

Atomic Navigator Is Dead

"The Italian navigator has reached the new world and found the natives friendly." With this coded message our government officially was informed that Enrico Fermi had activated the first atomic pile and produced and controlled a nuclear chain reaction—one of the steps which eventually led to the atomic bomb which exploded over Hiroshima.

Fermi was an Italian by birth and a distinguished scientist for many years before he succeeded in first splitting the atom in 1934. In 1938 he was awarded the Nobel Prize and refused to wear the Fascist uniform or give the Fascist salute

while receiving the award.

HE HAD DIFFERED with Mussolini before. But this was the last straw, and he and his family left Italy and settled in America. It was our great good fortune he came to our shores.

He was only 53 when he died but his contributions to the progress of mankind cannot be measured. If ever a question should be raised as to the worth of contributions made to this country by immigrants, the name of Enrico Fermi should be answer enough.

Longer You Wait, Rougher It Becomes

There are not too many shopping days left until Christmas but you still can avoid the worst crowds by getting your shopping done now.

The early shopper doesn't get bowled, crushed and stepped on. He has a better selection of merchandise and is less likely to discover that the very thing he wants is all sold out, than has the last-minute shopper.

SHOPPING CAN BE FUN—but not when the stores are too crowded and the clerks too busy. At times like that, tempers of shoppers and clerks alike are likely to be short and what started out to be fun ends in irritation.

Remember your good intentions last year when you vowed you would not delay your shopping until the last minute? There still is time to keep that promise you made to yourself.

Poor, Big, Wealthy Los Angeles!

Not too many years ago Los Angeles was a lovely city, its population much less than Detroit. Due to its climate and its tendency to become "a welfare state", tens of thousands of new residents came to live in California, many of them settling in Los Angeles.

This city soon began to attract much industry, too. Oil was discovered beneath some sections of it . . . and finally the City of Angels surpassed Detroit in population.

IT ALL WAS WONDERFUL, quoth the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. But, alas! now it often is smothered in a sickly, thick "smog", consisting of smoke and fog. This smotheres health . . . and many are moving out of Los Angeles.

What is the moral of all this? Well, for one thing, bigness and material wealth can't make either an individual or a community happy and healthy.

Our Invenitiveness Is Basis of Our Prosperity

Shortly after World War II, Hanson W. Baldwin, eminent military analyst, wrote in the New York Times that "if any one element can be said to have decided this war, it was American industry; this writer feels the war would have been lost had that industry failed in the tremendous demands put upon it." In Mr. Baldwin's opinion that was the major lesson of the war which Americans should never forget.

American industry as we know it today is living proof that there is no such thing as stagnation in the inventiveness and productive capacity of free men. At the present time half of the nation's employment can be traced directly to the research laboratory.

Chemistry has become a basic industry whose development has far outpaced the average individual's knowledge of its effect on his life.

ADVANCES IN THE USE OF chemicals

Investigate Before You Invest

Here's one of the best pieces of advice anyone can be given: Investigate before you invest. No one can truthfully guarantee that the market value of any stock will rise. Stock values sometimes go up and sometimes go down—just as do the values of real estate and most other kinds of property. But you can protect yourself against "sucker bait" securities.

This is especially important now. High-pressure salesmen, skilled in the arts of separating the fool from his money, have been pushing Canadian mineral stocks which are totally worthless in virtually every case.

Fantastic profits are promised. These

gyp artists think nothing of telling you that your investment will soon multiply 100 or 1,000 times. A similar situation exists this side of the border with uranium shares.

LUCKILY, THERE ARE honest and authoritative agencies, both private and governmental, which will advise you as to contemplated investments, and without charge. These include the established stock exchanges, the Securities and Exchange Commission, state securities supervisors, and better business bureaus.

Investigate before you invest.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Presume that Bethesda Naval Hospital in Washington, D.C., now will hang up a plaque in one of its patient rooms which will read: "Senator McCarthy Splot Here."

A Detroit, 67 years old, a year ago de-

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vided his savings would be safe in his pockets than in a bank. So he carried with him about \$20,000. Shortly after midnight recently, he was held up by two thugs who extracted \$17,000 from him. Can one sympathize with a person these days who thinks banks are poor places to keep their money?

In the literary world of romanticism kisses are never taken . . . they always are stolen . . . which makes thieves of plenty of good people.

So They Say . . .

Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense: "We do not necessarily seek the biggest air force in the world, but we do want the best and the most powerful."

Ralph E. Flanders, U. S. Senator from Vermont: "We must learn to live with danger."



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

They're getting ready for Christmas back in the little town I used to call "home." Foothills of the Adirondacks, Snuggled comfortably in the Boonville doesn't really need as like a Christmas card, too, as it stands.

North, east and west, the high rolling hills are close to it. To the south the main highway from the Canadian Border stretches out toward the Big City. There's snow there, now, probably piled high along the roads and streets and higher still where the workers walked back and forth the white stretches of hillside farm buildings stand out clear and sharp like tops.

AROUND THEM are woods deep and still in their covering of snow. The maple groves stand bare of leaves, the spruce and pines wear puffs of snow like rakish caps.

In the little town the "village green" at the intersection of two main streets and a state highway, bears its own trimming. The small white handstand is shrouded with snow and the bushes around it bend low with their burden. The Soldier's Memorial and the several benches are wearing winter dross, too.

Paths crisscross the snow where the workers walked back and forth stringing lights around the handstand and on the tree they brought from the woods outside the village.

ACROSS THE street the hotel built about 1912, is gay with lights and wreaths, while up and down the streets garlands of evergreen twinkle with bright bulbs. Over everything is the natural trim of the snow outside the Store fronts gleam with their

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Most Americans, whether or not they are interested in sports, want to see our athletic representatives make a good showing in the Olympic games. The games give athletes from many countries the chance to engage in friendly competition. A great deal of international goodwill and understanding has resulted from the games in the past.

In recent years the Soviet Union has tried to turn the games into a test of strength between Communist and non-Communist states. Although the purpose of the games is contrary to a nationalistic approach to sport, the Reds are eager to exploit every victory for propaganda purposes.

This does not mean that Americans should not adopt a similar attitude or policy. Naturally we are pleased when American athletes win events. But it is far more important that they demonstrate sportsmanship and a friendly understanding of the real place that sport has in the home of man than that they should come home covered with medals of victory.

A biography of Douglas Houghton, pioneer geologist of Michigan, discloses that in 1842-43 he was professor of geology and meteorology at the University of Michigan, yet found time to combine with that the majority of Detroit for two years. Either would now be a heavy full-time job.

Was life really simpler in those olden, golden days?

Is baseball a business or a civic institution? The owners of the Cleveland Indians, the American League champions, have intimated their willingness to sell if the price is right. If they do sell, the club will have its fourth set of owners in eight years. The others saw their chance to

make a profit, and the present ownership apparently plans to follow this example. This possibility has evoked protests from the local sports writers, who say that no team can be selling successful whose owners admittedly are interested only in money-making.

This is not true of many owners, who are baseball enthusiasts and pour out money for new players, often without any certainty that they are of big league caliber. They may exercise ordinary business prudence in the conduct of the club, but they keep such transactions out of the public eye.

Many business men would say that if the club ran a deficit, the fans would never dream of making it up. Why then should they criticize owners for trying to make a reasonable profit?

In any other field than baseball this complaint would not be heard. But baseball is thought by many to be a special case.

From England comes the report of a man who was granted a divorce because his wife threatened to split the television set with an ax while he was watching a boxing match. What we would like to know is what a man who has such a real sight on his hands in his own living room wants with those tame bouts on TV.

In Yonkers, New York, bus drivers are putting on a campaign of cheerfulness and courtesy to encourage people to ride buses. We have always believed that if someone is taking you for a ride he can at least smile while he is going it.

Too many people regard being sympathetic as the ability to feel sorry for themselves.

Folders - - - ?

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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

A letter was advertised last week in the Hudson post office for Horse Lowe. He should gallop in and tell postmaster Lawrence to trot it out.

"Different members of the Banghart family near Oxford have adopted four babies, within the last six months. There is evidently a slight mistake in nomenclature there. It should be changed to Big-heart."

"Seelye Peck will be manager of the John Hetzok saloon in place of F. G. Pearsall who has sold out of Peck. Our people breathe a sigh of relief, as only one saloon will be in town. The building that Mr. Peck bought, will be completed and owned by him and rented. It certainly is now the prettiest building in town."

"Ed Lamb, Foy Grandpa, the most popular janitor in the world, is back to work after a bad attack of a stitch in the back. This stitch was a monster in action and its first move threw Ed flat on his back in front of his haler, Robert Thoms did the firing while Ed was in bed."

"Mrs. Theron Smith entertained a number of ladies at Peiro on Friday afternoon. Mrs. George H. Ferguson won the first prize which was a beautiful growing carnation. Mrs. David McClelland had the consolation prize."

30 YEARS AGO

December 5, 1924
The Village commission has appointed Mrs. Mary Griffith of the community house to act as chairman of a committee to take charge of work done for sick and needy in Birmingham.

THE OLD TIMER

"Among the inconveniences that'll disappear if you snow them long enough are snow and adolescence."

SLEEP TIGHT—

SLEEP LIGHT!

When it's an automatic bed covering, it takes only ONE to keep you warm—one electric blanket, or one electric sheet with a regular blanket. Either takes the place of the tumpety heavy, smothering covers you'd ordinarily use.

Confidentially—and confidentially too—we recommend automatic bed coverings as wonderful Christmas gifts for all the family!

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