

'You Scratch My Back, I'll Scratch Yours'

Do you realize that very few members of a State Legislature, be it in Michigan or elsewhere, or of Congress can operate without now and then, or often (depending upon the individual's integrity), playing at the game of "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours"?

In other words, one legislator will vote for another's pet project on the promise that his own project will in turn receive the other legislator's affirmative vote.

Such practice has been going on ever since governments were set up. How far from basic honesty such practices go is only regulated by the personal honesty of each legislator.

MANY GOOD CITIZENS may feel that such practices are not honorable; perhaps, though, they fail to remember that many of the pressures that control what

legislators do officially, come from groups "back home" . . . groups that selfishly want some special privilege or some appropriation from Congress.

Summing it all up, it is quite true that the sum total of the official behavior of legislators is a reasonable reflection of the behavior of the folks back home . . . those who elect officials to office.

LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICIALS seldom resort to such "back-scratching" practices; they live too close to the home-folks to do so, and, besides, most of them are in office to serve their communities as a part of civic duty.

The farther that officialdom is from the voter, the greater the danger of dishonorable practices. That's why good citizenship requires us, to maintain a constant and searching watch over these far-off "rulers".

Jeepers! the Creepers!

Speeding in residential areas is a violation of the law in Michigan. This is because streets lined with homes are not designed for heavy, fast traffic.

On the other hand, highways in unincorporated areas are designed to move traffic at a rapid rate between points quite some distance apart.

However, a slowpoke driver can often do pile traffic up behind him—and they don't seem to care or even notice it. This leads to angry feelings of the slow-

poke followers, and does result in rash acts by motorists trying to get around the creeper.

TRAFFIC EXPERTS might consider the possibility of legislation which would at least require creepers to pull off to the side of the road if there were, say, five or more vehicles stacked up behind.

Certainly they must be someone in this automotive state of ours who can supply the answer!

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Sh-h-h-h! Don't let anyone else but a Birmingham area resident read this, but . . . do you realize what a wonderful Michigan state highway-commissioner Charlie Ziegler is turning out to be? At least, for the southeastern portion of Michigan? Yep (and now keep this strictly between us), Charlie is going to save us Metropolitan Detroiters toll road fares and he's going to do it with better'n a hundred million green bucks which a less loyal highway commissioner might just spread around on modernizing the highways out-state. Now, don't let anyone outstate get wind of this, or they might pressure the legislature into MAKING that swell Joe Ziegler pass the 100 million around, and have our local superhighway financed by tolls. Be sure, now, and keep this away from those outstate legislators! Sh-h-h-h!

As we write this, England's Princess Margaret has just turned 25, and is thus "her own boss" when it comes to matrimony. No longer will she have to get her glazer, the Queen, to consent to her marriage to Tom, Dick or Peter Townsend . . . this latter being the 40-year-old chap she is reported to be in love with. So, Peg, now you can be "yourself" . . . and may your heart be the victor!

Eventually, a parking lot will be constructed to serve the northeast quadrant of Birmingham's downtown business area.

Current discussions on its best location seem to agree it should about business-zoned property to the south and to the west. City commission feels, however, that residential values can be maintained immediately to the north. When that lot is in use, we'll bet we could hold our breath as long as it would take for the first rezoning petition to hit the top of the commission table.

Any reasonable measure to improve highway safety we always will endorse heartily.

So completion of the divider strip down the center of Telegraph, as suggested by Oakland County Deputy Coroner Leon F. Cobb, certainly will save some lives. But the only thing which will prevent these terrible head-on crashes on these vehicle-packed federal highways is to put considerable distance between opposing lanes of traffic. Only agencies which seem eager and able to do this, are toll road groups. State highway departments don't seem to have the funds available for the necessary extra width.

Congress has adjourned and gone home. Its members, of course, (like the rest of the country) deserve a good rest from Congressional activities. Really, Congress is a great and valuable body for the ideology of self-government.

The "Ordinary" Americans

AMERICA IS MADE OF PEOPLE—
GOOD PEOPLE—
BRAVE PEOPLE—
HARDWORKING PEOPLE—
PEOPLE LIKE
THE
MINER.

THIS MAN IS WAITING
FOR THE ELEVATOR—
TO GO DOWN TO HIS
JOB—MAYBE A MILE DOWN.

IT MAY BE DUSTY,
OR DRIPPING WET—
AT SOME LEVELS IT IS
OVEN-HOT—OR ICY-COLD
AT BEST IT'S RUGGED,
BUT HE WOULDN'T
TRADE JOBS WITH YOU.



WITHOUT MOVING FROM
YOUR CHAIR, THINK OF
ALL THE THINGS WE
HAVE, METAL AND
MINERAL, WHICH CAME
FROM MINES. AND
THINK OF THE MINER,
DOWN THERE RIGHT
NOW, WORKING BY
LAMPLIGHT IN THE
DAYTIME.

Let's Spell Something Constructive



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

What a difference a girl makes! A mother we know quite well has often moaned about a hopeless case her son was turning out to be. Lean and lanky, he seemed to suddenly pop up from a little grubby kneed youngster into something without classification, but just about as tall as his dad.

Like a youngster, he still sprawled around the living room, playing with his dog, imperious small tables and their varied decorative contents. He never did find the laundry chute or the trash barrel. Soiled clothes were scattered all over the house and that was very annoying. Junk was stacked in his room. Pack rat tendencies were most pronounced in the things he saved.

ONE DAY this mother stopped in a state of shock. Her son was cleaning his room, the pile in the hallway was growing steadily, and she heard rumblings of the new bass voice about the "kid stuff" he had been saving—to his amazement.

She stared, fascinated, at the box tops offering miniature license plates from all over the world, postage stamps, ditto, and an assortment of other things no one but a small boy would want. The comic books, little space-coming ships, model cars, cowboy and baseball hero pictures all found their way to the stack outside the door. The life-size full color cutout of Marilyn Monroe stayed in the room, however.

Consigned to the rag bag were outgrown patches, rags and scraps plastered with press-on labels representing everything from army divisions to national railroad lines.

STILL GROWING from all this, mother finds she is in for a new shock. Son has turned toward cleanliness.

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
Sept. 8, 1905
Clawson, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bailey have a very sick baby with cholera and infantum.

Miss Maggie Young has commenced fall and winter school at Southfield in John Redoubt District with a good attendance for the opening.

Little Henry Hubbard is nursing a sick hand that was under a window that suddenly fell. Two boys were looking at the little fellow bears the burden like the little man that he is.

W. D. Millsbaugh has moved into the Hanna house just vacated by Mr. Hatton.

30 YEARS AGO
Sept. 1, 1925
Tanned and triumphant as any Indian warrior, Hartwell Ladd, 14 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. David H. Ladd of Madison avenue, returned home this week with two silver loving cups as his share of booty from his six weeks of camping at "Nissokom," the YMCA camp for boys on Van Etten Lake.

Indian shaman
Mrs. Helen J. Mansfield and Miss Ellen J. Mansfield of Forest avenue, will leave Saturday for two weeks in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Thousands of people read The Eccentric Classified Ads. So reverse it, if you want to sell that hard to get rid of article, advertisement in the Want Ad section of The Birmingham Eccentric.

35 YEARS AGO
Sept. 8, 1910
New St. Hugo of the Hills, County Day School will open its doors Monday to elementary students. The new \$125,000 school building, which is the gift of Walter O. Briggs, will become the nucleus for the normal education center of the St. Hugo of the Hills parish on Opikje road.

Mr. and Mrs. Demen arrived this week with their family and will occupy their new home on Birch avenue which they recently purchased.

Mr. Edmund D. Mansfield and Miss Ellen J. Mansfield of Forest avenue, will leave Saturday for two weeks in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Thousands of people read The Eccentric Classified Ads. So reverse it, if you want to sell that hard to get rid of article, advertisement in the Want Ad section of The Birmingham Eccentric.

THE OLD TIMER
"No matter how fearful a person may be of the future, he hopes he will live to see a lot more of it!"

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

With considerable interest we have been noting the studies and reports which periodically come out of the Ford Motor Co.'s engineering department regarding better automobile designing for safety.

With specially created devices, Ford engineers are testing exactly what happens to occupants in a traffic accident.

According to their latest research, damage to driver and passengers occurs almost instantaneously with the accident impact. Still looks like the safest way is not to drive yourself into trouble.

While on this subject of traffic safety, it might be interesting to learn how much these transient fruit and vegetable stands along US highways contribute to auto accident fatalities and injuries.

Some Michigan areas are particularly populated with these temporary tenants—like on US-23 north of Bay City, for example.

We don't like to see private enterprise discouraged, but I don't believe the 60 m.p.h. travelling public should have to do it at risk of life and limb.

Ten years ago if you travelled the rural highways of Michigan at a 60-65 m.p.h. pace, seldom would you be overtaken by another driver.

Maintain that speed today and you're keeping up with the main traffic flow . . . with plenty of motorists leaving you their 70-85 m.p.h. exhaust fumes to snuff.

Too many people worry about not being able to find the world a good place to live in—when perhaps they really should be trying to MAKE it a good place.

A little Missouri weekly near Ft. Leonard Wood publishes a column, "News from South of Kolla".

The column was nine inches long in the particular issue I saw, and consisted of

23 social items.

We'd like to reprint fourteen of those items to show you what would have happened that week to the social news south of Kolla had the Sellers and Summers families been inactive.

"A. E. Sellers, Mrs. Glenn Sellers and daughter spent Monday in the home of Mrs. Dean Sellers.

"Phyllis, John and Anton visited with their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Sellers, Tuesday.

MR. AND MRS. Glenn Sellers and daughter and A. E. Sellers called on Mr. and Mrs. Dean Sellers Tuesday evening.

"Elizabeth Ann Freeman spent Friday evening with her aunt, Mrs. Dean Sellers.

"Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Sellers visited with E. E. Sellers Thursday evening.

"Mr. and Mrs. John Holm and family, Anton Holm, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Sutton and family, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Sellers and daughter and A. E. Sellers called on Mr. and Mrs. Dean Sellers Sunday.

"Adam Vitthum called on Dean Sellers Tuesday night.

"MR. AND MRS. Claude Summers and daughter, Betty Lou, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor Wednesday.

"Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Sellers visited with Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor Thursday morning.

"Mr. and Mrs. Claude Summers and family were supper guests at Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Freeman and daughter Tuesday evening.

"Barbara Reed spent Thursday night with Betty Lou Sellers.

"Mr. and Mrs. Claude Summers and family and Barbara Reed attended the program Thursday evening at the Fairview School.

"Deloris Summers spent Tuesday evening with Ann Freeman.

"Mr. and Mrs. A. Harris visited Mr. and Mrs. Claude Summers Thursday morning."

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

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