

Gathering Steam

Candidates Come and Go
—Just Like Vaudeville

Like successive acts on a vaudeville stage, most candidates for nomination at primary elections and conventions quickly fade into silence as those who defeated them emerge to continue in the spotlight that precedes final balloting.

For example, Democratic hopefuls who lost out to Adlai Stevenson include that millionaire Oklahoman, Senator Robert C. Kerr. This chap—never without a quick, though often vacuous, answer—boastfully declared that he would be the Democratic candidate for President.

A good thing, too, for the country, we think. He was the chap who tried to get Congress to legalize gas and oil rate increases, even though his fortune was and still is being made from these products. Though a Sunday school teacher, to us Kerr hasn't yet learned the difference between God and mammon.

THEN THERE WAS W. Averell Harriman, the son-of-a-rich-man who believes everything FDR and Truman stand for is wonderful for the nation. Harriman, who tosses away our billions abroad, also believed himself "practically nominated" at Chicago. Boy! what a joke he would have been.

Georgia's candidate, Senator Russell, isn't saying much these days, and neither is Senator Kefauver—both had hoped to win their party's favor.

And then there is that perennial hopeful in the Republican Party, Harold Stassen, who has gone back to work as president of the University of Penn-

sylvania! Oh, yes, Harold is doing some extra-curricular work for Gen. Eisenhower... but he has faded into the political limbo where, we think, he should remain.

MR. STASSEN, admittedly young and able, has always been too ambitious to be a substantial President. He, at times, is so ambitious that he makes mental backflips in order to win support.

Harold, you will remember, confidently expected to be nominated by the Republicans on something less than the hundredth ballot. Perhaps by this time he will have proved that ambition, alone, does not provide the step-ladder to the Presidency.

Ike's nearest contender, of course, was Senator Robert A. Taft. This Ohioan still remains a powerful figure and voice in the nation's political affairs. Now that he has decided to work for Ike's election, the country will again hear his patriotic utterances in defense of the American way of life.

YES, THE PASSING PARADE of candidates at election time is like old-time vaudeville, and like some programs on modern TV, the act comes on, is played, applauded, and the curtain falls.

It's wonderful, though, to know that you live in a nation where competition for public office still is the method of selecting men and women to govern us. May it never cease!

Dr. George P. Raynale

Fifty years of faithful and devoted medical service to Birmingham and nearby areas is the achievement of Dr. George P. Raynale. Commemorating that, 90 of his friends gathered together at a dinner last week and heaped upon "Dr. George" well deserved accolades and gifts.

He is the third Raynale with the professional prefix of "Dr." before his name; his father and paternal grandfather served before him.

During the past 50 years thousands of men and women, boys and girls, have

come to know, both as medical counsellor and friend, this familiar local practitioner of the healing art.

BIRMINGHAM'S CITY commission, recognizing his devoted service to his community, officially passed an eulogistic resolution and placed it in the record.

The Eccentric, too, adds its praise to the name and kindly personality of Dr. Raynale, and wishes for him countless future years of fruitful life.

A Good Man Is Leonard

Congratulations to the city of Detroit in being able to acquire the services of Don Leonard as Police Commissioner. For 29 years he was a credit to the Michigan State Police, which he headed for six years. He knows much that should help him to head up Detroit's blue coats.

(What's more, we'll wager that some day he'll be Detroit's Mayor... beyond

which, we all know, lie the offices of Governor and U.S. Senator.)

In all good faith, though, we hope Don doesn't read this at all; his job is as Police Chief... not as an aspiring politician. Our idea is well presented in "Lincoln Steffens' Autobiography", as it relates to a similar situation Teddy Roosevelt once held in New York City.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

That \$18,000 fund raised by friends of Senator Nixon, the Republican vice-presidential candidate, is nothing new and rare in American political life.

Such funds are raised in various ways, one on them being the holding of \$50 per plate dinners for Michigan's Gov. Williams. This was done quite openly, which gives it the stamp of legality.

Nixon's was done confidentially . . . and in the heat of a campaign it was made to appear worse than it really is.

("Let him who is without sin cast the first stone," is a good axiom in such cases.)

Once upon a time a man named Tom C. Clark was attorney-general of

the United States, appointed by President Truman. Clark now is a member of the august U. S. Supreme Court. But one of Clark's assistants, when he was attorney-general, now declares that his boss sopped, even quashed, legal proceedings against certain income tax violators.

Well, what can you expect from the Pendergast system?

Our U. S. Navy now admits that it has hundreds of robot planes that can be loaded with atomic and other type bombs and directed by radio waves to their targets. No longer will pilots have to risk anti-aircraft fire to get their destructive packages to an enemy target. That is, of course, wonderful military progress. How much more wonderful it would be, of course, if the Universal Pilot could arrange, with human co-operation, to guide us more unerringly to those Utopian targets that mark the areas of lasting peace!

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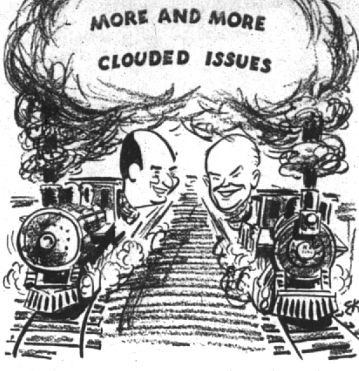
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So They Say . . .

ARCHIBALD V. HILL, British physiologist:
"The first word of freedom is freedom of conscience."

RT. REV. MICHAEL H. YASHIRO, Protestant Episcopal bishop of Japan:
"The issue of Communism really was defeated 25 years ago in Japan. Russia and Japan are traditionally on opposite sides."



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned from Old Files of The Eccentric—The Issues that Made Up The Historical Background of The Birmingham of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
September 26, 1902
Every Birminghamer who desired to see "Teddy," our President, during his stay in Detroit. It was one continued rush of enthusiastic voters. Detroit did herself proud and our citizens helped to bring honors on President Roosevelt.

The Village Improvement society employed a man to do the weeds, pick up rubbish and papers and make the town look tidy to the many strangers who have passed through this week.

Miss Iva Felder is very successfully yielding the birch in the Parker school district, now being south of Birmingham. Of course she will be one of our most successful school teachers.

The postoffice department announces that the permanency and extension of rural free delivery depends largely on the appreciation shown through improvement of county highways. It would be wisdom on the part of those enjoying this service to see that these roads are repaired and maintained in a good condition.

Levi Goodwin was the successful contestant who secured the silver medal in the oratorical contest sponsored by the W. C. T. U. last week Wednesday. Second honors were awarded to Irving Hanna and all did favorably.

20 YEARS AGO
September 29, 1912
Dr. Russell Hopkins, former pastor of the Preston Methodist church in Detroit, was appointed to the Birmingham charge at the last conference. He will succeed the Rev. M. Atkins, who has been assigned to the Central Methodist church at Pontiac.

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A second art exhibit will be held in the city.

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HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Every year people start talking about "spring fever" and how lazy they feel when the winter starts to leave us and spring is just about that mythical corner. Be that as it may, our big complaint is "fall fever." There's nothing about the warm days of September, October and November that really get us down. We feel wonderful. There's a crispness (who started using that word as a description of weather, anyway?) to the air and all that sort of thing, but we just don't want to do anything about it.

There's something about the sun during these months that's special. It has a softness to it that's soothing. It follows the cold, sharp night and warms right through to one's bones. Even its light is softer than any other time of the year.

Something calls us to go out—or, if we can't do that, to sit and stare out. Across a field, a city lot or just into the blue, blue sky, it makes no difference. A dozen times a day we find ourselves staring fixedly into space while the work piles up around us.

The SKY IS blue, the clouds whiter and air finer than the other seasons.

That's the tint of color that's everywhere. Not the fine pastels of spring and summer, but bold, vivid strokes of color. The flowers of fall are nearly all brilliant sturdy blooms. Some of the plants that might have been taken from the brush of one of the Old Masters.

The grass seems greener and above it the trees take on their gloriously beautiful formal garb. Everything about you invites you to come out and look. Look, stare, fill your eyes and soul with enough of the last year's through the cold, grim months ahead.

The birds and the insects act differently in the fall. Gone are

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Combine the advantages, discard the disadvantages. That's what the City of Midland did seven weeks ago to obtain new downtown off-street parking places for 241 cars at a cost of \$180,000.

In connection with the August 5 primary voting, Midland taxpayers approved this program by a 3 to 1 majority, agreeing to permit the city to issue general obligation bonds to finance the project.

Here's the background: Midland already had some off-street parking, both metered and free, but the parking situation was tightening up to the point where more space was desirable.

Options were obtained on several desirable pieces of property including a large block-sized area which were in immediate danger of being used for business establishments.

REVENUE BONDS were immediately thought of as a means of financing the program. However, state law requires all city parking lots to be revenue-producing. To put meters on the free lots would be undesirable. Straight obligation bonds would be unattractive to the taxpayer voter.

A home consultant to the city of Midland suggested telling the whole, unvarnished picture to the Midland citizens—what the problem was, how painfully it could be solved, then depend on their better judgment.

The August 5 balloting justified this procedure.

To assure good faith, the city promised to use the income from all parking meters to pay off the general obligation bond issue.

up, definitely committing such money to payment of the bonds, and approved in first hearing. The final hearing was to take place if the voters approved the proposal.

Current parking meter revenues were detailed, showing how they would be used to finance the bonds.

Advantages of a general obligation bond issue's interest rate was explained (about one-half of the interest a revenue bond issue would require).

No high-pressure tactics were used, according to Midland City Manager Ray Fry.

"A statement of facts . . . was mailed to each household; a radio forum was offered, a few paid advertisements by merchants, talks to service clubs and other organizations requesting information were given by those who were informed on the subject," Fry explained.

THE MIDLAND city council and other influential citizens stated their beliefs in the project in news releases to the newspapers.

"We in the city administration are indeed gratified that our judgment has been vindicated and that community unity has been demonstrated to such an extent that we look forward to a very excellent parking system and an era of co-operation and good will," Fry said.

THE BEST possible social security program is self-imposed — to spend less than you earn.

Only in the northeastern portion of the United States and parts of Canada will anyone be able to witness the many beautiful colors of the trees as they prepare for winter.

Leaves of trees are green during

ing the summer, because of the chlorophyll-containing cells close to the outer surface. These green cells completely hide the yellow-pigmented cells also in the leaf.

Then, in autumn, other pigments ranging from red to purple also form. The base of the leaf also forms. The chlorophyll gradually disappears, permitting the yellow pigment to be seen. In some trees, the red and purple pigments are predominant.

BUT AS the fall season advances, the yellow, red and purple pigments begin to break down and then brown substances modify the color. When the dying process is complete, the leaf has sufficient scar tissue, the leaf falls.

In seasons when there is an abrupt change from high summer to low fall temperatures, the colors of the leaves are the richest.

If frost appears early and the weather is wet and cloudy, the red and purple pigments form only to a slight extent. When this happens, the yellow and brown pigments dominate the landscape.

PEOPLE in the Southern states seldom have the opportunity to witness this grand display of Mother Nature, because temperatures there are not brisk and cold enough.

In the west and northwest, there are few hardwood trees. And even in Europe and Asia where the climate is similar to that in the northeast U. S., there usually is too much rain in the fall to provide good color.

NO HUNTING — NO TRAPPING signs may be purchased at the office of The Eccentric. (30)

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Talk to home folks.

If you wish to acquire a home, come to see us first.

Make your mortgage here and you won't have to wonder who owns it. Your monthly payments will be made here and you can always come in and get friendly advice and help.

Come to home folks when making your home plans and get your home loan from home folks.

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