

Self-Interest Still Controls Nations

The GOP slogan of "Peace, Progress and Prosperity," sounded very cosy until the last week of the campaign. Then Peace broke into pieces and no one knew where Progress was headed.

Too Much "Debt Prosperity" Is Dangerous

Over our land are millions of traffic signs: STOP; SLOW; CURVE; STEEP HILL; USE SECOND GEAR—for all to see and read.

TODAY, MANY BELIEVE EXTREME

Only A Modest Debt Is Safe Plan To Use

In a Vermont county seat, there has been a building for many years, half of which is a hotel, and the other half is a jail. Meals are cooked in the same kitchen for both the hotel guests and the jailbirds.

INSTEAD OF BEING put in jail for going into debt, as in the good old days, they go in debt while put in jail!

THEY GO INTO DEBT while put in jail! The "character" of these law breakers is the only security needed.

SO IT WAS IN KOREA. France and England cheered from the side lines until MacArthur proposed to win the war, when they demanded his recall.

We have now seen France, England, Egypt, Israel and Russia defy the U.N. in its teeth. Its several resolutions bounced off their armor like ping pong balls.

Whether the UN will now follow the League of Nations as another noble experiment that died in early youth, one cannot say. We hope not.

It can serve mostly as a town hall. But as an instrument of "collective security," we in the U.S.A. had better keep our powder dry and most of it at home.

depressions are over. So they drive furiously ahead through all traffic lights on the slippery slopes of rising debt and bigger mortgages.

And what about the experts? The federal reserve board is trying to put on the brakes just a little. Others, interested in debt prosperity, let out howls of pain: "Don't pay any attention to these old fogies! They are hurting business—and jobs! So—on with inflation!"

However, the cabinet members of the present administration have accomplished much in checking inflation. Let's support them in this good endeavor.

Neighbor, beware of any "unsinkable ship!" Send to your congressmen.

UNFORTUNATELY, then, many are often dispossessed of much that they have when, during brief periods of unemployment or sickness, the installment collector takes back his unpaid wares.

A modest amount of personal debt is good for the average family... but when the monthly payments total too much of the income, economic danger is waiting at the first opportunity.

Not Open for Business



NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Decay Final Link In Life Cycle

Late rambles in the damp and empty woods and fields suggest some sudden ending to nature's bounty. It is as if all the season's growing were discarded only to be trampled underfoot.

Death and decay, these are the tenses the wind plays in the hills and hollows, rushing through empty seed-heads and bare branches, over rotting logs and rumpling leaves of the leaf-strewn forest floor.

But if the idea of decay and its attendant odors is repulsive to us, it is because our senses are not always trained to tell the truth about the biological forces that are silently at work all around us.

FOR DECAY is a living process. It is not morbid decomposition; it is the final link in the life cycle without which there could be no growth. Without decay, dead substances could not undergo dissolution; they would remain as locked up accumulations of complex compounds.

As a result, the earth would soon be piled high with plant and animal remains, a huge garbage pile making life impossible.

Pick up a handful of debris from the forest floor. The top layers are still intact. Here one might find leaves, bark, seeds, animal excrement, dead insects and their pupal cases, a bird's feather, a speckled fragment, a small rodent skull.

As one digs deeper these gradually lose their identity. They have already been decomposed and added to the ever-deepening layers of humus which is the forest floor.

IN A SINGLE sentence, decay is breaking down protoplasm into its constituent chemical elements and compounds. Various organisms, vertebrates, insects and fungi are instruments of decay as is oxidation by the air. But bacteria are by far its most important agents.

BACTERIAL DECOMPOSITION is a staggering number and variety, each species preying upon its own host. All of these are one-celled fungous plants, some so small that they can neither be caught by a filter nor seen by a microscope.

But all are preparing the raw materials which are to be used by a new generation of plants in making food and living matter. These in turn will nourish a new generation of animals.

OTHER ELEMENTS such as sulphates and phosphates are converted into acids, and carbon appears as carbon dioxide. Sometimes poisonous acids are formed, which can be given off as marsh gas which can be seen bubbling up from stagnant water, and sulphur as hydrogen sulphide with its familiar stench like rotting eggs.

And so it is that we can see beyond the obvious sights and sounds of any season to recognize in decay the final link in the slow moving cycle which holds all of life in its protective grasp.

50 YEARS AGO December 7, 1906 "The desire to make others happy during the Christmas season should move you to do your shopping before the middle of December..."

15 YEARS AGO December 4, 1921 "Birmingham League of Women Voters Asks... Did you know that Oakland county's yearly expenditure for health protection is 15 cents per capita..."

30 YEARS AGO December 2, 1906 "Bonnie Friedman and Bennie Oosterban, star players of Michigan's victorious football team, will be the honor guests at the meeting of the Hi-Y council Dec. 14 in the cafeteria of the Baldwin high school..."

50 YEARS AGO December 2, 1906 "The Birmingham Eclectic is pleased to announce the purchase of a new building for its offices..."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

For several years now, a dark blue flag has stood at the side of Birmingham's city commission room, its draped folds beside and to the right of the stars and bars of the American flag.



This blue flag seldom gets a glance from those who enter the room. Yet its history is a glorious one, a proud record of a state whose citizens should be more proud of their part in the nation's heritage.

Michigan's flag was born in 1837 on an important anniversary—Feb. 22, Washington's birthday. Michigan's "Boy Governor" and his first, Stevens T. Mason, presented a flag to a body of state militia.

ON ONE SIDE was the Boy Governor's portrait. On the other was the state coat-of-arms, and a soldier with a lady.

Just after the Civil War closed in 1865, Michigan adopted a new state flag—on one side the state coat-of-arms on a blue field, with the U.S. coat-of-arms on the reverse side.

The state's present flag was adopted in 1911. It merely had dropped the US coat-of-arms in favor of a solid blue field on the reverse side of the state's coat-of-arms.

IT WAS ANOTHER MICHIGAN gov-

ernor who designed the state coat-of-arms. He was General Lewis Cass, Michigan territory governor from 1813 to 1831.

A veteran of the War of 1812, Gen. Cass was impressed with Michigan's strategic geographical position on the international boundary, where he had fought in the war's land operations.

So on the shield in the state's coat-of-arms he placed the word "Tuebor", meaning "I will defend." (the nation).

Birmingham's commission room presently is being remodeled.

It would be nice if these plans could include a real display of not only the American flag, but also our historically-rich state symbol. Such as obtained if placed on a wall with crossed staves.

Beauty should not be draped, it should be displayed!

Advertisement for The AVERILL PRESS INC. of Birmingham, featuring the headline "House Organs ----?" and "YES... WE PRINT MORE PUBLICATIONS THAN ANY PRINTER IN MICHIGAN".

Large advertisement for Ironrite Automatic Ironer, featuring an illustration of a woman ironing and the headline "For Christmas Give her precious new hours to spend with the family".

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Egyptians declare that, for centuries, they have lived in Palestine, now occupied by the new state of Israel. A few days ago Egypt's chief UN representative told an American television audience that his countrymen will not be satisfied until they get back the Israeli land.

The recent first real cold blast of winter that threatened to ruin most of Florida's crops did not get that far south. Dry air from the northeastern part of the U.S. got ahead of the cold blast... wonder how many Floridians offered up a prayer of thanks to Providence for this weather shift...

Russia's recent brutal trampling underfoot of those brave Hungarians again announces to the nations that the pattern of Stalinism still dominates the Kremlin. How can civilized peoples expect any other type of behaviour from leaders who kill to get, and will kill to remain, where they are?

In 1907, an Income Tax, adopted in 1894, was declared unconstitutional. But on February 25, 1913, the 16th Amendment was adopted. And on October 3, of the same year, the first Income Tax bill was signed by President Wilson, making legal a tax which—as Senator Benjamin H. Hill forewarned—would empower the Government to "make all property and rights, all states and people, and all liberty and hope, its playthings in an hour and its victims forever."

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.

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Advertisement for The Birmingham Eccentric, listing the Editor and Publisher (George R. Averill), Business Manager (Paul Neal Averill), and Advertising Manager (Gerald E. Jehle).

Advertisement for "Meet Your Michigan" featuring statistics about the state's steel industry and tourism, including the headline "UP IN THE WORLD OF STEEL!"