

## Adults Make Environments — Environments Affect Youth

In New York the other day a 17-year-old boy killed a 15-year-old boy. They didn't know one another, they had been arguing, neither was angry. This was a dispassionate murder, a cold deed. The murderer, Frank Santana, is a member of the Police Athletic League and he attends church.

At police headquarters Santana showed bravado, laughing through the fingerprinting and displaying indifference. Santana is cheap. He is a thug, despicable, dangerous. He has been reached by two social institutions trying to influence and guide young people. It didn't take with Santana.

**THIS DOESN'T MEAN** the program don't work. It doesn't mean the social agencies have bogged down. But agencies, churches and police do not exist merely to protect people from hoodlums. They need a little help. They cannot provide an area

of good clean fun and expect the effects to stick without co-operation from citizens.

Santana was brushed by these organizations, but he was no hermit. He lived among people. He saw things that looked good to him, and many things he wanted. Mostly he wanted to be big and the way to be big was to go out and be big. He'd seen enough in his 17 years to convince him that to be smart you look out for yourself. Santana wasn't smart enough to look out good enough.

**IF SANTANA PROVES ANYTHING** it's a need for increasing personal responsibility. It's not just a vague mass of people called society which is responsible for his kind of crooked thinking.

None of us lives outside that social mass, and everyone who dedicates himself exclusively to himself helps create a "swaggering, who cares," Santana.

## Dependence Upon One Man Proves Party Weakness

Vice President Nixon said recently that his party is not strong enough to win the presidency, that it needs a man strong enough to elect the party. This was another way of saying that President Eisenhower must be persuaded to run again if the GOP is to control the White House after 1966.

Many Republican leaders have said the same thing. Such statements, while they are intended to convince the President to seek a second term, have an element of truth in them. In almost every instance in 1952 the President ran ahead of the party ticket and his support proved the decisive factor in a great many close races

both in 1952 and 1954.

Some time ago President Eisenhower spoke of the need for bringing strong, able, young men into the ranks of Republican leadership. He also urged a dynamic program which would capture the imagination of the voters. Only by following this advice can the Republican party hope to grow stronger.

A party which must rely too heavily on the popularity and leadership of one man is in a dangerous condition. Mr. Nixon may have been exaggerating the dependence of the party on President Eisenhower. If he was not, it is something for Republican leaders to worry about.

## Stock Exchange No Monte Carlo

Basically, the American type of stock exchange is merely to provide a place where owners of various stocks and bonds may buy and sell these evidences of wealth.

The fact that, now and then, the atmosphere of speculation seems to dominate the exchange for brief periods, is no reflection upon the basic value of this institution.

For example, you may use a billiard

table for the playing of that interesting game. Then some group may come along and start throwing dice on its surface, thus gambling. But that certainly ought not to result in throwing out the billiard table.

Government has done much to control speculation on the stock exchange. It may have to exercise more controls to prevent a repetition of the 1929 crash . . . and, if necessary, it should and will.

## Sign of Hope



## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

During the past few weeks a number of Birmingham residents have had sad experiences with their dogs.

As always, The Eccentric receives a number of calls when the fat wandering strays strike the dog world. Anxious owners want to know how to get their pets back. They are upset because they visit the pound and find it closed. They are equally upset when they wander in there a week or two after the dog has been lost and find it has been destroyed.

Of course the best method to avoid this family woe is one we have advocated many times before . . . keep the dog at home.

It really isn't too difficult and those owners who feel they do their dog an injustice to curb his roaming are suffering under a false impression.

A FENCED yard or, lacking this, a wire between two poles with a leash attached to permit the dog to run back and forth, will usually suffice. The animal must have exercise but that does not mean he needs 40 acres of space.

The second item is to have the dog equipped with proper means of identification. The dog warden takes no pleasure in destroying someone's pet, but since the dog can't talk and there's no collar with a name tag, what else can he do? Actually, it's a very small "insurance" to the owner and the warden will help to restore lost pets, when and if he can.

THE OKLAHOMA county animal shelter is one of the same problem and is another of the many agencies asking owners to help them by having identification on all animals.

There are some owners who feel the "safe" way for their dogs to

run free is to turn them out during those hours the warden is not on duty. They couldn't be more mistaken! The dog knows no bounds on his desire to stray off the reservation. Turning him out at night finds darkness stopping any neighborhood search if he doesn't come home in a reasonable time. In the morning there's the rush for school and work. The dog ends up in the pound—if he's lucky.

THERE ARE many dogs, not used to shifting for themselves, not used to settling right-of-way problems with cars, which are loosed only after severe injury or death has left them lying in the streets.

Owners are indignant, and apt to blame the motorist. Again we can only say this tragedy could not have happened had the dog been kept in a closed yard or on a chain.

Don't think our sympathies are not with the dog, they are, a hundred per cent. It's just that we can't back this by asking anyone to go to a dog show. Those animals are in top form and far happier than one who roams unsecured.

We sympathize with those people who have lost a family pet, but can't help feeling that a great deal of the blame rests squarely on their shoulders.

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

It's a healthy thing to change one's mind, it seems to me. For only through change can we adapt to today's conditions and develop with our environment.

A news item from Iowa last week said Iowa Gov. Hoegh has been assured that the state of Illinois will bring a turnpike up to the Iowa border somewhere near Davenport.

Apparently Iowa doesn't want to put in a superhighway that starts and goes nowhere.

This would mean one could get on a turnpike in New York City or Philadelphia and ride 1,200 miles without shifting gears or seeing a traffic light.

If the sentiment in the Michigan turnpike area is any indication, all these other states are going about it the wrong way.

To paraphrase a well-known quotation, "Those 50 million Americans are wrong! We can get it a free way!"

Many persons make slow progress because of all the fears they have tied to their ankles.

How can two foods, which are so good to eat individually, sound horrible when teamed up in the same dish?

Like spinach and bananas, for instance. That's correct . . . someone in New York City has dreamed up a combination called "Spinach Banana Salad Bowl!" I've had my fill already.

Teenagers must have some means of physical expression.

It's too bad Birmingham so lacks in facilities that recently seven local boys just had to have something to do and they started out with a carload of rocks to see how many windows they could break.

Some panes were broken before the boys were apprehended and subsequently made restitution to property owners.

How much good this youthful energy could have accomplished had it been properly guided and used!

With houses of it, Birmingham's municipal parking lot at Merrill-Pierce looked pretty big. With the houses now removed, it appears quite small.

It is hoped, however, that the final objective will do a great deal of good.

Whenever a public group holds a meeting behind closed doors, I feel it is dis-service to the community represented. Such behind-scenes activity usually results in policies which officials somewhat feel must be defended. It doesn't provide the public with a chance to react to a proposal, and if the reaction is sound, to have it incorporated in the ultimate decision.

This is often results in a municipal attitude of "you take it our way or we won't have it at all!"

## Arrest 4 Youths For Second-Story Break-in April 12

Four boys, one from Franklin and three from Birmingham, all 15 to 16 years old, were arrested last week for the April 12 break-in of a home on Pilgrim.

L. Henry Timm, who with other members of the youth bureau made the arrests, said the four entered a second-story bathroom window from the roof and took a cash box

with valuable jewelry and two quarts of whiskey from the home of D. C. Boudette of 1813 Pilgrim. The Boudettes, according to Timm, were in Kentucky at the time.

"IF ANY other citizen over 17 committed a crime like this they would go to prison for it," said Timm, explaining that there was a very thin line between juvenile delinquency and the adult age of 17. The four boys, after questioning, were released to their parents pending Oakland County juvenile court action.

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

Gov. Williams, in a recent TV appearance, said he believes Adlai Stevenson will be the 1966 Democratic candidate for President and that he, Williams, has no plan for national political endeavors until 1960. Indeed, one has to look far ahead in American politics.

Gen. Matthew Ridgeway recently told a Congressional subcommittee that "the

Russian army is equipped and disposed to undertake a major war with little warning." This but proves why our nation must have its loins girded for war, and why we must continue to pay high taxes as a price of freedom. To realize that Russia's menacing place and power today were created in part by American help but a few years back is rather shocking!

## 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

May 12, 1915  
"The subject of this sketch, Mrs. Sarah Poppleton, celebrated her 90th birthday on Tuesday, May 2, 1915. She was born in Richmond, Ontario County, N.Y., on Tuesday,

May 2, 1815, and is the last one living of nine children born to John Abbey and wife."

"A boy from the Log Cabin district paralyzed Mitchell in one store yesterday by laying down 17c and asking for the dandy tale book, 'The Buckets of Blood or the Monkey's Revenge,' sequel to 'Romance the Onion Eater or the Wild Ass of the Prairies.' The shock almost killed father."

"I. Lee Traux, assisted by Walt Allen, captured a mudden in the rear of his store one day last week. Standard time probably got the bird mixed up and it didn't know where it was at."

### 30 YEARS AGO

May 8, 1925  
During the past week the final work has been completed on the beautiful country estate of Edwin S. George on the shores of Long Lake on Long Lake road.

Miss Elise Vhay, the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Vhay of Bloomfield Hills, is the first bride of the season to make known her wedding plans. She has selected May 30 as the date for her marriage to Charles Thorne Murphy, of New Haven, Conn.

Official figures from Detroit for the first quarter of 1925 show the Graham Brothers rank first in the world in the production and sale of 1½-ton trucks.

### 15 YEARS AGO

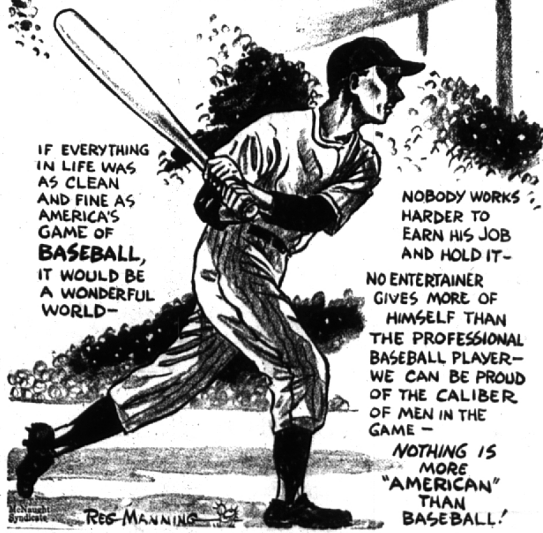
May 9, 1949  
Jane Pollis and Cameron Biggers have been named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, in the June graduating class at Baldwin high school.

On Thursday, May 6, students of Cranbrook will unveil a bronze tablet in honor of Dr. S. S. Marquis who was for many years rector of Christ Church Cranbrook, and who was a member of the Board of Directors of Cranbrook school from the school's founding until last year.

One hundred high school seniors from every part of Michigan were notified yesterday that they had won Alumni Undergraduate Scholarships for the next school year at the University of Michigan. Richard A. Harvey, 831 East Maple road, was one of the scholarship winners.

## The "Ordinary" Americans

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GOOD PEOPLE—  
HARDWORKING PEOPLE—  
PEOPLE LIKE  
THE  
BASEBALL PLAYER.



IF EVERYTHING  
IN LIFE WAS  
AS CLEAN  
AND FINE AS  
AMERICA'S  
GAME OF  
BASEBALL,  
IT WOULD BE  
A WONDERFUL  
WORLD—

NOBODY WORKS  
HARDER TO  
EARN HIS JOB  
AND HOLD IT—  
NO ENTERTAINER  
GIVES MORE OF  
HIMSELF THAN  
THE PROFESSIONAL  
BASEBALL PLAYER—  
WE CAN BE PROUD  
OF MEN IN THE  
GAME—

NOTHING IS  
MORE  
"AMERICAN"  
THAN  
BASEBALL!

REG-MANNING

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