

Wilson Hits the Nail's Head

The other day our noted Bloomfield Hills resident, Charles E. Wilson, now Secretary of Defense in Washington, said something that made me sense everyone in the country ought to hear about it. He was talking to a group which had come from an area hit hard by unemployment.

During the conversation, the spokesman from the area said not only was slowing defense work putting people out of work in his area but added that was the reduced number of draftees being called.

Wilson said later he had been "extremely provoked" by that argument.

THE SECRETARY RIGHTLY reasons

that a young man with ambition and a willingness to work, would prefer to get out and find a job to being drafted. And on this point Wilson later told a group:

"No one should be so selfish that they think they have a vested interest in war."

In modern times, we seem to be losing some of the old work and hustle spirit, preferring to depend on the Government, or somebody else, to take care of our needs.

When it comes to depending on war, or a war boom, for jobs, we are getting pretty soft, in two departments, and we applaud the Wilson approach to that attitude.

Russia's Masses Are Kept Poor

Apparently the most welcome thing that has happened in Russia in a long time is Malenkov's promise that the output of consumer goods will be greatly increased, and that quality, which has been miserably low in many respects, will be improved.

The communists and their fellow travelers don't seem to realize that this provides an ironic commentary on a system in which the state decides everything and bosses everyone—and has a large assortment of prisons and forced-labor camps to take care of dissenters.

Hunter Debunks Hollywood

George Michaels, a South African who conducts safaris, recently blasted Hollywood films on a count which Americans have pointed out often. His accusation is that most Hollywood films about African hunting don't stick to the facts.

In our opinion, Michaels is a hundred per cent correct. In fact, he could broaden his statement to include most Hollywood films on any subject.

Michaels, talking about a major picture concerned with an African safari and a love story recently, noted that in one scene the star shot an animal out of a tree which did not inhabit Africa.

HE NOTED THAT OTHER animals in the picture were shown acting in a manner in which wild African animals never do. Michaels says American hunting films, some of them shown on TV, often picture animal fights which would be impossible

Comic Books and Education

From England comes word that Dr. Michael Lewis, director of Nottingham University's Institute of Education, has defended comics as an aid in teaching children to read and enlarging their vocabularies.

Dr. Lewis told a teachers' conference group children who read comics are often encouraged to read other books by the adventurous strips.

Dr. Lewis said twenty per cent of the words in comic strips are new words to children and therefore, the strips are conducive to enlarged vocabularies. He said

ment of prisons and forced-labor camps to take care of dissenters.

THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE—except for the elite, who live on a regal scale—have been lucky if they could buy enough in the government-run retail stores to keep body and soul together. Now, it seems, the store stocks are to be bettered a bit—but at any time in the future, if the Kremlin so decides, the gains can be wiped out overnight by an order.

In this country a factory or a store that doesn't please the people goes broke—because in this country business is competitive and must earn public favor. As a matter of fact, the American system of production and distribution of goods is the best practical answer to communism ever devised.

in the countries concerned. He laughs at the average Hollywood portrayal of a safari, saying nothing that elaborate has ever been seen in Africa in his fifteen years of hunting experience there.

The natives are also falsely pictured and there are many other fallacies in the average Hollywood hunting film, according to the South African native.

THIS IS PAR for the course for Hollywood. Apparently it never dawns on most of the producers in Hollywood to portray life just as it is, and countries just as they are, without the added ballyhoo and fakery.

In this day of television competition, it would be well for Hollywood producers to carefully consider Michaels' criticism and attempt to bring more American movies into line with accuracy and the truth.

only six per cent of the words were slang or misspelled.

DR. LEWIS ALSO FOUND modern children more intelligent than their predecessors and claimed that radio and television were encouraging children to read more about things they saw or heard through the media.

No doubt the country's children will be delighted by this report, although it must be noted that the sensational and degrading comic books, so often seen on the U. S. newsstands, are not as prevalent in Great Britain.

From the Eccentric's Point of View...

We see no need for officials of Michigan State College to go to any unusual lengths to document the reasons why the name of their institution should be changed to Michigan State University. It merely reports a few minutes' time on the part of the state legislature to make official what already is a self-evident fact.

Birmingham city commissioners seem like the idea of having a nice, loud air raid siren for the town. But they suggest perhaps three of the monsters, strategi-

cally placed between here and the 8 mile road, would suffice for the southern part of the county. Some observers believe this might lead to creation of another authority, this time for air raid sirens. Else how could all the SOC municipalities share in the cost of buying, operating and maintaining said sirens? Which leads to the obvious about things they will see an authority in charge of authorities.

Many feelings are hurt not because of what was said, but what the listener thought was said.

Gambling is a sin. Except in Michigan, where it is proposed to make bingo saintly.

So They Say...

Dr. Henry F. Dickenson, Lincoln Memorial University:

"Educators used to live longer than the general run of the population but now this extra longevity seems to be disappearing."

Ernest T. Weir, chairman, National Steel Corporation: "There is only one device, one mechanism through which we can make the move toward peace. It is the conference table—negotiation."

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

February 19, 1904

—Jacob Trend, of this place, conductor on a D.U.I. car, met with an accident at the subway of Woodward avenue at 11:15 Monday evening that may result in the loss of his left foot. He was working at the headlight of his car and evidently did not notice the approach of a car on the other track, which passed over his foot."

"The man in this neck of the woods howling loudest for the hot weather is George H. Tams. He wants to bury his pug dog that died last Christmas and which has been in cold storage ever since, and George says the dog is beautiful—looks as if he was sleeping."

"The Trenton Times says and we second the motion: 'It is our custom to send bills to leading arrangers for subscription and it will be well for those who have taken the paper and have not paid for it to bear in mind that the refusal of it at the postoffice does not constitute the settlement of a bill.'"

Friends of Representative Thad D. Seely of Bloomfield, who has been in the legislature two terms, are urging him to become a candidate for the Republican nomination and indications are that he will accept."

30 YEARS AGO

February 15, 1924

For the first time in the history of the local fire department village officials have taken a liability and property damage on fire equipment."

The public and parochial school authorities of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties have approved the recently announced plan of the Union Trust company of Detroit, to establish five \$1,000 scholarships in any American college or university for the high school seniors in the counties named."

Lura Lyman, 14-year-old Birmingham girl, won the half-mile ladies' sprint skates at the Aviation Country club's ice carnival last Sunday at Green Lake.

Prying open a steel vault door in the office of the Baldwin Theater, Royal Oak, some time last Sunday night, unknown robbers blew open a small safe and escaped with \$400.

Robert Jackson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jackson of Madison avenue entertained eight little boy friends to celebrate his seventh birthday, this afternoon.

15 YEARS AGO

February 16, 1939

For the first time in the history of Baldwin High school, the president of the student congress was re-elected for a second term, John Bathurst, member of the team in defeating George Mullin by a two to one vote.

The Cranbrook school hockey team tied for the championship of the Michigan League at Buffalo over the weekend, after a close struggle in which the Hills team showed fire enough to surprise even itself."

Special trustee to Elio Saarinen, noted architect and director of the architectural division of the Cranbrook Academy of Arts, as one of his countrymen, was paid by Ad Whitman of Ferndale in an address Monday to members of the Birmingham Rotary club.

Unless one of two opposing candidates for the office of Justice of the Peace in Southfield Town ship withdraws before the spring township, April 3, it will cost the township \$200 to elect a new justice."

Effects of the Bloomfield township offices are now retired in new town hall on Telegraph road just south of West Long Lake road. The main offices are on the first floor and the garage and firehall are below on the road level.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

To most of us, George Washington always has stood as an example of truthfulness at its peak. As little children we were told that he never told a lie and learned to admire this, perhaps even more than for his military leadership and political fame.

Many, many times the thought has come to us of what a rascal life a person could lead were he to stick to the truth every minute of his waking hours.

Take the man who starts married life by telling his wife exactly what he thinks of her, and her hair-do. Yes, take him, she wouldn't have him any longer.

TAKE THE ardent swain whose girl has spent hours getting dressed for the big date, only to have him groan several truthful but unflattering remarks about what he thinks of her clothes and hair-do.

Take the over-night guest whose hostess loads the table with rich foods, fattening gravies, butter-soaked steaks, etc. Will he be polite, eat and pass compliments, or will he turn his lungs out and inform a proud husband that as a carpenter, building new kitchen cupboards, her "Cub Scout brother could do a better job."

TAKE THE ardent swain whose girl has spent hours getting dressed for the big date, only to have him groan several truthful but unflattering remarks about what he thinks of her clothes and hair-do.

TAKE THE guest who spends an evening viewing home movies or slides. Should he say he has no interest in odd localities, double exposures, and the like—should he live dangerously and tell the truth?

TAKE THE long suffering school teacher. Should she tell Sheila's parents that their little girl is just lively or should she say she heartily recommends a good, sound swat now and then?

How about the landlord? Can he safely say those "daring twins"

are little demons and should be caged? No, he probably tries to make with a convincing smile and gently tell daddy he'll have to cough up the price of that thermopane window.

AND POOR grandma. Does she really love to have the baby for the weekend while daddy and mother go skiing, or golfing or what have you? That noise you hear in his background is probably grandma's aching bones screaming for a chance to sit down in the most comfortable chair she can find.

And, while you're at it, take the young parents who'd rather stay home and play with the baby than let grandma have the poor babe for three or four days of unlimited pampering. Which is better, to take the trip she thinks they'll "just love" or court her wrath by explaining why they won't go?

TRUTH IS a marvelous virtue, we're all for it, but it certainly can be a key on "How to live dangerously!"

For a hermit, who speaks only to his pets, it probably can be followed to the letter, this telling the truth at all times.

For the man or woman who mixes freely, there is a certain element of danger in being wholly and completely truthful.

Apparently one has to draw up his own set of rules: Tell the truth on all things of major importance, but, to save face and feelings, a slight smoothing over is in order.

With we know how Washington handled it. Historians never told us that.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Cigarette manufacturers cannot tell you how good their product is for you. All they can do is tell you how their brand is less harmful than the other fellow's.

Most national investigators-into-why-a-certain-situation-exists have come up with the explanation that high prices, high taxes, high wages and no hired help underlie the great "do it yourself" movement.

They cite statistics which show the householder is doing his own building of everything from birdhouses to homes, fixing everything from faulty light switches to basement foundations, installing everything from water faucets to new furnaces.

The way it looks to me, there is a much different reason for the growth of this type of activity.

It is simply because the great American people, who once used to do great and wondrous things for themselves, now have turned that effort over to local, state and particularly federal governments.

Because politicians have been given the task of thinking and doing what once was done by the constituent, that constituent now must find some other outlet for that desire Mother Nature gives each of us to exercise our minds and bodies.

That outlet now is to do the little things around the house and pretend they are great, big jobs that require lots of planning and thinking out how they should be done.

When one doesn't have that bird in hand, he'd better start looking for the bush.

Despite the advent of television, pocket books, drive-in theaters and other modern forms of entertainment, circulation of newspapers continues to increase.

Editor and Publisher, weekly magazine of the journalistic trade, reported recently that 1953 circulation set a new record,

moving up about one per cent from 1952 figures.

Not only did the nation's papers increase their circulation but they also increased their advertising volume last year. Even though business firms shelled out millions of dollars for television and other forms of advertising, newspaper advertising continues to be by far the most popular form of advertising, and to bring in increasing revenue.

THESE ARE THOSE who believe new news and entertainment mediums such as television, prove beneficial to other media, such as newspapers. People want a newspaper to see what is on television, and to look up favorite programs and times, and to read about the stars.

And news, as long as it is not identical copy, never loses its interest. Those who hear a bulletin over the radio are eager to read more about the "story" in the newspaper.

Likewise, if they get a news item over television, they become eager to get the full story from the newspaper.

SO THE DIFFERENT NEWS media do not necessarily compete. They complement one another to a large degree. And those who once feared there was not enough advertising revenue for both newspapers and the new medium, television, have been amazed to see newspaper advertising increase at the same time when television advertising was just beginning to draw revenue.

There seems to be little reason for newspapers to worry about competition from television, or any other medium. Nothing can, nor will, take the place of the newspaper in American life.

People like to have a record of events, a source of news and advertising they can pick up in any spare moment, and a complete presentation of news events. Only the newspaper can provide that and that's why circulation totals continue to go up.

School Heads Meet In Atlantic City

Representation of Birmingham area at the American Association of School Administrators conference this week at Atlantic City, N. J., is 100 per cent.

Attending are these school districts' superintendents: Stuart K. Baker of Troy, Glenn Schoenholz of Southfield, Eugene L. Johnson of Bloomfield Hills, and Dwight B. Ireland of Birmingham.

The conference convened Monday and is scheduled to wind up today.

Ireland arrived at Atlantic City Saturday morning to be on hand for a special meeting of the Ohio State Alumnae committee of which he is a member. The committee has to select candidates for school administration fellowships to Ohio State University.

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