

Local Candidates Are Our Neighbors

"Why doesn't the Eccentric, at local elections, advocate the specific candidacy of certain people who are running for office, when there is a choice to be made?"

Our reply to this question is, we believe, in keeping with the quality of our community.

By which we mean that, in 36 years of editing this newspaper, we have never observed any local public official try to use his position to the harm and injury of our taxpayers.

TO BE SURE, not all candidates are equal in knowledge of certain conditions and facts relative to Birmingham, neither are they equal in technical know-how related to a community's physical problems.

On the whole, however, we have found public officials to be honest, to be earnest in their desires to make Birmingham the very nicest of places to live.

WE HAVE, for many years viewed local candidates for city commission or school board positions to be playing the role of the good neighbor.

NEVER, THIS NEWSPAPER always obtains from each candidate, (or we try to obtain) a statement covering biographical background, together with a candidate's ideas on meeting and solving

current civic problems. This information we publish, free, for you, the voters.

We can assure you, though, that were a candidate to appear whose personal history and attitudes were not of qualified moral standing, we would not hesitate to let you know of our own choice of candidates seeking your votes.

In their local affairs, most communities in our nation are governed and administered by honest men and women. It is in the higher levels of State and national government that skullduggery and dishonesty now and then occur—and this largely because such governments are big, and far removed from those intimate local controls that exist in non-metropolitan units of government.

INDEED, WERE STATE and national governments as closely scrutinized by taxpayers as local units are, our nation would be a veritable Utopia in its civic environments.

Perhaps local governments should enlist greater citizen support insofar as the number of candidates who announce for respective offices is concerned. Too often, we all know, responsible offices in village, city and school board units practically go begging for candidates.

What we need are more men and women willing to offer themselves for local public service. It is a high honor to fill such offices. It is no personal disgrace, either, to offer yourself for an office and not be victor when the votes are counted.

After all, local offices are just places where one can give his time and talents to assist in the development of good hometowns... and the town is only as good as the quantity and quality of community-service-minded citizens who live within its boundaries.

Human Beings Respond To Inner Warmth

When Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" was first published 70 years ago, it was not received with universal praise. On the contrary, it was reviled and roundly condemned in some quarters.

Yet this account of Huck's adventures on the great-river has come to be recog-

nized as an American classic, one of the finest creative works yet produced in this country. Meanwhile, many of the books that received admiring reviews in the 1880's have been forgotten.

"Huckleberry Finn" lives because it is a work of art that conveys something of the flavor and warmth of humanity. It speaks to the heart. The chances are that it will still be read 70 years from now, when much of today's celebrated fiction will doubtless be gathering dust on the back shelves.

Their Day of Judgment Will Come

"Truth is stranger than fiction" is an old axiom. Evidence of this turns up in every phase of life... and perhaps the latest world-shaking proof of this relates to the present Kremlin rulers' indictments of the late Joe Stalin.

This sole Soviet dictatorial tyrant is reviled and brutally condemned by no less than the Kremlin's top leaders, Bulganin, Khrushchev, & Co. Stalin's mur-

derous activities, his completely inhuman treatment of millions of people long has been known and criticized outside Russia.

TODAY'S KREMLIN DICTATORS are destined to become tomorrow's Stalins and Berias and Kerenky's and Trotskys.

For evil begets evil... and he who is evil is per se the inheritor of evil ends.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

A new Bricker Amendment is being offered for adoption to the U.S. Constitution, to take the place of the one proposed a couple of years ago by the Ohio Senator.

Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Humphrey emphatically told the nation that no cut in income taxes can be expected this year.

It is admitted that most of the human family is governed by laws and customs. It is more difficult, though, to abandon customs.

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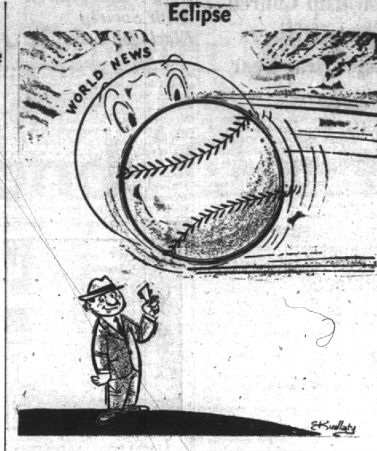
Tickers

By George



"Boy! is he the big shot this morning. He just got a letter from the Bureau of Internal Revenue!"

Eclipse



NATURE NOW

Botanical Tests Viewed in Tropics

By LYDIA KING FRETSE, Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Mayaguez, lying midway along Puerto Rico's west coast, is the center of the island's needlework industry.

But the touring botanist goes there to visit the Federal experiment station, established by the United States in 1901 to study agricultural problems of interest to itself and the tropics.

Through the courtesy of Dr. E. H. Warmke, its director, we were introduced to the station's research program. Our first "look-in" was at the chemical and agronomic experiments on strategic drug plants.

MANY OF THESE concern chincona, from which quinine and other medical alkaloids are extracted. Originally made from the bark of wild trees in the Peruvian mountains, adaptable species are now being introduced to ever-widening areas of the tropics.

These roots are the basis of a new and interesting program which promises to provide adequate amounts of this drug, cortisone, at a minimum cost.

Insect pests are especially destructive in the tropics. The manufacture from plants of such non-toxic insecticides as rotenone which can be used as spray leafy vegetables is another important research project.

THE INTRODUCTION of parasitic insects which keep in check destructive beetles which in turn feed on cocoon, bamboo and pineapple has made possible the re-establishment of large crop areas.

Since sugar cane is the basis of the island's economy, experiments to improve strains and to protect them from fungus diseases and insects are of prime importance.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Columbia University scientists figure the age of the universe at 4,800,000,000 years, "plus or minus 200,000,000 years."

I don't like to argue with people who are equipped with statistics and I am impressed by any number that has more digits than there are in my income tax payment.

Tell a woman you will meet her at six and she shows up at six-plus (never minus) 45 minutes. Stand and wait for a bus and it shows up plus or minus a couple of minutes and then it is crowded.

ALL I CAN SAY about those scientists is that they should narrow down their figure a bit. You just can't go around plusing or minusing some 200,000,000 years. It isn't done.

How would you like to have an appointment for lunch with a chap who snaps his fingers at 200,000,000 years?

He who would be as young as he feels might also try to act his age.

The Library of Congress has more than 10,000,000 books. It also has 2,300,000 maps, 2,000,000 photographs, 400,000 phonograph recordings, 2,000,000 books and pieces of music, and 14,000,000 manuscripts.

Few Americans know much about this national institution. It is primarily a library of books and information for congressmen. It is also the recipient of two copies of every American copyrighted book.

growing such familiar kitchen stores as coffee, coconut, vanilla and pepper. All of these are plant seeds.

Vanilla is the dried seed pod of a tropical orchid, vanilla pepper is the ground seed of a climbing vine, piper. White pepper is made from the inner seed and skin of its dark outer skin.

WHEN WE FINISHED our botanical observations, we spent a happy interlude enjoying the patterned perfection of stem and branch, of leaf and flower which surrounded us.

IT WAS ALSO exciting to see

It has built up by gift and purchase great collections in many fields. Its Russian collection may be larger than any in Russia. Its Jewish collection is as fine as any other known.

IT IS THE PLACE to go for documents and historical papers of our presidents and other prominent public men. It also is compiling a list of all rare books in the United States, whether on its shelves or elsewhere.

The Library of Congress does much besides serve congress and is an institution which should be far better known.

Despite all the attractions that the new cars have to offer, the last word in glamor has not been spoken. On the other hand, several "glamorous" words have been spoken, and apparently immediately forgotten by the car-conscious public.

One of these was just a year ago when the tire companies burst forth with the latest word: colored sidewalls. Like bright scarlet or pastel purple.

The experiment was tried before. A similar product was produced in 1933-34 and soon dropped for lack of demand. Various explanations were offered, including one that those were depression days and drivers had a hard time figuring out where their gas money was coming from.

TODAY IT APPARENTLY is no different. When was the last time you noted a car with colored sidewalls?

People still seem to be satisfied with the two standard colors, black for 60 per cent of car owners, white for the remainder.

Everyone knows what to do until it happens to them.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Women's League Expresses Thanks

To the Editor: The League of Women Voters wishes to express their appreciation to you for the excellent coverage you gave our "go-see" trip in the Eccentric. We feel that you did an outstanding job. We have heard complimentary comments from many league members as well as many who are not members.

It was a real pleasure to have your reporter make the trip to Lansing with us.

MILDRED P. KNUDSEN Secretary.

Selling your home? Advertise it in the "For Sale-Houses" column of The Eccentric.

Exhibit Opens

A two-week exhibit of architectural and home furnishing design of Swanson associates, West Long Lake road, Bloomfield Hills, opened Friday at Michigan State Normal college, Ypsilanti.

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.

59 YEARS AGO April 28, 1906 "Already the throng of house hunters from the big city are seen in our midst, but very few or none at all of the houses rentable are suitable to their wants or demands. Wish we had at least 20 homes with bathroom, etc., to rent. We could fill them all in just one week."

"Doc" Sexton, the Michigan State Telephone company's "trouble man from Fontaine has been our midst for a couple of days and in that time has added to the village telephone exchange new phones for The Birmingham Eccentric, George C. Hupp's residence and the warehouse of Parks Harger. This puts The Eccentric in line with all telephone users and we hope you will not be bashful, reticent nor modest in sending your items of news to your village paper. Try it. Always ready. We never sleep, if we do it is with one eye open."

"E. Baxter Gillespie is the right man in the right place, just the handy man the ladies are wishing for, as he offers his services anyone wanting a man for odd jobs and housecleaning, such, drop a line to Box, Birmingham post office."

39 YEARS AGO April 16, 1925 "Early risers in Birmingham next Thursday morning—if they are in the vicinity of 24th and Woodward avenues—may see eight automobiles loaded with happy Rotarians and Rotary Anna start out for Bay City. The occasion is the annual district conference of Eastern Michigan and Ontario Rotary clubs to be held Thursday and Friday in Bay City."

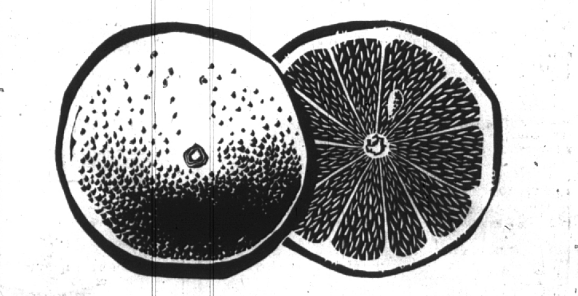
"With stocks arranged for easy inspection, windows especially arranged for the event, an alert and workmen all set to please the buying public, Birmingham's many business concerns were all set this morning to open their annual 'spring parade of values.' This shopping event has been sponsored by the Birmingham retail merchants association."

"Birmingham's new 300,000 gallon elevated water storage tank will be christened 'this evening. The huge structure, which has loomed up on the local landscape during the past two months, was given its last coat of paint this week, and now awaits testing. Water will be turned into it tonight."

"Starting April 28 and ending May 12, residents of Birmingham and vicinity will be given an opportunity to renew their memories when a corps of workers will make a canvass of the community on the occasion of the third annual roll call of the Birmingham Community House."

15 YEARS AGO April 17, 1941 "Mayor John H. White, re-elected to Birmingham's city commission for the seventh consecutive year, April 7, Monday night was selected by his fellow-commissioners to serve again as mayor. This begins his eighth consecutive year in that position."

"Both Birmingham banks, the Birmingham National and the Wa-bee State, are all ready to welcome patrons and customers to their institutions tonight from 7:30 o'clock to 9:30, as part of a statewide campaign to successful theme, 'know your bank week.'"



For the price of a dozen oranges you can cook 18 complete meals for a family of four on your electric range—the only range that is "white-glove" clean. That's why smart homemakers say:

"You can Live Better... Electrically"

SEE YOUR DEALER OR DETROIT EDISON