

Man With a Mission!



Our Yuletide Thought: Build On 'The Rock'

A Southern railroad has been carrying on a regional advertising program of a very unusual nature. The advertisements say nothing about the railroad, and make no attempt whatsoever to attract business. They are totally non-commercial. They are built around these four ideals: Faith in God; Faith in Ourselves; Faith in Our Fellow Men; Faith in Freedom.

They are these old ideals, you may say. They represent copy-book maxims. They are neither novel nor startling. They don't involve a new and revolutionary approach to the way we live as individuals and as members of society.

ALL THAT IS TRUE—for these ideals are as old as Christianity, and they have met every challenge that the troubled centuries of recorded history could offer. The blackest and cruellest periods of the world has known have occurred when nations have scoffed at these ideals and abandoned them.

TODAY THIS NATION is the leader of the forces of freedom in the bitter conflict with the forces which would enslave the world, subject us all to merciless, all-powerful government, and bring on another dark age.

If we are to survive victoriously in that conflict, we must never forget the old faiths, the old ideals.

No Fear of Famine

In 1950 each American farmer produced enough to feed and clothe 28 people. By 1975, each farmer will be producing enough to feed and clothe twice as many.

Until recently, historically speaking, the human race, like our friends of the animal world, spent almost all of its time at the sheer physical task of scratching enough to eat out of the forests, streams and soil.

An agricultural revolution in the new world changed this grim picture within the space of a few years. America's vast

expanse of land demanded unheard-of tools. Soon a parade of remarkable devices to help draw forth the products of the soil in unprecedented abundance followed pioneer settlers westward.

ONE HISTORIAN has pointed out that the invention of a single small mechanism, the automatic knitter, which did away with hand tying of bundles of grain as they were harvested exerted a more profound influence on the world's economy than any other of man's technical accomplishments, save possibly the locomotive.

At any rate the westward migration of the 1800's was paced by the growth of a great new industry—farm equipment. Today that industry enables agriculture to meet the heavy demands of an expanding population with an ease that would have confounded our ancestors of a century ago.

From President Down

Only the magnitude of the public responsibilities that devolve upon men and women high in the federal government give them the mysticism and glamour that enshrouds them.

Actually, the table of organization, from President down, is just like that of thousands of businesses and organizations in this country.

are decided upon on the simple facts: Are they able? Are they loyal to our program? Are they deserving of the reward of high public service? Do they, on the whole, represent the geographical, racial and religious segments of our people?

(Even the most high-minded of public officials are, in a democracy, politicians. They cannot overlook the practicalities of the next election.)

PEOPLE SELECTED for high places

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

An organization, formed along the lines of the United Nations, is an essential part of bringing about universal peace. However, the manner in which the present one is set up, with Russia an important part of it and with the right to squelch anything with its single veto, is not achieving objectives expected of it.

Statistics report that, since the dawn of recorded history, 30 billion human beings have lived on this earth, and only about 5,000 of them have distinguished themselves. Truly, it does require more than that number to transport us to Utopia.

If the 42 million Americans who pay income taxes were required, say tomorrow, to fork over \$125 to Uncle Sam, it would not even pay the annual interest in the national debt.

Admitting that the building of a great cathedral is, like painting a beautiful picture or writing sweet music, a wonderful accomplishment . . . yet nothing man makes can surpass the making of a beautiful life. It is not given to many people in a generation to achieve the environment of a tranquil, serene, healthy and happy life.

Unfortunately, some people who have so little that needs saying take too much time to say it.

Revolutions do not require even a large majority of a nation's population to put them over. Lenin and Trotsky had but a handful to dethrone the Russian Czar and enthroned Communism. Hitler started his regime in a small beer hall in Munich.

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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 December 26, 1902 A new paragonage is being built at Troy for the Rev. Mr. Stultifitz and family. Big Beaver parishioners unite with Troy in building the new home.

W. L. Dyer's tonsorial parlor got a soaking one day last week. As they were harvested exerted a more profound influence on the world's economy than any other of man's technical accomplishments, save possibly the locomotive.

Frank Blaklesie is in California at this writing. He made his trip of 3,500 miles safely and is enjoying coast life for all it is worth and expected to meet his son Bert the 30th inst. on the arrival of the government train.

Closing exercises of the Parker school south of Birmingham, were held last Friday evening under the direction of the teacher, Miss Iva Felde. There was a Christmas tree and Santa Claus and an address by Rev. Mr. Watson.

Wm. Pallister has not yet reported on his best experiment, but everybody says "Billy" struck it rich this season and we are glad of it.

30 YEARS AGO December 22, 1922 The Village Commission Monday night awarded the contract to install a modern fire alarm system to the Birmingham Fire Department at a cost of \$68,964. The work, it was stated, will be started immediately.

Another cycle in modernization has run its course and the "coffee grinder" telephone has departed from Birmingham. The newest and most modern of telephone equipment was put into service Thursday afternoon with the turning of a switch by Pres. J. H. McBride.

Want to skate? Then send your check to The Village Commission. That body has assured Birmingham

ham skaters that Quanton Lake will be made available to them as soon as sufficient funds are on hand to defray expenses of upkeep.

The St. James church choir and a group of east side children will travel the streets of Birmingham on Christmas Eve, singing traditional carols. Both will stop at homes where lunch candies have been placed in the windows.

A special senior chapel at the high school this week featured brief but impressive Christmas observance. Reading a scripture reading by Miss Bennett, students joined in singing several Christmas hymns.

15 YEARS AGO December 30, 1937 Boy or girl, Birmingham's first 1938 baby, will receive many lovey gifts as the community's newest resident. Local merchants have contributed generously and everyone is eagerly awaiting the announcement which will name the recipient.

Mayor John E. Martz issued his report for the past year, showing that as far as Birmingham is concerned, 1937 was a very satisfactory year. He listed as one of the highlights of the year, the final steps toward constructing an adequate sewage disposal plant.

City commissioners have authorized the purchase of a machine to handle billing accounts for the water department. The Elliott-Fisher machine will cost the city \$1,500.

The churches of Birmingham have scheduled plans for their part in the universal celebration of Prayer Week services. These will begin Jan. 2 and extend through Jan. 7 with all churches participating in union programs.

"The World between Wars", will be the topic of Dr. Preston E. Slosson when he speaks at the M. E. church Jan. 13. Dr. Slosson is being brought to Birmingham through the efforts of the Council of Churches.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE BY ALICE E. MORGAN

During the last couple of weeks, many of us have heard people say, "This comes, but once a year—thank goodness!"

"This comes, mainly, from aching feet, minds that are going round and round, harassed parents and those whose friends and relatives 'already, have everything under control'."

In all seriousness, we repeat: Christmas comes but once a year—thank goodness! We love Christmas, every minute of it. We love the feel of excitement and suspense that begins so gradually and suddenly mounts to a whirlwind speed, shutting out practically every other thought.

We love those days when Christmas is so completely uppermost in the mind that even the slightest unrelated task seems like a mountain to us. We can force ourselves to do the things that must be done while we let a corner of our mind dwell in a dream world all its own.

We love the cheer and gaiety that takes us on streets and in stores. We love the eager look and the broad, broad hints that the kids pass out looking so innocent all the while.

WE LOVE THE smells of mince meat, fruit cake, Christmas cookies and candies that pervade the house. As eagerly as any kid we wait for the day the greens go up, and add their nose-tingling touch to the rest.

night are hurrying to visit friends or relatives, scurrying about attending to last minute details for their own celebration and going to church.

MOST OF THEM are humming or whistling the old Christmas songs as they go. Always their conversations turn to Christmas, the family gathering, a party they have been to or the presents they are giving.

From homes, churches and stores come the strains of recorded Christmas songs. In some places groups of carolers walk slowly through the streets, their voices different, somehow, in "Silent Night," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and the other songs of Christmas.

Glances into homes show lighted trees and other Christmas decorations. Passing a church we see the gleam of candlelight as a congregation joins in its reverent observance.

Yes, Christmas comes but once a year—and we are thankful. Thankful that it holds the deep, special meaning that does. Thankful that it can never become so common, so familiar to us that it loses its thrill.

We're very thankful that when we say MERRY CHRISTMAS, it means something to really mean something. MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE!

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

City Engineer and Mrs. L. R. Gare are hoping there will be plenty of nice warm sunshine on Christmas and New Year's Days. Because they will be on their annual vacation in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. They left by car Friday afternoon, are due back home Jan. 4.

"Being a municipal engineer has meant winter vacations for me. My busiest times are in the summer supervising city construction jobs," Gare explained just before he left.

When Lana Turner got her last week's divorce from Millionaire Dan Coppage, some reporter asked her if she were going to get married again, and got this reply: "I certainly am not!" Hollywood and movie stars being what they are, Lana's statement is subject to change without notice.

From time to time I receive in the mail a letter from some federal government agency or bureau appealing for free advertising space in which an attempt would be made to recruit civil service workers such as typists, stenographers, engineers, etc.

The request goes into my wastebasket. Here's why: The Eccentric makes a charge for advertising where paid services are involved. If these persons were asked to volunteer their services, then we would volunteer ours. This The Eccentric has done in connection with draft board members and civil defense and ground observer corps members.

Each week we publish a number of ads from local merchants who are seeking similar employees. I can think of no good reason why we should make these local establishments pay for their advertising, then GIVE it to the federal government.

Too, the federal government takes more than 25 per cent of all the mail a good deal of which goes to pay these workers for their services. If there is money to pay them, there must be money to pay us for our services.

Is your wife never on time? The child guidance experts say this kind of woman is nothing but a grown up version of a child that dawdled and dawdled. The answer, only at the risk of breaking up a home, is to let her miss a few times the fun for which she is making everyone late.

I've come to the conclusion that most dentists and doctors must like to hear themselves talk. Otherwise, do they really expect patients to answer questions when their mouths are full of fingers, drills, thermometers, and other medical instruments?

Understatement of the year: "It's getting fairly difficult to find a parking area in downtown Birmingham."

With summer less than six months away, any time now shouldn't we be hearing something from the city's swimming pool investigating committee?

If you are planning to drink and then drive this holiday season, please send your obituary information in advance to The Eccentric. If it isn't needed, we'll place it in our files. If you depart this world violently in the next ten days, our staff will save valuable time in preparing your obituary for publication.

B'ham Supt. of Schools Dwight B. Ireland has a high regard for student reporters on the high school's newspaper, The Highlander, judging from a remark he made in a talk before about 100 representatives of private organizations who gathered at the high school Thursday evening to see the world

premiere of a promotion film, which used the new high school for many of its scenes. Among the introductions he made, Ireland mentioned the student representatives of The Highlander, and added, "Sometimes I think the Highlander staff does better reporting than we adults."

Could Ireland have been slyly digging at the four representatives of the private enterprise press who were present?

NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR HOUSE? Then locate it by reading or using the Classified Ads in The Eccentric each week.

ALWAYS READY to make your washday easier BIRMINGHAM LAUNDROMAT Free Parking, 9-5, Sat.—5 p.m. 1287 S. Woodward MI 4-8225 2 Blocks south of Lincoln

"Personality" GLASSES Eye Examinations Glasses Fitted WE OFFER FRAMES THAT FLATTER FACIAL FEATURES Norman R. Becker, O.D. And Staff Complete Lens Grinding Shop on our Premises MI 4-0644

I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet The words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men. Longfellow HUGH C. WHITE Multiple Line Insurance Agency Telephone Midwest 4-3610

Sandman Limited to the Land of Nod Automatic ELECTRIC Blankets Sheets Thousands of your neighbors are enjoying the wonderful warmth without the weight of electric blankets and electric sheets. How about you? No matter what the weather, soft fluffy wool electric blankets or smooth mullin electric sheets lull you to sleep, keep you warm and comfortable all night long for only two cents. You'll get years of wear, years of comfort from these modern electric blankets and electric sheets in any color to complement your furnishings . . . rose, blue, green, charrrose, red, and yellow in condition. They launder beautifully, too. Order yours at your electric appliance dealer's or neighborhood Edison office. SEE YOUR DEALER or Detroit Edison