

A Great Opportunity Awaits Some American Foundation

If the basic intent of education in schools and colleges is to develop youth to emerge as intelligent adults, capable of earning security, plus the ability to be good citizens, then something besides traditional teaching courses is needed.

We think this phase of the problem has been presented very well by a former Michigan educator and public official who currently is president of the University of Delaware.

In his recent annual report, Dr. John A. Perkins had this to say: "Trained intelligence without moral purpose may be more dangerous than abject ignorance."

In brief, educators may train people to become very proficient in some activity, whether it be professional or one of numerous other vocations, yet some of these graduates may be without complete honesty, integrity, and plain morality.

IT IS SUCH PEOPLE who, by failing to measure up to the best ethics and practices in active life, present society with many problems.

A lawyer may know the law, a doctor his medicine and surgery, a business administrator his various subjects... but if they are not strictly ethical, they do lots of harm in this world.

Some years ago this editor, discussing the problem with Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven, then president of the University of Michigan, suggested that it might be a splendid aid to getting a complete education if the University had a sort of inspirational instructional course that emphasized the fundamental value of an individual measuring up to the absolute ethical business and professional conduct in adult life.

WE ARGUED THAT the return from living up to ethical and moral law is bound to bring definite returns to the practitioner, just as compliance with the law of mathematics brings the right answers.

Personally, we believe that such a course would do much to raise the standards of practice in business and professional life in this nation.

To be able to impress, deeply, the heads and hearts of the next generation's leaders that by practicing the Golden Rule the beneficiaries of Eternal Justice will come to them... ah, who can say that new and better leaders will not rise to help create a better world?

THIS THOUGHT IS NOT radical, yet we doubt that it voluntarily will be accepted and applied by many institutions of higher learning... perhaps on the basis that "we cannot afford it."

So we wonder if, to start the project in several colleges and universities, grants of money to establish professorships on Higher Ethics and Standards of Practices in Business and Professional Life may not be obtained from one or more of America's great foundations—surely here is the opportunity to inculcate young minds (on a non-sectarian basis) with the eternal values of that ancient axiom: "Honesty is the best policy."

Our Nation Is Impatient

Being the world's youngest large nation, the United States is often impatient and impatient. Its people, geared to the ideology of material production of things, always "want to get things done."

That is one of our attitudes toward the Korean war. We want to throw into it everything we can muster, so it can be ended. We want our allies to help do this on a scale greater than they now perform.

BUT MOST OF THESE allies in the UN,

having lived through centuries of international conflict, are not synchronized to our method of thinking on the Korean war; they move with less speed; some of them even maintain economic relations with Russia and Red China.

Their senses, perhaps, are dulled by their traditions, their long association with trouble, with war.

Yet they are part of the UN, and this Korean affair is in reality a UN war. Surely our American statesmen have deep problems to wrestle with on this subject.

Bureaucracy Confounded

Do you know that, in your federal government, there are 2,054 separate departments, bureaus, divisions, commissions, authorities, corporations, and other agency components? Is there any wonder then, why we have entered upon the threshold of "government by bureaucracy"?

Since most of these employees are appointed, not elected, they have no hesi-

tancy in demanding more of your taxes to enlarge the spheres and powers of themselves.

The solution lies in eliminating many of them, combining others, and in general restoring to the various States many of the functions now "swiped" from local controls during the past 20 years.

Making a Better World

In commenting on the possibility of human beings to make more progress toward Utopia, Aldous Huxley comes up with this thoughtful argument: "Those who crusade, not for God in themselves, but against the devil in others never succeed in making the world better, but leave it either as it was, or sometimes even perceptibly worse than it was before the crusade began."

"By thinking primarily of evil we tend, however excellent our intentions, to create occasions for evil to manifest itself."

In other words, the learned philosopher believes that "reform begins within each individual." Indeed, the best way to bring light upon a dark night is to light the candle right where you are.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Minneapolis' police chief has ordered his men to smile at traffic law violators when tickets are handed to these erring motorists. The chief feels that it's better public relations to smile than to frown under such situations. Of course the chief is right... now will some one start a movement to have the receivers of these tickets also smile?

It is admitted by informed persons that Michigan's highway system is far behind traffic needs, especially main highways. As yet, no funds appear available from present sources to build fast express roads, as many as these states have. So why consider the toll road plan? Most people

who want to travel fast and safely will pay a nominal charge for such conveniences. Let's hope the current Legislature will give fair consideration to the idea.

Chemical science marches on. We now learn that producers of leather in this country have perfected a slushproof material which will eliminate the need for wearing rubbers. Now all they should do is to develop a shoe-shining substance that will never wear off.

To keep your weight down, a Boston doctor advises eating between meals, especially before regular eating times. While adults will pay little attention to this, the kiddies already have known and tried to apply this idea... often much to the displeasure of parents—but it doesn't keep the kiddies' weight down.

American cows are said to produce, annually, enough milk to fill a river 3,000 miles long, 40 feet wide and three feet deep. Boy! what a lot of pull goes toward making up this mighty white river.

During the next couple of centuries, according to an eastern university scientist, long, dry spells of weather are due. The prediction is based upon studies made of various pollen found in the earth's layers of dried up lake beds in Mexico and New Mexico. This doesn't mean, however, that you should throw away your raincoat and umbrella at once.



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Have Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO

Muzzle your dog. The state legislature has passed a law making it possible for village justices throughout the state to sue in local laws governing the muzzling of dogs.

Mrs. Jarley's was figure will appear again at the church on Tuesday evening, March 24. They will be accompanied by some new arrivals. We heard from remarks about the other visit, a lot of people will be back for a second look.

There will be a meeting of the members and congregations of the Presbyterian church on Friday, March 20 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the sending of a pastor to occupy the pulpit and conduct services in the future.

When the election returns were counted last Monday it was found that the Mayor had been returned to office with the exception of A. W. Campbell who has resigned his office forever.

The Misses Ferguson and Shapp will open an up-to-date hairdressing parlor in the Sawyer building on March 28. We will give you the proper notice in time to enable the ladies to know about it in advance.

30 YEARS AGO

Birmingham Masonic Hall, 14, met for the first time in its new temple on South Woodlawn last night when there were 100 members received. The first degree was given and the lodge has met over the Shain day store for 50 years.

Fire resulting from an overturned chimney at 223 South Woodlawn amounted to about \$200 to the home of C. E. Basone, 108 Brownell. The damage was done at 9 a.m. The damages were covered by insurance.

The Ladies Church society of the First Presbyterian church will give a social at the home of the Mikado. The program will be presented by the Mikado.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY LUCE E. MORGAN

I love March weather. Like about 90 per cent of the country's population, I have the desire to forget the winter. March is the only month in the year when I dare go out in my mouth.

If I say it's going to rain there's an awful chance that I'll be right. In March I try to do anything one of the year and sure as take I'll have something for a week or two.

Someone asks me, in March, if I think they should take a coat and wet snow boots when they go away from home for more than 15 minutes and I can say yes or no with a comparative degree of safety.

Ask me if I think it's safe to return home now when the weather is so warm and I can say yes or no with a comparative degree of safety.

WHEN I CAN'T think of anything else to say, I can only always advise wearing a hat that fits snug on the head and know a March wind will make me a good judge of weather.

But you take June now. I stick my neck way out there and tell folks I'll meet 'em at Gilbo's state park for a picnic. What happens? It rains.

Comes October, when the poets get all excited about the bright blue weather—well, let me talk about it and the poetization that's blue, and the weather we get unseasonable cold and snow storms.

Garry November and some smarting soil wants to know what I think about putting anti-freeze in the radiator.

I make like a hunting hawk and sniff the breeze. I aim that I home is an authoritative fact at the sky. Temples in check, I don't think it will freeze. Some morning and the ice is in the thick!

In December and January I'm always sure the ice is in the thick for the weekend and then it's melting.



ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Some people sign their names in full. Some use abbreviations, initials, even an X.

These are the railroad conductors or trainmen—the men who pick up your ticket on a train and you'll never get two different punches from the same one. Your ticket won't be the same.

Because every railroad ticket collector has his own personal and distinctive way of making a signature, such one as registered in his name (like a postman's revolver). There are no two exactly alike on any one railroad, though there may be similarities among railroads.

LOOK AT the cut-in in your ticket the next time you ride a train. It may be shaped like a rooster, or a hat, or a half-moon or even a fish. It will be one of thousands of designs.

One Eastern railroad has the punch signature system years ago to increase efficiency and to know just who punched what.

A punch is registered in a trainman's name the day he begins collecting tickets and he retains it until he stops. He usually has two punches with the same mark, one to be used when the other is being repaired or sharpened. And it's gone when a trainman loses his punch.

Each year the railroads collect millions of tickets and store all of them under a filing system in which passenger claims which run into the thousands every day.

One Eastern railroad still recalls the refund claim made by a fugitive from justice.

The man bought a ticket from New York to Chicago, but was arrested in Harrisburg, Pa., and taken off the train. He wanted a refund. A search of the tickets collected on the train he rode turned up a New York-Chicago ticket that had been punched only to Harrisburg.

The man got his refund.

In the old days, a leader had no doubt but what the people were following him. Today, they may be chasing him.

A woman—the dowager type complete with forget-me-nots—walked into the Pham Chamber of Commerce office to buy her new 1933 date plates.

"What do I have to do to get the new ones? My secretary usually takes care of this for me."

She was told to fill out an application blank, present it with the

new title and the money, and the new title would be hers. She filed out the application, then informed that checks were good as good as cash, she then wanted to know when the check should be made out.

"The Secretary of State," was his answer, and the woman looked up again: "How do you spell secretary?"

Then there is the local woman who received a March 3 phone call from the Windsor police.

"We are holding your husband because he is driving with 1932 license plates on his car. He says he has bought them. Is this correct?" a voice said the other end of the line tried to know.

After the initial shock, the housewife said, "Why, certainly."

"For Heaven's sake... they will be on top of the refrigerator!"

On March 1 and 2, her husband had driven all around the southern part of the city, and the enforcement officer had noticed the old tags until he was starting back from Windsor. Then he was stopped.

His wife had to take a cab all the way to Windsor to deliver the 33 plates before the police would release her husband.

The pungent odor of burning grass, rubbish and brush will drift through this area during the next few months. And some of them will get out of control and be among the nation's worst 100,000 such fires which get out of hand, endangering lives and destroying property running into millions of dollars annually.

Moreover, they all but drive the local fire department crazy, and cost thousands of dollars in unnecessary fire protection costs. These costs come directly out of taxpayers' pockets.

One typical New England suburban fire of 1900 population reports that fighting uncontrolled grass fires cost the city \$128,190 in 1932.

CONSERVATION experts can prove that burning over grassy areas seriously damages the soil, and does practically nothing to kill off or keep weeds from growing.

But if you are the habitual grass-and-weed-burning resident,

or plan to do it this spring for the first time, consider this type of idea to do the job properly and safely.

The following pointers will help you to remain on friendly terms with your neighbors as well as the fire department and may save you the cost of a fine or a lawsuit.

Collect the proper tools for fireproofing your lawn. These include a heavy shovel, wet broom, and a portable pump tank extinguisher if possible.

LAY OUT lengths of garden hose equipped with a nozzle and connected to a good water supply if the area to be burned is near buildings. Transport barrels or tanks of water for areas where water lines are not available.

Be certain sufficient help is on hand to assist in case of fire. Stay in attendance until all fire is extinguished. Never allow children near the burning area. They may get burned.

Make sure you observe local ordinances governing this type of burning. You must notify the fire department of your intention and the time you plan to burn—this is a legal requirement.

Always choose a day when there is no breeze, but be prepared for one to spring up at any time.

Keep in mind that wind and weather conditions, as well as conditions of grass or brush makes this type of burning tricky and unpredictable. The job should be tackled seriously and with full observance of all safety rules.

ARTHROSIS?

I have been wonderfully blessed in being restored to active life after being crippled in nearly every joint in my body and with muscular rheumatism from head to foot. Had Rheumatoid Arthritis and other forms of Rheumatism, hands deformed and my ankles were set.

Limited space prohibits telling you more but if you will write me I will reply at once and tell you how I received this wonderful relief.

Mrs. Lela S. Wier
2845 Arber Hills Drive
P. O. Box 3122
Jackson 7, Mississippi

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