

Prisons Remain Crime Schools

Prisons are ever with us, and always will be. They are generally crowded, offering opportunities for first offenders to be schooled in crime by older inmates. Guards are underpaid and apt to be brutal and inefficient. Too many prisoners drift back into crime after release.

These familiar conditions disturb Mrs. Anna M. Kross, New York City's Commissioner of Correction. She wishes to do away with idleness in penitentiaries, and substitute rehabilitation programs.

She would also have examinations of inmates by physicians, psychiatrists and other specialists, so that as many criminals as possible may be redeemed.

German Ruling Is Unique

West German students have won the right to appeal in court against being failed in academic examinations. While such a ruling may appear to be an infringement on the academic freedom of teachers, actually it is a signal victory for the process of democratic education in Germany.

In the past, German students have failed for other than academic reasons. Thus the government, which ran the schools, had a powerful weapon for limiting education to the few. This weapon led to arbitrary political decisions and numerous injustices.

The new ruling, which allows students

Two Forms of Tyranny

The Secretary of Labor has said that the right to work laws, which are now in effect in 17 states, have done more harm than good.

He is entitled to his views. But it is a significant fact that there has been a flood of comment—from newspapers, publicists, government officials, and others—which holds that he is greatly mistaken. Henry Hazlitt gave a widely-held opinion

Two Great Facts

It has been said that the most effective answer to Communist propaganda is an American mail-order catalogue.

The catalogue, in this connection, is a symbol—a symbol of what the American system of free enterprise has done for the living standards of the people.

According to the American Economic Foundation, a Russian worker, reading the catalogue, "would see that an American worker can buy a shirt with one hour's earnings (instead of the Russian's 22 hours), a suit or overcoat with three days' earnings (instead of 47 days), and a pair of shoes with one day's earnings (instead of 12 days)."

If that Russian worker had an opportunity to walk into a typical American retail store he wouldn't be able to believe this

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Uncle Sam, through Secretary of State Dulles, demands that our country be given absolute power of decision as to the use of the A and H bombs against Russia, should that nation start warfare. This simply means that the NATO group of nations will not decide this by any method of joint decision. Well, since the United States develops and possesses most of these nuclear weapons, why shouldn't it make the decision itself? ... especially since one never can tell in advance just how other nations will or will not cooperate in time of emergency ... as wit-

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Ticklers



"There's that rich Andy Rauter, vacationing on his custom-built trailer. He started out in life as a brakeman on the Great Northern R. R!"

One Cheerful Note



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

As a youngster, we often were worried and confused by the observations of weather-wise (2) adults. There were two schools of thought on the arrival of spring. One group maintained we'd not have warm weather as long as the snow and ice remained. The others were as loud in expressing their opinion that until warm weather came, the snow and ice would stay around.

In those years of late spring, our child-mind envisioned a future of "in-between-spring-and-winter" atmosphere. It was a most depressing outlook.

WE SPENT long hours sitting under the table with our good friend the rabbit, trying to figure this thing out. The snow and ice situation had reached its most miserable stage. Even though we lived in the country, the fields had lost their clean look. The top of the snow was honeycombed from the sun's rays and little dirty rivulets chewed without ceasing at the outer edges of every drift.

Footprints marked the passing of little wild animals, neighborhood youngsters and their dogs, and now and then a trapper who had taken a short cut across a meadow.

EACH PRINT remained a separate little hump of ice, the soft snow melted from around it. Like rows of lonely hats they stood waiting for that "warmer weather" to erase them.

Small hillocks in pasture and meadow showed bare earth at their centers. There daily melting added to the general untidy appearance the countryside was taking.

Persons and animals walking across them carried mud onto the surrounding area, and a little other bit to the messiness of it all. Ponds and streams which had been clear and extra bright shiny in their winter ice began to

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

March 10, 1905
Mrs. Cager is home again with her sister, Mrs. Andrew Anderson at the hotel. The two boys, Master Walter and Willie, are also with their mother and their many friends are glad to see their return.

Through the kindness of Austin Parks the ladies of St. James church were able to serve a roasted hind quarter of beef, and all pronounced it delicious even though it was an innovation of the usual bill of fare.

Mrs. Denison and daughters, Rena and Olive, now occupy part of Miss Anna Hall's house on Bates street.

Southfield: Frank Renter will build a house and leave his mother's farm.

The Alpha Omicron club, a secret organization of young ladies and gentlemen, was most royally entertained at the home of Mrs. Mary Taylor, the Misses Maggie Tabor and Nellie Randall being the entertainers. A dandy repast was served, and prizes were enjoyed and everybody went home full and happy.

Edson James will build a barn this summer. He will also rent his farm.

30 YEARS AGO
March 3, 1925
After many years of solitary service, the old Hill school which, for a general generation or so, has summoned the village children to school, is to have a companion and, if not too costly, possibly a second companion. It was decided at a meeting of the school board last week on the advice of architect Frederick D. Madison, that a building similar to the old Hill school will be placed on the new Pierce street school. Mr. Madison had also authorized to get quotations on several sizes of bells, and if not too expensive, the Adams school may also have a bell.

Mr. Harry J. Johnson, who lives on Purvis street, is a constant for the office of Bloomfield Township Clerk, at the primary election tomorrow.

George Rollins, graduate at Baldwin high school, was recently appointed radio operator of the Michigan Agricultural college radio broadcasting station WKAAR.

15 YEARS AGO
March 7, 1940
Seven new residences, the value of which has been estimated at \$50,000, were approved during February by building inspector James B. Baynes.

Mrs. Forbes S. Hascall was re-elected president of the Birmingham Woman's club at the annual meeting held Tuesday afternoon in the auditorium of the Baldwin Public Library.

The first Presbyterian church is the second oldest of the Birmingham churches from the standpoint of continuous history. The Presbyterian church was organized in 1834.

An alert Birmingham high school game team won its sixth straight district title last Saturday at Wall Lake when the Maples defeated a tired tournament finalist, Fenton high school, 36 to 25.

Dick Forester, son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Forester, of 560 Brown street has been appointed assistant "pro" at Orchard Lake Country club and will assume his duties there beginning the first of April.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

If you already haven't done so, sometime during the next four weeks you will be sending to the federal government the accounting of your earnings during 1954.

Thus you are or will become familiar with the latest regulations which determine how much Uncle Sam gets from what you earned last year.

Back in 1916, the amounts obtained were computed on a much less demanding formula.

The elders among us will read this and wish they could turn back the clock. The young marrieds will read it and wonder whether they weren't born 30 years too late.

NEVERTHELESS, the following is what the taxpayer had to send to Washington, D. C. 38 years ago, the year this tax camel got its head in the wage earner's tent:

Everyone with \$3,000 annual income was required to pay one per cent on the amount over \$3,000 if an individual, or over \$4,000 if married and living together.

Then an additional tax of:
One per cent on the amount over \$20,000 and under \$50,000.

Two per cent on the amount between \$50,000 and \$75,000.

Three per cent on the amount between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

Four per cent on the amount between \$100,000 and \$250,000.

Five per cent on the amount between \$250,000 and not over \$500,000.

Much of the world's distress would dissolve if its people would love and let love.

I never cease to be amazed at the fund of knowledge possessed by some of my

fellow newsmen. Take the case in New York recently when an American bittner, a bird usually found in Georgia or Florida at this time of year, showed up in mid-Manhattan. If someone sent me out to cover the arrival in town of a bittner, I would think that I was being put upon. Not so with the Times reporter.

Off he went with a photographer and he returned with a story and two pictures. He described the bittner as a two-foot bird, drab-green in color, with green legs.

HE REPORTED SOME difference of opinion as to whether the bittner has a call that sounds like an ax striking a stake, or "Chunka-lunk" or yet "Oong ka-chook." Still another opinion held that the call went "Plum pud'n! Plum pud'n!"

The only thing he didn't get was an explanation of what the bird was doing in New York when he belongs in Florida. Florida Chambers of Commerce would deny emphatically that the bird came North in the hope of finding it warmer.

My experience with birds is confined to reports of the first robin sighted, which usually start coming in any time after the first of December. A consultation with some of the best bird-brains on my staff, however, resulted in the opinion that the bittner follows people-watching as a hobby and journeyed to New York in search of unusual specimens.

The more knowledge a person has, the less he feels he must defend his opinions, decisions or actions. Such defense arises from an identification with the past because of a fear of the future. To search for knowledge is to discover the unknown. To know more of the unknown is to reduce the impact of the future.

Army Lieutenant, Quartermaster Grad

Second Lt. Paul C. Grant, Jr., Lt. Grant completed the school's whose parents live at 1753 Wm. associate quartermaster company troop lane, recently was graduated officer course from the Army's Quartermaster school at Fort Lee, Va.

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