

New Job—New Tools



Adults Also Could Get Some Benefit

A few weeks ago we offered some comment in this column on the subject of our public schools, including efforts on the part of some radical educators to slant some of the textbooks on social studies toward the doctrine of socialism, as against capitalism.

We also pointed out that some radicals are reported to have been able to use the National Education Association to further their pro-socialistic ideas. Our comment then pointed out that in many American school districts Citizens Advisory Committees have been created, some of these committees making a study of certain textbooks as part of their activities.

We concluded our editorial by suggesting that perhaps such a Committee, and such a textbook study, would be acceptable to the Birmingham Board of Education, including the faculty.

TO OUR SURPRISE, we later learned that some of the local teachers became upset, even incensed, against our comment. Officially, they sent a small group from their own ranks to call upon the superintendent to ask something like: "How come The Eccentric can even presume that textbooks in the Birmingham public schools require investigation by a Citizens Advisory committee?"

Well, apparently the superintendent informed them that The Eccentric wasn't jingling out the local schools and their textbooks, or alleging that these textbooks were or are slanted toward socialistic thinking, and the teachers cooled down.

Since the teacher reaction finally has come to our attention, we wish to thank the superintendent's office for quieting the teachers' concern. We also desire to compliment the teachers for rising up in indignation over any allegation that they are not teaching good old American ideas and ideals to this community's offspring.

WE ONLY WISH THAT the teachers had descended upon us, instead of dropping the subject in the superintendent's office. We could have had some manner of an interesting discussion on the subject.

However, we cannot allow this moment to pass by without reminding the teachers of this fact: we know that the Board of Education itself, the people's only elected representatives in our local public school system, do not read all the textbooks that are used here; we understand that this reading is done by a special committee, recruited from the faculty itself.

So, in the absence of the Board's looking over the textbooks, what's wrong with

a committee of private citizens doing the job?

Not with the fault-finding notion that they will find some slanted ideas in the textbooks, and thus raise up criticism, but simply because, as taxpayers and parents, they ought to be acquainted with the subjects—would the taxpayers and parents not better be able to discuss school problems with their kids, and would not the reading tend to educate the adults, too?

From Our Point of View

• Senator Blair Moody, in a recent speech in Detroit, defended seizure of the steel mills by President Truman. Every man is entitled to his own opinions, of course—however, if you do not agree with Mr. Moody's notions of the subject, you don't have to vote for him in November.

• It is estimated that one half of the people in the United States annually earn 81 billions of dollars. Yet the federal government, under the extravagant Truman administration, next year plans to spend 85 billions . . . if it can get its hands on this money. Boy, what a racket much of modern government has become!

• British chemists believe they have worked out a formula that will enable them to make concentrated beer. They've done so to save the cost and space of shipping the stuff long distances. When they'll go to work on concentrating the pretzel isn't mentioned.

• Speaking of talks, those 15 and 20 second affairs going on in Panmunjon no doubt are world records for brevity. After all, though, when one has nothing to say, why not say nothing!

• Perhaps you have noticed that quite often in these columns we are critical of certain public officials, especially those in the higher levels of State and federal government. Why are we thus so? Simply because we don't like the way they tax you, govern you, abuse you, strip you of portions of your American freedom. Some of them, we know, act as they do from ignorance and/or civic naivete . . . but plenty of others are either out-right but as-yet-uncatch crooks, or just crooked enough to allow crooks to get their fingers into the public treasury.

So They Say . . .

T. M. Verden, rural school superintendent.

"Rural America is a stabilizing influence. It has fewer broken homes and it is free of foreignisms, narcotic rings and gangsterism."

Alfred M. Gruenther, Chief of Staff at SHAPE:

"Our capabilities for defense are much greater than they were a year ago."

Leslie R. Groves, Lt.-Gen., U. S. Army, retired:

"The best insurance for our future is a foreign policy that places the interests of the United States first."

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

FROM ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

You may be interested to read the "Birmingham Municipal Reporter," the city's employe publication edited by Administrator Earl Sandquist, reported the April 26 city commission appearance of John Brennan, 928 Floyd street.

Brennan appeared to ask a few questions about the expenses involved in the city's pamphlet explaining the new-dated fire had bond issue.

Stated the "Municipal Reporter":

"Our old friend, John Brennan, of Birmingham Estates appeared again at the meeting to heckle commissioners on the publicity relative to the proposed new fire station."

That a bill in the amount of approximately \$100 would be forthcoming.

"MAYOR BEIER pointed out to Mr. Brennan that the city commission was a group of elected representatives of the people and that it had authority to expend public funds and that private citizens at large did not possess that same prerogative.

"Brennan's efforts to involve Commissioner (Lance C.) Minor in an argument were met by the statement, 'Just go ahead and talk, son. You have a reputation for it.'"

"BRENAN REFLECTED surprise in learning that the brochure sent out to all Birmingham householders (6,000) was done at a total expense to the city of approximately \$150. He thought the figure would have been around \$1,500.

"His point was that since this publicity was sent out for the fire station at a total expense, the information opposing the fire station run in ad form in the Birmingham Eccentric by certain members of Birmingham Estates should also be paid for by the city. He stated

that he had no one in our state has been known to have died as the result of a poisonous snake bite.

Authority for this statement is Dr. Charles W. Cressler, chairman of the Wayne University biology department.

"CONTRARY TO popular be-

lief, many Michigan snakes thought to be venomous are completely harmless," Dr. Cressler states. "The only poisonous type in the state is the massasauga, or swamp rattler. Its bite may give a person a few bad hours, but has not been known to cause death in Michigan.

"People not only mistake Michigan's non-deadly rattler for the deadly type, but they also mistake the common water snake for the snake, because of its copper color, and the fox copperhead. Wholesale sale of harmless specimens has resulted."

DR. CRESSLER points out that bites from harmless snakes—of which we have plenty in Michigan—is easily distinguishable from that of poisonous specimens.

The harmless snakes have needle-sharp teeth that leave a hole in the flesh, made by one or both of two fangs which carry the poison.

Because snake saliva encourages blood flow by preventing coagulation, snake-bite wounds generally appear more dangerous than they really are.

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

May 9, 1902
Mr. Zimmerman offers to give the overflow of his well to the village. That, alone, will provide enough water in any 24 hours to sprinkle our streets. Of course the water has to have human help to get it to the proper destination.

Everybody is cordially invited to attend the first ice cream social of the season which will be given in the parlors of the M. E. Church next Wednesday evening for the benefit of the Sunday School. All you can eat. Price 10c.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Trollope are making some fine lawn improvements in their pleasant home, corner of Saginaw and Cemetery avenue. Mrs. Trollope is also giving her care to a fine brood of Plymouth Rock fowls which are the pride of the place.

Miss Rebecca Terry of Waterford will during the month of May call on everybody within a radius of eight miles from Birmingham with a view to securing them as subscribers to this paper. She has numerous attractions to offer those who subscribe.

E. P. Jarvis who is working for the Livingston County Herald at Howell spent the last week end at his home.

20 YEARS AGO

May 12, 1912
Roxana Lambie and Marjorie Allen have been named honor students of the Baldwin high school June graduating class. Miss Lambie, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Lambie, had an average of 96.87 for the school year with a 95.87 average for Miss Allen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Allen.

The First Methodist church will celebrate its 105th anniversary Saturday morning. The Rev. W. H. Perkins of Christ Avenue Methodist church, Detroit, will be the guest speaker. Methodism in Birmingham dates back to the period when only three houses had been built here.

Township officials have voted

to turn out an additional 28 street lights in an effort to cut expenses. It is estimated that this agreement, made with Detroit Edison, will save township taxpayers about \$100 a month.

Formal dedication of the new Bloomfield Village school will be made at a program starting at 2:45 Sunday afternoon. Several persons from Detroit and this immediate vicinity, active in church and educational fields, will speak briefly during the ceremony.

A total of 245 physical defects were noted among 109 children examined at the Child Health clinic here last week. Children are being sent to family physicians for treatment. In the case of indigent children, free treatment will be made available.

5 YEARS AGO

May 15, 1927
Birmingham's annual Clean Up Week has been set to start May 19. Special pick ups of rubbish will be made throughout the city during this time. Residents are asked to cooperate to the fullest by cleaning yards and basements thoroughly at this time.

A fire caused by children playing with matches threatened to destroy the home of Albert Simmons, 735 Purdy, late Saturday afternoon. Firemen said the blaze was confined to one bedroom.

Plans for the planting of 150 flowering crab trees have been made by the Baldwin chapter of the National Farm and Garden club. The planting program will be continued for a second time with the lecture of Mrs. Ruth M. Place on Monday.

Clyde C. Bennett, local realtor, has announced the addition of 100 acres to the Foxcroft subdivision, W. Maple and Telegraph. Snyder, Kinney and Bennett is developing the section.

The annual pet parade, sponsored by the women's guild of St. James Episcopal church has been scheduled for May 24. As in the past the sale of garden plants will be included in the event.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

HI, MOM!

You know, there's been so much said for and about Mothers all over every day of the year. We poor souls who have to dig deep for the right word are out on a limb.

We all know that Mom is a pretty special person and we feel that nothing we can say will quite do her justice. Most of us agree, too, that Mother's Day most certainly cannot be limited to one day of the year.

Now then someone mentions that fact—"Why just one day?" and it seems to us it's rather like Christmas.

We don't—that is, practically everyone doesn't—worship Christ only at Christmas. It is simply that on that one day we deepen our feelings toward Him and let our love and generosity flow out to include our friends and families.

WITH YOU, Mom, it's a little on the same scale. We surely love you every day of the year. We want to please you and nothing gives us a greater thrill than placing some small and unimportant gift in your hands. We don't need any special day or reason for doing it.

However, come Mother's Day, we like to join our neighbors in our observance on a bigger scale. We like to sort of dress up for the event. It's like cleaning up the best silver for company—that sort of thing.

We do it, not because this is the one day in the year when we expect to pay homage to you, but because we think you're a grand enough person to have one special day—a whole 24 hours, just for you. We like to make it really YOUR DAY.

TO THE FOLKS who aren't lucky enough to be with Mom every day, it's a grand excuse to make an event out of the day and

We like to have the pastors of our churches give you their special tribute. We like to hear the soloists and organists sing their special music for you. We like the festivity that surrounds the day and the extra fuss we can make over you.

Secretly, Mom, most of us like to see the pride in your eyes when you open those cards and packages that are just for you. At Christmas and on birthdays we may give you a "present over removed." We're apt to come up with a cooler gift than we were wanting, a new toaster, or something else that, while you've wanted it, isn't strictly 100 per cent yours.

IT'S THE SAME ALL the way down the line. Mom, it's a chance for your sons and daughters, not good enough at self-expression of their love for you, to band together, make a big day of it and tell you that way how much they love you and how sincerely they thank God for you.

Happy Mother's Day, Mom!

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People's Column

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. All letters must be stated, but signatures will be kept confidential where received. Letters must be limited to 200 words.

To the Editor:
Our thanks again at the close of our 1932 Easter Seal campaign for your part in making our drive a success.
Your generosity in using our news stories proved invaluable not only for raising funds but also for informing the public of

the needs of crippled children and to the crippled children in Oak the facilities we have to provide land county.
Sincerely yours,
GAR A. SWEEZEY,
Campaign Chairman.

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—Do I want to place the insurance with my own local insurance agent—so I can get in touch with him immediately when needed?

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