

B'ham Offers Fine Vocational, Family Environment

Few of us in this suburban area of Detroit are aware of the tremendous influx of a variety of industrial and professional organizations that have moved out during recent years.

In and close to Birmingham are a score or more of both small and comparatively large organizations, many of which require the services of trained engineers, electrical, chemical and mechanical.

Included, too, among their needs of trained personnel are highly skilled draftsmen—not to mention the legion of office workers necessary to operate business.

THE PRESIDENT of a local engineering firm recently told us: "We find it increasingly difficult to obtain all the trained personnel we need to expand our business in these days of national full-employment.

Not only our organization but others, I find, are making costly efforts to attract employees out this way.

"Our basic problem is to get information about local splendid living and working conditions to potential men and women whom we would like to add to our payrolls. With pleasant residential surroundings, fine schools and churches, convenient shopping centers, plenty of recreational advantages as you see, I think this area ideal.

"Perhaps, if you were to comment on this problem in The Eccentric, it might suggest to your subscribers that they might relay local employment values to their friends and relatives who live in other parts of the state or nation."

Indeed, this industrialist has made a good suggestion. . . can you, good Reader, help on this problem?

Monkey Business - Without Monkeys

Mr. A sold his goods at a higher price than Mr. B. He was convicted of profiteering.

B sold his goods at lower price than C. He was convicted of unfair competition.

C and D sold their goods at the same price. They were convicted of collusion and conspiracy.

So when they got out of jail, Mr. A, B, C and D went to Congress and said: "Tell us what to do to keep out of jail."

Congress replied: "Hire a lawyer."

SO THEY WENT TO A LAWYER and asked him how to keep out of jail.

The lawyer said: "Write to your Congressman."

And so it went, round and around, year after year.

With this result. The Congressmen said they were overworked and raised their salaries fifty percent and taxed A, B, C and D to pay for the increase.

But A, B, C and D kept on being prosecuted and going to jail. That was good for the lawyers; so they kept re-electing the Congressmen to keep business coming their way.

The jails kept getting fuller and fuller, and more jails had to be built. This caused a boom in the construction business, and employed thousands of workmen at good wages, who spent their money at the stores of A, B, C and D.

This caused general prosperity, for which the Congressmen claimed the credit. So the Congressmen kept getting re-elected and A, B, C and D kept on going to jail.

In the meantime, in every zoo, in darkest Africa and wherever else monkeys live, these simian creatures continued to enjoy themselves, eating free peanuts, picking fleas from one another and, in general, admiring, god and pfc, escaping the economic deteriorating processes of taxation.

Do you still believe in evolution?

Was It Marlowe, and Not Shakespeare?

That not Shakespeare, but his contemporary, Christopher Marlowe, wrote the plays that go under Shakespeare's name is a belief held by some recent writers. They reject the tradition that Marlowe was killed in 1593 in a tavern brawl, and believe that he lived to write the Shakespearean plays that appeared after that date.

Marlowe has one advantage over some candidates suggested for Shakespeare's halo. He is a great poet, as his surviving writings prove.

OTHER SUGGESTED CANDIDATES were, some of them, eminent persons, but are not known to have possessed poetic or dramatic talent.

Now the Marlowe backers have gained permission to open his tomb, hoping to find evidence there. If they should find that his corpse has turned over, that might indicate that as the author, he was protesting against the bad acting that has afflicted Shakespeare's plays in the past.

What could it prove otherwise?

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

To be sure, those awful Russians did win most of the honors in the recent Olympic winter sports activities in Italy. This will provide the Kremlin with some propaganda material for its enslaved subjects. But when you consider that the Kremlin subsidizes its athletes, really putting them in a career class with professionals, you realize why they were so good. Why do the Olympic officials, then, continue to allow Russia to compete?

The recent U. S. Senate vote that took away from the Federal Power Commission the right to determine gas rates at the well-head, was a much discussed affair. Democrats and Republicans divided on the question, some for it, others against. On the whole, it appears to us, the thing was

decided more on the basis of financial profits for the well owners than it was on the question of bureaucratic controls of private property.

That New Mexico bus driver who walked 12 miles through a snow blizzard, in light clothing, to get help for 16 passengers stalled in his snow-bound vehicle, deserves a medal. He nearly died in the effort. Previously unheard of and unsung, he turned out to have the stuff that makes this old world a better place in which to live. Indeed, there are millions of potential heroes and heroines, only needing an emergency to prove their mettle.

Some people seem to have a remarkably even temperament—upset all the time!

Sure Sign of Spring



NATURE NOW

Learn the Language Of America's Trees

By LYDIA KING FRESHE Special Writer For The Birmingham Eccentric

Almost everywhere you travel you can have trees as your companions provided you are on speaking terms with them. Of these there are two great groups, usually designated as "Evergreens" and "deciduous".

It is the former which lends so much of warmth and color to our winter landscape. Sometimes the word "conifer" is used interchangeably with "evergreen". However, the terms are not synonymous if we define a conifer as a cone-bearing tree with green needles or scale-like leaves.

FOR THERE ARE some evergreens which do not bear cones and others which have broad leaves. Among the latter are the southern live oak and the magnolia. The yews and junipers, even though they are classified with the conifers, are not cone-bearers, but enclose their seeds in berry-like fruit, as do certain species of ferns to prevent the escape of water from the tree.

Thus they are able to resist great dryness in climates where our deciduous trees. They are also generally acceptive of poorer and dryer soils, which fact greatly increases their range of growth.

DECIDUOUS TREES living in the same climate adjust to cold by shedding their leaves and going into a kind of hibernation. The fossil record shows that the ancestors of our conifers reach far back into the "Cordilleran" group of plants which were widespread in the coal-age swamps.

MOST OF THE early conifers are now extinct. Our modern species date back some 100 million years to the late Mesozoic. However, one species of sequoia which grew about 60 million years ago is almost identical with our present west coast redwoods.

Today our conifers are more restricted in range, and one must travel westward to see them at their best. However, they yet lead as the source of available timber.

Crossing the Rocky Mountain range, majestic forests of pine, spruce and Douglas fir take over the landscape. There is no finer sight in the out-of-doors than to stand on the rain-drenched slopes of the Pacific coast ranges, there to exult in the western cedar, spruce and sequoia.

THESE LATTER were old at the time of Charlemagne, and one fits a hand to the deeply furrowed bark and trains the eye skyward to some 300 feet there falls up on the mind and heart a compulsive awareness of man's short and fragile life.

One of our state's truest claims to beauty as well as her greatest renewable resource lies in her remaining coniferous forests. Of these we have a handful of species, easy to name and to know. When we came to Michigan, we found all of them growing in the Higgins Lake area and its nearby environs along the Au Sable river.

THEY INCLUDE white, red and Jack pine, tamarac, hemlock, balsam fir, spruce, arbor vitae (white cedar) and red cedar. Among these the pine family leads with white pine as our most prized tree.

But beyond the origin or naming of any kind, let our interest in the green ways of its growing, and all that makes it so meaningful to man and his needs.

Grate gatherin' of ye old tyne folk to supper in ye halls of ye biggie bricke blocke of ye citizens, Johnstoun-Shaw, on Wednesday evening, Feb. 21st by ye woman of ye First Presbyterian church. Ye biggie doore will be open about candle lightin', where ye communcie eatin' at five o'clock and ye winsome damsel will serve you with hot baked beans, meat, molasses cake and lots of other things. After eatin' ye young men that sweathearts will please ask them before ye singin' begins in ye concert hall that there may be no confusion while ye singin' is going on.

30 YEARS AGO February 12, 1926 Pointing out the necessity of maintaining a forward looking attitude toward the centralization of

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Apprehension of a thug through numbers scratched on the inside cover of a watch is being referred to by the local watchmaker's guild as a good example why the union's licensing bill should be passed by the state legislature.

You recall that the thug, who brutally beat up a Royal Oak gas station attendant, was traced through the numbers in the watch that was torn off the criminal's wrist.

The union's proposed licensing would require, among other things, the use by watch repairmen of this repair record coding.

I'M ALL FOR THAT. Seems like a perfectly wonderful idea for helping to catch criminals.

But why stop with watches? How about initially coding shirts, ties, shoes, hats, coats, and other removable items, so that should a thug leave them behind, or have them ripped off by a victim, the police could look at the number, contact the merchant, see his master sales record, and then drive out and catch the criminal?

Why hasn't someone thought of this method before? Well, better late than never, heh?

Dan Maginn, editor of the Genesee County Herald at Mt. Morris, near Flint, told me of this recent experience.

One afternoon, he answered his office phone, asked what he could do.

"What did you say this was?" the party asked.

"Genesee County Herald," answered Maginn, repeating.

"Where's that?" "Why, in Mt. Morris," exclaimed Maginn, getting more and more confused by the conversation.

"Where's that near?" "Flint." "Flint what?"

"WHY, FLINT, MICHIGAN, of course. Where're you calling from?" "Omaha—and how did I get you? I thought I dialed Birmingham, Michigan! Good bye!"

The probable explanation: Mt. Morris' exchange is, Niagara 3. Birmingham is Midwest 4. But to the complicated equipment of the telephone company, the NI and MI "pulls" on the phone dial are the same—6, then 4. The all-important number here is the third-one: 4 brings the calls into Birmingham, 3 takes them up to Mt. Morris.

So be careful of those finger flicks.

WXYZ Sportscaster Don Watrick believes ex-Tiger pitcher Dizzy Trout got it had break when the sponsor fired him from his job as an assistant on the Tiger game broadcasts.

"Diz didn't have anything to talk about when it came to those between-inning pauses," Watrick told Birmingham Rotarians at a luncheon a couple of weeks ago. "It's like you and I were announcing a big parade. I get to talk about the floats when they pass by, and then in between them I turn the mike over to you. What would you tell the radio audience? Well, that's the kind of job they handed Diz."

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