

Sacred Trust

Former Local School Man's Ideas

A former superintendent of Birmingham's public schools, Dr. Herman L. Shibler, is acquiring national fame for inaugurating a course of study in the Indianapolis, Ind., schools that emphasizes the value of the American private economic system.

Dr. Shibler went to Highland Park, Mich., from here, and thence to his present Indianapolis educational responsibility. A study there revealed that only a very small number of Indianapolis' high school students get any real grasp of the economic factors and forces that are responsible for this nation's high standards of living.

"These students failed to realize," declared Dr. Shibler, "that the urge to make profits has been one of the great inspirational forces in building our nation."

WHEN DR. SHIBLER got his message across to his school board, together with business leaders in his city, funds were forthcoming for the preparation of certain objective available textbook literature, which soon will be given to the high school students.

In this manner Dr. Shibler and other advocates of the American free enterprise system in Indianapolis are doing something constructively needed to allow their young people to learn the nature of the economic system that has given our nation the highest economic security on earth.

Vandenberg's Hat Is In The Ring

Advent of Michigan's Lieut.-Governor, William C. Vandenberg of Holland, as a second Republican candidate for Governor, promises an enlarged discussion of public issues relating to State government.

Vandenberg will oppose Secretary of State Fred M. Alger Jr. for the Republican nomination. The winner will scrap it out with Democratic Governor Williams at the November general election.

With three two-year terms in the State Senate and now concluding his second year as Lieut.-Governor, Vandenberg quite obviously is familiar with most of the Legislative phases of the subject.

As soon as the Legislature finishes its current session, perhaps in late March, Vandenberg promises to reveal his program for improving Michigan's government.

Impoverished Britain

Perhaps you can get a clearer picture of England's problems when you realize that her growth and glory was due to conquest and colonization of other lands, plus the bringing of natural resources to her own shores for industrial processing, then sale to the world.

England now has lost its former "empire," its own island resources cannot feed, clothe and shelter its own people. It has suffered the terrific financial burdens of two World Wars. It now has gone Socialistic in its hysterical endeavor to survive.

IN A VERY comparable way, alas! good old England is like buggy manufacturers were 50 years ago . . . faced with the loss of their businesses as motor cars became more numerous. The British Isle cannot support its present population, with this world so upset as it has been and is.

From Our Point of View

A Detroit junk dealer's horse went through a red traffic light; the dealer was hailed into traffic court, but given a suspended light sentence when the judge opined that "the horse might be color blind." How wonderful is this thing called humanitarianism . . . but it took a horse to bring it out, in this case.

Learned Dr. Karl T. Compton recently testified to a Congressional Committee that Universal Military Training "could become a great moral force in this nation." We believe that UMT could do much to prepare our youth to defend their country . . . but whenever did a military organization do a better job for morals than the home, the church and the right type of school teacher?

An important movie actor recently slapped an important author in a Hollywood theater, because the author talked right out loud for 15 minutes. So the actor got up and went out, and the author enjoyed the picture. Personally, we think every theater ought to have a paid slapper to eliminate loud talking. (Also, some kind of silencer for paper wrappings.)

Because of rising unemployment by many parts of the nation, especially in Michigan, labor leaders are learning how badly bureaucratic planning can harm both labor and industry. This always results when centralized controls are exerted over nearly 160 million people who want to be free.

Let's see . . . there's Taft, Eisenhower, Stassen and Warren who represent a quartet of Republicans interested in being the next President of the United States. Any one of the four, we think, would be better than Truman. California's Warren, though, suggests too much "me-too-ism" to do the job that needs to be done in Washington.

So They Say . . .

Edward P. Morgan, price controls official: "Great nations are not killed from without—they die when they refuse the internal discipline that will keep their position inviolate."

Estes Kefauver, U. S. Senator from Tennessee: "No single nation in the modern world can maintain peace by force of arms without going bankrupt in the process."

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By George Wm. Averill

HIS WISH HAS COME TRUE

The Iron River (Mich.) Reporter publishes the names of persons arrested for minor traffic infractions (which result in fines), sometimes printing the story on page one.

These infractions include parking overlines in both metered and unmetered zones, overnight parking, parking too close to a cross walk, parking in restricted zones and keys left in ignition of parked cars.

That's one way of getting more subscribers' names to the paper at least once a year.

It is reported that residents of Tooting Lane, and its vicinity, are seriously considering running G. S. (Pete) Goodell, 475 Tooting Lane, as a candidate for the city commission in the April election.

Goodell is a general manager of a retail store that works out of the R. L. Fyfe shoe store in Detroit, and a long-time Birmingham resident.



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. All must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 300 words.

To the Editor: A few weeks ago I answered an ad for wooded acreage and had some correspondence with the owner. Yesterday I received a letter which should convince even the most cynical that not all of our young people are delinquents. A young woman wrote it with forthright honesty and sincerity, to a complete stranger, putting her pride aside while she stated her needs—not asking for charity, but just a chance to make good.

Here are youngsters with initiative, aggressiveness, willingness to tackle a big job and accept the responsibility it entails, confident in their ability to go it and what is equally as important with the freedom to try to make their own breaks instead of waiting for them to materialize.

UNABLE to help them myself, I thought if you would print the letter it might attract the attention of someone more blessed with this world's goods, who would welcome this opportunity to invest in youth in addition to having collateral for their loan. Surely such an enterprise deserves to be rewarded. Letter follows:

"Dear Madam: I got your address from a letter concerning the 60 acre woodlot. I am his granddaughter. My husband and I are a young married couple, 20 and 22 years of age, with one child. We just sold our little town home for clear \$1,000. We are very anxious to get started farming.

"THE WAY IT looks, it'll take years to save enough money to buy a farm. All the smaller farms, 60 to 100 acres, are being bought up fast in this locality, and for outrageous prices, as this is an excellent farming region."

"We found a good buy—that is, it is within reason, for a 95 acre farm with a good house, two good barns and other smaller buildings, in need of a little paint, is priced at \$10,000, the owner wants \$5,000 down.

"Would you or would you know of anyone who would be interested in buying it for us and taking our contract, with a good rate of interest, for the remaining \$2,000, as we have \$1,000. It's good land, located near Marshall.

"WE BOTH grew up on farms and our parents are both successful farmers. We've got the will to work. That farm would pay for itself in no time. My husband has a good job now but it takes a lot of money to buy a farm and we want to get started while we're young and don't mind when it's rough going."

"I know this is a wild idea, but there are people who might be interested in it. It's hard to find out who they are. If you're not interested, please answer anyway. Or, if you know of anyone who would be, would you please let us know. I'll bet you think I can talk a lot, as this letter isn't short and business-like, but I decided I'd better say what I wanted to and get it over."

That's it, Mr. Editor—you will please print it. MRS. E. L. KENNEY, 1925 Crooks road.

To the Editor: I was interested to read in The Eccentric an account of the record of absences and tardiness of the city commissioners, and wish to compliment you on this evidence of alertness. It is not every newspaper which would take this much trouble to inform its readers.

The Eccentric might have gone a bit further, it seems to me, than allowing each commissioner two absences a year for vacation period—although it was gracious to give us that allowance, and I appreciate it, one wonder if a paper might stretch a point and also allow the commissioners to be absent for illness, perhaps upon proper certification by a responsible physician?

UPON NOTING that my own attendance record was the worst of all, I reviewed the reasons for 10 absences in a period of 41 meetings, and thought that you might be interested in the breakdown.

It is this: two for vacation (as allowed by The Eccentric); seven for an unexcused or surprise absence of state cities; one for a visit to a city who had never visited us before during the late afternoon and had only that evening to spend with us.

I might add that I have never had an unexcused or surprise absence from meeting, our rule on the commission being that necessary absences should be reported to the clerk, manager or mayor.

SERIOUSLY, Mr. Editor, I believe that you have touched upon one of the commission's weaknesses—it has too many members and for outrageous prices, as this is an excellent farming region. It might be a good idea, I think, for me to resign soon and let my chair be open for election of someone who could guarantee to be on hand for every meeting.

Who knows—maybe we could find someone who wouldn't even require The Eccentric's two-week allowance for vacation . . . a perfect commissioner!

FRANK RISING, City Commissioner, 1029 Brookwood

To the Editor: Heartiest congratulations to Charles Edwards Post, American Legion and its Auxiliary, as well as to the people of Birmingham on their splendid blood bank success!

It is interesting to note that during the past two months 2,000 pints of blood have been collected by blood banks in Oakland County. Of the 116 pints have gone to the vicinity hospitals, the rest to the battlefield in Korea.

It also is especially interesting to note that nearly one quarter of this amount was collected in Birmingham.

Through my experience with blood banks, I feel this record is outstanding and your community deserving the highest praise.

MRS. E. L. BRADLEY, Blood Bank Chairman for Oakland County.

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 February 7, 1902 If you haven't had measles, mumps or whooping cough you can have them now if you wish. There is a more than abundant supply of them in Birmingham at present.

20 YEARS AGO February 11, 1932 An overhead bell. Tuesday morning at the Village Players theater on Chester street caused damages estimated at \$1,000. Flames ate through the floor at the southern end of the building and threatened a quantity of valuable stage properties.

Found—a bull dog. He followed the bus to the other night and scared the family to death (almost). The owner can have the "pup" by identifying J. C. Shain wherever he happens to meet him.

It will soon be time to talk about whom we shall have for village officers another year, and that question will not be more than settled than the township election will engross attention.

Whitlessy of Bloomfield Hills, will leave next week to begin his duties as an Episcopal missionary at Fort Yukon, Alaska. The young man has interrupted his studies at the University of Michigan to enter the mission field.

5 YEARS AGO February 13, 1947 With the expected completion of two quonset huts today, living quarters will be provided for four more families in Birmingham. Augustus Carrier, housing manager, said the units would be handed over to the city within the week.

Gerald White, principal of Pierce elementary school, has resigned his position to enter private business. His term of office will end on March 14, when Malcolm Ferguson, principal in the Redford Union school district will fill the vacancy.

The Maple sage squad moved into the top place in the Eastern Michigan league after their 42-33 win over Ferrisdale's Lincoln school squad Friday evening. It marked the Maple's eighth victory of the season.

Approximately 200 persons have signed petitions to be presented to state traffic authorities for corrective measures on the Long Lake-Woodward intersection. Others are expected to sign petitions soon to seek aid in an exceedingly dangerous crossing.

Advertisement for Alumatic windows and doors. Text includes: 'THEY'RE MADE OF EVERLASTING ALUMINUM!', 'ALL-WEATHER COMBINATION WINDOWS AND DOORS', 'Call For A Free Demonstration', 'Tulsa 3-2670', 'Webster 4-5896'. Features a list of window and door benefits and a small illustration of a window.

RIEHL IMPROVEMENT CO.

Large advertisement for Peck's Men's Wear. Features a large illustration of a suit jacket. Text includes: 'SALE SALE SALE SPORT COATS and SLACKS 20% OFF', 'Sport Coats \$45.00 Now \$36.00', 'WINTER JACKETS 25% Off', 'ALL WOOL TOP COATS 20% OFF', 'PECK'S MEN'S WEAR', '108 S. Woodward MI 4-7724'.

Advertisement for The Birmingham National Bank. Text includes: 'TIME for a fresh start', 'EARLY in the year is a good time to do your financial planning . . . especially to start a systematic savings program.', 'THE BRMNGHAM NATIONAL BANK BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN', 'Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation', 'Member Federal Reserve System'.