

Wasteful Handling Of U.S. Ships

From available information we get on the subject, one of the most extravagant and incompetent branches of the federal government is the United States Maritime Commission.

This agency is charged by Congress with purchasing, operating, and disposing of all merchant vessels owned by the federal government. In time of war, this agency really buys plenty of ships.

During World War II the Commission ordered built more than 5,000 ships, costing American taxpayers nearly 11 billion dollars (more than \$300 for each American family). Since 1946 the Commission has sold most of these ships, practically giving them away.

FOR EXAMPLE: three ships that cost 24 1/2 millions were sold to a Detroit ship operator for \$368,832; yet on the security of these same ships, the company, we learn, was able to obtain from the RFC

From Our Point of View
A Tennessee preacher set a hot-weather example for his male parishioners by wearing a sports shirt while preaching his Sunday sermon. It is a good idea, a paragon—keep it up, for men in general suffer unnecessarily in summertime from the un-ventilated clothing somebody-or-other thinks they ought to wear.

Bernarr McFadden, the 83-year-old physical culture advocate, made another parachute drop recently, proving that "age is but a state of mind." The old boy certainly is adventurous. In a way, we must take off our editorial hat to his intrepid nature. In his case, muscles assuredly help to get publicity.

So They Say . . .
Millard Caldwell, Civil Defense Administrator: "Seventy out of every one hundred planes Russians would launch against us would get through to the target."
Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Member of Congress from New York: "The United Nations is drifting toward a negative policy of defense."
Harry S. Truman: "We do not take the view that a man's misfortune suffered through no fault of his own, is his own affair."
Bernard M. Baruch, retired industrialist: "You can overcome anything if you don't bellyache."
Joseph C. O'Mahoney, U.S. Senator from Wyoming: "We have the air power now that can deliver a most serious blow to any potential enemy."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill
WATCH YOUR WATCH, LADY!
WATCH THAT WATCH, LADY!
The curse of an ailing watch is a woman's purse, according to local women here. Lloyd Lake, a woman who has at least twice as much trouble with her watches as men because men don't have purses in which to cache their watches, explains the mystery. Lloyd, who started repairing watches back in 1910 in Pontiac and then opened his own jewelry store in Birmingham six years ago.
Lloyd admits that it isn't the purse itself which causes the ladies the trouble, but rather what's in the purse.
"When I—or any other watch maker, for that matter—open a woman's watch, I do it with mingled horror and fascination, wondering what the watch's innards will reveal this time," Lloyd said.
USUALLY, a woman is surprised when I tell her that the delicate mechanism is covered with a green residue from the petroleum in her purse. She doesn't see how it is possible—the case on her watch is drum-tight.
"However, tight as the watch case fits, the volatile oils of the petroleum carried in her purse often get into the watch as vapors and condense on the moving parts," he said. He also has difficulty explaining how face powder, tobacco dust and diverse other substances manage to get into her watch and clog the works.
"She usually remains uncon-

loan of \$4,950,000.
According to U.S. Senator John J. Williams of Delaware, who investigated the Maritime Commission's activities, the government lost more than two billion, eight hundred millions of dollars in the disposition of ships since 1946.
The same general losses were incurred after World War I.
They probably will occur again if we get into World War III and the Commission goes on another spending spree.
So, Dear Citizen, in the light of these figures, do you wonder why your federal taxes keep on getting higher and higher?

Why Do They Do It?
The vagaries of human nature continue to baffle those who study the conduct of man—his nowhere is there more mystery than in the few individuals who live wretched and poverty-stricken lives, possessing ample and abundant wealth.
Police in Jersey City recently found two elderly sisters, well up in the seventies, in their home. One was dead and the other unconscious, but in a pitiful condition from malnutrition.
When police examined the contents of the fifth-floor apartment, they uncovered strong boxes in closets and furniture. One contained gold pieces of \$8,000 and other gold certificates and currency.
THE TWO-DAY SEARCH uncovered \$61,725 in cash in the apartment. Other indications were that the sisters were the holders of numerous mortgages.
Apparently, they had more money than they could properly spend for comforts and necessities of life. For some strange reason, they preferred to live as misers, hoarding their wealth and even starving themselves.
"Why?" people will continue to wonder about this instance and others that will subsequently be disclosed.

Another 'Whitewash'?
William M. Boyle, Jr., chairman of the Democratic National Committee, is under investigation over his personal dealings with a St. Louis printing firm that it is alleged, received an RFC loan through Boyle's back channel.
This, in spite of the fact that the firm three times was turned down before Boyle got on its payroll.
President Truman, who "looked into the situation," reported that Boyle had done nothing wrong.
Well, let's see how the investigation comes out. If HST can influence its findings, we'll not be surprised to learn that Boyle is "white as the driven snow." Crummies, you know, are never bad people!

The Birmingham Eccentric
Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue
Telephone Midwest 4-1100
GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
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The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club
The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has news value. Suggestions are welcomed. Any erroneous reflection upon the 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.

Another Common and Unhappy Experience
which is thousands of times as large and as rugged as a watch, and which is expected from it, is added.
Despite all that, very few machines attain as great a degree of perfection as the modern watch.
"Few people stop to realize that there are 1,440 minutes in a day and that if their watch gains or loses a minute a day, it is within 1/144th of perfect performance," Lloyd emphasized.
Figures have just been released by the American Forest Products Industries, Inc., which show that Michigan's forest fires, during 1950, dropped almost 50 percent from the previous year. In 1950, a total of 985 acres burned 6,274 acres of timberland. Deaths numbered 290.
Only .03 percent of Michigan's forest area was burned. Only 3 percent of Wisconsin, Vermont and Washington equalled or bettered this mark.
I hope this improvement indicates that Michiganders—who cause most of these wood fires—decided to keep their forested areas beautiful.
For our timber country looks as better in life green than in dead black.

Time to Make Friends



Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
September 6, 1901
The season of watermelon, sweet corn and green apples is here, as many a small and somewhat ailing Birmingham boy can testify.
A supper will be served from 3 until 5 o'clock this Friday afternoon on the lawn at Mrs. A. F. Jacob's by the ladies of St. James Episcopal church. All are invited.
Mrs. Perry and Miss Chapman recently spent a few days in Ann Arbor, called there by the marriage of their nephew, Mr. Adams, in a charming and popular young lady of that place.
During the ball game Saturday last Catcher F. Savage had one of his fingers broken on his right hand, broken by a pitched ball. He has soon been back in the game because there was no one to take his place.
Miss Maude Campbell, daughter of Dr. J. L. Campbell, is now at Grace high training school in Detroit learning how to be a professional nurse. Miss Maude has a natural aptness for nursing inherited no doubt from her illustrious father.

20 YEARS AGO
September 10, 1931
A wrecked police car, badly mangled in an accident while trying to overtake two fleeing men, will be replaced by the village. Not more than \$200 will be spent in addition to the allowance on the wrecked car, according to commissioners.
The Labor Day weekend passed quietly with no accidents and few events to disturb the quiet of our village. Traffic was very heavy but according to police, all drivers went through town in a very orderly and safe manner.
The village welfare problems will be tackled at a meeting Tuesday night. Welfare requests have been increasing over past months while village income has decreased. Officials say the situation has

reached a critical stage and immediate action must be taken.
Patrolman Earl Moody remained on duty in spite of several broken ribs Wednesday night when he crashed during a 60 mph chase, trying to stop five men suspected of robbery. Patrolman Robert Emmett, driver of the car, escaped injury.
Drunk driving, reckless driving, speeding, peddling, disorderly conduct and other village violations brought 120 offenders before Bloomfield Hills Judge F. S. Burk over the weekend. Fines levied for the various offenses totaled more than \$1,000.
5 YEARS AGO
September 12, 1946
Amy P. Wild of Medford, Mass., has begun her duties as director of the Birmingham Co. in our city. House. A graduate of Boston university, she has been associated with the Red Cross since 1942 as recreation director, being sent overseas in 1944.
The football season this year will see new bleacher arrangements at Fight the Night which will permit more room for spectators. In the past few years attendance at home games has grown time and too few seats have been available.
City commissioners have permitted local taxicab companies a hike in rates which will become effective Monday. The new rate will be 26 cents for the first quarter mile and five cents for each additional quarter mile.
Two thieves stole a car then stole a safe which they loaded into it and successfully eluded police in a wild chase out West Maple Thursday night. The safe, stolen from the Cadillac Motor lot, contained \$400 in cash and several hundred dollars in checks.
School registration, at the end of the two-day period, showed a four per cent increase over last year's student figures. A total enrollment for the city schools was set at 2,647, by Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN
SAY IT!
We've started a long time in sticking our neck out on this subject, but last week we got so mad we'll, here goes!
The contrast was very marked as the incident happened. Two youngsters went on to clean up the yard after an afternoon of small trucks in a sandpile. As the two came back the other was lavish in her praise, the other said nothing.
As the children went on to something else another guest in the home commented on how happy they were and how crestfallen Stewart seemed as they left.
Rollie's mother explained that a verbal pat on the back always did this to him.
"HE TRIES so hard to please, and when I tell him it's a good job, he rolls his eyes. Doesn't Stewart like that?"
Stewart's mother declared praise was something she seldom gave. Her reason was that if he was told to do a thing, he should do it well to do a matter of course. Praise, she feels, has nothing to do with the situation. The idea was also expressed that she told Stewart he was doing a good job, he would get the idea that he was perfect.
For a second after she stopped talking there was complete silence. Rollie's mother changed the subject to the new coat of paint the house is going to get.
WE WENT home wondering about a lot of things. It seems unreasonable to us to expect a six-year-old would hard just for the sake of the job at hand. We have looked around since then, not only among children, but with adults, too.
We have watched clerks, waitresses, gas station attendants more closely. We have seen how they react to a sincere word of thanks or praise. Their faces light up and there's a difference to the set of

People's Column
The Birmingham Eccentric letters for this column. All letters must be signed. Not signatures with best wishes. Not limited to 200 words.
To the Editor:
As a subscriber to The Birmingham Eccentric since prior to moving to Birmingham from Fraser, Mich., I have often read your "Have You Met?" coverage and thought it a very fine return on your part as well as a courteous way to welcome one to the community.
I also like the idea of the Welcome Wagon. A Mrs. Price, I believe her name to be, made myself and family feel right at home shortly following our arrival, and now we feel we have always belonged here, and it is a grand and glorious feeling, believe me.
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