist Church and Mrs. Thomas; Mrs. G. Howard Willett, municipal centennial, and Mr. Willett; Assistant City Manager Robert S. Kenning and Mrs. Kenning; and Mr. and Mrs. Plack.

Approximately 800 persons are expected to attend. The history and heritage committee also has arranged that morning's historical tour and afternoon grinds-to- dedication ceremony.