Lord Keynes & Our Economic Revolution

Some U.S. citizens approve, and some don't, the economic policies of the federal government. Inaugurated during President Roosevelt's administration, continued by Harry Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower, these economic "rules & regulations" are pretty much the ideas of John Maynard Keynes, famous Britisher.

Several books have been written on the subject, lauding the ideas of Keynes.

OUR EDITORIAL CONTEMPORARY (an ardent defender of a free enterprise system) and friend, Harold P. Furstenau, publisher of the Ludington (Mich.) Daily News, recently wrote a few paragraphs about the Keynes' notions. Here they are:

"A complete, almost revolutionary change has come about in the economic thinking which governed the free world countries during the past quarter century. Even before that the teachings of John Maynard Keynes were having effect in England and upon the continent. The Keynesian theories have been accepted by American economists and are used today to control the fiscal policies of this country.

"Briefly, the Keynesian theory emphasizes the need for full employment, an unbalanced budget in times of stress, central control of credit and interest rates and a graduated but heavy income and estate tax program. There is no question but what Keynes was one of the world's greatest economists. He was an expert on finance who proved his ability to anticipate market trends. At an early age he became a multimillionaire. Keynes was bitterly opposed to the gold standard and believed that hoarding money was inimical to the public welfare.

WHILE 25 YEARS IS TOO SHORT a period during which to prove the soundness of his theories the American economy has not suffered and serious collapse since 1929.

"However, the dollar has lost 50% of its purchasing power while common stocks and real property have more than doubled in value. Keynes' program is inflationary and we would hesitate to comment upon its ultimate result or the duration of our present prosperity."

Flying High with Citizens' Tax Dollars

Just why the U.S. Air Force transports private groups of citizens at half fare should be no mystery to informed observers.

Take for example the case of the Moral Re-Armament members who were flown from the Philippines to Switzerland last summer; three giant airplanes were used.

The answer, of course, is that within the U.S. State Dept. are bureaucrats high up who support MRA, and its purposes.

AN ORGANIZATION without such bureaucratic sympathy would never get anywhere on such a transportation project.

Personally, we believe U.S. taxpayers' money should be used only for official governmental business. (But do you think career bureaucrats care much about how your tax money is spent?)

Today's Living Greatly Changes Men's Clothing

The change in men's styles is evident today in the fact that at the turn of the century a man's profession could be judged by the clothes he wore. Now it is hard to distinguish between the company president and the laborer until they're actually on the job. Both wear the same type of clothing to work and in their leisure time.

Blue jeans were once definitely work clothes. Today manufacturers can't decide whether to classify them as work clothes, western wear, or play garb.

Men are demanding and getting better tailored, smarter looking clothes, whether for wear in the shop or for leisure use. Modern designs feature the tailored look, matching trousers and shirts, and even wrinkle-resistant materials.

WHILE THE MEN'S CLOTHING industry is delighted with these changes, it can't take all the credit for promoting style consciousness.

A shift in men's tastes, an emphasis upon relaxation in leisure time and a development of informal activities ranging from do-it-yourself to barbecue and TV-watching have created a demand for clothes suitable to varying activities.

Other changes in men's fashions are inevitable and at the new fast pace maintained in the last year or so, those changes are more likely to be seen on the market sooner than expected.

Claims U. S. Office of Education 'Politics-Ridden'

If any federal bureau should be free from political control, it is the United States Office of Education. Yet it is said to have become so politics-ridden that its statistics can no longer be trusted.

This serious charge was made by Dr. Jordan L. Larsen, president of the American Association of School Administrators. He said, moreover, that school building figures have been juggled for political purposes.

INVESTIGATION BY disinterested and competent outsiders might prove the truth or unsoundness of Dr. Larsen's accusations. It would not take a congressional investigation with long-drawn-out noise and fury, but could probably be done better and quicker by an accounting firm who could send a crew of trained workers in there for a few days and come up with facts as to the figures and what they mean.

It seems plain that the Office of Education does not belong with the present hodge-podge of miscellaneous bureaus. It needs to be an independent organization.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

There are real advantages in calling a spade a spade—especially when you want to borrow your neighbor's.

The fellows brave enough to name hurricanes after women are probably bachelors.

Don't fret if the steps forward are slow and small. Take credit that they're yours and that they're in the right direction.

Some of the steepest steps, it's often discovered, lie on the path of least resistance.

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Thanksgiving

NATURE NOW

Nature's Balance Upset By Man

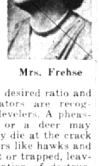
By LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Each year when the hunting season moves into full swing the "out-doors" spotlight converges on game management.

Since 1921 Michigan has had a Conservation Department, and upon its division of wild life management rests a tremendous responsibility. In 1837 our state was admitted to the union with its vast store of natural resources. However, by the turn of the century much of Michigan's iron and most of her wealth in copper and forest richness had already been depleted.

Fortunately two major industries have grown up to take their place; the first centering around the automobile, the second around the tourist and sportsman. These, our top sources of income, are curiously but obviously interrelated. The latter is very dependent upon game management, which in turn is linked to every aspect of conservation—forests, waters, soils, minerals and recreational facilities.

ONLY THE ecologist is trained to understand the interplay of the complicated factors bearing on the life process, and there is much yet to be learned. However, he is increasingly sure that factor number one is the food supply, which governs the distribution of both plants and animals.


Mrs. Frehse

It is therefore valid to devote study and effort toward improving the ground cover so that it produces a maximum of food and shelter.

The problem then remains to work out that fine point of balance where game is kept at a desired ratio and where predators are recognized as natural levelers. A pheasant may freeze or a deer may starve. Either may die at the crack of a gun. Predators like hawks and foxes may be shot or trapped, leaving an overpopulation of destructive rodents and jack rabbits.

IN WISE management we cannot increase numbers beyond the carrying power of the land. Neither can we introduce species indiscriminately to the detriment of those naturally present.

Nature is an ancient and capable mistress. For many eons she has been working out her balance between "the eaters and the eaten." But when man enters the picture with his varied needs and demands, he upsets the applecart and unbalance is soon evident.

Man must then tackle the problem which he has created. Game management strives to arrive at a figure which will represent a sustained annual yield without threatening the future of the species. However, its measure of success will be the honesty of the thousands of sportsmen who probe our woods and waters.

IT IS NOT all of conservation to have wild game in abundance at the cost of other forms of wild life and man's needed income from the land. Neither is it all of sport to kill.

Nor can we reasonably disregard the fact that the revenue from our hunting and fishing activities swells the coffers of our Conservation Department, enabling it to continue its educational program in many vital ways.

On the other hand, we cannot stress the contribution of the users of rod and gun to the point where it puts a price tag on our natural resources.

There are many ways to enjoy the out-of-doors. Nature's suspense, her beauty, her unexpected sights and sounds can highlight many a day afield for both the sportsman and the naturalist.

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
Nov. 24, 1905

Dr. Rachel Davidson, of Genesee, Mich., has been unanimously elected County Highway commissioner by the board of Supervisors of that county. It is said she knows more of roads and road maintenance than anyone in the country.

The opening party at the new Johnston-Shaw hall is to be given by the Birmingham Dancing club on Thanksgiving evening. They have issued about 75 invitations and a fine time is expected. Guy's orchestra has been engaged for the evening.

Dr. J. M. Rainey has opened his office in the Parks block, corner of Woodward and Maple avenues, and is ready to do all kinds of work in his line. Dr. Rainey is a graduate of the Detroit College of Medicine and is a very thorough and capable workman, and would be pleased to meet his friends at any time.

30 YEARS AGO
Nov. 20, 1925

George H. Mitchell of Brown street, who with Almeron Whitehead in 1878 began the publication of the first issue of The Birmingham Eccentric, last week donated his entire bound volumes, covering 42 years of successive publication, to the Baldwin Public Library. A similar set was owned and kept by Mr. Whitehead, who gave them to the present owner of the Eccentric four years ago, and from which each week the contents of our "From The Eccentric Columns" is obtained.

Miss Edith Robinson, daughter of the Frederick Robinsons of Bloomfield Hills, was presented to society at a reception given yesterday from four to six at the Detroit Golf club to 500 of her friends and her mother's. The debutante wore a Sally Milgrim gown—a sweet pea frock of charming simplicity.

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Yeats and son Richard, are leaving the first of the month for their winter home at Palm Beach, Fla.

15 YEARS AGO
Nov. 19, 1940

First Birmingham hunter to report notable success in the deer country was Dr. Clifford P. Hamill, 615 South Woodward avenue, who shot a 14-point buck Saturday near Hamilton, Mich., which is 20 miles west of Athens.

Helen Rounds, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George M. Rounds, 551 North Woodward, is serving as chairman of the annual Pigskin prom, to be held in Baldwin high school gym Nov. 29.

Honoring Mrs. Carl L. Brandt, who left Saturday to join her husband in Washington, D. C., a number of her friends entertained at a farewell luncheon recently at Devon Gables.

"Whether laughter is healthful or not depends on the size of the fellow you're laughing at!"

ONE THING OR ANOTHER *By George Wm. Averill*

Many of Birmingham's neighbors in the Beverly Hills areas (just south of 14 Mile road) now fear they have played their luck a bit too far.

They readily admit they have shied away from annexation to Birmingham in the past—now wish they hadn't waited so long to accomplish it.

They reason their interests are closely allied with Birmingham, not with people four or six miles to the south and west.

So they now are fighting desperately against adoption of any charter for the city of Southfield. Their first efforts will be Dec. 12. If they win, they'll have two more battles before they will be out of danger.

If they lose, well, they'll have to make the best of it.

Some people believe Bloomfield Villagers may find themselves in a similar situation in not too many years.

However, I feel the Villagers will anticipate this problem, and incorporate as an actual village before the rest of the township could swallow them up.

It is extremely unlikely that they would favor annexation to Birmingham instead.

Margaret Davis is a New Zealander attending Birmingham high school as a foreign exchange student.

She marvels at the physical facilities the board of education here has provided for high school instruction.

"The students here," she declares, "don't realize what a beautiful school they have. Back home mine was crowded. The students here growl that they have no swimming pool. If we had what they have here just today, we'd be so satisfied!"

She also has been impressed by the amount of student democracy compared to the way students must behave back in New Zealand.

"In any event, I'm going to take home with me a wonderful experience!" she exclaimed.

Municipal officials constantly chafe at having to be the collection agents for the school districts. State law provides that school taxes be collected via township and city treasurers.

But, these municipal officials feel, the taxpayer doesn't really separate the two taxes. Since the school (and county) taxes come to the taxpayer on statements headed by the legend "City of Muttonchops, Michigan", and "School taxes" and "county taxes" in ordinary typewriter type size, the taxpayer thinks the city is billing him.

Perhaps city officials could adapt this idea to help ease their burdens and help identify the proper taxing unit:

Perhaps the school and county tax bills could be sent out on a distinctly different color statement than are the municipal taxes. (Most school and county taxes are billed Dec. 1, while city taxes go out on July 1).

Perhaps printed in large type on the body of the statement could be something like this:

"This is your school and county tax bill, collected by the city of Muttonchops and forwarded to the proper taxing unit as required by Michigan law."

Any cities interested?

There are real smokers and there are imitation smokers. The real smokers enjoy their habit . . . and inhale. The imitators draw the smoke into their mouths, and puff it right out again.

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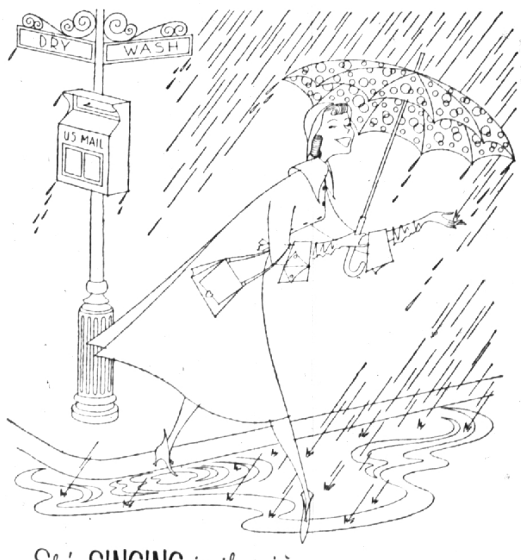
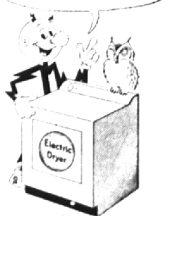


She's SINGING in the rain
She has an ELECTRIC Clothes Dryer

Be wise! Live Electrically!

You'll love the wonderful things an electric clothes dryer does for your laundry—and your disposition. The day can be dark and gloomy, but your clothes safely dry brighter than sunshine in an electric dryer.

If you want to whisk through washday with a smile on your face and extra time on your hands, dry clothes the modern way—electrically!



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