

Newspapers Expose Graft

Dishonest people always try to cover up the acts that make them so. This is true of people who work for private business, or those who work for some unit of government.

In the history of American government, especially in State and federal units, crooks are ferreted out and exposed more often than not by alert newspaper reporters.

This was true in the Harding administration when a small New Mexico weekly editor first began to expose the then Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall. Fall, you recall, had dishonestly leased certain Navy oil lands to private oil companies. He was indicted, convicted, and served time in a federal prison.

From Our Point of View

No less an informed person than Harold L. Ickes, former Secretary of the Interior under FDR, declares the Corps of Army Engineers "wanton waste money on worthless projects."

Members of both major political parties now and then stage \$100 per plate dinners. To say the least, the boys and girls reveal expensive hungers...

Military establishments of many nations, these atomic and supersonic days, are developing guided missiles with which they hope to kill the enemy.

So They Say . . .

Herbert Morrison, British Foreign Secretary: "We shall not try to impose our conception of one world on anyone by force."

Paul G. Hoffman, President, Ford Foundation: "The danger of Communist penetration and disruption has been compounded by the spread of panic."

William H. Ruffin, President, National Association of Manufacturers: "Industry has learned that it is good business to employ physically handicapped and other workers."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

The governors of the various states, in their recent annual convention, have expressed their "impatient" and "angry impatience" with some federal controls in the public works.

I am heartily in accord with the governors insofar as their "impatience" extends to publication of those on their rolls.

I WILL EVEN go a step further and state this opinion: there is no reason why there should not be full publicity of all those who receive money from the federal government, whether on the federal roll, the pension list or any other group.

HOWEVER, THE more threat that a newspaper might uncover the fact that certain persons are

not entitled to be on that list would save various government units hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. . . . Here is the box score of "Fur-er-er" cabinet members, including late President Roosevelt:

SECRETARY OF STATE—Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., James P. Byrnes, George C. Marshall, Dean G. Acheson.

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR—Harold L. Ickes, Julius A. Krug, Oscar Chapman.

SOME RESIGNED of their own volition; others were forced out. . . . The late James V. Forrestal

and courageous St. Louis Post-Dispatch, a few months ago exposed Boyle's connection with the American Lithofold Co., alleging that Boyle helped that company to get a large RFC loan while being on the Lithofold payroll.

Boyle denied the allegation. Truman then "investigated" and came up with a clean bill of health for his crony. Then a U.S. Senate committee began looking into the situation, and hasn't yet made its findings known.

BUT WHAT WE WANT to emphasize is the fact that, without a free, alert and aggressive press in this country, it is easy to see that such dishonesty might go on unchecked indefinitely.

Thus, as an agent of inquiry for the American taxpayers, newspapers play an all-important role in the processes of self-government. (Which, of course, is the chief reason why some public officials endeavor to throttle the press in the latter's efforts to get the news.)

A Tyrant Emerges

President Truman's recent executive order, allowing his numerous department heads to "classify" all information pertaining to their public activities, lowered a curtain of political censorship between federal government and taxpayers who own and support that government.

Although the President declared he issued the order in the "name of national security," no informed citizen will be fooled by that statement.

WHAT A WIDE GULF now exists between Harry S. Truman, the former U.S. Senator, and Harry S. Truman, President of the United States.

Dr. V. R. Marburger, 611 Henrietta, is in St. Joseph Mercy hospital, Pontiac, after being injured in an accident at W. Maple and Bates on Wednesday.

THE ECENTRIC will publish contributed material providing it has news value. Suggestions are welcomed. Any erroneous reflection upon a character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected if brought to the publisher's attention.

The Eccentric

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Since Mr. Truman entered the White House six years ago, 27 men and one woman have been members of his official family.

NO ENTITLED FOR SECRETLY served President Truman twice, first as Secretary of Navy, and later as the Nation's first Secretary of Defense in 1947, after unification of the armed services.

TO THOSE of us who live right in the heart of the city, about the only thing we can burn in the fall is a few piles of leaves.

IN BIRMINGHAM It's STERNAL'S for Whirlpool Washers

Call CRESCENT Carpet Cleaners for your Well-to-Wall Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning in Your Home

REMEMBER those like days

Star Boarder



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.

30 YEARS AGO October 25, 1901 Three men were killed in the terrible accident of "Old Reible" J. C. H. & M. Railway, just north of this village Oct. 18.

Mrs. Electa C. Keyes will during this week visit all her nephews and nieces in Pontiac and the surrounding vicinity and have a "rule" good old-fashioned visit with each one of them.

If you or any of your friends have the need of a real good nurse, quiet and kind, Mrs. M. J. Crowley can fill the bill. She is highly recommended by Dr. Ray.

John Balcolm who worked for Mr. Schultz who works the Alex Parks farm, drew the banner load of sugar beets to this place last Monday. The load tipped the scales at 7,435 pounds.

L. J. Phillips, the veteran architect and builder, has been working on Mitchell's tenant house on a Brown street. A large addition has been joined to the house to make it bigger and the building has an elevator.

20 YEARS AGO October 29, 1931 The first daylight holdup recorded in Birmingham in several months happened on Oak street, Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 29, when Royal Oak, reported two armed men, in a small sedan, robbed him of \$100 which they stopped him to ask directions.

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BIRMINGHAM motorists have been crowding police headquarters since the license deadline draws near. Licenses issued prior to Jan. 1,

1932, must be renewed by Nov. 1. To date nearly 2,000 have been issued here.

C. E. Murray, Birmingham architect, has been appointed to succeed on the Birmingham plan commission. He will fill the unexpired term of the late Thomas S. Backer. His term will expire on July 1, 1933.

Charles Bingham, business and civic leader, died suddenly at his home last Saturday. Business associates and Birmingham residents paid fitting tribute to this leading citizen when services were held Tuesday.

5 YEARS AGO October 31, 1946 Plans for the city's quonset settlement moved into the final stages this week. The management plan, which must be passed by the Federal Housing authorities before it becomes final, calls for a maximum rental of \$40 per month.

Dr. Dwight B. Ireland discussed some educational problems before the Federal Housing authorities before it becomes final, calls for a maximum rental of \$40 per month.

Commandant C. F. Chastel, personal representative of Gen. Leclerc and member of the French Embassy in Washington, will speak on "France Today" at the Community House Thursday evening. His appearance is sponsored by the Birmingham Women's club.

In observance of National Air Mail Week, the Birmingham Exchange club has sponsored a special racket for all letters leaving the local office this week. "Birmingham, Michigan - Detroit's Beautiful Residential Suburb" are the words which carry news of our community to all corners of the world.

Dr. J. K. Ormond, local Y chairman, said today the \$10,000 needed for operation will be raised wholly in Birmingham. He explained that in Community Chest drive the words which carry news of our community to all corners of the world.

THE BIRMINGHAM Star Boarder

People's Column. The Eccentric publishes letters for this column. All letters must be signed and written in plain English. Letters should be limited to 200 words.

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Drive the car that makes gas go far! Studebaker Champion! TOP GAS-SAYER OF THE TOP 4 IN THE LOW PRICE FIELD! 2 1/2 to 6 miles per gallon better! In the '51 Mobilgas Economy Run, a Studebaker Champion* did 2 1/2 to 6 actual miles per gallon better than the entries of the three other largest selling low price cars. Studebaker overtook, outdid all other cars, outdid.

CARKNER MOTOR SALES, Inc. 666 South Woodward Birmingham, Mich. MI 4-3410. HOW MICHIGAN'S MOST POPULAR HEALTH PLAN WORKS. It protects 2,400,000 people in this state against hospital and surgical bills for a few cents a day per person. Here are the facts:

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE BY ALICE E. MORGAN. LIKE BIRDS. The boss always says it's not his question in a newspaper article because you know the reader out on the well-known "FIBERS ARE DANGEROUS" would agree with you and when they started the boss one would have an extra quart of water on hand to remove the danger.

1 When sickness or accident strikes . . . if you are a member of Blue Cross-Blue Shield Comprehensive Group Plans, you need only to show your membership card to be admitted to any one of 192 Michigan hospitals participating in these plans. There's no delay—no red tape—no advance deposit. You are free from financial worry—and all because you have paid just a few cents a day.

2 You get more benefits with Blue Cross-Blue Shield Comprehensive Group Plans. For example, Blue Cross covers up to 120 days of hospital care . . . no cash limit for a wide range of hospital "extras" including drugs and dressings, physical therapy, etc. Blue Shield pays liberal stated amounts to your doctor for more than 450 surgical procedures. 3 This year one out of every nine persons will go to the hospital. Unexpected bills can mean the end of hard-won family savings. Often it's necessary to go into debt to meet them. That's why no one can afford to be without Blue Cross and Blue Shield protection—protection that costs so little and can save you hundreds, yes, even thousands of dollars. Ask your employer today about installing the Blue Cross-Blue Shield program where you work. No physical examination or health statement required. Companies with as few as five employees may be eligible for Blue Cross-Blue Shield Comprehensive Group Protection. BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD. 26 STATE STREET - DETROIT MI. PROTECTION THAT'S PRICELESS.