

The Judge Makes a Silly Comment

Mickey Cohen, described as a gambler and local underworld leader, was termed a "contemptible little punk" by Senator Estes Kefauver, in connection with the crime investigation. Cohen was recently convicted by a Federal court for income tax evasion and sentenced to a five-year term and a \$10,000 fine on each of four counts.

The U. S. District judge made the terms run concurrently and consolidated the fines.

He described Cohen as "a very personable individual... Not as bad as some people had pictured him" and the "hard-luck problem child" of his Los Angeles melting-pot background. A press dispatch says that he blamed Cohen's illicit activities on laxity in local law enforcement.

From Our Point of View

President Truman has just signed a bill that makes it illegal to deface and mutilate nickels and pennies. And this from a government that failed to prevent widespread inflation... the very worst form of defacing and mutilating the nation's coins and currency!

Now that the city has cut away the shrubbery around the Quorton dam, exposing the view of the lake from W. Maple for the first time in many years, city commissioners will really have to find some solution to the Quorton lake algae-duckweed problem. No use providing a view if what you see is a green covered lake.

Gen. Eisenhower's job of strengthening Europe militarily is a most difficult task. He has to deal with the various representatives of 12 nations, some of which nations violently disagree among themselves on certain phases of the anti-Communist defense program. Truly, there is very little real sacrificial leadership among the nations of this earth.

U. S. Senator Estes Kefauver is making himself some extra bucks by writing pieces for magazines and newspapers. So far, as we remember, we can not recall where he has strengthened the federal laws against the practices of the gamblers and racketeers his special committee spent the taxpayers' money to investigate.

So They Say

James A. Van Fleet, Lieutenant-General, Commander in Korea:

"We have the necessary firepower, courage, initiative and perseverance to halt Communist aggression."

Estes Kefauver, U. S. Senator from Tennessee:

"We are going to have to try the method of democracy where the methods of diplomacy have failed."

Charles E. Swanson, director, journalistic research, University of Minnesota:

"Whether television is an efficient teacher depends upon who's teaching, what he is teaching and who's learning."

Arthur L. Mayer, official, motion picture organization:

"Picture theater operators are mystified by repeated assertions that their business faces a dubious future."

Walter F. George, U. S. Senator from Georgia:

"It simply is not realistic to talk about applying flat percentage increases all through the tax structure."

THE JUDGE ADDED that "this community has to take its share of the responsibility for his (Cohen's) present predicament."

No wonder the U. S. District Attorney, on taking the floor, sarcastically remarked: "This apparently has become a society for the admiration of the good qualities of Mickey Cohen. Without joining that society, I don't want to speak too much against him... Undoubtedly, he has been a good son to his mother but he is here for the bad things he did."

In his silly comment on the case, Judge Benjamin Harrison seemed to think that his job was to determine whether the community or Cohen was the guilty defendant.

He intimated that if law enforcement officers had performed their duty, the defendant wouldn't be in court as a gambler but would have been in some other line of business.

THIS SORT OF nonsense, of course, will practically justify any criminal activity on the part of any gangster.

Society, in setting up courts to punish those guilty of breaking its laws, does not attempt to pass moral judgment on the defendant.

Society is interested in punishing offenders in order to prevent additional offenses. The business of the judge is to apply the laws of society.

Those who break them deserve their punishment, regardless of excuses, past history, boyhood environment or the defects of society itself.

Never Trust a Commie

It is well known in this country that a Communist will lie, cheat, steal, deceive, or do anything else to further his zealous cause. That, too, is exactly what the Kremlin does.

In our dealings with Moscow, Peiping, or any other Communist center, we should never forget that its leaders are men and women of evil, despotic intent. They can never, never, never be trusted.

Only an opposing military strength greater than theirs will bring them to a halt.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

THESE LAUGHS WERE NOT PLANNED

By George Wm. Averill

Out in San Francisco a fellow by the name of Joseph Henry Jackson has invented a new game. Idea is to think up fictitious town names that go with state abbreviations, like Shaplesville, Mass., Oola, La., and Goodness, Me.

Pennsylvania has several possibilities, such as Poison, Penn., and Grandpa, Pa. And, in California, Deathly, Ill., Hittor, Miss., and Praise, Ala.

Trying real hard, you can come up with such as: Montmore, N. C.; Apples, Ida.; Sque, Mich.; Paderoffs, Ky.; Turge, Nev. and Bee, O.

We like Proan, Conn., Coco, Colo., Esther, Ore., and Farmer-John, Del.

I think I may have figured out why more and more doctors are becoming specialists these days—specialists can train his patients to become ill during office hours, while a general practitioner is liable to be called off the golf course at any time.

Although I consider myself an extremely careful driver, on the way always figures the "other guy" may be crazy, there is one type of driver I don't want to see one who has a new car less than six months old. This type (with mere exception) will NEVER take the slightest chance of a smashup if he can possibly avoid it.

If you name around the word "thoughphthighteau", what would you say it meant?



Happenings of Long Ago

By Of News Clipped From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO August 2, 1901

The horse and buggy stolen from Alfred Johnson has been recovered. The harness has not yet been returned to the owner but will be in a few days.

Mrs. Elizabeth Prince has gone to her boy's in the far west—Nevada. She will be found at Winside near which postoffice her five sons are settled as farmers and between them all they own 3,000 acres of fine farming lands.

Perhaps lightning does not strike twice in the same place, but what was it caused those bricks to fall from the A. P. Jacobs house Friday evening last. The same sulphurous smell was noticed as when the house was struck by lightning a few days previous.

Frank Young wishes us to thank his beet boys for the beautiful, solid silver head, ebony cane that they gave him to steady his tottering steps through his declining years.

A woman was in town on Tuesday begging for money to buy a new dress. If this be the same woman who has solicited other area communities we are of the opinion that she has already secured enough money to buy a good supply of cork legs.

20 YEARS AGO August 6, 1931

Thousands visited Birmingham and other North Woodward villages, as the Grand Trunk commuter service held its formal opening celebration last week. Speakers predicted a successful future for the venture and continued growth for the communities it will serve.

Because of lack of interest, the Harnum pool will be closed on Aug. 15. School board members said too few were using the pool to warrant its continued operation. The rain came down and continued to keep the pool at a loss this season.

Because of taxes, state laws have stopped the construction of a storm sewer from Claxton to Maple roads. The law states that when a community is delinquent in its taxes, it is ineligible for state aid.

Additional quotient huts are expected in Birmingham any time after Monday, an emergency measure to ease the city's critical housing shortage. C. E. Egbert, city manager, warned persons using garden sites in the "Sophtown" area to not be surprised at ruined plots as grading work begins.

Birmingham set a new water-consumption record in July. Fire department reported a total of 78,487,300 gallons of water were pumped during the 31-day period, as compared to 72,311,300 in August, 1944.

John Watson and Mrs. Kathryn Smith won tennis singles titles in the Birmingham city tournament last week. Mrs. Smith took a 6-3, 6-3 victory from Mrs. Margaret Beers, while Watson won 3-6, 6-5, 6-3 from Richard Gray.

5 YEARS AGO August 8, 1946

The last of the "warning" tickets will be handed out today on parking meter violations according to city officials. Effective at 9 a.m. Friday, the police department will begin issuing tickets that are the "real thing" and will be given for improper and over-time parking.

August 21 will be the deadline for applications for the office of postmaster at Bloomfield Hills. Harry Starr, city manager, said Tuesday afternoon that no more applicants could be received after that time.

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People's Column

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. All letters must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be mailed to 400 words.

July 26, 1951

Mr. George R. Averill Birmingham Eccentric Birmingham, Mich.

Dear George:

Several months ago I laid down my pen and swore never to write to or about you again, however an epistle in your Deluxe edition

of July 26, made me break my solemn vow. What's this our chief tells us about illegal parking? If parked over an hour even though the meter does not show illegal parking. If this interpretation is correct, what justifies the parking meters in the first place unless it's a little racket connected to sell meters and clip the public. In the first place, I have always figured that if some phantasmagorist wanted to fight the thing he could prove to the satisfaction of any jury that the whole deal of illegal meter on the roads are maintained by tax on Automobile and gasoline, the motorist is actually paying for the privilege of parking on his own lot. I have been willing to go along with a gag because I felt that a person who had business to transact, he could, by putting a few extra pennies in the meter, transact that business, even though it took over an hour, and still not violate the law, but according to this latest interpretation of the law I see no reason for the parking meters. I hope this letter will start a movement to have all meters removed on the following grounds: 1. They do not save man power on the police force. 2. They do not relieve the parking situation. 3. They serve as no protection to the person parked on business. (He's still liable to a ticket) 4. Their legal use has always been doubtful. I never did like the darn things. Uncle Joe.

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Protection for you alone is not enough... That's why FULL FAMILY MEMBERSHIP is an important and valuable feature of Blue Cross-Blue Shield! CHANCES ARE ONE IN FOUR that you will be faced with hospital and medical bills this year for yourself or a member of your family. And the chances are even greater that, if you are among the one in four, the bill will be for a member of your family. BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD records show that family dependents use two to four times as much medical treatment requiring hospital care as the employed subscriber himself. That's why the hospitals and doctors who run BLUE CROSS and BLUE SHIELD have provided a program of Full Family protection that offers the subscriber the opportunity to enroll his wife and children for exactly the same comprehensive benefits as he himself receives. In addition, BLUE CROSS and BLUE SHIELD provide many other family protection features. For example, under the Full Family Contract, the newborn child is covered from birth. In addition, all eligible children under 19 years of age, no matter how many in the family, may be insured and insured the same full benefits without additional cost to the subscriber. Yes, the family is important to BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD and BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD are important to your family. Protection for you alone is not enough. These comprehensive benefits give you and your family protection that's priceless. Blue Cross Comprehensive Group Hospital Plan provides up to 120 days care in ward or semi-private room, according to the service for which you enroll in any of the 191 participating hospitals in Michigan. There's no limit on the certificate benefits covered—no matter how high the total bill. Blue Shield Medical-Surgical Plan pays generous amounts for specific surgery procedures—gives you the peace of mind that comes with knowing substantial payments will be made towards your doctor's visits to the hospital in non-surgical cases. And remember a BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD membership card admits you to a participating hospital without red tape or embarrassing questions. Afterward there are no claims to file, because BLUE CROSS and BLUE SHIELD pay hospitals and doctors directly. Talk to your employer about making Blue Cross-Blue Shield available where you work, through the Group Enrollment Plan, without physical examination or health statement. THIS IS YOUR TICKET TO WORRY-FREE RECOVERY. The Hospitals' and Doctors' Own Non-Profit Health Plan for the Welfare of the Public. BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD Michigan Hospital Service Michigan Medical Service 234 State Street Detroit 26 PROTECTION... THAT'S PRICELESS.