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Air Mail by Jet Plane

"The fastest-delivered letter to and from a destination in the history of mankind" will go into the mails on December 17th, when the nation observes the forty-sixth anniversary of the day when Orville and Wilbur Wright put their first plane into the air at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

As part of the celebration, marked by a special six-cent air mail stamp honoring the Wright Brothers, a letter will be sent from Kitty Hawk on a Coast Guard helicopter to Elizabeth City, N. C.

Here it will be taken by a jet plane which will carry it at 525 miles an hour to Dayton, Ohio, birthplace of the Wright brothers. It will be cancelled at Dayton and rushed back to Kill Devil Hill while the celebration is under way.

Aviation has come a long way in the 46 years which have elapsed since the Wright Brothers put their flimsy craft into the air on Thursday, Dec. 17th, 1903.

The first flight, with Orville as pilot, was 10 feet in the air and only 120 feet long. Later, on the same day with Wilbur as pilot, the plane stayed in the air 59 seconds and flew 852 feet.

When news of the flight appeared in the newspapers of the nation, few people believed the report and the epochal achievement remained almost unknown for several years.

He Lives on $6 A Week

"I want no help from any source, public or private," is the declaration of Albert Enoch, according to a newspaper dispatch, telling how the 57-year-old chemist is living in Los Angeles on $6 a week, including $3.75 a week for a hotel room.

We doubt if many Americans can live as economically as Enoch. Everybody knows tremendous sums are expended by the average person to keep up with his neighbors.

Life, in its basic essentials, is comparatively simple, but the gadgets and extras that modern civilization demands cost money.

We have no idea how seriously one should take the story about Mr. Enoch. It may be a newspaper man's idea of a good yarn. On the other hand, it may be something approaching a true story of a man who has disiplined himself to want few of the extras in life.

Anyways, there is a point to be considered in Mr. Enoch's quest for work for which he is fitted.

Admitting that he is unable to compete with "younger men in stamina," the chemist says that "an old man's head is a storehouse of knowledge" and that "in other civilizations, this treasure of the aged could find a market."

Undoubtedly, this is a timely observation. It should be borne in mind by those who employ workers. Some employes have much to recommend them to those seeking capable leadership from ambitious and intelligent associates. But nonetheless, many employers could use with profit the experience, poise and balance of older employes.

Filipinos and English Ways

The Filipinos have just completed an election which included voting for a President, eight senators and ninety-eight members of the House of Representatives.

Altogether, some four million votes were cast out of a population of about twenty million. This is not bad for a small country which is in the process of developing democratic self-government.

It is impossible for one in this country to pass judgment on counter-charges that inevitably follow elections. It is interesting, however, to note that the Filipinos are the one Asiatic people in the Far East to attempt to follow the pattern of democracy.

It may also interest Americans to recall that the Filipinos speak English. They are the only native people of Far Eastern regions who do.

It came about because the United States, after the Spanish-American War, attempted to set up schools for the Filipino people. There were so many dialects that it was impossible to select any native tongue and the decision was made to teach the Filipinos to use the English language.

Dark Days of Dunkerque

The present crisis in Great Britain is likened to the dark days after Dunkerque by Dr. Cyril Garbett, Archbishop of York, who says that only the collaboration of the people will prevent starvation, mass unemployment and ruin.

Dr. Garbett is described as the second highest dignitary in the Church of England and it is unusual for such high ecclesiastical officials to comment on political affairs.

Nevertheless, his utterance is not strictly political but rather concerns itself with the advisability of acquainting the people with the serious crisis which now faces their country.

The Shah of Iran, on a goodwill tour of the U. S. A., played the slot machine in the Ft. Knox, Ky., officers club. He hit the jackpot for a shower of quarters, amounting to $20.00. How much of a jackpot of U. S. money he hit when he visited President Truman isn't yet known—but probably plenty of the taxpayers' hard cash, as so many other foreign nations are doing.

Perhaps it is a good thing that David Lilienthal, former head of the Atomic Energy Commission, resigned. While on the job, he felt that he couldn't speak freely enough to defend himself. Now that he has regained his freedom to talk, let him talk—public opinion will be the final judge.

John L. Lewis once possessed hair and eyebrows as black as the coal mined by his union miners; but it's turning white and won't photograph so well for the newspapers—so what'll John do for hirsute armor?

Moscow calls upon all Communists to oust Marshall Tito from Jugoslavia. That only follows the Soviet line of old—it would oust the head of every government that wants to run its own affairs.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago
DECEMBER 8, 1899

A man who signs himself "Subscriber" writes us that he agrees with Thos. Langley about trespassing chickens. Fowl from his neighbors' yards have scratched the covering from several choice plants in his garden and he serves notice now that he and his family will dine on chicken if the invaders are not penned in their own yards immediately.

* * *

Mrs. Fred Stephens and her daughter Minnie baked a cake for the Grace church fair held in Detroit on the 5th of this month. We are happy to report the cake suffered no mishap on the journey to the city.

* * *

We learn that there will be a lecture on "Cuba" by our own Cuban soldier George Baxter. The graphophone will sing 20 patriotic songs with some in German, Russian and Spanish.

* * *

Don't moisten your new pen between your lips before you begin to write. Simply dip it in the ink and then hold it in the flame of a match for a few moments. We guarantee you will have a pen which will gladden the heart of you.

* * *

What could please papa and mama more than your life-size picture? Read the ads of former Birmingham artist, A. Tomlinson, who now is located in Pontiac and then make plans to gladden the hearts of your loved ones come Christmas.

20 Years Ago
DECEMBER 12, 1929

Patricia Klingler, 5, and her parents, are anxious today to learn the identity of the man to whom Patricia owes her life. The little girl was walking toward her home Tuesday when she fell into a hole about four feet deep and filled with water. The unknown man pulled the little girl from the water, calmed her fears and quietly walked away.

* * *

Marguerite Dutton, formerly of this village, is one of the outstanding heroines in the present conflict in China. The young lady is credited with saving hundreds of lives through her efforts in aiding persons fleeing from the war zones. Her father was pastor of the First Methodist church from 1917-1920.

* * *

Al Watrous, one of the country's highest ranking golfers, has been engaged by the Oakland Hills country club as their pro for the coming season. A number of years ago Watrous was known in this area, but as a caddy. He has come far, since those days, and many old friends hail his arrival.

* * *

Dr. and Mrs. W. O. Stevens and the boys of Cranbrook will entertain a group of crippled children from Royal Oak at a party Tuesday. There will be a tree, a program of entertainment, lots of goodies and a gift for each child from the Cranbrook boys.

* * *

Birmingham police have been asked to assist in the search for John Michalko of Parkridge, Ill., missing from his home since September. His sister reported that he had left his home at that time to seek work in the Detroit area. She said he might be working at a local greenhouse.

5 Years Ago
DECEMBER 14, 1944

Final figures received by D. S. Caputo, chairman of the Birmingman salvage committee, show that 143,550 pounds of paper were collected here during November. He reports that the paper has already been sold to various mills. The month also showed a total of 3,957 pounds of waste fat turned in.

* * *

At a special meeting of the stockholders of the Birmingham National bank Monday, they adopted resolutions providing for an increase in the capital stock of the bank from $137,000 to $200,000. It is expected that the increase will be effected by the declaration of a stock dividend in the amount of 10 per cent.

* * *

Old Man Winter slipped into town over the weekend, with no previous warning at all. Automobiles were stalled all over the city as street crews strove to keep ahead of the piling drifts. Those that were not stuck in the snow just froze up solid and refused to budge.

* * *

A group of local residents met at the Community House last night to consider the post-war Birmingham. They are trying, now, to formulate plans to handle the growth of the city after the war. Up for consideration were business, housing and school plans, all of which will receive further study.

* * *

Frank N. Isby, chairman of the war finance committee for the state has sent a letter of high praise to the Birmingham schools for their marvelous support of the recent war loan drive. His letter to Dr. Dwight B. Ireland said this was one of the outstanding communities in the country.

To Have and to Hold

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING · THE · NEWS

By Gene Alleman

"Governor G. Mennen Williams is running for re-election; I am not". Such was the reply from Charles M. Ziegler, State Highway Commissioner, to recent criticisms voiced by Governor Williams of the commissioner's administration of the State Highway Department. In a talk before southern Michigan road commissioners, Ziegler declared: "Williams wants to regain control of the department and has used every maneuver possible to again make it political." The commissioner, who was re-elected in 1949, said the proposal to build a bridge at the Straits of Mackinac should be restudied by experts and hence taken out of the "realm of politics".

* * *

A bridge across the Straits of Mackinac? "No!" declare three geology experts of the University of Michigan. Professor Kenneth A. Landes and two associates made a study of the geology of the straits region for the State Department of Conservation. Soft shale rock in the straits would not be adequate for foundations to hold bridge piers, concludes Landes.

* * *

The Michigan Department of Economic Development announces that Michigan ranks second in population increase for the period April, 1940 to July, 1948. California was first. Michigan's present populaton: 6,209,000.

* * *

Wholesale prices have declined about 7½ per cent during the past 12 months and now are around 10 per cent under the post war peak reached in September, 1948. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a 12.7 per cent decline in farm prices; 8.9 per cent drop in food prices during the past 12 month period.

* * *

Among the present problems which promise to result in requests for more state spending is that of the post war rise of sex crimes in Michigan. Governor Williams has asked the State Mental Health Commission to make a search for an immediate solution. A Detroit daily newspaper sponsored an independent study of eight sex murders in Detroit and other cities in recent years, and the survey came to the conclusion that additional state facilities were urgently needed. Prospect is new demands for state aid.

* * *

Auditor General Murl K. Aten reports that the state collected and returned to local governments three dollars for every dollar retained by the state for state services during the past fiscal year. Total of state aid payment was $309,863,726, as compared to state cost of institutions, departments and maintenance of highways and building amounting to $102,925,073.

Aten points out that expenditures for the past year were over 18 million dollars higher than revenues. He makes this prediction: "Under the present financial structure, if and when sales tax revenues take a nose-dive, the ingevitable result will be financial chaos in the general fund."

* * *

Governor Williams is said to still hold the firm conviction that new taxes will be needed in 1950 because of postwar inflation and constitutional diversion of sales tax revenues back to local governments.

If further inflation in 1950 results in higher prices and continued high consumer spending, it is entirely possible that the threatened treasury deficit may be delayed or at least kept to a low amount. Republican legislative leaders appear to be gambling that no deficit will develop or, if at all, the deficit will be nominal. To impose new taxes in an election year is not popular with many legislators.

* * *

Building facilities at the Michigan State Fair are wholly inadequate for present needs, declares James D. Friel, general manager, in a report to Governor Williams. Since the coliseum was constructed in 1921, "no major building" has been erected at the fair grounds. Friel concludes that Michigan lags far behind Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio and Minnesota in the State Fair facilities. While it is unlikely that anyone will dispute the judgment of Mr. Friel, it is equally unlikely that the legislature will grant new funds for needed State Fair improvements, especially in view of the financial situation confronting the state and the local governments.

* * *

Former Governor Harry F. Kelly is said to be cool to urgent appeals that he announce his candidacy for governor in competition with State Treasurer D. Hale Brake and Secretary of State Fred M. Alger Jr.

Endorsement

"Pa, what is flattery?"

"Flattery, my son, is having somebody else tell us the nice things we have always thought about ourselves."

We Heard It Said By:

Harry J. Klingler, Cranbrook road, GM vice-president and general manager of the Pontiac Motor division: "In spite of all the fancy-colored automobiles now on the road, 60 per cent of auto owners still want black ones."

STRICTLY FRESH

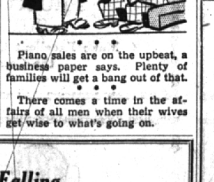
NEW secret weapon in the war of the sexes will be the guided mistletoe.

* * *

Once the Reds control a country's economy it's seldom in the black.

* * *

An optimist is a guy who refuses to believe that a pessimist is a pessimist.



* * *

Piano sales are on the upbeat, a business paper says. Plenty of families will get a bang out of that.

* * *

There comes a time in the affairs of all men when their wives get wise to what's going on.

Snow Falling

BY BEATRICE McDONALD

A loneliness I know for what has gone,
For songbirds nesting in our maple tree,
For the blowing of a gentle little breeze,
The radiance of a golden summer dawn,
And all the other so-beloved things
That summer, only summer brings.

But I forget my loneliness when snow,
Comes falling thickly from the winter sky,
Remembering that in the bye and bye
Flowers and birds and winds that softly blow
And sunny days and silver-spangled rain
Will all return to earth again.

"Any Way You Slice It"

BY HAL P. BUERGE

What is the longest trip you have ever taken? Many local folks have traveled all over the country from coast to coast. In helping to win World War II, others went all over the world. Still, to the person who lives in Birmingham and works in Detroit, the longest trip possible, is the one he takes daily from home to work and back.

Those who drive in their automobiles think theirs is a never ending grind, but those that cover the distance daily on a suburban bus insist that they have a far more arduous journey. I guess those that ride to and fro on the commuter trains have a pretty good deal. From what I hear, it's just like spending an hour and a half each day at the club.

Granting that the most convenient way to go down town occasionally is to drive your own automobile, I say the most entertaining way is by bus. I am thankful that I don't have to go into the big city very often, but if I did I'm sure I wouldn't always drive just for the sake of saving time.

It is my contention that the person who drives the distance twice daily can't relax, sees very little except the fronts, backs and an occasional side view of all kinds of vehicles, and gains very little knowledge from his travels.

On the other hand, the person who rides the bus has time to rubberneck as much as he pleases and can see things along the street that he wouldn't ever notice driving his own car. He also gets a chance to study people, and by doing a little bit of eaves dropping he can gain priceless information and oceans of good entertainment.

A few years ago I rode the buses quite frequently while attending night school at Wayne University, but lately I have not been patronizing the green monsters that belch diesel fumes. Last week I had to go down town to attend a meeting and thinking that traffic would be unusually heavy and parking at a premium due to the Christmas rush, I decided to take a bus. I strolled over to the corner and after a few minutes wait I was aboard and rolling down South Woodward. Aha I thought, "Buerge rides again!"

There was a pretty good assortment of people on the coach and I started to amuse myself by giving them the once over. Some of the more interesting ones I went over twice. There was an unusual bunch of Santa Claus seekers that were going down to the department stores with mama to see the grand old man himself and get their orders placed.

A number of folks were obviously going to work and a few seemed to be returning from being somewhere all night. Some of them were trying to sleep. Near the back of the bus was a blind man. For several miles I kept wondering how he could tell when his time came to get off. That problem was solved finally when the driver gave a special signal on the buzzer and then looked back to see if it was heard. It was, and the blind man started up front. By the time he negotiated the aisle his stop was near and when it was made the driver merely said, "okay, Mac, watch your step." He climbed off with no trouble at all and by the time the bus was rolling he was off down the street. That was a load off my mind.

Soon we were at the station and everyone tried to get to the door at the same time. I think the scramble was a bit more intense than usual because of the kiddies inability to wait to see the big wheel from the North Pole over at the department store and twenty other places.

I too, got off and attended to my business, after which I returned to the station and boarded another bus headed for home. It was filled with two tired groups of people. One group was made up of shoppers, and the other made of people who had been waiting on them, the clerks. They all looked beaten and battered and glad to be going home. In spite of their spent condition many of the younger ones were enthusiastically looking forward to going out dancing and to other social activities. It was Saturday night and young people are never tired on Saturday night, you know.

Another bit of amusement that I engaged in was the reading of card advertising. Several of them were very clever. There was one that I especially liked. Its message was one cautioning everyone to help prevent forest fires and it showed a group of forest animals at the edge of the woods. A big brown bear was kneeling in prayer. His massive head was tilted toward the sky and his paws were pressed together beneath his chin. He was saying ". . . and please make people careful, Amen." I liked that.

I hadn't ridden far when I noticed that this driver was far more skillful than the one had been on the trip down. His safety record probably wasn't any better, but in my estimation a good bus driver takes the comfort of his passengers into consideration. Some riders are inclined to get a little bit sick with the motion of a bus and I think even those that don't, appreciate smooth starts and gentle stops. This driver was smooth as silk and I appreciated it.

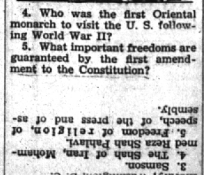
As we made the swing through Royal Oak, I thought to myself that that bit of convenience for the Royal Oak passengers undoubtedly irks the passengers from farther up the line. Having to leave the direct route when you are in a hurry can get on your nerves, I would presume.

Soon we were back in Birmingham. I stepped off the platform and the big vehicle moved on toward Pontiac. I watched it go, glad to not have to depend upon it for regular transportation, but happy to be an occasional patron. It takes all kinds of transportation to make a world.

You Are Cordially Invited to Inspect
OUR MODERN STORAGE
Built Especially to Store Household Goods
LOCAL AND LONG DISTANCE MOVING
GAUKLER STORAGE CO.
9 Orchard Lake Ave., Pontiac, Mich.
Phone Birmingham 10240

TEST YOUR I. Q.

1. Where is Grand Coulee Dam located?
2. Where is the world's largest collection of early editions of Shakespeare?
3. What Biblical character had his strength in his hair?



4. Who was the first Oriental monarch to visit the U. S. following World War II?
5. What important freedoms are guaranteed by the first amendment to the Constitution?

TEST YOUR I. Q.

Answers to

1. On the Columbia River, in Washington State.
2. At the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D. C.
3. Samson.
4. The Shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi.
5. Freedom of religion, of speech, of the press and of assembly.

DRUNK DRIVERS LOSE THEIR LICENSES