

# Civil Defense Going Up?

Federal Civil Defense Administrator Val Peterson recently said he would ask Congress for \$650,000,000 next year. The Civil Defense Administration asked for \$125,000,000 in the last session of Congress and received only \$46,500,000.

Peterson said next year's program, despite the greatly increased appropriation, was a modest one which was altogether necessary.

He said if the American people realized the danger they faced, concerning the possibility of atomic attack, they would see to it that the money was provided.

**MUCH OF THE MONEY** would be used to build up supplies of medicine and equipment to help citizens fight fires and treat victims in communities which suffer from sudden enemy attack.

Peterson also said that the best way to avoid casualties in an atomic attack was to remove "the people from areas of probable attack through the aid of an adequate warning system."

## Despotism in Labor Unions

It is hard to believe that the Eisenhower Administration is afraid to stand up to the decent demands for investigation that certain labor organizations require.

It is reported that the recent Congressional Committee investigation of Detroit's teamsters' union was handicapped because of "pressures from high places in the federal government."

## 'Dis-Loyal Patriotism' Apparent

The late Harold L. Ickes, the "old curmudgeon", who was Secretary of the Interior under FDR, kept a diary during his days in Washington, D. C. This diary recently has been published.

In it Ickes reveals some of his thoughts about FDR and those in his official family. "Honest Harold" certainly was not satis-

## New Navy Radio Station

The United States Navy recently began broadcasts over the most powerful radio transmitter known to be operating in the western world. The radio station was built in the interest of national security and peace, and is estimated to have cost \$14,000,000.

The radio is located between two mountain peaks in Northwest Washington State, in the Cascade Mountain range. It is supposedly the modern scientist's answer to the communications difficulties caused by electrical storms, the Northern Lights, and many other meteorological phenomena.

The Navy believes the new radio station will allow it to contact submarines far below the surface and arctic outposts and all the ships at sea all over the world in any future emergency. The station is a 1,200,000-watt installation, and is estimated to be over 20 times as powerful as

Distance, he contends, is the only way a citizen can avoid destruction from an atomic attack, if it comes close enough to home.

**WE ARE INCLINED** to view Peterson's arguments with sympathy, although we think it highly unlikely that he will be given \$650,000,000 by the second session of the Eighty-Third Congress.

No doubt the United States will not adequately organize its defenses until it has been attacked, as is customary in our history, and no doubt the first atomic attack will take a heavy and partially unnecessary toll of life and property.

If Mr. Peterson's estimate of the situation is correct, he should not give up his request without a tough fight that involves facts and figures.

What American man, woman or child wouldn't be more than willing to give an extra \$4 each to prevent or alleviate death or serious injury from an atomic bomb?

Everybody who reads newspapers knows that this Michigan situation is a bad one, and ought to be looked into by the proper authorities.

Unless it is, both the public and the average member of that union will suffer in the long run. America's guaranteed freedoms cannot live and thrive under any type of despotism.

fied with much of his official surroundings, yet remained loyal to his Boss.

Which only proves, again, that many a politician is not sufficiently loyal to his own conscience, and to the demands of basic patriotism, to shout out, or resign from office, when he sees things going wrong about him.

any commercial radio station in the country.

In its first test message, it flashed a signal to all naval ships at sea and within six minutes the battleship Wisconsin, operating in Japanese waters, replied to the message.

It is certainly appropriate for the Navy to have this new installation of world-wide capacity. Because the next war, if there is another one, will probably involve every square inch of the earth in a struggle against Communism, it is all important that the Navy, as well as the other services, have such communications.

However, every U. S. taxpayer hopes the gigantic new station is used to send a message similar to this: "Calling USS Dipsydoodle off Stockholm! Hey, Joe! Don't forget the bring back a couple of loaves of Swedish rye bread!"

## And Away We Go



## 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 11, 1903  
 Mortimer Allen Nef arrived at the home of Mrs. Bertha Allen Nef, of Ponce de Leon, in a small and his hair too black, but his face is just cute.

There was a frightened crowd on the hill Saturday night, when a sleighload of young people collided with a tree.

Hurled 20 feet by a street car and still alive with no bones broken is something we don't hear of every day. On Saturday night last Don Brush stepped from one car and walked in front of another at Brush's corner, north of the village. He was hurled 20 feet, but strange to say no bones were broken and Don is as good as new again.

The Wolverine and Buckeye Oil company of this place has declared another monthly dividend of 30 cents per share. During the past year the company has earned over \$60,000 and about \$48,000 has been paid out in dividends.

Friday, Dec. 7, was an important day for John Nixon, for that was the day his twin daughters and their silly grins made him a finer pair ever was born. John walks about town like a drum major and cigars are freer than water.

**30 YEARS AGO**  
 December 7, 1923  
 Another week or two of present weather and the completion of Birmingham's new \$400,000 sanitary trunk line sewer being installed along the River Rouge, according to information made known this week by Village manager Star.

L. S. Trowbridge of Detroit, said to be a large holder of real estate in Bloomfield Township, is reported to have sold a 73 acre tract of land on Adams road just south of the Big Beaver road, for industrial purposes.

A motion proposed by commissioner Bell Monday night was when the Commission voted to spend about \$400 for the instal-

lation of an Arcola heating system in the Birmingham Fire Hall.

Members of the Birmingham Fire Department, believing that more monetary remuneration of their almost free services should be recognized by the village, have asked for a different arrangement of payment for part of their activities.

The annual Thanksgiving donation by the children in the Birmingham Grade Schools, on Wednesday of last week, brought forth a varied and generous offering.

**15 YEARS AGO**  
 December 8, 1938  
 Following a survey of language education trends in Michigan, plus a survey of the desires of pupils in an announcement made known yesterday afternoon by Henry Purdy, receiver.

Payment of the ninth five percent dividend to former depositors of the former closed First State Savings Bank of Birmingham, will start early next week according to an announcement made known yesterday afternoon by Henry Purdy, receiver.

"Beck-Nut or Hill Bros. coffee, pound can 26 cents," advertised by John Hayman's Market.

Marking the close of his first year as pastor of the First Baptist church of Birmingham, the Rev. J. O. Nelson preached an anniversary sermon on the "Hiberto Hath the Lord Helped Us," from the first book of Samuel 7:12.

A split second of time last Thursday afternoon at four o'clock stood between Gerald Allen, of 417 Southfield avenue and death. Driving home from Flint, over the Dixie Highway, just south of Grayth Plains, Mr. Allen heard the sound of a high powered rifle, and simultaneously witnessed the upper right hand corner of his windshield frame furrowed with a bullet, resulting in the smashing of the glass itself.

## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

The most joyous season of the year is upon us. It is the time when families sit having big, deep, dark secrets.

Mother and the children keep things from dad; dad and the children keep things from mother; mother and dad keep things from the children.

Mysterious trips are made out to the car after dark and odd looking packages are smuggled into the house by devious means.

Drawers and doors break out in a rash of locks, and closet shelves are crowded. Even the clothes hanging in the closets look mussed and here and there seem to hang over something who obtains their ordinary straight neatness.

A lot of us wear a smug look with rather forlorn grins upon some of the faces. Of course, there are those, too, who about now are starting in to have worried mothers— they are the ones who are casting anxious looks at the calendar, wondering how the first ten day of December have slipped by so fast.

**LITTLE BOYS** and girls are being especially good these days. Bedrooms are washed after only one or two tellings, and sometimes even are scrubbed voluntarily. Bedrooms take on a new neatness as clothes are hung back in the closets or put properly into the dirty clothes hamper.

Shoes and slippers line up neatly and even the toys are put away. Yes, it's Christmas, and a special feeling spreads itself over the world.

While most of us share the joys of the season with friends and family, we do not forget, in our spirit of giving, those who have never seen and in all probability never will see.

**INDIVIDUALLY** and in groups we prepare gifts for persons less fortunate than ourselves, both here and abroad.

We consider their needs at this

time of giving and let our generosity go a bit farther than that, including materials which are designed solely to give pleasure.

We truly follow the precepts of "peace on earth, Good will to all men."

Isn't it a shame we do it only once a year?

All around us are organizations which seek the road toward world peace. Men and women pray for the day to come when all can live in harmony, each for the betterment of his fellowman.

The spirit of Christmas, the spirit of that Babe of centuries ago, prevails for only one day. If this spirit can grip millions and away them for this one day, surely it's not too fantastic to feel it can be applied for longer periods.

It would be interesting to see what a year could do if every man, woman and child would resolve to make every day Christmas Day, not with gifts but with self.

The giving of kindness and consideration for others could do much toward that goal of peace so many have dreamed about for so many, many years.

The giving of understanding for the man around the corner, across the river, across the ocean would enrich the life of the giver, strengthen his ability to give and so touch a wider and wider circle, spreading like a pebble dropped into a pool.

If it worked, how wonderful next year's Christmas carols and hymns would be!

**Smile A Minute**  
 Tombstone Dealer (after several futile suggestions) — How would just a simple "Gone Home" do for an inscription?

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Ford Motor's Greenfield Village better latch onto a typical old red barn before too long, and preserve it for posterity along with other Americana.

Because the old red barn "ain't what she used to be."

That's what architects at the University of Michigan are saying—the traditional American general-purpose barn is "an architectural fossil."

They believe this familiar American landmark will become extinct along with the covered bridge, one-hoss shay and dodo bird.

This bit of news comes from C. Theodore Larson, a professor of architecture at the U of M.

"Most architects, like myself, have a warm affection for the old red barn, which has been used to house all sorts of things," the professor declares. "It is a handsome feature on the American landscape. It was good in its day, but its functions are changing, and consequently all sorts of new requirements are being set up. These call for a new kind of farm architecture."

**PROF. LARSON POINTS OUT** that since farms are more mechanized now, there is little need to have an old barn with a huge loft to take care of hay and grain for horses or oxen. He hastens to add that in this respect, he is referring only to the general-purpose barn, not those intended for special purposes, such as dairy barns.

"What we are really looking for," the professor explains, "is a low structure which is more or less like an umbrella in that it will protect this mechanical equipment from rain and snow. It also must provide storage for tools and other items necessary for maintenance of farm equipment."

Prof. Larson says it is realized that other requirements may arise. "For instance, we can expect new types of farm equipment. This equipment may change radically in size and shape from the present machinery, and so it may be that the 'umbrella' itself will need to be adjusted in size and shape.

## Smile A Minute

Detective—And do you know what we policemen mean by a perfect crime?  
 "Pretty—Sure! If you stole a kiss, that would be perfect."

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## From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

For twenty "long years" both the Roosevelt and Truman Administrations never passed up an opportunity to attack the era of President Herbert Hoover. Upon Hoover they laid about every domestic and foreign problem that existed prior to 1933. Now Truman argues against the trend of public and official opinion to direct its criticism against his period in the White House. Such is politics . . . especially the kind that is and was spawned in the Kansas City area of Missouri.

Wonder how much valuable power is lost every day in the United States as the result of motorists applying their brakes to their speeding cars as they approach stop lights? It must total more than the energy created by a dozen Niagaras. It is typical, though, of the impatience, and the extravagance of the genus Americano.

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Nature never intended the well-dressed woman to present any form that was other than a series of rounded curves—as some Korean women found out when they tried to stuff cartons of cigarettes, bars of soap, bottles of hand lotion, and similar items, beneath their clothing. They did this while being employed in a post exchange.

Federal Internal Revenue folks have decided that nudist clubs must pay a tax on the dues they take in. What has always bothered us about such a situation is: "Where do these nudists carry their wallets?"

Now that Senator Joe McCarthy has attacked the Eisenhower Administration's foreign policy, can it be admitted that his new wife thus far has been unable to tame her "hull-in-the-china-shop" husband?

## So They Say . . .

**Dwight D. Eisenhower:**  
 "This country must build strength in its friends abroad or else put itself at the mercy of those who hope for our destruction."

**Harry S. Truman, former President:**  
 "They (the Russians) can gain nothing from war but catastrophe."

**Harry F. Byrd, U. S. Senator from Virginia:**

"We cannot continue our high level of present prosperity unless we find a market for our surplus products."

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