

Hallmarks of Dictatorships in Kremlin Pattern

Many illuminating articles have been written about the last shift of power in the Kremlin, and the probable forces behind it. It seems to be generally agreed in the most authoritative circles that a major factor is the ghastly mess which is Soviet agriculture. Farmers, under iron-handed collectivism, are restive and unhappy. Production of most foods is far below any reasonable level for a country of Russia's size. There are actually fewer cattle than in the days of the Czars, when the population was far smaller. A goat was needed—and Malenkov was it.

Whether or not Malenkov was gravely at fault as an administrator is a debatable question. But one thing is certain—there is a small chance of things getting much better in Russia under the existing system.

The world has known dictatorships for centuries, and subsistence living standards and deprivation of the masses have been hallmarks of every one.

ALL THE PRODS and terrors the police state can muster can't overcome the fact that enslaved people, moved like pawns by an all-powerful government, can't begin to equal the productive capabilities of a free people.

It also is true that government controls and edicts, well-intentioned as they may be, never get the desired result. We had a taste of this, when price and other controls were left in effect after the war. To take a salient example, one consequence was a severe meat shortage.

Producers just couldn't function efficiently when bureaucrats were calling the tune. Much of what meat there was would up in black markets. When the controls finally were removed, production started up and now the country has meat in abundance.

No one feels sorry for Malenkov. He was a victim of the Communist system—as well as the ruthless power-politics which communism makes inevitable.

Heady Glamour Spectrum

Glamour is a subject that is almost inexhaustible. But it is also probably the most dangerous subject a man can talk about particularly if he is discussing the matter with a woman.

It used to be that beauty was only skin deep. Now advertising writers for billion dollar cosmetic houses have added to that "but oh what skin!"

Apparently that "oh what" business applies to hair as well. Beauticians are having hand-up sessions all over the United

States trying to crown the female strands with glory be.

LATEST REPORTS ARE that women will be dyeing their hair pink, chartreuse, and baby blue. There is nothing more low-down than that Jeanie with her light-green hair.

It's not that a man prefers the natural tinge—how could he know?—it's just that this is a queer world and the girls ought to keep their heads no matter how they wear them.

Giddy-Yap, Silver!

The Lone Ranger, through the excellent services of comic books, radio and television, has galloped his heroic way into the ken of 90,000,000 people. Hollywood, and especially Warner Brothers, figures this is a pretty good audition for a rangey cowpoke who wears blinkers, and they intend to film his honest exploits soon.

It might be enlightening to many of the Ranger's faithful fans if the movie makers would start the film somewhere in the Ranger's boyhood, or at least at the point when he acquired Silver.

It might be illuminating to many if the film would explain why the Lone Ranger yells, "Hi Ho," at his horse. "Giddy-yap"

seems all right, or "giddyup, boy" sounds pretty good. But the "hi ho" affair somehow does not tumble with the tumbleweeds.

ALSO HIS BUSINESS of shouting, "away", at the horse seems like no kind of a direction at all to give a beast.

While the screen editors puzzle over these finer points perhaps they may as well debate the necessity of playing the William Tell Overture each time the Lone Ranger gallops into view. Anyone knows Bill Tell was an old sordid side winder who didn't have no hos.

Why Not Every Day?



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

It's very close to May, again, that wonderful month that brings us Mother's Day, oodles of flowers, closer to the end of the school year and "Moving Month."

Now there are a certain class of people who think moving is a wonderful idea.

Of course these folks, mostly men, are in the minority. But the fact still remains that nothing makes them happier than to have a lot of people taking down pictures and packing dishes. They are, of course, the owners and movers of moving vans.

Real estate men are somewhat in the same class, especially when they deal with families who are leaving apartments to buy homes for their own. They feel moving day is one of the most satisfying days in the world.

ITS THE folks who do the moving that find the aches and pains, trials and tribulations in this great American pastime.

Maybe the move is a short one, and a lot of the fragile items are jugged from house to house in the family car. This usually falls to mother as an afternoon chore after the little tots have had their naps and the bigger kids come home from school.

She loads all four of them into the car, along with the dog, and generally speaking, has room for a lamp or two, a few small vases and a very small box of dishes. She bangs her head getting the stuff into the back seat and the trunk and breaks a couple of figurines, twisting and shoving the boxes into snugger corners.

SHE MAKES about two trips and it's time to start getting dinner ready, so she quits for the day. Daddy comes home and fails to notice that she has moved a

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Newly elected Birmingham Commissioner Florence Willett is quoted as saying that the downtown Shain park is "the core of the fruit that is Birmingham."

Proponents of keeping the park where it is might agree thus with Mrs. Willett, "That's peachy!"

While those who wanted it for parking might be heard to say: "That's applesauce!"

If the Rockwood-Saginaw turnpike goes through as presently proposed, it could all but wipe out a year of planning for a business development at the southwest corner of Maple and Telegraph. A most important 200-foot portion of the development would have to give way to the turnpike route. This leaves a less desirable 300 foot section for business to the west.

However, it is possible that to make up for what the turnpike would need, the Bloomfield township board might rezone to permit the entire commercial development to be erected west of the toll road.

Elections were held recently in eleven of the so-called soviet republics. There was no need for beforehand speculation about the outcome; it was not really necessary to count the votes. The only can-

didates in any of the races were those hand-picked by the Communist party.

Outsiders sometimes wonder why Communist leaders trouble to have elections since neither issues nor offices are at stake. They represent a fruitless expense of money and trouble merely to confirm decisions that have been made and will not be revoked.

Elections, however, seem to feed the egos of the leaders and cloak their actions in what passes for popular approval.

PEOPLE WHO LIVE in the free world must also remember that in Russia and other Red countries most of the people are ignorant of any tradition of free elections. Thus it is possible for their leaders to delude some of the people into thinking that they are being given a voice in government affairs.

The mockery of elections that are conducted in any country where freedom is banished should serve as an object lesson to Americans.

How often have we neglected to vote? How often have we voted ignorantly for a rotten label rather than for the record of the man or the party?

Free elections are a blessing denied to millions of people.

For us to neglect or abuse that blessing is a sacrilege.

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From The Eccentric's Point of View...

The average U. S. housewife controls 65 horsepower in her home merely by flicking switches. Figuring 22 men to one horse, that's the equal of her spouse and 1,429 other men being helpful around the house... or, to put it in other words, the equal of two active youngsters, aged four and six, respectively.

Two University of Chicago psychologists are observing the ability of an Illinois mangrel dog to respond to a combination of 2,000 words. The canine's owner, a farmer, speaks to the dog and the animal responds. The psychologists are amazed; perhaps the dog is, too, over all the attention it is getting.

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GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager
GEORGE WM. AVERILL
Managing Editor
HAROLD B. BUERGE
Advertising Manager

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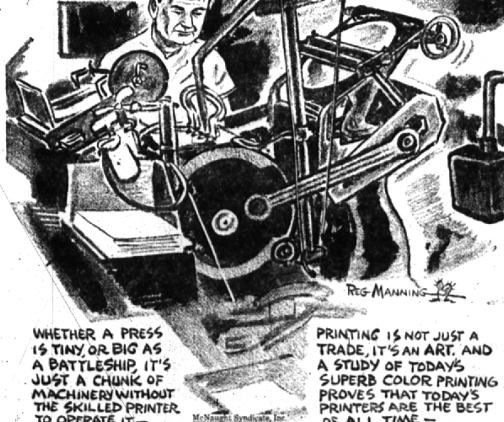
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Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Today.

50 YEARS AGO
April 28, 1905

"Much to the surprise and astonishment of the many candidates for the place of rural carrier made vacant by the resignation of Jos. Schoonover, Mr. Irving N. Voorhes

won out while the rest of the applicants were waiting for notice of examination."

"Louis Randall of Brown street is the happy owner of a brand new Edison phonograph with a big bunch of the latest and most popular gold molded records, and evenings now will find the young man at home with a few invited guests listening joyously to "Teasing," "Redelia," "In the Shade of the Old Appletree" and a few such."

"James Hanks, a former resident of this place, made his mother and sister a short call this week."

30 YEARS AGO
April 25, 1925
Mr. C. C. Hoover will be installed as Chief Patriot at the 1007 Temple here tomorrow afternoon. He has long been identified as a faithful member of the Birmingham Odd Fellows lodge.

With the winning of second place in the sub-district contest of the National Oratorical Meet and the carrying off of the first honors in the elimination and district frays of the Detroit News contest, Margaret Howard, daughter of Grace Carey Howard of Oakland avenue has brought commendation to the local high school.

Essel B. Ford, President of the Ford Motor company, today confirmed reports from Paris announcing that the company had acquired property and buildings for the establishment of an assembly plant at the French capital.

15 YEARS AGO
April 25, 1940
R. J. Melrow of Birmingham is the new president of the Seventeenth Congressional district, Young Republican Federation.

Embury Methodist church began its activities in the year 1923. While it is now affiliated with the Methodist church, at the time of its organization it was a member of the Congregational church.

A well-balanced Baldwin high school track squad won the first meet of the district swamping Plymouth high school 69-36 last Friday at the Plymouth track.

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