

**A Hopeful Generation**

Watching today's adolescents, many observers are moved to dolorous comment. They counsel our buoyant youth with a sad shake of the head and the proud boast: "When I was your age I was working!" No one can contest the truth of this statement. In 1900, only 400,000 children attended high school. This figure represents less than seven per cent of the four-teen to seventeen year old age group of that year.

In 1953 however, over seven million children were in our public and private high schools, a little better than 75 per cent of our teen-age population.

Obviously children are staying in school longer. No one begrudges fathers their laurels for sober industry at a tender age. But the children should ask a hearing.

**THE LABOR MARKET** for the fourteen to seventeen-year-old group has shrunk considerably with the repeal of child labor laws and more especially with

the giant strides of technology and industry. With few exceptions, teen-agers are not welcome in employment offices. The jobs their fathers performed as lads are in many cases non-existent now or are relegated to the adult non-skilled worker.

Most industries and businesses demand of their employees at least a high school diploma, emphasis in almost all phases of the phenomenally variegated vocational world of today is upon skill, training and adaptability.

Teen-agers of our time have had a raw lesson in adaptability almost from their first protesting cries. Reared through the tensions of war, startled by the strides of a cold peace, confused by Korea and faced with the draft, few are the children who have much resembling the good old days to look back upon.

If they are the future looks bright and they are willing to train for it with the changes and challenges it will bring, the bulwark of hopes lies in encouraging them.



**HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE**  
BY ALICE E. MORGAN

A radio commentator waxed sentimental the other night about his boyhood and the times he spent Christmas on the farm.

While we never lived on a really truly farm and never had grandparents to visit, we do know what he meant.

There's something pretty special about Christmas "in the country." Though cities go all out with lavish decorations, they can't begin to approach the feeling of Christmas as farm families know it.

Perhaps it's a deep-seated human desire for mankind to associate himself as closely as possible with Christ. Perhaps it's because Christ was born in a manger.

WHATEVER the reason, on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning there does seem to be a different feeling when one enters a barn full of cattle.

A sensation of peace and calm prevails there, so heavy it seems one might reach out and touch it. Cattle and horses seem to have changed and become something else entirely for this one night and day.

There's a soft rustle of hay, a muted tinkling of the chains, and the soft lowing of cows. There's a warmth there, a stillness, a "something" we can't describe.

OVER AND above this atmosphere one finds only in the barn, there are so many other things about Christmas in the country that city dwellers miss.

The Christmas tree only has been cut a few days ago. Its fragrance fills the room and the pot-bellied stove sends out its friendly heat and draws the piney odor from the needles.

Then, there's that Christmas dinner! Old-fashioned farm dinners are mostly things grown right there

**ONE THING OR ANOTHER** By George Wm. Averill

So you didn't vote in November. You were too busy, or you planned something else for election day, or you just didn't care to be bothered.

Well, it was your decision to make—no one can do anything to you if you stayed away from the polls.

There is no fine or even very much disapproval to be expected from your friends. Lots of people don't vote.

Yet how did you square it with your conscience? Don't you know what it cost to win the privilege on which you turned your back? Haven't you read about the agony and the heart break at Valley Forge? Does it mean nothing to you that the best young men of almost every generation have fought for this country and what it means—and that one of the things it means is symbolized by the voting booth?

**HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHY** your ancestors came to this country—whether it was with the Pilgrims or just a generation or so ago? Don't you care that if the heritage we received is not tended and nourished it may not be intact for the generations that come after us?

Do you know that there are men who live in terror and slavery who look upon the chance you have to vote as a dream they never will realize?

So you didn't vote in November. You were too busy, or you planned something else for election day or you just didn't want to be bothered.

Well, it was your decision. Your conscience, too.

The gasoline companies from time to time feature a new ingredient whose function is to screen undesirable elements out. Where the undesirable elements should really be screened out is behind the steering wheel.

The chairman of the Indiana state correction department acted promptly to suspend or dismiss a number of guards at the state penitentiary who some weeks ago walked off their jobs because of a dispute over union representation. It is difficult to see what else he could have done.

A penitentiary houses a number of criminals who are at least potentially dangerous. Guards are employed to keep them from escaping and to maintain order inside the penitentiary. If the guard force is short-handed, for any reason, the possibility of escapes or riots increases. Penitentiary officials must know that the guards they hire will be on their jobs when scheduled and will not leave until their duties are discharged.

**PERSONS ENGAGED IN** certain occupations must forfeit the right to strike. It is inconceivable, for example, that members of the fire department or of the police force should go on strike.

Penitentiary guards fall into the same category. When they take these jobs they must know that the safety of the public is their paramount consideration.

This does not mean that legitimate grievances should be ignored or tolerated. Machinery should be set up for protecting their rights as employees, for settling differences which may arise, through negotiation and mediation.

Those engaged in protecting the public welfare, however, who resort to strikes, cannot be depended on to perform the job for which they were employed.

The girl next door says it is nice to see unions taking an interest in recreation programs like tennis. She said she knew nothing about it until those labor racket hearings got all that publicity.

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

Talk about there being no frontiers left in the United States! Why, a 16-year-old Iowa girl a year ago bought a puny Aberdeen-Angus black steer for less than \$200. A few days ago she sold it at a Chicago live stock exposition for \$16,650. She had carried it during the year, bringing it to the stature of a real champion . . . revealing something of her own potential stature in the process!

President Eisenhower certainly is keeping politicians within and without his own party guessing whether he will be a candidate for re-election in 1956. Why not keep it that way, Ike? . . . you might as well have some free fun during part of your leadership era.

Eighth grade school girls in a California sewing class named their respective machines after their respective "boy friends". The reason is a good one, too—"the boys keep us in stitches."

Alger Hiss, notorious in his own right, has been released from a federal prison. He no doubt will be under constant undercover observation by the FBI. What strange quirks some human mentalities can acquire!

Detroit's Recorder's Court judges have approved the plan to inaugurate a Youth Council to handle all cases involving persons from 17 to 21 years of age. That notice bears all the earmarks of a better judicial approach to the problems of young people. Those who operate this new court will, in time, become more expert in determining how to prevent and cure juvenile delinquents . . . which is a good circumstance for all concerned.

Democrats currently are engaged in figuring out who will succeed their national chairman Stephen Mitchell when he departs for his law office in Chicago after Jan. 1. No doubt some man will be selected . . . and then away we'll go toward the 1956 election campaign!

Margaret Truman, whose pappy once served as President of the United States, doesn't like to be called "Maggie". "I don't mind being called 'Marge', but that 'Maggie'—it's a frightful name," she declared. O.K., Marge, but why don't you get yourself a "Missus" for a prefix to your name . . . but your mom and dad would love to see you happily married. (Besides, aren't they entitled some day to become grandparents?)

An Oklahoma widow recently admitted to police she poisoned four of her five husbands with a mixture intended to be used only for rats. Police think she may be guilty of other poisonings . . . her terrible crime makes headlines only because what she did was terrible.

Three Detroit youths, interested in chemistry, stole much valuable equipment

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**So They Say . . .**

Styles R. Bridges, U. S. Senator from New Hampshire:

"The only hope of peace is for us to return to the principles which made this nation great; to cease appeasement; to cease compromise on fundamental principles."

Dwight D. Eisenhower:

"I have never in my life gone into any fight to lose."

John Jowitz, British travel chief:

"Earning travel is more than merely trying to make money out of tourists, it is a way of beating down the differences between nations."

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, celebrating her 70th birthday:

"I would like to see us take hold of ourselves, look at ourselves and cease being afraid."

Walter P. Reuther, president, C.I.O.:

"There must be something wrong with the moral fiber of a people willing to pay more for a week of war than a year of education."

**Happenings of Long Ago**

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

**50 YEARS AGO**  
December 16, 1904.  
"The standard Heating and Lighting company of Detroit, has made a start on their five year outside territory map of Birmingham. While everything is new and working for the first time, there is a good deal of opinion that because they cannot act in their front doorsteps and read The Eccentric, pronounce the light a failure."

"Aaron Johnson has opened up a wood working shop in the rear of M. Clement's, Blacksmith shop, where he is prepared to do all kinds of woodwork at moderate prices."

"Eugene Smith and W. I. Deer, with their respective wives, on passed a Sunday visit and dinner with their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Lafurgy, north of Pontiac."

"Mrs. John Baldwin gave a six o'clock dinner to a few invited guests and a few invited guests at the home of Mrs. Charles Smith, 119 North Woodward, on the half shell headed the menu."

"The members of St. James church are happy over the gift of the entire fitting and installation of the fixtures of the new acetylene light for the church, basement and vestry room, which was made by Mrs. Charles Smith, field."

**30 YEARS AGO**  
December 12, 1921  
The Knight of Pythias dedicated their new lodge rooms located at 119 North Woodward avenue, over the Oakdale Sales and Service Office with election of officers Tuesday night and conferring of

the first and second rank.

Thoughts which have long been expressed in Birmingham regarding the furnishing of water to outside territory may crystallize into action next Monday night when the village commission is expected to issue an order directing the residents of Lakeview avenue to install their own water supply.

Merle Parks, a member of the Birmingham high school class of 1921, now a senior literary student at the University of Michigan, has recently received appointment to the Women's Affirmative Debating team of the University.

Charles H. Bingham prominent in the Masonic Lodge here was elected "Dad" of the local DeMolay order at their first annual election held here last Tuesday evening, taking the place of James Terry.

Birmingham extends its greetings to Oakland County's next unionists. They will take effect January 1, 1925. His name is Seymour Adams, and he lives on Adams avenue just east of Birmingham.

**15 YEARS AGO**  
December 11, 1939  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel W. Symons feel that it isn't enough to have been married for 20 years and to just to catch the date they plan Sunday to repeat the vows which they exchanged 20 years ago in Winfall, Ind. The ceremony will be performed Sunday at their home, 514 West Brown, in the presence of their seven children and 19 grandchildren.

Birmingham's newest service organization, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, formally came into existence at the Community House Tuesday night when fitting ceremonies attended the presentation of its charter to president William Smith by Thomas Reed, executive vice president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

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