

## Red Cross - United Foundation Agreement Is Welcome News

After several years of negotiation, this October will see an old, established national institution and a new, Detroit-created organization go into the businesses and residences in the South Oakland county area on a coordinated effort.

These two agencies are the American Red Cross and the United Foundation. Such news is being heartily welcomed by these residents and businessmen who in the past several years have been confused by having two important local groups appear to be unyielding in their attempts to perform their respective humanitarian responsibilities.

THAT SEEMS TO BE RESOLVED this year in the recent joint ARC-UF statement that both will campaign together in the SOC area in 1954.

Both these groups have important and not too closely related jobs to perform for people in this area. Both efforts require funds from the same donors, and it is entirely logical that only one contact need be made to obtain the contributions which will support both UF and ARC activities.

It should be emphasized, then, that this year's Torch Drive checks should include BOTH contributions—the one which you normally make in October to the United Foundation—AND the sum which you have been reserving until each March for the Red Cross.

UF and ARC representatives are to be congratulated for recognizing and agreeing that community cohesiveness is more to be desired than organizational individuality.

## Others See Us As We See Them

A good deal of the foreign news that we Americans get every day relates to problems and troubles of other nations. These run the gamut of everything from the overthrow of governments, the tyrannical oppression of millions of people, "hard-up" governments, plus the usual run-of-mill brutalities and felonies committed by individuals.

It is quite natural that, when we read these stories, we acquire a negative and critical attitude toward other nations.

Reversing the situation, is it any wonder that other nations get a critical attitude

toward the United States, as they read about our domestic troubles? Are we lively in this free United States of America?

Do we not have scandals in government? Do not the politicians accuse one another in slanderous fashion? Aren't our prisons getting larger because of increased numbers of felons?

The Eccentric merely recites this to remind you that the international flow of news reveals to all who read that no nation on this troubled earth is an Utopia.

## Dividends Go To Low Income Folks

Congress has given people who receive income in the form of stock dividends a modest measure of tax relief. There is hope that in the future there will be sufficient improvement in the government's fiscal affairs to make possible more relief. But one thing is certain—the old cry that this is a flagrant example of favoring the rich at the expense of the poor will be sounded again and again.

The answer to that is found in a factual survey of the families which own shares in corporations whose stocks are bought and sold in the United States. Here's the situation: 24.7 per cent of those families have annual incomes ranging from less than \$2,000 to \$5,000; 43.8 per cent are in the \$5,000-\$10,000 bracket, and only 21.5 per cent, a trifle more than a fifth, have more than \$10,000.

This jibes with U. S. Treasury statistics

showing that nearly 80 per cent of all income taxpayers reporting dividends are members of families earning under \$10,000.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED is that millions of people with average jobs and incomes periodically put a part of what they are able to save in stocks—just as they put a part in savings accounts, insurance policies, real estate and other forms of investment and property. The number of stockholders has been growing rapidly this year, due in part to the inauguration of a pay-as-you-go buying system of stock.

No longer is the stock exchange the province of the few. It is a market place for the millions and fair tax laws for stockholders are no less than a matter of good business for the nation—they encourage investment in productive enterprise.

## You Should Holler For Lower Taxes

Citizens Public Expenditure Survey defines a taxpayer as "one who doesn't have to pass a civil service exam to work for the government."

The average man in the \$4500 bracket works one day in every three to earn tax money alone! If he is employed on the usual 40-hour, five-day week basis, he works more hours to pay his taxes than he does to meet both his housing and clothing needs.

That's a bleak picture. But a ray of sunlight is found in the fact that the new federal budget marks a reduction from its predecessors—and that the tax cuts proposed by the Administration and authorized by Congress have provided us with

some measure of relief.

NOW THE HOPE is that larger cuts in both spending and taxes will be possible in the future. Practically everyone, in and out of government, wants that. But the goal will be impossible of attainment unless it is honestly supported by the public at large. That means we must do much more than just advocate economy as a vague general principle.

We must be willing to approve economy moves when they directly affect us—not the other fellow only. Long ago it was said that the people get the kind of government they deserve, and that goes for fiscal affairs as well as everything else.

## From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Many people use their skulls as an area upon which to grow hair, while others deem it also a dandy place in which to house alert and intelligent thinking apparatus.

It is not wisdom, in a self-governing nation, to assume that one or all of the

public officials in high places know the answers to specific problems. That is why citizens, themselves, must ever be alert to what their governing bodies are doing. Always try to remember that YOU, as a citizen, are the public officials' EMPLOYER; and he and she in office is always subject to dismissal, if you carry out your own citizen responsibilities.

The modern definition of an egotist is a person who knows a good thing when he says it.

## So They Say...

James Russell Wiggins, managing editor, of the Washington Post and Times Herald:

"The right to know about their own Government is a right of all the people."

Alexander Wiley, U.S. Senator from Wisconsin:

"West European unity will be achieved one way or another despite French rejection of the European Defense Commu-

## Better Luck This Time



## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Uncle Abner is quite fascinated by the story of the Michigan couple listed on the receiving end of a national "shower of nickels."

He read with a great deal of interest the problems which have presented themselves along with the numerous five-cent pieces, and always as how he'd be delighted to tackle a lot set of troubles, all his own.

He began counting of things—how he could do with a flood of those coins should fate ever arrange to have them converge upon him.

Item number one seemed to be a new car. He's a bit fed up with listening to an assorted series of pings, pongs and tings every time he starts the old crate. The sapping spring in the driver's seat annoys him, along with the one on the passenger side which struggles constantly to sound like a cunary.

TOO, HE'S becoming suspicious of the tires expecting them to gasp their last some rainy, windy night when he's bound for his favorite cribbage game.

Item number two is a "corporation" affair, including a tiny hint to them that they just want the old gentleman and a couple of cronies, an aluminum boat and a

One of his pals has a trailer and Uncle Abner, being the biggest of the trio, always has the place of honor to sleep in a built-in bed running crosswise of the trailer. It has, however, a drawback, it's tucked away under the tank which holds the water supply, and every time Uncle Abner rolls over or sits up, he bumps his noggin on the tank.

THE BOAT the old timers use is one they made when they were young fellows. Weight meant nothing to them then—they just wanted something that would keep afloat and stand punishment. The craft they turned out filled the bill, but can't be much lighter than an aircraft carrier.

## 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  
September 30, 1904

"We heard one of our village commanders say Sunday morning last that a night watchman should be employed to watch our village wall or some night some of the boys will steal the cages and get away with them. The report that the two men who escaped therefrom Saturday night last sold the cages to Joe Junk is a base canard, a false statement."

"One day recently a Gasoline auto, with a big, bright blaze all over it, under it, through it, inside it and outside it nearly scared Mrs. Dr. C. M. Ray into fits and caused the fire to be rung and whistled. The volunteer brigade was cheerfully turned back by the happy doctor who wanted to think he kept the water outside out."

"Ed McKinnis, after 20 years absence in California, is home among his friends shaking every body with a glad hand and every body is glad to shake with him."

"Howard Carter, our one and only stockbroker has gone to 'Old Kaintuck' and will join his father there in the oil business."

Miss Bessie Bigelow is a student of the best university in New York State, at Tarrytown and is much in love with her studies.

30 YEARS AGO  
September 26, 1924

The placing of the boulevard lights on West Maple avenue last spring has proved to be the means of bringing about several changes in the presentation of moving pictures in the high school auditorium. It was found necessary to place shades on the windows on the northern exposure of the auditorium to make it possible to show pictures in the auditorium in the evening.

An eight point team arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Bird on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Nearly sixty guests witnessed the pretty wedding at the Stephen A. Chas. home, here at high noon, on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Weeks Jowell, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Jowell of Oxford spoke their marriage vows before Rev. T. J. Edwards of the First Baptist church of Birmingham.

On her fruit farm out west Maple road, Miss Sarah Sly has hosted to members of St. Margaret's Guild of St. James church last Tuesday at luncheon which preceded the business meeting.

The Bloomfield Hills Country Club was the scene of a pretty luncheon Wednesday when Miss Katherine Bromley of "Uplands", Bloomfield Hills, was hostess to fourteen of the school set at a lunch and bridge. Gay and vivid garden flowers centered the tables.

15 YEARS AGO  
September 28, 1939

To celebrate the payment of all church debt, members of the First Methodist church will hold a "Victory Dinner" on Friday evening, Oct. 6, at the Community House.

A T. O. fraternity at Lehigh University has announced the pledging of Bruce Craig and Dick Wallace of Bloomfield Hills. Bruce makes the third Craig boy to pledge a T. O. Rocky and Bob starting the line.

Miss E. Lillian Hart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hart has entered the Ford school of Nursing and Hygiene. Miss Hart graduated from Baldwin High school in 1938.

Dominic S. Caputo of Birmingham, recently elected head of the court No. 20, Foresters of America, was honored in a testimonial banquet and dinner held at Lombardi Hall, Detroit.

Robert Shusser, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Shusser of Pierce street, began his piano studies this week at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago as the result of the scholarship which he won only a few days ago.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale Houses" columns on the Birmingham Post-Herald.

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

The average husband's most bewildering moments come as he tries to figure out what to do with his free time when his wife says (occasionally, of course): "Dear, you can have the evening out—the girls are coming in for bridge."

Some motorists think policemen should give them a sporting chance as the traffic law is being broken. Especially some men (and women, too) who get cited because of a radar reading.

I'm in favor of Pham Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley having his department's radar unit so designed that it can be easily moved to and unobtrusively operated from, any kind of a motor vehicle.

Then he should obtain his radar car on a lease basis—so there'd be a different make, model and color each week.

Birmingham's policemen don't love red light runners, stop street sneakers, or fast, furious folks, any more of a sporting chance than is given a cattle rustler.

very restless nights thinking about all that money which could have been rebated to Detroit's poor, sadly overcharged telephone-using residents.

Nothing really lasts, an ex-collector of tinfol will testify.

If U.S. Postmaster Summerfield ever is written into this nation's history books, it undoubtedly will be because he has approved the issuance of a new special delivery stamp.

The new one—which will be blue—shows one hand handling another hand an envelope.

Now perhaps the ancient truck—which for countless years has stood in front of that U.S. post office—can be moved into, say, the old car display at Greenfield Village.

Certain things are not mentioned aloud in polite society. But plenty of things are whispered.

Birmingham city officials are concerned over the pickup of bulky rubbish items, especially when the SOC authority's incinerator some miles distant is in operation late this year.

Residents now can make a short trip to the city dump on E. Maple and for a slight charge leave the weekend accumulation.

But will citizens want to drive the long way to the incinerator? City officials are asking themselves. If not, what will the city do?

Since for a small fee citizens now can have their garbage picked up at the rear door, why couldn't the present dump fee be asked of residents who would call the DPW for special pickup of bulky rubbish items?

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