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People are funny! A leopard escapes from an Oklahoma zoo. Hundreds of men in the area arm themselves and go in search of the beast. News of it is rushed via newspapers and radio to the nation's public. It is the subject of much conversation.

Yet, though gangsters work their havoc upon people, and some public and private people in high places commit their bestial depredations upon the public morals and purse, there is less general excitement than that caused by a single marauding panther.

People are funny... or are they just callous to traditional evils?

Millions of years ago lots of foliage hung from primitive jungle growth that seasonally fell earthward, eventually to become the coal deposits of this nation.

"Dashy eye-brows" has tried to prove himself more powerful than freedom itself. He has been allowed to bring the nation to the edge of coal famine.

There are many reasons why the excise taxes, levied as a special war contribution, should be repealed now that the war has been over for nearly five years.

Nearly everybody approved these changes during the war emergency, but the businesses affected are now entitled to be treated as other businesses are treated.

We do not believe all excise levies should be abolished. It merely means that those initiated or increased as a special source of war revenues should be reduced to normal and that the businesses concerned be allowed to compete for the consumer's dollar on the same basis as other economic enterprises.

When a union man goes on a strike, his pay stops and everything dependent upon his earnings suffers. It seems to us that union leaders should resort to the strike only as a last desperate measure.

Take the present Chrysler strike, as an example. The issue chiefly concerns itself about pensions... something that is important only for the future of nearly all who were led to strike.

Labor, as is the case in government itself, really needs capable leadership to survive!

How would you like to fly into an Asiatic typhoon for the purpose of ascertaining just exactly what a plane can do in these tropical disturbances?

Well, the U. S. Air Force, which has made thousands of aerial penetrations of meteorological phenomena heretofore consider "unfathomable," is now amassing information as to these violent storms of the Far East, which are the counterpart of the Atlantic hurricanes.

More than 160 penetrations into thirty-five typhoons have been made and, as a

result, it was found possible to get to the center of the violent storms before or after full maturity. Naturally, knowledge of their characteristics has been greatly increased.

In view of the wild velocities that sometimes exceed 125 miles per hour, the Air Force admits that an effort to "bulldoze" the typhoon center should be a last resort. It advises pilots, when confronted by typhoons, to turn back, but if the trip is necessary, to follow every precaution based on the knowledge gained from prior experiments.

From Moscow comes another pronouncement that the Soviet Government is prepared, as it has been prepared, to meet the United States in a two-power effort to solve the major problems confronting both countries, including the question of atomic controls.

Thus the Soviet Government attempts to persuade the United States to negotiate for a settlement without proper consultation and collaboration with its associated nations. This the United States has declined to do in the past.

The repetition of the report is considered significant in that it may have certain propaganda value against the United States among its friendly nations. These nations have been somewhat sensitive to the suggestion that Russia and the United States settle world problems without considering them.

From Our Point of View

Wealthy Harry Henderson, of nearby Franklin, a member of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, heads up a campaign to raise \$100,000 for a hospital for alcoholics! Harry has had this goal for several years. Canisters will be placed in bars to collect the free-will offerings for the project.

Roused to the growing poverty that Socialism, under a Labor Government for five years, brought them, the British people have balled out most of Socialism from places of secure leadership in that Island Empire. It is their current desperate effort to retain what freedoms they still have.

In nearby Clawson, two years ago, a hard and sinister husband and father of seven children was killed by the oldest son. The story was brought to light last week. The son, a Marine, has been taken into custody and probably will be tried.

So They Say . . .

W. Stuart Symington, Secretary of the Air Force: "Economic disaster might be equivalent to military disaster."

William F. Knowland, U. S. Senator from California: "Appeasement is but surrender on the installment plan."

Robert A. Taft, U. S. Senator from Ohio: "I'm afraid that my influence with the President is not considerable."

Paul Henri Spaak, former Belgian Premier: "Complete equality between all nations is an attractive idea but not a very realistic one."

Homer Ferguson, U. S. Senator from Michigan: "Splinter parties are already on the horizon."

New York Times, editorial: "A generation has actually come of age that has known only the Democratic Party in power."

William M. Tuck, retiring Governor of Virginia: "There is no such thing as Federal aid without Federal control and dictation."

F. Ernest Johnson, college professor: "Religion is bigger than all churches and deeper than the conflicts which it occasions."

William L. Clayton, former Under-Secretary of State: "Stalin is winning the cold war."



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Ecceentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 Years Ago MARCH 2, 1900 One of the finest entertainments ever given here was the Washington... given by the Improvement society in the Library hall, Feb. 22.

E. E. Daniels announces that he is accepting sealed bids for the hauling of 200,000 bricks, more or less, from his yard to the Birmingham depot and loaded on cars at that place.

On our fearfully blizzard Tuesday, Feb. 28, a bouncing boy arrived at the Webb Bray home. He completely removed father's mind from the weather and brought great joy to Mr. and Mrs. Parks as they welcomed their first grandchild.

The E. R. Smith & Co.'s office interior is true blue pop, the whole interior having been beautifully touched up with color during the past week.

20 Years Ago March 6, 1930 Birmingham churches and their many organizations have launched the opening of the 40-day Lenten period with appropriate programs of penance and prayer.

Police are investigating the entry made into the Southfield township offices Tuesday night. Officers said that apparently the person was seeking political information.

Fire in the garage at the C. L. Bailey home this morning, partially destroyed two automobiles. Bailey discovered the fire about 1:30, when he was awakened by an explosion.

Owners of overloaded trucks paid a total of \$393 in fines, as ordered by Justice Floyd S. Buck over the weekend. This, Justice Buck said, brings a total of over \$500 in fines during the past month.

As the city of St. Paul, Minn., has a new, beautiful building, with basement and first floor ready, and with upper floors and roof missing.

As the people of Michigan on four different occasions voted by a large majority against a state income tax, Lovett believes that a corporation income tax would be promptly taken to court for lack of congressional authority.

Furthermore corporations in Michigan pay a rather high unemployment compensation tax rate, as compared with corporations in adjoining states such as Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Our minimum tax is present, while in these other states the unemployment compensation tax goes down as low as four-tenths of one percent.

"We used to say that Michigan was a good place to run a factory because we had highly skilled labor which was very productive," he said. "We said 'let's have wages and get the best workers. Now, however, with the restrictive

Some day, when the boss isn't looking, I think I'll put out a weekly issue of nothing but front pages. Each page you look at will be page one of the community. This will enable you to find on page one all the news stories you are particularly interested in. Just take the particular page you want and put it in front of all the others. There's YOUR page one.

How THE IDEA ever got started, that this page in a weekly newspaper is the most important I'll never know. But so many people are interested in it, I believe it is worth the effort.

LOOKING AHEAD

GOOD AND BAD ECONOMICS

The farming people of Arkansas handed together last week a significant movement for mutual financial benefit. It isn't political. No frantic appeals for funds are being sent up to Washington.

The program recognizes (and this is significant) the almost limitless opportunities of a free market, the adaptability of our soils to new uses, and the need for agricultural education on the part of a large percentage of our young long range.

The results, if successful, would be like putting 15,000 farm families (with 100-acre farms) on a state board of agriculture on a scratch.

The Governor called a meeting. All farm groups were represented. An "Action Program" was set up. The program is to be carried out by the Michigan Farm Bureau.

MICHIGAN MIRROR

WILLIAMS' PROGRAM CALLED 'POLITICAL'

Governor G. Mennen Williams' program for the state corporation profits tax is "strictly political," according to other state officials.

"I wish I might say to the businessmen of Michigan that its state government wants you to stay here. I might say to the young men who want to go in business that Michigan is a friendly and safe place to do business with.

"I regret that I cannot make that statement truthfully. At every opportunity the state governor is telling the people that he wants to make the corporations in Michigan pay a four per cent income tax."

It is a characteristic of indirect taxation to be hidden from the consumer, observes Lovett. As the income tax is hidden from the consumer, the corporation has to add it overhead if it is going to sell a product.

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IT IS UNFAIR, it seems to me, to count readership of a weekly community newspaper to a big daily newspaper. The large daily is highly departmentalized, permitting readers to select or skip certain types of news.

The daily also carries international, national, state, and too little local news. The large daily is highly departmentalized, permitting readers to select or skip certain types of news.

To enable him to at least have a spot where he can find the most important international, national, state or local news, the daily puts it on page one, at which practically all daily readers take a glance, anyway.

By George S. Benson

The government has spent about \$500,000,000 buying apples at \$1.25 a bushel. The artificially high retail price hit consumers (taxpayers) for untold additional millions at the retail market.

The government burned millions of dollars worth of its potato board. It is ridiculous. It would even be amusing if so much of the taxpayers' money were involved.

Since undertaking the economic control of potatoes, the federal government has spent about \$500,000,000 buying apples at \$1.25 a bushel.

The artificially high retail price hit consumers (taxpayers) for untold additional millions at the retail market.

Let us not try to say to the people of the state that by an indirect tax, direct taxation is the only honest type of taxation. Then we are not building up a pyramid of concealed charges against the consumer.

A final shot: "I believe any impartial investigation would show that the state does not need any new revenues of any kind," said Mr. Lovett.

This in brief, is the case of the state corporations against the Williams corporation profits tax program.

People's Column

The Ecceentric welcomes letters for this column. All letters must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential. Letters must be limited to 100 words.

Have You Met . . . Mr. and Mrs. R. G. White, formerly of Detroit and now of 1566 Taunton, Mr. White is an engineer with the Grand Trunk Railroad.

Tool By BEATRICE McDONALD I like a pencil with a point sharp as a wicked spear to lodge behind my ear and to dig into the plums that fall.