

Ike - A Political Sphinx

Many millions of Americans would like to see Gen. Eisenhower the next President. "Ike," however, is an assignment to set up European defenses against communist Russia; he wears the uniform of the Army of the United States. That requires the need for "no politics" on his part.

Therefore, the General cannot, in honor, announce himself as an available candidate for the office. Neither can he, or will he, say whether he is a Republican or a Democrat.

IN THE MEANTIME President Truman remains the only most desired candidate by the Democrats, while Senator Taft has taken up the Republican Presidential political banner.

What a strange political scene, only possible in the U.S.A.!

Both political parties have large segments that want "Ike" for President. But "Ike" won't talk . . . possibly, also, on the grounds that "what I say might incriminate me."

Truly, trying to make self-government work to its maximum best is a most difficult task.

American Competition

For many months it has been rumored that the AFL and the CIO will merge into one dominant American labor union. Now comes a statement by CIO President Philip Murray that "such a merger may be years away."

This should be good news to all, for it means that the spirit of competition will continue to exist in labor's ranks. It also emphasizes the fact that the anti-monopoly laws of the nation will be respected.

Perhaps best of all, though, by retaining the competitive independence of this nation's two largest labor groups the danger of "labor taking over government" is lessened.

For it must be remembered that if freedom and independence for all is to remain on the American scene there must be competition in business, in labor, and in the various educational processes that endeavor to bring mankind TRUTH—which attribute is the cornerstone of a more civilized state of being on earth.

Talk Doesn't Reduce Taxes

Nearly every time an appropriation bill comes before either House of Congress there are reports of "economies" effected by lopping off millions of dollars. This process is being applied to the military budget but nobody should take it for granted that any money is being saved.

Sometimes the maneuver is nothing more than the postponement of obligations that must be paid for later in the year.

At other times it is nothing more than an opportunity for the alleged economists to point to the record but taxpayers will not overlook the fact that, despite all the yelling for economy, the government take of the individual's income continues to get higher and higher.

THESE IS NO EXCUSE for waste in connection with our preparations for

defense but the net saving, if any, is chicken feed compared to the potential legislation that Congress passes for the benefit of local districts.

If Congress is in earnest about economy it will move to abolish some of the agencies and commissions that Congress has created and, maybe, cut down some of the expense money of the legislative branch of the government.

From Our Point of View

Britain's King has just bestowed the Order of Merit on former Prime Minister Clement Attlee; only 24 Britons can be long. Well, in the U.S.A. no such foolishness goes on—when a man is kicked out of public office he becomes just another citizen. (Oh, yes, it's true a few of 'em have gone to prison.)

Republicans in the Michigan Legislature recently adopted a resolution inviting Gen. MacArthur to address that august body January 26. Some of the Democratic legislators opposed the idea. Knowing what the MacArthur theme probably will be, who can blame the Democrats for disagreeing? MacArthur's visit to Michigan ought to be a healthful civic enterprise. The Democrats could retaliate by inviting President Truman's military aide, Maj.-Gen. (deaf freeze) Harry H. Vaughan to visit Lansing, too.

Will Truman run again for the Presidency? He says that he, alone, knows what he intends to do next year. Comparing some of Harry's recent public acts and statements with his presumed political sagacity, we would opine that he won't seek re-election . . . for every day he is losing votes. But you really never can tell about Harry. Just what a Missouri mule, for instance, will do every moment isn't in the encyclopedia, either.

So They Say . . .

Harry S. Truman:
"You can help to defend your country by buying United States savings bonds."

Howard A. Rusk, doctor:
"The 16,000 doctors of veterinary medicine in the United States play important roles in protecting man against diseases."

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

If you haven't been to a city commission lately, then you haven't seen the new 8-page pamphlet the city has just got out entitled, "A Welcome to Your City Commission Meeting."

Copies are kept near the commission room door so spectators can obtain them as they enter and have something to read while awaiting the start of the meeting.

The booklet contains general information about the city, lists, current commissioners and city administrative staff, and on the last two pages explains in broad terms how special assessment hearings are conducted, plus commission policy on assessment payments, interest, etc.

WHEN COMMISSIONERS first saw a copy of this pamphlet several weeks ago, they immediately suggested two changes: 1) key the copy the same as the photo showing "who sits where," and 2) call the commission's special Saturday morning meetings "commission sessions," not "private sessions."

Commissioners appeared to agree with these changes, but later they declared that they never hold "private" meetings.

Call them by any other name, but try to get into one if you're not specifically invited . . . and sworn to secrecy beforehand.

Here's something you might check on, now that winter's here with its winds and furnace fires. If your TV aerial is attached to the chimney it'd be a wise idea to check it for loose bricks and mortar. It's best to have it done before the wind. Chimney cracks can result in sparks falling, or the roof, or hot gases accumulating in the walls or attic of your home.

City Commissioner Lance Minor doesn't like to spend money, whether it's his own or the city's, unless he knows where it's coming from and where it's going.

When it comes to city appropriations, he and other commissioners don't have any trouble seeing on what the money is being spent. But Minor last week said he has trouble in keeping track of where it comes from and to what department it goes.

"Then each commissioner can employ his own bookkeeping method to keep his record up to date," explained Minor. "I don't want anything but just as the layman can understand it."

"WE'RE FLYING in the dark, I feel. I don't know what it means when the city manager recommends that we take \$2 dollars from the surplus fund and give it to the forestry department to buy a power saw with, for instance."

"Let the bookkeeping department keep track of the account numbers. I just want to know how much money we have in a certain fund, what we have already spent out of it and on what, as well as the amount of money we propose to spend, on what item, and who gets the money."

Monday night City Treasurer Russell Berger presented the commission with Oct. 31 balances and expenditures in the limited and contingent accounts. They showed the city since July 1 has spent approximately \$37,251.57 in the capital fund, has spent \$10,500.75, has \$26,772.35 in the contingent fund.

Last week's announcement of the state highway department's 15-year plan to build a new, four-lane US-10 superhighway rapidly will be "limited access," thereby eliminating many congested areas between Detroit and Saginaw, slipped out by accident.

Department officials were considering with Saginaw city officials a bypass around Saginaw. Officials there pointed out that if the state was considering a Saginaw bypass, perhaps it ought to tackle the whole problem from Detroit north.

It was then that a state official admitted that such was the highway department's plan.

While it was mentioned in the metropolitan press that this new highway would be "limited access," most people think of that term as applying only to the severe limitations of roads which will lead into it, plus plenty of overpasses and underpasses.

"Limited access" would prohibit property owners from having ingress and egress across it. This, being attracted to the neighbor to wade through the snow in front of a vacant lot as it is in front of a lot that has a house on it.

Another winter memo which comes to us every year concerns the unshowered sidewalks. A lot of us are guilty of this and of course it is a sign of not too good housekeeping on our part.

The worst offenders, though, are the people who own vacant lots. They are just as hard for your neighbor to wade through the snow in front of a vacant lot as it is in front of a lot that has a house on it.

The lids came in for their share of trouble, too, because they just can't resist piling a snowball down the street

Shadow Boxing



Happenings of Long Ago

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

50 YEARS AGO
November 15, 1901
We are indebted for a fine keg of nice new cider to our old friend Mr. John Keyser and it will be all absorbed before it gets hard judging by its present liability to run.

John Duncan an old Birminghamer left his Pontiac home last week for New York and will go from that metropolis to Europe by boat. He will have an extended trip around the continent for the Gale company.

A bicycle rider on the sidewalk in pitchy darkness just grazed John Snow who was coming up-town giving him a close shave. There is no doubt that John is justified in his wrath against such a foolish act.

The merry club of Jumping Jacks met at the home of Miss Winifred Robinson last week Wednesday evening and report a fine time. The group is composed of young men and women who enjoy a good time and each other's company.

Another serious smash-up on traffic occurred last week when the motorman because one car left Royal Oak ahead of time. It was determined that the deceased motorman was injured internally.

20 YEARS AGO
November 19, 1931
The Rev. Wm. Clarence Wright, pastor of the First Presbyterian church will preach at the Union Thanksgiving service here Thursday. Sponsored by the Birmingham Ministers' association, the service is to be held in the United Presbyterian church.

Birmingham hunters are flocking to the woods in pursuit of the elusive deer. It is reported that more men than ever before are arming themselves and trekking to the hills in northern Michigan in an attempt to provide meat for the family larder.

The state has directed that tracks of the old Great Trunk line be torn up by Dec. 1, and work started on the grading. This is the area from Lincoln to Lone Pine road where the two rights-of-

way join. Work was started on it Monday.

Joseph L. Hardig, 964 Kennesaw, has been named assistant general manager of Campbell-Ewald, Detroit advertising firm, according to H. T. Ewald, president and part owner of the company. Hardig has been in the advertising business for about 15 years.

Harley Henderson and Norman Kujala tried golf by moonlight on the Bloomfield township course last week. They followed the ball's flight by sound, waiting for it to land. They report only one lost ball and scores of 59 and 58 for the course.

5 YEARS AGO
November 21, 1946
Howard Holah, manager of the Birmingham theater, was awarded a silver plaque by the Variety club of Michigan as one of the pioneers in the motion picture industry. Holah received his plaque at a banquet Friday, marking his 15th year in show business.

Commissioners decided Monday evening that as long as L. W. Porter does not interfere with the opportunity of other residents, he may take as much water as he wishes from the well at the West Maple and Baldwin. Porter desires to sell the water because of its medicinal value.

An \$18,447 contract has been awarded to the Ohio Drilling Co. for the construction of a gravel well on the Walker pit property. Sponsored by the Birmingham city water department, the city will supply temporary electric power for the job.

Sorry to mention it again, but The Eccentric cannot publish any items unless they are signed. This applies to letters to the editor and general news stories. This is to protect us, the publishers, and you, the readers.

Women who served in World War II will be guests at a social evening at the Community House Tuesday, when the House pays special tribute to their service. Veterans of the various armed services and the Red Cross are invited.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

WINTER WANDERING

The weatherman last week Tuesday and Wednesday gave us a pretty good preview of winter. He reminded us, in no uncertain terms, that the dangers of winter driving are upon us to remember, folks, it gets dark a lot earlier than in the summer; your car cannot be controlled in January as it can in June; the pedestrian walking on ice has trouble enough staying right end up without having to leap out of your way. Take it easy, and live to shovel snow another winter!

Every year a lady reminds us that winter brings short rations for the birds. This year we're jumping the gun on her, and passing the reminder on before she has a chance.

The bread crusts you throw in the garbage will provide some pretty good meals for the little guys and their presence will bring you many hours of pleasure-keeping on our part.

Of course there are any number of things you can buy for them, so the next time you shop how about getting bird food on your list?

Another winter memo which comes to us every year concerns the unshowered sidewalks. A lot of us are guilty of this and of course it is a sign of not too good housekeeping on our part.

The worst offenders, though, are the people who own vacant lots. They are just as hard for your neighbor to wade through the snow in front of a vacant lot as it is in front of a lot that has a house on it.

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now and then. That, in itself is harmless, but at times their aim is a bit wobbly and someone's window ends up in little pieces.

Also, targets are more fun to drive at, so they pick on cars, and people walking down the street. You know, that snowball, striking a person in the head can cause serious injury. It can also be the cause of a pretty bad accident the weekends.

Why not build a fort in the back yard and 'em 'em at each other to your heart's content?

Come to think of it, the winter months seem to be made for the kids and their dogs. Winter starts off by bringing Thanksgiving a long followed closely by wonderful Christmas and New Years and a whole lot of vacation. There are snow fights, skating, sledging and playing in the yard with the family pool to lighten the weekends.

Kids are especially equipped for this sort of thing because most of them can still have fun, no matter how cold and wet they become, and somehow manage to avoid that "sandpaper" complexion that so many of us adults get a season after their first cold spell. Rather than let the winter win we're 7 years younger!

Cranbrook Student Wins
The Lou R. Maxon prize of \$200 has been awarded to Richard Gregg, Cranbrook academy of art student, for his sculpture, "Head of Dawn". Gregg's work is included in the 42nd annual exhibit of art work which opened Tuesday in the Detroit Institute of Art. The display will continue through Dec. 16.

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