

Term Was Short, But His Contribution Was Large

Robert E. Navin is one of the youngest men to serve Birmingham as a city commissioner. Only 35 years old, he was elected last April, now must resign because his new business position requires him to move his family to Michigan City, Ind.

While a commissioner, he tackled his civic responsibilities with more energy than we have seen on the part of most other commissioners in the past decade. Although young in years, he expressed a remarkable maturity in judgment as the commission plodded through its duties and responsibilities.

HE WOULD NOT COMMIT himself to

Legislature Sizes Can Become Unwieldy

The British House of Commons, largest legislative body in the world, is to become larger. Its 625 members are to be increased to 630. This is to relieve the too low representation of England as compared with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Italian parliament has 590 members, and the French 544. Our own House of Representatives looks small in comparison. Its membership was fixed at 435 some years ago.

China Tried It, Too

As long as there are people and governments to govern them, the struggle of the state versus the individual will go on. Almost a thousand years ago China indulged in "a little socialism."

The emperor established a "new deal" and issued a "declaration of principles" which stated that it was the duty of the government to "love the people and to procure them the real advantages of life which are plenty and pleasure."

To accomplish this object the state "shall . . . enforce obedience by wise and inflexible laws." It "shall take possession of all the resources of the empire and become the sole owner, master and employer."

The Only Roads

In the view of Undersecretary of the Treasury W. Randolph Burgess, "So long as we continue along the roads of economy, lower taxes and honest money, the public debt need not be a source of fear."

These also are the only roads that can save us from more inflation. The greatest domestic achievement of the past two

years is found in the fact that the purchasing power of the dollar has been virtually stabilized. If we return to policies of unbridled government spending, the inevitable result will be renewed cheapening of the dollar's value, at the expense of every family in the nation.

These qualities, during the past 45 weeks, won for him the open admiration of fellow commissioners and many towns-men.

It is with mixed feelings that we see him leave this city where he was born and reared. We are pleased to see him making the most of his business opportunities, yet we know his chair at the commission table will be difficult to fill.

members away from states whose population has lagged behind.

This 435-member limit was set because of the belief that the House was too big for efficiency, and would profit by a reduction in size. As such a reduction was politically impracticable, the next best step was to set an upward limit.

How Great Britain, France and Italy manage with so much larger legislative bodies is hard to answer. Observers are convinced that if we added 100 or 200 more congressmen, the House would be reduced to unmanageable chaos.

THE STATE WILL THEN manage commerce, industry and agriculture with the view of securing working classes and preventing their being ground to the dust by the rich."

The poor were exempt from taxes and land was assigned to farmers each year, the seed distributed among them as necessary. The government decreed the kind of crops to be grown.

These reforms were to result in abundance and happiness for all except "usurers and monopolists." Of course prices were also regulated by the state.

No, there is nothing new about experiments with all-wise, super governments. They always are accompanied by intervals of darkness for freedom and progress.

Hard to Please



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

Uncle Ahmer's getting restless. Back on the farm, winter's back is beginning to bend but repairs are coming to farm implements that will have an early spring demand.

Down along the creek the willows are showing tinges of their characteristic yellow-green, and the summer pasture with its heavily wooded swamp-area, the crows are busy and noisy.

ALL THE signs are beginning to point to spring, a time when work really is slackening off on the farm and a man has time to do a few frivolous things.

When Uncle Ahmer was a young man, one of these was to go into the woods and watch the squirrels. Once these busy little characters recycled their storage boxes they were in for a sudden jolt.

Uncle Ahmer and his cohorts would mark the hollow tree around which the squirrels' interest centered and go back there next day with a bucket. Many a bowl of beechnuts (fairly dry shelled) the bushy tails supplied for grandma's cake and cookie baking.

UNASHAMED, the young fellows would dig deep into winter supplies of the squirrels, getting butter-nuts, hickory nuts and beechnuts by the bucketful.

Then too, there were the sugaring off parties which each spring brought. Grandfather was a hard tasking master and allowed no shirking of the job at hand. Day and night, "CORSE" there used to be some pretty good rating, too.

The old calls are sounding in his memory, and the younger generation is sitting around bag-eyed, waiting for the fascinating stories they know will be coming.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

William S. Broomfield, just elected to the Michigan Senate last fall after several terms in the house of representatives, last week apparently announced his intention to run in 1956 for U.S. Senator or something.

This is the only reasoning I can see behind his pronouncement that the Michigan Turnpike Authority has "too much power" and that it has been "a mistake" to create the toll road authority.

From what I hear and read, practically all the controversy seems to center around whose property it is to go through.

No one but Mr. Broomfield seems to think there is no need for some sort of express route between Toledo and Saginaw.

THE SOUTHFIELD-BLOOMFIELD territory through which it is proposed to go, has objected vigorously. That is Mr. Broomfield's home ground, and probably is the underlying reason why he has suggested what he has.

But that doesn't answer the need for a route free of hamburger heavens, traffic lights, and troubles.

I'm sure the authority will listen to proposals for alternate routes—just as long as they are economical to build, and will return at least as much revenue, as the one which the consulting engineers have been working on and are expected to make public sometime next month.

You can't loaf if you need dough.

Birmingham city commissioners agreed last week to be nice neighbors and pro-

People's Column

Daughter Sees Story About Her Father

To the Editor: I have one of those tall bicycles I had when I was a kid. I can't ride it, but I have an old photo of him on it. In an October issue of The Eccentric you had an article about a roller rink run by Edson James and well I remember the rink. He was born on Valentine's Day in also was one of the first ones to 1896. If any one remembers me, I

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From The Eccentric's Point of View...

It is reported that the number of moonshiners in the Detroit area is on the increase. It is also reported that such an increase usually attends times when a certain number of liquor-loving people cannot afford the higher taxed potions of John Barleycorn.

Now and then persons ask us: "What do you think of the Eisenhower administration so far?" We reply something like this: "He is trying to follow a middle-of-the-road policy. He wants to be to the right of left and left of right. . . he is a Republican-Democrat or a Democrat-Republican, with a bit of New & Fair Deal thrown in for good measure."

It is said there are 32 million American overweight males who want to reduce. We

So They Say . . .

Eddie Rickenbacker, famous World War I flyer:

"None of us has the moral right to spend all we make."

William F. Knowland, U.S. Senator from California:

"I have never held to the policy that if a bandit returns half the loot, he should be given the Legion of Merit."

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By George

"My parents nag me, I'm sick of school. I'm bored with TV. I'm going to volunteer on the first rocket ship to the moon!"

The fellow who talks about what a fool he used to be, certainly is an optimist!"

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 February 21, 1905

Potatoes are at a very low ebb just now. Fifteen to eighteen cents per bushel are all they are bringing, and that seems to be the common price. Farmers who refused double this price last fall at digging time are beginning to wonder where they are at.

Guy E. Blair, who has had many offers to play ball the coming season, has signed with the Spring Team of the Central League at a big salary. Blair is considered one of the best short stops Michigan has produced, being a fast fielder and a good batter.

Last Saturday the stock had a big day for its holders. At the Boscovs' farm very early in the day this generous bird left a ten-pound baby girl and Papa Brooks is busy now being passed around the cigars to celebrate the event.

The standard oil wagon which makes a weekly trip to Birmingham met with misfortune Friday afternoon. Although there were two teams instead of one, the snow banks opposite the Averill house proved too much for them and the wagon, oil, horses and driver were pulled. The whole crew of the snowplow had difficulty in extricating the horse from the mixup.

Miss Lucy Ward gave a recital at Amy Friday evening last.

30 YEARS AGO February 27, 1925

Birmingham fared better during 1924 than in any other year in the city's history. The financial gain during the year up to and including January 1, 1925, including the

55 YEARS AGO February 15, 1910

Bill Roberts, member of the senior class at Baldwin high school, named by Scout leaders as the outstanding scout in Birmingham during the past year. He was awarded the Eccentric medal last night at the annual dinner.

Mrs. Modern chose an Electric Clothes Dryer...

it's Cleaner and Completely Automatic

She saves hours of work for pennies a day!

See your DEALER or Detroit Edison