

Hi, Comrade!



Harry Truman, Private Citizen

Whatever faults former President Harry S. Truman might have, one of them is not being unhuman. Perhaps as much as any other President, the Missionary likes to play the role as an average American, enjoying the everyday pleasures of life like most other Americans.

High office, the thrill of making history and the drama of international crises and affairs, all of which Mr. Truman experienced, have not dimmed his enthusiasm for the ordinary experiences of daily life. This is a good demonstration of a man little affected by the high office he has so recently held.

And there is little doubt that he has a genuine affection for the little man, featuring himself as the little man's friend.

While there is some controversy on this from a political viewpoint, it is obvious that Mr. Truman enjoys life as Harry Truman, citizen, and that he expects little in the way of special treatment now that he has moved away from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

PERHAPS THE FORMER President will gain more friends and a more general popularity in the years to come than he did while in the White House. That, of course, depends on how much he says about the new Administration, and how he says it.

But, as of right now, Mr. Truman seems to be enjoying life and full of enthusiasm as an ordinary taxpayer.

WHILE THERE WAS MUCH in Mr. Truman's philosophy and programs with which we did not agree, we have always admitted that he is, first of all, a human being and a patriotic American.

'You Move and I Shoot'

Adlai E. Stevenson got a first-hand touch of Russian oppression when he was shipped from taking pictures in East Berlin. Russian soldiers descended upon Adlai's party as it was touring the Soviet-controlled part of Berlin recently, and one of the armed men said: "You move and I shoot."

The man who lost the Presidency of the United States to Dwight D. Eisenhower

found himself looking into the muzzle of a tommygun. No doubt he was impressed... though we will wager his innate sense of humor must have caused him to smile to himself later.

Imagine what international complications would follow if an American soldier did this to a prominent Russian who was visiting this country.

Higher Education Needs Support

Industrial leaders, as well as educators, have pointed out a danger that threatens the life of privately-financed schools and colleges. Due to income and inheritance taxes the ability of individuals to make gifts and endowments to such institutions is being destroyed.

Recognizing this situation, private industry feels a growing responsibility to fund private liberal arts colleges, because freedom for enterprise and education will exist only so long as they can stand on their own feet without government support and domination.

AS AN EXAMPLE, Standard Oil Com-

pany of Indiana announces that it has set aside \$150,000 for aiding privately-financed liberal arts colleges in the 14 mid-west states it serves.

Dr. Robert E. Wilson, Standard's Chairman says, "There is real danger of losing the enrichment of American life which has come from educating talented young people who lack financial resources. Other prospective students who could afford present tuition rates and really prefer the individuality and atmosphere of the small college are attracted away by the relatively low tuition rates still charged by the tax-supported state institutions and their excellent facilities."

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Placing that Russian Beria under arrest is of course evidence that within the Kremlin terrific rivalry exists among a few men to the dictatorial clothing left by the late Joe Stalin. The pattern is but a natural part of the way gangsters operate—whether they try to run the whole world, or just dominate some smaller racket like bootlegging. What we are witnessing in the removal of Beria is nothing but proof of the old saying that "He who lives by the sword shall die by the sword." (Only in the atmosphere of freedom of the individual can our American form of government live and thrive . . . a civic heritage worth making any sacrifice to preserve.)

It is reported that some of our leading crooners make close to a million dollars annually, mostly from sales of their recordings. If that be true, then the old saying "buy it for a song" may not be so cheap, after all.

It is estimated that the total value of all raw materials in one cubic mile of ocean amounts to five billion dollars. That means, then, that the oceans, since they cover most of our world, are worth more than the real estate—yet it is over this real estate that nations have quarreled for centuries.

Retirement as this area's State Representative by Howard R. Estes no doubt will bring forth several candidates to succeed him. As you may recall, Mr. Estes, of Birmingham, has just accepted the job of managing Oakland County's Infirmary.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

GEORGE R. AVERILL Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL Business Manager
GEORGE W. AVERILL Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BERGER Advertising Manager

The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club

National Advertising Representatives
Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc.
1618 Guardian Bldg. 920 Broadway
DETROIT 26, MICH. NEW YORK 10, N.Y.

The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has news value. Suggestions are welcome. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric, will be gladly corrected if brought to the publisher's attention.

hence his departure from the Lansing scene. Birmingham, being the largest community in Estes's district, probably will be interested in the successor . . . although even the smallest village could come up with a capable man (or woman) who would win the office.

Perhaps it is expecting too much of human nature to assume that a man or woman exemplify only the most admirable of qualities. Take Senator Joe McCarthy—few will quarrel about his intense loyalty and patriotism to his country; he fought in war to prove that. He now fights Communism wherever he finds it . . . and sometimes with the mailed fist. Many don't like his toughness . . . yet perhaps this phase of his personality alone makes it possible for him to be our contemporary loudest anti-Commie voice in Congress.

The food of knowledge, prepared in the kitchen of formal education, is appetizing only as the cook makes it pleasurable to eat. Having eaten some of this "food," it is then up to the eater to digest it—and thus transform it into activity for the good of society. The trouble is, of course, that too many "eaters" merely bolt their "food," and it never gets digested.

If the average motorist functioned in his driving as well as does the motor car he is riding in, there would be fewer accidents and fatalities. Automobile manufacturers install every possible safety feature on their products . . . but they can't control drivers.

So They Say . . .

Marshall Tito, Dictator of Yugoslavia: "We respect them (the American people) because they fought on our side in the last two wars and saved humanity."

The Economist, influential London weekly: "The diplomacy of the Western Powers has fallen behind the march of events."

Frank Pace, Jr., former Secretary of the Army: "America is still the land of opportunity—indeed today the opportunity is global."

Harry Truman, former President: "There can be no doctrine more dangerous than the notion that we cannot afford to defend ourselves."

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Background Of The Birmingham Of Today

50 YEARS AGO
July 24, 1903
A very pretty wedding took place on Wednesday, July 16, at the home of Mr. William Soules, on Maple avenue, when his daughter, Susie Belle was united in marriage with Mr. Alexander Craig Dermond.

The Department of Public Instruction has appointed an eight day Institute for Oakland County to be held at Pontiac, August 3-11, 1903. It must nothing will prevent your attendance.

A Silver Medal Contest will be held in the Royal Oak Congregational Church on the evening of July 28 in which ten contestants will compete for the prize. Three judges will decide to whom the medal shall be given.

The attendees at the Avenue theatre July 12th to 19th was 14,221. Next week the Avenue theatre returns to Vandalia after a very successful season of Weber & Field's productions.

Rev. H. G. Hiscott and family were entertained Wednesday at Bell Lake by the Disciples school of the Methodist Protestant church, all being under the care of their pastor, Rev. William F. O'wer, and their gentlemanly, efficient superintendent and officiate corps of teachers.

30 YEARS AGO
July 20, 1923
Owing to the increasing number of members who has been started in the Birmingham Citizens Club, in March, 1923, the membership total of 250. On March, 1923 the memberships totaled about 250.

The Birmingham Community House, so long a dream in the minds of all public-spirited citizens is now a reality. But there are those who, although they have knowledge of its existence, know nothing of its purpose or capacity.

With this issue of The Eccentric your "Home Town newspaper" takes rank with the leading weekly publications of the State and

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

"Animals," Uncle Abner observed, "have more fun than people."

He was sitting on the edge of the watering trough out at the farm. Ahead of him the youngsters were tearing around like something let loose, leaping and scrambling over and around the bales of newly cut hay.

Behind him, a few hundred feet, two more of the young folks were running themselves into the ground playing tennis, while another group trooped back and forth playing croquet.

On top of the little hill out back of the barn, a buzz of old chestnut trees spread its branches over a part of the meadow. Four horses, two white and two bay and a black, stood in a little huddle.

EVERY ONE had "thrown its hat" and the whole group was so arranged that each face was kept free from flies by the switching of its neighbor's tail.

Under the weeping willow that stood at one side of the dam the boys and congregated. Some stood deep in the cool water. Some lay under the tree, slowly, thoughtfully, chewing their cud.

Across the creek were a half dozen sheep and their lambs. The old ewes moved at a snail's pace, nibbling the tender grass, while the lambs shook their tails, stomped their feet and made faces at each other.

NOT A SOUND came from any of them to vie for top place among the shrieks, squeals and grunts of the barnyard fowls.

At Uncle Abner's feet the two dogs sprawled flat on their sides, the cool oak sanded the top of their heads.

A "plaid" cat sat in the barn door, four kittens playing around her. One batted a leaf back and forth between velvet paws. One stared with fixed fascination at the white

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

A favorite American expression is, "One in a blue moon." It is never seen a moon that is blue, to me the expression can mean nothing but the single word, "never"; or possibly the phrase, "only once."

Men should realize that 99 per cent of women, when dressed at their glamorous best, have so admired themselves so long because they are pleasing their own personal vanity. Otherwise, why but they slap the face of the man who makes a pass at them?

Too many clergymen today, it seems to me, are trying to pull their congregations into Heaven by sheer faith in the precepts of Christianity. The greatest Christian of all used a system that was based upon facts or principles, which he continually endeavored to get his listeners to understand, then apply to their own well-being by using these facts or principles wisely. Knowledge, understanding and wisdom are the three steps in solving preventing problems and troubles.

If the average taxpayer did a fraction as much to hide items in his income tax form as the legislators do to conceal taxes in the goods we buy, the unfortunate taxpayer would be in a federal prison in the morning.

One way to solve the radio and TV commercial problem is to take up playing a musical instrument and thus provide your own entertainment.

Here's a Birmingham news story I would like to write—but probably never will. A two-week period in which the violator of any traffic ordinance was taken immediately to the local jail and held until his or her case was personally settled in court. No ticket fixing or motorists' excuses, either.

It would be a madhouse around town for a couple of days, but I'd bet this town's traffic violation and accident record would be negligible for months afterward.

This has been done in other communities, and the results were amazing.

This ought to get some residents'

minds off the hot weather: starting season is just around the corner—late July and August.

If it weren't for protesting the rate increase petitions by the public utilities operating in the Detroit area, the Detroit corporation counsel's office undoubtedly would suffer a noticeable drop in activity. I can't help but wonder why this office doesn't also fight any rate increases by the Detroit Water Board, the DSR, Art Museum and all the other public services owned by the City of Detroit itself.

There are certain public officials who continually gripe to newsmen that their respective newspapers "didn't get the story right" or perhaps even missed covering a story. In 99 out of 100 instances, it was this same sort of griping politician who didn't give out with the missing information, or didn't check up with the newspaper to see if it had heard about a story.

Newsmen are no more mental telepathists than anyone else. If the public official doesn't (and sometimes won't) give out essential information, it seems to me he's just as guilty of the incomplete reporting as the newsmen.

Understand our noted governor, "Boss" Williams, likes to staunch Democrats he appoints to state commissions. Seems to prove he is as devoted to polka-dotted ties as he is tied to calling polkas.

Call Midwest 4-1100 to place an Eccentric Classified Ad.

PECK'S
Cash and Carry
Plain Dresses, Suits, Topcoats \$150
CLEANED AND PRESSED
For Delivery PHONE MI 4-7724
Service WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

When Buying or Selling Stocks or Municipal Bonds—
Think First of
First of Michigan Corporation
Member Midwest and Detroit Stock Exchanges
BUHL BUILDING, DETROIT
NEW YORK CHICAGO
Cleveland Grand Rapids Port Huron Battle Creek Bay City

SPEEDWAY FUEL OIL
No. 1 Oil - 14.6¢ per gal.
No. 2 Oil - 13.6¢ per gal.
Prompt Metered Delivery Service
Protective Contracts
Call Vinewood 2-2700
SPEEDWAY PETROLEUM CORPORATION
301 So. Fort St.
Detroit 25, Michigan

You Are Cordially Invited to Inspect
OUR MODERN STORAGE
Built Especially to Store Household Goods
LOCAL AND LONG DISTANCE MOVING
Gaulker Storage Co.
9 Orchard Lake Ave., Pontiac, Mich.
Dial "O" ask for Enterprise 6305

Modern Electric Range
Women who know cook with a
COOL CLEAN FAST

Breakfast is just a matter of minutes with today's electric range. Surface units snap to the exact cooking temperature fast. And you have the extra advantages of a kitchen that stays cool, pans that stay clean and sparkling through years of use.

Have you seen the '53 model electric ranges? They're really wonderful. Stop in soon, won't you?

See your Dealer or Detroit Edison