

## "Talk Is Cheap" --- Lack of It Expensive!

"Let the discontented talk." That recommendation came from four educators testifying before a Senate subcommittee studying the problem of freedom in the United States. Professor Zechariah Chafee, Jr., of the Harvard University Law School said:

"Let the discontented talk in order to learn the causes for their discontent and end those causes. Remedies for objectionable ideas should be left to counter-arguments and time."

This advice is contrary to the belief of those who claim that ideas with which they disagree are dangerous and should be prohibited. These people seem to have little faith in the strength of the nation if they think it can readily be overthrown by injudicious talk.

In other words, when one, or a group, of citizens may disagree with public school activities, with how a local government operates, or in other comparable areas of

human affairs, let these citizens express themselves.

Indeed, this right is the very essence of freedom, and of progress.

Men and women who occupy various governmental situations, either full-time or part-time, should encourage public participation in their affairs.

To be sure, there are times when such participation is annoying, even a waste of time—but only when tolerated will there develop between the two groups that good relationship so necessary to democracy.

In Birmingham, as well as every other area of these United States, this argument holds good.

For many years the British have let agitators orate in London's Hyde Park. They can even advocate the assassination of the king or queen without being arrested. And despite all this inflammatory speaking the empire still stands solid and unafraid. Are we feeble?

## Santa Claus Letters Revealing

During the past Christmas season this newspaper printed quite a number of "Letters To Santa Claus", written by local and nearby youngsters.

If you read many of them you no doubt chuckled over more than one; perhaps, too, you had a nostalgic emotional reaction to some of them. We did.

In previous years we used to print scores of them from certain grades in

our schools.

Due to the tremendous increase in school population, this year we discontinued contacting youngsters via the schools, instead depending upon volunteer writers.

Most of the letters we did print were addressed merely to "Santa Claus", and were turned over to us by Postmaster Rolfe Reese.

## Struggling To Preserve Natural Beauty

The United States is not the only country where a scenic wonder may be threatened by a private company seeking to make money wherever the chance may arise. Here it has repeatedly been necessary to battle for the preservation of Niagara against power developments that would ruin it as a spectacle.

Some years ago the representative of a company that wanted to utilize Niagara power admitted that his plans would leave but the merest trickle of water over the falls, but offered as a concession to stop all operations on Sundays and allow the falls to remain in their original glory one day a week.

NOW CANADA IS STIRRED UP over the possibility that a housing development

will ruin the Reversible Falls near Victoria, British Columbia. Though not widely known, they are of considerable interest to tourists. At high tide the sea rushes from Victoria's inner harbor one and a half miles into a gorge and over falls. When the tide is going out, the falls are headed in the other direction and are said to put on a spectacular display.

Only one other instance of such a phenomenon comes to mind, and that at the other end of Canada, St. John, New Brunswick.

It would be a vast pity if private profit should cause the loss of an almost unparalleled natural wonder which benefits the community in other ways, and is of immense interest to lovers of beauty everywhere.

## By-Passing Hungry Human Beings

The Antarctic, supposedly the world's most useless region, may, in the opinion of an expert, have value after all. Rear Admiral Richard F. Byrd, who has flown over both poles, and wintered in Antarctica, thinks that it would make the world's greatest deep freezer. He suggests in all seriousness that surplus food products be sent down there and stored. As the temperature rarely goes above freezing, they would be safe from spoiling.

As Antarctica is uninhabited, they should also be safe from theft. Conceivably a nation short of food for its own inhabitants might make a raid on the world's largest icebox. The risk is not great enough, however, to justify stationing a guard against thieves.

Seriously, though, isn't something wrong in our world when so-called learned people like Admiral Byrd suggest the use of such frigid regions to by-pass hungry human beings?

## From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Annual report of the Birmingham fire department shows that losses during 1955 were less than the previous year, it being \$1.47 per capita against \$1.74. Total loss is estimated at \$40,148, a mere fragment of the community's total physical wealth. Admitting that we have an exceptionally competent fire department, why not also agree that co-operation of the citizens, too, helped to keep fire losses down ... not only protecting physical properties, but human lives, as well.

The latest version of the old rags to riches formula is slightly different—now the poor boy works hard for a long time, and stays poor. But it all ends happily when he's tapped to be on a television quiz program.

Not always is the greatest willpower required in standing by one's New Year resolutions. Even greater fortitude must be mustered around the house in throwing away last year's accumulated trash.

## Pockets Full of Dreams



## NATURE NOW

# Bird Enthusiasts Compiling Book

By LYDIA KING FREHSE  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The Detroit area, situated as it is in the lower Great Lakes region, provides a remarkable habitat for bird life. As is their custom, devoted bird enthusiasts from the Audubon society turned out at 7 a.m., Jan. 2, at the Cranbrook cabin for their annual Christmas bird census.

Clad in their warmest clothes, fortified with thermos bottles of hot coffee and sandwiches, and equipped with bird guide and binoculars, they were pledged to eight hours of work.

THEIR AIM: To identify and record by number and species every bird within a 15 mile circle centered by Little Straits Lake, west of Pontiac.

Identification is made by a qualified member and is verified by another. Sixty-two participants saw 47 species, comprising some 8,000 individual birds. The day was fair, with good visibility, but the deeply frozen lake greatly reduced the presence of water birds. The usual large number of Starlings and English sparrows was in evidence.

SEEN WERE unusual numbers of tree-sparrows and evening grosbeaks, and a single flock of 15 meadowlarks. A flicker, red-headed woodpecker, field sparrow and myrtle warbler were among the single-count birds seen.

Although the annual bird census is a local accomplishment, its records appear in the state Audubon society's "Jack Pine Warbler" and are nationally recorded in "Audubon Field Notes". But the Christmas census is only the beginning of a larger survey which lasts throughout the year.

IT WAS IN December 1944 that the first bird survey committee was organized. Sixteen members of the Audubon society met each week to pool and tabulate their bird records, thus launching a new field activity.

Together with the cooperation of many other members of the society, they began a survey which includes five counties in southeastern Michigan.

## 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

January 19, 1906

Ye Junior Editor, with a great many others, enjoyed the generous and friendly hospitality of Gov. and Mrs. Warner at their home in Farmington on Friday of last week. Editor Richards, of the Farmington Enterprise, and Editor Mills, and his wife, of the Farmington Herald, with Frank S. Neal, of the Northville Record, and Ben. Harry B. McCracken, were prominent in assisting the Governor and his family in caring for their guests, so of course everything ran along smoothly and happily.

Irving Bailey, an ex-motorman, opened a cobbler's shop at the White marble works, where he will be pleased to do good to his fellow-beggers' souls.

The Literary Club met last Tuesday with a large attendance in spite of the storm. The subject of South America was unanimously chosen as the topic of study for next year. Miss Zilpha Smith gave a paper on "Glasgow—The Best Governed City in the World." Miss Julia Post a paper on "The Character of Detroit" was ably supplemented by Miss Sly on "The Visiting Nurses' Association" and by Miss Mary Hubbert on "The Day Nursery and Free Kindergarten." The fact that both these ladies had had experience in the work added much to the pleasure of the listeners.

### 30 YEARS AGO

January 15, 1926

Anne Campbell, known in private life as Mrs. George W. Stark, entertained members of the Birmingham Rotary club Monday noon with numerous of her poems. She was the guest of Tunis W. Miner, who furnished the speaker for the day.

Miss Daisy Pearl Finley and Arthur Bottoms were married Tuesday evening by the Reverend C. M. Thompson at the home on Ferndale avenue. The bride was attired in a light blue crinoid georgette dress and carried a bouquet of roses and sweet peas. Her only attendant, Miss Louella Finley, wore a pale pink dress of lace and georgette.

Sunday evening Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Walton entertained very informally at a dinner party at their home on Lone Pine road. The guests who were from Detroit included Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Garvin, Mr. and Mrs. Kipp and Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie.

### 15 YEARS AGO

January 23, 1941

Annual business meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for 9:30 Tuesday morning in the Community House. The slate for election of officers includes: president, Mrs. Cleveland Walcott, Ray H. Bede vice president, Mrs. Harold H. Corson, Mrs. Lee A. White, secretary, Ray A. Palmer and Mrs. E. E. Allen; treasurer, Mrs. Theodore Waggner, Jr., Mrs. Ralph Fletcher.

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Mathematical possibility of transposition of letters in a single line of type are astronomical in number—and it is to the credit of the newspaper crew that such mistakes are held to only a fraction of a percentage point.

But they do happen—and some of them make interesting and amusing reading, like the following:

Barbership news in the Columbus (Ohio) Citizen: "When Miss Smith awakened to find a burglar at her bedside, she gave him a shave and screamed for help."

Instructions in the Topeka (Kan.) Daily Capital: "First thing, then, is to tape the lid on security with strips of red tape."

Promotion in the Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald: "A copy of the morning or evening Herald costs a nickel, delivered to the home or purchased from a pepper seller."

Hospital report in the Silver City (N.M.) Enterprise: "Miss Margaret Smith is recovering from surgery performed decently at Hillcrest General Hospital."

Report in the Austin (Texas) Statesman: "American University at Washington, D.C., is the first institution of higher learning to have in its curriculum a course in ghost writing."

Cutlines in the Boston (Mass.) Evening American: "—dancer, who charged she was so scared by burns received when a ballet costume she was trying on caught fire from a gas heater that she would be unable to work for two years."

Story about imported goods in the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch: "Customs officials disclosed the goons were imported for resale in this country."

Editorial about the petty details which burden the President: "No man can think

and study when he is worn out by pretty things."

Comment by columnist in the Crestline (Calif.) Courier: "We will from time to time be up in these hills and will take pleasure in shaking hands with old familiar faces."

Dispatch from another city in the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer: "City Manager John Blank was tried by the new city council today."

Story in the Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel: "Early this morning the lights were still on in the Governor's office as he poured over the laws-to-be."

Obit in the Los Angeles (Calif.) Times: "Services for John Blank, vice-president of the Blank Steel Co., will be conducted today."

Blast-phemous item in the Boston (Mass.) Globe: "Dozens of profane gas containers blew up and set fire to the plant."

Sport item in the Buffalo (N.Y.) Courier-Express: "Jim had won the discuss throw."

Recipe in the Salt Lake (Utah) Tribune: "I cup diced, cooked him or canned luncheon meat."

Covington, La., St. Tammany Farmer: "Mr. and Mrs. Sam Salberger, Jr., are the proud parents of a boy, born Thursday. They have given the little fellow the name of William Raymond."

Columbia, S. C. State: "Wanted—woman to cook and do general horse-work."

Oakland, Calif. Tribune: "1950 Mercury, \$2195. Convertible coupe. Radio, heater, overdrive."

Burlington, Vt., Free Press: All wool blankets. Ideal for ski lodges and camps.

## Youth Committee Reorganized At Y

The Youth Work committee has been reorganized this year at the Birmingham YMCA. George A. Darsie, 242 Pleasant, is chairman. Purpose of the committee is to aid in the development of Christian

conduct in the lives of community youth. The committee achieves this objective by recruiting adult leaders to work with boys and girls in their neighborhoods and schools.

The committee is responsible for developing club programs for boys and girls 6 through 17. The Indian Guide tribes of six to nine-year-olds meet every other week in members' homes. Boys in Gra-Y, Jr. Hi-Y, and Hi-Y meet in the schools under adult leadership.

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GEORGE R. AVERILL  
Editor and Publisher  
PAUL NEAL AVERILL  
Business Manager  
GEORGE W. AVERILL  
Managing Editor  
GERALD E. FEILE  
Advertising Manager

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