

Would Improve Program Quality

Television, for all its banality, has had some beneficial results. It has already spurred an improvement in the quality of movies, and promises to improve radio.

A new radio network has recently been formed to meet the competition of television. Member stations, from Seattle to Atlanta, from Boston to Los Angeles, have worked out a unique arrangement to share the best programs of each. The new organization is known as Quality Radio Group, Inc.

Instead of being linked by telephone lines, as existing networks are, these radio stations are bound by the sharing of tape-recorded programs. This means that Portland, Ore., listeners will be able to enjoy programs which have had an out-

standing success in Raleigh, N. C., and vice versa.

ALL THE MEMBER STATIONS signed up so far are affiliates of national networks. The Quality Radio Group will not attempt to supplant the networks, but to enrich the offerings of member stations. Thus it hopes to recapture some of its lost audience.

This is the American way of meeting competition. It also illustrates the advantage of competition. These stations are meeting television's novelty by improving their own product, which, in turn, could have the effect of forcing television to improve its quality. Such competition works in the best interest of all.

The British Right a Wrong

Admiral Earl Mountbatten was recently named by Prime Minister Winston Churchill to be the next Commander of the Royal Navy.

The announcement came almost exactly 40 years after Admiral Mountbatten's father was forced to resign his position because of his German parentage.

It was back in 1914 that the new Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty's father, Prince Louis Mountbatten, was forced from his job because of his German parentage in the then-opening World War I.

IRONICALLY, IT WAS Sir Winston Churchill—in 1914 he was First Lord of the Admiralty—who accepted the resignation of Prince Louis reluctantly.

Churchill has later written that the "gossip of the clubs and of the streets" produced a flood of letters, protesting the situation in which one of Teutonic birth holding the position of Commander of the British Navy.

Because of these letters, Prince Louis

was asked to be relieved of his command and Churchill called his resignation one of "uncomplaining dignity."

Churchill says Prince Louis accepted this bitter blow and ingratitude as a reward for his great and faithful service to the British nation and Royal Navy, at a time when he wanted to serve his country most.

EVER SINCE HIS SON, Earl Mountbatten, entered the Navy many years ago, he has had a strong desire to become Lord Commissioner, First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff—all three posts being one cumulative assignment. It was this assignment his father held.

To right the wrong of 1914 before he left office, Sir Winston recently announced Mountbatten would take over as Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty next March.

This action is appropriate. Too many wrongs go unrighted in this world of ours, and it is refreshing to see justice prevail in this memorable case.

Only Regimentation Can Guarantee

We know one way that the auto industry can guarantee an annual wage to all its hourly employees. Simply this: add to the basic cost of an automobile the extra dollars needed for the guarantee, set it aside in a fund to be used only when unemployment arises.

How easy to do this—except for the fact that the public would not pay the extra charges, and so fewer cars would be

sold, more unemployment would exist, and eventually auto manufacturers would go out of business.

In a supposed free economy, American style, there never can be a complete guarantee of annual wages by anything like even a modest number of employers.

Only the "regimented state" can guarantee, for a while, annual wages.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Fourteen hundred St. Regis Indians are suing New York State for three hundred million dollars, claiming they really own the island in the St. Lawrence River on which a Canadian-New York State power project is being built. It is hardly to be expected that the Indians will get anywhere in the courts—for years ago the white man decreed that they must not expect much for giving up their real estate.

frozen food for their families. After all, the men invented and market the items that never got into grandma's kitchen.

Few people will disagree with the belief that all children (as do adults) require certain disciplines imposed upon them, if they are to become and remain orderly and co-operative human beings. Every adult has legal and self-imposed disciplines for guidance of conduct. The home is presumed to raise its youngsters in an atmosphere of kindly discipline. Isn't this same requirement expected in the public schools? Shouldn't teachers obtain the co-operation of parents in the proper disciplining of pupils who are being taught by them?

Birmingham resident Phil A. Hart, recently elected Democratic Lieut.-Governor of Michigan, went to many factory gates during the campaign to ask for votes. Now he is going back to the same gates to thank those who voted for him Nov. 2 . . . and, he hopes, will vote for him when he runs for Governor in 1934.

Most women wear clothes for the same reason that many men wear flashy neckties . . . to attract attention.

It is being rumored that today's high cost of bread has resulted in less toast burned by the annual crop of brides. (Too bad, naturally, that rumpus seldom turn out to be facts.)

Trying to get along with Soviet Russia in the United Nations is, for all practical purposes of peace, a fruitless pursuit. Russian leaders, who got where they are by the sword, will use it to remain where they are . . . that is their only weapon of offense and defense. It is like trying to enforce the laws of a community by having burglars, hold-up men and gangsters wearing the same uniforms and badges that the honest members of a police department wear.

A New Jersey night club singer, driving her boy friend home late one night, decided to steal a kiss from him. This resulted in her temporary inability to keep both hands on the wheel . . . so the car jumped a curb and hit a fire alarm box. Four fire engines and two patrol cars responded . . . if they get married (the boy and girl) and continue their heated courtship, boy! what an alarming time they should have!

As men, let's not be too hard on the housewives who depend upon canned and

So They Say . . .

Walter Reuther, CIO president: "In the light of our resources and our needs, our nation's unemployment is both un-American, uneconomic and unnecessary."

Dr. Paul C. Aebersold, director, isotopes division, Atomic Energy Commission: "Ninety-eight per cent of the basic materials in the human body is replaced yearly."

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Same Act—New Puppet



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

An open letter to Santa Claus:
Dear Sir:
Once again it's Christmas, and once again you are facing those two factions among the children—those who believe in you with all their hearts and the scoffers, the wise-guys, who are loud in their scorn toward the believers.

Once again, you have the chance to prove you do exist, using your power in another form—the spirit of Christmas.

This is the spirit which draws old friends together, those who live far apart and contact each other only at Christmas.

It is the spirit which draws families together, some traveling long distances to "spend Christmas at home."

It is the spirit which impels mankind to stop and think of others and to go all-out to make this Day of Days something special in their lives.

THE SPIRIT of Christmas does not move these people to give a huge dinner for the unfortunate, and then forget them for another year. It goes beyond that, being the spark which sets off chains of gifts to help provide physical comforts for months to come.

It is the spirit which motivates men and women, boys and girls, to remember those who are hospitalized and deprived of the normal joys of Christmas. The day is made brighter for them with special gifts and holiday meals.

The memory of this kindness is a bright light in the dark drabness of their lives for as long as they care to bring them out and think about them.

EVERN THE little scoffers are aware of this spirit, for at this time of year their characters do undergo a change. They become less aggressive, less quarrelsome and more eager to please those about them.

Even these little scoffers will dig down in their toy boxes to find some which may be turned over to a welfare group or civic organization which, in turn, repairs them and makes happy the children in homes or in poor families, with gay Christmas toys.

It is the spirit which turns men's minds to music—special music. Never, around a "military" holiday does one hear patriotic music on every lip, but listen carefully at Christmas.

WHISTLING, singing of humming, people going into a background of Christmas music, the old beloved hymns and the newer works that have become a part of Christmas.

It is this spirit which emphasizes the need of religion in man's life, even to a greater degree than does the Easter season.

It is the spirit which passes along a feeling of new hope and faith, one which seems, in its very passing, to refresh us and strengthen us for another year of living and working and playing.

Is Santa Claus, no matter what the little wisecracks say, we believe in you. Don't despair about them, for as they grow older and see the power you wield, they too, will believe in Santa Claus—only this time their belief will be real.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Each time the Birmingham city commission holds a public hearing on a special assessment, it must explain in some detail to one or more property owners in the audience just how and why the city assesses as it does.

This occurs because the taxpayer-property owner never before was involved in an assessment, and doesn't know what it all is about.

It seems to me that if the commission would have someone make a sketch of the procedure, it could be posted permanently somewhere near the commission room door so the public could study it before the hearings.

So many times so many minutes are taken up by explaining or re-explaining the whys and wherefores that therefore it seems the officials would get wise.

When it comes to the acquisition of friends, opposites do not attract—only friendliness attracts friendships.

If our city commissioners don't believe in "The Rural Atmosphere" for Birmingham the Beautiful, then why did they . . .

Recently spend about \$5,000 extra on asphalted concrete driveways that lead away in five directions from the new Chesterfield fire station, and prevent a

traffic light from being erected at Maple and Fairfax?

You see, the proposed Fairfax light, operating in conjunction with the Chesterfield signal, would have controlled traffic in front of the fire station when a run had to be made.

But the extra \$5,000 provides a five-exit driveway, and gives more of a rural feeling to Maple traffic, especially on Sundays when the motoring congregations at three nearby churches try to get on and off Maple.

Yes, it's so much better to have \$5,000 worth of such rural atmosphere than to have \$5,000 of city life such as recreation facilities, off-street parking lots, fire or police equipment, etc.

Social progress might come more rapidly if today's novelists used more two-letter words instead of so many of the four-letter kind.

Disobedience means nothing to someone who knows he will be disciplined with only a slap on the wrist.

There is no such thing as "property rights". Only people have rights. But one of these human rights is the right to own private property.

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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
 December 2, 1914
 "J. C. Camm has returned home from the World's Fair where he has spent eight or ten days with his son-in-law, A. W. Woodruff, of Waterloo."

"Miss Ella Puppelton ate Thanksgiving Turkey with her mother and sisters and all together had a most enjoyable visit."

"Rev. Mr. Sweet, Presiding Elder of the M. E. church of this district gave an address just particularly to the elder members of the church of this place last Sunday evening. It was a fine and interesting discourse. Mrs. C. Utter was the oldest member present."

"A. Mark's factory for making hoops and staves is now running right along, employing a goodly gang of men, and the prospects for a long run is fine. Mr. Millsbaugh, buyer of elm timber, is still on the watch for more."

"Fred E. Brooks has gone into the horse business and will have a car for sale each week."

"Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Reynolds of Armada, enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner with their daughter, Mrs. N. Baker. Besides visiting Mr. Baker's family the good couple saw many old friends and all it all had a most enjoyable visit all around."

30 YEARS AGO
 November 28, 1914
 For a three-day Older Boys' Conference in Muskegon ten boys, picked from the local Hi Y group by their comrades, will leave here early Friday morning. The boys who will represent their group are Edwin Neff, Loyal Campbell, David Gaffill, Edgar McKinney, Edward Ryder, L. Clark, Albert Guthrie and Kenneth Green.

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Howarth of Pierce street, Birmingham, have made a gift of a plot of ground to the city of Detroit, to be used as a playground.

Following the annual three-day conference of the University Press club, held last week at Ann Arbor, awards were made in three divisions of Michigan Newspapers for the best looking front page. The Birmingham Eccentric won first

WISE MAN! He's giving sleep for Christmas—and a refreshing night's sleep is a priceless gift for everyone.

An automatic bed covering, with its selective temperature control, does away with the muscle-cramping weight of uneven blankets . . . keeps the lucky sleeper cozy warm all night long.

I'M GIVING SLEEP FOR CHRISTMAS!

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