

Ex-Governor Van Wagoner Declares Truman A Better Listener than FDR

By Esther Van Wagoner Tufty

WASHINGTON—Calling on President Truman is quite a different experience than calling on his predecessor, President Roosevelt.

Enjoying the contrast, former Michigan Governor Murray D. Van Wagoner said with a laugh "Truman is a better listener."

The Roosevelt technique with visitors is well-known. First he referred them with a personal reference to some other talk and then he launched off into a discourse of his own until the short allotted time had expired.

It takes a determined caller to interrupt the President of the United States. And even the most bold found his pre-meeting speech boiled down to what could be said in the last minute or two.

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House callers, Van Wagoner told reporters as he left the executive offices he wished he had told the President something he had not.

"Full of Confidence" A question about disarming of German plants made him wish he had told the President there was some hope the Germans would come up with a sensible plan. Americans would consider "seriously."

Van Wagoner found "the new Truman" whom he had not seen since his dramatic election, "more serious, full of confidence and more much the President."

The conference was not all serious. The two men talked about their daughters, the President getting out daughter Margaret's concert schedule to check on the Michigan appearances.

Football First Aid Is Theme of Cubs

At the regular Pack meeting of Pierce Cub Scouts last Tuesday, "Football First Aid" was discussed, and each den presented a one-minute skit on some feature of first aid.

The boys displayed first aid kits which have been made as one of their projects. A picture on this work was also shown.

Following the program the following Cub achievement awards were made:

Year's service award, Peter Brink; Bobcat awards, Jackie Miller, Steve Hall and Philip Russell; gold arrow, Dick Haack, Ted Schafer, Albert Warner and Bruce Westerve.

Two silver arrows were awarded to Dick Haack, Albert Warner and Bruce Westerve. Michael Pryce received the gold and silver arrows.

Wolf awards went to Carl Anderson, Bozzy Corsaut, Michael Harper, Ken Madama, Bob Stephenson, Chris Uppliger. Bear awards, Ronny Beyer, Rick Haack, Ted Schafer, Johnny Turner, Albert Warner and Bruce Westerve.

Third Grade Boys Invited to Join Rinkydink Program

Every Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the gymnasium of the First Baptist church, the Birmingham YMCA conducts a sing song, movie program, group games and craft hour for third grade boys.

This group has been meeting for four weeks, and at present are working on Christmas presents for their brothers and sisters. Craft projects range from copying saw work with plywood, lanyards, making picturesque bottles for whateons, to putting hobby collections into shape in notebooks and scrap books.

Movies generally feature out-of-door life with sports and adventure films playing a prominent part as well as travelogue films. A movie serial, now in its fifth week, entitled "The Royal Mounted Rides Again," has the youngsters on the edge of their seats.

Anyone interested in enrolling in this group is invited to come direct to the church any Saturday morning. Adult supervision is provided by the Birmingham YMCA.



RACING ON A MERCY ERRAND—A helicopter, modified for use as an air ambulance, takes off to pick up two "stretcher cases" in a race with an ambulance. The race was staged in co-operation with San Francisco health officials to determine which vehicle could cover a set distance in the fastest time. The helicopter did in 12 minutes what it took the ambulance 20 to do. The helicopter was modified by the addition of two basket litters fastened to the side of the craft.

League Discussion Groups Critically Review Present Michigan Taxation System

Three separate discussion groups of the League of Women Voters met Monday to air their views and to learn others' on the problems of Michigan's tax system and of the deficit which many state officials predict Michigan and its every citizen will face at the end of the present fiscal year.

A morning and an afternoon group met in the public library, an evening group at the home of Mrs. Donald McGuire, 515 Pilgrim.

Tuesday the points of view of these three groups were presented to the state board of the Michigan League of Women Voters by Mrs. Brooks Marshall, a local vice-president.

Opinions Being Sifted The Michigan League is gathering these "grass roots" opinions from its local leagues and is sifting theory and tax facts, according to state League tax chairman, Mrs. James Dunne of Oakland county.

Should the Michigan League decide that as a state organization it can present plans for an effective solution of the Michigan tax problem, and one which is consistent with fundamental League thinking that taxes should be based on ability to pay, Mrs. Dunne said it will do so at the special session of the Michigan legislature on taxes which is expected Gov. Williams will call in March.

December will find all unit groups of the local league meeting jointly for a single large discussion meeting on this problem.

personal graduated income tax, would be the fairest taxes to consider.

In the morning's discussion, the participants, trying to face the immediate problem of a deficit as though they were in the legislators' shoes in Lansing, scrutinized various possible new sources of revenue such as the used car sales tax, a tax on the net profits of corporations, a personal income tax.

All groups raised criticisms of the present distribution formula of the highway monies for which the gasoline and weight taxes are earmarked.

Financial Complications Noted All noted the regressive aspects of the sales tax because it falls most heavily on those least able to pay. Yet most discussants doubted whether it would be easy to remove this tax or find a progressive one equally lucrative and acceptable to the public.

All discussants took note of the financial complications caused by the diversion of sales tax money, but were equally aware that before diversion, schools and cities in particular faced financial crises which the diversion has helped alleviate.

Such proposals for new sources of revenue such as the one of Senator Higgins regarding used car sales tax was generally opposed by all groups to be regressive and insufficient.

The basic thinking of this group, evidenced by the afternoon discussion, she said, was that imposing new taxes to meet deficits was not a sound solution, but rather that a revised tax structure, such as might be gained in the writing of a new constitution, was the ultimate and desirable goal.

A Healthy Change The evening group, reported Mrs. Hollister Mabley, its discussion, leadly independently arrived at many of these same general conclusions, but with certain interesting additions.

Some discussants, aware that a balanced budget would probably mean curtailment of services unless new revenues were found, argued that such action would throw the burden of these services back onto local units of government, a healthy change from a paternalistic philosophy.

That some state services are better rendered by the central state government was noted, however, said Mrs. Mabley.

Search For New Sources "This evening group," she continued, "though despairing of adding new taxes to old without a complete revision of the contract, faced realistically the probable need for a new revenue and generally agreed that the per cent tax on corporate net profit, or a

Rotary Governor Pays Annual Visit to Local Group

Charles R. Miller, governor of the 222nd Rotary district, met with Birmingham Rotary club officers and committee chairmen Monday morning to discuss the club's various service activities.

After the regular noon luncheon, Miller cited various Rotary principles and urged local members to constantly practice them.

"No matter how insignificant you feel your contribution may be, each successful individual effort makes for a successful whole," Miller declared.

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Ticket Distribution for Turkey Day Game

Les Shalberg, president of the Birmingham Side Line Quarterbacks club, said tickets for the annual Turkey Day football game Monday morning to discuss the club's various service activities.

After the regular noon luncheon, Miller cited various Rotary principles and urged local members to constantly practice them.

"No matter how insignificant you feel your contribution may be, each successful individual effort makes for a successful whole," Miller declared.

Five hundred unserved tickets at \$1 each are also on sale at Shan's drug store.

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