

U. S. Shortage of Pennies Threatens Economy

When people are short of money, it's natural. When banks are short of money, it's a news. Consequently, the fact that banks throughout the country are short of pennies is almost sensational.

Naturally, the value of the cent has increased because of the shortage. A bank in Rutland, Vt., recently began offering \$1.05 for every 100 cents it receives.

The disappearance of these coins is something of a mystery. Some attribute it to vending machines and parking meters. Others blame it on sales taxes. Still others theorize that because the penny is worth so little, people simply keep them in a drawer rather than carry them around.

LEST PENNY SAVERS THINK that if they continue to hold out, the value of these coins will mount, United States Treasury officials announced that the Philadelphia and Denver mints are now making nothing but pennies. In fact, the mints are working overtime, producing pennies at a rate of about 1 1/2 billion a year, or about 25 tons of one-cent pieces a day.

If the penny were to remain unavailable long enough, someone might get the bright idea that it's unnecessary, and that the nickel could take its place. If the cost of living seems high now, imagine what it would be if a nickel were required for every penny now spent!

How Long Is U. S. Going To Be Victimized?

Little concrete and lasting evidence exists that many foreign nations Uncle Sam has helped, financially, remain our steadfast friends and allies.

Human nature is the same everywhere; all wisdom argues that when you make a loan you too often lose a friend. This is equally true between nations.

When Secretary of State Dulles says, for example, that the United States should give outright, or loan (and such loans are seldom paid) Egypt up to a billion dollars, or a little less, to build the world's largest dam across the Nile River, and if we don't

Russia will . . . personally, we'd remind Mr. Dulles that he ought to remember that Russia's promises are not worth very much.

HOWEVER, IF THE KREMLIN can scare the U.S. into such financing, and thus increase our drift toward national bankruptcy, then the Kremlin is playing an adroit and skillful game.

How long, oh, how long is the United States going to be victimized in this international skin-game of the dirty double-cross?

Gifts Of Service Create Happy Family

The "lord of the household," more commonly referred to as Daddy, had an idea about Christmas. As the principal source of the wherewithal for Yuletide giving, he got a respectful hearing.

Gifts that we buy are all right, he said to his assembled family. Gifts that we make are even better, especially if the making is done in a spirit of love. At this point, from his audience, there were cries of "Hear, hear!"

Whereupon Daddy pressed his advantage and sprang the idea that had been simmering. Why not, he suggested, have each member of the family give every other member a gift of cheerful service? Nothing compulsory—entirely voluntary.

AND WONDER OF WONDERS, they did. Considerable ingenuity was exercised to hit upon things outside the usual round of chores. With four in the family, the total of services rendered quickly mounted to twelve, and the spirit was so catching that by Christmas day everyone had lost track of the number.

Everyone agreed that the gifts of loving service made it the best Christmas the family had ever had. Which proves that Daddy sometimes has a good idea, after all.

And if you think it's now too late to be nice to your family for this Christmas, there is nothing to prevent your starting now to ease into next year, and if you keep it up you'll be in fine fettle for making a real showing next December.

Another Mayflower To Sail

The Mayflower will sail the Atlantic to America in 1956. A copy of the ship which brought the Pilgrims over in 1620 is now under construction at Brixton in England. The 183-ton vessel will sail here as a goodwill gift to the American people.

Few ships are better known than the Mayflower, and few have carried a load of passengers whose voyage proved more important. Were she still in existence, many thousands of tourists would visit her; but unfortunately, she was broken up long ago.

PART OF HER FRAMEWORK may still be identifiable in an English barn. Her owners could have tried to appreciate the importance of her errand in taking to America a colony of pilgrims whose descendants have helped to form one of the greatest nations in the world.

Perhaps, too, in England today there are counterparts of those early Pilgrims who would like to come to our shores to get away from the "austerity" so long in vogue in Britain—much of it occasioned by the unrealistic socialistic ideas of the Labor Government over there.



NATURE NOW

Mammals Developed As Dinosaurs Ended

By LYDIA KING FREHSE

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

A recent column told the story of the extinction of the great dinosaurs.

But before the last of these reptiles died, a new group called the mammals were already well established. They were small of stature but warm of blood and large of brain.

Best of all they were so adaptable that they could meet a new era beset with drastic changes in climate and topography. These included repeated periods of glaciation which erased plants and animals from large areas of the earth's surface.

ALTHOUGH the highly specialized dinosaurs became extinct with the passing of the equable living conditions which surrounded them, several species of lizard-like reptiles survived.

These were destined to become the ancestors of our first mammals. Always when I visit the Smithsonian institute I pause at a case which holds a collection of the tiny skeletons of this new life-stage.

Mrs. Frehse

It is so placed that the shadow of 70-foot Diplodocus, the greatest dinosaur of all time, falls upon the rodent-like skulls, most no larger than a coin.

WHEN ALIVE some 155 million years ago, the first of these early mammals were about the size of a mouse.

Their teeth tell the story of their adjustment to eating greenery when they could not get the good red meat their ancestors ate. Insects already abundant, also filled in the gaps in their diet.

As they were driven out of the comfortable lushness of the swamps by their reptilian enemies, they fled to the cooler and more barren uplands where hunger's demands kept them constantly in action.

THIS HOSTILE environment made them strong, quick witted and adaptable. Gradually they de-

SOME 70 MILLION years ago our Cenozoic or modern era was ushered in by a more advanced group of mammals called the placental. These gave birth to live young which were more fully developed.

Released from the threat of their reptilian enemies, they soon became numerous and diversified. To this group belong many species of extinct mammals, as well as intelligent species which dominate our world today.

Once more nature had erased the large and highly specialized species to carry forward the stream of life through the small but adaptable outcasts which dwelt on life's periphery.

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.

36 YEARS AGO

January 5, 1906

Mrs. B. Shain's children and grandchildren and brother, N. T. McFerrery and family met with her New Year's day to celebrate her birthday. She received some very pretty and useful presents.

Fred Harger, of Pontiac, and Wm. Parks of our village have formed a partnership under the firm name of Parks & Harger for the sale of agricultural implements. William can be found in the office at the new big warehouse, while the junior partner will find all over the county hunting farmers to give them bargains.

The only Breen Cannon, of Denver, Colo., is home for a short visit with his parents and many old friends. He don't change any yet.

39 YEARS AGO

January 1, 1926

Ralph Wilson local druggist, was re-elected to fill the office of president of the Birmingham Exchange club at a meeting held in the Loeb Pine Tea House Tuesday noon. Mr. Wilson, who had filled out the unexpected term of Robert Carson, will continue in office for six months.

"Old Orchard," the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Baldwin, on Wing Lake, was the scene of an informal housewarming and musical Tuesday night. The guests were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Craig, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Bowdoin, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cobb, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Cruse, Mr. and Mrs. John Crislow and Mrs. S. A. Clarke, and Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Miller.

Among those from Bloomfield Hills who have made reservations for the Annual Watch Night party at the Bloomfield Hills Country club are Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Thompson and Thomas Klingensmith.

15 YEARS AGO

January 9, 1941

Kenneth Calhoun, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Kincaid M. Brown, 1015 Waddington road, has been notified that he has received the major appointment to Annapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Ulrich, and their first born, Marjorie, are the winners of the 1941 Eccentric-Merchants first baby contest. The father is vocal music instructor in the public schools.

Three one-act plays have gone into production by the Village Players and are being ready by that group for a performance Jan. 25 at the Village Playhouse. They are "Farwell to Love" by Florence Eyerson and Colin Clements, "The Curtain" by Halle Planagan and "A Husband for Breakfast" by Donald Elyson Mitchell.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Just heard that Dodge division of Chrysler Corp. is building a car only for Texans, to be sold only by Texas dealers. It's said to have the word "Texas" on the rear fender, a map of Texas on the back, and the Texas state flag on the hood.

If anyone in Birmingham manages to smuggle one of these cars out of Texas, I'd bet the first one will be Rev. Glen Harris, First Presbyterian pastor. He's a Texan on "temporary" duty in Michigan territory. (Many of his local friends believe he's on the secret payroll of the Texas chamber of commerce.)

Michigan State University's Dr. Paul Bakan, assistant psychology professor, has just won himself a topmost niche in the "Husbands' Hall of Fame."

Dr. Bakan, through experimentation, has proved women are better adapted to housework than men. This is because the gals (now this is according to the Professor) are better at prolonged, monotonous work.

And what man doesn't heartily agree that washing dishes, mopping floors, washing clothes is the MOST prolonged, monotonous work ever devised! And the men, wanting the cleanest dishes, floors, windows, clothes, etc., give way so the best BEST, MOST EFFICIENT worker can get started.

We men have been admitting our inadequacy in these particular household fields for centuries.

And thanks to Dr. Bakan, the women now have definite proof that they are better around the house than are their husbands!

Oakland county road commission has told Birmingham City Manager Don Egbert that 16 Mile road west from Woodward will be up for grading in this year's improvement program.

"They tell me its surfacing will be worked into the county's 1957 program," Egbert has told city commissioners.

It was nine years ago that city officials began pressing for other east-west traffic arteries—Maple had to handle all of it in this area.

After several years, the county finally opened 16 Mile between Adams and Woodward. Years more pass until 16 Mile west gets improved.

Soon Birmingham city officials will have left to work on only the opening of 14 Mile between Southfield and Evergreen. Nothing like proceeding cautiously, is there?

Birmingham will proceed to inspect all "tag day" solicitations prior to approval so only locally-sponsored drives take place, with attempts being made to keep them at an annual average of one a month.

This fall, commissioners thought they noticed an unusual increase in the number of such street solicitations they were allowing. City Clerk Irene Hanley, who is keeper of the tag day records, was asked to report on actual conditions, plus possible limitations that could be applied.

Her formal recommendation that present strict scrutiny before endorsement be continued was accepted.

Her informal advice was, "I don't think you have to worry about us getting too many requests. A few weeks ago, I worked in one of them. It is one of the hardest ways for an organization to make money!"

Investments of \$10,600 in two automatic remote control gate valves for proper mixing of Detroit and Birmingham water looks to me sort of like the city commission definitely is committing itself to building a half million dollar water treatment plant.

Birmingham's contract with the water authority requires at least 50 per cent of the water sold locally to be the authority-delivered Detroit water. Tests have shown the untreated mixture would be unpalatable and cloudy. This the commission believes Birmingham residents will not accept. Treatment will take care of any objections. Hence, a treatment plant will be going up (undoubtedly on city property on Southfield, north of 14 Mile).

Catalogs . . . ?

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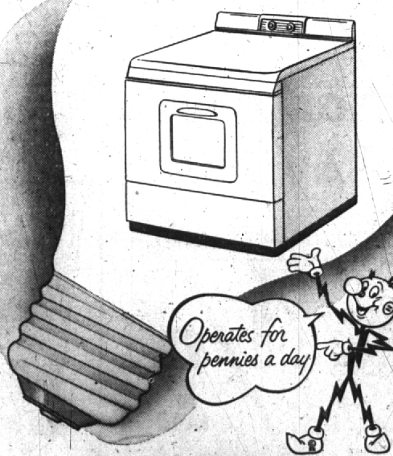
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