

Better Salaries Will Bring More Teachers

There are many diverse and conflicting opinions on problems affecting the educational system and the teaching profession.

There is a great plateau at about the \$7,000 to \$9,000 a year level for employees in business and industry which only a comparatively few manage to get beyond.

At the same time, there has been a growing impression that teaching is undesirable as a career, and is mainly attractive to people who are unwilling or unable to make the grade in the tough, competitive fields of trade and commerce.

He finds small merit in the common statement that most of the teacher's work is sheer drudgery—grading, theme correcting, preparation for classes, etc.

THEN HE DISPUTES the equally common claim that the teaching profession has comparatively little recognition and status in this country.

He states: "As for an individual the teacher has and will continue to have all the opportunities which others have for service and prestige."

IT IS ALMOST UNIVERSALLY said that teachers are underpaid. Dr. Gould agrees—but points out that what is usually left unsaid is that the situation is steadily improving.

Dr. Gould ends his discussion on an optimistic note: "The teacher of tomorrow will be carefully selected, broadly trained and adequately paid. He will be the powerful force by which this nation will achieve the maturity of mind and the serenity of spirit that are the hallmarks of true greatness."

Voters More Opposed To Foreign Spending

Last Election Day, all over the country, the voters in State and local elections turned down bond issues on all kinds of projects.

Today, in many sections of the nation, voters are turning down proposed bond issues for a variety of projects.

Something small happens, but it may be big in results. The son of Count Tolstoy once said: "I smell revolution."

American voters are getting weary of pouring billions of their dollars into the coffers of foreign governments—only to observe that these governments do not remain our friends, or even consistently seek to defend the western world's ideas of freedom.

IF WE WERE CAMPAIGNING for a state or federal office, we would let the voters know of our opposition to more and more taxation.

We'd let 'em know emphatically. Not just to get votes, but equally to protect our own individual economic security.

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

U.S. Postmaster - General Arthur E. Summerfield announces that in a few months every post office will offer ball point pens to the customers.

Several Republican State Senators the other day were having a heated argument on the floor, in Lansing, the subject being whether or not to grant further funds to keep the Michigan Turnpike Authority in operation.

For many, many months Secretary of State Dulles has been flying all over this earth. Now and then he returns to his native land, and even gets to Washington, D. C. Personally, we join millions of Americans who are beginning to think that the Secretary ought to stay home more.

The "debate" really warmed up. Then a Democrat Senator from Detroit quietly said: "Come on, boys, let's put down the harpoon and get highways."

Later on the Republicans are reported to have had a genial time luncheon together. Such is a legislator's life. (Note: The Turnpike Authority got some more money.)

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1300

GEORGE R. AVERILL Editor and Publisher PAUL NEAL AVERILL Business Manager GEORGE WM. AVERILL Managing Editor GERALD E. JEHLE Advertising Manager

The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club

National Advertising Representatives Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc. 1728 Guardian Bldg. DETROIT 26, MICH. 404 Fifth Avenue NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

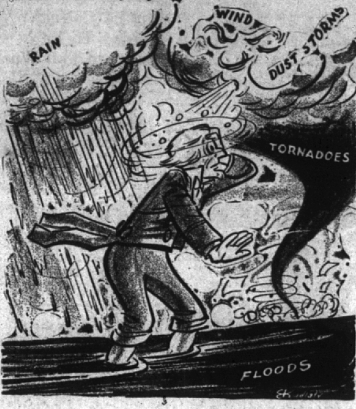
Tickers



'He's got a better spot remover in his wallet. Last week he gave me a buck to take 'Spots' away.

By George

Spring's fevered



NATURE NOW

Luminescent Seas Viewed At Night

By Lydia King Frehe Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Everywhere in Puerto Rico one hears the query, "Have you been to La Parguera?" Now it is night at La Parguera. The small fishing village on the Caribbean is a dot on Puerto Rico's southwestern shore, a few hours journey from the old town of Ponce.

Along the streets the mangroves shed their blooms. Sea grapes crowd their twisted branches along the narrow walls of the courtyard. The water is quiet and blue.

THE SMILING waiter hovers over us as we finish our dinner on the veranda of the small hotel. Is the lobster to our liking? "Could he bring more butter—perhaps a slice of fresh pineapple for dessert?"

Fishing boats crowd the small harbor. Soft voices—sing to the tune of the maracas. The music is a part of the tropical night. "Pedro waits, his small boat is tied to the stars hang low, but there is no moon. It will be a good night to see the much heralded spectacle of the luminous sea."



Mrs. Frehe

THE WIND is soft and the salt water licks the tang of all the creatures that dwell therein. Our little boat chugs away into the darkness. Two couples on leave from the University of Michigan share our adventure.

Gradually the lagoon recedes and we have come some five or six miles into a protected bay rimmed with high hills. Our eyes, now turned to the darkness, keep watch. Soon the water begins to glow in the turbulent path left by the boat. The luminescence deepens until we are leaving behind a trail of living fire.

PASSING FISH make flashing paths as they skim the surrounding surface.

The boat is anchored and each of her six passengers is allowed the privilege of dipping up a pail of water to investigate to his own satisfaction its mysterious quality. We dip our hands in and out of while drops cling and drip like cold fire. We end the experiment by tossing the whole glowing mass into the sea.

THE MYSTERIOUS phenomenon of surface luminescence occurs in several restricted areas in the world. Scientists believe it is due to the presence of millions of micro-organisms, protozoans of the genus noctiluca.

These tiny animals have phosphorescent property which lights up wherever they strike the air. It is the same cold light which is made by the flash of a firefly, by certain deep sea fish, squids and crustacea. It is also present in certain plants, including species of fungi and bacteria.

NOW THE boat circles the bay. "Have you seen? Are you convinced?—with much gesticulating in rapid Spanish. "Yes, we are convinced. We have seen. Now Pedro's foot presses the starter. The engine coughs and dies. This is repeated over and over again while my son, interpreting for all five of us, answers queries and relays suggestions for starting a dead motor.

But the motor with great certainty. "There is no hurry. We will be missed. A boat will come for us."

And so for an hour we bobbed up and down in the Caribbean night while we watched and waited for a light to appear. In the meantime we had pause to discover each other's identity and to contemplate the infinity of sea and stars.

IN THE MORNING there was time to examine the variety of corals which make up the reefs nearby. These are among the most ancient and diverse of our sea creatures, having persisted for more than 500 million years in an unbroken chain from the early Cambrian seas.

The great tropics coral reefs are for the most part calcareous skeletons of myriads of these compound animals which bud.

TOGETHER THEY make varicolored gardens of incredible variety and beauty. Among the colonial corals, only the surface animals are alive; the pockets of gelatinous animal tissue extracting lime from the sea water, living atop a billion discarded skeletons of their kind.

Footsteps on the old courtyard. The morning sun shines hot. "Gracia, gracia!" we call to those whose shy but friendly smiles make for us a piping hot from La Parguera.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

In the past 52 weeks, Birmingham's seven city commissioners have been absent from the regular Monday night meetings a total of 36 times. This amounts to an average of five per commissioner.

Here are their individual performances: Out in the lead is Florence Willett with only one absence between April 11, 1955, and April 2, 1956. In second spot is Bill Roberts, absent three times.

Right behind him is Harry Denyes, with four. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Allen is in the middle of the group, with six "not there" counts.

Manley Bailey and ex-commissioner Dean Beier tied for next-to-last spot with seven absences. In tail end position is Mayor Charles Renfrew—eight absences.

Efficiency generally results in complaints. Except, that is, for the U.S. internal revenue department.

A foolproof questionnaire never has been developed. But generally speaking, they are quite useful.

With this in mind, I'd like to reprint the following "Rate Your Town" questionnaire which I've held back for a couple of years. I forgot exactly how I got it—I think someone gave it to me. I haven't used it before, and the excuse I'll use is that I probably hoped that given a few more months, my answers to some of these 40 questions would have changed from "no" to "yes". That switch has been agonizingly slow.

Now perhaps you, too, would like to rate your home town. Thirty or more "yes" answers, say those who drew it up, and chances are you live in a town you can be proud of.

(This questionnaire is from a farm journal of unknown date, "Pathfinder", no longer published.)

Here you go:

- 1. Most high school graduates stay in town. Yes No
2. Getting a loan on a sound business venture is easy. Yes No
3. The local paper constantly pushes civic improvements. Yes No
4. There's a chamber of commerce with a live-wire manager. Yes No
5. Local speeders pay the same fines as out-of-towners. Yes No
6. There's a place to swim within easy reach. Yes No
7. Young couples have little trouble finding a place to live. Yes No
8. The head of your government is a "get-things-done" man. Yes No
9. Town entrances are free from junk, shacks and billboards. Yes No

- 10. Teachers' salaries are better than the state average. Yes No
11. There's at least one doctor per 800 people in your county. Yes No
12. There's a library with a good collection of recent books. Yes No
13. Newcomers quickly feel they're part of the town. Yes No
14. Schools have plenty of room for students. Yes No
15. Fire insurance rates are low for your type of town. Yes No
16. Service, veterans' and women's clubs team up on projects. Yes No
17. There is an active, well-organized boy scout troop. Yes No
18. A modern hospital is within your trading area. Yes No
19. All streets are paved and sidewalks are in good shape. Yes No
20. Well-stocked stores keep shoppers in the town. Yes No
21. There's a hotel or motel you'd enjoy if you were a visitor. Yes No
22. It's easy to find parking space in the business section. Yes No
23. At least one restaurant serves outstanding meals. Yes No
24. The sewer extension program keeps pace with new housing. Yes No
25. It's easy to get volunteers for any worthwhile project. Yes No
26. Public toilets are provided for non-residents shopping in town. Yes No
27. Prompt, reasonably priced ambulance service is available. Yes No
28. Good zoning keeps factories away from residential areas. Yes No
29. There's an annual clean-up, paint-up, fix-up week. Yes No
30. Streets throughout the community are well lighted. Yes No
31. More than half the church congregations are under 40. Yes No
32. Shade trees line nearly all the streets. Yes No
33. There's an ample supply of good drinking water. Yes No
34. There's a recreation center where young people can dance. Yes No
35. The business section has a modern, prosperous look. Yes No
36. There's as much interest in local national elections. Yes No
37. The tax rate is attractive to new industry. Yes No
38. There's a community council to guide town progress. Yes No
39. There is an active parent-teacher association. Yes No
40. Firemen must take regular training courses. Yes No

YOUR Score Yes..... No.....

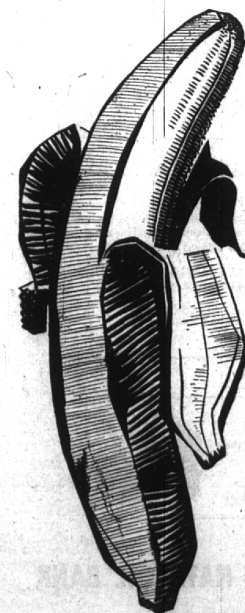
Phi Eta Sigma Selects Terry

Robert Terry, Albion college freshman, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Terry, 1910 Half Moon, Birmingham, has been selected for membership in Phi Eta Sigma, national men's society honoring freshmen scholarship.

giving July 1. This action was taken by the club's directors, who followed their election, elect the officers.

"Birmingham's two banks, the Birmingham National bank and the Wakeek State bank, both will observe 'know your bank week' with fitting local programs, it was

Terry is a 1955 graduate of Birmingham high school.



For the price of a pound of bananas you can cook six complete meals for a family of four on your electric range. And don't forget, no other range is "white-glove" clean. No wonder smart homemakers say: "You can Live Better... Electrically."

SEE YOUR DEALER OR DETROIT EDISON

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 April 13, 1906

"We are glad to see Ray Leonard home again from the army. He has come to stay too and that is just what pleases his mother and grandmother. A taller and a finer soldier I never saw than this same Ray but all the same Tom and mother needs him more than Uncle Sam."

"A whole flock of ladies from Warren called and made Mrs. A. R. Parks a delightful afternoon's visit one evening recently. They were the Mesdames H. Harwood, Chas. Evans, Bert Rivard, Frank Halsey, Fred Wilson, H. M. Moore and all. Fred had a delightful spread and went home late at night."

"Screams that froze one's blood came from Dr. N. T. Shaw's home Tuesday evening and Miss Helen Shaw, hanging by one foot, head downwards, was the screamer. She had been walking the porch railing, fell, her foot catching there, the little lady hung. Miss Hope Ferguson, Mrs. Plamette, holding her up to the best of her ability and pulling her down. Help quickly arrived, she was dismounted, a hurry up call brought the doctor, a hurry up call

as good as ever. Neighbors scared? Yep."

30 YEARS AGO April 9, 1926

"Village president and Mrs. Chick Shain last Sunday really injected something of the Christmas environment into Easter. Due to the heavy snow of Saturday, they were able to get out their cutter, drawn by a span of riding horses."

"Morris A. Wattles, unopposed for reelection to the office of supervisor of Troy township, was placed back into office by the voters. Due to annual election held last Monday."

"Initial plans for the annual roll call of the Community house were made at the monthly meeting of the board Monday morning. The drive is to follow the birthday party, April 28, and will close May 12 with a luncheon for the workers."

15 YEARS AGO April 10, 1941

"Dr. George A. Marin, of Worth street, Tuesday noon was elected