

What's He Up To?

Warm-Hearted Local People

The generous and heart-warming response of many local people to the creation of a Christmas fund for the widow and four young children of the late Lawrence (Larry) Russell, Birmingham postal employee, has revealed much gratitude by both the Russell family and postal workers here.

It was Harold M. Coldren, of 623 E. Lincoln, who drives the postoffice parcel post truck, who originally came to this editor's home one November evening and asked if The Eccentric would be willing to publicize the Russell family's need for financial help.

Plundering Self-Employed People

That Detroit chap who wants to contest the right of the federal government to levy a Social Security tax on him gets our hearty applause. Imagine the type of thinking that would come up with this tax law: "make a levy of \$81 on all self-employed people each year; keep this in trust (?) for them until they reach 65; if they then have an in-

Look Into His Record

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark was appointed to that high bench by President Truman. Previously, he had served Mr. Truman as Attorney-General of the United States. Now Congress is proposing to summon Clark before a special committee that is investigating the U.S. Justice Dept.

No Wonder... Mr. Acheson!

We are happy now that Secretary of State Dean Acheson is firmly and finally removed from his job... for we long have felt it necessary to join millions of others in criticizing this effete, striped-pants gent. Recently, he told a group of his fellow-diplomats that Congress doesn't understand the international facts of life.

asked me to express our appreciation to him and the public for the help given the widow and four children of our late fellow-carrier, Lawrence Russell.

We feel that some public statement should be given, now that all contributions appear to be in. Chris Bailey has an exact list of what we received and gave to Mrs. Russell. Some donations were given directly to her, hence we do not know the exact amount, but it is over \$1,300.00.

WE WISH YOU would word a 'Thank you' for Mrs. Russell and ourselves. I think you know the wonderful feeling that is in every one of our hearts and I know that you can express that feeling better than any of us. It is good to live in a town where its newspaper is always used for good purposes.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO January 21, 1903 Roy Maxam is now cashier of the Bank of Birmingham and is a very pleasant young fellow to do business with. He follows Mr. Powers.

Postmaster John Hanna succeeds himself for another four years' run, his name having been sanctioned by the Senate and all is well with John. The Birmingham postoffice has grown to be one of the best in the country. With headquarters for four rural routes it is no small matter to act as postmaster. We congratulate John and know the coming four years are in good postal hands.

Plundering Self-Employed People

Small pox is prevalent at Warren and nearly everyone in town has been exposed to the disease. Our good and capable medical men ask that our residents refrain from communication with their neighbors for the time being. If you will call on Mitchell he will tell you how to get a dozen records for that new Victor talking machine for nothing.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Now that President Truman has left the White House, that big private airplane, The Independence, has been made available to Gen. Eisenhower. Wonder what Ike will name it... The last Truman budget of nearly 79 billions of dollars, if adopted by Congress (but it won't, as it is) would mean an average burden of \$1,956 on every human being in Michigan, as this State's share of the taxes. Say what you will about Harry (and many people will), you never can call him a tightwad. He should have been an astronomer... since the budgets of his administrations ran into astronomical figures.

So They Say...

As you might expect, the nation's biggest turkey prize went to a texan, who raised one to tip the scales at 68 1/2 pounds. No doubt, too, Texas is the only state with an oven big enough to cook it in.

That Detroit doctor who is being prosecuted for alleged income tax evasion admits he is a good surgeon and physician, argues that he doesn't pretend to know very much about bookkeeping or taxes. Considering the doctor's educational opportunities, we hardly think he makes a good diagnosis of his troubles.

It might just as well be understood, right now, that the feud between Democratic Gov. Williams and his Republican Legislature is in the nature of a "Lansing Stalemate". How can you expect compromise when both sides are dominated by plenty of politics?

A Romeo, Mich., Guernsey cow had just completed a national record for producing butterfat during 1952. Now, if you want to know what butterfat is, read Webster: "The natural fat of milk; the chief constituent of butter, consisting essentially of a mixture of glycerides, chiefly butyric, olein, and palmitin." Good, ole cow... we never knew you had such stuff in yuh!

Charles R. Sligh, Jr., president, National Association of Manufacturers: "The country's problems can be solved if we have the will and the courage to meet issues head-on and forego petty political jockeying."

Styles Bridges, U.S. Senator from New Hampshire: "I am against one-man diplomacy."



ONE THING OR ANOTHER

How has the attendance of Birmingham City Commission been during the past 52 weeks of regular Monday night meetings? With a maximum of 364 attendance possibilities, the commission has not only a total of 48 absences. This is a batting average of .88.

Only twice during this 12-month period has the commission met with only four members present (a majority able to pass upon most matters). These two meetings were May 5 and Sept. 22, 1952.

Thirteen meetings saw two members absent, and at 17 meetings only one member was not there.

PERFECT attendance was noted at 20 of the regular meetings. Among the commissioners themselves, Mayor Dean G. Beier and Commissioners Richard Patterson and Vincent Watkins are tied for first place with only three absences each.

Commissioner Lance Minor, out of the 52 meetings, has been absent five times. Charles Renfrew has been marked absent 9 times, late three times.

Ralph A. Main has had 11 absences charged against him, and four for being late. (It should be mentioned that five of Main's absences occurred because he was hospitalized or recuperating from a major operation.)

Commissioner Frank Rising's 12-month record shows 14 absences, while he was late only twice.

If you had to pay the electric light for the amount of energy equal to that which the sun uses to provide this earth with 24 hours of sunlight, it would cost you 100 million times a million dollars, the experts have recently calculated.

The charges on the bill presented to you would look like this: \$100,000,000,000,000. Seems like a great deal? It's only 100 trillion dollars.

Still seem pretty big? Then why not make it as small as a little more than one thousand times Ex-President Truman's governmental expenditures for this fiscal year?

It's not easy for a GI in Korea to fight a war that isn't getting any place. But to make it look like a party—well, it simply adds insult to injury.

Here's how one of those GIs expressed his feelings in a letter home written early last November just before the national election: "In the last few months, we have had many big wigs departing from Korea, on their last leg of a Far East tour. I have never seen such a phony setup in my life."

"Why, you would think we were back in the States the way the high brass treated them. Here we are, only a few miles from the front, and they call out an honor guard in dress blues plus a band with white gloves and all."

"ANNA ROSENBERG (recent assistant secretary of defense) left yesterday and not too long ago (Ex-Secretary of the Air Force) Finletter got all the trimming as he climbed aboard his special aircraft."

"They really play the role of soldier while they are addressed for combat."

I hope my neighbors, ex-GM President C. E. Wilson who now is Secretary of Defense, and John Hannah, MSC president

now in the position Mrs. Rosenberg held until Thursday, will consider the Korean "peace action" seriously and see that the American GIs there are not interrupted by parading politicians.

There seems to be a question raised as to whether Henry Ford ever wore a mustache. Artist Norman Rockwell, commissioned by Ford Motor to do a special Norman Anniversary calendar, in one picture has Henry, in his early automotive days, wearing such a zip covering.

In the January 1953 issue of Detroit Edison Co.'s "Synchroscope" is a photo that should dispel any doubts as to Ford's mustache.

On page 11 of that issue, Henry Ford is included in a group photo of the engineering staff of the Edison Illuminating Co. (predecessor of Detroit Edison). Ford at that time was EIC's chief engineer. In that photo, Ford is wearing a heavy handkerchief mustache.

Newspaper submitted early necessarily is given preference over late items. So the "Early Bird" usually gets the space.

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