

Parking Report Worked Out to Last Detail

That long-awaited city off-street parking report was made public last week by James J. Hogan, chairman of the city's off-street parking committee, and calls for a 20-year program to create 850 parking spaces at a cost of \$285,505.

While we are not prepared to give our final evaluation of this report in this week's issue—it will require considerable study and several public meetings before we attempt that—we can state that the report is worth the 10 months it took to complete. It clearly evidences that the off-street parking committee went into all angles on the matter and came up with what it figured was best for the city.

It was surprising to note that the committee believes revenue from curb and parking lot meters will support almost 72 per cent of the program, with an assessment against business property of about 22 per cent. In off-the-record statements made during the past 10 months by a number of businessmen, it appeared they were expecting something like a 60 per cent assessment. They should be pleased to find it as low as this.

The committee deserves the highest praise from residents for coming up with a detailed off-street parking program. This was asked of the committee, and the committee obliged. It will take one or more public meetings to explain the report to citizens before it is voted upon later this fall.

The Department of Commerce figures that people are saving \$10.70 out of each \$100 of income after taxes. This compares with \$6.20 a year ago and \$5.00 before the war. Some evidently believe that these abnormally good times are not going to last forever. Whatever the reason, it is a wholesome sign. Nothing slows up the coming of hard times quite so much as a comfortable savings account.

The first and the worst hit, when a depression comes, are those who have spent as they went with never a thought of tomorrow. The fellow who says he can't live on less finds himself doing it when lush times gives way to less prosperous times.

Being in too much of a hurry is applying speed to a process that should proceed with calm tempo. Haste not only makes waste—it also makes for poor health.

Taxation, beyond a proper and wise amount, is simply government by exaction. Good citizenship demands sufficient interest and knowledge of government to keep public officials in the role of servants, not masters.

"He who steals your purse steals trash," is an ancient saying. But bureaucratic government certainly has no opposition to taking as much "trash" as it can get, these days.

Michigan Mirror

Michigan is not getting all of the federal aid for state highways it is entitled to receive. Because Michigan now pays to the federal government about four times more in taxes than it gets back, it is the judgment of Charles M. Ziegler, state highway commissioner, that Michigan is missing a good bit.

There are about \$11 million of federal funds available since 1948 on which contracts have not been let because we have no state funds to match these federal funds," said Commissioner Ziegler.

"We won't let this money go, but the people of the state will lose one year's use of badly needed highway facilities," which these funds would permit. We also have an additional \$12 million of new federal funds becoming available in July. No contracts will be let against this new money during 1949 because we have no matching money.

Average American Is Not Dumb

if the national debt were to be paid off today, then every man, woman and child in Birmingham would have to find a way to get \$1,700 in a hurry. That's their share of this huge debt—and every other American also averages this amount.

Fiscal and financial experts are almost unanimous in declaring that the national debt might lead to punitive taxation which will "smother industry and individual enterprise."

Unfortunately, these so-called experts never raise their voices when politicians vote to reduce taxes, instead of paying a part of the national indebtedness.

The average American is not as dumb as the experts believe. Either the debt is a national menace and should be gradually reduced, or it is nothing to stand in the way of further increase in the spending of the national government.

Whichever way the experts decide, they should stick to their conclusion, since when Congress debates the possibility of reducing taxes on corporations and individuals.

How many of today's young men and women help their parents in the doing of household chores? Answer: how can you keep up with all the superficiality of its day and do chores, too?

The Truman "Fair Deal" administration appears, in its immediate prospect, to be a mere device to "pay Peter to pay Paul". The reason for this is political; you see; there are more Pauls with votes.

The indications are that a wave of thrift-mindedness has hit a lot of people in this country. It may be that if enough people get the idea that thrift is desirable the thought may finally penetrate the inner chambers at Washington.

It'll be just too bad for the rest of the world if the United States ever runs out of money.

We believe we have discovered a form of perpetual motion—those Hollywood copywriters who ballyhoo every movie release as being the best yet to come out of the film capital.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO July 7, 1899 Mrs. Mary C. Cartwright sends her 22nd annual subscription to the Eccentric, showing that in order to live long and well, one should subscribe to the home town journal. We thank her, and hope she may live to double that number!

If you want to do a real humane thing this hot weather, give your dog and cat a nice cold drink now and then. No one expects his horse or cow to find water for themselves, but few stop to think how dogs and cats suffer without adequate water.

Master Don Jenks will remember the 4th of July, 1929. While celebrating with some of his small friends, his face was quite badly burned and his hair and eyebrows thoroughly scorched. None of the powder penetrated very deeply, however, for the lad suffered no serious injury.

Several farmers living in the vicinity of Center Line who have visited our office these past few days have reported a quite heavy corn crop loss, due to frost. The freak of weather was confined to the narrow strip and struck while surrounding areas sweltered.

20 YEARS AGO Fletcher Richards has been named president of the Village Players for this year. Other elected officers are Mrs. Arthur J. Halgren, librarian; Mrs. E. H. Harsh, treasurer; vice-president; William L. Shaffer, treasurer and D. C. Murray, secretary.

Henry Losselogy, Detroit policeman, was killed Sunday when he stepped on a mine while a passenger crashed at the dedication ceremonies at the John R. airport. He was buried in Detroit, Michigan, and is buried in Highland Park hospital.

James W. Parry, as general chairman, heads a committee named today to handle arrangements for the annual picnic of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. The picnic is set for July 25, further details, including the picnic site, will be named after a general committee meeting.

The Wanderer has happened across one person in Birmingham who does not mind the heat. He is Alva Plunstead, who spent 30 years in show business. "It's 'Mean Chautauque weather,'" Plunstead remarked and smiling contentedly to the heat under the 'big top'.

Village officials are asking householders here to remove the signs from their homes. "It is over three months since the new numbers were assigned, and the signs are causing a great deal of confusion where they left in sight," James W. Parry, village manager said.

5 YEARS AGO The Birmingham water department has just passed through one of the longest sustained droughts in the history of this section of the country. According to Griffith, fire chief, local wells have come through with flying colors and there is no cause for concern about the shortage of water for any and all city needs.

The automobile tire situation in Birmingham is critical, according to officials of the local ration board, who report little relief in sight. A total of 350 persons were eligible for grade 1 tires in June. Mrs. Helen Genung reported, and none were able to obtain them.

The annual meeting of the local school district drew only 18 persons Monday evening to hear the report of the school's activities, given by Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent. The report showed that the local school system had received \$491,406.80, including federal aid during the year.

The women's land army, which is doing such a magnificent job in helping with state harvests, has issued a call for 350 cherry pickers, who will be needed by July 11. Supervisor Ruth Peck said most of the workers, who must be over 16, would be stationed in the vicinity of Allegan. The crop is expected to exceed 50 million pounds.

The High Twelve club was host to over 200 persons at their annual Monday evening. Golfers, of course, arrived early and soon got to work on their various foursomes under way. At sunset all gathered around the camp fire and enjoyed another fine feast under the direction of Norman Berry.

Maple Tree

So many people long for fame And some would only keep from growing old. Others would sell their soul for gold, But I have none. All else have yearned and hungered for A maple tree beside my kitchen door. A friendly maple tree to cast a shadow Across the scrubby patch of grass Where countless footsteps pass To wear it bare. A shady spot A stone's throw from my kitchen door Where I can rest When I have lost my zest For trying to stem a little dry stream. When one is weary Of my heaven of serenity There would be a sturdy maple tree. —BEATRICE McDONALD

Pebbles Against the Rock



Michigan Gets Back Some of Its Money Paid to Support U.S. Military Forces

from the bill, is of direct interest to Michigan residents. As passed by the House in April, the bill details how more than one-third of the budget will be spent in 1950. Unless the appropriations committee—both parties—among them Senator Robert Taft, chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, and Rep. Clarence Cannon (D-Mo.), chairman of the House Appropriations Committee—said they were convinced cuts could be made, Cannon and other House members had their chance at the bill. The result was a six million dollar boost (chiefly for a larger Air Force).

Since the entire budget must go to the President by July 1, the Senate must tackle the military bill soon. But all signs suggest the Senate will find it as difficult as the House did to cut funds for the armed forces. Many services expenses are "fixed," the Senate has some record for 70 group air force, and unification hasn't helped much.

At long last, the automatic can opener, it is electrically operated and designed to handle any type of can. It is a simple affair, with a knob back, thus releasing the air and shutting off the motor at the same time.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Not all sports pictures call for extremely fast lenses or high shutter speeds. The picture at left was made with a shutter speed of 1/25 second; that on the right was taken with a simple box camera with a shutter speed of about 1/40 second.

Sports Shots With Simple Camera

Most of us tend to think of sports shots as the province of the professional, ignoring the fact that many excellent action pictures can be made by the casual picture taker armed with a simple box camera. If you're inclined to doubt this statement, look at the pictures which appear here—some of them made with a simple box camera, the other made with a shutter setting of 1/25 second. Neither required a "fast" lens or a high-speed shutter.

Together, they illustrate two simple rules which—regardless of your equipment—will help you in picturing sports. The first is: Know your sport. In shooting all sports, it is a good idea to get a moment's action, somewhere in the sequence of action, when all action is halted; the shot pattern is a good one, fast action, the cheer at the top of his windup, the diver at the peak of his rise, the golfer at the end of his backswing. At these moments the next action—yet all can be "stopped" with nominal shutter speeds. For pictures of this type a high shutter speed is far less important than your own alertness.

"Any Way You Slice It"

I wonder how many of you fine people read the article entitled "The Fantastic Story of the Tucker Car," in one of the nation's leading magazines recently? It would have been an amusing tale if it didn't drive home the horrible fact that we are a mighty glibly country full of people and that P. T. Barnum's original observation that there is a sucker born every minute is an epic of under-statement.

I was having a tough time getting to sleep one hot, humid night such as the local weather man has forced upon us in overdose this summer. The sandman and I couldn't get together, so I got up and decided to do a little reading.

I picked up the aforementioned article and discovered that the old expression, "Like Gant Took Richmond" will soon be giving way to—"Like Tucker Took America." I read where he had spent millions of dollars on a ghost car that actually wasn't as practical as a flying carpet and almost as nonexistent as a flying saucer. Quite a few people saw it, but they didn't realize what they were looking at.

I read and I read and I read. The article was interesting, though unbelievable, and when I finished reading it I returned to my bed and went to sleep immediately. I was all "Tuckered" out.

He who laughs last, doesn't catch on so quick. . . or, is there something pertaining to the better laugh in the correct version of that old saying? Anyway, George, Nick and Bob Mitchell like me give me the guff when I drop into the Liberty Cleaners in the winter time complaining about my children and my mercury is about to drop out of the bottom of the tube.

Well, they weren't laughing at me last Friday when I stepped into their place to get my trousers pressed. There were piles of clothing lying around instead of coal, or I would have thought sure that I had died and gone to the place where bad, or maybe all newspaper men go.

It was really hot in there. In fact, I walked over to a big mirror and turned around in front of it once or twice. Believe it or not, I was really relieved when I discovered that I didn't have horns and a forked tail. I looked around at the other folks in there and they didn't look suspicious either.

Playing tag with Jack Frost in the winter seems like fun at his season, and turned around in front of it once or twice. Believe it or not, I was really relieved when I discovered that I didn't have horns and a forked tail. I looked around at the other folks in there and they didn't look suspicious either.

If we have to encounter much more of the hot, humid weather that the weather man has been dishing out lately, it might help some to think of the poor dryer, the baker, the steam fitter and some of the other folks who have to work around artificial heat. Maybe it will help to feel cool by comparison anyway.

At Least 30 Ex-Congressmen Registered As Lobbyists for Various Interests

WASHINGTON—At least 30 congressional alumni—former senators and representatives—are now registered lobbyists. They all have plenty of legislative experience, and many important, have the privilege of entering the House and Senate chambers.

The roll of ex-congressmen-turned-lobbyists has been increasing steadily. More than a third signed up since the beginning of the year.

Three ex-Representatives—Fred Hartley (R-N.J.), Gerald Landis (R-Ill.), and Carter Manasco (D-Ohio)—were reported to be among the hottest issues now before Congress.

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Internationally Speaking

By Eugene Heaz International Market Analyst A short while ago it was reported here—an original report received by your correspondent—that the first Chinese ship had been discharging cargo in some West Coast harbor which originated from Chinese regions held by the Communists. This was considered as a good omen for new developments, as a normal trade between this country and China opens the perspective for a normalization of all mutual relations.

"The most valuable book in my kingdom, Queen . . . The Yellow Pages of the telephone directory really tell you where to buy."