Social Security 'Dishonesty'

These few words relate to the federal These few words relate to the federal government's social security program, started under FDR 17 years ago. During this period the number of people who are on the social security agency's rolls has reached 5,970,000. Perhaps the next Congress will add more millions to the list. During 1953, 41,38 Oakland County citizens received financial aid from this agency, with payments amounting to \$863.041.

There is little doubt but what this social

\$683,041.

There is little doubt but what this social security program has provided much needed help to countless old people. That is all to the good.

But the travesty about this entire program is that, while the money collected over 17 years has gone into the federal treasury to be credited to this fund, the money itself has been appropriated by Uncle Sam for use in the nation's general fund—thus, in place of the money being kept untouched for governmental expenditures, the fund only has an equal amount of interest-bearing U. S. government bonds.

DURING 1953 THESE BONDS earned

about \$40,000,000 in interest, which is added to the book balances of the fund.

Yet it all adds up to this: to retire all or any part of those bonds, payment must be made in currently collected taxes—all of which must come from American tax-

In brief, the method of trusteesinp of the entire social security program has been deceiffully operated. The people pay annually a great deal of money into a specific fund which is to be used as in-surance payments to them, when they qualify, but that money is loaned by this agency to the U. S. Treasury Dept. for current expenses.

Thus the money vanishes about as fast as it comes in, yet the social security agency in fact owes it against future payments to people who qualify as beneficiaries. It can be replenished only by more taxes against our citizens.

Of course, there is nothing actually illegal about all this—but there is plenty of intellectual political dishonesty about

. . . and so it goes. . . .

You Are Perfectly Right, Adlai!

Adlai E. Stevenson, speaking recently in New York, called attention to the fact that the freedom of the individual in this country is the key to progress in these

that the freedom of the individual in this country is the key to progress, in these troubled times.

Expressing his belief that the United States will continue to lead the way to a better life for its people, the defeated Democratic candidate of 1952 stid:

"But reason will not triumph unless the mind is free. The struggle of our times is a struggle to preserve integrity and creativity of the free mind. It has many enemies. The most menacing of these foes have been the annihilistic political systems like facism, nazism and communium—the secular fanaticisms of our time."

THE THEME EXPRESSED by Steven-

The Mackinac Bridge Authority has sold \$95,858,000 worth of bridge bonds, and when the Michigan Supreme Court upholds that sale (as it is now considering), work on the bridge will be started.

Those bonds are "revenues", meaning that payment of them is presumed to come almost entirely from charges made against each vehicle and passenger that uses the bridge after it is opened.

In the event the charges fail to meet the bond obligations, no doubt the responsibility will be shifted to the state treasury.

From The Eccentric's

son is one which Americans must hold dear to their hearts if intellectual achievements are to bring continuing progress in the various fields. Our citizens must be able to speak freely, read freely, organize freely, so long as this activity does not violate the Constitution.

Throughout the history of man, the rate of progress achieved by various races is in direct proportion to the amount of individual liberty and freedom existing among them.

As long as the average American is free to read what he pleases, listen to whom he pleases, travel freely, speak his mind and_enjoy access to all sources of entertainment, news and propaganda he desires, communism will make no significant gain in the United States.

'Politics' Controls Bridge Payments

about the situation (but knowing how government and politics operate), we prophesy that eventually the state treasury will be tapped to meet part of the annual payments—over and above the

WHILE WE DISLIKE being pessimistic

present nearly half million dollars pledged to the project annually by the Michigan Legislature. We say this—not in argument against

the desirability of the bridging of Michigan's two peninsulas—but merely on the basis of traditional statistics as they re-

An Easy One to Keep



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
January 8, 1904
Royal Oak Hotel burned
y night. Guests escaped in
night clothes. Loss about their night \$6,000.

\$6,000.

Another barber has opened up a first class tonsorial parlor in our village. John R. Nye is the candidate for wealth, prosperity, popularity and pelf, and his shop is in the National Hotel.

the National Hotel.

The past week or so has been fine winter weather. The thermometer has been laying very low from zero down to 10 below for day after day making a big hole in our coal bins as well as our neighbors.

Charles R. Hoffman, ex-barber and now a horny handed son of toil, a real farmer, has sold Roll-ing Joe the fastest pacer that ever came down the pike. Price received by Charles II. was \$200. Sold to the Jacob, Kolb livery of Detroit and was re-sold for \$400 in the twinkling of an eye.

winking of an eye.

30 YEARS AGO
January 4, 1924
Announced and the second and the second and the second and the subscribers that the name of Michigan State Telephone company has been changed to Michigan Bell Telephone company effective Jan. 1.

The new iron foot bridge, or-dered by Bloomfield Township offi-cials some weeks ago, has arrived in Birmingham and will be in-stalled alongside of the concrete bridge on West Maple avenue near the waterworks station.

Unmindful of a reputation to be upheld, the New Year crept in on Birmingham with no accidents reported and no one spending the first night of the new year in the Village "detainer" as a result of his New Year's "spirita".

More than 1,500 auto license plates have been issued at the Pontiac branch office of the department of state since the opening of the sale last Friday morning, J. Byron Judd, manager, announced.

Baldwin Briefs — Santa Claus brought John Gore a shaving out-fit all complete but the shaving mug. Santa supposed John would furnish his own mug.

15 YEARS AGO January 5, 1939

January 5, 1939

Residents of Birmingham lost a total of only \$149 through fire during the month of December, according to a report issued by Vernon W. Griffith, Chief of the Fire

Mr. and Mrs. Lester L. Smith of 291 Chesterfield drive are receiving 2vl Chesterfield drive are receiving congratulations as the parents of baby girl. Mary Louise Smith, who began life as a winner—as a win mer of the prizes offered by Bin mingham Merchants to the first baby born after the stroke of midnight in 1939.

"On the whole, busines during 1939 will depend entirely upon how well you can keep it out of the hole."

Anne and Robert Woodruff, Jr., children of Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Wodruff of Franklin, sustained painful injuries on Saturday noon as the result of a coasting acci-dent.

A collection of nearly 20,000 pictures, to illustrate everything from how to ski to the coronation of a king, is now on file at the Baldwin Public library.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Now is a good time to start preparing for next 'Christmas' shopping. Also a time to go over bills for expenses from the one just past. Every so often, within what appears

like a regular cycle of time, the nearby city of Hamtramck is rocked with allegations and accusations of municipal corrup tion in its law enforcing machinery. Most of the citizens of that community are Polish in ancestry. It is historically true that Poland is a nation of liberty-loving people, who have engaged in many wars to win and preserve freedom. Why, then, do these Hamtramck Poles tolerate cor-ruption in their city?

This political hassle about Harry Dexter This political hassle about Harry Dexter White afready has crowded the Godfrey-La Rosa hassle off the front pages of American newspapers. That's one splendid situation found in these United States—there's always something popping up to crowd important (?) news off the front

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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National Advertising Representatives weekly Newspaper Representatives. Inc. 1618 Guardian Bidg. DETROIT 26, MICH. NEW YORK 10, NY.

The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has news value. Suggestions are well-comed. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected if brought to the publisher's attention.

We do not expect, in the life-time of some generations to come, a real and defi-nite solution for many of our social, poli-ical and economic ills. There are two negative human traits that cause us to think thusly. One of them is human laziness, the other human lack of basic brother-hood. Indeed, mankind still has a long ways to go ... and all each generation can do is to help it along the way.

Point of View . . .

Don't ever forget that the career public official who is so partisan that he never sees any good in his opposition is tarred with the stuff of prejudice. He will do and say most anything to discredit his opponents. To him his public job seems to be a gift from Heaven . . and he intends to cling to it in spite of all logic and reason.

A Scotchwoman recently informed the world that she has a "perfect husband." She provides this as proof: he can bake, knit, sew and embroider. He even spins his own yarn. He never interferes with her own household duties. It's wonderful to learn that there exists at least one "perfect husband" on this whirling globe.

So They Say . . .

Dr. David E. Alexander, Chicago Geriatri-cian, explaining why men die younger than women:

"Women drive their husbands too hard."

Grayson L. Kirk, president, Columbia University, deploring lack of leaders: "Maybe we're educating too many just etty well."

Dr. Edward J. McCormick, President, American Medical Association: "Society is passing through a golden era of tremendous medical advances."

Winter, with its related joys and woes, is with us. True, it ascemed to be slow in starting, but seemed to be slow in starting, but some leaves a mass of ridges and the start of the start of the seemed to be slow in starting, but and temperature indications are very start of the start of the seemed to be shown in starting, but and temperature indications are very start of the seemed to s

experience of one of the things assisted in the best present I've ever had build or windown and the second of the

a fully equoyes were might end of the worst muffler about his throat and warm muffler about his worst have been checking supplies of sand, tire chains and wind the worst have been checking supplies of sand, tire chains and wind the worst have been checking supplies of sand, tire chains and wind the worst does not said to remove ice from windside and prevent fogging, etc.

A lot are welcoming chemicals said to remove ice from windside and play in comfort denied them and play in comfort denied them. This susually results in a very low and play in comfort denied them. This susually results in a very low play have and play in comfort denied them. This susually results in a very low play have a more than a play in comfort denied them. This susually results in a very low play have a more than a play in comfort denied them. This susually results in a very low play have a wind variety comfort denied them. This susually results in a very low play have a wind variety comfort denied them. This susually results in a very low play have a wind variety comfort denied them. This susually results in a very low play have and play in comfort denied them. This susually results in a very low play have and play

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

Metered, off-sfreet parking lots scat-tered strategically throughout its business section are credited with bringing White Plains, N. Y., a city of 50,000, the highest per capita retail business of any city its size in the United States. Two-thirds of the city's shoppers come from the sur-rounding countryside, a recent Chamber of Commerce survey shows. Convenient, inexpensive parking has been a major magnet in attracting these buyers, busi-nessmen report.

magnet in attracting these buyers, businessmen report.

Experience of White Plains in successfully dealing with its parking problem was recently surveyed by an automobile dealers' national parking study council, an organization of the automobile company's dealers who are gathering material about the varying methods used by a dozen or so cities to solve the "nation's No. 1 head-

INABILITY TO PARK EASILY is not only reducing value of centrally located city properties and strangling retail trade, but it poses a threat to continued auto-mobile sales which explains the interest of this particular auto company's dealers, the council explains.

the council explains.

These studies so far reveal that a dozen cities, approaching the problem in different ways, have found that solution of their parking problem is possible at reasonable cost and that it pays rich dollars and cents dividends. As in White Plains, many cities find their parking lots are self-liquidating.

White Plains, county seat of West-chester county just north of New York City, opened what it believes was the first metered parking lot in the country in May,

metered parking lot in the country in May 1946. The lot was placed under control of 1940. The lot was pinced under control of a five-man parking authority which sought to operate lots without incurring bonded indebtedness and in such a manner as to pay for themselves and others as needed. To get started, funds were loaned from the city's capital reserve to repay with interest out of receipts.

SINCE THEN, THE NUMBER of such lots has grown to thirteen, with three more planned. In addition to substantially increased retail business, these results are reported:

By George Wm. Averill

1. Traffic congestion has been materially reduced, a survey of one main street revealing a flow of 900 cars an hour now as compared to 350 cars an hour three

as compared to 350 cars an hour three years ago.

2. Meter collections, taken in a fire cent charge for two hour parking, brought revenue of \$149,000. It is expected indebtedness to the city's reserve fund will be paid in three years.

3. Capacity parking on the first lot, which had 94 meters geared for two hour parking, was achieved two years after opening. Experience has proven no lot wins immediate acceptance as the public must become accustomed gradually to the new convenience.

the new convenience.

the new convenience.

4. DESPITE TREBLED BUSINESS volume since 1939 and a fifty per cent population increase in twenty years, the city's streets have comfortatly handled the greater traffic volume. This has been a factor in influencing Al T. & T., General Poods, Union Carbide, Nestle's, and other business giants to move or plan to move heir offices from New York City to White Plains trade area has a population of 250,000 and the competition of small outlying shopping districts, which have dealt heavy blows to business property in many cities, has been forestalled.

6. The city has become so parking conscious that clubs, churches, and spartments, among others, must provide off-street parking before building permits are approved. New apartments, for instance, must provide one space for each apartment and it is proposed now to demand this space be increased by fifteen per cent to provide for cars of guests.

7. EXPERIENCE HAS PROVEN no

7. EXPERIENCE HAS PROVEN DO 7. EXPERIENCE HAS PROVEN no more than \$800 per space should be spent if the cost is to be recovered in ten to fifteen years. White Plains' second lot, to care for 208 cars, cost about \$71,000 including grading, paving, meters, lighting signs, and incidentals or just under \$340 per space.

"Making a beginning—wisely planned; the results will prove so valuable there will be no stopping." one White Plains businessman advised.

March of Dimes Chairman Urges Citys' Support

"Because of the current interest in the charity rackets investigations, we should like to make clear thous, we should like to make clear the coming March of Dinne chairman. Taylor said and education of personnel; stone of Dinne chairman. Taylor saided that volunteer workers would fee to coming March of Dinne chairman. Taylor saided that volunteer workers would fee private the most part, working in their cwm. This statements and the same control of the same contr

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