

Around The Cracker Barrel

Indolence is a virtue. I can say this without fear of my boss, for he's in full accord. And after about eight weeks of repetitious reminders that I'm indolent, it seems proper that we should start with this defense. For, if it has escaped your notice, there hasn't been a Cracker Barrel column all summer. Not only have I been too lazy to write one, but I have repeatedly temporized and alibied with the thought that you were tired of them, and that many of you were away. So, outside of the abuse I've taken, I again insist that indolence is a virtue, especially if that trait is found within one's self.

So to kind of get warmed up again for Fall, and to provide an easy genesis when our span of attention is still short, let's see what happens with some short dissociated ideas. Or, some crumbs from the Cracker Barrel.

It says in the paper tonight that Harry Lauder is 79 years old. I guess I was a very small boy when I first saw him singing and dancing, dressed in a bright tartan and carrying a crooked stick. Asked my father if all Scotsmen wore plaids and carried that crooked stick. He said Scotsmen didn't carry such a stick for he wasn't like that. He was prejudiced, but said nothing of the plaids. So, it has always seemed to me that anyone with Scotch in his veins, or otherwise, should wear a bit of plaid. That's why the Village Store will again have those fine light woolen neckties in 62 tartans. They'll be here soon, and as usual, they'll be just \$1.50.

So they cut six inches off the top of one of those new trees on Pierce. The steam shovel couldn't clear it, and the cellar for that new store had to be dug. This cutting was a crime, they said, and temperatures rose well above the 96° the weather bureau admitted. The city forester, with a helper, came over and took photographs, so that the evidence would be complete. The police got on the job, 'phoned the wife of the contractor and told her the police wanted to see her husband. She frantically started to find him, and did. He was required to sign a guarantee for the alleged price of the tree, \$45. All of this after the property owner had given a verbal guarantee. Sort of made me wonder if some similar "evidence" was gathered when those beautiful trees were cut down on Maple just a year ago. Also made me wonder how many man-hours were spent on this witch-hunt, and at what cost to the taxpayers.

I can always tell when a person visits the Village Store for the first time. They examine the Cracker Barrel to see if there are really crackers in it. So if you want to fool me, just don't look in the barrel but wait a minute for some little tot to run in. He'll show you whether or not there are crackers in the barrel.

Who looks smarter than a girl dressed in a casual skirt and crisp cotton shirt? After asking a few men, just to see if this isn't a typical male reaction, come down to the Village Store and find just what you've always wanted. Skirts in fine flannels, in corduroy, in worsteds and gabardines. Shirts in white pima, in pastels and plaids. And to top it off, a new and exotic belt by Critérión. You'll sure look grand.

Two big issues will soon be before the voters. One concerns the need for new schools, and the other with off-street parking. It seems to me it's sort of wonderful to be asked if you want them, and if you want to spend the money. We get used to having our spending representatives in Washington do all of the arithmetic in connection with our taxes, and it's going to be quite a thrill to have something to say ourselves.

Got to thinking the other day about records. I'd make a small wager that Birmingham issues more over-parking tickets per meter than any other town in Christendom. Our fame in this regard is spreading far and wide. The diligence of our gendarmes is overpowering. Wonder what happened to that idea someone advanced to give courtesy tickets for violations, as is done in so many communities. Also made me wonder if our fair city wants trade here. Together with the above, got to thinking about a legal question: Does the city rent the space behind the parking meter, and if so, does the city become a bailee for hire and assume responsibility for damage suffered to your car while parked in the rented space? And what happens if any damage is done after the red flag is up, and a ticket is on your windshield?

It's funny what musings you have in summer time.

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MSC President John Hannah Speaks for Land-Grant Schools

By Esther Van Wagener Tufty

WASHINGTON—John Hannah, President Michigan State College, has a reputation on Capitol Hill as a "mighty convincing witness" when he appears before congressional committees.

And he demonstrated it again in testifying recently before the House Committee of Banking and Currency. He was urging the retention of Title V to HR 5261, which would provide more housing loans for educational institutions.

This time he spoke for all the 53 national institutions in the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. He's president.

He sees a great need for the proposed 300 million-dollar revolving loan fund at 2% percent interest for periods of up to 40 years to colleges and universities for construction of student and faculty housing.

The Committee members opened their eyes wide as he proceeded to expose their complacency about shrinking needs for more campus housing as fewer and fewer veterans enroll through the GI bill of rights.

He said "last year's enrollment over the previous year was up in the face of a decrease of 101,000 in veteran enrollment."

VFW and Legion to Aid Applicants for Insurance Refunds

Local Veterans of World War II will receive aid in filing for GI insurance refunds from both the local VFW Post, 2645 and the American Legion.

Jack Emerson, commander of Charles Edward Post, 14, American Legion, has announced that veterans may apply for information and assistance at the Post home, 265 S. Woodward, on Tuesday, Aug. 30. Any veteran may apply there in person or through representatives, according to Emerson, who added that he would be available at his home, 1718 Holland, after Tuesday. He said early applicants would probably receive their checks about the first of the year.

Emerson also added that veterans who do not hold membership in the Legion, would receive the same assistance as those who do.

The VFW will hold its officers and officers of the Auxiliary available Aug. 29, 30 and 31 in the Municipal building. The hours for Aug. 29 will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with 6 p.m. as the closing hour for the two final days.

Exhibitions Begin For Detroit Lions

DETROIT, MICH. Five exhibition games with National Football League opponents that commence Tuesday, Aug. 23, against the New York Bulldogs at Hershey, Pa., will give Detroit Lion Coach Bo McMillin an idea on the function of his newly-installed two-plateau system.

The silver-hatched McMillin is in his second year with the Lions. Says Bo:

"Last year, we couldn't run away from anybody. We feel our present two lines will help us correct that."

When the Lions have the ball, McMillin hopes to keep a slick, fast-moving lineup on the field. When the ball changes hands—and McMillin hopes it won't be embarrassingly often—the bulky behemoth will take the field backed up by as nifty a secondary as McMillin can draw.

Most significant in the offensive lineup are the appearances of Cy Souter and Howard Brown at the tackles.

Photographs for publication in The Eccentric must be submitted by Friday noon of the week before publication.



BERRY-BOOSTER—The New York State blackberry growers met at Ellenville, N. Y., to "pick" Linda Dawson as "Miss Blackberry Queen" of 1949. Agreeing that Linda looked like the berries, the growers draped a blackberry necklace around her.

True, he said, there will be some leveling off of enrollment in the next three or four years, but . . . "There is every indication that given normal conditions, the colleges are faced with the problem of providing instruction on a permanent basis for at least double the number of students normally enrolled before the war."

"Where is this new non-veteran enrollment coming from?" Dr. Hannah says . . . population has increased . . . wartime increase of birth-rate . . . increase in high school enrollment . . . efforts to broaden opportunity for higher education.

All this may be "nullified if the cost of living while attending college becomes greater than the student can afford. . . . And teachers, likewise, must have adequate living quarters at prices within their means."

Frankly, barracks-type housing were called "gentile slums" . . . And the Lanham Act, a vital important aid, did "not approach even a temporary solution."

"These old-fashioned rooming houses in town were a war casualty."

Construction costs have doubled at Michigan State College, "the most favorable conditions under which we can now borrow money are from the insurance companies, at about 3% percent, amortized over a period of 20 years."

So he urges adoption of "Title V," stressing it as "basically self-liquidating."

One Michigan member of the Committee, Fred Crawford, doesn't like "Title V" very much for "it gets into the question of federal subsidizing of schools."

He said "the first thing you know the government would be dictating to land-grant colleges." There is also the danger, the Saginaw Republican said, "that the public would lose track of who is being loaned what from the general funds of the government."

He prefers land-grant colleges borrowing money through private credit channels.



FRAMEWORK C. F. PEACE—Onlookers gaze at the progress being made on the new United Nations building in New York City. In the background is the skeleton of the U. N. Secretariat building, the first and tallest on the site. This 39-story structure will have 2700 air-conditioned offices.

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Seven Day Air Cruise to Jamaica Florida Country Club Air Cruise	\$272.84*
All Expense Tour—N. Y., Phila., Atlantic City, Wash.	\$119.45*

* Plus Federal Tax
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