

### The People Are the Losers

There is no question of the need for and the value of the newspaper as a tool of communication.

The people of Detroit have been greatly deprived without their regular daily newspapers in the last few weeks as a result of a strike.

Whatever the merits of the arguments of either side, management or labor, we are deeply concerned that the people of Detroit—or any other community, for that matter—must go on day after day without this communication medium.

THE PEOPLE of Detroit rely greatly on the daily papers to keep them informed of the happenings in their city, in their state, in their nation and in the world. The newspapers help them in making decisions on what to purchase and where.

These are critical times in our history: United States ships were fired upon in international waters and our forces then moved to attack and the issue was taken before the United Nations; new developments are occurring almost every day in the presidential election campaign.

Not only are the people of Detroit unable to read these news accounts in their regular daily papers, they also are without the usual editorial comments to help them understand and form opinions about what is happening.

WHY MUST the people of Detroit face their daily lives without this service? Let us take a look at the strike, itself.

On strike are the Pressmen's Union and the Paper Handlers' and Plate Handlers' Union. There are several issues but the major one involves Saturday overtime pay. The unions point out that The News

pays its pressmen at time-and-a-half rates for Saturday night and Sunday work, and that the Free Press considers Saturday when it's part of the regular five-day work week a straight-time day.

THE PUBLISHERS point out that The News is an afternoon paper and thus its pressmen work the usual day shifts. However, to publish its Sunday paper, The News must on Saturday first print its regular Saturday edition and then print the Sunday issue. So, overtime is necessary. They point out further that The Free Press because it is a morning paper must normally do its printing at night, Sunday through Saturday. Thus, it does not have to print two papers in one day (Saturday) as The News must.

The publishers, therefore, insist that the fifth regular day within a normal 35-hour week at The Free Press should continue to be paid on the straight-time basis.

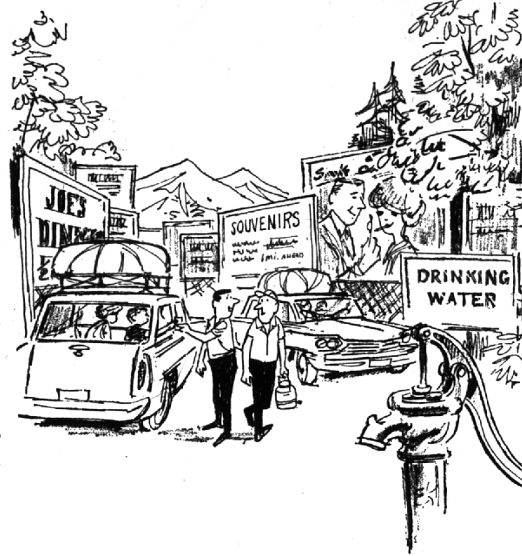
They say that the pressmen at the Free Press actually are demanding for anyone who works Saturday a 28-hour, four-day week—plus a guarantee time-and-a-half for seven hours on Saturday.

Fringe benefits are involved in the other points of disagreement.

IN THE FINAL analysis, it must be deemed that everyone loses in a strike—management, labor and the public. Our main concern here is that the people of Detroit are faced with the threat of a continuing loss of their daily printed medium of communication.

A blackout of news can be the opening move of tyranny—be it political, labor, economic or social.

### 'They Say the Scenery Here Is Wonderful!'



### Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



One of my pet peeves is to dine in a very fine restaurant and then retire to wash my hands and find that all of the service I didn't get while eating had been waiting patiently for me in the wash room.

I'm sure that everyone has had the experience with that little man or woman with a great big smile, who starts the water running in the wash basin just as you push open the door, and then starts following you around with a towel.

Before you are allowed to leave the room you are faced with two additional experiences: that of the big brush, which is used to brush away any real or imagined spots on your jacket, and that of the big hand, which is used to collect any gratuity you might offer.

I AM SURE THAT restaurant architects design these rooms so that it is virtually impossible to get out without acknowledging the existence of this person short of putting your shoulders down and running pell mell through him.

Actually, you can't criticize the service, and the poor little guy does have to equip his station with combs, brushes, hair tonics, shaving soaps and so forth. But honestly, have you ever seen anyone in there shaving or using the fancy smelling preparations?

THE REAL PROBLEM that gets to me is that you don't need all of that service and are expected to help management pay for keeping the room clean with your little gratuities.

This should be a responsibility of the owner, not the guests.

Why if gas stations ever get wind of this system, we would never again have to cruise around the block casing stations in strange cities, trying to guess what their restrooms are like.

Once this got started they would all be spotless, but the oil companies would have to add another line on their credit cards to take care of the smiling little face.

WHILE I'M ON this subject, there is one other practice of some restaurants that I feel is adding insult to injury. Every once in a while my spouse will return to the table and ask me for a dime.

Putting a coin machine on the outside of public facilities is outrageous and un-American. Think of the great consequences to the person who doesn't have a dime.

I suppose the most effective way of ending these two practices that I feel are abuses is to boycott the places that employ them. But I'm afraid it's one of those things we can't control.

### City Beat

By KEN WEAVER



For several years now I have contended that science should develop an electronic device that would automatically force vehicles to slow down at hazardous points along the highways.

The nut behind the wheel who insists on taking a 30-mile-per-hour curve at 60 would be forced to the slower speed by such an instrument.

Think what this improvement would do for safety on the roadways!

And there are those who say that what the careful driver needs is a device that will enable him to make a sharp opinion when some knucklehead (and other driver, of course) does something outrageous.

UNFORTUNATELY, no such device is in the works, so far as my informal research has disclosed, anyway.

The need is plain. Suppose some speed-happy Joe gets away faster from a stoplight than you do and then cuts in ahead, glancing back in the mirror to see your face.

What we need, say some observers, is a way to let this guy know that you think him a blinkety-blank road hog.

Suppose some wool-gatherer turns without bothering to signal. Consider how satisfying it would be to give him a quick, pungent description of his stupidity.

THE MOTORISTS' problem is not that he can't think of quick pungenicities, the trouble is, he can't be sure the malfactor gets the full benefit.

Generally, things happen too fast to permit a really satisfying exchange of views, even in good weather when the windows are rolled down. I know, because I've given in to this temptation on occasion.

Well, then, how about a system of flash cards? Some, for use in slow-moving traffic, would go into considerable detail. Others would be simple and direct—such thumb-nail descriptions as "Lamebrain" or perhaps "Bonehead!"

ENDLESS VARIATIONS are possible, if you follow this kind of reasoning. All that's needed is a device for displaying the right card in a hurry.

Actually, I think the suggestion for an electronic device that would automatically slow down vehicles is a sounder one.

Get busy, science!

### YESTERYEAR HAPPENINGS

50 YEARS AGO  
August 14, 1914

The Birmingham club has just been putting in their new furniture direct from the stock of Daines and Bell; the Quality Shop's new front on Maple avenue West is nearly completed. These are only a few of the things that are going on in Birmingham today. Money is plenty and all the wars in the world can't stop Birmingham from booming with a capital B.

Number One Hundred and Nine Woodward avenue means the village jail, not a bad place to visit—for a moment or two. During last week, a number of improvements have been made in the building's cells. They have been moved to the rear of the room in the library building and a room has recently been added for the storing of the water meters.

The committee appointed to select a high school site, met at the high school Wednesday. Following are the members: Geo. Purdy, Dr. N. T. Shaw, F. A. Gordon, Thos. Cobb, Geo. Daines, Frank Stanton, Dr. D. M. Johnston, John Hanna, Frank Schiela, W. B. Harris, W.

R. Clabbe, J. F. Randle, George Mitchell, Thos. Lynch, Jas. Todd.

30 YEARS AGO  
August 16, 1934

Although there has been a sharp but not great increase in the incidence of poliomyelitis, commonly referred to as infantile paralysis, in the metropolitan section of Detroit during the past week, and Birmingham has had two cases reported, there is absolutely no cause for alarm. Dr. W. Lloyd Kemp, city health officer, told The Eccentric yesterday. He said that it is possible to diagnose and treat the condition effectively if early signs are recognized.

Tax collections during the past week were unusually slow, there being but \$875.15 coming to the office of the city treasurer, bringing the total so far this year to \$32,960.74. This is a small part of the total 1934 tax levy, which is \$200,000, and leaves a large amount to be paid before the deadline Sept. 1. The total collected this year is considerably behind that of the corresponding time last year.

A large crowd and a \$50 profit

rewarded the efforts of directors Carolyn Salisbury and Henry Price to raise money for the Barnum Pool fund by means of a water pageant given last Friday afternoon and evening in the Barnum Pool. Eugene Field's poem, Wyrken, Blynken, and Nod" formed the theme for the dramatization, which was executed by nearly 100 boys and girls.

15 YEARS AGO  
August 11, 1946

Plans for the resurfacing of Woodward avenue, from Brown street south to Lincoln, have been temporarily shelved by the city until the money is available. City Manager Donald C. Egbert said this week. The entire width of Woodward, from Brown to Oakland, was resurfaced two years ago, making a smooth stretch through the central business district. Maple from Bates to Brownell, was given a new topping at the same time. The entire job cost approximately \$14,000.

Possibility of placing overhead traffic signals along Woodward avenue at Brown, Maple and Oakland avenues is being investigated (See HAPPENINGS, 8-B)

### PEOPLES COLUMN

### Was Boston Tea Party An Act of Extremism?

To the Editor:

I have just read with interest your two editorials in the July 23 issue of The Eccentric and am considerably shocked by not only your captive use of a public medium of information, such as is your fine paper, but by the exploitation of personal views hastily considered and seemingly unsupported by any real facts.

There is, no evidence to support your statement that the Republican candidate for President, such as is your fine paper, has completely abandoned compassion, tolerance, charity and forbearance for others—such as you suggest. In fact, the evidence would tend to point the opposite way.

MANY YEARS ago the poet, John Milton, offered these following potent words:

"Give me liberty to know, to think, to believe and to utter freely, according to conscience, above all other liberties."

At long last a political party has secured a candidate for high office who has the initial thought to state publicly his convictions, regardless of possible political suicide.

He is the first, we believe, to do this openly since Teddy Roosevelt, 60 odd years ago. We have been a long time waiting.

Yet today there are senators,

congressmen, governors — including our own Romney—and other sundry politicians who object to this characteristic. For its integrity? For votes? For answer it!

SENATOR Barry Goldwater has said that "Extremism in the defense of Liberty is no vice." We can only remind you that there are a few milestones

(See PEOPLES COLUMN LETTER ON 7-B)

during our development as a nation that have certainly smacked of extremism.

There was the Boston Tea Party and in 1765 a gentleman named Patrick Henry demanded, "Give me liberty or give me death." Extremism? Certainly!

In 1776 a group of red-blooded Americans signed a paper known as the Declaration of Independence, with one bold signature standing out above all others—that of John Hancock.

Extremism? You don't even have to guess!

Later, a certain Paul Revere rode a horse over the back roads of New England, rousing the patriots to action. Moderate? Not by a damn sight.

OUR HISTORY is replete with the record of extreme acts

for forthright Americans. Wars, threats of wars and Mr. Dulles' "brinkmanship," as well as thousands of heroic acts on the parts of individuals and groups, have had their place and are well known to all of us.

Unfortunately, there are small minds among us who would exaggerate the importance of the mutterings of the John Birchers, the cross-burning activities of the Ku Klux Klan and the attempted pressure of other minority groups.

We concede that these people are extremists but they are granted the same right to exercise their own misguided principles and to utter them freely.

We hold no brief for such outfits but must necessarily accept them as representing a facet of America and of our democracy. However, they can be considered a negligible portion of extremism and are unworthy of consideration.

YOU MENTION "Modern Republicanism" as if it was a panacea for all ills. I frankly do not know what Modern Republicanism is and I doubt if you can define the term. But if this Modern Republicanism abrogates our right to become forthright and red-blooded Americans who can openly stand up for the principle (See ACT, 7-B)

### The Birmingham Eccentric

Published Every Thursday

Established 1878

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

