

Argues Lawyers Should Help Improve Crime Laws

Lloyd Wright, president of the American Bar Association, speaking before a county bar association in Portland, Oregon, said the legal profession should "bear the brunt of the blame" for the rapid increase in crime and juvenile delinquency.

Wright stated that lawyers have been so busy trying to make money and gain prestige that they have allowed criminal law to decay. The result, he says, is outmoded machinery and a multiplicity of laws for which the criminal has contempt.

Let 'Em Travel-Much Good Still Survives

To be sure, some members of Congress abuse the privilege of government-paid junket to various parts of the world. To a comparative few, we think, the opportunity for a "nice trip at taxpayers' expense" is a temptation often succumbed to; yet there is plenty enough value accruing to the total of such trips made, that warrants the expenditure.

Our Economy Makes Us Dependent on Others

Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, recently called attention to problems posed by the growing interdependence of both farmers and city dwellers—problems on which all of us must do some hard thinking.

Farm specialization is making it harder for the small farmer to compete. Almost anything he grows can be grown more cheaply on a specialized farm. Yet the alternative to family farming, one which might be called agricultural big business, has drawbacks.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Birmingham joined his family in its concern over the recent illness of John E. Martz, 724 Lakeview. Mr. Martz, for many years a member of Birmingham's City Commission, and its Mayor, long ago enshrined himself in the hearts of his fellow-citizens here.

Over much of the United States, a few weeks ago, the tenth anniversary of United Nations was widely observed. Admitting that the UN "has its place in the sun", and has, and can, do some good for its members, it should never be forgotten that it also has its weaknesses, its negative phases.

Members of the Birmingham area Junior League recently staged an amateur

many the number reasonably required. The resultant confusion and uncertainty not only constitutes a waste of legal effort but violates the premise of our legal system that the citizen should be unmistakably warned of the acts which amount to crimes.

Wright's words are worth pondering. The law, like every other profession, should search its conscience to make sure it is doing everything possible to uphold civic morality and ethical behavior.

If members of the legal profession ever place the profit motive above respect for the law, the welfare of society is endangered. Fortunately, most of them have high standards of ethics, equity and justice.

After all, when 525 men and women have the power to tax you many billions of dollars, and then allocate it for expenditures, you are entitled to allow them to see where some of these billions go.

If congress did not make such inspections, then only Heaven could help us taxpayers against even more extravagance in the federal government!

all day long. City people are as interdependent as bees in a hive.

A CERTAIN AMOUNT of specialization is not only inevitable, it is a good thing. What must be avoided is too much of it. The small farmer and the "all-around man" possessed of numerous skills are important cogs in our national machinery, worth making an effort to keep.

"Carried out to an extreme it's possible to visualize a society so interdependent that if one man drops a screwdriver everything goes to pot."

No one supposes that this is likely to happen in the near future, if at all. But the warning is timely.

variety show, and netted about \$30,000 from it. This money will be used by them to start a local branch of the Oakland County Child Guidance clinic. Many long and tedious hours were put in by the Junior Leaguers on this project—but, in keeping with their Good Samaritan principle, they "carried on, successfully."

Every fall, when schools resume, motorists are requested "to watch out for school children" . . . to which someone suggests that these words be added: ". . . especially if they are driving cars."

Please do not forget that many politicians, when they speak to you in person or via radio or TV, may be likened to a frantic patent medicine ballyhooer who, needing some cash right at once, promises that his staff will cure everything that ails you. Indeed, some politicians are made of the synthetic stuff that so often fills such ballyhooers' bottles!

Holiday Tree on the Highway



NATURE NOW

Ancient Plant Life Seen in Quarries

By LYDIA KING FREHSE, Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

On our last field trip of the season we spent a day at Williamson and Grand Lodge browsing among the fossils hidden in the debris of coal-bearing shales in old quarries.

These rocks represent the carboniferous period, during which time the great inland coal seams of the world were laid down.

It lasted some 200 million years, at a time when North America was emerging from repeated invasions of the Devonian seas.

THE CLIMATE was generally warm and conducive to the great fern-like forests and stinging swamps which provided the fuel for the coal.

Over these outstretched the ancient insects, while clumsy reptile-like amphibians, crawled through the shallow waters and basked in the mud flats. But no birds came and no flowers bloomed.

THE COAL layers are soft and the best of them today is recovered. Following this the available

shale was worked by a brick and tile industry. Now the debris is the muck of the student and the scientist who finds therein the ancient fossils which are connected with our present flora by the long chain of evolution.

During our day's browsing we found fossil fragments of the great prevailing plant types of this period.

ABUNDANT were rootstalks and large trunk fragments of the giant Lycopods which looked very much like their present-day relatives, the club mosses.

A FEW FEERN fossils were also collected which resemble such divergent types as our present polyp, jelly and hat's tongue. Many of the thousands of species which flourished during this period were not true ferns.

For we had turned back the pages of time some 200 million years to wander in a wondrously beautiful world of swamps lush and dim, populated with the ancient plants and animals of whose existence we can only dream.

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.

36 YEARS AGO

December 8, 1919

Nearly 50 couples dedicated the new hall in the Johnston-Shaw block at a Thanksgiving party by the Birmingham Dancing Club.

At the theatre: The attraction of the Whittier was "Happy Hooligans' Trip Around the World," an entirely new production with new and tasteful scenery and costumes.

Ladies' skirts were to be varied in design for the coming season. The majority—particularly the walking skirts—were still satisfactorily laced but some of the new smart models were made with a large number of puffs cut so as to give extra width at the hem.

A newly elected president of the Lions club, Richard H. Fleming will take office the first week in January. It was announced this week by James Kelly, retiring president of the organization.

Selling your home? Advertise it in the "For Sale—Houses" columns of The Eccentric.

H. B. Clement, president of the Birmingham School Board asked

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Newspaper men always are looking for another way to say what already has been said many times before.

That's why I was so interested and amused over a recipe in the December issue of the Cranbrook Institute of Science "News Letter", just out.

According to the "Letter", this all came about when an overseas friend couldn't get past the language barrier. She understood the following laboratory jargon, however.

(The original instructions follow, but don't look until after you've tried to make out what this recipe is for):

PUDDING (Hatt-Hall Formula)

- Ingredients: A 180 milliliters pulverized carposes of Triticum aestivum var. Red Winter. Particle size 95 microns, sifted through International Standard 140-mesh screen. B 7.5 grams NaCl (Commercial grade). C 5 pulverized seed of Myristica fragrans. D 1.25 grams pulverized pliom of Cinnamomum zeylanicum. E 1.7 grams aril of Myristica fragrans. F 1.7 grams flower buds of Syzygium aromaticum. G 225 kilogram desiccated fruit-coats of Vitis vinifera. H 113 kilogram berries of Ribes sativum. I 113 kilogram aggregated drupes of Ficus carica, fractionated. J .056 grams rind of Citrus medica, impregnated with xls. C.H.L.O. K .056 grams rind of Citrus sinensis, impregnated with xls. C.H.L.O. L 120 milliliters milled, leavened, baked, crumbled cary-51 cipes of Triticum aestivum. M 240 milliliters secretion lactical glands Bos taurus, female, 95 C, mean sea-level. N 60 milliliters C.H.L.O. O +2.4 ova Gallus gallus, lightly centrifuged to separate O1, yoke from O2, albumen. P 225 kilograms adipose tissue from renal casing of Bos taurus, fractionated. Q 120 milliliters expressed elixir of pomegranate from Malus sylvestris, sterilized at 110 C.

Processing: Ingredients should be in 25 C ± 5 C airtight standard pressure at order to insure accurate volume.

Mathematical formulas: [A + B + (C + D + E + F)] W, W + (G + H + I + J + K) V, L + M = Y, [N + O] + [P + Y] = S, Q + O2 = X, [V + S + X] = Z

Topologize Z to suit taste. Autoclave 2 1/2 hours. Proof (of the pudding):

Yield: 11,763 servings, 200 calories each.

Have you guessed what this recipe is? Well, it's for that American "Christmas Dish", plum pudding.

And here are the original instructions:

- PLUM PUDDING: A 3/4 cup sifted flour, B 1/2 teaspoon salt, C 1/2 nutmeg, grated, D 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon, E 1/4 teaspoon mace, F 1/4 teaspoon cloves, G 1/2 pound dried raisins, H 1/4 pound seeded currants, I 1/4 pound figs, chopped, J 2 ounces citron, chopped, K 2 ounces candied orange peel, chopped, L 1/2 cup fine bread crumbs, M 1 cup hot milk, N 1/4 cup sugar, O 1 egg, separated, P 1/2 pound suet, ground, Q 1/2 cup boiled cider. Sift together flour, salt and spices; stir in fruits. Soak crumbs in milk 10 minutes. Beat sugar into well-beaten egg yolks and add suet and soaked crumbs; stir into flour-milk mixture. Add cider and mix well; fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Turn into buttered 1 1/2 quart mold, cover and steam 3 1/2 hours. Approximate yield: 12 portions.

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