

Man has an "absolute right" of free inquiry into any field of learning, but there is a need for restrictions on the communication of his knowledge to others, William T. Gossett, vice-president and general counsel, Ford Motor Company, asserted at a meeting of Michigan educators in Detroit Friday night.



W.M. T. GOSSETT Delivering his address

at their annual dinner at the Sheraton-Cadillac hotel, that Communists, because they have "closed minds," must not be allowed to teach in the schools.

Any educational institution, he said, would be justified in dismissing a teacher unless he could prove that he was not a member of the Communist Party or that, if he had been, he had "disavowed and repudiated" it.

GOSSETT SAID THAT "Freedom of inquiry is a notion totally alien to the Communist ideology. Its leaders have laid down basic principles in all branches of knowledge. These must be accepted literally by the Communist, as articles of faith."

He said that congressional investigating committees have discredited themselves "by exposing witnesses to public ridicule on the flimsiest of hearsay evidence and by ignoring the most elementary rules of due process of law" and have "succeeded in rallying the opposition under the ancient but honorable banner of academic freedom."

If an accused teacher could prove he was not a Communist or had changed his beliefs, a school would not be justified in dismissing him for failure to testify before a congressional committee, but "should be prepared to defend its action publicly and to afford the teacher such protection as it can against unjust attack," he added.

IF THE SCHOLAR seeks merely to add his contribution to the vast body of the world's knowledge, where it can be checked, criticized, and compared, he should be free to do so.

If on the other hand, the scholar seeks to communicate his knowledge to a pupil, a new dimension has been introduced. To the right to knowledge must be added a responsibility . . . to instill in the student a passion for truth.

"No amount of stubborn insistence on his right to intellectual independence can discharge the scholar's responsibility," Gossett said.

Life helps much to overcome mistakes we may make. So many of our thoughtless words and acts are done thoughtlessly, simply because at the moment we failed to really THINK what we say or do. Let's make haste more slowly.

BIRMINGHAM BACKGROUND

Local History in Story and Picture
As Compiled and Written by RUTH ANNE SILBAR

Brooks' Baby Bear Used to Stroll Our City Streets

Imagine walking a bear around the streets of Birmingham! The one and only person who has ever accomplished this remarkable performance (as far as records show) was a young sportsman of the village, Frank Brooks.

While on a hunting trip in the north woods in 1888, Frank came into possession of a black bear cub, according to an account in The Eccentric that year.

He sent the bear, alive of course, to his astonished father, Eugene Brooks, who had the responsibility of the cub's welfare until young Frank's return.

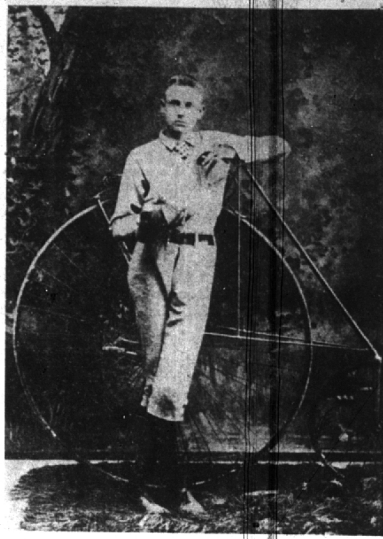
THE CUB WAS PLAYFUL and lovable and had a happy home with the Brooks family at its residence on Pierce street where the city's Municipal Building now stands. He became quite tame and Frank often took him for walks around the village, the village folks not being one bit afraid.

The bear thrived and was doing well, but toward winter refused to eat. Frank and his father Gene were plenty worried, but the bear just wanted to sleep.

The following year the young bear and Frank went to Pontiac and had their pictures taken (see photo at left). When the bear became too big for safety, he was given to a zoo, according to an old time resident who remembers Frank and his bear cub.

SPORTSMAN FRANK BROOKS also was an enthusiastic bicycle rider. He owned a Star bicycle, all the fashion in the '80's.

The Star bicycle featured a small wheel in front and a big huck wheel over which the rider perched. The contraption was propelled forward by a straight up-and-down pumping action on the pedals, as contrasted to the familiar circular, or rotary, action of the feet with bicycles manufactured today.



FRANK BROOKS AND HIS NEW STAR BICYCLE
Outfit necessary for bicycling in reckless '80's



FRANK BROOKS AND HIS BEAR CUB IN 1889
Both photos from the J. Bert Peabody collection

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City Sets Hearing For Road Oiling

Monday, Feb. 15 has been set as the date of a hearing of necessity for oiling eight streets in the Sheffield Estates subdivision by city commissioners.

Property owners will pay 85 percent of the assessment while the city's share will be 15 percent. Streets to be treated are Melton between Taunton and Elton, Elm between Taunton and Elton, Elm between Taunton and Fourteen Mile, Taunton from Fourteen Mile, Taunton from Fourteen Mile, Taunton from Melton to Woodward, Taunton between Sheffield to a point 150 feet north of Taunton and Bradford between Sheffield and Elton.

Troy Clerk Ill After House Fire

Clifton Truesdell, Troy township clerk, is recovering in the Detroit Osteopathic hospital after suffering a series of heart attacks a week ago. Truesdell first became ill while helping township firemen fight a fire at the Stanley R. Hood home on Charing Cross on Sunday, Jan. 10.

He returned to his work the following week and suffered additional attacks until his physician placed him in the hospital.

EIL Discussion To Be Held Here Monday Evening

A meeting to explain "Experiments in International Living" will be held in the Community House men's lounge at 8:15 p.m., Feb. 2, for young people between 16 and 30 years. Templin Licklider of Cranbrook, a leader of several "Experiment" trips abroad, will speak.

Mrs. Licklider, Barbara Watkins and Isabelle Waldie will show color slides of highlights on trips they have taken.

The non-profit, non-sectarian organization was founded in 1932 to promote mutual respect and understanding between remote peoples through actual contact with them under common living conditions.

SO FAR these groups of 10 young people each, each with a qualified leader, have visited 25 countries in Europe and South America. About 500 make the trip each summer.

Careful screening permits groups to be formed with congenial backgrounds and interests. The participants visit the country of their choice, live with the people in their homes and, so far as possible in the brief time allotted them, "become one of the family."

On the exchange basis, Birmingham was host to a group of German youths, among the several hundred who visited this country in 1952 under the U.S. State Department's "reverse" plan.

Fire Dept. Answers Two Alarms in Day

"No damage" was the report of the Birmingham fire department as firemen answered two alarms last week Thursday.

Fire Chief Vern W. Griffith said the first alarm came from the Michigan Bell Telephone building, 160 Martin, at 11:21 a.m. The fire, which was confined to a large bag of papers near the building's incinerator, was out when firemen arrived.

The basement was filled with smoke, however, and firemen set up large fans to ventilate it. The second call came in at 10:40 p.m. and was occasioned by a mound of rubbish that was burning dangerously close to a electrical utility pole near 1670 Graefield.

Hold Special Shoot

The Birmingham Gun Club will hold a special merchandise shoot at the Richardson road site on Sunday, Jan. 31. The shooting will start at 10 a.m. with a buffet lunch at 12:30 p.m. February shooting dates have been set as Saturday, Feb. 6 and Saturday, Feb. 20.

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