

Here's Hoping

Welcome Back Home, Mr. Adams!

Clark J. Adams, born and raised in Waterford Township, Oakland County, came "back home" to resume a private law practice in Pontiac, following 13 years of public service in Lansing. Eight of those years were as a state representative, three and one-half as legal adviser to Gov. Williams, and a year and one-half as a member of the Michigan Supreme Court.

wish there were more men of the caliber of Mr. Adams in official life.

SUMMARIZING HIS OBSERVATION of the workings of government in our State Capitol, Mr. Adams said: "A lot of our troubles are due to lack of interest in Mr. Williams and tolerance of ineptitude. We are a peculiar people. At any time 51 per cent of our people can control government."

"But we take our government for granted, too many of us are indifferent, and we make too little effort to try to improve our government."

In all this we, too, agree. protection against either riots or escapes.

Blame for Prison Escapes

Lest you unfairly criticize Governor Williams for the recent prison-escape at Michigan's Southern Prison at Jackson, we'd like to remind you that the responsibility is not the Governor's alone. It long has been established that this prison, the largest walled-in edifice of its kind in the world, is too large for sufficient and secure operation.

MAINLY, THIS FAULT lies with the Legislature itself, which, knowing the problem, fails to appropriate sufficient funds annually to improve conditions of security there.

So, Good Reader, don't be too harsh on Mr. Williams. You might better criticize the Legislature, a majority of whose members, incidentally, are of the Republican party.

Only 22 out of Many Thousands

American daily newspapers are making a great hullabaloo about those 22 U. S. soldiers in Korea who have "gone Communist." We can sympathize with the families of those boys, and even the boys themselves. . . but to assume that because they have forsaken the ideology of freedom for the tyranny of Communism is not, in itself, world-shattering.

Indeed, the record proves that thousands of Americans who never saw Korea have also "gone Communist." Among them are men and women of much greater intellect than those soldiers—men and women who should be better able to determine the wide difference between the American way and the Soviet way of life.

So let us summarize the situation something like this: out of the tens of thousands of American men who have been subjected to the doctrine of Communism in Korea, only 22 of them have mentally gone over to the enemy—and isn't that a splendid proof that the American way of life is so good that most people call it wonderful, and want to keep it!

Athletics vs. Scholarship

Athletics continue to be a chief item recognized as such by a majority of the American people. For example: wonderful old Michigan State College is voted to represent the Big 10 in the annual Rose Bowl football game in Pasadena. So the whole team and coaches are transported to California a couple of weeks ahead of the game, to get in shape for it.

That's all quite splendid . . . but can you imagine a comparable number of people getting similarly excited about the high academic standing of an equal number of college students? Yet we send youth to institutions of higher learning mainly to improve some human characteristics outside of athletic prowess, don't we?

Why Are They Tax-Exempt?

It is estimated that there are about 40,000 tax-exempt enterprises operating in the United States, practically all of them in competition with private tax-paying businesses. Among them are many federal government activities.

a billion dollars can be added to the annual federal income.

If you are interested in helping this movement, you can obtain further detailed information from your U. S. Senator or Congressman. Or you may also get data on the subject by writing to The Investors League, Inc., 175 Fifth Ave., New York City.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Archeologists now assert that man has existed on North American soil for at least 20,000 years—thus doubling the time they formerly figured. Our only comment is that, considering the state of the nation today, man can hardly be said to have used the time to advantage. (Just in case you argue that the contemporary race of Americans has been here only a fraction of the 20,000 years, let us ask: Well, was the aboriginal Indian's type of society any more filled with bloodshed and trouble than goes on in this century?)

A New York woman has organized a group of 11 others of her sex to visit the jungles of Africa on a safari hunt. When word of this reaches those wild beasts, do you think they'll immediately scamper to safer hide-outs?

American newspapers now are wondering whether or not Georgi Malenkov, who succeeded Stalin in Russia, is married. No body seems to know. We admit that we don't, either. . . and what's more, we hope he isn't, thus sparing some woman from the tyranny that he appears to possess.

For a long time scientists have tried to determine the nature of the planet Mars, and thus find out how it would be as an environment for human beings. Maybe some day they will discover the answer. . . and no doubt residence on Mars will include the necessity of paying taxes.

Not all of this land's fools are in publicly supported institutions that are surrounded by walls; some of them aren't even walled in.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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So They Say . . .

John H. Davis, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, speaking to farmers in California: "You shouldn't get any idea that next January, the Administration will come up with a brand new program."

Catherine Hunter, head, University of Tulsa's homemaking department: "Being handy with a skillet is still the best way to trap a man."

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

It's warm and steamy in the Old Stone Church. Softly the lights are turned on, and the glow of the overhead beams, fall over the worn carpet and pews.

There's a special smell about the place—mice, perhaps, dust, certainly, old paper, old wood and home made furniture wax.

On this night the added smell of church smells. Over it all hangs the fragrance of the tree and greens which have been in the building all of his own time, soft and tangy smell of burning apple tree stumps.

The little old organ is a bit wheezy, but its tones are soft and mellow. The hands of the little old lady who plays it are sure and gentle on the keys for she has been playing these same hymns for many a long year.

FROM BEHIND the organ comes a red-faced boy and he swings backward and forward with the long handle of the bellows.

The ancient pews creak a little as each family lowers its combined weight upon them. Youngsters squirm and from the back of the church some soft sounds, as a mother reassures and calms the babe who has wakened out of the familiar area of his own snug, soft bed.

One by one members of the choir move to the front of the church and take their places behind the pastor's chair. They nod and smile at each other and at friends in the congregation.

THIS CHOIR needs no hymnals for they, like the organist, know the lyrics of the evening like old friends.

A deep booming chord from the organ, a nod from the organist and the congregation surges to its feet and the lanterns fairly quiver and the notes of an old, familiar hymn roll.

Children sing as lustily as par-

ONE THING OR ANOTHER - By George Wm. Averill

You only make a bigger mistake when you try to cover up a small one.

I hope to live long enough to see a high school coach say in a pre-game newspaper story: "Why, sure, we'll win the game. My boys will out-play the opposition."

Judging from all such comments I've read so far, all games should have ended up with both teams losing.

Those new "litterbug" signs to be placed around town by the Woman's National Farm and Garden Assn., it is hoped, will improve the cleanliness of our city streets and parks.

However, a number more of those metal containers in the downtown business section would be a great help, too. The handier a refuse container is, the more debris will go into it instead of on the sidewalk or into the gutter.

Until it was widened several years ago, parking was not permitted on the south side.

I wonder if President Eisenhower, as his first year in office draws to a close, doesn't feel that he perhaps is expected to be history's—and certainly America's—greatest miracle maker.

From the numerous critics I have read in the papers, heard over radio and TV, like already has had plenty of time to solve the problems of Communists in government, Communists in the world farm prices, Korea, European Defense Pact, etc., etc., etc.

Certain Democrats, who have been loud in their blasts that President Ike is tardy in coming through in less than 12 months with the perfect answers, should remember that their own idol, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, took years to come up with some answers, and never did find the right solutions to a number of other problems.

To stay on the top rung of the ladder of success, it requires not only spiked shoes but also perfect balance . . . spikes to keep a foothold on the rung which is constantly being greased by those individuals below, and perfect balance, for because of this lofty position there are no siderails to hang on to.



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
JANUARY 1, 1904

One of our young farmers west of this place will be seen at a breeder of registered cattle and hogs one of these days and that is Fred E. Brooks.

Despite the fact that a good deal of sand and gravel is available in and about the surface of Birmingham, the new well being sunk for the Village at Lincoln and South Woodward avenues continues to bring forth huge quantities of the same with the result that the amount of water being pumped is far from desirable, according to reports this week.

New auto license plates will not be issued in Birmingham this year.

Another indication that on-street parking eventually will be cut down appreciably in order to move traffic into and out of the Birmingham business section is Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley's suggestion last week that parking be banned from the north side of Merrill street, between Woodward and Pierce.

Too, city commissioners are commenting more and more that the congestion must be relieved on W. Maple. No commissioner has yet put it into a resolution, but the new year coming up quite possibly will see parking taken off one or even both sides.

The new year should see our dreams fulfilled—provided we work industriously enough to deserve them.

New Books at the Baldwin Library

- FICTION
DOLPH—Dead Angel
ERDMAN—The Wedding
GREEN—Sword and the Sun
GARDNER—U. R. Citizens in World Affairs
MILLET—Contemporary British Literature
BUCHANAN—The University Library Building
- PSYCHOLOGY
BUCKLEY—Behavioral Handbook
STRAUSS—Drinking and College
LAWRENCE—The Mind and Religion
SOCIAL SCIENCES
KRAEPIEL—American Record in the Twentieth Century
RISK—Living with a Disability
TARKENTON—The Woman's Guide to Financial Security
PRINGLE—Remains of Medical Science
WADSWORTH—Telephony, Mass. Area
JOHNSON—Contest Encyclopedia of Facts
ESTIENNE—Gauguin
WALKER—The Family Book of Christmas Songs
MCKEE—Encyclopedia of Sports
GALDRETT—Modern Football for the Spectator
- LITERATURE
RODELL—Mystery Fiction—Theory and Technique

- HUMPHRIES—New Poems by American Poets
THURBER—Thurber Country
SHANKS—Coffee Treatise in the Civil War
BREDDERDUFF—Introduction to Scandinavian Literature
TRAVEL—HISTORY—BIOGRAPHY
WOODBRIDGE—Week of the Maid of Athens
STEPANSON—Great Adventures and Explorations
COBETT—Juvenile Books
TREVINIO—My Heart Lies South
AGLE—Three Boys and a Tugboat
BRUCK—At Midsummer Time
REED—Two Love-Crossing
HENRY—Tribute of the Grand Canyon
NEAVILL—The Trail of Adventure
LEAVELL—Trail of Adventure
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Friday 9:30 - 4:30
Saturday 9:30 - 5:30

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