

The Oceans Will Have Their Own Way

William J. Baxter, author of a new book on the weather, says flood damage on the Atlantic Coast and Gulf of Mexico this year will be the greatest ever witnessed by this generation.

Baxter believes abnormally high temperature during the recent winter thawed much ice in Arctic areas which will result in higher water, particularly in the Atlantic Ocean.

The situation is pictured as one of a battle to preserve land masses from all-powerful oceans which are steadily "stealing" land. Already according to Baxter, seventy-one per cent of the entire globe is composed of "ice-free" from the weather expert's belief is that the percentage of oceans and frozen areas is now beginning to rise appreciably.

HE POINTS TO SERIOUS floods in the British Isles last year, serious ravages

Government Seldom Is Businesslike

Senator Robertson of Virginia recently had some important things to say about our American railroads.

We have only six per cent of the world's land area and population, he pointed out, yet we have 30 per cent of its total railway mileage. Our railroads employ 1,500,000 persons paying them more than \$6,000,000,000 a year in taxable wages.

He also cited the railroads as a prime example of the virtues of private enterprise and an outstanding answer to socialist arguments. During World War II, he

from rising water in, Scotland and the worst flood damage Holland has experienced since the Fifteenth Century, which left practically ten per cent of Holland's land covered by the North Sea. He also points out this spring's storms in Germany which caused the worst floods in seventy years on Germany's Rhine.

THERE IS INDEED MUCH evidence to support the conclusions arrived at by Baxter. Even though he may prove right, it is certain to be exceedingly difficult to argue officials in coastal cities about the probability of rising ocean waters.

Even in this age of the hydrogen bomb, there is still much dispute and a lack of scientific data on the ways and peculiarities of oceans. It is one secret nature has kept pretty well and which the scientists have not yet been able to solve.

said, the railroads paid federal taxes averaging over \$3,000,000 a day. By contrast, when the government operated the railroads in World War I a tax-supported deficit of nearly \$2,000,000 a day resulted.

FINALLY, THE SENATOR said: "I have ridden on some of the railways of Europe and of the Orient where all are under government operation. The equipment of none of them is comparable to ours and all of them, with the possible exception of the National Railway of Switzerland, operate in the red every year."

We take A-1 railroad service for granted. And the compliment that implies has been thoroughly earned by our railroad men.

Crimes Continue to Plague USA

Disturbing news comes from the F.B.I. in its annual crime report bulletin covering the period January-December, 1953. Both the number of crimes committed and the percentage of crimes in relation to the population continue to increase.

The F.B.I. estimates there were an estimated 2,159,080 major crimes committed in the United States during 1953. That is an increase of six per cent over the previous year. Interestingly, rural crimes increased by a considerably larger percentage than did crimes in metropolitan areas.

Of all the crime increases, robberies and burglaries rose more rapidly than did the others, rising by 8.5 per cent and 8.2 per cent respectively. Auto thefts increased by 5.2 per cent, rape by 3.8 per cent and larceny rose by 5.4 per cent.

THE ONLY DECLINE noted in the F.B.I. report was that in murders which dropped 1.2 per cent. The F.B.I. says crimes occur on a seasonal basis, just as do other events. For instance, murder and aggravated assault usually begin at a low point in the early part of the year and

reach a peak in the summer months. Rape is highly prevalent in the summer.

Robberies, burglaries and auto thefts, however, occur less frequently in the summer months than in colder months.

One of the most interesting figures in the latest F.B.I. report is that which shows 53.6 per cent of all persons arrested for auto thefts was juveniles, and 29 per cent of those 53.6 per cent were not old enough to obtain a regular drivers' license in most states.

ABOUT HALF THOSE ARRESTED for burglary were not yet eighteen years of age and over half of all those arrested for crimes against property (robbery, burglary, larceny, auto theft, embezzlement, fraud, buying and receiving stolen property, forgery and counterfeiting, etc.) were under twenty-one years of age.

It seems from these figures that law enforcement agencies in the United States, including the F.B.I. and state agencies, should concentrate their efforts on juvenile training, and character building of the nation's youth. There is no reason why the crime rate in the United States should continue to rise.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

In offering his resignation as Detroit's Police Commissioner to Mayor Cobo, Donald S. Leonard has proved that he thinks enough about wanting to be Michigan's Governor to make a clean break. In other words, although he might have obtained a leave of absence from the commission, he did not ask for this. Leonard thus has won complete public respect.

Two days before the Michigan Legislature adjourned this spring, Gov. Williams requested it approve a measure that would allow the citizens to decide on whether or not they would approve a \$500,000,000 bond issue for building and repairing the state's roads. The Legislature turned him down, the Republicans in

it holding that "the Governor only wants to play politics with the idea during this year's campaign." Maybe the Governor had such a thought in mind—but the action of the Republicans certainly proves that they did, too.

If more people were taught why and how they should self-discipline themselves, there would be fewer troubles in this world. One of the greatest hindrances to the correct working of the processes of self-government is the inclination of some citizens to fail to measure up to the inherent honesty and decency they basically possess. Even the running of a traffic light, the failure to live within specified speed laws, is a phase of this lack of self-discipline. When you add up all these little and big failures, you can realize what a tremendous amount of trouble is created for all of society—not to forget the terrific cost of maintaining the machinery of local, state and federal law-enforcement machinery.

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Pain in the Neck



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Law enforcement officers and traffic safety men all over the country are beating their brains out trying to cut the accident rate. To help them reach their goal, may we humbly suggest a brief training period in reading for all driver license applicants?

Believe us, Birmingham is not alone in this apparent inability to read simple signs and quickly understand their meaning, but of course we see more of it here because we spend practically all of our time in the old home town.

Take for example those signs—there are quite a few—which say simply: NO LEFT TURN.

Left turns go on, day after day, in spite of the signs. These are clearly printed, of a good size and carry no complicated message which might confuse the driver. Nonetheless we were almost clubbed over at Hunter and Maple the other afternoon.

IN ALL innocence we figured those signs were big enough for anyone to see and simple enough for everyone to understand. With this in mind we went driving our way, west on Maple, when suddenly we found a great big truck heading right straight for us, the driver making a very neat left hand turn.

Another sign we notice gives quite a bit of trouble is the one which says STOP.

Riding with a friend not long ago, she noticed one of the new red reflector signs had been set up at an Adams road intersection, commencing on how bright it was under the headlights and drove right on through!

OUTSIDE the city limits, more than within them, the signs say SCHOOL CROSSING—DRIVE SLOWLY. Car after car, without thought these areas—and if anything, more speed is added to get

them out of the territory faster. Another one really quite simple but beautifully ignored is the sign that says HILL—NO PASSING. This especially is true if some big truck happens to be creeping up the hill at a measly 45-50 m.p.h.

NO PARKING are two more words which are difficult for some drivers to read and understand. This is probably because the signs are higher than the car and the driver is looking for stray mail or broken glass in the road and do not see them.

THE THING that amazes us most is the signs the motorist can read.

Let him be howling along the highway at 60 and approach a small, crudely painted sign in front of a gas station that says "gas, 6 gals. \$1" and he can see it a mile away.

His wife can see a sign four inches square, set at the very back of a large store window which it merely advertises. Even driving down the inside lane of a three-lane street, she can see it, read it and find a place to park (under a no parking sign) all in a flash.

It beats us. Maybe it's because so many drivers would rather save a buck than a life.

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

June 17, 1914

William Shuler of Franklin claims to have invented the wheel roll out of an old alarm clock. It works to perfection and he thinks of having it patented.

"The work of removing the old building, still continues at a rapid rate. The roof is now removed and likewise nearly everything constructed of wood about the building. The bricks are being taken down carefully and whetted to the south side of the Macaroni factory where a new factory is to be constructed.

"Our Village marshal, Harvey Hedding, has resigned. He solemnly avers that he can make more gardening on six acres than he can on the village salary."

"The drug and grocery store of E. J. Hough and Co. was entered by burglars on Wednesday night of last week and a large quantity of groceries, tobacco and cigars worth about \$2 in pennies which was in the cash drawer, was carried off.

"Mrs. M. L. Noble has moved back to Birmingham and is now comfortably situated in her new home with Mrs. Burr up on Baldwin ave., west side."

39 YEARS AGO

Jan. 12, 1924

The 1924 village tax rate for Birmingham was announced Monday night by the Village commission and will amount to \$12.50 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

At her home on Lone Pine road, Mrs. Walter May, celebrated at a porch tea, Monday afternoon to honor Mrs. Eugene Brooks of North Woodland avenue, on her 79th birthday.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the American League of Birmingham will hold a "Rag Bee" Wednesday afternoon at Mrs. J. McGregor of 231 Hamilton. The rags to be sewed will later be made into rag rags for the children's ballet at Other Lakes.

Camp Boy #1116, the Oakland County YMCA camp, situated on the south shore of Elizabeth Lake, ranked among the leaders as selected by a committee which made a study of the Michigan camps last summer. The camp will be op-

en to boys this year between Aug. 1 and 20th. The succeeding ten days the camp will be open to the girls.

The Phillips Meat Market, owned for the past several years by A. G. Phillips of Highland Park, was purchased this week by William Olsen of Willetts street. Mr. Olsen will be more popularly recalled as Fire Chief "Bill" Olsen.

15 YEARS AGO

June 15, 1939

The tornado that played havoc in Oakland county yesterday night, destroying thousands of dollars worth of property, blowing people from their homes and scattering dwellings in fields, struck Birmingham in the Southeastern section, but did no serious damage here.

Dual honors came this week to Quentin Brelsford, outstanding track star of Baldwin high school. Wednesday he was selected as the student whose name is to be engraved on the Johnson Memorial Plaque at Baldwin high school, the highest honor open to boys of ranking scholastic and athletic ability.

Dr. James J. Reddy was elected president of the Birmingham Exchange club at the semi-annual election held Tuesday noon at the Community House.

Plans for the organization of a Junior Chamber of Commerce for Birmingham are to be carried out at the Community House Friday night at eight o'clock when 50 local young men, between the ages of 21 and 35, will discuss the aims and objects of such an organization, with emphasis on its potential value to this community.

That 18 men will receive letters in track was the official announcement made by Franklyn W. Whitney, coach of the Baldwin high school track team, at the high school.

Mark Wessel

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Better communication between the Birmingham city commission and the plan board was discussed last week by planners, who came up with the suggestion that better liaison would be effected if a commission member attended plan board meetings.

That's quite possible. But perhaps the "cooperation" still could be greater if a plan board member were to attend all city commission meetings, too.

"Please, folks, give your police department first opportunity to quiet the neighborhood children or the neighbor's pets," Pham Police Chief Ralph Moxley appealed this week to local residents. The Chief's statement came after he read an ad in last week's Birmingham Eccentric in which someone advertised a .22 rifle that was claimed to be "ideal for subduing children and neighbor's pets." Added the city's top law enforcement officer: "After all, my department wants to keep the law in its own hands, not let it be taken in hand by anyone who thinks he would like to."

Michigan's senior senator, Homer Ferguson, has come out with a statement favoring voting privileges for all those persons 18 years or over because it is "in the best interests of the nation."

His colleagues, however, did not agree, for such a constitutional amendment proposition was recently killed in the upper house, 34 to 24.

And properly so, in my opinion.

THE SENATOR CITED five reasons why he favored the vote for 18-year-olds and older: (and these reasons seem to be common to those arguing for lowering of the voting age, including President Eisen-

- 1) Those 18 or older are competent and able to exercise their voting rights;
2) This 18-21 age group is expected to have a high percentage of vote participation;
3) Public opinion polls indicate most people favor dropping the voting age to 18;
4) These young voters will spur older voters to go to the polls; and
5) These 18-21 year-olds have indicated a willingness to assume their voting responsibilities.

THIS IS ALL well-intentioned. But how one person defines competency and ability may not at all be the way a second or a third person will define them.

And how anyone can claim voting participation will be higher among the younger folks—after the novelty wears off? In a few years—is difficult for me to understand. Plenty of persons still relatively close to 21 years haven't voted yet, or decided voting isn't the exciting experience the books say it is. So I fail to understand by what magic the 18-21 year group is fortified by an intense desire to vote.

Two, the average person would vote in favor of no more taxes. Senator, if given the chance. Sometimes the public wants to do what isn't good for it, and sometimes refuses to do what is good for it—most politicians learn that lesson but fast.

IN FACT, SENATOR, you know of a number of persons your own age or older who don't know the ABC's of voting.

I don't believe the situation should be aggravated by adding the relatively greater confusion of these younger members of our society.

Twenty-one years is a low enough voting age.

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Canning is Hard Work... but you can FREEZE with ease! Let's compare— 12 STEPS FOR CANNING 1 Wash and hull berries 2 Prepare syrup 3 Sterilize jars 4 Place berries in jars 5 Cover with boiling syrup 6 Remove air and bubbles; adjust lid and seal 7 Place in canner 8 Process for specified time 9 Remove from canner; readjust lids, cool 10 Test for tight seal 11 Label and date 12 Arrange on shelves ONLY 6 FOR FREEZING 1 Wash and hull berries 2 Combine berries with sugar 3 Place in container 4 Close container 5 Label and date 6 Place in freezer HOT WEATHER NOTE None of these operations requires heat. you'll love an ELECTRIC home freezer SEE YOUR DEALER or Detroit Edison BE MODERN—LIVE ELECTRICALLY