

Recording History as It Happens

In the preparation of this centennial issue of The Eccentric, we were repeatedly impressed with the fact that the newspaper, (The Eccentric, of course), has been our chief and most reliable source of information in our research of what has been happening in our community since 1864.

A newspaper is the community "seismograph" that provides a dimension of information not otherwise available. It is the chronicler of events as they occur—and thus provides a running history for later use.

In the newspaper the flavor and quality of the history-making personalities is retained. This makes it possible for the reader to sense the vibrations and the vitality of the history-makers.

BY BRINGING the full story of problems to the readers, the paper has over the years made it possible for them to be well informed and responsive to resolving community issues, thereby providing direction in community goals.

And these goals are today reflected in the character and high quality of the community.

The newspaper's role is to report to the readers, who in turn react, with the result that the destiny of the community is molded through citizen participation.

Now may we say that in the assignment of reviewing the history of the community we have found both inspiration and pleasure.

WE WERE impressed by the quality of leadership available at points of crises in community life. We read with pride of how they were resolved to the further enhancement of a finer community.

Eccentric's First Editorial

The following is a reprint of the first editorial in The Eccentric. It was published in our very first issue, on May 2, 1878, with the heading "Our Salvation."

It is not without many misgivings and heartfelt appreciation of the manifold difficulties to be encountered that we issue this, our first number of The Eccentric, which we design to publish every week for an indefinite period of time.

One of our objects in undertaking this, our first effort in the way of journalism, is to furnish a live home paper, replete with all the news of the day, but more particularly the local items of importance occurring in Birmingham and immediate vicinity, at a price so low that few, if any, can truly say, "I cannot afford to take a wide awake home paper."

Our facilities for obtaining home news are excellent, and we will take every legitimate means in our power to furnish our readers with all of the many little incidents, accidents and "happenstances" constantly occurring in our midst. Another object (and we may as well own right up) is the following:



Which nobody will deny is usually at the bottom of, and is the real incentive to almost all the business enterprises of the day.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

If there be truth in the recent published statements that President Johnson drove his big car up to 85-90 miles per hour, such an example was unforgetable—or at least unforgettable. Yet, even though the President asserts that "I have never driven over 70 miles an hour," the reporters riding with him state otherwise. Mr. Johnson became very angry over those newspaper stories, as did his wife. Should the guest-reporters have printed that story, even if uncontestedly true?

Consistently we found that at the point of crisis the right person or persons have been there to resolve it in such a way that the progress of Birmingham has been an upward spiral.

With it we have seen the accomplishments and growth of facilities to meet the needs for the community. There has been, we are pleased to note, an unusual working-together for the common good.

YET, WE are concerned at this point in time with some loss of harmony between two important community factors—business and residents. We are convinced that the future validly supports the idea of mutual interests, as has been evidenced in the past.

This is particularly important not only in the direction of a healthy business community by also in the cooperation between both segments—business and residential—in bringing about new facilities and community programming.

We have in mind such community needs as a civic auditorium, development of a cultural center uptown, provision of aesthetically conceived and executed parking facilities, engineering and construction of traffic relief projects and development of increased recreational facilities for both adults and young people, particularly the teen-agers.

Birmingham possesses a rich heritage. May we profit from this centennial observance and achieve an even greater future. And may the newspaper again serve as a catalyst for community good and the chief chronicler of the future years which, we hope, will bless us with greater goals and community attainments.

We sincerely hope that no one will criticize too severely this our first attempt at writing "copy," but be the consequences what they may, we alone are to be blamed or praised for it, as we have depended solely on our own resources, and have not borrowed or brought to our assistance either local or city talent.

We will endeavor to make The Eccentric a most welcome visitor to every household in the village, and in our remarks, which we will feel called upon to make on any occurrence, taking place in our vicinity, we hope no one will endeavor to impress us with the opinion that a brick house has fallen on us, before we have time to retract our rash assertions, whatever they may be, and we would inform our friends on the start that we have purchased a full stock of defensive weapons, and intend to "do right and fear nothing."

In order that we may make our editorial as do-lar-ous as possible, we hereby show the other side of the new issue:



And kindly suggest in connection therewith that one of the above (in silver) will insure the reception of The Eccentric every week for two years, value received. In conclusion, we sincerely trust that our patrons will never have the occasion to "shake us," otherwise than by the hand of friendship.

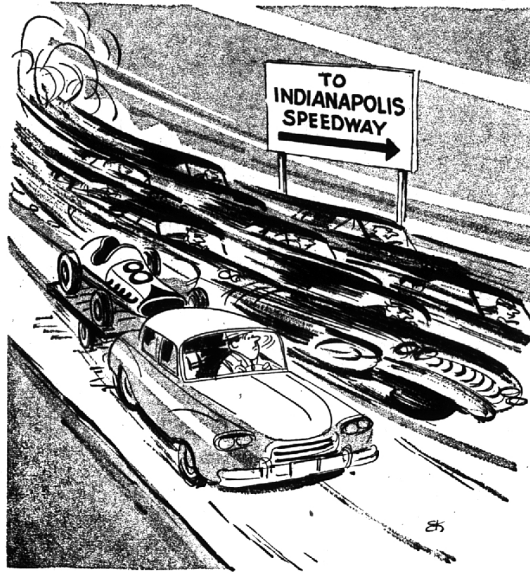
If it serves to slow down a certain famous motorist who always is "just a heart-beat ahead of his possible successor," then we join the chorus of "slow-downers."

By the way, how long since you have read anything about "flying saucers"? "Twain" too many years ago that frequently somebody thought he saw something strange up in the sky, and the newspapers generally quoted them as "flying saucers."

The numerous displays on hand had the same flair that she did and she was delighted to tell about her plans for other projects.

The excellent groundwork which she has given her first and second graders with emphasis on reading, The Michigan Employment Security Act insures over 1,800,000 Michigan workers against the period of unemployment. The M.E.S. Commission last year paid 2.9 million weeks of unemployment benefits, compared with 14.5 million weeks of unemployment benefits in 1963.

A Time and Place for Everything



YESTERYEAR HAPPENINGS

FROM FIRST ECCENTRIC

May 2, 1878
The gate of last week Wednesday considerable damage in this vicinity. John Snow, living about two miles northeast of this village, had the entire east part of his barn roof blown off, all the chimneys on his house completely wrecked and fences laid low. John was on the roof making repairs when the "breeze" occurred and the way he clung to the roof was a caution to his finger-nails.

Some needed improvements are being made at the D. & M. depot. The old depot and waiting room, which has been gradually sinking into the ground for the last ten years, has been raised and propped up, the siding is to be torn off and new boards put on and battened; the waiting room will be celled, and a new door, floors and windows put in; the ticket office will be served likewise; a new platform in front and on the side, and the whole building will receive a coat of paint.

Several months ago the School Inspectors of this township met at the old school house in District No. 4, in answer to a petition from the voters of said district, praying that the district be disorganized. The prayer was denied and the decision appealed to the Town Board, who reversed the former decision of the inspectors. The joint Board of School Inspectors of the towns of Troy, Bloomfield

AND SOUTHFIELD

will meet next Tuesday and it is hoped the troubles of District No. 4 will be at an end.

TURN OF THE CENTURY

May 11, 1900
An automobile, weighing 1600 pounds, and carrying two gentlemen, was the center of attraction on Saginaw street Sunday last. The men took dinner at the National Hotel and during their stay here the queer looking outfit was examined and admired by a great many. The trip made was from Detroit to Pontiac.

Reports from various parts of the county show that the wheat crop will only yield about 25 percent of a crop and the weather conditions will have to be very favorable in order to reach that amount. Severe weather and the work of the Hessian fly are assigned as the causes for the shortage. Many farmers here have plowed up their wheat fields this spring.

On Monday afternoon, Mike Whalen, employed by Thomas Cook of Southfield, was engaged in trimming trees. He slipped and fell to the ground breaking two ribs and otherwise cutting and bruising himself quite severely. He was brought to this place and Dr. J. L. Campbell made him as comfortable as possible. But luck seems to follow this man, he being the one struck by the milk car on

the electric road less than a year ago and quite badly hurt.

AND IN 1925

May 15, 1925
By June 1, the Oakland County Road Commission expects to begin paving East Maple avenue, from Adams avenue to the John R. road, according to a statement made by Luther D. Allen, Commissioner. The paving will begin at Adams avenue, and will be 30 feet wide for the first half mile. On the balance of the highway, the pavement will be 20 feet in width, with eight-foot shoulders, making it, when completed, one of the best built roads in the county.

A lighted cigaret flipped from the roof of Mrs. Barbara Klein's home in Troy township two miles north of Birmingham and a half mile east of the Adams road Tuesday afternoon, fell among a pile of old shingles and, in less than an hour, had started a conflagration that destroyed \$50,000 worth of property. The entire loss was covered by \$12,500 of insurance.

An impressive but simple service marked the opening of the new nine hole golf course at the Oakland Hills Golf Club, on West Maple avenue, last Saturday afternoon. During the day, 54 members of the club played on the course which is laid out on the north side of Maple road, almost directly opposite the club house.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Loss of Teacher Blow To Mothers, Children

To the Editor:
The Birmingham school system suffered a great loss last week and when Miss Nancy Grubaugh, second grade teacher at the Valley Woods School, died in an automobile accident.

At the age of twenty-six she was a truly dedicated teacher of elementary age children and had an enthusiasm for learning that was contagious.

Her energy was boundless. SHE SPENT long hours preparing for her classes, yet found time to work toward her masters degree and participate in many outside activities.

It was a real inspiration to walk into Miss Grubaugh's classroom for a conference.

The excellent groundwork which she has given her first and second graders with emphasis on reading, The Michigan Employment Security Act insures over 1,800,000 Michigan workers against the period of unemployment. The M.E.S. Commission last year paid 2.9 million weeks of unemployment benefits, compared with 14.5 million weeks of unemployment benefits in 1963.

English, and science will be a lasting tribute to her.

THE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN OF ROOM 3

Valley Woods School

STRICTLY FRESH

There's the story about a guy and his wife actually worried about whether or not they would hear their baby's 3 a.m. hunger cry.

With modern medicine doing so well at increasing life expectancy,



we'd better be careful about adding to the national debt—we may have to pay it off ourselves.

When the surgeon married his patient, some wondered what he saw in her.

Lawyer's secretary to boy friend: Stop trying to steal a kiss and/or I'll slap your face.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Urges Early Training of Youngsters

To the Editor:
This week we recognize the 50th anniversary of the "Kind to Animals Week."

It is a well known fact that much of our juvenile delinquency stems from the fact that parents have neglected to teach their children respect and consideration for people, their property, and things weaker or less fortunate than themselves—thus we find as these neglected children grow older they run roughshod over the entire community.

THE TRAINING of character in a child starts with kindness to his brothers and sisters and those with whom he comes in contact.

The greater reverence for life begins at an early age, build its strength of character and develops a child into a respectable kindly individual who thinks about his acts and how they will affect those around him.

Kindness and mercy to all living creatures, not political theories, will bring world peace.

How can we pretend to fight for benevolence in government while we praise and reward cruelty to helpless animals.

HELEN G. FERGUSON
639 Bloomfield Ct.
Birmingham

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

When an old friend has a birthday, you are always faced with the problem of selecting an appropriate gift to help celebrate the occasion.

This coming week an old friend of ours, a close friend for 86 years, will celebrate her 100th birthday.

She's the type of gal that wears her age very well. She's not a fancy dresser so clothes or jewels would not be too appropriate.

There are some things that she does need that we're not in a position to secure for her yet. A new civic auditorium would certainly give her the opportunity to show off her cultural side. But this takes time. And money.

A car might be considered a nice gift, but she has too many cars already. If you visit her on a Saturday morning, maybe helping her get rid of some of her cars might be a help.



MR. HOGAN

BUT THIS won't happen until all of the residents in her town finally get together and realize that there aren't two towns, one business and one residential. Very little can be accomplished in this regard until everyone works to improve the overall or total community. If one part is neglected all the rest will depreciate because a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

It's hard to find the perfect gift for someone you apparently have everything. It's hard to find the perfect gift for someone you love.

We feel the best present we can offer is the promise of assistance in achieving her goals in the next 100 years. We pledge ourselves to the promotion of prosperous and orderly growth in the finest suburban community in the world.

Happy birthday, Birmingham

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

Plans for Birmingham's centennial celebration started out big; then slowed; then ended big.

In the beginning, general chairman Twink Willett thought in terms of a year-long observance. After the first couple of meetings of her Birmingham Centennial Committee, however, it was agreed that Michigan Week would be the focal point.

So, the group set about planning activities for this one week. But as the date grew closer, the actual programming took on greater dimensions—ending ultimately in an 18-day period, May 17-23.

TO BE SURE, there will be other events during the year. But for all practical purposes this is the real centennial celebration.

Many meetings were involved in planning and arranging the program. This writer was fortunate enough to sit in on all of those of the official centennial committee.

Close observation of this group at work permits these capsule summaries:

TWINK WILLETT—the Leader, full of grace and tact. Always poised and charming, she draws the best out of people.

BOB KENNING — the Old Marine; the Minnesota Alumnus; the Efficient. He has a sense of humor that makes you want to see more of it in evidence.

CARL BARTON—the Money Watcher. He sounds like a penny pincher, but all he needs is "the consensus of this group" to open the till.

JIM FLACK—the Historian, with a gleam in his eyes and a smile that comes readily to his lips. He makes you feel as if you've known him all your life.

AUDREY MARRINER—the Publicist; the Promoter; the Thinker. She'd make a good newspaperwoman.

SAM MITCHELL—the Friendly One. The twinkle in his eyes, even when things aren't going so well, suggests a confidence in self and fellow beings. His boundless enthusiasm is infectious.

JACK KERSHENBAUM—the Quiet One. But when he speaks, his words reveal a warmth that otherwise might go unnoticed. He prefers action to high-sounding phrases.

KNOWLES SMITH—the Newcomer; the Live Wire. His quick grasp of the situation and his eagerness to help established him solidly in the group right from the beginning.

Of course, you can't draw up a brief characterization of people like this without giving them some ammunition to work with. So:

THE AUTHOR OF THIS PIECE—the Listener; and (when not listening) the Dreamer.

Judging by the Winter Olympics, the United States is off the gold standard.

We do progress. It used to be chibblains. Now it's gas-line freeze.

In Nebraska a man in jail for nonpayment of his first wife was let out long enough to be married again. Does that qualify as cruel and unusual punishment?

President Johnson picks a history professor to collect ideas for the government. It's his job to turn down eggheads who are cracked.

Secretary Freeman dodges a question about whether he might run for the Senate. After three years as Agriculture chief he's a dodging expert.

Men and women are growing more and more alike, says a Catholic priest. If many more women start smoking pipes we'll begin to agree with him.

The big question in Vietnam is not whether the Communist guerrillas will be thrown back but whether Lodge will go back home.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published Every Thursday

Established 1878

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

