

The Cost of Kings

An interesting item was reported from Stockholm, Sweden, recently. King Gustav Adolf reacted to criticism by the Labor newspaper in Stockholm by announcing that, hereafter, he would use the public entrances and exits at Stockholm's central railway station.

THIS MONEY WAS USED, the paper claimed, to build a temporary staircase to the royal entrance to the station. The old staircase had been torn down to permit the construction of Stockholm's new subway.

Railroads Carry Uncle Sam's Mail

Ninety years ago, a train pulled out of Chicago hauling a new-fangled car that looked like a cross between a box car and a passenger coach. This was an historic moment—for that car was the first of the rolling post offices, even though railroads had carried mail in bulk as early as 1831.

mailed a feet of more than 11,500 baggage and express cars. THERE IS NO QUESTION that mail by rail is the backbone of the postal system. The Iron Horse carries 35,000,000,000 pieces of mail a year—about 85 per cent of all non-local postal traffic.

State Controls Lead To Socialism

For many years the idea of a "planned economy" has been advocated in this country. The term is superficially appealing. It creates imaginary vistas of an economy in which everything is scientific and ordered, depressions and even mild recessions are outlawed, and everyone prospers.

The end of it would at least be a government wherein whatever is not forbidden would be compulsory. IF GOVERNMENT is to plan and blueprint the economic course of a nation's life, it must have complete control over everything that is involved in the economic system.

A Season of Upsets

As football has taken over the sports spotlight from baseball, it has quickly become apparent that 1954 will be a season of major upsets. Already the No. 1 team has been toppled, and most of the nation's most powerful teams have fallen by the wayside in upset victories.

THE OPENING WEEKS of the football season give every indication that this year will be one packed with thrills. Already University of Michigan or Michigan State fans will testify to this.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Detroit's Circuit Judge Vincent M. Brennan, a pitiful victim of something other than plain pop, has announced that he will retire from his 30-year-old job January 1. Repeatedly, in late years, the Judge has misbehaved himself, so much so that it has attracted the attention of the Michigan Supreme Court, which body could disbar him.

To be sure, those 18 Detroit policemen accused of having accepted small "pay-offs" from a numbers operator are no credit to any organization. They, no doubt, will be punished in due time. But let's not allow that to reflect upon the high character of the other hundreds in that department who, day and night, offer themselves honestly in the protection of life and property.

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American newspapers recently held their annual "Newspaper Week", during which they sought to impress upon the public that "free speech and free press" mean. It definitely is not the mere right of people engaged in the business to earn their livings—this is incidental.

So They Say...

Anne O'Hare McCormick, newspaper correspondent: "It is something of a calculated risk to be alive in 1954!"

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill



Ever notice that closely associated people almost always blush, too, when one of their number is caught in the midst of a boo-boo?

WESTWOOD WONDER: At 1036 Westwood lives Virgil M. Exner, upon whose shoulders is said to rest the future achievements of the billion-dollar Chrysler Corp. Exner is the corporation's chief stylist, responsible for the exciting new designs of Chrysler's entire line of 1955 automobiles.

Thursday night had a little ceremony around the receipt of the new \$37,000 all-purpose pumper and aerial ladder truck. After Mayor Charles Renfrew made the official presentation to Fire Chief Vern W. Griffith the guests were invited to see how the ladder worked.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Businesses concerned with communicating with far-away places should be making out What with tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and the like there have been many anxious moments because of friends and relatives in these danger zones.

What is the longest Birmingham city commission record? City Clerk Irene Hanley recalls one which lasted until 1 a.m., and involved a lengthy discussion over what company would be awarded the sale of bonds to finance the city sewage disposal plant. The date of that meeting—July 21, 1938.

This week I was sorry to see that Grose Pointe community give up its idea of making all residential builders deposit money that would pay the new residence's share of future school costs, etc.

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.

Some years ago the city commission gave up—after a public hearing or two—the proposal to pave Chesterfield between Maple and Oak. Too much resident opposition over width, trees, type of street surface, etc. So the plan's been on the shelf since.

However, in the paving and widening of W. Maple part of Chesterfield was paved along the side of the city fire station, now under construction. It looks so good to some Chesterfield residents, it is reported, that they kind of wish the paving soon can be extended the rest of the way north to Oak street.

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